Media Release

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Peter Chandler
Minister for Veterans Support

Mission accomplished for 'Operation Bring them Home'

25 May 2015

The Northern Territory Government has welcomed the Prime Minister’s announcement today to support ‘Operation Bring them Home’ - the mission to repatriate Australian Vietnam veterans buried at the Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia and the Kranji Cemetery in Singapore.

“The NT Government has worked tirelessly with all stakeholders to ensure these Australian heroes are brought back to our shores and commend the Government’s plan to allow their families unrestricted access to their graves,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“It has been 50 years since Australia was involved in Vietnam and this decision to repatriate those that have fallen is a commendable way to honour them.”

Minister for Veterans Support, Peter Chandler travelled to Canberra in March to meet with Federal Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, to discuss the Northern Territory’s support for the repatriation.

“I am encouraged by today’s announcement and thank the Federal Government for holding discussions with us and committing to an important operation that will see our men returned home,” Mr Chandler said.

“The Northern Territory is the country’s northern frontier. The history of Defence in the Territory is our history and this Country Liberals Government will continue to build on that.”

Among the 25 Vietnam veterans currently buried at Terendak Military Cemetery – located within a Malaysian Armed Forces Base, is Corporal Reg Hillier.

“Reg Hillier was the sole Northern Territory soldier to be killed in the Vietnam War and it is only fitting that he now comes home,” Mr Giles said.

“Reg has been described by his comrades as an outstanding leader and showed exceptional courage during the war, so much so that reinforcements were often deployed in his platoon to learn from him.”
Reg Hillier moved to the Northern Territory with his family when he was 10 years old and enlisted in the Australian Army in 1961. He was killed in action at Vo Dat, Binh Tuy Province on November 29, 1965.

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