Soldiers die in ambush

Two Australian soldiers were killed when Vietcong ambushed a vehicle in Phuoc Tuy Province, Vietnam, early on Saturday.

Another soldier and two Vietnamese interpreters were wounded in the ambush.

The Australian casualties were members of C Company, 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

Army Headquarters in Canberra said yesterday the men killed were:

Private Leslie Weston, 22, married, of Bundaberg, Queensland

Private William Brett, 21, single, of Armidale, NSW.

Private Noel Stuart Harald, 30, single, of Yeppoon, Queensland, was wounded. His condition is very serious.

The ambush occurred when two vehicles were moving from Dat Do, south of the task force base, to a checkpoint at the Horseshoe fortified outpost.

Using claymore mines, antomatic rifles, and possibly grenades, the Vietcong estimated at 20 men, ambushed the leading vehicle and fled.