

## COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

### *Australian Army*

#### **Major Paul Brenton FOURA, United States of America**

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Officer Commanding the construction of Forward Operating Base LOCKE in Chora, southern Afghanistan, during Operation SLIPPER.

Major Foura's performance on Operation SLIPPER has been distinguished in every possible manner. He demonstrated exceptional leadership, management and coordination skills, which ensured the successful completion of a significant construction task in a climate of a persistent enemy threat, complex tribal tensions and very tenuous logistical circumstances. His intellect, combined with wonderful interpersonal skills, played a prime role in diffusing tribal tensions and legal issues and created an extremely positive security culture within this challenging part of the Oruzgan Province. His performance and achievements were of the highest order and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

#### **Major Kenneth Royston MARTIN, Qld**

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Executive Officer of the 3rd Reconstruction Task Force, Operation SLIPPER in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

Major Martin demonstrated exceptional leadership, foresight and organisational skills as the Executive Officer and Chief of Staff for the 3rd Reconstruction Task Force. His role as the Chief of Staff was instrumental to the successful management of tempo and adaptive stance executed by the Task Force throughout its tour. His ability to distinguish the important from the urgent ensured that Task Force staff were able to concentrate on essential operational effects without distraction. His excellent interpersonal skills also ensured diffusion of unforeseen national issues with Dutch counterparts in numerous instances. His performance and achievements are of the highest order and in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

#### **Captain Scottie James MORRIS, ACT**

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Operations Officer and Officer in Command Deployable Exploitation Team, Task Force Troy, Iraq.

Captain Morris consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and great composure as the leader of a Rapid Response Team comprised of Australian and coalition personnel. He has made an outstanding contribution to current and future operations in Iraq, and his efforts directly resulted in a much greater understanding of the Improvised Explosive Device threat and contributed to the saving of lives. His performance and achievements are of the highest order and in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

## COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

*Australian Army* (continued)

### **Warrant Officer Class Two Geoffrey Sidney ROWLAND, Qld**

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Squadron Sergeant Major of the Engineer Task Group and Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician with the 3rd Reconstruction Task Force on Operation SLIPPER.

Warrant Officer Rowland has been pivotal in the refinement, adaptation and ongoing development of Improvised Explosive Device search tactics, techniques and procedures for the Task Force. He consistently demonstrated outstanding perseverance, tenacity, inspiration and leadership in his effort to support Task Force personnel in countering the Improvised Explosive Device threat, and his actions have almost certainly prevented further casualties amongst coalition forces. His achievements and performance have been of the highest order and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

### **Bombardier Noel Jonathan TOMS, Qld**

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller, 3rd Reconstruction Task Force on Operation SLIPPER.

Bombardier Toms demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in every facet of his duty as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller within the 3rd Reconstruction Task Force. He is an outstanding junior non-commissioned officer whose judgement, foresight and professional excellence have enabled the security and success of combat operations in Afghanistan. Bombardier Toms' performance and achievements have been of the highest order and are in the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

### ***Royal Australian Air Force***

### **Wing Commander William KOURELAKOS CSM, NSW**

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Commander, Task Group 633.4 on Operation SLIPPER and Operation CATALYST at Al Udeid Airbase, Qatar.

Wing Commander Kourelakos has provided outstanding service as the Commander of Task Group 633.4. During his tenure, the Task Group achieved and maintained an unprecedented rate of flying effort not previously seen in its 5 years' history. This concerted and cohesive effort was attributable to the esprit de corps and high morale engendered by Wing Commander Kourelakos' superior management and forthright leadership. Without his direction, the capability delivered by the Task Group would have been greatly diminished. Wing Commander Kourelakos' performance and achievements are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.