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HAPPY NEW YEAR

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

"HORIZONS OUTLOOK NEWS"

DECEMBER 2018 & JANUARY 2019

2019



President's Report:

Another year almost gone and with some of our members packing up and looking forward to holidays. It has been an eventful year for the new association, with the ending of the Veterans Support and Advocate

Service Inc - Warwick Auspice and starting out with our association. The inclusion of the emergency services to our ranks is a long range forecast, as we military veterans are passing the age of twenty one (*again*) and with the younger veterans (*Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan*) still working or with young families, they haven't got the time for associations, just like the Vietnam veterans did when we first came home.

I feel most members sense the executive and committee have contributed to a well-intentioned role so far, we can never please everybody, that is why we fought for our freedom, so we can all have a vote in our country. Our constitution is being overhauled by a subcommittee, with results expected to come before members early next year.

Throughout the year, the committee has met each month to discuss business arising and we have had a general meeting in November, with another set aside for the 29th March 2019. This is the chance for all to attend and have their say on how your association is managed. We have been pleased to have eighteen sponsors this year, who pay for advertising in our monthly newsletters, to keep members informed on the happenings in and around the centre and beyond.

We have appreciated groups coming down to the Services Memorabilia Display in the Centre and we enjoyed sharing a cuppa with them. We have had large and small groups, the largest was forty plus members of Combined Probus Club of Warwick. We were delighted to have the 17 Australian Army Cadets - Warwick parade and visit us at the Centre, we were able to present them with two ceremonial swords for CUO training.

We have been pleased with the attendance at our monthly Dine In-Out nights at various establishments around Warwick, the SDESA Ladies Monday luncheon group, have also reported that they have had a great roll up for their Monday lunches. Each first Saturday of the month, another group of ladies patronise our Centre, where they learn to sew and quilt. It is ideal to have the Centre used utilised in this way.

Some Friday mornings we have had as many as thirty five members attending and enjoying each other company over a cuppa, a sausage on bread or roll, plus a cream biscuit. The tales come quick and fast, but all normally have a great time. Wednesday mornings are usually for administration, however some members like Paul Guy, attend and vacuum the whole place through and clean out the rubbish. Our 'chief cook' and bottle washer John Palmer, prepares a sausage sizzle and burgers for the members at the end of each month, ably assisted by Terry Smart. Ray Wingett sees that the grass areas around the Centre, including our neighbors at Endeavour and 3UA, are kept cut and clean of debris.

I thank the members for the many tasks they have contributed throughout the year, from the 'Battle of Bagdad' Obstacle Course to Vietnam Veterans Day commemorations and many other functions, I am proud to have been your president for this inaugural year.

I hope we continue to support each other, no matter what association or organisation we belong, if we all unite with common aims and goals, our community will benefit from our endeavors.

*I wish you all a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year
for 2019
Your mate
Ken*

DECEMBER 2018 & JANUARY 2019



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2019

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CALENDER FOR DECEMBER 2018 – JANUARY 2019

DECEMBER 2018

Wed 5th 9.00 am – 12 Noon. Services Memorabilia Display.

Friday 7th 9.00 am SDESA Centre.

Wed 12th 9.00 am – 12 Noon. Services Memorabilia Display.

Thur 13th 6.00pm for 6.30pm 'SDESA First Christmas Party',

Friday 14th 9.00 am SDESA Centre & Committee & BBQ (Last Day for 2018)



JANUARY 2019

Friday 11th 9.00 am - (Re-Open for 2019) SDESA Centre & Committee.

Wed 16th 9.00 am – 12 Noon. Services Memorabilia Display.

Wed 16th 6.00 pm Dine In/Out 'The Coffee Club Café'

Friday 18th 9.00 am SDESA Centre.

Wed 23rd 9.00 am – 12 Noon. Services Memorabilia Display.

Friday 25th 9.00 am SDESA Centre & BBQ.

Wed 30th 9.00 am – 12 Noon. Services Memorabilia Display.



SDESA LADIES

Monday 17th

DECEMBER 2018

'CHRISTMAS PARTY'

will be held at

'Warwick Gardens Galore'

from **11.45am**



December 2018

Greg Flint (5th)

Walter Uyeda (7th)

Johnno Felton (10th)

Gordon Rossi (20th)

January 2019

R. Bob Kilpatrick (2nd)

John Greacen (3rd)

Geoff Strom (10th)

Rodney Smith (10th)

Paul Guy (12th)

Alwyn Cutmore (12th)

Mrs. Carol Galea (12th)

Les Nielsen (14th)

Peter Fountain (20th)

Mrs. Doreen Parker (22nd)

Kevin Child (22nd)

Rod Brittain (23rd)

James O'Leary (28th)

SDESA LADIES

Monday Lunches

21st JANUARY 2019

THE COFFEE CLUB

"THE COFFEE CLUB CAFE"

SDESA Ladies meet each month on Mondays at 12.00 Noon.

to have a luncheon together.

For information contact:

Helen Nielson

Ph: (H) 07.4661.5772

Mob: 0429.615.772



DECEMBER 2018 & JANUARY 2019

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2019

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

A crowd of **350** people were on hand in Warwick to remember the 100 years since the end of the First World War.

Congratulations to the people of Warwick, the Southern Downs Regional Council and Mayor Cr. Mrs. Tracy Dobie, along the Warwick RSL Sub Branch President Mr. John Skinner and their respective members for coordinating the service, which culminated in a luncheon for all at the Warwick RSL Memorial Club.

Brigadier D.L (Duncan) Hayward CSC, Deputy Head, Reserve and Youth Division ADF and Deputy Commander ADF Cadets gave the address. It was pleasing to see that so many young people attended the Remembrance Day service 2018. Warm weather, blue skies and a stunning floral display in the park formed the backdrop for the service – memorialising 100 years since the signing of the Armistice which ended the First World War.



(Above:) WW2 RAAF Veteran Phil Agnew, WW2 Army Veteran David Watt, with BRIG Duncan Hayward CSC and SDRS Mayor Cr. Mrs. Tracy Dobie.



Young community singers gave a moving rendition of "400 Seasons".



(Above: L to R) SDESA President Ken Ashton laid a wreath on behalf of SDESA Qld Inc, seated with members Ron Moody and Ken's brother, Peter Ashton.



(Above) President Ken Ashton assists French Military Member Mr. George Durieux on Remembrance Day 2018 in Warwick.



(Above) 17 AAC formed the Catafalque Party

(Photos courtesy Southern Free Times)



(Above) Troopers and horses from the 11th Light Horse Warwick Montrose Troop formed a guard of honour

DECEMBER 2018 & JANUARY 2019



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2019

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MMM *Merry Christmas*

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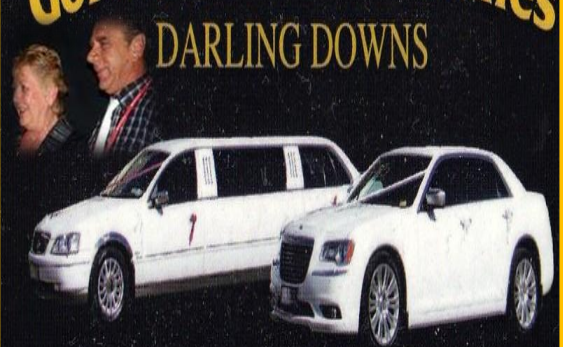
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The President and Members of the
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Queensland Incorporated

requests the pleasure of;

*All Members, their Wives and Partners,
Family, Sponsors and Guests.*

To attend the **SDESA 'FIRST' CHRISTMAS DINNER'**

To be held at,

SDESA Centre, 1 Tooth Street, Warwick
Thursday Evening, 13th December 2018.
6.00pm - 6.30pm

(SDESA will subsidise all attending, you pay only:
\$30.00 p.p. or \$60.00 a double)



The Menu will consist of a Buffet Meal, Dinner rolls and Desert.

*Standing orders have been set aside and it will be a **'BYO' FUNCTION***

Hot Food:

Honey Baked Ham or Roast Beef.

*Roast Potatoes, Honey carrots, Cauliflower au Gratin,
Nutmeg Baked Pumpkin, Sweet Potato with peas.*

Cold Food:

Sliced Corned Meat or Sliced Turkey.

Seafood Salad, Pasta Salad, or Tossed Garden Salad.

Deserts:

Plum Pudding with Brandy Custard or

Warm Apple Crumble with Custard. (Tea & Coffee all night).



Name: Phone:

(R.S.V.P and payment by Friday, 7st December 2018.)

'SDESA 'First' Christmas Dinner'

I will be attending the and will be accompanied by;

Guest Name/s:at \$30.00pp (\$60.00Double)

Dress: neat casual - shorts if it's hot - long if it's not.

Note: Please make cheques payable to 'SDESA Qld Inc' or by
Direct Debit into our bank at: **Warwick Credit Union.**

BSB: 817-001. ACCOUNT NO: 400305133

*(Please include your **'Surname Name'** and words **'Xmas Dinner'**)*

POST to: Honorary Secretary

SDESA Qld Inc.

P.O. Box 631

Warwick. Qld. 4370. or

**Pay on a Friday or a Wednesday at the Centre and receive
your receipt from Treasurer, Mrs. Barbara Cutmore**



Merry
Christmas

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**Wife texts husband on a cold
winter morning:**

**"Windows frozen, won't
open."**

**Husband texts back: "Gently
pour some lukewarm water
over it and then gently tap
edges with hammer."**

**Wife texts back 10
minutes later: "Computer
really messed up now."**

"Curly" – What have you done this time?

Riddle:

What 8 letter word can have a letter taken away and it still makes a word. Take another letter away and it still makes a word. Keep on doing that until you have one letter left.



What is the word?

string, sting, sing, in, l.

The word is starting! starting, starting,

Answer:



"Vehicle Parking near Centre"

Parking vehicles on the 'Nature Strip' in front of the SDESA Centre is **Not Permitted**.

Parking fines are issued by the Queensland Police Service and authorised officers from the SDRC using a traffic infringement penalty notice.

If people park vehicles there, they could be fined and loose demerits points.



Passing of Mates:

1202615 L/CPL. Gerald Andrew LYALL OAM (aka Gerry)

VSASA Inc secretary Phil Clowry OAM advised the passing of advocate, friend and long serving executive member of VSASA Inc Toowong **Mr. Gerald Andrew Lyall OAM**. Gerry served in the regular Army with 3 Troop, 1st Field Squadron, The Royal Australian Engineers in South Vietnam as a 'tunnel rat' from 1969 – 1970. He served in Australia, Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia.



In 2003, Gerry was the founding Secretary/Treasurer of the *Vietnam Veterans Mine Clearing-Cambodia Inc*, he retired from the mine clearing team in 2008 due to ill-health.

Gerry was awarded the **Medal in the Order of Australia** in January 2006, for his service to the welfare of veterans and their families, particularly as an adviser and advocate for totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen and women.

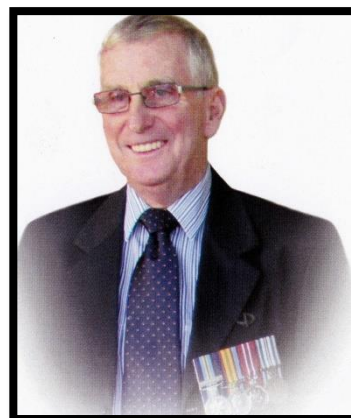


3798134 PTE. Shane PRENDERGAST

Shane Prendergast had been a long serving member of the Veterans Support and Advocacy Service Inc Warwick Auspice. Shane passed away on the 11.11.2018 after a long battle following surgery.

During 1969, Shane's was called up to perform two years continuous full-time service in the Regular Army Supplement, which saw him not only in the Australian Army, but also on active service in South Vietnam, Shane enlisted on the 28th January 1970 and was posted to the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion for basic training. On the 7th April 1970, was transferred to the 3rd Training Battalion (Infantry Corps Wing) in Singleton, NSW and later to Infantry Centre Reinforcement Wing at Ingleburn, NSW to train as a rifleman, mortarman. Shane served with the 1st Australian Reinforcement Unit, 7th Battalion and 2nd Battalion. The Royal Australian Regiment 1970-71.

Shane was discharged from the Army, on the 15th November 1971, having served his required national service commitment and went back to farming in Victoria, until he married Lorraine and moved to Queensland.



Recognising and Respecting our 'Veterans'

Our Government will develop an Australian Veterans' Covenant that will be enacted in legislation, so the nation can recognise the unique nature of military service and support veterans and their families. Like the United Kingdom Armed Forces Covenant, the 'Australian Veterans' Covenant' is for the Australian community to recognise the service and sacrifice of the men and women who commit to defend the nation and pledge their commitment to support veterans and their families.

As part of this Veterans' Covenant, a new Australian Veterans' Card and an Australian Veterans' Lapel Pin will make it easier for all Australians to recognise and respect the unique contribution that veterans have made to Australia and for our veterans to reconnect with others who have served. As we have seen throughout the Invictus Games and in the lead up to the Centenary of Armistice, Australians want to acknowledge and show respect for our veterans who have given so much in their service.

Businesses, government and community organisations can also play their part in recognising and respecting those who have served. The card and the pin can help these organisations identify veterans when they aren't wearing their uniform or medals, so they can offer discounts and extra support. The new Card and Lapel Pin will for the first time enable everyone across the nation to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and support the more than 300,000 veterans in Australia and their families. The Prime Minister will be writing to businesses and communities to urge them to recognise the service of our veterans.

In addition to the record \$11.2 billion annual support our government delivers for veterans and their families, we will invest \$11.1 million in these measures to deliver a national approach to recognise veterans and will further consult defence and veterans' communities in coming weeks. We will also deliver \$6.7 million to develop the Soldier On Fussell House accommodation facility to be co-located at the Concord Repatriation Hospital in Sydney that the NSW Berejiklian Government is investing more than \$340 million to rebuild. This includes the National Centre for Veterans Health – an Australian first, state of the art centre for specialised health care for veterans.

Named for Lieutenant Michael Fussell who was serving with the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan when he was killed in action by an Improvised Explosive Device detonation, the facility will house up to 40 veterans and their families at a time and will especially benefit those from regional and rural areas when veterans are getting treatment.

'Proposed' - New 'Australian Veteran Cards and Badge'?

The editor has received a copy of what the proposed new '**Australian Veteran Cards**' may look like after the Prime Minister announced the new card system following the closure of the Invictus Games in Sydney. However, you will need to wait until the finer details of the proposal is declared. At this stage it is the intention to use the existing White and Gold Health cards and as they are renewed, the words '**Health Card**' will be removed and the word '**Veteran**' will be added. All other aspects will remain the same, including the '**TPI**' embossing.

This is still being discussed and by no means is the final decision on this, as the information cannot be confirmed and therefore is still undecided. The new proposed '**Australian Veteran Pin**' has not yet been finalised either.

Some groups are totally opposed to the issue of the new card, because of the word '**Veteran**' being substituted. Some argue that only '*returned from active service*' members should be considered for the new cards.

(The definition of a 'Veteran') by Wikipedia is; "A veteran is a person who has had long service or experience in a particular occupation or field". "A military veteran is a person who has served and is no longer serving in the armed forces. Those **veterans** that have had direct exposure to acts of military conflict, may also be referred to as "**war veterans**."



Proposed ONLY – New 'Australian Veterans Card and Pin'?

DECEMBER 2018 & JANUARY 2019

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2019

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'T WAS THE DAWN CHRISTMAS MORNING

**'Twas the dawn Christmas morning and a soldier was sad;
He was far from his family in a nation gone bad.**

**He thought of his children, all tucked up in bed
He thought of his wife and a tear he did shed.**

**'Is this crap all worth it?' he said to his mate,
'I wanna go home, not sit here and wait.'**

**His mate thought for a bit, then said with a smile:
'It's the reason we're here that makes this worthwhile.**

**'We're tired and we're cramped in this pit in the ground
So our families are safe and free all year round.**

**'We're doing our bit, like those in the past,
So peace has a chance and freedom can last.'**

**The soldier nodded his head – this year had been tough;
He'd seen warfare and famine and nastier stuff.**

**He thought of his children and thought of his wife
And was thankful they had such a fortunate life.**

**Seeing some shepherds protecting their herds,
He suddenly smiled and whispered the words:**

**'Merry Christmas my family – I really miss you,
But my presence right here is my present to you.'**



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Merry Christmas
 & Happy New Year

'KUGA' - Special Operations Military Working Dog (SOMWD) Special Air Service Regiment, Australian Army

PDSA Dickin Medal (*Victoria Cross for Military Dogs*)



*Australian Army special operations military working dog **Kuga** was posthumously awarded the **Dickin Medal** – thought of as '**the VC for animals**' – for **conspicuous gallantry** at a ceremony in Canberra on 26 October 2018.*

For outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty in Afghanistan as part of the Australian Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) during Operation Slipper, Khas Uruzgan, Uruzgan province, Afghanistan.



Australian special operations military working dog (SOMWD) **Kuga**, a Belgian Malinois, was born on 23 April 2007. Kuga began his development training with the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) in January 2008, aged eight months.

He was teamed with his handler in April 2009 and, in June 2010, they were deployed to Afghanistan on their first tour, where Kuga performed exceptionally well with his endless drive to work and courage being well recognised.

On 26 August 2011, during Kuga's second tour, Kuga and his handler were part of an SOTG troop element conducting a counter-leadership mission to capture a senior Taliban insurgent in the Khas Uruzgan district.

After landing by helicopter near a target compound, the unit began their patrol. Kuga and his handler were located on the left flank of the patrol line, next to the river. Kuga was sent forward by his handler to search for concealed insurgents or improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that might have been located along the river's edge. As the patrol moved closer to the target compound, Kuga indicated an enemy presence and moved down towards the river.

As Kuga entered the water and swam across the river to the opposite bank, he was engaged and injured by bursts of automatic small-arms fire. His handler moved into position to support Kuga while he continued to swim, undeterred, by the close-range fire. After reaching the bank, he charged towards a small tree line where his handler was able to identify the enemy's location and witnessed an insurgent firing at Kuga at close range.

While apprehending the insurgent, Kuga was shot again, causing him to lose his grip on the enemy.

During the incident, Kuga was shot five times: twice in the ear, once in the toe, once in the cheek (which exited through the neck) and once in the chest, which exited the shoulder and broke his upper-left leg. Kuga also received shrapnel wounds to his lower spine.

Despite his injuries and without the risk of exposing the patrol to enemy fire, Kuga swam back across the river when recalled by his handler, who administered emergency first aid and requested a helicopter medical evacuation for him. Kuga was medically evacuated and was subsequently treated through coalition medical facilities in Afghanistan and Germany, before returning to Australia for further treatment and rehabilitation.



Sadly, Kuga passed away in kennels on 24 July 2012 and, although inconclusive, it was believed that his body succumbed to the stress placed upon him due to the injuries he sustained in the incident. Kuga's death is officially recorded as 'Died of Wounds'.

If it wasn't for Kuga's actions in the early detection of the concealed enemy position, his drive and courage in the face of enemy fire, both Kuga's handler and the patrol would have walked into the enemy ambush with potentially devastating loss of life.

For Kuga's unstinting bravery and life-saving actions, he is a worthy recipient of the 71st PDSA Dickin Medal.

**For Kuga's unstinting bravery and life-saving actions,
he is a worthy recipient of the 71st PDSA Dickin Medal.**



(Above:) Tracker Dogs War Medals



(Above:) KUGA, shown here with his handler, not sniffed out the Taliban ambush, he attacked and drove off the insurgents.



(Below:) KUGA have a break on a grassed lawn



MAJ Grant Prendergast and 'Aussie Helpers' organise 'Aid for Farmers'

More used to coordinating aid in conflict zones abroad, Major Grant Prendergast, of the 12/16 Hunter River Lancers in Tamworth NSW, never expected to be doing it at home in and around the Tamworth areas.

At least 2000 head of cattle have been lost to malnutrition or drowning in the drought in the Watsons Creek and Kingstown areas. *"The reason why I started doing it, is because this drought is on a scale that's never been seen before in this area,"* he said. *"It's survival, that's the best way to describe it, surrender is not an option. "Some people have lost their entire herd; their entire income is gone."*

Working alongside drought charity Aussie Helpers, Grant managed to pull together 42 tonnes of sweet potato, 32 tonnes of molasses, 300 bales of hay and two tonnes of food for working dogs. Some of it had to be dropped off immediately because the situation in the region is so dire. Aussie Helpers and Grant coordinated traffic control and aid to farmers in desperate need. Hours later they were still giving handouts to drought-stricken farmers, Grant learned a lot about who needed help most by speaking with neighbours in the area.

"Farmers have run out of water, stock, feed – just the ability to buy feed is extremely difficult due to the cost," he said. *"They were really overwhelmed; every little bit helps it just reinforces to the farmers not only here but within northern NSW that they aren't forgotten, and help is available. "This drought is no different to fighting a war because surrender just is not an option. "We've given to between 30 and 40 households in the area and that includes food and some household items just to help people get through."*

Grant has experienced the impacts of drought on his own property in the area, he believes he's lucky to have held on as long as he has. *"For me personally it was pretty tough, I have cattle and I lost several head of cattle due to drowning in mud in my dams and through malnutrition as well,"* he said. *"Not one person in this area has been left untouched by this drought, I'm just one of the lucky ones who's managed to make it this far."*



DECEMBER 2018 & JANUARY 2019



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2019

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Australian Army 547 Signal Troop during the Vietnam War

Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester today announced Australian Defence Force members who served with

the Australian Army 547 Signal Troop during the Vietnam War had been recognised with the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation.

Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove has formally approved the awarding of the citation in recognition of the military assistance provided to the former Republic of Vietnam (*South Vietnam*) while under the operational command of the US Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV).

Mr Chester said 547 Signal Troop was raised in 1966 and deployed to Vietnam as Australia's contribution to the United States intelligence network.

"The troop's primary role was to locate and monitor enemy radio signals in order to identify their strength, location, capability and future intentions," Mr Chester said.

"To achieve this, the troop was in direct contact with enemy forces from the first day they arrived in Vietnam to the day before all Australian forces departed that country.

"Throughout their deployment to Vietnam, the troop was credited with providing early warning of imminent large scale-enemy action against Australian, US and Thai forces, and were directly credited with saving hundreds of lives.

"Due to the extreme secrecy surrounding the troop's operations, their presence in Vietnam continued to be a closely guarded secret.

"Even today the troop does not appear on many maps drawn up by the Australian Task Force or on a model at the Australian War Memorial showing the locations of all Australian units at Nui Dat."

547 Signal Troop was under operational control of the United States Army Security Agency's 509th Radio Research Group and was assigned to the 303rd Radio Research Battalion.

The troop's deployment to Vietnam included responsibility for direct support to the Australian Task Force and American units operating under the US II Field Force Vietnam command.

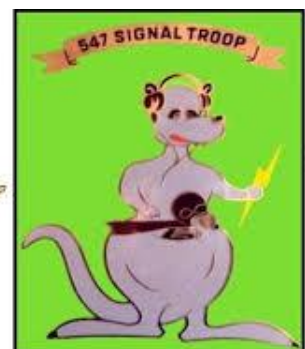
Mr Chester encouraged Veterans and family members of deceased veterans of 547 Signal Troop to apply through the **Directorate of Honours and Awards at the Department of Defence** for the citation.

"The extraordinary courage and bravery of this troop is now being formally acknowledged and I hope veterans and family members come forward to receive this well-deserved recognition."

To be eligible for the citation insignia, members must have served in Vietnam under the command of MACV and posted to 547 Signal Troop [for any length of time?] during the eligible dates, 13 June 1966 to 23 December 1971.



547 Signal Troop shack at Nui Dat.



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