

RCB Update

Hello to all the RCB troops,

i know you are all very interested in how the case for correct RCB recognition is proceeding as i get numerous emails from members asking for data on what is happening.

This is what i can report to date.

At present, we are undertaking a comprehensive rebuttal of the Standing Committee on Petitions hearings of Oct 2014 for the DVA Minister who if convinced, as we are, of the great fallacy and inaccuracy of the Gov's version of RCB service, will authorise for a new full unbiased national review of the case.

We have prepared an extremely detailed response set of documents to fully support our case, they are large in volume and unable to be sent by email due to their size. However, I will try to at least send a part of them out to you all to read, for your own knowledge but that will be only after they have first been delivered to the Minister's office and with relevant copies to All the other major involved personnel both in Gov and DOD.

Anyone who cannot see the comparative service of RCB in relation to the numerous other upgraded AASM services over the past 15 years is deliberately blinkered with pre-existing bias to the case. the financial aspects of a win for us are not supposedly to be considered by any appointed panel as it is an entitlement from acknowledged/recognized overseas service and therefore already guaranteed under the DVA.

On behalf of ALL RCB veterans, let me give due praise and appreciation to Lt. Col. Ted Chitham MC OAM and Lt. Col. Russell ASM who are the main driving force of the case.

Ted Chitham has been a tremendous contributor to the cause ever since he first wrote the 2006 RCB Submission and with the 2010 RCB Addendum follow up. he has been a tireless, innovative and dedicated supporter of the case and believed in it from even when he was the battalion commander of 8/9RAR in 1974 and sent companies to Butterworth but wasn't allowed to visit them, he knew something was amiss even then. he has participated in all the dramas/reviews over the past decade to get this service fully recognised and that is in amongst his unlimited other voluntary duties in support of numerous veteran activities across Australia, including last year riding a pushbike from Toowoomba to Canberra to support VN veterans 50th anniversary of Long Tan. his service for his country/veterans is exemplary and RCB veterans are certainly benefiting from his dedication.

Russell Linwood is another example of an ex officer who has/is providing excellent outstanding service to his fellow RCB veterans. he actually was an RCB OC back in 1982. even though Russell is still actually serving in the Army, after 45 years of service, being retired later this year, he has dedicated this past several years to specifically helping us out with the case upon our request to him. his dedication and meticulous attention to detail (part of his researcher ability) has resulted in a multitude of precise, factual (versus questionable data by Gov/DOD), documents which fully support an upgrade recognition of RCB service to Warlike status from Peacetime status is NOT an unrealistic aspiration because of the true data that has been uncovered and rightly presented to Gov. his RCB database is extremely widespread, descriptive and fully supportive of all our claims. his direct input into the RCB cause is insurmountable and greatly appreciated.

Both these men are the epitome of what we like to see of our officer corps, in that even after retirement from military service they still have a great desire/ability to help our their soldiers in times of need and shows why they were very good leaders during their service days.

Let`s also not forget Ken Marsh, an ex RAAF NCO, with 6 years service at Butterworth in the 1970`s, who has and still is providing inspirational documents to Gov/DOD on the RCB issue and is a constant thorn in the side of Gov/DOD/NOSB hierarchy as his precise documents cannot be ignored by them forever and eventually his efforts will have an impact also for RAAF service at BAB.

Stan Hannaford still remains a pillar of strength for the RCB case providing help, knowledge, finance, research, etc, against decades of Gov rejections/ignorance/apathy.

We also have had a great deal of support/help from many members over the years including Greg Decker, Phil Oyston, Chris Duffield, Michael von Berg MC OAM, Lt. Col. Mike Dennis (dec'd), Ray Fulcher, Lt. Col Gary Stone , Maj Ross Eastgate, Trevor Dixon, Ken Rundell OAM, Peter Kelly, Bill Parry and many others who have provided help and relevant data over the years and who i haven`t directly named but whose help has been much appreciated.

When we win this case (which we will), all these great supporters of the RCB case will have had a personal impart in achieving the goal.

Regards to all,

Robert

RCB Review Group