



Media Release: Long Tan remembered – 50 years on

The Royal Australian Regiment Association (RAR) and the RSL are conducting a combined Battle of Long Tan commemorative service tomorrow (Thursday, August 18). It marks the 50th anniversary of the battle, and also recognises the annual Vietnam Veterans' Day.

The service will be held at the Vietnam War Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground, Victoria Drive, Adelaide (commencing 11am). The associations will be supported by Australian Defence Force representatives and Veterans SA.

Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers will sing Amazing Grace. Students from Walkerville Primary School will offer poppies for members of the congregation to place on the memorial.

The Battle of Long Tan was fought on August 18 1966 in a rubber plantation near the Australian task force base at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy province. It has come to symbolise Australian gallantry in the Vietnam War.

Against odds of at least 10 to one, members of 6 Battalion RAR survived wave after wave of attacks until an Armoured Corps relieving force arrived. Eighteen Australians were killed and 24 wounded, while the Viet Cong lost at least 245 dead. A decisive Australian victory, Long Tan proved a major local setback for the Viet Cong, indefinitely forestalling an imminent movement against Nui Dat. The battle established the task force's dominance over the province.

Free car-parking on the Parade Ground is available from 10.00am.

Attached – Refer to the Presidential Citation from US President Lyndon B. Johnson

Further information:

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