



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **ADSO CALL FOR DUE PROCESS**

The Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) supports the call for the CDF and the Government to respect the presumption of innocence for those accused of yet to be proven war crimes in Afghanistan.

ADSO draws together the voices of 18 national ex-service organisations. These ex-service organisations view the demand by the CDF for the then junior officers to hand back their awards as unbecoming of a senior officer. It is also not in the traditions of senior officers of the ilk of General Sir John Monash, Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead and General Sir Donald Dunstan.

Senior officers attacking and laying blame upon troopers, corporals sergeants, young captains and majors at squadron and company level is not a good look nor a good example of leadership.

Australia's involvement in the Afghanistan War lasted for nearly 20 years. More than 40,000 ADF personnel served there with 41 being killed in action. Additionally, many more suffered and continue to suffer because of their service on behalf of the Australian nation.

More relevantly because of the IGADF investigation, the initial handling of the report by the government of the time and the CDF and the consequent absence of due process, the presumption of guilt now hangs over all those who served there and served honourably. Is this the Australian way?

The IGADF investigation and subsequent Report has been a lengthy and in many ways a blight on the notion of fairness and justice.

ADSO calls on the Government and the CDF to accord all those involved the presumption of innocence and allow due process to be followed.

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