



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Reference: BN14023046

**FOI 403/19/20 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

1. I refer to the application by [REDACTED] under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to:

*“The Honours & Awards document I request refers to the award of the ASM with clasp MIDDLE EAST for North West Indian Ocean Deployments. The document reference is ‘DHA Minute 2001/16465’ of 10 October 2001.”*

*Excluding personal email addresses, signatures, PMKeys numbers and mobile telephone numbers, contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request. In addition, excluding duplicates of documents, and documents sent to and from you. Furthermore, Defence only considers final versions of documents.*

**FOI decision maker**

2. I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

**Documents identified**

3. I identified one document as matching the description of the request.

**Decision**

4. I have decided to:
- a. release one document in full;
  - b. make a complementary release of two documents that provide further context to the document you requested; and
  - c. remove irrelevant material as referred to in the scope of the request in accordance with section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

**Material taken into account**

5. In making my decision, I had regard to:
- a. the terms of the request;
  - b. the content of the identified documents in issue;
  - c. relevant provisions in the FOI Act; and
  - d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

**Context Statement**

6. In addition to releasing one document that meets the scope of this FOI request, I am releasing two further documents that provide further clarifying information. The additional documents are two signals released by the Director General Naval Personnel and Training (DGNPT) on 26 October 2001 and 11 September 2002.

7. The signal dated 26 October 2001 did not provide specific details of ships' periods of qualifying service in the area of operations declared for the purpose of awarding the Australian Service Medal with Clasp 'MIDDLE EAST'. The signal dated 11 September 2002 promulgated the precise dates of qualifying service for that award.

petrina.co  
le



Digitally signed by  
petrina.cole  
Date: 2020.02.28  
14:55:58 +11'00'

**P Cole**  
Accredited Decision Maker  
Defence People Group