



Media Update

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009

## Combat Medic - Making an Impact.

In August 2008 Terry Pickard launched his book *Combat Medic* which details his experiences as a peacekeeper in Rwanda in 1995 and his long battle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of his service there.

Since the initial launch, there has been overwhelming interest in Terry and the book from media both here and overseas, as well as strong grass roots support from within the defence community. This has resulted in Terry's involvement in a number of key projects and events that may be of interest to your readers.

The first is 'The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) National Forum' which will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> February at the RAAF Base in Laverton.

The APPVA is the Primary Ex-Service Organisation and has focused on Peacekeeping and other Operations from 1947 to the present in Timor Leste, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Essentially the APPVA is a Young Veteran not-for-profit organisation that assists in Veteran Entitlement, welfare and well-being of young veterans and their families. The APPVA continues to lobby Government for the appropriate levels of medallic recognition for service in a range of operations, including Rwanda and the Middle East.

Recently, after 4 years, the APPVA was successful in lobbying for a Health Study for Peacekeepers and veterans of the era of Somalia, Cambodia and Rwanda and was also successful in lobbying Government for the reclassification of service conditions for Rwanda and the Australian Training Support Team - East Timor to warlike service.

As part of the Forum, the APPVA's plan is to seek official recognition from the Government for Peacekeeping. It's designed to show that Peacekeeping deployments whilst generally operate in non-war like environments, the reality is that this environment can and often does escalate into war like conditions. For this reason peacekeepers should receive just as much assistance and military recognition as the war veteran.

Terry has been invited to present to the forum and is one of only two presentations on the day. The second is by Major Matt Stanfield, an Australian Officer who was an unarmed UN Military Observer during the Israeli/Lebanese War of 2006.

Terry's presentation will outline what it is like to be a peacekeeper in Rwanda and Kibeho, the effect on him personally and his struggle with PTSD. Terry and Matt will provide a voice for the modern peacekeeper & veteran and hopefully encourage change.



The event will provide an opportunity to discuss Political Strategic Planning for Younger Veteran issues to VIP's such as the Minister for Defence, Science and Personnel - Warren Snowdon, The Minister for Veterans' Affairs - Alan Griffin, Shadow Spokesman for Defence, Science and Personnel - Bob Baldwin, Shadow Spokeswoman for Veterans' Affairs - Louise Markus as well as Ex-service Organisation Leaders from the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia; Korea Veterans Association of Australia; RSL; Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Repatriation Commission.

**The second opportunity is an invitation to be involved in an international four part project for the United Nations.**

Terry will be interviewed as part of 'Rising Spirit of ANZAC; Peacekeepers - Australia's Other Heroes' which will be shown at the United Nations from April 20 to May 1 2009. It will also feature as the ANZAC Day exhibition at the Australian Embassy in Washington in 2010 and will tour nationally in Australia in 2010-2012.

'Peacekeepers - Australia's Other Heroes' is a unique series of integrated photographic projects highlighting the enormous contribution Australian veterans have made alone and alongside service personnel from other nations.

Each exhibition consists of a series of interviews with veterans about their service, set within the context of their life's experience. The interview is presented with images of the veteran during their service period as well as current images. The intent is to place those experiences within a current perspective.

Terry will be in good company with other participants and supporters for the project including: General Peter Cosgrove, Major-General Jim Molan, Major-General Tim Ford, Major-General David McLachlan; Mr Robert Hill, the Australian Mission to the United Nations and Ms Frances Cassidy, President, American-Australian Association, New York.

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