

Text of Citation for award of Companion of the Distinguished Service Order  
to Lieutenant Colonel Alan L. Morrison

Lieutenant Colonel Alan Lindsay Morrison graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in December 1947 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry. He has served in various staff and regimental appointments in Australia and overseas and was appointed Commanding Officer of 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, on 13th November 1967. He arrived in South Vietnam on 12th November 1968.

Lieutenant Colonel Morrison raised 9th Battalion in Australia and had only twelve months to prepare the unit for service in South Vietnam. Since the arrival of the unit in South Vietnam it has been on continuous operations and has achieved a fine reputation. The good record of 9th Battalion is due largely to the high standard of leadership, calm courage and outstanding tactical ability of Lieutenant Colonel Morrison.

The planning, co-ordination and supervision of the battalion by Lieutenant Colonel Morrison has been of a high order. This was demonstrated in a major operation conducted by 9th Battalion in HAT DICH Secret Zone. During this operation a Vietcong regiment was so disrupted that it was incapable of sustaining operations in the 1969 TET offensive.

9th Battalion was the first Australian unit deployed on pacification tasks in Phuoc Tuy Province. The detailed planning and conduct of this operation by Lieutenant Colonel Morrison set the pattern for the successful conduct of future pacification operations by other battalions.

In addition Lieutenant Colonel Morrison has developed a sound technique for the employment of armour in South Vietnam. His skilful use of armour against bunkers and fortified positions has saved many lives.

Throughout his tour in South Vietnam Lieutenant Colonel Morrison has exhibited a professional competence, devotion to duty and a sound military judgment of the highest order reflecting great credit on himself, his Regiment and the Australian Army.