

**Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)  
Robin John Klitscher**

926072. Squadron Leader.  
Royal NZ Air Force  
Attached 9 Sqn RAAF.

NZ Gazette Number 71 dated 3 August 1972

**CITATION**

Squadron Leader Klitscher commenced his operational tour in the Republic of Vietnam with No 9 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force in September 1970. During this tour he flew 3248 sorties for 963 hours flying hours as a pilot on Iroquois helicopters.

During his tour, he held the successive appointments of deputy flight commander, Task Force Commander's representative at 1 Australian Task Force headquarters and senior flight commander. In all appointments he demonstrated excellent leadership and supervisory abilities.

A typical example of this occurred on June 7, 1971, when Squadron Leader Klitscher and his flight were ordered to drop supplies of ammunition urgently required by Australian troops who were in contact with a large enemy force in heavy jungle. Squadron Leader Klitscher quickly realised that the air effort would not greatly assist the battle unless it was co-ordinated, and he therefore assumed control of all aircraft in the area. From over the battle zone, he directed and co-ordinated all activities of the various air elements, and in addition, when some aircraft captains were unable to see markers defining their targets, Squadron Leader Klitscher personally guided them to the required positions.

The initiative, devotion to duty and outstanding leadership displayed by Squadron Leader Klitscher in this and other air operations against the enemy is indicative of the valuable service given by him and his squadron in support of 1 Australian Task Force.

**Notes to Citation:**

Born in Tauranga 20<sup>th</sup> June 1936. Served in the RNZAF from 27 Feb 1958 to 20 June 1993 and retired as Air Vice Marshall.

Also awarded Air Force Cross (Queens Birthday Honours 1980) and awarded the CBE. (Queens Birthday Honours 1989)

Elected as National President of RNZRSA in October 2008.