

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (DSC)

AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Brigadier Michael Peter CRANE AM, ACT

For distinguished service in command and leadership in the Middle East Area of Operations as the Commander Joint Task Force 633 for Operations CATALYST and SLIPPER.

Brigadier Crane is an inspirational commander who consistently demonstrated distinguished leadership, exceptional professionalism and unwavering dedication as the Commander of all Australian forces deployed to the Middle East. In an extremely uncertain and dangerous operational environment, Brigadier Crane led Joint Task Force 633 with the finest personal example and tireless enthusiasm to an outstanding level of achievement in Australia's efforts to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael MAHY, NSW

For distinguished command and leadership in action as Commanding Officer of Al Muthanna Task Group Three and Operational Overwatch Battle Group West.

Lieutenant Colonel Mahy's command and leadership of Al Muthanna Task Group Three and Operational Overwatch Battle Group West were characterised by his superior planning and execution skills, resulting in the transition to Provincial Iraqi Security Control in the Provinces of Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar. He led the Battle Group in action with distinction. His achievements are of the highest order, in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony John RAWLINS, ACT

For distinguished command and leadership of Overwatch Battle Group West – Two in Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar Provinces, Iraq, during Operation CATALYST.

Lieutenant Colonel Rawlins distinguished himself as a charismatic commander and leader whose intellect, commitment, skill and courage set the tone for Battle Group operations. He executed operational overwatch with great skill in an ambiguous and constantly changing environment, setting the standard for the coalition. His outstanding leadership, exemplified in a significant incident on 24 April 2006, inspired superior performance from his soldiers.

Colonel Mark Andrew SMETHURST AM, ACT

For distinguished command and leadership as Commander of the Special Operations Task Group during Operation SLIPPER Rotation 3.

Colonel (then Lieutenant Colonel) Smethurst's splendid application of command and leadership in a very complex and hostile environment in Afghanistan directly lead to the brilliant execution of an exceptionally difficult Special Forces combat operation. He displayed shrewd judgement, excellent coordination skills and inspired and dynamic leadership in action in the face of considerable operational and political pressure, culminating in the rout of a very large and threatening enemy enclave and contributing decisively to the war against terrorism.