Text of Citation for award of Mentioned-in-Despatches
to Sergeant Thomas H. Cross

Sergeant Thomas Cross enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 21st February, 1962 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry. He saw active service in Vietnam with 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment during 1965 and 1966. He arrived in Vietnam for his second operational tour on 5th November, 1968 as a platoon sergeant with B Company, 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

In May and June, 1969, Sergeant Cross was detached from the battalion to command a small team of Australian soldiers whose task it was to train and improve the skills and confidence of a Vietnamese Regional Force company operating in Phuoc Tuy Province.

On the night of 12th June, 1969, Sergeant Cross, together with other members of his team, was in ambush with a Regional Force platoon. They engaged a large group of enemy, killing three and wounding several others. Recognising the importance to the platoon's morale of reclaiming the enemy bodies, Sergeant Cross led his team in an assault on the remaining enemy, forcing them to withdraw and leave behind the bodies and some equipment. The positive results obtained from this successful ambush were the turning point in the efficiency of this Regional Force company. It has continued to use the skills and techniques taught by Sergeant Cross, and has developed the highest operational effectiveness of any Regional Force company, in the District.

In all his actions, both with the training team and as a platoon sergeant, Sergeant Cross has shown a high degree of dedication and professional skill, which is an example to all who serve with him.