



Stuart Robert MP

Federal Member for Fadden

Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel

****MEDIA RELEASE****

7 June 2011

DEATH OF AN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER

I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the Australian soldier who was tragically killed in Afghanistan overnight.

The 23 year-old Combat Engineer was serving in the Incident Response Regiment, which forms part of the Special Operations Task Group, when he was shot during a small-arms engagement with insurgents and succumbed to his wounds following an aero-medical evacuation.

This young Digger was part of a team that carried out a vital operation to further disrupt the insurgents' actions against coalition forces and Afghan civilians. We know that he and his fellow soldiers found a considerable cache of weapons in the raid, including approximately 70 anti-personnel mines, destined to be used against coalition forces.

His heroic actions have a direct and calculable bearing on the continuing success of Australian operations in Afghanistan. Indeed, he gave his life knowing that he was protecting his brothers in arms; and he gave his life to help ensure the local Afghan population can enjoy an increasing level of security and live lives free from terror and persecution.

His act of bravery was no small act. The repercussions of his actions will be long lived and his fellow soldiers will carry his memory in their hearts and his actions in their minds as they continue to walk the dangerous paths in Afghanistan.

To his family, who without a doubt will carry the lion's share of the nation's sorrow, I simply say that all Australians will continue to stand beside you in your time of need.

I salute the virtues that this young Australian Digger embodied and honour the sacrifice he made on behalf of all Australians.

Media enquiries: Richard Briedis – 0401 056 054

Address: Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Phone (02) 6277 2106

Email: richard.briedis@aph.gov.au