

5 JULY 2002

**DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

**SPECIALIST OPERATIONS ALLOWANCE**

**MATTER NO 4 OF 2002**

**STATEMENT**

ON 28, 29 AND 30 MAY 2002 THE DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL HEARD SUBMISSIONS AND EVIDENCE FROM THE ADF AND OTHER PARTIES REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF A SPECIALIST OPERATIONS ALLOWANCE.

THE ALLOWANCE, PUT FORWARD AS A PACKAGE BY THE ADF, EMBRACES MEMBERS OF 4RAR (COMMANDO), THE SECOND TAG, THE INCIDENT RESPONSE UNIT (IRU), MEMBERS INVOLVED WITH THE SEARCH FOR AND RENDERING SAFE OF UNPREDICTABLE EXPLOSIVES AND CLEARANCE DIVERS. A MINOR DEPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE AND THE EXTENSION OF THE DISABILITY PAYMENT FOR HIGH ALTITUDE PARACHUTE OPERATIONS (HAPO) FOR COMMANDOS ARE ALSO INCLUDED.

ON 12 JUNE 2002 THE TRIBUNAL APPROVED ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF 4RAR (COMMANDO) AND THE SECOND TAG BUT NOT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MINOR DEPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE NOR THE EXTENSION OF THE DISABILITY PAYMENT FOR HAPO. WE APPROVED THE ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF 4RAR (COMMANDO) AND THE SECOND TAG HAVING REGARD, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, TO THE DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEIR WORK AND THE WORK OF MEMBERS IN RECEIPT OF SPECIAL ACTION FORCES ALLOWANCE.

WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ALLOWANCE, HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH ADEQUATE MATERIAL WAS ADDUCED IN RESPECT OF IRU, IN THE COURSE OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE TRIBUNAL DREW ATTENTION TO DEFICIENCIES IN ASPECTS OF THE UNPREDICTABLE EXPLOSIVES ALLOWANCE (UEA) CASE. FURTHERMORE, GIVEN THAT CLEARANCE DIVING ALLOWANCE (CDA) HAD EARLIER BEEN DEFERRED UNTIL SEPTEMBER, AT THE REQUEST OF THE ADF, THE TRIBUNAL IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF ANY MATERIAL GOING TO THAT ELEMENT OF THE ALLOWANCE.

AS THERE IS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IRU, UEA AND CDA WE ARE RELUCTANT TO APPROVE ANY FURTHER ELEMENTS OF THE PACKAGE WITHOUT A FULL APPRECIATION OF ALL RELEVANT EVIDENTIARY MATERIAL. WE WILL, THEREFORE, AWAIT SUBMISSIONS AND EVIDENCE ON CDA AND THE FURTHER SUBMISSIONS ON UEA, BOTH SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER, BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ON THESE THREE ELEMENTS. WE DO, HOWEVER, STAND READY TO HEAR THE MATTER EARLIER IF THE ADF WERE READY TO PROCEED.

IN THE ABSENCE OF EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WE WOULD ENVISAGE RETROSPECTIVE OPERATION OF THESE ALLOWANCES SO THAT ADF MEMBERS ARE NOT DISADVANTAGED BY ANY DELAY.