



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

July 8, 1993

Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable John Dalton
Attn: Commander Epsall
The Pentagon, Room 4E714
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Commander Epsall:

I attach correspondence from H.M.A.S. Sydney and Vietnam Logistic Support Veteran's Association. I would be grateful if answers to the questions asked could be provided direct with a copy to me. I can personally certify that the Aussies have been wonderful patriots and allies in the three wars in which I have served with them; most especially the Vietnam War.

Sincerely,


E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 641
Arlington, Virginia 22209

(703) 527-5380

Enclosure



JUL 08 1993

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY
AND
VIETNAM LOGISTIC SUPPORT
VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

(INCORPORATED IN S.A.)

P.O. BOX 990,
MORPHETT VALE,
S.A. 5162.

Australia

Phone: 08 3261074

30 June 1993.

Admiral E.R. Zumwalt Jr. U.S. Navy (Ret.),
1500 Wilson Boulevard,
Arlington Virginia 22209,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

I respectfully request your assistance in obtaining what our Association considers important information in relation to the eligibility conditions for the "Vietnamese Campaign Medal".

As can be seen by way of a copy of the enclosed letter from myself to Mr. Lembit Suur (Secretary, Committee of Inquiry into Defence Awards), we thought it an opportune time to gather any additional information that may support our Submission.

I now bring your attention to a copy of a letter to myself from Department of the Navy (S.J. Kirk, Head, Awards and Special Project Branch). I will quote the relevant part:

"BASICALLY, PERSONNEL WHO SERVED ON U.S. SHIP'S IN THE VIETNAM AREA FOR AT LEAST ONE DAY IN SIX DIFFERENT MONTHS QUALIFY FOR THE VIETNAM SERVICE CAMPAIGN MEDAL".

From what we can ascertain, the above quotation is a reference to Personnel serving outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam but contributing Direct Combat Support.

The first question we ask is:

WHAT IS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VIETNAMESE CAMPAIGN MEDAL, FOR PERSONNEL SERVING INSIDE THE GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS OF SOUTH VIETNAM, PROVIDING THOSE PERSONNEL QUALIFIED FOR THE "VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL"?

The second question we ask is:

WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL DEFINITION OF: "DIRECT COMBAT SUPPORT"?

Finally, it would be most appreciated, if possible to send us any useful information on this subject, that may assist the Association. If it is not possible for you to assist in our inquiries (Questions), a letter of support of our Associations' Submission to the COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO DEFENCE AWARDS, would be most appreciated. I look forward with anticipation to your reply,

Yours Sincerely,

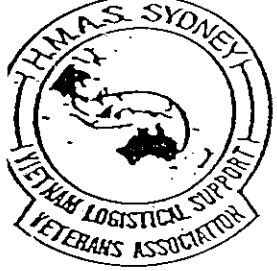
Allan J. Lees. (Sec.) *Allan Lees*, , , , ,

ENCLOSURES:

1. Copy of letter to Mr. Lembit Suur from Allan J. Lees.
2. Copy of letter to Mr. Allan J. Lees from S.J. Kirk (Dept.of Navy).
3. Copy of details concerning: Committee of Inquiry into Defence-
related Awards.

Yours Sincerely,

Allan J. Lees.....
Allan J. Lees. (Sec.).



H.M.A.S. SYDNEY
AND
VIETNAM LOGISTIC SUPPORT
VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

(INCORPORATED IN S.A.)

P.O. BOX 990,
MORPHETT VALE,
S.A. 5162.

Mr. Lembit Suur,
Secretary,
Committee of Inquiry into Defence Awards,
GPO Box 688,
CANBERRA,
ACT 2601.

Dear Mr. Lembit Suur,

This letter is a Submission to you for consideration into the "Review of Australian Honours and Awards.

The Medal and conditions of eligibility for which we ask to be reviewed is:

THE VIETNAMESE CAMPAIGN MEDAL

As supporting evidence I will quote in part from the following.

A. Letter dated 31 May, 1989 from the Minister for Defence to Admiral E.R. Zumwalt Jr. US Navy (Ret).

I quote in part. "AS YOU WILL BE AWARE, THE VIETNAMESE CAMPAIGN MEDAL WAS INSTITUTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE THEN REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND IS AWARDED UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH WERE LAID DOWN BY THAT GOVERNMENT. THOSE CONDITIONS, IDENTICAL TO THOSE APPLYING TO U.S. FORCES, COULD NOT NOW BE CHANGED BY AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT."

B. Letter dated 20 November, 1987 from Department of the Navy (U.S.) I quote in part "BASICALLY, PERSONNEL WHO SERVED ON U.S. SHIP'S IN THE VIETNAM AREA FOR AT LEAST ONE DAY IN SIX DIFFERENT MONTHS QUALIFY FOR THE VIETNAM SERVICE CAMPAIGN MEDAL."

We believe that the current Australian eligibility requirements for this award, should be brought into line with those conditions which apply to U.S. Forces.

The current Australian eligibility requirements for this award is:

ALLOTTED FOR SPECIAL SERVICE IN VIETNAM FOR 181 DAYS.

This requirement is not identical to those which were laid down by the then Republic of Vietnam.

We request that the eligibility conditions for the Vietnamese Campaign Medal be **IDENTICAL** to those eligibility conditions which apply to U.S. Forces.

Yours Sincerely,

Allan J. Lees
Allan J. Lees. (Sec.)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO
Ser 09B33/7U305007
20 Nov 87

Mr. Allan J Lees
Secretary, V.L.S. VA (STH Aust. Branch)
23 Freeman Avenue
Morphett Vale
South Aust. 5162
Australia

Dear Mr. Lees:

This is in reply to your letter of 23 October 1987 concerning the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

I have enclosed the portion from our awards manual which deals with this award. Basically, personnel who served on U.S. ship's in the Vietnam area for at least one day in six different months qualify for the Vietnam Service Campaign Medal.

I hope this information helps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. J. Kirk".

S. J. KIRK
Head, Awards and Special
Project Branch
By direction of the
Chief of Naval Operations



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARTS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**Committee of Inquiry
into Defence and
Defence-related
Awards**

The Commonwealth Government announced on 27 May 1993 the establishment of a Committee to examine issues relating to Australian honours and awards in recognition of service in Defence and Defence-related areas. The Committee is chaired by General Peter Gratton AC OBE.

The terms of reference for the Committee are:

1. Examine claims for recognition of categories of service;
2. identify any categories of service, including those which involved non-Defence personnel in operational areas, which you consider should be recognised by an Australian award;
3. examine the appropriateness of extending the eligibility of existing awards for such purposes;
4. consider the need, if any, to introduce additional awards to recognise service in past defence-related activities of either a warlike or non-warlike nature;
5. consider any other relevant matters in relation to defence-related awards; and
6. make appropriate recommendations.

The Committee will not be inquiring into honours and awards of gallantry or meritorious or distinguished service for individuals or units, for which appropriate award procedures existed or now exist, nor will it be concerned with entitlements under the Veterans' Entitlements Act.

The Committee invites interested persons or organisations to forward written submissions relating to the terms of reference by 6 August 1993. The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals or organisations to give supporting evidence. Submissions and inquiries should be directed to:

Mr Lembit Suur
Secretary
Committee of Inquiry into Defence Awards
GPO Box 688
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel (06) 275 3441 Fax (06) 275 3645