



AUSTRALIAN ARMY

2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, Mentoring Task Force
 LAVARACK BARRACKS, QLD. 4813

Major General J.G. CALIGARI, DSC, AM
 Head Modernisation and Strategic Planning - Army
 R1-3-B001 Russell Offices
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear General Caligari,

Since the middle of 2010, key personnel from your office, Defence Material Organisation (DMO) and, more recently, *Diggerworks*, have provided exemplary support to the equipping of both the 2nd Battalion (2 RAR) and Mentoring Task Force 3 (MTF 3) with leading equipment.

Major Nathan Juchniewicz is an outstanding officer who has worked closely with my staff to ensure that 2 RAR and MTF 3 have been equipped with leading body armour, webbing and weaponry. Not only has the equipment been delivered in a timely manner, but the design of the equipment has been 'world class'. The overwhelmingly positive response to the issue of this equipment by 2 RAR and MTF 3 personnel underscores the superb professionalism, responsiveness, foresight and agility of Nathan and his team.

In a similar fashion, Lieutenant Colonel Alan Mellier and his team from DMO, have provided both sage advice and exceptional support to 2 RAR and MTF 3 in facilitating the delivery of the Tiered Body Armour System (TBAS) and associated Soldier Combat Equipment (SCE). The professionalism, responsiveness and agility evinced by Lieutenant Colonel Mellier and his team is commendable.

Colonel Blain and his team from *Diggerworks* have been intimately involved in gauging the response from 2 RAR and MTF 3 soldiers to the equipment suites delivered by Major Juchniewicz and Lieutenant Colonel Mellier. They have also actively sought to facilitate the validation of other equipment not linked to extant Army Minor/Major Projects that would enhance the capacity of the 'close combatant' to operate and fight in both 'the war' - and more broadly 'a war'.

I request that you forward a copy of this letter to Nathan, Alan and Colonel Blain as a token of my appreciation for the exceptional support that they have provided to 2 RAR and MTF 3 over the last twelve months. The superlatives accorded to describing the efforts of these officers and their staff are well due. Find enclosed three 2 RAR MTF coins. I request that these be presented to Nathan, Alan and Colonel Blain as a memento of their contribution to the battle procedure that 2 RAR MTF is currently undertaking for its upcoming deployment. They should know that the legacy of their dedication and professionalism will be an MTF that is optimised to achieve its mission in Uruzgan Province from June 2011. My team and I look forward to maintaining communications with Nathan, Alan and Colonel Blain throughout the deployment.

'Second to None'

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Smith

C.R. SMITH
 Lieutenant Colonel
 Commanding Officer

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2011-12

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