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'LOOKING AFTER OUR OWN'

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"To those who serve at great risk, for a good cause, I salute you"

Anon.

From The President

By the time readers receive this newsletter, Australia will have a new Government. Whether it is John Howard or Mark Latham, has already been decided by the Nation. It is interesting to note that both parties pledged to particularly assist the Peacekeeper/Peacemaker Veteran Community, with funding toward the Inaugural National Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. We were promised \$1Million from Labor and \$200,000 from the Liberals. Regardless of the amount, it is reassuring to note that we are now on the political agenda to finally have our service Nationally recognised. We are hoping that this will coincide with the 60th Anniversary of Australia's Contribution to World Peace and Security in Peacekeeping & Peacemaking on 14 September 2007 (APPVA recognised Peacekeeper's Day). The 14th September 1947 saw the world's first peacekeepers deploy to the Dutch East Indies – and they were Australians. Since then, Australian's have deployed to all corners of the world and have distinguished themselves as among the best peacekeeping/peacemaking troops in the world. Some 67,000 Australian ADF and Police forces have deployed since 1947, upholding the well-respected tradition of the ANZACs.

This is indeed worthy of National recognition. Currently, we are planning a 60th Anniversary Commemoration Committee. This committee will be responsible for the project management of the memorial and the organisation, liaison and coordination of the 60th Anniversary. The next 3 years will see a lot of hard work from many individuals, however the reward will be the satisfaction of been part of a team that successfully placed Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Service on the map.

I wish you all well.

Paul Copeland,
National President.

Secretary's Report.

This year has been a very busy year for the National Executive and due recognition should be given those that have given of their own time and monies to ensure APPVA is up there at the sharp end. Paul Copeland has continued to represent the APPVA at most of the meetings held interstate with the costs of attending most these meeting coming from his own pocket. John Coyne has also been busy representing the APPVA in and around the Canberra district; John is also a mover and shaker for the Steering Committee for the Peacekeeper Memorial. Dave Menz has been busy applying for Government Grants that would make the day to Day running of the APPVA less in our own pocket scenario. Deema Johnston has been working flat

out as the Membership Secretary and has achieved great results not only on the membership database by also working hand in hand with the ATO to ensure that the Association get all the legal tax breaks. Duane Henley has completed sourcing the APPVA merchandise and has come thought with flying colours; those interested in obtaining merchandise should contact Duane ASAP. I would like to welcome a number of new members to the fold and they are Dael Rance as our Pension and Claims officer, Dael works out of both the Melton and Repat Support Centres, Mary-Anne Martinek as our OPSO, Mary and I will be working closely together ensuring things run as smooth as possible. One last thanks should go to Phillip Steele for his continues efforts towards have the ADF address Rehabilitation scenarios. Please always remember as a member of the APPVA your conduct should be beyond reproach, thanks you and hope to see you at the AGM on the 6th of November 2004.

Robert Kennard
National Secretary

Treasurer's Report.

Over the last year as discussed by the President we have been busy applying for grants from different sectors of the community. The first was from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to cover advertising cost. This involved DVA covering the cost of the APPVA's advertisement in the 3 service newspapers for 3 editions, this cost was \$2326.50. We also applied for a grant from the Family Assistance Corp FAC for a sum of \$60000; this would have covered procurement of additional equipment as well as providing an assistant to the committee for administrative duties. Unfortunately this application was not approved.

I have also paid for an advertisement in the Australian & NZ Defender magazine for an extraordinarily low once off fee of \$175.00. This advertisement will be a standing offer to the Association, however prior to committing any further funding in this magazine we will have to ascertain what results were obtained.

Along with the above advertisements we have also approached the Australian Federal Police (AFP). They have proposed a very generous offer; however this offer will be put up to the executive at the AGM in November for discussion.

Along with the above I have commenced generating some bumper stickers and fridge magnets, "these will placed over to the merchandising officer" than to the committee for discussion at the AGM.

Funding currently as at 13th October 2004 we have in the national account a sum of \$\$15205.20 with outgoings of \$5322.05.

Currently there is a situation where we have 53 new financial members, 58 existing members financial, however we have 388 existing members who are Non- Financial, it is requested that all members who are currently non financial arrange at there earliest opportunity to become financial. To make a payment you can either pay you fees of \$10.00 direct to DEFCREDIT BSB number 803205-account number

153601 or else contact the membership member direct "Deema Johnston on 0438 757 099"

Dave Menz
National Treasurer

NOTICE OF Victorian State AGM

AGM is confirmed for 1030 hrs, 6 Nov at the Wodonga RSL Sub-Branch. It will be a Victorian State AGM, and Office Bearer elections, followed by the National AGM.

National ESO Summit – 21 July 2004

From: Rear-Admiral Ian Crawford RAN Retd

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AUSTRALIA

26 August 2004

The Hon John Howard MP
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Senator the Hon Robert Hill
Minister for Defence
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

The Hon Danna Vale MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

The Hon Mark Latham MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

The Hon Kim Beazley AO MP
Shadow Minister for Defence
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Senator the Hon Mark Bishop
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Senator the Hon Andrew Bartlett
Leader of the Australian Democrats
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

Senator the Hon Bob Brown
Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Greens
Parliament House
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of a summit of ex-Service organisations which was held in July in Canberra. The summit was held to discuss outstanding matters of concern to the ex-Service community. I was invited to chair the meeting and this letter has been written in accordance with the wishes of and in consultation with the delegates of the ex-Service organisations listed at the foot of this letter.

It was the wish of the delegates that you should be aware of the issues that were discussed so that you and your parliamentary colleagues should have the opportunity to address these matters as you develop your position for the Federal election. The delegates and the members of their associations are aware of the interest of your political colleagues in the welfare of the veteran and defence services communities and take comfort from statements of commitment to these important matters.

The veterans are determined to ensure that those who have suffered and those who have served can share the benefits of our Australian lifestyle made possible through the contribution of their defence service to national goals. They attach importance to factors that attract and motivate young people, who place their lives at risk in the defence of this country's interests. These are seen to be the commitment to the many facets of personnel management during service in the Defence Force, and to the welfare of the ex-Service community.

The delegates expressed a wish to identify prominence assigned by government to the welfare of the defence services and veteran communities as evidence of the high value that government attaches to a well-prepared and motivated defence force in the achievement of national strategic goals.

The ex-Service organisations ask all major political parties to re-affirm their commitment to the welfare and support of those who serve or who have served in the Australian Defence Force, and of their dependants. This should include acknowledgement of the special nature of defence service and its inherent dangers.

The matters discussed at the summit are attached.

On behalf of

The Returned & Services League of Australia
Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council
War Widows Guild of Australia
Legacy
Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia
The Regular Defence Force Welfare Association
The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association
The Vietnam Veterans' Federation
The Australian Federation of Totally & Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women
The Naval Association of Australia
The Royal Australian Air Force Association of Australia
Partners of Veterans Association of Australia
Australian Special Air Service Association
Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers Association
Vietnam Advisory Service, Brisbane

National Peacekeeper's Memorial

The Hon Danna Vale, MP,
Minister for Veterans' Affairs,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600

Subject: National Peacekeeper/Peacemaker Memorial

Dear Minister:

By now, you may be aware of the pledge made by Mark Latham today at the RSL National Congress in Sydney. Mr Latham has pledged \$1 million toward the construction of a Peacekeeper/Peacemaker Memorial in Canberra, nominally sited at ANZAC Parade.

My members have requested that I contact you in order to ascertain your party's response to the ALP's commitment toward our members, in order to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping and Peacemaking since 14 Sep 1947.

We would be very pleased to see a substantial offer made by your Government, in response to the ALP's promise, toward the Commemoration of Australian Peacekeeping and Peacemaking.

I look forward to further communications with you in relation to this matter.

Respectfully,
(Signed)
P.A. Copeland,
National President

United Nations Medals.

The Hon Danna Vale, MP,
Minister for Veterans' Affairs,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600

RE: Visit by APPVA Delegation on Monday 29th March 2004

Subject: Awarding of United Nations Medals.

Dear Minister:

In response to our discussion with you and Joanne Hutchinson on Monday 29th March, I write to you in order to seek your support with regards our submission for the awarding of the UN Medal to many of our members. Many ADF members have served on peacekeeping and peacemaking (peace enforcement) operations in support of the UN but have yet to receive the recognition of their efforts from the UN. In our discussion we highlighted that a number of operations were curtailed under the normal 90-day criteria for the award of the UN medal. These shortened missions occurred for various reasons, the UN only requesting a specific timeframe of support, the specialist nature of the support provided or a change in the operational or political environment. Many ADF members found themselves supporting the UN, representing Australia and falling 2-4 weeks short of meeting the award criteria for the UN medal through no fault of their own.

We have viewed this as unfair, as the veterans of these Operations served with the UN and were either withdrawn due to reasons beyond their personal control, or the Operation was changed to another UN Mission name during that veterans' service in Country.

We highlighted to you of the ability of Minister Vanstone in securing the awarding of the United Nations Transitional Administration to East Timor (UNTAET) medal to the Federal Police members during the UN Advanced Mission in East Timor (UNAMET). Minister Vanstone championed the Police cause and supported the Federal Police application to the UN Headquarters in New York, as the UNAMET Operation was less than the prescribed 90-day period. This was due to the withdrawal of the Australian Police after the violence that followed the Free and Fair Elections for Independence in East Timor, August 1999. Most personnel only served three to six weeks in UNAMET. The awarding of the UN medal to the Police, the support provided by the Government and in particular Minister Vanstone in supporting the Police application was positively received by the entire Policing community. This openly displayed that the Federal Government understands the personal commitment and circumstances surrounding UN missions and is sympathetic towards ensuring that Australian personnel who place their lives at risk are awarded the UN Medal, which they so rightly deserve.

It has become apparent that a similar arrangement was not followed for the ADF Contingent to UNAMET and other missions. Where and why this process failed is unknown to the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA). As we disclosed to you, UNAMET is but one Operation or situation from many others that ADF members have served in similar circumstances, particularly in the past 12 years. After extensive research with our membership, we have produced a submission listing the Operations affected by short-term deployments with various UN missions. We do not believe this list is exhaustive, particularly with similar situations presenting in the future.

The APPVA is indebted to you for your support to see this anomaly corrected.

Should you have any further questions in relation to this request, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Respectfully,

(Signed)

P.A. Copeland,

CBUS (USQ), Adv Dip Comms Mgt, Dip Proj Mgt (UNE), Dip FM (I), Cert Radio Freq Mgt,

MAHRI

National President

Attachment:

1. UN Medal listing of shortened ADF Deployments.

United Nations Medals Listing of shortened ADF Deployments.

Background

1. Although not under the jurisdiction of the Australian Government, support for applying for UN medals through the United Nations Organisation has been suggested by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Defence Honours and Awards Directorate (DHA), as the means to obtaining approval for the awarding of various UN Mission Specific Medals.

2. However, some missions that ADF personnel deployed on were shorter in nature due to the volatility of the mission, or mission specific obligations. In all cases, the ADF personnel deployed in support of UN missions were at the specific request of the UN Organisation. In many cases, ADF personnel did not satisfy the 90-day criteria for the award of the UN Mission specific medal, due to circumstances beyond their control.

Aim.

3. The aim of this document is to rectify the anomalies in various Operational situations, which have seen past serving ADF personnel unable to obtain the award of the UN Medal pertaining to their specific operation, due to varying operational circumstances. The desired outcome is to have the UN HQ New York provide an umbrella approval for the awarding of various UN Mission specific medals, utilising the list provided in this document, so that individuals are able to apply to the ADF to wear the UN medal (foreign award), after proving their service with regards that particular UN Operation.

Synopsis of UN Operations affected.

4. Having highlighted the above, it is requested that the UN Organisation consider awarding the various UN Mission medals to the following Missions that Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel served:

- a. The ADF Contingent to the United Nations Advanced Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), deployed on 5 Feb 1992, until the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) Operation took over in April/May 1992. In most cases these personnel missed out on the UNAMIC medal by some 16 days. Number of ADF personnel affected: 25. Medal sought: UNAMIC Medal.
- b. The ADF Contingent to UNAMIC deployed in Oct 1991 to May 1992. These personnel established the basis of the Force Communications Unit and Supreme National Council (SNC) HQ Staff for the reception of UNTAC as the advanced body. In most cases these personnel were involved with UNTAC in April 1992 until their departure in late May 1992. Most personnel missed the criteria by 1 month, although officially employed with the UNTAC Military component, after sequential deployment of the UNTAC Force. Estimated number of ADF personnel affected: 30. Medal sought: UNTAC Medal.
- c. The ADF Rotary Wing Aviation Contingent and the Infantry Protection Platoon (Aviation Support Group), to UNTAC. Deployed after only 5 days notice on 10 May 1993 at the specific request of the UN Organisation to provide a rapid airlift capability in support of the free and fair elections and to provide 24-hour aeromedical evacuation (AME) to UN personnel anywhere in Cambodia. Australia deployed a Squadron (-) from the 5th Aviation Regiment Blackhawk Helicopters to support this request. The Blackhawk were operational for around 7-9 weeks in UNTAC, then withdrawn at the end of June, early July 1993. These personnel were not recognised by the UN for their service to the UNTAC mission. Estimated ADF personnel affected: 114. Medal sought: UNTAC Medal.
- d. The Australian Contingent to the UNTAC Military Liaison Officer Group. These Officers were deployed in periods of around 8 weeks, toward the final stages of the UNTAC withdrawal in late 1993, in order to prepare for the re-building of Cambodia after the withdrawal of the UNTAC Force. Estimated number of personnel affected: 5. Medal sought: UNTAC Medal.
- e. The Australian Contingent to the Defence Cooperation Program – The ADF Advance Team. Deployed to Cambodia from 1 October – December 1993. Personnel were admitted under the auspices of UNTAC, prior to the Defence Cooperation Program Assistance to the rebuilding of Cambodia. Estimated number of personnel affected: 5. Medal sought: UNTAC Medal.
- f. The Australian Contingent to the Defence Cooperation Program (DCP) in support of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF), Cambodia, April 1994-October 1997. The Contingent supported the United Nations Mandate in order to re-build Cambodia. The Contingent also supported the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), under UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 880/93, along with training the RCAF in communications related trades and

installations. Previously, the Australian CMAC Advisory Team has been awarded the UN Special Service Medal (UNSSM), as it was viewed that the mine-clearing tasks followed the UN Mandate. The communications advisors in the DCP Operation were overlooked, however had to perform their duties under the UN Mandate. Estimated number of personnel affected: 28. Medal sought: UNSSM.

- g. The ADF Contingent to the United Nations Special Commission in Iraq (UNSCOM). The Contingent provided Weapon specialists and some support personnel, in order to oversee the destruction of WMD. Personnel deployed for periods of 4-8 weeks and were withdrawn due to operational related matters. Estimated number of personnel affected: 5. Medal sought: UNSSM with clasp "*UNSCOM*".
- h. The ADF Contingent to the United Nations Advance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET). The UNAMET contingent was withdrawn due to the violence that followed the Free and Fair Elections in East Timor for Independence. The Australian Police Contingent was awarded the UNTAET medal for this service, although the majority of them were to only serve 3-6 weeks. Minister Vanstone of Australia supported the award of the UNTAET Medal to the Police Contingent, however the ADF Contingent was overlooked. Estimated number of personnel affected: 45. Medal sought: UNTAET Medal.
- i. The ADF Contingent to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). After the success of the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET), the 5th/7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Battalion Group (5/7 RAR Bn Gp) and other ADF assets from the INTERFET Force, remained in country, serving as the UNTAET Military Component, until relieved in place by the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Battalion Group (6 RAR Bn Gp) and other mission specific ADF units for the new Operation of UNTAET. UNTAET commenced on 18 Feb 2000, and many ADF personnel were returned to Australia just weeks short of qualifying for the UNTAET medal. Estimated number of personnel affected: 350. Medal sought: UNTAET Medal.
- j. The Army Training Support Team in East Timor (ATST-EM). The ATST-EM were registered with the United Nations Mission in Support of East Timor (UNISMET), following the closure of UNTAET, as the next phase into training the East Timorese Military Forces (East Timor Defence Force (ETDF)). The members of ATST-EM, served alongside UN Military Observers and THAIBATT (The Thai Infantry Battalion) and were issued with UN Security ID Cards and UN Driver's Licences and worked within the UN Mandate and code of conduct for UNISMET. The ATST-EM mainly operated within Sector East of East Timor. These personnel served of periods of up to 6 months, under very arduous conditions, with no UN Medal recognition. Estimated number of personnel affected: 150. Medal sought: UNTAET/UNMISMET Medal.
- k. ADF Contingent to UNISMET. Many ADF personnel were unable to fulfil their 90-day obligation for the UNTAET/UNISMET Medal, due to circumstances beyond their control. These people range from Defence Force Reservists, who were unable to complete the full tenure due to work commitments, those who were repatriated for varying reasons, with the exception of disciplinary reasons. Estimated number of personnel affected: 100. Medal sought: UNTAET/UNISMET Medal

Suggested Administrative Procedure.

5. At the time of this document, the ADF would not support the retrospective issue of issuing UN medals as a result of various oversights. The reply by the ADF, from many queries from current and former ADF members has been that UN medals are under the jurisdiction of the UN HQ New York – the ADF does not have jurisdiction over these awards, and rightly so. Indeed, to obtain a full list of names of every individual who has a service anomaly with his/her UN medal would be an onerous task, given that many of the ADF personnel may have left the ADF over the years and that it is resource intensive and distracts the ADF from its primary focus.

6. It is therefore suggested that an umbrella approval from UN HQ is granted for the ADF personnel who were force assigned and posted to units supporting the listed UN operations, in which the approval

letter or document (if provided), by the UN HQ in New York, could list the operations specified and include the acceptance that the tours of duty were shortened due to operational reasons, completion of tasks before the qualifying period of 90 days, and for those who supported the UN Missions working under the UN Mandate for those Operations.

7. The emphasis would then be on the individual to contact this association to obtain a copy of the letter of approval from the UN. The individual will be advised to request to wear a foreign award through the ADF, using Form AD 111 (Nomination for Approval to Accept and Wear Foreign Service Awards) and submit that document to the Defence Honours & Awards (DHA) Office. Service verification would then be checked by DHA. After approval has been granted from ADF DHA, the member would then be advised to purchase the subject medal and miniature and would be fully entitled to wear the UN Mission specific medal.

Conclusion.

8. In conclusion, there are obvious anomalies to various UN operations in which ADF personnel have served. Due to the operational commitment, or circumstances surrounding the deployment, many ADF members have missed-out on the award of the UN Mission specific medal, by not fulfilling the 90-day criteria, which was out of their own control. It is hoped that the UN HQ New York will view this justification as satisfactory in order to award those ADF members who have so proudly served with the UN on Military Operations, although their qualifying service time, in some instances was shortened due to Operational Commitments.

This issue is continuing.

Rwanda Re-Classification

Senator Mark Bishop,
Opposition Spokesman for Veterans' Affairs,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600

Subject: Reclassification of Service for ADF personnel that served in Rwanda (1993-1994)

Dear Senator:

I am writing to you requesting your assistance in lobbying the respective parties to have specific operational (hazardous) service in Rwanda reclassified so that it meets the criteria for eligibility under schedule 2 of the veterans entitlement act.

There are a number of premises to support the reclassification. These include but are not limited to the following:

1. Elements of both contingents coming under fire from Rwandan Government Forces.
2. Elements of both contingents taking part in active operations to clear refugee camps of armed militia.
3. Elements of both contingents being exposed to attack by armed militia and Rwanda government forces while operating in refugee camps and remote localities.
4. Numerous incidents of the Rwandan Government forces holding Australian Soldiers hostage, or preventing Australians from conducting activities through the overt threat of arms.
5. Numerous attacks on UNAMIR strongholds in Rwanda.
6. The Rwandan Governments public threat to treat UNAMIR soldiers as the enemy if they 'got in the way' of their activities.
7. The continuation of combat between Rwandan forces despite their having signed and overtly agreed to a cease-fire.

8. UNAMIR being tasked to provide the same level of security to Rwandan civilians that was previously provided by French forces acting with a Chapter VII UN mandate.
9. The UN's selective and piecemeal use of powers provided by Chapter VII operations.
10. The UN's watering down of security assessments, purportedly to influence international participation in UNAMIR.
11. The real dangers involved in operations in Rwanda being demonstrated by a total of 27 UNAMIR fatalities over a three-year period.
12. The significant incidence of psychological trauma amongst veterans attributed to service in Rwanda.

I am assuming that Schedule 2 of the VEA is there to look after the soldiers who have done the hard yards in exposure to "***Incurred Danger***". Considering some of our participants in other operations have been given active service awards and recognition when there has been far less personal risk involved I find it difficult to fathom why Australian veterans serving in the Second United Nations Mission in Rwanda who have clearly earned the right are being denied eligibility for inclusion to schedule 2 entitlements of the VEA.

I understand the existing definitions for inclusion in schedule 2 of the VEA is provided by the distinction between 'warlike' and 'non-warlike' service. But the existing definitions also provide the scope for recognition of active service for operations that exist between these definitions. Clearly Rwanda was a very, very unusual military operation and those involved in the policy decisions, in terms of Conditions, Entitlements and Coverage under the VEA at the time had no precedence refer to. Clearly, the operational environment that the soldiers operating outside of Kigali were exposed to was more akin to war than normal peacekeeping operations. I have a number of suggestions that would allow UNAMIR veterans coverage under schedule 2 of the VEA.

Firstly, from my understanding the Chief of the Defence force has the ability to retrospectively amend the conditions of service for operational deployments thereby facilitating coverage under schedule 2 of the VEA. For example the precedence set for ADF participation in UN operations in Namibia, Cambodia, East Timor and HQ elements serving in Somalia.

Secondly, the Australian Active Service Medal could be retrospectively awarded for both contingents of UNAMIR II.

Thirdly, an award (i.e. Medal) could be developed specifically for soldiers involved in operations that have been deemed to be Hazardous operational service, by instrument in writing by the Minister of Defence. This award could be included within the ADF's existing framework for defining operational conditions of service. This award would then qualify veterans for entitlements under schedule 2 of the VEA. As you are aware there are very few ADF operations that have been deemed to be hazardous operational service to date.

You may not be aware of the problems that many UNAMIR veterans are still facing in their day-to-day lives. From my own experience and that of other veterans I have spoken with, the issues raised in this letter are very close to one's heart and I believe the anomaly in recognition of service may be one of the factors contributing to the unusually high ratio of post traumatic stress disorder and other related conditions among UNAMIR veterans.

I appreciate you are extremely busy and thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Respectfully,
(Signed)
P.A. Copeland,
National President

(Authored by Travis Standen (Rwanda Veteran) & Edited by Paul Copeland). This has also been sent to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence – Fran Bailey, MP. This paper has been brought to the attention of the RSL National HQ and is currently being lobbied.

Nature of Service Review

Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd),
National President,
The Returned & Services League of Australia,
GPO Box 303,
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

RE: Visit 22nd July 2004 – RSL National HQ, Canberra.

Subject: Nature of Service Review (NOSR)

Dear Sir:

I write this letter to you in response to our discussions on the morning of 22 July 2004, in which we discussed the NOSR, among other issues. It was great to catch up with you and present some of our issues, in which we look forward to a good working relationship with the RSL National HQ, in relation to Younger Veteran issues.

During our meeting, I undertook to provide you with the APPVA Feed-back of the NOSR, and asked if the RSL National HQ would consider reviewing our comments.

Please find attached a copy of the APPVA Feed-back Document of the NOSR.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me, should you wish to discuss this matter further.

(Signed)

P.A. Copeland,
National President

Points of Interest – Nature of Service Review

APPVA Delegation 29th March 2004 to
DGNOSR, Russell Offices, CANBERRA.

Background.

1. The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) was made aware of the Nature of Service Review (NOSR) from attending a brief of the Government Response to the Clarke Review Committee recommendations on 4th March 2004. It was discovered that Peacekeepers had been consulted of the NOSR, although it was Police Peacekeepers and not returned ADF Peacekeeper/Peacemaker (Peace enforcement) veterans.

2. The above-mentioned situation was alleviated by the Director General (DGNOSR – Brigadier David Webster), contacting the APPVA, in which both parties agreed to a briefing to be conducted at the Department of Defence in Canberra for the 29th of March 2004.

3. Observation of past experiences with various operations has noted Conditions of Service for various operations requiring change to be upgraded, due to increased risk to the ADF members deployed. To date no ADF Operations from 1989-2004, have been reciprocally changed, with the exception of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) entitlement, replacing the Australian Service Medal (ASM) entitlement for Operations in Namibia (18 Feb 1989 – 10 Apr 1990) and Cambodia (20 Oct 1991- 3 Oct 1993).

4. The Australian Medical Support Force (MSF) to the Second United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR II), during the period 6 Aug 1994 – 23 Aug 1995, is a contentious reciprocal case. Other areas that appear to have been overlooked on Official Recognition (Medals) have been the number of Overseas DACC Operations. Of an additional concern was the observance of the splitting of the East Timor

Area of Operation (AO), to have ADF Units in Sector West placed as Warlike Service (WLS), and those in Sector East placed as Non-Warlike Service (NWL).

5. The aforementioned situation has caused concern to those ADF members of the Army Training Support Team – East Timor (ATST-EM), as to whether they should receive the same medal entitlements on equilibrium to those fellow ADF members serving in Sector West. ATST-EM was awarded the ASM, however the remainder of the Australian National Command Support Element (ANSCE) and AUSBATT Group units received the AASM. Comparisons can be made perhaps to the AO of South Vietnam (SVN) 1962-1975, where the Australian Force was located at Nui Dat, and the Logistics, RAN Docking facilities and No. 9 RAAF Squadron were located in Vung Tau. In addition No. 2 Squadron RAAF (Canberra Bombers), were located in Phan Rang, north east of Nui Dat, and the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) who were deployed throughout the SVN AO. This makes for debatable discussion, as it would be difficult to define the risks associated with these deployments comprehensively, without eyewitness accounts.

6. It is understood by the APPVA Delegation, that the DGNOSR has been provided with Terms of Reference (TOR) as a guide to the application of the NOSR, issued by COSC. Therefore, there may be areas highlighted by the APPVA, which may not be within the bounds of the NOSR TOR.

Aim.

7. The aim of this document is to provide the DGNOSR, with feed-back to the proposed NOSR, and providing areas of concern, that may be taken into consideration by the DGNOSR and by the Chief of Staff Committee (COSC), for final approval by the Minister of Defence (MINDEF).

Discussion.

8. The DGNOSR and his staff provided the APPVA delegation a very professional and comprehensive brief of the NOSR. There were many questions and answers made within the time spent during the briefing. The Decision Support System, or the Decision Support Tool (DST) proposed to be used for the NOSR appears to be a very dynamic Information System, providing real-time decision making to commanders at the Strategic Level for future ADF Operations overseas.

9. It has been our experience that visits by Conditions of Service Staff to deployed units on Operational service in Cambodia and Somalia during 1992-1994 was very brief and perhaps did not fully appreciate the extent of operating in these environments, for long periods of time. In a number of cases, it was noted that a number of Conditions of Service Staff downgraded these operations, only to have been subject to acts of aggression toward the end of their evaluation tour, which in turn convinced them to change the downgrading of the conditions of service to retain the status quo.

10. The use of the UN Charter, Chapter VI and Chapter VII, should not be used as a guiding tool for the determination of service for ADF Operations in support of UN Operations. Chapter VI, in particular, does not provide a comprehensive description of military service, in particular Rules of Engagement (RoE). Chapter VII would perhaps be the more universal document to use, particularly for Operations in Somalia, East Timor, and Cambodia.

Security Criteria.

11. It is understood that the Security Criteria describes many situational circumstances, however the deployment of Defence Aid to Civil Community (DACC), is not given full consideration within the realm of Security Criteria. It is noted that on the number of occasions that the Australian Government has deployed ADF assets to assist neighbouring Pacific nations, has been at the request of those Pacific Governments. The Australian Government has complied with these requests. The security threat of not sending ADF assets to Overseas DACC could have consequential political and diplomatic effects to Australia and possibly providing instability of security within the Pacific

region. Therefore, it would be the Australian Government's best interests to provide ADF assets in order to assist in Overseas DACC requests. This consideration is suggested to be placed into the Security Operations Criteria.

Security Operations within Australia.

12. The APPVA agrees with the COSC concept (from the Clarke Review¹), that Geographic limitations be excluded so that the Minister can declare ADF operations in or outside Australia as WLS or NWL, where they meet the relevant criteria. It is understood that the NOSR Team will make similar recommendations.

Categories of Harm.

13. The APPVA strongly agrees with the category of harm for "Social Harm."

Sub-Matrix – Physical Harm (BCAS).

14. It is noted that Sub-Matrix for physical Harm, or Battle Casualties (BCAS), that the Degree of Influence rates Low to High, giving a point score of 1 – 10 respectively. The measurement of these scores does not appear to be within a criterion listing the ratings of influence. It would appear that the Degree of Influence scale would be subjective, rather than objective.

Sub-Matrix – Physical Harm (Non-Battle Casualties (NBCAS)).

15. This sub-matrix appears to be comprehensive of the environmental conditions, particularly considering the poor infrastructure of a country that has difficult climate and terrain to operate within. The Degree of Influence is noted as being subjective, with no supporting criteria.

Sub-Matrix – Psychological Harm.

16. The consideration of psychological harm is viewed by the APPVA as a pertinent consideration to ADF Operations – particularly overseas where cultures and life are particularly different from that of Australia. Despite the psychological preparation in both training and pre-deployment, a number of ADF members between 15% to 30%² will suffer some form of psychological problem or trauma, as a result of their tour of duty.

17. As for the Sub-Matrix – BCAS, the measurement system appears to be subjective rather than objective, with no comprehensive criteria or guide to justify the scores provided for the Degree of Influence.

Basic Matrix (No Weighting).

18. Looking at the scores made for East Timor, it would appear that the division of 10 is made to provide the average of the three sub-matrixes of BCAS, NBCAS and Psychological Harm degrees of influence.

Illustrative Weighting System.

19. The Illustrative Weighting System is difficult to understand as the Weighting (Wtg) in the shaded column of the slide has a number brought down from 62 to 1.5; 65 to 1.35 and 50 to 1.0. The totals provided of BCAS Degree of Influence of 6 to 62 to Wtg of 1.5 then to total of 9.3 is difficult to comprehend.

Harm Levels.

¹ The Veterans' Entitlement Review Committee 2002-2003

² Mal Hopwood, Chief Medical Registrar at the Veterans' Psychiatric Unit, Repat General Hospital, Heidelberg, Victoria.

20. The rating of Category is disagreed with, particularly with the remarks suggesting that Rwanda would fit the description of Category 3 (NWL). It is well documented that veterans of the ADF MSF UNAMIR II, experienced severe psychological trauma, high incidence of belligerent actions, fired at, along with several members of that contingent being awarded for the Medal of Gallantry (MG), which is a WLS award. Lobbying has been consistently conducted since the return of the MSF Contingent to have the status of NWL upgraded to WLS, along with the awarding of the AASM.

21. In addition, the PNG Tsunami Wave disaster, which thousands of people were killed by a tidal wave caused by an Earthquake in the Coral Sea in early 1999. The total area where the ADF DACC team worked within was contaminated with disease and death, with horrific scenes. The surgical teams also worked around the clock to save people's lives, often losing them on the operating table. Indeed, it is recalled the LTCOL Surgeon crying on National Television after having to amputate a little boy's shattered leg. The psychological impact on those who deployed to the Disaster is suggested to also be significant. Lastly, the Prime Minister, John Howard, who welcomed the troops home from that particular operation promised to award a medal to those who deployed. This medal has never been awarded.

22. ADF members serving with the ATST-EM were unarmed and were subjected to a high-risk environment for BCAS, NBCAS and psychological Harm.³ This appears not to have been accepted by the ADF, in which the ATST-EM was classified as NWL, although the countries that served shoulder to shoulder with this Team were awarded their country's respective active service conditions and awards. Members of ATST-EM have been attempting to have their case considered, only to be apparently not acted upon at the higher levels of command.⁴ The contention here is that whilst the ATST-EM were unarmed and placed into high levels of risk, the Australian UN Military Liaison Officers (UNMLO), or UN Military Observers (UNMO), were also unarmed, operated throughout East Timor, however they were classified as WLS.⁵ Whilst the ATST-EM was a Defence Cooperative Program (DCP) initiative to help build the East Timorese Defence Force (ETDF), the mechanics of the harm levels would be suggested by the APPVA to be on equilibrium to those other Australians (AUSBATT, ASNCE, UNMLO, and UNMO etc). The ATST-EM was registered with UNTAET/UNISMET in 2002, and was obliged to follow the UN Mandate and Code of Conduct.

23. It is using the above past retrospective operations, that the Category for Harm Levels would appear to be inconsistent to the Degree of Influence and overall total weighting portrayed in the Sub-Matrixes and Harm Levels. It would appear that Rwanda and ATST-EM would be classified as NWL (Peacekeeping) at Category 2, under this proposed system, as opposed to WLS. It would also appear that the various Overseas DACC Operations would not also be inclusive of Harm Category Levels of 2 or NWL (Hazardous Service).

24. It is also noted that Category 5 highlights World War 2 (WW2). Statistically, soldiers who fought in South Vietnam saw more active service and combat in 12 months, than those who served in WW2 in a 6-year period. It would appear that South Vietnam, and Korea, would be best suited as low Category 5, rather than Category 4 High. Although this is a *subjective* view and not an objective view, reciprocal historical facts outline the possibility of the Matrix system not being an accurate measurement tool at the time of decision.

25. There is certainly no argument for the classification of World War 1 (WW1).

Decision Support Tool.

26. Some fallbacks have been identified by the DST. These are the following:

³ WO2 D. Allam email dated 22 March 2004.

⁴ Former WO2 W. McInnes email dated 25 March 2004.

⁵ WO2 D. Allam email dated 22 March 2004.

- a. Would this system detract commanders on the ground of their ability to command and control a particular operation without Strategic decision maker real-time input? Would there be adjustments to the RoE, potentially to cause confusion and possible deaths of ADF members not being fully conversant under the perceived or changed RoE under this system? It is acknowledged however, that Network Centric Warfare is the way ahead for a technology based Force.
- b. Given the dynamic changes in various operations in the past, and most certainly the increase of risk or decrease of risk, the system may disadvantage troops on the ground in a potential hostile environment. It is believed that the system could measure the amount of incidents occurring to various ADF elements, particular hostile incidents. However, there will be opportunities for ADF elements, deployed on Operations to not necessarily fulfil the role of an infantry unit. Indeed the risk associated with deployment to a hostile environment has high psychological and environmental stress, no matter the occupation. Past experiences have noted that not all incidents have been reported, or logged. Personnel deployed to hostile environments may get accustomed to being shot at, have weapons pointed at them, attempted hostile acts by belligerents etc, therefore an accurate capture of this risk or incidental data may not be effective for the particular operation when initialising the NOS or the Review of such NOS.
- c. Although the APPVA appreciates the timely adjustment of overseas conditions of service, it **may** exacerbate matters by changing the status of deployment from WLS to NWL, only to return to WLS, after hostility or action is spontaneously conducted within the given AO. Additionally, would the DST support reciprocal decisions in the future for past operations? Confusion may be manifested at the lower levels of command, because of continual change of NOS.
- d. The NOSR Decision Support System Prototype demonstrator appears to be a very efficient means of capturing and maintaining Operational data.

Third Country Deployments.

27. The APPVA agrees with the Third Country Deployments of ADF personnel attached, or posted, to allied military forces who deploy on operations with those forces, including deployments into their country, should, in relation to Conditions of service, be treated in the same way as ADF personnel who deploy on operations conducted by the ADF.

28. An example of this is the Gulf War 1991, where ADF personnel were deployed with Allied forces, whilst attached to that force in the allied country. Other situations are those who participate in EXERCISE LONG LOOK, to the UK, have had opportunities to serve with NATO forces in the Balkans and Kosovo.

Taxation Tiering.

29. The APPVA rejects the Taxation tiering proposal. Currently under Section 23AG of the Income Tax Assessment Act (*ITA Act*), various operations, particularly those under the classification of NWL have been granted Tax Exemption. WLS (Operational Service) was always tax exempt and has been since SVN. It should be noted that in line with s23AG *ITA Act*, that ADF personnel are exempt from tax, dependant upon the host country's taxation arrangements. In most cases, particularly recently, the Defence Taxation Management Office (DTMO), has acknowledged these circumstances and retrospective changes to the taxable income of thousands of ADF members has since been implemented, to the benefit of serving members. This is viewed by APPVA, as positive recognition for service Overseas, in which the ADF member temporarily resides in another country other than Australia, therefore taxation, should be exempted, no matter the type of service rendered.

30. The APPVA asks why the proposed change to the existing taxation arrangements under the NOSR? The APPVA believes that to place the constraint of Tiered Taxation system would confuse issues not only with the ADF members, but the DTMO and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), particularly as s23AG and Overseas Forces Rebates are concerned.

31. High levels of exposure to harm in situations other than armed combat (warlike situations)⁶, is deemed by the APPVA to be remunerated appropriately with the Difficult Post Allowance (DPA) for the subject Operation. Therefore the argument for increased benefits of 100% tax exemption for Category 5 (WLS), in context of the proposed NOSR Tiered Taxation exemptions is inappropriate, as the service rendered is already tax exempt and also paid the DPA according to the operation. In addition, the Veterans' Entitlements under the *Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986* (VEA), and the *Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Bill 2003* (MRCB – yet to be Legislated), provides increased benefits and a beneficial approach for WLS. Therefore the current Extrinsic Compensation (monetary terms) is deemed to be suitable for ADF members.

32. The APPVA therefore believes that the proposed Tiered Taxation Exemptions for Category 4 down to Category 1 Operations will be disadvantageous to ADF members, in contrast to the current status quo of Operation (WLS) tax exemptions and tax exemptions under *s23AG ITA Act* for service of 91 days or more in the host country, regardless of the category of Harm.

Retrospective Treatment of Anomalies.

33. Extract from TORs. After consideration of the Extract from the TORs presented to the APPVA, it is believed that the anomalies in the NOS relating to operations initiated before the introduction of the current policy (pre-1993 Cabinet decision)⁷, is believed not to have been effected. Therefore the anomalies for DACC (Overseas) operations have not been given appropriate consideration, along with the strategic national interest of conducting these operations to our Pacific Neighbours. The major anomaly seen by the APPVA is the lack of non-financial recognition to these operations in the form of service Medals.⁸ It should be noted that the CIDA 1994, stated that medals should be presented to ADF personnel who have served overseas, "clearly and markedly more demanding than normal peacetime service".⁹ The APPVA consideration that Overseas Operations would satisfy this finding by CIDA, particularly in an objective assessment under the NOSR Matrix system were to be implemented.

34. Another Extract of the TOR for NOSR was to consider and make recommendations on anomalies in the nature of service arising from the application of current policy (i.e. post 1993 Cabinet decision). Again, the APPVA views that the anomalies toward service in Rwanda, Overseas DACC Operations and the ATST-EM, have perhaps been overlooked in the context of fully investigating these anomalies with considered recommendations. The Conjecture is that Rwanda Service is upgraded to WLS, ATST-EM be upgraded to WLS, and DACC Operations be considered as NWL, with the appropriate VEA or MRCB coverage and recognition in the awarding of respective medals to the upgrading of service.

Retrospectivity.

35. The APPVA agrees with the NOSR Recommendations for Administrative anomaly, and suggests a review panel or committee for retrospective issues, along with policy on retrospective service issues. The inclusion of input from veterans, either currently or ex-serving, in order to be given the opportunity to present their case is also suggested by APPVA to be considered in a Retrospective Committee in relation to service issues of past Operations.

⁶ Slide 42 to the NOSR presentation to the APPVA 29 March 2004.

⁷ Slide 45 to the NOSR presentation to the APPVA 29 March 2004.

⁸ Either the Australian Service Medal (ASM), or the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM).

⁹ Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence Related Awards (CIDA), conducted in 1993/94 under the previous Government.

Conclusion.

36. In conclusion, the APPVA views the NOSR as perhaps a major step forward in assisting Strategic decision makers in making informed decisions for future operations conducted by the ADF. The Harm Matrix needs to be *objective* as opposed to subjective, in order to capture an informed and logical decision-making process for determination of service type, however the calculations would appear to be difficult to comprehend. The APPVA rejects the proposed Taxation Tiering of Operations, in which the status quo is satisfactory and does not disadvantage the service person. The anomalies that have been identified by the APPVA appear to have been overlooked in the NOSR, although perhaps, not intentionally so. The APPVA views that retrospective anomalies should be given the opportunity for consideration in the form of a NOS Retrospective Committee, in order to allow a fair process to service conditions grievance claims.

APPVA Recommendations.

37. The APPVA recommends the following:

- a. That the APPVA be included in future consultation of Nature of Service, in order to place a veterans' perspective to past operations;
- b. That the Security Matrix is inclusive of political and diplomatic Regional impact to neighbouring countries;
- c. That the Matrix system is *Objective* with defined criterion, inclusive of RoE considerations, with simple mathematical formulae to calculate the outcome rating of Harm;
- d. That the service anomalies with ASC MSF UNAMIR II (Rwanda), be given consideration as a post 1993 anomaly and consideration made by COSC to change the NWL of Rwanda to WLS;
- e. That the service anomaly with Overseas DACC Operations, be given consideration as pre-1993 and post 1993 anomalies and consideration made by COSC to change the Peacetime Service of such operations to NWL;
- f. That the service anomalies with the ATST-EM (East Timor), be given consideration as a post 1993 anomaly and consideration made by COSC to change the NWL of ATST-EM to the equilibrium of WLS, as was for the AUSBATT and ASNCE;
- g. That the category of Harm (1-5), is reviewed in an *objective* manner, in which the APPVA believes that the Categories for various operations full short of their full potential;
- h. That the DST not be used for continual re-assessment of a given AO that ADF members are serving, in order to prevent confusion, and provide continuity of service, particularly with consideration toward the operation RoE;
- i. That the proposed Taxation Tiering is rejected, and ADF members remain on the current Tax Free Exemptions under WLS and s23AG of the ITA Act; and
- j. Retrospective Treatment of anomalies is facilitated through a Committee, with policy processes to enable grievances to be addressed in relation to service determinations.

This Paper was endorsed by the RSL National President and is currently being lobbied.

Volunteers for The National Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Memorial ANZAC Parade, Canberra 14 September 2007.

You will all be now well aware that the Peacekeeper/Peacemaker National Memorial has been given approval by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Danna Vale, MP on 29 March 2004. Further to this a pledge by the Federal Government to fund \$200,000 toward the memorial was also announced as part of the Liberal Government Veteran package for the election.

In contrast, Senator Mark Bishop and his ALP colleagues pledged \$1 Million toward the project under the Labor 8 Point Veteran Plan.

Needless to say, the PK/PM Memorial in Canberra on ANZAC Parade is definitely on the political agenda, and funding appears to be something that we can work on.

We therefore need members to be a part of a Steering Committee in the Initial stages of the PK/PM Memorial. The Steering Committee will have the view to appoint a committee and commence fund-raising and liaison with Government to oversee the project.

At this initial stage, I suggest that we identify people to various positions to begin with, followed by a vote by this Steering Committee as to who will chair the Committee.

We also need the assistance of people with Project Management backgrounds and accounting backgrounds. The Project Management will be of course to set the Scope, time lines and Milestones. The Financial manager to organise facilities for fund-raising monies to be repositied, perhaps into a Trust account.

A Project Director may also be required to manage the overall operation, with reporting to the Chairman and the National President APPVA.

An ADF & Police Liaison Officers to assist the committee and perhaps have ADF and Police assets to assist in the 60th Anniversary Program, including the Ceremony of the unveiling of the Memorial.

A Director of Fund-raising to be able to market and raise money for the Memorial. This Director would ideally have a team of people in every state across the nation to assist in this operation.

A Public Relations Officer to promote the PK/PM Memorial and the 60th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping (14 Sep 1947 - 14 Sep 2007). Ideally this officer would have many connections in the media industry.

And perhaps finally a CEO who will be the coordinator of the operation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a large task that requires assistance throughout the membership and our veteran base. If we are going to make this happen, we need people who are willing to give some time and focus on the task at hand. I am asking for people who are "fair dinkum" to see this project through.

The rewards both intrinsically and extrinsically will be magnificent; placing our service on the Veteran map for years to come; and have those who continue to serve a place of honour and pride.

I will be happy to initially coordinate this Steering Committee, however I am looking for people to take the reigns, so that some of the National Committee are able to concentrate on our veterans' issues with Government.

I thank you for your consideration toward this proposal and look forward to hearing from those who want to be part of a potentially fantastic team.

Final Letter to the Ex-Service Organisation Working Group for the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004

The Chairman,
Dr Neil Johnson,
The Ex-Service Organisation Working Group,
The Military Compensation Scheme,
Department of Veterans' Affairs,
P.O. Box 21,
WODEN, ACT, 2606

Subject: Final Meeting – Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association Final Letter.

Dear Dr Johnson,

Firstly, please accept my apology for being unable to attend the final meeting of the ESOWG for the MRCA on 17th of June 2004. I have not been well lately, and was unfortunately unable to secure a representative to attend this final meeting.

The APPVA would like to convey our thoughts of the process of the past 12 months, and perhaps provide you and the committee with some feedback of how the New MRCA will affect our membership base.

It is unfortunate that the APPVA was not involved in the initial stages of the ESOWG. The MRCA was to be written for the veteran of today and tomorrow, regardless where they served. We hope that the past thought that we were not considered as "*REAL VETERANS*" has now subsided within the Department and that the APPVA is noted by the Department and other ESOs as a Peak National ESO, with positive representation of our member's and constituency base needs and issues.

The APPVA still holds reservations of the 3-tiered system of calculating Disability Pensions for the particular service rendered. We also hold reservations of Age and Gender Based calculations. We find this discriminative, and the ADF members are certainly not happy with this outcome. It is unfortunate that some ESOs took it upon themselves to place War Service on a pedestal, without consideration of the dynamics of today's military service. We believe in the "Keep it Simple Stupid", or "KISS", which unfortunately in this case, has complicated an otherwise workable Act. We won the fight with the Senate Legislative Hearing for equitable compensation for our Widows, however other forces against us (Some ESOs), otherwise foiled our pleas for the same equity in Disability Pensions. It should be noted that this Act was not written for Vietnam Veterans, but for veterans of today and tomorrow. It would have been favourable to see a modern military compensation system, with some dynamic consideration.

The Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) is a very contentious issue within the ADF, and there are many within the ADF who are extremely disappointed with the outcome of having to sacrifice 60 cents in their superannuation dollar for this pension. Indeed, many view contributing to COMSUPER as a waste of time and money, given the potential penalty that will be placed onto them, should they ever be unable to work due to their service related injuries or illness. It simply goes against the philosophy of Non-Economic Loss. The catch-cry of "Double Dipping" is certainly wearing very thin with our members and serving members of the ADF.

The use of the Statement of Principles (SOPs), presents a potential problem from the 1st of July onward. Currently, there is a six-year backlog of conditions being handled by the RMA. The SCRA, or MCRS, was able to determine conditions without utilising the SOP, and were in many cases accepted versus attempts to have the conditions recognised in the VEA SOP, when a member

had dual eligibility. We believe that there will be a problem with the use of SOPs, particularly as they are outdated and are not consistent with conditions attained in today's service. This includes Contra-indications of vaccinations and Malarial Prophylaxis regimens. The APPVA only hopes that the six-year delay is expedited so that no veteran is disadvantaged.

Having stated our disappointment with some ESOs for their relentless quest of War Service being recognised and specially treated, we, on the other hand thank those ESOs that participated in the ESO WG, and believe that there are ESOs that do have the interests of our veterans to heart. This is reassuring to the APPVA and we look forward to participating with the representative ESOs in further ESO WG.

Please forward this onto all participants. From the perspective of working with the Department on this Working Group, I wish to say on behalf of the members of the APPVA, thank you for allowing us to have an input and we look forward to future DVA sponsored forums.

P.A. Copeland,
CBUS (USQ), Adv Dip Comms Mgt, Dip Proj Mgt (UNE), Dip FM (I), Cert Radio Freq Mgt, MAHRI
National President

This letter was endorsed by the APPVA National Executive.

The Special Rate of Disability Pension

Brigadier J.P.A. Deighton AM, MC, (Retired),
Chief Executive Officer,
Returned Services League – Victorian Branch,
“ANZAC House”
4 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE, VIC, 3000

RE: ESO Meeting – Wednesday 11th August 2004 at ANZAC House.

Subject: Special Rate Disability Pension Offsetting against COMSUPER Pensions.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you as a result of the ESO Meeting held at ANZAC House on 11 Aug 04. During this meeting you asked me to draft a letter in relation to the problem with Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP), which will be offset 60 cents to each dollar of received COMSUPER Pension (either Invalidity or Retirement), under the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA).

Having studied the COMSUPER Home pages (www.comsuper.gov.au) and gleaned information in support of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) contention, that the SRDP, or “Safety Net”, under the MRCA is unfair and reduces the prospective veterans' income for life.

To support the above comment, I offer you the following for rationale:

DFRDB. The scheme ceased to new members in 1991. The provisions of the Scheme are complex, however some principle provisions are:

Contributions by members are at 5.5% of salary.

Invalidity benefits.

Redundancy or Retrenchment benefits.

Death Benefits.

Commutation of Lump Sum.

Pensions paid for life.

MSBS. The MSBS scheme is compulsory for all members of the ADF since 1991. A copy of the MSBS Investment Performance is attached to this paper. Member Contributions are at 5%, with increase available as an option to members at 1% increments, to a maximum of 10% of salary. The Member Component of the MSBS Structure is Member Contributions plus accumulated earnings on the contributions.

Employer Contributions consists of a defined benefit equal to Total Accrued Multiple X Final Average Salary (FAS).

3% Benefit is Employer contribution of 3% of salary less 15% employer contribution tax together with accumulated earnings. The 3% forms part of the employer component.

The member contributions from DFRDB are deposited into the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF), and is paid after the member retires after 20 years service (15 years if enlisted at 40 years of age), upon invalidity or to the family of the member on death. The CRF is not a wealth created or invested fund and it is used by the Commonwealth as necessary by the Department of Finance. The DFRDB is more or less a deal that was made with the ADF that service and contributions and retirement will provide generous benefits to those members of the DFRDB.

The member contributions of MSBS however, are placed into a very different situation that those in DFRDB. The MSBS member contributions are governed by a Trust Deed and rules set out the full membership, contributions and benefits of the MSBS Act 1991. Therefore, in contrast to DFRDB, which is Legislation, the MSBS Trust is able to change Rules and conditions, as has been witnessed in the past. The Member Contributions of MSBS are invested by the Trust into Global Share markets and other investment strategies, similar to investment strategies for other Superannuation and Investment entities in Australia.

If a loss is recorded for MSBS, then the Member's fund will suffer that loss. For example from FY 01/02, the MSBS Fund earned -8.7%, in FY 02/03, the MSBS Fund earned -2.0%, as a result of market pressures. In contrast to DFRDB, the Fund did not lose its base, as it is CPI indexed, whereas the MSBS fund is not CPI. Another consideration to note is that the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) is legislated to not provide losses for its contributing members in accordance in with the legislation. So, when MSBS lost -8.7% in FY 01/02, PSS stayed on 0% earnings, as the loss below 0% is legislated to be provided by the Government. Hence, the Government does not provide this safety measure to the MSBS Fund, which any loss is borne by the Contributing members and the superannuants of the Scheme.

The relevance of the above comparisons of schemes is deemed necessary to understand how the member's contributions are not counted by the Government in the case of Offsetting IAW MRCA 2004. The Government has stated in its reasons behind this Offsetting Provision, is that the COMSUPER Pensions are solely provided by the Government, and therefore constitutes "*Double Dipping*" of entitlements to members. This is because the Government provides a Non-Economic Loss payment/pension of the SRDP, and believes the veteran in receipt of COMSUPER is taking double payment.

MSBS members who elect to take the Safety Net of the MRCA will be fundamentally disadvantaged, as the Government has stated that they also fund the Superannuation. This is not exactly correct, as

the MSBS Board invests the Member Contributions, is market reactive and market dependant. The Government Contributions (Employer Contributions) are as a result of Superannuation Guarantee Legislation, in which they are obliged to contribute to its employee's superannuation, as much as the employee him/herself.

The SRDP is to be calculated using the current Totally & Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Special Rate (SR) of pension under the *Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986* (VEA). Within the VEA, it does not appear to breakdown SR from 100% of General Rate up to the Special Rate as an earnings loss. In Clarke, SR was described as Non-Economic Loss (NEL) for loss of function, Lifestyle effects, pain and suffering.

Economic Loss (EL) is deemed to be income lost, due to the inability to work – therefore veterans with Qualifying Service (QS) are entitled to War Service Pension (WSP), which is Income Support Supplement (ISS) to assist veterans to achieve a quality of life. Those without QS do not have ISS; however the Government is initiating the Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA), in order to provide a form of ISS to veterans under Schedule 3 of the VEA. Regardless, the EL or Superannuation is Income and Assets tested, in which the ISS is reduced according to Assets and Income that the veteran holds.

SR under the VEA is not reduced because of income received from COMSUPER.

Therefore, in consideration of the above, a veteran who is Severely Incapacitated as a result of their service on or after 1 July 2004, who elect the Safety Net Provisions under the MRCA, will be significantly disadvantaged, in comparison to a TPI veteran under the VEA.

(Signed)

P.A. Copeland,

CBUS (USQ), Adv Dip Comms Mgt, Dip Proj Mgt (UNE), Dip FM (I), Cert Radio Freq Mgt, AHRI
National President

The RSL Victorian Branch has promised to take this up at the National Level.

Dr Brian's Analysis

The Veteran and Intimate Relationships

In previous articles I have outlined three of the primary clinical issues impacting on veterans: PTSD – Reconnaissance & Regimentation patterns – Impulsive Anger (there are others, depression and alcoholism are some examples). In an intense practical way these issues are ongoing for veterans, in the community, in the workplace and most importantly in their relationships and families.

In a simplistic view of the 24hour day night cycle most of the PTSD symptoms occur during sleep time and most of the reconnaissance & regimentation patterns occur during the day time and the impulsive anger can occur just about any time. Thus the veterans (and the partner) are sleep deprived, the veteran is chronically switched on and on standby and unpredictable – 'gee you must be hard to live with'. Perhaps the common ground amongst each of these clinical themes is arousal, arousal, over-arousal and more arousal. Traumatic memories and avoidance behaviours are driven by anxiety and arousal; impulsive anger is driven by super dooper arousal in the flick of an instance and perhaps most constantly the arousal associated with being on standby, ready for action – reconnaissance & regimentation is the one that impacts consistently on relationships. Some recent examples that have come to my attention include the following: -

- You know I figured out that being on constant alert prevents me from being close to my partner – on standby
- I always put in a big effort at work and I am then very tired when I am at home – put in 110%
- I abused my adult son for not putting the bundles of cut grass in a straight line, he got in his car and drove away leaving me to finish the lawn – do it right the first time/every time

- Come on, come on, come on, are you ready, we are going; I said we are going at 9am – she says it's only 8.30am? – control the environment
- When walking outdoors with your partner, walk quickly and in front of them – all of the environment is dangerous

Any or all of these examples are indicators that the arousal associated with being switched on – on standby is too high. What your partner is looking for is support, after all she has lived in the community environment all of her life, she knows it she trusts it she moves through it daily, but she needs support with the ongoing daily grind. Secondly she wants to know regularly that she is important to you – lots of little things help – making her a cuppa, sitting together on the back porch, chocolates & flowers, remembering anniversaries & birthdays and shopping together – it is her perception of the thought that you want to assist her that counts.

Reconnaissance & regimentation issues get in the way of developing your relationship and of stabilising your recovery that is your arousal level remains chronically too high. So any activity that reduces arousal levels is useful – aerobic fitness or meditation would be a good start as would be operating out of community rules rather than military standards and of course good communication is the key to continuing to develop the relationship – communication, that's for the next issue.

ANZAC Day in London 2004

It was a perfect morning at Hyde Park Corner in London. Not too cold, very few light clouds, the weather and the setting combined to make it a memorable day. It couldn't have been better.

This year's dawn service at the new Australian Memorial began at five o'clock and it was obvious, very early, that there would be a good attendance. Estimates suggested in excess of 3,000 people were out of bed early to pay their respects, most of them young Australians in the 18 – 25 year bracket; their behaviour, to be expected, was excellent.

Before and after the service a cuppa and Anzac bikkies were supplied.

Father Martin Hislop conducted the service with readings from BRIG Vince Williams, CSC, Head of Australian Defence Staff, London, Michael L'Estrange, the Australian High Commissioner, Russell Marshall, and the New Zealand High Commissioner.

Senator Alan Ferguson, representing the Prime Minister, delivered the Anzac address.

At the southern end of Whitehall and almost opposite Downing Street about 50 wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph. The road between Horse Guards Avenue and Westminster Bridge was closed to traffic and at 11.00 am during one minute's silence the stillness was absolute; there was nothing to be heard. It's as if London had stopped to remember and honour the Anzacs. The silence was only broken with the chimes of Big Ben; for the moment at hand I couldn't think of anything more appropriate. It was both moving and eerie.

From the Cenotaph it was a short walk to Westminster Abbey for an hour-long service that climaxed with the ringing of the bells. The huge church was filled to over-flowing with standing room only at the rear. As the dignitaries departed – we noticed former Defence Minister Peter Reith – we were invited to view this magnificent building. The history associated with this London landmark, dating back over 1000 years, was inspirational.

A memorable day in a foreign land on what many consider our National Day and briefly 'surrounded' by Aussies and Kiwis who, although a long way from home stopped, remembered and paid tribute.

It was, indeed, a day to remember.

The Australian War Memorial London

Last November 11th, the Queen and Prime Minister Howard dedicated the Australian War Memorial on Hyde Park Corner in central London. It commemorates all those Australians who fought alongside Britons during the First and Second World Wars and particularly more than 101,000 Australian Service men and women who gave their lives.

The Memorial features a long curving wall of green-grey Australian granite that was mined in West Australia. There are 540 pieces of granite, all of which were individually shaped and finished in Australia.

The wall is set with 24,000 names of the hometowns of Australian men and women who served during the two World Wars. Superimposed on these names are 47 battle sites representing some of the major theatres of war where Australians served.

Article by Major Grant King

Defence Asbestos Registration Centre

Do you think YOU may have been exposed to asbestos during your Army / Navy / RAAF service?

If so, please contact Defence Asbestos Registration Centre on (freecall) 1800 000 655 Monday to Friday, 7 AM to 7 PM.

For RASIGS personnel, this is very pertinent due to the construction of many Communications Centres, which used asbestos as both a fire-retardant and security material.

Veteran's Community Hostel

(Veteran's Support & Advocate Service Australia Inc - VSASA)

Veterans Community Hostel

27 Buckley Rd

Burpengary QLD 4505

Phone / Fax 07 3888 3006

Mobile 0427 529 338

Email jdvetcomhostel@ozemail.com.au

Web <http://www.ausvets.com.au>

Mission Statement.

Our aim is to provide the veteran and ex-service community (including peacekeepers) with a temporary or permanent home, three good meals a day, in a caring environment with other veterans that have an understanding of the needs of each other.

The hostel is located approx 30 km north of Brisbane just off the Bruce Hwy. Rates are daily or weekly. The motel's role is to:

- to maintain a hostel where veterans and friends can find accommodation at an affordable and sustainable cost;
- to make available and maintain the basic charter of VSASA by providing welfare and support to our community; and
- to preserve the dignity of the veteran by providing them with the support that only veterans in the same or similar situation can understand.

The hostel's facilities include:

Single or Family rooms (26 rooms - all air-conditioned - all smoke-free)

Colour TV, including pay-TV

Fridge and tea/coffee making facilities

Communal dining room

Meals, incl morning/afternoon tea, provided

Salt-water swimming pool and spa

SUBS DUE

Hi All. There is a list of those members who are actually financial for next year at the back of this issue. YES it is still only \$10 so if you need to pay please send off ASAP. These fees help us keep the NL running. If you do not appear on that list you are unfinancial. You can send you subs to the MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – Deema Johnston, JP, C/o P.O. Box 552, TORQUAY, VIC, 3228

Military Man

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's recently finished school; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old Ute, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and 155mm howitzer. He is 5 or 7 kg lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk.

He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the characteristics of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must. He digs foxholes and latrine sand can apply first aid like a professional. He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job. He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still > find ironic humour in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed. He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is the Fighting Man that has kept his country free for over 200 years.

He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding. Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood. And now we even have woman over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to War when our nation calls us to do so. As you go to bed tonight, remember this image. A short lull, a little shade and a picture of loved ones in their helmets.

Prayer wheel for our military... please don't break it. Please send this on after a short prayer.

Prayer Wheel "Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen."

When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our ground troops in Afghanistan, sailors on ships, and airmen in the air, and for those in Iraq. There is nothing attached.... This can be very powerful.....

Of all the gifts you could give a Serviceman, prayer is the very best one.

VA045 Friday 21 May 2004

QUEENSLAND VETERANS BENEFIT FROM \$218,806 IN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Danna Vale, today announced organisations that provide care and support to the Queensland veteran community would receive Australian Government funding of \$218,806.

Mrs Vale said 19 Queensland organisations would receive Veteran & Community Grants funding for projects including the replacement of an ex-service organisation bus, a mental health rehabilitation project for veterans and computer equipment for the production of veterans' newsletters.

"Veteran & Community Grants provide important assistance to projects that aim to improve the quality of life of veterans and their families," Mrs Vale said.

"Projects that receive funding are wide ranging and include health education, lifestyle improvement, community activities, carer support and programs to help veterans live independently at home.

"Australia owes a debt of gratitude to its veterans and service personnel for their service and sacrifice in times of war and conflict and their continuing contribution to our community," Mrs Vale said.

"Through Veteran & Community Grants we are helping to repay that debt by providing practical assistance to ensure veterans, war widows and their dependants have access to a full range of community services.

"By providing increased services and facilities for the veteran community, the benefits also flow on to the wider community."

The Minister said the funding was part of the \$2.7 million in Veteran & Community Grants allocated in 2003-04, for projects across Australia.

Media Contact: Claire Bannon 02 6277 7820 or 0423 781

Veterans Vocational Repatriation Scheme (VVRS)

Details on the VVRS are available via the Veterans' Affairs Network on:

1800 113 304 or the Department of Veterans' Affairs Website – www.dva.gov.au

APPA Web Site:

www.peacekeepers.asn.au

DRAFT LETTER TO TAX OFFICE TO CLAIM S23AG EXEMPTION FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE. – INSERT YOUR DETAILS AS NEEDED

Deputy Commissioner of Taxation
Australian Taxation Officer
(Nearest tax office as shown
in the ATO TaxPack)

your address

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Amendment

Tax File Number: _____

Telephone no: _____

I wish to request an amendment to my income tax assessment for the year ended 30 June _____.

Since completing my Income Tax Return I have learned that I was eligible for an income tax exemption under section 23AG for the *Income Tax Act 1936* in respect of my foreign service in the **Multinational Force and Observers—Sinai, Egypt (MFO Sinai)**. My foreign earnings for that period are therefore exempt. Please refer to the attached declaration for details of my eligible foreign service (*attach the completed Parts A and B of the declaration*). Accordingly, I request that my income tax return be amended as follows:

		Amended amount
Foreign employment Income	Income earned in respect of my foreign service in MFO Sinai previously included as assessable income.	\$ x (Amount from Part B of the declaration in annex C)
Less Deductions previously claimed	Expenses incurred in relation to foreign service in MFO Sinai service that have previously been claimed as deductible.	\$
<i>Equals</i> Net foreign employment income		\$

Reportable Fringe Benefits Amount (RFBA)—applicable since 1999 – 00 only	Fringe benefits received that are directly related to my service in MFO Sinai (previously included as RFBA in my group certificate/payment summary).	\$ x (Amount from Part B of the declaration in annex C)
--	---	---

I claimed an Overseas Forces Rebate of \$_____. If my request for amendment is accepted, I will not be entitled to that rebate and request that my return be amended to deny the rebate**.

I declare that all the information I have given in this letter, including any attachments, is true and correct.

Yours Sincerely

** Insert this paragraph only if you wish to seek section 23AG exemption in 2001-02 and future years because you cannot claim both the rebate and section 23Ag from 01 July 2001.

Note Before: Insert your relevant Operation that has been approved by the Defence Taxation Management Office (DTMO).

Want to try something different to change your drinking?

Need to cut down or stop?

A Self Help Correspondence Program
is now available for veterans and the
defence community.

Call **1800 18 08 68** to get started



Strictly confidential

The Right Mix: Your Health and Alcohol is supported by the Partnership Agreement between the ex-service organisations and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

ADVERTISEMENT

FRAMED REFLECTIONS

Framed Reflections are offering not just a custom framing service, **but a complete one-stop shop.**

A framing service, which encapsulates in each presentation...

- Personal family history;
- Individuals war service;
- Unit explanations;
- Photographs of the person being celebrated;
- Medals – Inclusion of either originals or miniatures.

(Can obtain on Customers behalf miniatures or replicas should it be necessary?)

All of the above completed...

- Together, in a professionally crafted custom frame;
- Framed in such a way (if the customer wishes) that ensures **medals can be retrieved easily**, so individuals can wear them on special occasions.

Framed reflections are quite prepared to assist with the research of war Service details, should the need arise.

Don't let precious heirlooms simply lie unseen in some draw or cupboard, have them displayed in such a way that celebrates your loved ones achievements...

“Don't let them get damaged or fade away”

Contact John Jerram

Telephone 03 9546 7532 – Mobile 0408 586 023.

JUMBUNNA

OLIVES

B & B

Your Hosts

Jeff & Julie Mulhall

65 Gooch's Rd

Jumbunna, Vic, 3951

Phone: 5657 3315

Mobile: 0418 340 236

Email: mulhall@dcsi.net.au

Website: www.promcountry.com.au

Romantic Getaway surrounded by 7 acres of olive
Trees in a private SC Miners cottage, enjoy
Magnificent views of South Gippsland's rolling hills
And visit several nearby local wineries within 10
Minutes drive.

Brass bed, wood fire, CD/DVD player, 250 free movies,
70cm TV, spa, air conditioning

Packages available on request

APPVA Merchandise

Blazers with APPVA logo: Contact NNT (Neat 'N' Trim) for your nearest store on Aus Freecall 1800 806 753 or visit their Website www.NNT.com.au to find accurate prices for Blazers with APPVA logo. They will be able to fit the APPVA cloth logo to the blazer. You can also visit the store for correct sizing.

Polo shirts with APPVA logo @ \$28.00 each, Long sleeve Chambray shirts with APPVA logo @ \$31.95 each. Short Sleeve Chambray shirts also available. Available from Beauford House. 18 Smike St Yallambie 3085 Ph. 03 94583577. Contact Duane Henley at RARanger@bigpond.com for orders.

APPVA lapel badges (new design and logo) available for \$10.00 ea. Contact Duane Henley at RARanger@bigpond.com

Old APPA lapel badges @ \$10.00 ea. **“Not many left, limited stock, Collector’s item!”**
Order through D. Henley. As above.

Old design **APPA ties** @ \$10.00 ea. Only **40** left also collectors item.

Soon to be released: New APPVA ties, price TBA.

Name tags for use at functions etc. Design will be gold/brass background with black lettering and etched APPVA logo. Price TBA. Order with name and details through D. Henley. Title nametags can also be ordered such as “National President” for those that hold the positions within the Association.

Fridge magnets and stubby holders are also on the drawing board.

Suggestions for APPVA Merchandising – please contact Duane Henley.

Duane Henley.
National Merchandising Officer
APPVA

“Looking After Our Own”

NEW MEMBERS

Surname	First Name	Mission 1	Mission 2	Mission 3	State
Sever	Anthony Max	SE ASIA	UNTAET		VIC
Arrowsmith	Wayne	UNTAC	UNTAET		WA
Hladio	Stephen Michael	OP BELISI	UNTAET		VIC
Sapi	Charles	OP Warden	OP Tanager		VIC
Farrugia	Joseph John	Malaya	Sinai		VIC
Hinchcliffe	Norma Frances	UNTAC- FCU			NSW
Mellross	Glen Andrew	Malaysia			VIC
Percy	Steven Myles	MINURSO			SA
Boum	Matthus Francis	UNTAG			VIC
Nelson	Phillip Charles John	MINURSO			VIC
Hopkins	John Keith	INTERFET	UNTAET		VIC
Keegan	Kevin Shane	Malaya	UNTAC		VIC
Copeland	Jeannette Dorothea	Affiliate			VIC
Copeland	James Maitland	South Vietnam	Malaysia		VIC
Fitzpatrick	Kenneth Paul	Malaysia/Singapore			TAS
Waudby	Peter George	SEATO	SEATO		VIC
Metcalfe	Allan	NIL			VIC
Christie	Peter John	OP Warden	OP Tanager		QLD
Wyatt	John Thomas	UNTAC			SA
Inglis	Anthony James	OP TANGER			QLD
Campion	Michael John	OP Bel-Isi	INTERFET	OP TANGER	NSW
Kennard	Damien Robert	Associate Member			VIC
Kennard	Lynette Ann	Associate Member			VIC
Farquhar	Edward Jason	OP TANGER			VIC
Capuano	Gregory James	UNTAET			VIC
Giansiracusa	Danny Franco	INTEFET	Bougainville		VIC
Sawrey	Gregory Boyd	MFO SINAI			QLD
Stevens	Warren Theotimus	OP Bel-Isi II	RAMSI		NSW
Anderson	Craig Michael	OP Bel-Isi			NSW
Woodward	Anthony James	OP Solace	OP Tamar	OP Anode	QLD
Benham	Gavin Russell	UNOSOM II			NSW
Mann	Mark Edward	UNTAC	OP Bel Isi	INTEREFET	VIC
Osborne	Garry Noel	OP Bel-Isi II	OP Bel-Isi		NSW
Bird	Mark	OP Stabilise			TAS
Nelson	Robert Sean	OP Stabilise			Vic
Drake	Benjamin Jeffrey	OP Tanager			NSW
Walsh	Damian	OP Tanager			NSW
Smart	Tracy Lee	UNAMIR II	UNTAET/UNMISSET		SA
Smith	Simon George	UNEF II			QLD
Hodges	Adrian Guy	OP Solace	OP Lorosae	OP Mazurka	ACT
Lawrence	Adam Brian	Bougainville, PNG	UNTAET	OP Slipper	VIC
Monteath	Stuart Lex	UNTAC			VIC
McMahon	Brian	Honorary Member			VIC
Clark	Ronald John	Butterworth	PNG	UNMOGP	OLD
Jones	Cecil Edward	Malaya-Singapore	Vietnam		VIC
Elmy	Robert John	OP Solace	OP Citadel		VIC
Sinclair	Alan John	Gulf of OMAN	DAMASK 1	DAMASK 6	VIC
Hunter	Stephen John	INTEFET/UNTAET			VIC
Coyne	John William	OP Bel Isi	INTERFET	OP TANGER	ACT
Rance	Dael Gilyne	ASC UNTAC			VIC
Rantall	Christopher Neville	OP TANGER			VIC
Evans	Geoffrey John	UNTAC			QLD

Current Financial Members

As at 13th October 2004

BURKE	Darren John	UNTAG	UNTAC		VIC
McATEER	Kevin Christopher	UNOSOM I			QLD
VANDERLEY	Peter David	UNTAC			QLD
SMITH	Simon George	UNEF II			QLD
COPELAND	Paul	UNTAC	MFO Sinai		Vic
TURNER	John Bernard	UNAMIR II			QLD
RAYMANT	Keith John	INTERFET	UNTAET		Vic
BENSON	Harold Cyril (Mick)	UNTSO			QLD
DANAHER	Steven	UNTAC			WA
MORTLEMAN	Dave	MINURSO			QLD
FOLEY	Raymond John	UNTAG			Qld
TEDALDI	Henry	UNCK	UNCMAC		Tas
SULLIVAN	Michael	MFO Sinai	INTERFET		NT
SEDSMAN	Mark Hannaford	UNTAC			ACT
CARR	Martin	UNTAG	Gulf War-Op Habitat	RAAF Butterworth	Qld
MENHINNITT	Irene	UNFICYP	UNAMET		Qld
COPELAND	James	MINURSO			Vic
STOTT	Reginald Robin	UNEF II			Vic
STEELE	Robert	MFO Sinai			Vic
LEE	Gavin Michael	UNTAC			Vic
MURDOCH	Alan Lyall	UNOSOM II			Qld
JOHNSTON	Deema	UNAMIC	UNTAC		Vic
HENLEY	Duane Lee	MALAYSIA			Vic
SHELTON	Nigel Paul	UNTAC			SA
CAMERON	David	UNTAC			Vic
COVENTRY	Brian Walter	UNAMIR II	INTERFET		NT
MANSFIELD	Gary Ronald	MINURSO			Vic
KING	Grant Ronald	Op Ozier	INTERFET		Qld
RYAN	Joanne	UNTAET			Qld
O'BRIEN	Michael Victor	UNTAC	UNHQ NY	INTERFET	Qld
TEAGUE	Rodney John	UNTAC			Tas
TOOHEY	Paul Raymond	UNTAC			NSW
ORMSBY	Andrew	UNAMIR II	INTERFET		SA
MITCHELL	Gregory Keith	UNTAC			Vic
BURKE	Matthew Charles	MINURSO			Vic
Gray	Roger	UNTAC			NSW
ALBERS	Christopher Andrew	UNTAC			Vic
BROWN	Peter John	UNAMIC	UNITAF	INTERFET	NSW
O'SULLIVAN	Mark	UNTAC			Qld
CASTLE	Michael John	UNFICYP			Vic
KENNARD	Robert	UNOSOM II			Vic
CAIN	Rory	INTERFET	UNTAET		Vic
PERKINS	Gary William	UNTAC			SA
BLACKMORE	Carl Roderick	OP Banner	UNTAET		ACT
VINEN	David L	UNOSOM			NSW
GALLAGHER	Michael William	UNTAET			TAS
SHAW- CHURCH	Linda	UNEF II			Qld
PARKER	Kevin James	UNTAET			Vic
HUTCHISON	Michelle Ivy	UNTAC			Vic
RELPH	Bruce Stuart	Gulf War			NSW
BROWNING	Shane John	UNTAC			NSW
MackENZIE	Ken	UNTAC			Vic
MENZ	David John	UNTAC	UNMISSET		Vic
HAZELWOOD	John Fredrick	UNEF II			ACT
WINNETT	Robert John	UNAMIC	UNTAC		Vic
STEELE	Philip David	Gulf War			WA
HORNER	Mark	UNTAG			Vic

ANDERSON	John Francis	UNTAG			NSW
McCLOSKEY	James Gregory	OP Banner III	OP BEL ISI	OP BEL ISI	Vic

What is the Vietnam Veteran's Counselling Service?

The Vietnam Veteran's Counselling Service (VVCS) is a nationwide organisation, which was established in response to lobbying by VVAA and is funded by DVA. VVCS Parramatta is the administrative centre for VVCS NSW and we cover all of NSW north of Bombaderry, with outpost centres in Newcastle and Lismore. Our Canberra office covers the southern part of the state.

Although named the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service, the VVCS is available to veterans of all theatres of war and current ADF members with operational experience, including peacekeepers.

Apart from the counsellors at our offices in Parramatta, Newcastle and Lismore, we also manage 82 contracted counsellors across NSW. These highly skilled 'outreach program counsellors' are in private practice and have been contracted by us to provide quality, specialist counselling for veterans and their families across the following areas

Illawarra (eg. Wollongong, Kiama)	Macquarie (eg. Dubbo, Mudgee)
Macarthur (eg. Campbelltown, Camden)	Blue Mountains (eg. Katoomba, Lithgow)
Central Coast (eg. Gosford, Ettalong)	Central West (eg. Orange, Parkes)
Mid North Coast (eg. Taree, Forster)	New England (eg. Armidale, Tamworth)
Northern Rivers (eg. Ballina, Tweed Heads)	Nepean Hawkesbury (eg. Penrith, Kingswood)
Hunter (eg. Thornton, Maitland)	Coffs Harbour (eg. Grafton, Toormina)

Because Sydney is a huge place and travelling distances and time can be difficult, we have outreach program counsellors located throughout the more outflung parts of Sydney and the inner city. Newcastle also has counsellors in a range of suburbs. Our aim is to make counsellors **as accessible as possible** to the veteran community.

If you would like to see a counsellor just ring us toll free at VVCS Parramatta, Monday to Friday 9-5 on **1800 011 046**. You have the option of coming to Parramatta but you may wish to see a contracted counsellor closer to home if this is more convenient. Counsellors are closer to your home than you might think!

VVCS is also committed to providing telephone counselling 24 hours a day, every day. So if you would like information, or are having difficulties outside of office hours, don't hesitate to call our after hours service, **Veterans Line**, on the same number **1800 011 046**.

Counselling: What's it all about?

"I feel like I understand myself and the world around me so much more"

VVCS client

As counsellors we are aware that people have very different ideas about what to expect from counselling. Sometimes a new person will comment at the end of a session, "This was nothing like I imagined it would be!" The implication being that "it's not so bad after all, in fact I feel quite good about it".

So what to expect? Firstly the counsellor's job is to accept the person regardless of circumstances. Counsellors don't judge people or dish out advice. They listen and make an effort

to understand, whatever the situation. People can soon sense if their counsellor can connect with them, even if the counsellor hasn't been to war or had the exact same experience as them.

Secondly a good relationship is built on trust and counsellors are bound by legal and ethical rules of confidentiality not to discuss with others what is expressed in private. There are some exceptions - for example, if a person indicates that he/she is planning to commit suicide or harm others then counsellors have a 'duty of care' to take action to prevent this from happening.

How can talking to a counsellor help? We all know the feeling of relief of 'getting something off your chest' that has been troubling you. However there is more to it than just chatting, because if there wasn't, you could just talk to a friend. What counselling can offer is objectivity, from someone who doesn't have a vested interest. Counsellors also have specific skills in helping people discover alternative ways to deal with problems.

Counselling at VVCS can provide help with:

- Anger management skills
- Relaxation and stress management
- Healthier lifestyle strategies
- Help with risky alcohol, drug or gambling habits
- Education and information for the whole family on Post Traumatic Stress
- Managing the stress of the pension process and premature retirement
- Tips to cope with depression, anxiety, panic attacks and problems with sleeping (recommended in conjunction with medication)
- Managing discharge and readjustment issues following exit from the ADF

We all know that when a person is struggling with a problem it doesn't just hurt them; it affects their partner and often the whole family. Therefore we offer a flexible counselling service for individuals, couples and families, tailored to the needs of each client.

VVCS Group Programs

"The group was more than I ever expected. It was fantastically comforting to feel understood both by the other members of the group and by the counsellors. I was apprehensive but I thoroughly enjoyed it and got a lot out of it. I'm sure it will stay with me for a long time and the friendships I've made will be lifelong".

VVCS group client

VVCS runs an on-going range of group programs across NSW including:

Heart Health Program	Stress and Anger Management Group
Retirement Program	Couples Relationship Program
Sons & Daughters of Vietnam Veterans Group	Partners of Veterans Group
Lifestyle Adjustment Program	PTSD Community Transition Group

Please call us on **1800 011 046** if you are interested.

It seems to us that if our car needs attention we accept the need to go to a mechanic, and if our body is hurting we go to a doctor. If our mental and emotional life is hurting, (and of course sometimes admitting

this is half the battle!), or our closest relationships need help, then rather than seeing this as a sign of weakness or failure, or telling ourselves we're crazy, it makes sense to ask for the support we deserve. As one client put it, "Like many veterans, when I first came to counselling I was afraid and in denial. But seeing a friendly counsellor helps you feel at ease and overcome your fears"

Please feel free to call us. You may just want some information or to ask a question about what you are going through, or you may wish to discuss how counselling or a group program or referral to another service might help. As veterans you and your families are entitled to a free and high quality counselling service. Remember, you don't have to be in a major crisis to receive counselling; we are always happy to listen to you!!

Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA)

Background

During the Clarke Review in 2002, the APPVA lobbied to have Scheduled 3 (Peacekeeping Service), to be placed under Schedule 2 (Operational Service), due to the ineligibility of those veterans to obtain any form of Income Support, as they were not entitled to the War Service Pension, due to Non-Warlike Service. The Government rejected our submission, however some lobbying over 2 years has convinced the Government to reconsider the Income Support for Schedule 3 veterans and their families. The outcome of this is the Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA). It also includes Schedule 3 Defence Service, available to those who served within Australia.

DFISA – What is it?

The DFISA is a new income support allowance that will be paid by DVA. The DFISA will be paid to people whose income support payment under social security law is reduced as a result of including veterans' affairs disability pension (DP)* as income. Social security law is set out in the *Social Security Act 1991* (SSA) the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*, and the *Social Security (International Agreements) Act 1999*.

The DFISA will be the amount equal to the difference between the income support payment the person is receiving under social security law and the income support they would receive if DP was not counted as income in the assessment of their income support payment, but was counted as income against rent assistance entitlements.

DFISA = Amount of income support under social security law that would be payable if DP were exempt from income test but included in rent assistance assessment minus rate of income support payment payable under social security law

Introduction of the DFISA will not change a person's social security payment; any amount of DFISA will be in addition to a person's existing entitlement.

The DFISA will be paid by DVA to ex-service personnel without qualifying service. Therefore, those who are under Schedule 3 of the Veterans' Entitlement Act (VEA) for Peacekeeping and Defence Service.

The actual rates payable as a refund by DVA that commenced on 20 September 2004 are as follows:

\$260.40 for the Special Rate (TPI);

\$164.88 for the Intermediate Rate;

\$127.38 for Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA);

\$68.92 for those on 100%;

\$63.08 for 95%;
\$57.23 for 90%;
\$51.38 for 85%;
\$45.54 for 80%;
\$39.69 for 75%;
\$33.84 for 70%;
\$28.00 for 65%;
\$22.15 for 60%;
\$16.31 for 55%;
\$10.46 for 50%;
\$4.62 for 45%; and
\$0 for 0 to 45%.

Payments will be made on DVA paydays, which do not coincide with Centrelink, who make payments on every working day. Pay days for FISA recipients therefore may not coincide. All enquiries on payment should be directed to your State DVA Office or Veteran Area Network Office.

DVA will determine age pension claims for eligible veterans and their partners who claim at DVA. For age pension claims made at Centrelink and all other social security payments Centrelink will determine eligibility for the social security payment. Where there is DVA DP in the assessment DFISA eligibility will automatically be assessed. Centrelink will calculate the amount of DFISA payable and provide DVA with details for payment.

The allowance will be paid together with the amount of DVA DP payment the person receives, on DVA paydays, every second Thursday.

* DP is explained at question 2

The following people will NOT receive DFISA:

- Veterans not in receipt of DVA DP, and their partners (defence payments from another country are not considered DP)
- Service pensioners
- People who are not qualified for a social security income support payment
- Disability pensioners and their partners who would not receive a social security income support payment due to their level of income and assets, even if DP were not included in the assessment.
- Disability pensioners and their partners who have their social security income support payments reduced under the assets test.

The following people **MAY** receive DFISA:

- People receiving income support paid under social security law and receiving less than the maximum rate due to the inclusion of DVA DP in the assessment;
- People who are qualified for income support under social security law and not payable, but would be payable if DVA DP was not included in the assessment.

The following payments may attract DFISA

Social security law income support payments are collectively referred to as “social security income support”. The following payments may be impacted by the inclusion of DVA DP in the assessment:

- **Age pension**
- **Wife pension**
- **Disability support pension**
- **Carer payment**
- **Newstart allowance**
- **Partner Allowance**
- **Parenting payment**
- **Sickness allowance**
- **Bereavement Allowance**
- **Widow B Pension**
- **Youth Allowance**
- **Austudy Payment**
- **Widow Allowance**
- **Mature Age Allowance**
- **Special Needs Pension**
- **Special Benefit.**

Questions and Answers

1. What is the allowance?

The Defence Force Income Support Allowance, DFISA, is a taxable income support allowance paid by DVA to people whose social security income support payment is reduced as a result of including veterans' affairs disability pension as income in the assessment of the payment.

2. What is veterans' affairs disability pension?

DVA disability pension is a pension paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to compensate veterans for injuries or diseases caused or aggravated by war service, or certain defence service on behalf of Australia. DVA disability pension is also taken to include dependants' pensions which is a small frozen amount paid to dependants of disability pensioners.

DVA disability pension does not include war widows pension, or payments made by other governments to compensate for war or service related injuries.

3. Will I get the allowance?

*The following people **MAY** receive the allowance:*

- People receiving income support paid under social security law where the payment is reduced due to the inclusion of DVA disability pension in the assessment
- People who are qualified for, but not receiving social security income support, where income support would be payable if DVA disability pension was not included in the assessment.

If you are receiving a social security income support payment and that payment is being reduced due to the inclusion of DVA disability pension in the income test, then you will be eligible for the allowance.

If you are qualified for a social security income support payment and that payment is not payable due to the inclusion of DVA disability pension in the income test, then you will be eligible for the allowance.

We cannot yet provide you with an estimate of the amount of DFISA that may be payable to you. You will be contacted closer to the introduction of the allowance to provide any information required by either DVA or Centrelink in order to pay the allowance, or to determine your eligibility.

If you are a war widow (er) whose income support pension is affected by your or your partner's DP (paid in respect of injury) you may also receive an increase in your income support payment as a result of this initiative.

Your current social security payment will not change. Any amount of DFISA will be paid in addition to your existing social security payment.

4. What if I rent?

If you are eligible for rent assistance the amount of DFISA that you receive may be reduced, possibly to nil. Your assessed payment of rent assistance will not change.

DFISA will be the difference between your current social security income support payment, and what your payment would be if DVA DP was exempt but was assessed in the calculation of rent assistance.

This will provide a consistent treatment of DVA DP between veterans receiving social security income support and those receiving service pensions under the VEA. Service pension excludes DVA DP from the income test, but does include it in the assessment of rent assistance payment.

5. Why don't service pensioners get the allowance?

DVA disability pension does not reduce service pension. Therefore, service pensioners will not be eligible for the new allowance

6. When will the allowance be paid?

The allowance will:

- Commence on the 20th September 2004
- Be paid by DVA, on DVA paydays (every second Thursday)
- Be paid from the first DVA pension payday after the 20th September 2004 (30 September 2004*).

The allowance will be paid together with the amount of DVA DP payment you receive, on DVA paydays, every second Thursday.

***Depending on the interaction between Centrelink and DVA payment cycles, you may not receive your first instalment of DFISA until the following DVA pension payday, however, the first instalment of DFISA you receive will be calculated based on your entitlement from 20th September 2004.**

7. How much DFISA will I get?

Social security payments will not change.

The DFISA will be the amount equal to the difference between the social security income support payment you receive and the social security income support you would receive if disability pension was not counted as income in the assessment of your income support payment, but was counted as income against rent assistance entitlements.

The amount of DFISA will vary depending on which social security income support payment you are eligible for, **and** your:

- Disability pension rate or the disability pension rate of your partner
- Family circumstances such as marital status, number of children
- Residential situation; if you are eligible for rent assistance DVA disability pension may affect the amount of DFISA
- Level of income and assets.

While we cannot estimate the amount of DFISA that may be payable to you, there will be publicity closer to the introduction of the allowance. If you are in receipt of DVA DP you will be contacted. You may be asked to provide information required by either DVA or Centrelink in order to pay the allowance, or to determine your eligibility.

8. Will my aged care fees be affected?

If you were not receiving an income support payment prior to receiving the allowance, you will now be entitled to pay the subsidised pensioner rate of basic daily care fees.

If you were already receiving an income support payment you are already paying the subsidised pensioner rate of basic daily care fees and will continue to do so.

There will be no change to any income tested daily care fees you may be required to pay.

9. Do I need to do anything now?

No, there is no action to take now.

Legislation has not yet been passed. Neither DVA nor Centrelink is equipped yet to record information regarding the allowance.

You will be contacted before September and advised about the allowance and what action, if any, is required.

Articles will appear in the Age Pension News and Vet Affairs publications prior to September.

Some people will have their entitlement automatically assessed based on current DVA and Centrelink records.

People will be notified prior to September and some will have to provide details such as bank account numbers so the allowance can be paid.

Some people will need to test their eligibility for social security income support before an assessment of their entitlement to the allowance can be made.

You will have your entitlement automatically assessed and paid if you are:

- Eligible for the allowance, and
- Currently in payment of income support under social security law, and
- In receipt of disability pension.

If this applies to you, you will have your entitlement automatically assessed, paid into the same bank account as the DVA disability pension and advised of the change.

If you do not meet these criteria you will be advised of any information required by either DVA or Centrelink in order to pay the allowance, or to determine your eligibility. There is no action to take now.

If you do not receive social security payment and your partner receives DVA DP, DVA will write to your partner closer to the introduction of the DFISA.

Defence Force Income Support Allowance

Fact Sheet

What is the Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA)?

Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA) is a taxable income support allowance paid by Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). You will be paid the allowance if you or your partner receive DVA disability pension (DVA DP) and meet one of the following criteria:

- Your social security income support is reduced because of the impact of DVA DP, or
- You do not receive social security income support at all because of the impact of DVA DP.

Disability pension and social security income support

DVA DP is income in the assessment of income support paid under social security law. Therefore, DVA DP may reduce a person's rate of social security income support. DVA DP is included in the income support assessment under social security law of both the DVA disability pensioner and their partner.

What is DVA disability pension?

DVA DP is a pension paid by DVA to compensate veterans for injuries or diseases caused or aggravated by war service, or certain defence service on behalf of Australia. DVA DP is also taken to include dependants' pensions, which is a small frozen amount paid to dependants of disability pensioners.

DVA DP does not include war widow (er)'s pension, or payments made by other governments to compensate for war or service related injuries.

Social security income support

Social security law is set out in:

- The *Social Security Act 1991* (SSA);
- The *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*; and
- The *Social Security (International Agreements) Act 1999*.

Centrelink generally pays social security law income support. Social security law payments are collectively referred to as "social security income support" and may be impacted by the inclusion of DVA DP in the assessment.

These are:

Age pension

Wife pension

Disability support pension

Carer payment

Newstart allowance

Partner Allowance

Parenting payment

Sickness allowance

Bereavement Allowance

Widow B Pension

Youth Allowance

Austudy Payment

Widow Allowance

Mature Age Allowance

Special Needs Pension

Special Benefit

Age pension paid by DVA

Some people receive social security age or wife pension through DVA. When paid by DVA, social security age and wife pension is paid under the social security rules and therefore, DVA DP is included in the assessment.

Disability pension from a country other than Australia

To be eligible for the allowance you or your partner must receive DP under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA). Disability pension paid by another country does not make you eligible for the DFISA.

Service pensioners

Service pensioners already receive VEA income support payment without the impact of DVA DP. If you are a service pensioner your VEA income support payment is not impacted by DP and therefore you are not eligible for the new allowance.

Calculation

DFISA will be the difference between your current social security income support payment, and what your payment would be if DVA DP was exempt but was assessed in the calculation of rent assistance.

This will provide a consistent treatment of DVA DP between veterans receiving social security income support and those receiving service pensions under the VEA. Service pension excludes DVA DP from the income test, but does include it in the assessment of rent assistance payment.

If you are eligible for rent assistance the amount of DFISA that you receive may be reduced, possibly to nil. Your assessed social security payment, including rent assistance, will not change.

Will the DFISA affect my income support payment?

No. The allowance will be treated under the VEA and social security law as an income support allowance. This means that it will not be included as income in the assessment of your income support payment.

Claims and assessment

You will not need to make a separate claim for DFISA. Eligibility for DFISA is determined by eligibility for social security income support and receipt of DVA DP by you or your partner.

Centrelink generally pays social security income support. DVA determines age pension claims, and pays age pension, for eligible veterans and their partners. For these pensioners, DVA will assess and pay DFISA.

For all other social security payments Centrelink will determine eligibility for the social security payment. Where there is DVA DP in the assessment DFISA eligibility will automatically be assessed. Centrelink will calculate the amount of DFISA payable and provide DVA with details. DVA will make the DFISA payment.

If you are currently in receipt of social security income support you will have your entitlement automatically assessed, and you do not need to make a claim.

If DVA requires additional information to make your payment you will be contacted prior to September. You don't need to do anything now.

If you are qualified for social security income support, but do not receive payment because of DVA DP, you will be eligible for the allowance. If you receive DVA DP you will be advised that you might be eligible, and informed of how to claim. Centrelink will determine your eligibility for social security income support, other than age pension.

Payment

The allowance will be paid by DVA, on DVA payday (every second Thursday). The allowance will be paid together with the amount of DVA DP payment you receive, on DVA paydays, every second Thursday.

If you receive DVA DP, the allowance will be paid into the same bank account as the DVA DP.

The allowance will commence on the 20th September 2004 and be paid from the next DVA pension payday (30th September 2004*).

***Depending on the interaction between Centrelink and DVA payment cycles, you may not receive your first instalment of DFISA until the following DVA pension payday, however, the first instalment of DFISA you receive will be calculated based on your entitlement from 20th September 2004.**

Age Pensioners at DVA

Remember: If you or your partner receive DVA DP and social security age or wife pension from Centrelink, you may choose to receive your social security age or wife pension from DVA. The social security age and wife pensions are paid by DVA but assessed in the same way as they are assessed at Centrelink, under the social security law.

War widow (er) s

If you are a war widow (er) whose income support pension is affected by your or your partner's DP (paid in respect of injury) you may also receive an increase in your income support payment as a result of this initiative.

Note: A war widow (er) who is also a veteran with qualifying service receives service pension. DVA DP is not income in the assessment of service pension.

Will my aged care fees be affected?

If you were not receiving an income support payment prior to receiving the allowance, you will now be entitled to pay the subsidised pensioner rate of basic daily care fees.

If you were already receiving an income support payment from Centrelink you are already paying the subsidised pensioner rate of basic daily care fees and will continue to do so. There will be no change to any income tested daily care fees you may be required to pay.

**NOTICE OF
National Annual General Meeting
6th November 2004 at 1000 hrs
Wodonga RSL**

1. The Annual General Meeting for the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association is to conduct its next meeting on the 6th November 2004 at the Wodonga RSL starting a 1000 hrs.
2. The National Executive Committee positions are eligible to run for a further 12 months.
3. Agenda Items and Attendance to me NLT 13 October 2004 via this means, the Agenda will be issued on the 14 October 2004.



R.S. Kennard
National Secretary
APPVA

THE AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
Finance

STANDARD Operational Procedure (SOP-F)

AIM

1. The aim of the Financial Standard Operational Procedure, hereafter known as the SOP-F are designed to ensure the standardisation of banking and other financial procedures for the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association, hereafter known as APPVA.

GENERAL

2. The financial year shall be from the 1st July to the 30th June.

3. *All monies of the APPVA shall be paid into the account of the Association at such banking institution as the committee may from time to time direct. The exception to serial three (3) is the Patriotic Funds disbursement; this is defined further at serial 8.*

FUND WITHDRAWAL

4. No money shall be drawn from the account unless it is by cheque or Bank note and signed by two of the four Co-signatories (office bearers).

AUDITS

5. The books of account shall be audited annually by an auditor that has the required qualifications and is appointed by the committee.

6. The books of account shall be audited after the 30th June so an audited statement can be presented to the AGM.

7. Funds

(1) The Treasurer of the Association must--

(a) Collect and receive all moneys due to the Association and make all payments authorised by the Association,

(b) The only exception to this rule is the requirement of the Membership Secretary to receive and bank both initial and annual fees, the Membership Secretary is to provide, to the Treasurer, receipts there is no requirement of a separate audit as the fees are paid into the National Account according to serial 7, and

(c) Keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Association with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Association.

(2) Two members of the committee must sign all cheques, drafts, and bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments.

(3) THE FUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION SHALL BE DERIVED FROM ENTRANCE FEES, ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS AND SUCH OTHER SOURCES AS THE COMMITTEE DETERMINES.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS

8. A SUB ACCOUNT OF THE NATIONAL BANKING ACCOUNT IS TO BE RAISED AND MAINTAINED AND IS TO BE NAMED THE AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER AND PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION PATRIOTIC FUNDS, HEREAFTER KNOWN AS THE APPVAPF.

9. THE APPVAPF ARE ONLY TO BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BY LAWS OF THE PATRIOTIC FUNDS COUNCIL, KNOWN HEREAFTER AS THE PFC, OF VICTORIA DIRECTIVES AND STATE LEGISLATED EXPENDITURE. A COPY OF THE PFC DIRECTIVES AND LEGISLATION CAN BE FOUND AT THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS VICTORIA, HEREAFTER KNOWN AS CAV.

10. THE APPVAPV IS A VICTORIAN INSTITUTION AND AS SUCH MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR USE BY ANY OTHER BODY THAN THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, WHILST IT HOLDS OFFICE IN VICTORIA,

11. IT BEHOVES ALL STATES TO ATTEMPT TO GAIN ACCESS TO A SIMILAR SCHEME WITHIN THEIR OWN STATE.

CAPITATION FEES

12. THE CAPITATION OF FEES WILL FOLLOW THE STANDING PRACTICE OF PERCENTAGE OF FINANCIAL MEMBERS AND THIS WILL BE THE PERCENTAGE THAT IS TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO STATE BRANCHES. THE APPVAPV IS NOT ALLOWED BY LAW AND LEGISLATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES, OTHER THAN TO THE VICTORIAN BRANCH.

13. THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE REQUIRED TO BE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO THE AVAILABILITY OF THE FEE CAPITATION:

- A. A DUALY ELECTED COMMITTEE, THAT CONSISTS OF NO LESS THAN A PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN AND A SECRETARY/TREASURER,
- B. A SET OF AUDITABLE BOOKS, AUDITED ONCE PER YEAR,
- C. A BANK ACCOUNT OF THE STATE'S CHOICE, HOWEVER, THE PREFERRED INSTITUTION IS THE DEFENCE CREDIT UNION AS INTRA BANK TRANSFERS TENDS TO BE COMPLETE WITHIN A MATTER HOURS AS APPOSED TO TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN DIFFERENT BANKING INSTITUTIONS, AND
- D. A LIST OF FINANCIAL MEMBERS THAT CAN BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP LISTS.

PETTY CASH

14. BOTH NATIONAL AND STATES EXECUTIVES ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN PETTY CASH ACCOUNTS. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE LIMITATIONS ON BOTH NATIONAL AND STATES EXECUTIVES:

- A. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE PETTY CASH ACCOUNT IS NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00), AND
- B. STATE EXECUTIVE PETTY CASH ACCOUNTS ARE NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)

15. AT THE COMPLETION OF THE MONTH ANY EXCESS AMOUNTS ARE TO BE ROLLED INTO THE NEW MONTHS ACCOUNTS, WERE THE TREASURERS WILL THEN DRAW DOWN THE AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS THE NATIONAL AND STATE ACCOUNTS LIMITS AND DEPOSIT THOSE MONIES INTO THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL OF STATE BANK ACCOUNTS.

THE AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT

STANDARD Operational Procedure (SOP-c)

AIM

1. THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO REGIMENTALISE THE AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER AND PEACEMAKER VETERANS ASSOCIATION HEREAFTER KNOWN AS APPVA. THE AIM OF THE ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT, HEREAFTER KNOWN AS THE ACC, IS DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO GIVE ADVISE AND DIRECTION TO THOSE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION THAT ARE UNSURE AS TO CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AT BOTH OFFICIAL AND SEMI OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS. ALSO TO IMPART GENERAL BEHAVIOURAL REQUIREMENTS WHEN EITHER REPRESENTING

THE APPVA IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY OR AS PART OF A FORMED BODY SIMILAR TO EVENTS LIKE THE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES.

GENERAL

2. DRESS AND BEARING: MEMBERS THAT ARE INTENDING TO TAKE PART IN ACTIVITIES WHERE THEY WILL BE REPRESENTING THE ASSOCIATION IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY SHOULD WEAR NEAT CASUAL, PREFERABLY A COAT AND TIE.
3. FOR FORMAL AND OR CANDLELIGHT DINNERS THEN A SUIT FOR MALES AND AFTER WEAR FOR FEMALES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.
4. WHEN CONDUCTING WELFARE & PENSION INTERVIEWS, NEAT AND TIDY CLOTHING SHOULD BE WORN, THIS MAY INCLUDE A PAIR OF JEANS AND ASSOCIATION POLO SHIRT.

CONDUCT: AT ALL TIMES MEMBER MUST BE AWARE THAT THEY ARE REPRESENTING THE ASSOCIATION AND AS SUCH SHOULD AT ALL TIME BEHAVE IN THE APPROPRIATE MANNER.

5. THE ATTENDANCE AT FORMAL GATHERINGS IS ENCOURAGED AND THE EXPECTATION OF ENJOYMENT IS PARAMOUNT IN THE APPVA.
6. GOOD BEHAVIOUR IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO OUR ASSOCIATIONS CREDIBILITY IN THE EYES OF THOSE THAT MAY WISH TO CAST ASPERSIONS ON OUR NEW AND DYNAMIC ASSOCIATION.
7. ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS: The consumption of alcohol is expected prior to and after the Commemoration March. Alcohol must not to be consumed whilst participating in the Commemoration March. The consumption of alcohol whilst marching is not only showing a complete disregard for those that we come to honour but also portrays the association as being an unprofessional Serving and Ex Serving Organisation.
8. AWARDS AND SUSPENSIONS: These can be perused by reading Rule 41 to 42 of the APPVA Constitution, which is made available for all members on the web site.

SUMMARY

9. Remember, when you are wearing the association badge, your are representing all members of the APPVA, therefore it Behoves all members to act both professionally and use conduct beyond reproach.