

30 July 2003

**DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

**MATTER NO. 13 OF 2003**

**SEAGOING ALLOWANCE**

**BOARDING PARTY ELEMENT**

**Statement**

THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE HAS SOUGHT THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW ELEMENT FOR SEAGOING ALLOWANCE FOR ADF MEMBERS DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN BOARDING, HOLDING OR STEAMING FOREIGN VESSELS BEING INVESTIGATED OR APPREHENDED DURING ILLEGAL FISHING, CUSTOMS OR IMMIGRATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN AUSTRALIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS OR THE AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.

THE TRIBUNAL HAD THE BENEFIT OF AN INSPECTION OF THE WORK OF A BOARDING PARTY FROM HMAS LAUNCESTON IN DARWIN ON 10 JUNE 2003. DURING THE INSPECTION THE TRIBUNAL WAS BRIEFED ON BOARDING PROCEDURES AND WITNESSED A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF A BOARDING OPERATION.

THE COMMONWEALTH, RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HAVE SUPPORTED THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ELEMENT OF SEAGOING ALLOWANCE AND THE RATE SOUGHT BY THE ADF.

THE ARMED FORCES FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA SUBMITTED IN WRITING THAT ALTHOUGH IT FAVOURED AN ON-OCCURRENCE RATE FOR THE ALLOWANCE AND A HIGHER RATE FOR THE BOARDING OF SUSPECTED ILLEGAL ENTRY VESSELS, THE FEDERATION WAS, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE ADF PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME. THE FEDERATION HAS SUGGESTED THAT THESE ISSUES BE GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION WHEN THE NEW ELEMENT, IF APPROVED BY THE TRIBUNAL, IS NEXT REVIEWED.

HAVING REGARD TO THE EVIDENCE AND SUBMISSIONS WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW ELEMENT OF SEAGOING ALLOWANCE FOR BOARDING PARTIES AT THE DAILY RATE SOUGHT BY THE ADF IS JUSTIFIED. WE HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED TO APPROVE THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS NEW ELEMENT. IN APPROVING THE NEW RATE OF THE ALLOWANCE WE HAVE HAD REGARD TO OTHER ADF ALLOWANCES IN PARTICULAR THE RATES APPROVED BY THE TRIBUNAL IN 2002 FOR SPECIALIST OPERATIONS ALLOWANCE.

THE NEW ELEMENT OF SEAGOING ALLOWANCE WILL APPLY ON AND FROM THE FIRST PAY PERIOD COMMENCING AFTER TODAY. THE PARTIES SHOULD PREPARE AN APPROPRIATE DETERMINATION AND PROVIDE IT TO THE TRIBUNAL SECRETARIAT WITHIN 7 DAYS.

WE WILL PUBLISH THE REASONS FOR OUR DECISION IN DUE COURSE.