

DECISION BRIEF FOR CAF

REVIEW OF AIR FORCE CAMPAIGN AND BATTLE HONOURS

Reference:

A. DI (AF) ADMIN 10-13 *Battle Honours of the Royal Australian Air Force*

Introduction

- Battle honours displayed by operational squadrons are a reflection not only of their service but also a public presentation of the history of the RAAF as a whole. Proudly displayed, battle honours promote a sense of achievement and foster esprit de corps throughout the Air Force. They also serve as a visible reminder to members of the Service and to the public of both the historic and contemporary involvement of the Air Force in far-flung operations. Current policy, relevant procedures and a list of all the approved campaigns is contained in Reference A (Enclosure 1).

Aim

- The aim of this brief is to seek CAF agreement to the establishment of an up to date list of campaigns for which battle honours may be awarded to RAAF operational squadrons.

Background

- In 1954, Her Majesty The Queen approved a list of campaigns for which battle honours could be awarded in recognition of operational service during the two World Wars. In 1981, Her Majesty delegated to the Governor-General the authority to approve the award of battle honours to the Australian Defence Force. In 1982, the Governor-General approved RAAF battle honours for the campaigns in Korea and Vietnam.
- Battle honours have been awarded to squadrons according to the campaigns in which they have taken part. Originally, in accordance with the policy, battle honours were awarded to squadrons for operations in which they took part as formed units. However, for service during and since WWII, a more liberal interpretation of operational activity conducted by other than 'formed units' has been applied in seeking battle honours, as follows:
 - the squadron or an element of the squadron carried out operations in the qualifying location and time period (for example a flight of 87SQN DH Mosquitos based at Labuan flying reconnaissance flights over Borneo on behalf of No 1 Tactical Air Force in WWII);
 - a single aircraft and crew operating in the qualifying location could satisfy the requirement for a battle honour for its parent unit, providing the aircraft and crew were not attached to another squadron (for example a 33SQN C47A Dakota flying into strips undertaking re-supply runs in Borneo during WWII); and
 - a detachment of a unit could satisfy the requirement for a battle honour for its parent unit, again provided that the personnel were not attached to another unit

- (for example an expeditionary flight of 2AFDS in Tarakan taking part in Operation OBOE during WWII).

Retrospective Additions to Campaign and Battle Honours for RAAF Squadrons

- A thoroughly researched examination of the current list of campaign battle honours contained in Annex A of Enclosure 1 indicates that this list is incomplete. The following operations undertaken by Air Force squadrons for which no campaign battle honours have yet been authorised include:
 - Philippines 1944,
 - Malaya 1948-1960,
 - Thai-Malay 1960-1966,
 - Malaysia (Confrontation) 1962-1966, and
 - Ubon, Thailand 1962-1968.
- The case for institution of these awards is presented at Annex A.

Modern Allocation of Campaign and Battle Honours

- The more modern post-Vietnam period presents some difficulties with regard to battle honours for the RAAF. In the modern era, command and control arrangements are more complicated. In most of the recent operations, operating aircraft and their air and ground crews were usually attached to another unit for the operation, for example:
 - In East Timor, the DHC 4 Caribou aircraft operating in-country were operated as 86WG DET C even though the aircraft and crews came from 38SQN. The RAAF C-130 aircraft operating from Darwin were under 86WG DET B.
 - The B707 aircraft flying for Operation SLIPPER based at Manas, Kyrgyzstan in 2002 were operated as 84WG DET A.
 - The P3 aircraft and crews that are part of Operations SLIPPER, BASTILLE, FALCONER and CATYLIST are operated by 92WG DET C, TG 633.2 or TU 633.2.1.
 - Only the C-130s flying re-supply flights from Australia to the Middle East retain their connection to their parent squadron.
- The current requirement that battle honours are awarded for 'operations in which RAAF squadrons took part as formed units' needs review to reflect the modern command arrangements during operations. However, while the changes from this review may make other units eligible for a particular battle honour, it will not change the list of campaigns for which a battle honour can be awarded. Therefore, there is no need to delay the approval process for the proposed campaigns while the policy is reviewed.

Recent Additions to Campaign and Battle Honours for RAAF Squadrons

- Recent operations undertaken by the RAAF for which no campaign and battle honours have yet been authorised include:
 - East Timor 1999-2000,
 - Middle East 2001 and 2002, and
 - Iraq 2003.
- As Operation SLIPPER is ongoing, consideration of Campaign and Battle Honours for any part of this operation is considered premature.
- The case for institution of recent Campaign and Battle Honours, where applicable, is presented at Annex B.

Recommendation

- I recommend that you:
 - agree to the proposed additions to the RAAF Campaign and Battle Honours, and
 - sign the attached submission to the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support through Government channels to the Governor-General.

Prepared by: ^{s47E(d)} Project Officer-Communication and Reputation Management, DCOORD-AF; Ext: ^{s47E(d)} in consultation with the Office of Air Force History.

Cleared by:

AGREED/ NOT AGREED

SIGNED/ NOT SIGNED

s22
s22
s22 ^{s47E(d)}

DCOORD-AF

8 Apr 09

s22 s22
M.D. BINSKIN
AIRMSHL
CAF

8 Apr 09

Annexes:

- Retrospective Operations For Which No Campaign Battle Honour Has Been Awarded
- Recent Operations For Which No Campaign Battle Honour Has Been Awarded

Enclosure: 1. DI (AF) ADMIN 10-13 *Battle Honours of the Royal Australian Air Force*
(NOT ENCLOSED WITH FILE COPY)

RETROSPECTIVE OPERATIONS FOR WHICH NO CAMPAIGN AND BATTLE HONOUR HAS BEEN AWARDED

The following paragraphs contain the historical information to support the proposed addition to Campaign and Battle Honours for the period from 1944 to 1968.

a. PHILIPPINES 1944

In preparation for the Allied invasion, Mosquito aircraft of No 87 Squadron flew photographic reconnaissance missions over the Philippines from July to September 1944 from their temporary bases on Biak and Noemfoor Islands in Dutch New Guinea. In support of the invasion, Bostons of No 22 Squadron and Beaufighters of No 30 Squadron on 22 November 1944 attacked Japanese forces at Bunuwah Harbour on Mindanao, the southern-most of the Philippines islands. On 9 December, Beaufighters of Nos 30 and 31 Squadrons attacked targets on Mindanao and Jolo Islands. On 14 December, Catalina amphibious aircraft of Nos 11 and 43 Squadrons, flying from Darwin, mined Manila Harbour, thus preventing the reinforcement of Japanese forces holding the port. RAAF participation in the invasion of the Philippines had finished by 31 December 1944.

Recommendation: Institution of an award PHILIPPINES 1944 is recommended. Details of this proposed award are:

PHILIPPINES 1944 For operations as preparation for or as part of the Allied invasion of the Philippines between 1 July 1944 and 31 December 1944.

Eligible Units:

No 11 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 22 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 30 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 31 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 43 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 87 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944

b. MALAYA 1948 TO 1960

Service with the Far East Strategic Reserve during the Malayan Emergency has now been deemed to be operational service. During this period, five RAAF squadrons conducted air operations against Communist Terrorists or directly supported ground combat units conducting these operations. Nos 1 and 2 Squadron conducted bombing of Communist camps. Nos 3 and 77 Squadron flew ground attack missions against Communist forces with their Sabre aircraft. No 38 Squadron inserted Special Air Service (SAS) patrols by parachute drop into enemy-held areas and kept ground combat units resupplied by airdrops.

Recommendation: Institution of an award MALAYA 1948-60 is recommended. Details of this proposed award are:

MALAYA 1948-60 For operations against Communist Terrorists on the Malay Peninsular between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960

Eligible Units:

No 1 Squadron	MALAYA 1950-58
No 2 Squadron	MALAYA 1958-60
No 3 Squadron	MALAYA 1958-60
No 38 Squadron	MALAYA 1950-52
No 77 Squadron	MALAYA 1959-60

c. **THAI-MALAY 1960 TO 1966**

Iroquois helicopters of No 5 Squadron inserted, extracted and resupplied Australian and Malaysian ground forces into the Thai-Malay border region in their combat operations against Communist Terrorists. Dakota aircraft of No 2 Squadron replenished Malaysian ground forces by airdropping supplies.

Recommendation: Institution of an award Thai-Malay 1960-66 is recommended. Details of this proposed award are:

Thai-Malay 1960-66 For air operations in direct support of ground combat forces operating in the Thai-Malay border region from 1 August 1960 to 30 March 1966.

Eligible Units:

No 2 Squadron	Thai-Malay 1960-66
No 5 Squadron	Thai-Malay 1964-66

d. **MALAYSIA (CONFRONTATION) 1962 TO 1966**

As part of an attempt to undermine the government of the new Federation of Malaysia, Indonesian forces engaged in small raids by air, naval and military forces into Malaysian territory/airspace. These raids into Malaysian territories in Borneo started 8 December 1962 but spread to the Malay Peninsular and Singapore from 17 July 1963. RAAF fighter and control and reporting units contributed to the air defence of Malaysia, the Canberra bombers of No 2 Squadron provided deterrence, and No 36 Squadron deployed and resupplied ground forces within Malaysia/Singapore. Other units provided the defence of the base against ground attack. Confrontation officially ended on 11 August 1966

Recommendation: Institution of an award MALAYSIA 1962-66 is recommended. Details of this proposed award are:

MALAYSIA 1962-66 For operations in the defence of Malaysia territories in Borneo between 8 December 1962 and 11 August 1966, or for

operations in defence of the Malay Peninsular and Singapore from 17 July 1963 to 11 August 1966.

Eligible Units:

No 2 Squadron	MALAYSIA 1963-66
No 3 Squadron	MALAYSIA 1963-66
No 36 Squadron	MALAYSIA 1962-66
No 77 Squadron	MALAYSIA 1963-66
No 114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit	MALAYSIA 1963-66

e. UBON, THAILAND 1962 TO 1968

With communist forces operating in neighbouring Laos, a RAAF Sabre squadron deployed to Ubon, Thailand on 31 May 1962 to assist with the defence of Thai territory from incursions. For six years, the missile-armed fighters flew patrols as part of the Thai air defence system. The RAAF personnel also defended the base against ground attack by communist forces.

Recommendation: Institution of an award UBON 1962-68 is recommended.
Details of this proposed award are:

UBON 1962-68 For operations in the defence of Thailand from 31 May 1962 to 31 August 1968

Eligible Unit:

No 79 Squadron UBON 1962-68

RECENT OPERATIONS FOR WHICH NO CAMPAIGN AND BATTLE HONOUR HAS BEEN AWARDED

The following paragraphs contain the historical information to support the proposed addition to Campaign and Battle Honours for the period from 1999 to 2003.

Post Vietnam

a. EAST TIMOR 1999 TO 2000

In order to protect the East Timorese people and government from rebel militia forces, an Australian-led International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) deployed to East Timor by air and sea commencing on 20 September 1999. After securing the country, the force handed over to United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on 23 February 2000. RAAF air transport operations inserted combat forces to secure Dili airport, airlifted army units from Australia, and flew fixed wing air support to ground forces. RAAF units provided the ground defence of Dili and other airfields used by INTERFET forces. Other RAAF tasks included maritime surveillance flights by AP-3C Orions to detect any potentially hostile vessels or submarines and reconnaissance flights by RF-111 aircraft to provide information on the state of major transport routes and facilities within East Timor.

Recommendation: Institution of an award EAST TIMOR 1999-2000 is recommended. Details of this proposed award are:

EAST TIMOR 1999-2000 For operations as part of the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) or in support of INTERFET within 100 nautical miles of East Timor between 20 September 1999 and 23 February 2000.

Eligible Unit:

No 2 Airfield Defence Squadron

EAST TIMOR 1999-2000

b. MIDDLE EAST 2001 AND 2002

The RAAF Hornet squadrons deployment to Diego Garcia in 2001, the B707 air-to-air refuelling operation based in Kyrgyzstan in 2002 and the C130 and P3 detachments operating in the Middle East in 2001 and 2002 were undertaken under Operation SLIPPER. According to DI(AF) ADMIN10-13 (Enclosure 1), a battle honour can be granted "only after lengthy historical review of a particular conflict". As this operation is on-going, battle honours for this service may be assessed on completion of military action.

c. IRAQ 2003

As a consequence of Iraq's non-compliance with United Nations Security Resolutions, US-led combat operations were commenced against Iraq on 18 March 2003. The

Australian contribution to these operations was named Operation FALCONER. This operation ended on 16 July 2003 when the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq began. RAAF contributed a Hornet squadron to assist with air defence and strike operations, an AP-3C Orion detachment to provide maritime and land reconnaissance and a C130 Hercules detachment to provide in-theatre air transport support.

Recommendation: Institution of an award IRAQ 2003 is recommended. Details of this proposed award are:

IRAQ 2003 For air operations within Iraq as part of Operation FALCONER from 18 March to 16 July 2003.

Eligible Unit:

No 75 Squadron IRAQ 2003



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

Air Force Headquarters

MINUTE

OCAF/2009/1102502/2
OCAF/OUT/2009/

ACAUST

REVIEW OF AIR FORCE CAMPAIGN BATTLE HONOURS

Reference:

A. DI(AF) ADMIN 10-13 *Battle Honours of the Royal Australian Air Force*

1. As you are aware, battle honours displayed by operational squadrons are a reflection not only of their service but also a public presentation of the history of the RAAF as a whole. Proudly displayed, battle honours promote a sense of achievement and foster esprit de corps throughout the Air Force. They also serve as a visible reminder to members of the Service and to the public of both the historic and contemporary involvement of the Air Force in far-flung operations.

2. Battle honours have been awarded to squadrons according to the campaigns in which they have taken part. Originally, in accordance with the policy, battle honours were awarded to squadrons for operations in which they took part as formed units. However, for service during and since WWII, a more liberal interpretation of operational activity conducted by other than 'formed units' has been applied in seeking battle honours. Nevertheless the requirement for an operation to have ceased is still a determinant in the consideration of the award of battle honours.

3. An examination of the current list of campaign battle honours contained in Annex A of Reference A indicated that the list was incomplete. The following operations undertaken by Air Force squadrons for which no campaign battle honours had previously been awarded include:

- a. Philippines 1944,
- b. Malaya 1948-1960,
- c. Thai-Malay 1960-1966,
- d. Malaysia (Confrontation) 1962-1966,
- e. Ubon, Thailand 1962-1968.
- f. East Timor 1999-2000, and
- g. Iraq 2003.

4. As noted earlier, policy requires that operations must be completed before consideration of the award of a campaign battle honour can be approved. Therefore, as Middle East operations are still ongoing, the award of campaign battle honours for any part of these operations is premature at this time.

5. Attached at Annex A is a list of additional campaign battle honours which I have reviewed and endorsed. The list includes details of eligible squadrons entitled to be awarded additional battle honours based on historical records held by the Office of Air Force History. This list is not conclusive as other Air Force squadrons may also be eligible for the award of these battle honours, but the official history records are incomplete. If this situation applies, squadrons should be encouraged to ensure that their respective historical records are up to date and lodged with the Office of Air Force History. Commanding Officers may then apply to AFHQ for subsequent approval by the Governor-General.

6. I am also delighted to advise you that these additional campaign battle honours have now received the approval of Her Excellency the Governor-General and are effective immediately. DCOORD-AF is presently discussing with the Defence Materiel Organization how the new battle honours will be added to squadron colours and, in due course, will advise arrangements for the applicable colours to be updated.

7. Please extend my warmest congratulations to the squadrons under your command that have been awarded these additional battle honours.

s22

M.D. BINSKIN
AIRMSHL
CAF

Tel: ^{s47E(d)} [redacted]

4 Aug 09

Annex:

A. Additional Campaign Battle Honours

ANNEX A TO
OCAF/2009/1002502/2
DATED AUG 09

ADDITIONAL CAMPAIGN BATTLE HONOURS

The following paragraphs contain the historical information to support the proposed addition to Campaign Battle Honours for the period from 1944 to 2003.

a. **PHILIPPINES 1944**

In preparation for the Allied invasion, Mosquito aircraft of No 87 Squadron flew photographic reconnaissance missions over the Philippines from July to September 1944 from their temporary bases on Biak and Noemfoor Islands in Dutch New Guinea. In support of the invasion, on 22 November 1944 Bostons of No 22 Squadron and Beaufighters of No 30 Squadron attacked Japanese forces at Bunuwah Harbour on Mindanao, the southern-most of the Philippines islands. On 9 December, Beaufighters of Nos 30 and 31 Squadrons attacked targets on Mindanao and Jolo Islands. On 14 December, Catalina amphibious aircraft of Nos 11 and 43 Squadrons, flying from Darwin, mined Manila Harbour, thus preventing the reinforcement of Japanese forces holding the port. RAAF participation in the invasion of the Philippines had finished by 31 December 1944.

PHILIPPINES 1944 For operations as preparation for or as part of the Allied invasion of the Philippines between 1 July 1944 and 31 December 1944.

Eligible Units:

No 11 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 22 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 30 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 31 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 43 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944
No 87 Squadron	PHILIPPINES 1944

b. **MALAYA 1948 TO 1960**

Service with the Far East Strategic Reserve during the Malayan Emergency has now been deemed to be operational service. During this period, five RAAF squadrons conducted air operations against Communist Terrorists or directly supported ground combat units conducting these operations. Nos 1 and 2 Squadron conducted bombing of Communist camps. Nos 3 and 77 Squadron flew ground attack missions against Communist forces with their Sabre aircraft. No 38 Squadron inserted Special Air Service (SAS) patrols by parachute drop into enemy-held areas and kept ground combat units resupplied by airdrops.

MALAYA 1948-1960 For operations against Communist Terrorists on the Malay Peninsula between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960

Eligible Units:

No 1 Squadron	MALAYA 1950-1958
No 2 Squadron	MALAYA 1958-1960
No 3 Squadron	MALAYA 1958-1960
No 38 Squadron	MALAYA 1950-1952
No 77 Squadron	MALAYA 1959-1960

c. THAI-MALAY 1960 TO 1966

Iroquois helicopters of No 5 Squadron inserted, extracted and resupplied Australian and Malaysian ground forces into the Thai-Malay border region in their combat operations against Communist Terrorists. Dakota aircraft of No 2 Squadron replenished Malaysian ground forces by airdropping supplies.

Thai-Malay 1960-1966	For air operations in direct support of ground combat forces operating in the Thai-Malay border region from 1 August 1960 to 30 March 1966.
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Eligible Units:

No 2 Squadron	Thai-Malay 1960-1966
No 5 Squadron	Thai-Malay 1964-1966

d. MALAYSIA (CONFRONTATION) 1962 TO 1966

As part of an attempt to undermine the government of the new Federation of Malaysia, Indonesian forces engaged in small raids by air, naval and military forces into Malaysian territory/airspace. These raids into Malaysian territories in Borneo started 8 December 1962 but spread to the Malay Peninsula and Singapore from 17 July 1963. RAAF fighter and control and reporting units contributed to the air defence of Malaysia, the Canberra bombers of No 2 Squadron provided deterrence, and No 36 Squadron deployed and resupplied ground forces within Malaysia/Singapore. Other units provided the defence of the base against ground attack. Confrontation officially ended on 11 August 1966.

MALAYSIA 1962-1966	For operations in the defence of Malaysian territories in Borneo between 8 December 1962 and 11 August 1966, or for operations in defence of the Malay Peninsula and Singapore from 17 July 1963 to 11 August 1966.
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Eligible Units:

No 2 Squadron	MALAYSIA 1963-66
No 3 Squadron	MALAYSIA 1963-66
No 36 Squadron	MALAYSIA 1962-66
No 77 Squadron	MALAYSIA 1963-66
No 114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit	MALAYSIA 1963-66

e. UBON, THAILAND 1962 TO 1968

With communist forces operating in neighbouring Laos, a RAAF Sabre squadron deployed to Ubon, Thailand on 31 May 1962 to assist with the defence of Thai territory from incursions. For six years, the missile-armed fighters flew patrols as part of the Thai air defence system. The RAAF personnel also defended the base against ground attack by communist forces.

UBON 1962-1968 For operations in the defence of Thailand from 31 May 1962 to 31 August 1968

Eligible Unit:

f. EAST TIMOR 1999 TO 2000

In order to protect the East Timorese people and government from rebel militia forces, an Australian-led International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) deployed to East Timor by air and sea commencing on 20 September 1999. After securing the country, the force handed over to United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on 23 February 2000. RAAF air transport operations inserted combat forces to secure Dili airport, airlifted army units from Australia, and flew fixed wing air support to ground forces. RAAF units provided the ground defence of Dili and other airfields used by INTERFET forces. Other RAAF tasks included maritime surveillance flights by AP-3C Orions to detect any potentially hostile vessels or submarines and reconnaissance flights by RF-111 aircraft to provide information on the state of major transport routes and facilities within East Timor.

EAST TIMOR 1999-2000 For operations as part of the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) or in support of INTERFET within 100 nautical miles of East Timor between 20 September 1999 and 23 February 2000. The AP-3C Orion and RF-111 aircraft units are not included at this stage, because OAFH are having difficulty with history sheets not providing enough evidence. More information may be provided at a later date.

Eligible Unit:

No 2 Airfield Defence Squadron

EAST TIMOR 1999-2000

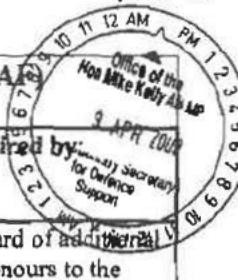
g. **IRAQ 2003**

As a consequence of Iraq's non-compliance with United Nations Security Resolutions, US-led combat operations were commenced against Iraq on 18 March 2003. The Australian contribution to these operations was named Operation FALCONER. This operation ended on 16 July 2003 when the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq began. RAAF contributed a Hornet squadron to assist with air defence and strike operations, an AP-3C Orion detachment to provide maritime and land reconnaissance and a C-130 Hercules detachment to provide in-theatre air transport support.

IRAQ 2003 For air operations within Iraq as part of Operation FALCONER from 18 March to 16 July 2003.

Eligible Unit:

No 75 Squadron IRAQ 2003



**APPROVAL OF ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE (RAAF)
CAMPAIGN AND BATTLE HONOURS**

FOR: Dr Kelly cc: Mr Fitzgibbon cc: Mr Snowdon	Category: Defence Initiated.	Ministerial action required by: 24 April 2009
GROUP: Air Force	CAF 584 /09	Reason: To endorse award of additional Campaign and Battle Honours to the RAAF

Copies: CDF, Secretary, CN, CA, FASMSPA, ACALUST

Recommendations:

That you:

- (a) note the proposal for award of additional Campaign and Battle Honours to operational squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF); and
- (b) sign the attached draft letter to the Prime Minister seeking the approval of Her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia for these additional awards.

Key Issues

1. The system of awarding Battle Honours to operational squadrons has a long and proud history. These honours reflect the fighting history of the particular RAAF squadron.
2. Established practice in the RAAF is for the Chief of Air Force to recommend the award of Campaign and Battle Honours, through Government channels, to the Governor-General for approval and subsequent promulgation by Air Force.
3. Recently the Office of Air Force History completed a comprehensive review of Campaign and Battle Honours awarded to operational squadrons including all campaigns and actions for which no Campaign and Battle Honour has previously been awarded.
4. I have carefully reviewed the recommendations made by the Office of Air Force History and endorse the proposed award of additional Campaign and Battle Honours listed in attachment A. The award of these additional Campaign and Battle Honours would not only recognise the contribution made by the RAAF during recent campaigns and operations but would also redress a number of omissions made in the past which failed to recognise Air Force participation in some actions.
5. I therefore seek your endorsement of these proposed changes and agreement to progress these through the Prime Minister to the Governor-General for approval.
6. A proposed letter to the Prime Minister the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, is at attachment B and a proposed letter to the Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC is at attachment C.

s22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) NOTED ✓ <input type="checkbox"/> (b) SIGNED / NOT SIGNED	s22	
M.D. BINSKIN AIRMSHL CAF Tel: s47E(d)		MIKE KELLY 22, 9/2009	
X Apr 09			
Branch/Section Head	s47E(d)	W: s47E(d)	Mob: s22
Action Officer		W:	Mob:

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

The Hon K.M. Rudd MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

The contribution made by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) during times of conflict is recognised by the award of battle honours. These battle honours reflect the fighting history of operational squadrons. Proudly displayed, battle honours promote a sense of achievement and foster esprit de corps throughout the Air Force. They also serve as a visible reminder to members of the Service and to the public of both the historic and contemporary involvement of the RAAF in far-flung operations.

Following a comprehensive review of Campaign and Battle Honours awarded since the early days of Australia's Air Force history, the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin AM, has recommended the award of additional Campaign and Battle Honours. These are enclosed.

The award of these additional Campaign and Battle Honours would not only recognise the contribution made by the RAAF during recent campaigns and operations but would also redress a number of omissions made in the past which failed to recognise Air Force participation in some actions.

I add my personal endorsement to the proposed awards.

Should you endorse the recommended additions, I have attached a letter seeking the formal approval of these awards by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Yours sincerely

MIKE KELLY
Encl
(NOT ENCLOSED WITH FINE COPY)

s47E(d)

15/07/09

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Your Excellency

Following a comprehensive review into the present Campaign and Battle Honours awarded to operational squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force, the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin AM, has recommended the award of additional Campaign and Battle Honours. Proposed changes are shown in the enclosure.

The award of these additional Campaign and Battle Honours would recognise the contribution made by the Royal Australian Air Force during more recent campaigns and operations. As well, such an award would redress a number of omissions made in the past which failed to recognise Air Force participation in some actions.

I am mindful of the proud Royal Australian Air Force history represented in these honours as they reflect the fighting history of the operational squadrons to which they are awarded. Proudly displayed, battle honours promote a sense of achievement and foster esprit de corps throughout the Air Force. They also serve as a visible reminder to members of the Service and to the public of both the historic and contemporary involvement of the RAAF in far-flung operations.

I add my personal endorsement to these awards and recommend you approve the Chief of Air Force's proposed changes.

Yours sincerely

KEVIN RUDD

Encl

(NOT ENCLOSED WITH FILE COPY)

S47E(d)

8 Apr 09