



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
20 August 2026

Gallantry Decorations - August 2026

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following Gallantry Decoration:

STAR OF GALLANTRY (SG)

Australian Army

Mr (then Private) John Wesley Matten

For acts of conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril with the 3rd Special Air Service Squadron on 18 January 1967 on operations in South Vietnam.

By Her Excellency's command

Gerard Martin PSM

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

STAR OF GALLANTRY (SG)

Mr (then Private) John Wesley Matten

For acts of conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril with the 3rd Special Air Service Squadron on 18 January 1967 on operations in South Vietnam.

Mr (then Private) Matten displayed courage and conspicuous gallantry by re-entering an active contact zone under intense enemy fire to rescue a wounded patrol member. He carried the injured soldier to safety, provided critical first aid, established vital radio communications, and coordinated a helicopter evacuation - all while enemy forces remained in close proximity. Private Matten's decisive and selfless actions directly saved the life of his fellow soldier and enabled the successful withdrawal of the entire patrol. His conduct brings great credit to himself, the Special Air Service Regiment, and the Australian Defence Force.