

# GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPROVAL TO ACCEPT MILITARY AWARDS PREVIOUSLY CONFERRED OR OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## **Background information**

During the Vietnam War, various Australian military personnel were offered US military awards for either a particular act of gallantry or meritorious service supporting the allied war effort in Vietnam. At the time Australians were not allowed to officially accept or wear foreign awards.

New foreign award guidelines now allow acceptance and wearing of foreign honours by Australian citizens in most circumstances. These changes flow from a recommendation made to the Australian Government by the Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence Related Awards in 1994.

As a result, the Australian and US Governments are working together to have previously conferred US awards officially recognised and approved by the Governor-General.

## **Notes for completing the application form**

### 1. Details of awardee (recipient of the award)

- This section must be completed by all applicants.
- Complete this section with the name of the proposed awardee and current contact details
- Date and place of birth are required by the US Government

### 2. Details of applicant (if other than awardee)

- Give your personal details if you are making an application on behalf of another person who is deceased or a person unable to complete the form through illness or infirmity
- You are required to provide a Statutory Declaration with the completed application form, stating the relationship of the applicant to the proposed awardee. If the applicant is not the next-of-kin, an additional point should be included to state that the applicant has the permission of the family and the next-of-kin to apply on behalf of the family.

### 3. Awardee's Australian Defence Force Service details

- Provide service details as requested on the form
- Send **copies only** with the application form of any personal documentation to assist in verifying service, such as posting orders, discharge certificates, etc.
- Australian Defence Force service in Vietnam will be validated through military records before being forwarded to the US authorities.

