

**DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

**SPECIALIST OPERATIONS ALLOWANCE**

**MATTER NO 4 OF 2002**

**STATEMENT**

THE ADF HAS SOUGHT THE INTRODUCTION OF A SPECIALIST OPERATIONS ALLOWANCE THAT ENCOMPASSES MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH FOR AND RENDERING SAFE OF UNPREDICTABLE EXPLOSIVES; MEMBERS OF THE INCIDENT RESPONSE REGIMENT; MEMBERS OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT (COMMANDO); MEMBERS OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TACTICAL ASSAULT GROUP AND CLEARANCE DIVERS.

ON 12 JUNE 2002 THE TRIBUNAL APPROVED THE ALLOWANCE SOUGHT FOR 4RAR (COMMANDO) AND THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TAG WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE DISABILITY PAYMENT FOR HIGH ALTITUDE PARACHUTE OPERATIONS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A DESIGNATED SPECIAL DUTY ELEMENT.

HAVING HEARD THE FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ON UNPREDICTABLE EXPLOSIVES ALLOWANCE AND THE CASE FOR CLEARANCE DIVING ALLOWANCE WE HAVE DECIDED TO APPROVE THE STRUCTURE AND RATES OF SPECIALIST OPERATIONS ALLOWANCE, INCLUDING THOSE FOR THE INCIDENT RESPONSE REGIMENT AS SOUGHT BY THE ADF WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE DISABILITY PAYMENT FOR HIGH ALTITUDE PARACHUTE OPERATIONS TO COMMANDOS.

HAVING CONSIDERED THE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A DESIGNATED SPECIAL DUTY ELEMENT FOR THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT AND THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TAG WE HAVE DECIDED TO APPROVE THE RATE AS PROPOSED BY THE ADF.

IN REGARD TO UNPREDICTABLE EXPLOSIVES ALLOWANCE THE TRIBUNAL NOTES THE ABSENCE OF A QUALIFICATION AND SKILL ELEMENT. WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE ADF INTENDS TO REVIEW THE SALARY STRUCTURE OF ARMY AMMUNITION TECHNICIANS AND RAAF AVIONICS AND AIRCRAFT TECHNICIANS WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. WE ENDORSE THOSE REVIEWS. FOLLOWING THEIR COMPLETION, IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO REASSESS THE NEED FOR A Q&S ELEMENT FOR UNPREDICTABLE EXPLOSIVES ALLOWANCE. ACCORDINGLY, WE INVITE THE ADF TO MAKE A SUBMISSION ON THIS MATTER ONCE THESE REVIEWS ARE COMPLETED. IN THE MEANTIME WE DIRECT THE ADF TO REPORT BACK TO THE TRIBUNAL ON PROGRESS WITH THESE REVIEWS BY 30 JUNE 2003.

THE NEW RATES OF THE ALLOWANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE INCIDENT RESPONSE REGIMENT, CLEARANCE DIVERS AND MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH FOR AND RENDERING SAFE OF UNPREDICTABLE EXPLOSIVES WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON AND FROM THE DATES SOUGHT BY THE ADF AND AGREED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE PARTIES.

DETERMINATIONS GIVING EFFECT TO OUR DECISION SHOULD BE LODGED WITH THE TRIBUNAL'S SECRETARIAT WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS.

WE WILL PUBLISH OUR REASONS FOR DECISION IN DUE COURSE.