

COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

Lieutenant Paul Daniel PELCZAR RAN, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties as the Deputy Intelligence Officer on the staff of Commander Task Force 158 during Coalition operations in the Northern Persian Gulf in direct support of Operation CATALYST.

Lieutenant (then Warrant Officer) Pelczar provided outstanding service in the Northern Persian Gulf, exceeding his responsibilities as the Deputy Intelligence Officer within Task Force 158, and remaining entirely dedicated to the task of supporting his Command and the wider Coalition effort in the Middle East Area of Operations. His work witnessed unparalleled and ongoing improvements in conduct and results of Task Force operations and his achievements contributed significantly to the reputation of the Australian Defence Force in the international arena.

Captain Gregory John SAMMUT CSC RAN, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties as Commander Task Group 158.1 during Coalition operations in the Northern Persian Gulf in direct support of Operation CATALYST.

Captain Sammut had a lead role from June to November 2006 in overseeing a force of 10 ships and 2,000 personnel from Australia, the United States, Great Britain and Iraq that were conducting maritime security in the approaches to Iraq. He astutely contributed to providing a safe maritime environment within which Iraq was allowed to develop their economy and progress a transition to their own self reliance in maritime security. His actions have brought significant and lasting credit upon both himself and the Royal Australian Navy.

Captain Peter Michael SCOTT CSC RAN, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties as the Chief of Staff Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 during Operations CATALYST and SLIPPER.

Captain Scott demonstrated consistently outstanding performance in one of the most demanding senior appointments in the Middle East Area of Operations. His great calm, composure and impeccable judgement were central to the successful resolution of a number of significant incidents during his tenure as Chief of Staff. His initiative in developing, instigating and refining processes and systems in the Joint Task Force 633 Headquarters led to considerably enhanced staff efficiency and allowed greater clarity of focus on mission objectives.

COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Leading Seaman Anthony Errol WESSLING, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties as an Assistant Battle Watch Captain and communications watchkeeper on the staff of Commander Task Force 158 during Coalition operations in the Northern Persian Gulf in direct support of Operation CATALYST.

Leading Seaman Wessling is a talented and dedicated sailor who has consistently applied his skills to achieve exceptional results in the demanding operational environment of the Northern Persian Gulf, making an instrumental contribution to the success of Task Force 158 staff. He has astutely undertaken a range of challenging tasks which have included the provision of complex Coalition communications and information system support, as well as the highly responsible position of Assistant Battle Watch Captain, in which he has particularly distinguished himself.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Colonel Ashley Warren GUNDER, Qld

For distinguished performance of duties as the Australian National Representative in Iraq and Principal Staff Officer within the United Kingdom's Multi National Division South East.

Colonel Gunder is a highly capable officer. His relentless promotion and articulate advocacy of Australian and Australian Defence Force interests with the Multi-National Division - South East Headquarters were instrumental in the protection of Australian national interests and effective national decision making on significant Australian Defence Force deployment, operational and sustainment issues. His achievements are of the highest order and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Captain Nicholas Peter ROSE, NSW

For distinguished performance of duties as the Intelligence Officer of the Special Operations Task Group – Task Force 637, while deployed on Operation SLIPPER Rotation 3 Afghanistan, from May to September 2006.

Captain Rose consistently demonstrated exceptional performance as the Intelligence Officer for the Special Operations Task Group – Task Force 637. His leadership directly influenced the production of crucial assessments, intelligence summaries and reports which contributed to the location and successful targeting of a number of key Anti Coalition Militia leaders during Operations. Captain Rose directly contributed to a substantial increase in the capability of the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan.

COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Colonel Richard Hugh STANHOPE AM, ACT

For distinguished performance of duties as the inaugural Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 633 on *Operation SLIPPER* in Afghanistan in 2006.

Colonel Stanhope is an excellent officer whose superb communication skills, sharp intellect and dedication were instrumental in advancing and protecting Australian national interests. As Deputy Commander Joint Task Force 633 in Kabul, his promotion and advocacy of Australian interests with critical Coalition agencies and national Heads of Mission were instrumental in assisting Australian national decision making on a diverse range of operational issues. His efforts have been in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.