



SENATOR JOHN FAULKNER Minister for Defence

Thursday, 13 May 2010

46/2010

Operation Paladin declared warlike for Israel/Hezbollah conflict

The Minister for Defence, Senator John Faulkner, today announced his decision to reclassify the 33 day period of the Israel/Hezbollah war as Warlike. The conflict, which took place from 12 July -14 August 2006, involved Australian Defence Force personnel serving in Operation PALADIN.

Operation PALADIN is the Australian contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East. Originally established in 1948, UNTSO functions as an official peacekeeping force and has received Australian support since 1956.

The Government's current contingent of 11 Australian Defence Force officers serves as Military Observers with the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation in Israel, Syria and Lebanon.

During the 33 day period, four of the 11 ADF personnel were stationed with Observer Group Lebanon, conducting patrols on the Lebanese side of the border between Israel and Lebanon.

The decision, proposed by Senator Faulkner in March 2010, to reclassify this period was made as a result of ongoing investigations into the nature of service of Defence involvement in past events and operations. Post deployment investigations are frequently needed due to the unpredictable and complex nature of military operations.

This reclassification will now provide the four Australian Defence Force officers involved eligibility for certain Veterans' benefits and the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM).

In line with our international commitments, the Government will continue to provide ongoing support to United Nations peacekeeping operations and the Australian Defence Force personnel who contribute to them.

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