

**Mention in Despatches (m.i.d.)
Alastair Ronald MacKenzie**

42219. Lieutenant.
Royal NZ Infantry Regiment
Victor Five Company

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Citation

Lieutenant MacKenzie graduated from the Officer Cadet School Portsea on 9th December 1967. He was allotted to the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment and posted to V Company in Malaysia in December 1969. He arrived in South Vietnam with Victor Five Company **in May 1970**.

Throughout his active service Lieutenant MacKenzie has shown outstanding leadership, aggressiveness, determination and good tactical sense, and in consequence his platoon has been effective and successful on operations.

On 25th July 1970¹ Lieutenant MacKenzie showed his qualities of leadership when, after a heavy contact with the enemy, he coolly arranged and controlled the evacuation of nine of his soldiers and a member of 4 Troop NZSAS who was acting as a scout for the platoon who had earlier been wounded in a series of mine explosions. This task was successfully completed under difficult conditions and in close proximity to the enemy.

The success of Lieutenant MacKenzie's platoon is directly attributable to the bold handling of this most competent platoon leader. His professional competence, personal standards and leadership reflect great credit upon himself, his Regiment and the New Zealand Army.

¹ Pte Childs NI, WIA; Pte Ellison HA, WIA; Pte Forsman RA, WIA; Cpl Hetaraka HW, WIA; Pte Hudson RS, WIA; Pte Kerr AM, WIA; Pte Malcolm GEH, WIA; Pte Takuta JVR, WIA; Pte Tipene M, WIA; LCpl Tare, WM, 4 Tp NZSAS, WIA.