

Question on notice no. 70

Portfolio question number: 85

2023-24 Budget estimates

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Defence Portfolio

Senator Malcolm Roberts: asked the Department of Defence on 15 June 2023—

(3. What date was General Angus Campbell nominated for the Distinguished Service Cross?

4. What was the cutoff date for the nominations for the Queens Birthday Honours list delivered in 2012?

6. In response to my questioning whether General Campbell was attempting to strip the Distinguished Service Cross from soldiers which the General was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for commanding, the General accused me of being misleading. Please provide the details of exactly what was misleading, was the General not in Command or has he not put recommendations to the minister for the removal of Distinguished Service Cross?

7. Media reports that General Campbell made an offer to then Defence Minister Linda Reynolds to return his Distinguished Service Cross. Was an offer made by General Campbell to return his Distinguished Service Cross and when was it made?

8. Please provide any correspondence or documents Defence holds that contain reference to General Campbell's offer to return his Distinguished Service Cross.

9. Did General Campbell ever correspond with the Governor General regarding accepting or rejecting the return of medals or awards from Defence Personnel? Please provide that correspondence or any documents referencing the matter.

Answer —

See attached.

SENATE ESTIMATES QUESTION

(Question No. 85)

Senator Malcolm Roberts asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 15 June 2023:

3. What date was General Angus Campbell nominated for the Distinguished Service Cross?
4. What was the cutoff date for the nominations for the Queens Birthday Honours list delivered in 2012?
6. In response to my questioning whether General Campbell was attempting to strip the Distinguished Service Cross from soldiers which the General was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for commanding, the General accused me of being misleading. Please provide the details of exactly what was misleading, was the General not in Command or has he not put recommendations to the minister for the removal of Distinguished Service Cross?
7. Media reports that General Campbell made an offer to then Defence Minister Linda Reynolds to return his Distinguished Service Cross. Was an offer made by General Campbell to return his Distinguished Service Cross and when was it made?
8. Please provide any correspondence or documents Defence holds that contain reference to General Campbell's offer to return his Distinguished Service Cross.
9. Did General Campbell ever correspond with the Governor General regarding accepting or rejecting the return of medals or awards from Defence Personnel? Please provide that correspondence or any documents referencing the matter.

Senator Malcolm Roberts – The Department of Defence provides the following answer to the Senator's question:

3. 29 September 2011.
4. 1 March 2012 to Government House.
6. The Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) is implementing the recommendations of the Afghanistan Inquiry report as confirmed by the Deputy Prime Minister. The CDF has considered the command accountability of a small number of current and former serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who held command positions during the periods in which the Inspector-General of the ADF found credible information of multiple incidents of alleged unlawful conduct as identified in the Afghanistan Inquiry report. The CDF has provided the relevant material to the Deputy Prime Minister for consideration.
7. No.
8. N/A.
9. No.