

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Unit citation of 6RAR - invitations

Senator: Ronaldson

Question reference number: PM40

Type of Question: Hansard: F&PA p.65 (21/2/11)

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011

Number of Pages: 1

Question:

Ms Prendergast—The department liaised directly with 6RAR. There was no involvement from the Governor-General's office. We simply issued the invitation. There was no discussion or correspondence between the department and Government House.

Senator RONALDSON—How many invitations were actually extended?

Ms Prendergast—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that number here.

Answer:

Further to the additional information provided to the committee on 17 March 2011, the Office issued three messages of invitation to Long Tan veterans and their spouses. The first, a letter dated 10 May 2010, was to the Former Commander of D Company, Harry Smith, advising that the Governor-General proposed to host a ceremony at Government House to invest individual honours recipients (Harry Smith, David Sabin and Geoff Kendall, and a representative of the late Clifford Dohle). This was followed by an email on 7 July 2010 to Mr Smith advising of the Governor-General's proposal to host an investiture ceremony to present the individual honours and the Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) emblem to Long Tan veterans on 17 August 2010. As the Office did not have contact details for the relevant veterans, Mr Smith undertook to have the Long Tan Veterans Association prepare a list of veterans who would likely attend. On 5 August 2010, the Office contacted the President of the Veterans Association, John Hessewood, to confirm the details of the Governor-General's invitation to the group.