



Media Release

The Hon Alan Griffin MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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\$50,000 TO COMMEMORATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BINH BA

The 40th anniversary of one of the most significant Australian battles of the Vietnam War will be commemorated this year with the assistance of a \$50,000 grant from the Australian Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Alan Griffin announced today.

Mr Griffin said the Battle of Binh Ba, which occurred 6-8 June 1969, involved more than 330 Australians in close quarter fighting, yet miraculously only one Australian was killed in action and 11 wounded.

"It is a battle not widely known outside military and historical circles, yet it is a testament to the superb fighting qualities of Australian forces," Mr Griffin said.

On 6 June the 1st Australian Task Force Ready Reaction Force assaulted Binh Ba and heavy fighting followed as they encountered fierce North Vietnamese opposition. The fighting was of an intensity rarely matched in any other period of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

"Like the Battles of Long Tan and Coral/Balmoral, the Battle of Binh Ba resulted in Battle Honours being awarded to Australian units involved in the action," Mr Griffin said.

"I am pleased the Government can assist these veterans in commemorating this important milestone and help draw attention to the story of the Battle of Binh Ba."

The Battle of Binh Ba Commemorative Planning Committee, established by representatives of the units involved, are planning a number of activities during June this year including a commemorative service and a combined Association dinner.

For more information on Anniversary activities, contact the Planning Committee Chairman Roger Wainwright on 0409 588 935 or roger.w@netspeed.com.au or Committee Secretariat Jan Properjohn on 0410 488 729 or jproperjohn@internode.on.net

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