

Mac finally gets his gong

53 years after being awarded the US Silver Star, Mac (the FAC) Cottrell finally received his medal on 14 December 2021!

Congratulations Group Captain Mac Cottrell, Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star, (Ret'd).



Silver Star

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS
DURING Vietnam War

Service: Foreign

GENERAL ORDERS:

CITATION:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918 (amended by an act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star (Air Force Award) to Flight Officer Macaulay Cottrell, Royal Australian Air Force, for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force as Forward Air Controller directing fighter aircraft near Lai Khe, Republic of Vietnam on 10 June 1968. On that date, Flying Officer Cottrell disregarded an environment of intense hostile ground fire and adverse weather conditions to successfully pinpoint the unfriendly positions for combat support missions. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Flying Officer Cottrell has reflected great credit upon himself and the Royal Australian Air Force.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

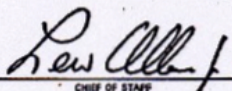
TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF CONGRESS JULY 9, 1918
HAS AWARDED

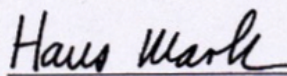
THE SILVER STAR

TO
FLYING OFFICER MACAULAY COTTRELL
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
FOR
GALLANTRY IN ACTION
10 JUNE 1968

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 11TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1968


CHIEF OF STAFF




SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE



 The Silver Star medal has only been awarded to six Australian Defence Force members.

Two Australian soldiers have been awarded the third-highest military honour in the United States for exceptional valour in combat.

Retired Group Captain Macaulay Cottrell and the family of the late Warrant Officer Kevin Wheatley were given the Silver Star medal for their time with US soldiers in Vietnam.

Then-flying officer Cottrell flew against intense fire and strong weather which provided information for further support missions in 1968, while Warrant Officer Wheatley led the charge to capture a hostile village pressed against automatic gun fire and grenade explosions in 1965.

The US Charge d'Affaires Michael Goldman presented the medals in a closed door ceremony in Canberra also attended by Governor-General David Hurley.

Around 23,000 Silver Stars have been awarded by the US but only six have been given to Australian Defence Force members.