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Appendix D

MASSEY UNIVERSITY

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Name of Candidate: Rhys Ball ID Number: 02400030

Degree: PhD Dept/Institute/School: Centre for Defence Studies

Thesis title: The Platforms: An Examination of New Zealand Special Air Service Campaigns from Borneo 'Confrontation' to the Vietnam War, 1965-1971

Name of Chief Supervisor: Professor Glyn Harper Telephone Ext: 5456

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**The Platforms:
An Examination of New Zealand Special Air Service
Campaigns from Borneo ‘Confrontation’ to the
Vietnam War, 1965 – 1971**

**A thesis presented in fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
in
Defence and Strategic Studies
at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand.**

Rhys Ball

2009

Abstract

In 1955, the New Zealand Government authorised the creation of a Special Forces unit to operate with British counterparts in Malaya to defeat a communist-inspired guerrilla insurgency. Between 1956 and 1971 elements of the New Zealand Special Air Service (SAS) were deployed on active service four times. These operational deployments included periods of time in Malaya, Thailand, Borneo and South Vietnam. The research illustrates the chronological progression of the New Zealand SAS through two of its most influential active service campaigns by examining how commitments to the Borneo 'Confrontation' in 1965 and 1966 directly and indirectly influenced the deployment to South Vietnam between December 1968 and February 1971.

The mission of the New Zealand SAS in South Vietnam was to 'assist in providing long range reconnaissance patrols' that would support the larger infantry elements in defeating the Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army enemy. New Zealand SAS soldiers participated in 169 Australian SAS patrols in South Vietnam. Of those, 137 were commanded by the New Zealanders themselves. The research describes what the New Zealand SAS encountered during nearly two and a half years in South Vietnam; from the tactical intensity associated with small five-man patrols often observing or contacting much larger enemy formations, to the uncompromising professional standards that were expected of all members regardless of situation or circumstances and the influences of experienced Patrol Commanders, and the frustrations and inflexibility which characterised the relationship with their Australian counterparts.

The research also further examines the underlying issue of overall strategic success and value of a small nationally-identifiable and strongly independent military unit that was compelled to operate under the command of larger Special Forces coalition counterparts and the impact different political, doctrinal, tactical cultural and cognitive characteristics had on these joint-operational deployments. The size of the New Zealand SAS contribution to the Australian SAS Squadron combined with the command arrangements placed upon it, also dictated that the deployments were never likely to be able to exert influence in any 'independent' or nationally-identifiable

sense, and the relationships, the types of patrol operations conducted, and the value of these operations, would ultimately see many New Zealand SAS veterans largely dissatisfied with the overall performance of the deployment.

Nevertheless, the strength of New Zealand SAS operations in South Vietnam came from its practical application of unique New Zealand Special Forces methodology and field-craft which had been fundamentally shaped and developed in Borneo. The New Zealand SAS operations in South Vietnam and Borneo - the demonstration of the highest standards of patrol techniques, tracking, reconnaissance, ambushing and fire discipline, and above all, operational professionalism that has been the hallmark of New Zealand's military history – provided the evolutionary ‘platforms’ from which today’s highly skilled and enviable New Zealand Special Forces have emerged.

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Dedication

To Mrs Deirdre Elizabeth Ball: to my principal sponsor in all facets of this piece of research, my greatest motivator and supporter who has always encouraged me to aspire to do my very best. Like those mentioned in these pages – perhaps even more so – you experienced and lived through this period I have written about. And for that, I will remain forever grateful. All my love always.

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Glossary

1ATF	Australian Task Force
161 Bty	161 Royal New Zealand Artillery Battery
22 SAS	22 Special Air Service Regiment (United Kingdom)
2IC	Second in Command
2Lt (2LT)	Second Lieutenant
3Cav	Australian 3 rd Cavalry Regiment
AATTV	Australian Army Training Team Vietnam
AFV	Australian Forces Vietnam
AGS	Army General Staff
AHQ	Australian Headquarters
AK-47	Soviet-manufactured 7.62mm assault rifle
ANZAC	Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
ANZAM	Australian, New Zealand and Malaysia
ANZUK	Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom Security Treaty
ANZUS	Australian, New Zealand and United States Security Treaty
AO	Area of Operations
APC	M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier
A/QM	Assistant Quartermaster
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
Arty	Artillery
ASAP	As Soon as Possible (A-sap)
ASAS	Australian Special Air Service
BBT	Chinese-Communist High Explosive (HE) grenades
BC	Body Count
BDA	Bomb Damage Assessment
Bde	Brigade
BEM	British Empire Medal
BRIAM	British Advisory Mission Vietnam
BSIS	British Secret Intelligence Service, also known as MI6
BT	Blood Trail
Capt	Captain
CASEVAC	Casualty Evacuation: by DUSTOFF Helicopter
CDF	New Zealand Chief of Defence Force
CDS	New Zealand Chief of Defence Staff
CGS	New Zealand Chief of General Staff
CHICOM	Chinese-Communist – usually in reference to the manufacture or source of weapons used by the Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA), as opposed to Soviet-made weapons
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CIDG	United States Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) program
CINCFE	United Kingdom Commander-in-Chief Far East
CINCPAC	United States Commander in Chief Pacific
CM	Cabinet Minute or Cabinet Meeting
CNS	New Zealand Chief of Naval Staff
CO	Commanding Officer
CO	Cabinet Office

COMUSMACV	Commander United States Military Assistance Command Vietnam
CORDS	Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support
COS	Chief of Staff
COSV/COSVN	Central Office South Vietnam - organisation with overall responsibility for Vietcong operations in South Vietnam
Cpl	Corporal
CSR	Commonwealth Strategic Reserve
CTR	Close Target Reconnaissance
D Inf/SAS	Director or Directorate of Infantry and Special Air Service
DAAG	Deputy Assistant Adjutant General
DCAS	Deputy Chief of Air Staff
DCM	Distinguished Conduct Medal
DEA	New Zealand Department of External Affairs
Det	Detachment or detonator cord
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DIA	New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs
DLO	Defence Liaison Officer
DMZ	Demilitarised Zone: a narrow zone across the 17 th parallel dividing North and South Vietnam
DOBOPS	United Kingdom Director of Borneo Operations
DOW	Died of Wounds
DPMC	New Zealand Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (formerly Prime Minister's Office)
DUSTOFF	Call sign for helicopter Medical Evacuation (casevac or medevac)
DZ	Drop Zone
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival
FAC	Forward Air Controller
FARELF	New Zealand Far East Land Forces
FCO/FO	United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (formerly Foreign Office)
FFZ	Free Fire Zone
FSB	Fire Support Base
FSPB	Fire Support Patrol Base
FWMAF	Free World Military Assistance Forces: US term for the forces assisting South Vietnam
GR	Grid Reference
GS	Grid Square
GSO2 (Int)	Army General Staff Officer 2: Intelligence
GSO2 (Ops)	Army General Staff Officer 2: Operations
HC	Hoi Chanh: South Vietnamese Vietcong who joined the Chieu Hoi programme
HE	High Explosive
HF	High Frequency: radio
HMG	Heavy-Machine Gun
HQ	Headquarters
HQAFV	Headquarters Australian Forces Vietnam
IA	Immediate Action
IBT	Indonesian Border Terrorists

INTREP	Intelligence Report
INTSUM	Intelligence Summary
IO	Intelligence Officer
JG	Jungle Green (uniform)
JWS	Jungle Warfare School
KIA (BC)	Killed in Action (confirmed by a sighting of the dead body)
LAF	Laotian Armed Forces
LF	Vietcong Local Force Guerrillas
LFT	Light Fire Team – Two RAAF 9 Squadron ‘Bushranger’ Helicopter gunships
LMG	Light-Machine Gun
LO	Liaison Officer
LOCSTAT	Location Status: statement of present location
LRDG	Long Range Desert Group
LRRP	Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrols
LT	Lieutenant
LT-COL	Lieutenant-Colonel
LT-GEN	Lieutenant-General
LUP	Lying Up Place/Laying Up Place
LZ	Landing Zone
MAAGV	Military Assistance Advisory Group – Vietnam (1955-1964)
MACSOG	Military Assistance Command – Studies and Advisory Group
MACV	Military Assistance Command – Vietnam
Maj	Major
MAJ-GEN	Major-General
MATT	Mobile Advisory and Training Team
MC	Military Cross
MEA/MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of External Affairs (now Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade)
MEDEVAC	Medical Evacuation
MF	Vietcong Main Force Guerrillas
MG	Machine Gun
MIA	Missing in Action
MID	Mentioned in Dispatches
MILSEC	New Zealand Army Military Secretary
MM	Military Medal
MMG	Medium Machine Gun
MMTT	Montagnard Mobile Training Team
MOBRIG	Indonesian Police Mobile Brigades
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MRF	Mobile Riverine Force
MSF	Mobile Strike Force
MSR	Main Supply Route
MTT	US Navy SEAL Mobile Training Teams
Nasho	National Serviceman (NS) conscript (Australian Army)
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
NEWZARM	New Zealand Army
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
NZADV	New Zealand Army Detachment Vietnam
NZDF	New Zealand Defence Force

NZPA	New Zealand Press Association
NZSAS	New Zealand Special Air Service
NZV Force	New Zealand Vietnam Force
O Gp	Orders Group (O-Group)
OC	Officer Commanding (usually of Squadron or Company)
OCS	Officer Cadet School: Portsea, Victoria
OIC	Officer in Charge
OG	Olive Green
OP	Observation Position
Op	Operation
OPSO	Operations Officer
OR	Other Ranks
OSS	United States Office of Strategic Services
OTLP	One Time Letter Pad
PC	Patrol Commander
PE	Plastic Explosive: Composition 4 or C4
Pers	Personnel
PF	Popular Forces: South Vietnamese Militia
PLAF	People's Liberation Armed Forces or Nhan Dan Giai Phong Quan – otherwise known as the Vietcong
PNG	Papua New Guinea
POW (PW)	Prisoner of War
PRC-25	Personal Radio Communications Very High Frequency (VHF) radio set
PRP	People's Revolutionary Party - the political wing of the South Vietnamese Communist Party
PRU	Provincial Reconnaissance Units (Phoenix Program)
PSYOPS	Psychological Operations
PT	Physical Training
Pte	Private
PTSU	RNZAF Parachute Training and Support Unit
PUO	Pyrexia (fever) of Unknown Origin
PW	Prisoner of War
PX	Post Exchange: American Services Duty Free store
Q Accounts	Quartermasters Accounts
R & R	Rest and Recreation (Recuperation): leave taken outside of Vietnam
RAF	Royal Air Force
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RAR	Royal Australian Regiment
RAR/NZ	Royal Australian Regiment/New Zealand (attached) Company
Recce/Recon	Reconnaissance
Regt	Regiment
Resup	Resupply
RF	New Zealand Army Regular Force
RM	Royal Marines
RNZA	Royal New Zealand Artillery
RNZAF	Royal New Zealand Air Force
RNZIR	Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
RNZN	Royal New Zealand Navy

ROE	Rules of Engagement
ROK	Republic of Korea
RPD	Soviet-manufactured Light-Machine Gun
RPG	Rocket-Propelled/Projectile Grenade
RPKAD	Resemen Para Komando Angkatan Darat, Indonesian Special Forces
RSD	Vietcong Rear Services Group
RSM	Regimental Sergeant-Major (Warrant Officer Class One)
RTU	Returned to Unit
RV	Rendezvous
RVN	Republic of Vietnam
SARBE	Search and Rescue Beacon
SAS	Special Air Service
SASR	Australian Special Air Service Regiment
SBS	United Kingdom Special Boat Service
SEAL	US Navy Special Forces (SEa, Air and Land)
SEATO	South East Asia Treaty Organisation
SF	Special Forces
SMM	Saigon Military Mission
SOF	Special Operations Forces
Sgt	Sergeant
SHQ	Squadron Headquarters
Sig	Signals or signaller
SIGINT	Signals Intelligence
SITREP	Situation Report
SKS	Soviet and Chinese-manufactured semi-automatic rifle
SLR	United Kingdom L1A1 7.62mm Self-Loading Rifle
SMG	Sub-Machine Gun
SOG	Studies and Observation Group
SOE	Special Operations Executive
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures or Standing Operating Procedure (see 2 Squadron, September 1968) or Standard Operational Procedure
SQMS	Squadron Quartermaster Sergeant (SQMS)
SQN	Squadron
SSgt	Staff-Sergeant
SSM	Squadron Sergeant-Major (Warrant Officer Class Two)
Tac	Tactical
TACAIR	Tactical Air Support
TAOR	Tactical Area of (Operational) Responsibility
Tet	Vietnamese Lunar New Year which occurs in late January or early February
Tet Offensive	The coordinated general offensive against South Vietnam that began on 29 January 1968
TF	New Zealand Army Territorial Forces
TNI	Tantara Nasional Indonesia - Indonesian Regular Army
Tpr	Trooper
TS	Top Secret
UD	Unauthorised Discharge
UDT	United States Navy Underwater Demolition Teams

UH	Utility Helicopter: Bell UH1-Iroquois
UHF	Ultra-High Frequency: radio
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
US	United States
USA	United States Army
USAF	United States Air Force
USMC	United States Marine Corps
USN	United States Navy
USSF	United States Special Forces
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Russia)
UW	Unconventional Warfare
VC	Vietnamese Communist (a contraction of Viet Nam Cong San)
VC	Victoria Cross
VHF	Very-High Frequency: radio band
Viet Minh	Vietnam Doc Lap Dong Minh: Vietnam Independence League
VLF	Very-Low Frequency: radio band
VNA	Vietnamese National Army
VNAF	Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Air Force
VR	Visual Reconnaissance
WIA	Wounded in Action
WOI/WO1	Warrant Officer Class One
WOII/WO2	Warrant Officer Class Two
WWII	World War Two