

Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2012

**Swapping
the Blue for
the Green**

**Project
Overland
on the Move**

PLUS

**End of an era for Navy's "Mack Truck"
Increased Security at a Price
A Soldier's Fatal Burden**



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Australian Peacekeepers Magazine attempts to provide insight into the experiences of peacekeepers, Defence members and war veterans and the issues that confront them together with encouraging informed debate regarding issues dealing with but not limited to Commonwealth compensation, pensions, superannuation and occupational health and safety that affect peacekeepers and their families. We welcome input from members and would love to feature personal experiences in each issue. Please email the editor with any stories you would like to see printed. The views expressed in the articles are those of the particular author and not those of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA). The APPVA will not be legally responsible in contract, tort or otherwise for any statement made in the articles in this publication.



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Front cover:

Detective-Superintendent Scott Duval of the South Australia Police takes the opportunity to catch up with four SA Police officers deployed in various military roles in the Solomon Islands. L-R: Captain Peter Wirth, Corporal Bryony McNicol, Detective-Superintendent Scott Duval, Warrant Officer Class 2 Anthony Clift and Corporal Ben Higgins.





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From the President's Desk

I would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year. Certainly the year has kicked off rather quickly for the APPVA with the rollout of acceptances for the Service Delivery Integration Grant in both Victoria and NSW. We now move into phase two of the Grant which is the feasibility study side where we will see numerous Ex-Service Organisations take their first steps in a collaborative approach to maintain future funding for their paid and volunteer TIP Trained practitioners within their respective organisations.

I would like to welcome our members within the relevant state branches who have taken up appointments within their respective state committees and I wish them well throughout the year. This year the APPVA will continue to remind Government of the commitment that Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police members have made both in the past and present and to ensure that they receive the appropriate recognition and entitlements for their services.

In 2012 the APPVA will seek to make further reviews in respect to the Government's response to the MRCC in which the Department of Veterans' Affairs have compiled through various submissions put forward by Ex-Service Organisations, as this is very critical to our constituents and members who are currently serving and past members of the ADF and AFP who currently reside within Australia.

As the APPVA, we have an obligation to our members and constituents and will continue to fight for the needs of current and past Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police members through both constant lobbying either through the DVA or directly to the Government. This year we will see changes made through the MRCC Review in which the Association put forward recommendations to ensure that younger veterans are not disadvantaged any more than they have in the past.

We will see new service centres within States and regional areas as part of this collaborative approach that DVA would like to see Ex-Service Organisation take in working together to provide the best service for veterans that reside in their local government area.

I would like to finish off my report and wish you all again a prosperous year as we move towards preparing for ANZAC Day 2012. To all our appointed representatives who will be raising association issues at National and State levels I wish you all the best and I know our members will be looking forward to your reports in the forthcoming editions of the Australian Peacekeeper magazine.

Allan Thomas
National President Australian Peacekeeper and
Peacemaker Veterans' Association

From the Editor's Desk

It is not often that I could say that I am glad to be proven wrong – as my wife will attest to.

In the summer edition of The Australian Peacekeeper, I raised the issue of the media's focus on ADF operations and the lack of any decent movies or television series about the current global commitment.

Less than a week after I wrote the column, a DVD titled Long Tan to Afghanistan landed on my desk – courtesy of our good friends at Big Sky Publishing. I sat down and watched this powerful, insightful journey into the lives of the soldiers of Delta Company 6RAR ahead of their deployment to the Mentoring Taskforce in Afghanistan, their families at home and the impact of war.

Certainly there are the inevitable comparisons between the battle of Long Tan in 1966 and contemporary warfare in Afghanistan, through the eyes of veterans, young soldiers, and the families who support our troops from back home.

This outstanding production gives all Australians, including other younger veterans, an insight into the motivations and emotions felt by our Australian Defence Force members in the lead up to deployment to Afghanistan.

Only disappointing element is that the documentary is one that won't necessarily be palatable for the networks – which is a pity. Having now said that, I hope I get proven wrong again.

This edition of The Australian Peacekeeper is again filled with a variety of articles from across the Defence and

veteran community. In this edition there is a farewell to Navy's "Mack Truck" of the skies – the Sea King and a focus on winter operations in Afghanistan.

As we head towards ANZAC Day 2012, it is evident that the younger veteran community (that is those ADF and police who have served on UN operations and/or since Vietnam) is growing. Yet many still don't know where they stand in relation to marching on ANZAC.

If you see younger veterans at local marches looking lost – make sure they know that irrespective of whether they've served on warlike, non-warlike or humanitarian operations, there is a place for them. For many, there isn't the opportunity to participate in a welcome home parade so ANZAC Day can fill that gap.

In the Winter edition – we look in-depth at how one younger veteran who was injured in an IED, overcame both the mental and physical challenges to get back on his feet. He talks exclusively with The Australian Peacekeeper about beating the black dog. We'll revisit Timor over a decade on from Australia's initial involvement as the country heads to elections very soon. So keep an eye out of the Winter edition.

Enjoy this edition of The Australian Peacekeeper and enjoy the mateship and commemorative activities of ANZAC Day 2012.

Phil Pyke
Editor – The Australian Peacekeeper

Integration the key to transition

Graham McBean reports on the closer ties between the ADF and DVA to provide 'whole-of-life' medical care to former and serving military personnel.

CLOSER integration of health-care provision to ADF members got a shot in the arm with the recent introduction of DVA representatives at major bases around Australia.

The DVA On Base Advisory Service (OBAS) was launched on October 1 and will see the collocation of DVA personnel on over 35 bases on a full or part-time basis as necessary.

DVA General Manager Executive Division Ms Liz Cosson (ret'd) said the OBAS initiative was established as part of the joint ADF/DVA Support for Wounded, Injured or Ill Program (SWIIP).

Ms Liz Cosson said OBAS recognised under the SWIIP initiative that medical care for a service person and family required a whole-of-life approach and Defence and DVA were connected in this.

"It recognises that military service is unique and Australian society wants to make sure we look after those who make sacrifices to the nation," Ms Liz Cosson said.

It is part of the broader SWIIP strategy to connect with people early and avoid them having to work through what are complex processes to get the help they need after they have separated from the ADF.

Ms Liz Cosson said many current ADF members didn't see themselves as veterans while they were still serving.

Ms Liz Cosson said the aim was to educate ADF members that they could still be clients of DVA and serving members of the ADF.

"We are encouraging them to make the connection early and when they need us in the longer term they have already established that an injury or illness is service related."

Director General of Air Force Health Services and Director General Garrison Health Operations, Air Commodore Tracy Smart said that "The OBAS supports Defence moving toward a fully integrated unified health system, combining uniformed members, civilians and contractors who will deliver and manage health care for ADF personnel."

"Under the OBAS model, personnel will be referred by medical staff or be able to make their own appointment with the DVA representatives collocated at Regional Health Centres."

The OBAS is one of a range of new initiatives to support ADF members and their families through the transition process.

Support is out there

The internet is a goldmine of official and credible information. Along with transition programs such as Stepping Out, information packages can give ADF personnel a head start on figuring out the 'good oil' from the 'snake oil' on good health and where to go for further help.

Wellbeing Toolbox. A pilot website at www.wellbeingtoolbox.net.au was developed as an online mental-health resource allowing users to self-assess their needs and work through a self-management plan. It aims to facilitate early intervention for those experiencing difficulties in their post-military life and may prevent more serious issues developing.

At Ease. The At Ease mental health support internet portal is at www.at-ease.dva.gov.au. The web portal encourages people to recognise signs, take appropriate action and assume more responsibility for their own health and wellbeing.

New booklet. The new Mental Health and Wellbeing after Military Service booklet provides information and advice for veterans and former serving personnel and their families about mental health and wellbeing following military service. The booklet is available from the At Ease website.

Stepping Out. The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) runs the Stepping Out program. The free two-day program was developed for ADF members and their partners who have recently, or are about to be, separated from the military. VVCS can be contacted on 1800 011 046.

The Right Mix. Information and materials at www.therightmix.gov.au encourages people to look at their social habits and make sure they have The Right Mix with alcohol, diet and exercise to achieve a healthier and more enjoyable lifestyle.

Month	Date	Location
March	6 - 7	Canberra
	14 - 15	Sydney
	21 - 22	Darwin
April	3 - 4	Brisbane
	18 - 19	Adelaide
May	9 - 10	Darwin
	1 - 2	Townsville
	23 - 24	Melbourne
June	5 - 6	Perth
	13 - 14	Newcastle
	19 - 20	Bandiana
	27 - 28	Canberra
July	3 - 4	Brisbane
	10 - 11	Sydney
	24 - 25	Carins
August	7 - 8	Shoalhaven
	14 - 15	Hobart
September	19 - 20	Adelaide
	25 - 26	Brisbane
October	9 - 10	Melbourne
	16 - 17	Canberra
	23 - 24	Townsville
November	13 - 14	Darwin
	20 - 21	Perth
	27 - 28	Liverpool

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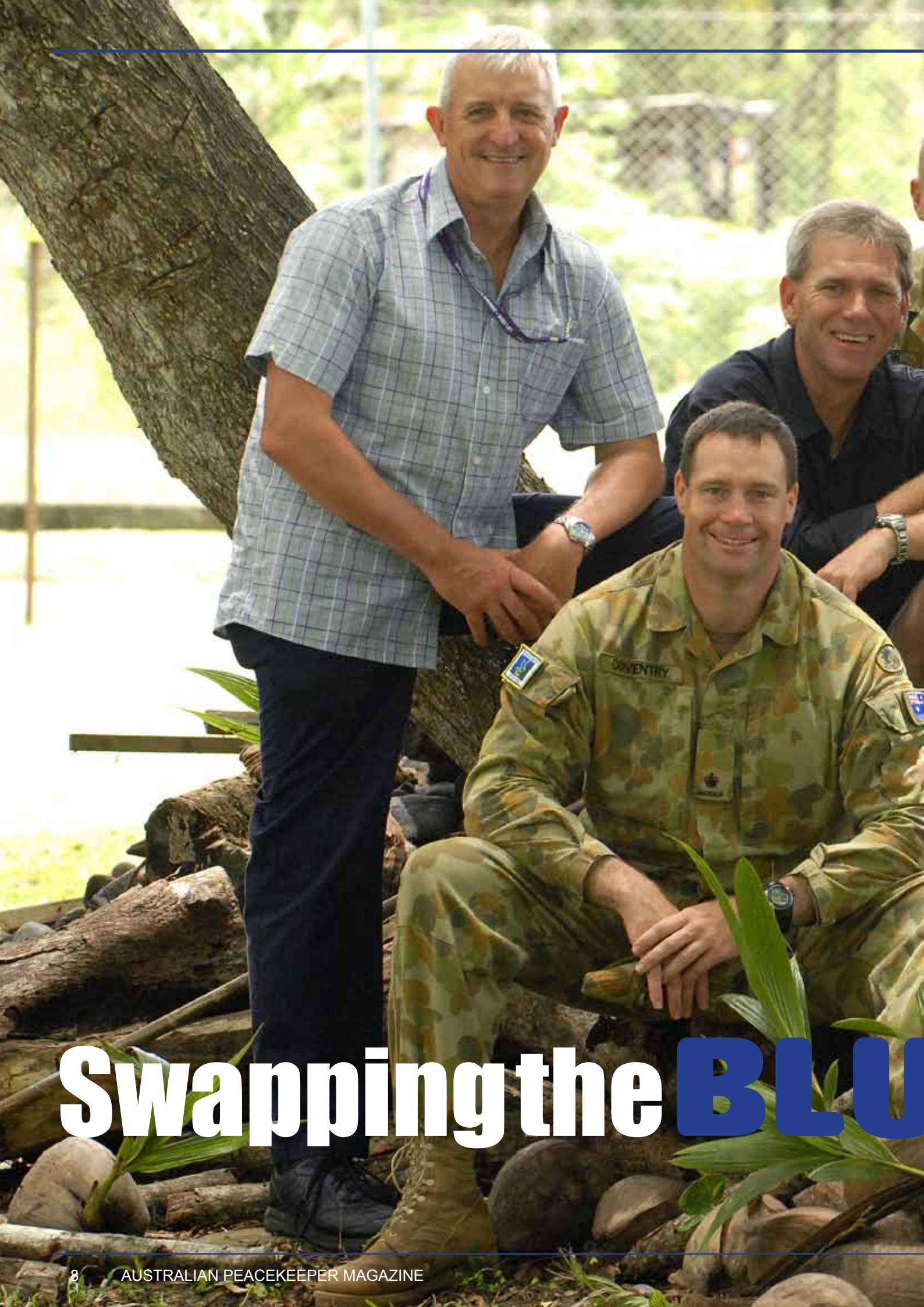
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Swapping the **BLU**

Australian Army Reservists Major Paul Coventry, Lieutenant Brett Fowler and Sergeant Robert Wilson with their civilian employers from the West Australian Police Force (L-R) Kevin Looby, Wayne Hawes and Ian Thomas.



U for the GREEN

Being one of the largest employer groups in the country, police services on a state and territory basis consistently make a sizeable contribution to the ADF Reserves.

It is not uncommon to find police officers filling positions on deployments around the world, from the war fighting roles to the training environment of Rifle Company Butterworth or the operational environment of Operation ANODE.

Commissioner for South Australia Police, Mal Hyde, joined Exercise Boss Lift 02/10 to view first-hand the roles being undertaken by Reservists while on operations.

Commissioner Hyde gained the additional benefit of viewing the contribution of the Participating Police Force – the Australian contingent made up of Federal Police and others from Victoria and Tasmania – and the manner in which the Army and Police work together.

“As we all know, reality is the best educator. You can do as much training and preparation as you like but until you go to the field, you don’t gain the full understanding of what an operation is like,” Commissioner Hyde said.

In this context, I have gained much out of Exercise Boss Lift in seeing the Reserves on operation.”

NSW Police Orana Local Area Command covers a large area of Central NSW, with the main central station being based in Dubbo. In 2009 Local Commander Superintendent Single travelled 6000km to the southern Malaysia for a four-day visit to Rifle Company Butterworth Rotation 88 to catch up with his employee, Private Brett Tolhurst.

“Brett is a twenty year veteran of NSW Police,” Superintendent Single said.

“I’m really impressed with what I’ve seen on Exercise Boss Lift and I can see how Brett’s skills can be transferred between his role as a police officer and his role here as a Reservist.”

Superintendent Single returned home impressed about what he had seen. The result was the Private Tolhurst was given leave to join Operation ANODE, an absence from the workplace of some ten months, and another Orana officer, Private Clifford Ball, also being allowed to deploy as well.

Three members of Western Australian Police also joined a Boss Lift to visit their employees on operations in the Solomon Islands.

Superintendents Kevin Looby (Goldfields/Esperance District), Ian Thomas (East Metropolitan) and Senior Sergeant Wayne Hawes (Forestfield Police Station) joined with seventeen other employers to travel to the Solomon Islands for a four day visit to Rotation 20.

The visit gave Superintendent Looby an opportunity to catch up with one of his officers, Paul Coventry. As a Major in the Army Reserve and the Officer Commanding of the

rifle company under Rotation 20, Paul’s role was a sharp contrast to his civilian position as a senior constable at Esperance Police Station.

“It is also good to see the work that you’re doing as a Reservist here in the Solomon Islands being recognised back at home as well,” said Major Coventry.

“It is positive to be able to come and see the different roles that Paul and our other police officers perform over here in the Solomon Islands,” said Superintendent Looby.

“Obviously there are challenges in policing but what the guys face here and how they perform is just amazing.”

Despite the differences in responsibilities from the rank of senior constable to that of commanding a rifle company of around 120 members as a Major, Superintendent Looby sees the roles being complimentary.

“There would be many occasions where Paul has had to step up and show leadership at incidents where he is representing the entire Western Australia Police – particularly in isolated areas.”

For Detective Constable Brett Fowler, Exercise Boss Lift saw him in a unique position with two bosses arriving in the Solomon Islands – being Superintendent Ian Thomas and Senior Sergeant Wayne Hawes.

As a Lieutenant heading the Civil-Military Liaison (CML) cell, his role is to liaise with local communities across the country.

“These two bosses have been great supporters of my Reserve work and it was good to see them over here,” said Lieutenant Fowler.

“In doing the work here in the Solomon Islands ultimately gives him the weight of experience and knowledge that he could bring back to the office.”

Superintendent Thomas said policing was about engaging the community and from what he has witnessed of Brett in his CML role, he has picked up the skills that would benefit his civilian workplace.

“When he returns with these skills, the maturity and experiences of this deployment, I would expect that Brett will become a leader in the workplace.”

“Boss Lift is primarily about bringing employers of Reservists, that is their civilian employees, to operational or training areas to facilitate an awareness of what the Reservist does in that environment,” said Steve Smith, Coordinator of Exercise Boss Lift.

“This awareness also includes the benefits of the transferable skills that the Reservist can take back into their every day jobs.”

Editor’s Note: Australian police and emergency services continue make a strong ongoing contribution to the ADF Reserves through allowing their employees time off for training and deployments. This commitment is in addition to the work undertaken by the International Deployment Group of the Australian Federal Police (contingents sometimes made up from State and Territory Police Services) in various theatres around the world.

Story used with acknowledgement to The Bayonet Issue 18 – the magazine of the Second Division



Private Clifford Ball takes his civilian boss Kerry Seaton for a tour through the transport section during an Exercise Boss Lift in the Solomon Islands. Private Ball was deployed as a transport reserve soldier in the Solomon Islands. In his civilian employment he is a Police Officer in Dubbo, New South Wales

From the Cockpit to Army Patrol

Since INTERFET, Defence Reservists are a fundamental part of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and play a key role in safeguarding Australia's security.

Reservists join the Navy, Army or Air Force as part-time members of the ADF or transfer from the regular forces. There are about 45,000 Active and Standby Reservists, representing about 45% of the total Force. They are predominantly volunteers who bring civilian skills and experience to the ADF and gain new skills as part of their Reserve training. Many have served on deployments

The following is a story of a Qantas pilot who filled the platoon commander's role in the Solomon Islands on Rotation 21.

The cockpit of a Boeing 737 is a certainly world away from leading 30 soldiers on operations in the Solomon Islands.

However, for Qantas pilot, Anthony Nicholas, his role as a Lieutenant in the Army Reserve has taken him over to the

Pacific nation under Operation ANODE, which is part of the Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

"I am here with the rifle company and my role is to lead 30 infantry soldiers," Lt. Nicholas said.

He agrees his civilian and a Reserve position are very different, but sees the transition to an operation deployment as somewhat easy due to the training he has received from the Army.

"I knew what to expect before I got here and so I was well prepared for the deployment."

During his deployment, Qantas sent over Human Resources Manager, Alexandra Tocchini, at the invitation of the Department of Defence under Exercise Boss Lift.

Alexandra joined with a group of NSW based employers who travelled to the Solomon Islands to meet with their Reservist employees deployed as part of Operation ANODE.

Exercise Boss Lift is conducted by the Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division (CRESD), which has the responsibility for facilitating employer support for Australia's Defence Reservists.



CRESO ensures the four-day Boss Lift program highlights the important role the Reserves play in the Australian Defence Force, through allowing employers to experience directly the essential roles played by their employees.

The majority of Reservists deployed under RAMSI as part of the Combined Task Force 635 (CTF 635) Rotation 21 were from NSW based units, particularly under the 5th Brigade, and it was predominantly from within this pool the prospective employers were identified.

Lt. Nicholas said the highlight of the four-month deployment for him was the interaction with the Solomon Islanders.

“Speaking, mixing and living with the locals in the rural parts of the country has been amazing. Their acceptance of us has been truly touching and quite special at times.”

During the four days of Exercise Boss Lift, Alexandra viewed a public order control demonstration, toured the Guadalcanal Beach Resort where Australian police and defence members are based, attended a village feast at Sole, toured the Don Bosco Technical College, attended the 32nd Independence Day celebrations and underwent

briefings and museum visit on the WWII history of the Solomon Islands.

Lt. Nicholas saw the transition from operations back to the cockpit as being “interesting.”

“Qantas will put me through an amount of training to bring me back up to speed in being able to return to flying their aircraft.”

In relation to Exercise Boss Lift, Alexandra enjoyed the experience.

“We have experienced so much in the past four days, it would be fair to say I am overwhelmed in some regards.”

“Boss Lift has been an eye-opener in seeing the conditions they are living in, working in, the work they are undertaking and the good results they are achieving here in the Solomon Islands.”

Printed with full acknowledgement to The Bayonet Vol 18 – the magazine of the Second Division. Sections of this article have been edited for currency.

Lieutenant Anthony Nicholas shows his civilian employer from Qantas Alexandra Tocchini, a 9 mm Browning pistol during Exercise Boss Lift in the Solomon Islands

Tongan Defence Service soldiers perform a “Challenge Song” to welcome the incoming Rotation 22 Reservist contingent to the Combined Task Force 635 (CTF 635). After their 4 months of service in the Solomon Islands, members of 5 Brigade (New South Wales) of Rotation 21, including Lieutenant Nicholas, prepared to depart for home.





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Project Overlander Facts

Light/Lightweight Capability: Mercedes-Benz Australia-Pacific Pty Ltd

Light/Lightweight Trailer Capability: Haulmark Trailers Australia

Medium Heavy Vehicle Capability: DMO in negotiations with Rheinmetall MAN, Military Vehicles Australia, Medium Heavy Trailer Capability: Haulmark Trailers Australia

Additional Bushmaster vehicles: Thales Australia



Project Overlander on the Move

Members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) will be better prepared and protected as the result of planned roll-out of more than 2100 specialised vehicles.

These specially made 'G-wagons' will be used as tactical training vehicles, for a range of operations as well as activities like supporting disaster relief and securing Australia's coastline.

The G-wagons, along with Australian-made trailers and modules, will be rolled out to Defence units as part of Project Overlander, a \$7.5 billion program providing more than 7500 new protected and unprotected vehicles to the ADF over the next decade.

Recently the Minister for Defence Materiel, Senator Kim Carr, announced the completion of contract negotiations under Land 121 Phase 3A, the next step in Project Overlander.

"The Australian Government has completed negotiations to acquire 2146 G-Wagon four wheel drives and 1799 matching trailers," Senator Carr said.

"This will provide the Australian Army with enhanced training capability to prepare for operations in protected

vehicles, ensuring that Australian soldiers are better prepared and equipped."

The G-Wagon vehicles are being manufactured for Daimler AG, and then supplied to Mercedes-Benz Australia/Pacific Pty Ltd in Mulgrave, Victoria, to fit Australian-made modules and tray bodies.

"The modules and tray bodies for these vehicles, as well as the trailers, will be designed and manufactured by Australian companies – Varley and Haulmark – in contracts worth approximately \$196 million," Senator Carr said.

Approximately 540 modules and 810 tray bodies are being designed and manufactured by G. H. Varley Pty Ltd in Newcastle, New South Wales, in a contract worth approximately \$100 million.

There are 1799 trailers being designed and manufactured by Queensland-based Haulmark Trailers (Australia) Pty Ltd, to the approximate value of \$96 million, including initial support.

The main roll-out of the new vehicles and trailers to Defence units is scheduled to commence in July this year.

Project Overlander is a multi-phased project to deliver the ADF's future field vehicle and trailers. Under Phase 3 Defence plans to acquire:

- 2,146 unprotected lightweight/light Mercedes G-Wagon vehicles comprising six vehicle variants and specialist modules
- 1,799 light and lightweight trailers
- 293 Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles (reported under LAND 116) plus 184 trailers
- protected and unprotected medium/heavy vehicles, specialist modules and trailers.

Light/lightweight capability: These vehicles, along with those being acquired under LAND 121 Phase 4, will replace the current Land Rover 4x4 and 6x6 fleets. Deliveries of Mercedes G-Wagon vehicles to Defence commenced in March 2011 in accordance with the acquisition schedule. While a preliminary roll-out of vehicles occurred in November 2011, the main roll out to Defence units is scheduled to take place during the period July 2012 – June 2015. Delivery of around 1800 matching Haulmark trailers is expected to occur over the same period.

Medium/heavy capability: Vehicle capability (including modules) will be provided in an array of variants in both protected and unprotected configurations, including semi trailers, tow trucks, integrated load handling systems and flatbeds. In December 2011, it was announced that Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Australia had been selected to enter negotiations to deliver this capability, consisting of up to 2,700 vehicles along with associated modules.

Defence will also enter into negotiations with Australian company Haulmark Trailers, as the preferred tenderer to supply up to 2,500 trailers for these medium and heavy vehicles.

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MILITARY VEHICLES



Above: East Timor President, His Excellency Dr Jose Ramos-Horta, awards the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal to Flight Lieutenant Leighton Merry

Below: Australian troops deployed with the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) on parade at the Presidential Palace in Dili.

Troops Honoured by Timor Leste Government

During their preparation for return to Australia, members deployed under the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in East Timor have been personally recognized by the President of Timor Leste.

More than 200 Australian personnel of ISF Timor Leste Task Group 3 (TLTG-3) were awarded the Timor Leste Solidarity Medal in mid-February by East Timor President, His Excellency Dr Jose Ramos-Horta, at the Presidential Palace in Dili.

The Timor Leste Solidarity Medal (Medalha Solidariedade de Timor Leste) was introduced by President Ramos-Horta in recognition of those contributing to peace and stability in East Timor following the troubles in 2006.

TLTG-3 comprises the majority of soldiers, sailors and airmen and airwomen currently serving as part of the Australian-led International Stabilisation Force.

The ISF is in East Timor at the invitation of the Government of Timor Leste to support local security forces to maintain a secure and stable environment.

TLTG-3 members have also been awarded the Australian Service Medal for their service in East Timor.

These were presented to the troops by the Australian Chargé d'affaires to Timor Leste, Nadia Krivetz, in a separate ceremony.

Personnel from the TLTG-3 rotation returned to Australia in February, being replaced by a similar number of personnel comprising TLTG-4.





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A Soldier's Fatal Burden

January 17, 2012

Opinion piece by John Birmingham Brisbane Times

When we think of soldiers, we think of the things they carry on the outside. The rifle. The bayonet. The camouflage pattern of a uniform. A helmet. Boots. Perhaps a canteen or a poncho or a hand grenade. And when we think about these things we might see them, but we don't actually think about them, about their uses and their true meaning and how they make a soldier so very different from us that we can never really understand him or her.

What we don't think about are the things a soldier carries on the inside. The things that make him or her exactly the same as us. Take away the rifle and bayonet, strip off that uniform, whether starched and pressed or tattered and bloody, and the soldier is merely a man or a woman. Noble in reason, as Hamlet knew deep in his melancholia, infinite in faculties, admirable in form and movement, but like Hamlet and like you and I, prey to the anxieties and slights and failings of our common humanity.

The hard and melancholy things a soldier carries inside are the same as those we carry, but more so. They love each other as we do, they know fear, as we do, the cry sometimes and exult at others. They know boredom and frustration and resentment and rage. But sometimes, because of the extremes at which they must live and die and – lets not forget – kill, they know those things more intensely than we can ever imagine.

It destroys them. Not all of them, not all the time. But the strange, unnatural intensities of a soldier's life and the proximity to violent death in which it is lived during war time destroys many, many more of them than the commonplace

demands of life do us.

Perhaps that's why, in the US, which has been at war for over 10 years now, a serving member of the military takes their own life every 36 hours. Perhaps it is significant that of those suicides, the heaviest numbers are to be found among infantrymen – the soldiers on whom the most grievous and intense demands are laid.

And while it is disturbing, shocking even, that every day and a half a soldier should decide to kill himself or herself, it is worse when they finally lay down their arms and take off that uniform. According to preliminary research by the US Department of Veterans Affairs, among those returning from America's wars the suicide rate climbs steeply to a point where one former soldier dies by his own hand every 80 minutes.

Look up from your breakfast, or that first coffee of the workday, to the nearest clock. When you are thinking about lunch in a couple of hours a former soldier will be thinking about putting a gun in his mouth, or noose around her neck, or perhaps just stepping on the accelerator and steering a car into a tree. Depending on when you decide to grab that sandwich, two, maybe three others will have already died in a similar fashion.

If you have the time, I'm going to ask you to follow this link (**see below**) to the story of one dead soldier, an American, whose fatal slide may have been accelerated after a drinking binge with a couple of Australian troops in Afghanistan. Reading about the death of Specialist Jacob Andrews will take up a few minutes this morning, but it's worth it for a couple of reasons. Andrews was unremarkable, a soldier as normal as any of the thousands of Australians who have now served in Afghanistan and Iraq but about whom we rarely hear because Australian governments and their institutions are much less forthcoming than their US counterparts.

But it is also worth reading because the only other military stories you are likely to hear of this week are the developing scandal of the marines who urinated on dead Taliban fighters, and the lesser matter of the Australian soldiers being sent back to Afghanistan to be disciplined for drinking while en route home. It is unlikely that either of those stories will be told in any wider context, and when you think of those soldiers and what they did you would think only of the things they carried outside.

Additional Stars and Stripes article: ***Overlooked and cut loose by the Army, veteran's life spirals to an end***

<http://www.stripes.com/news/special-reports/suicide-in-the-military/overlooked-and-cut-loose-by-the-army-veteran-s-life-spirals-to-an-end-1.145953>

Article reproduced with full acknowledgement to John Birmingham, Blunt Instrument blog, Brisbane Times 17 Jan 2012





End of an Era for Navy's "Mack Truck"

It was the end of an era for Navy's Mack truck of the sky as the Sea King helicopters from 817 Squadron made their final flight as part of a decommissioning ceremony held at HMAS Albatross in Nowra in mid-December.

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon and Chief of Navy, VADM Ray Griggs, were on hand to welcome the final flight and thank the 817 Squadron who operated the helicopters.

"Australia's Sea Kings are being retired after a remarkable 35 years serving in times of conflict, peacekeeping, natural disaster, search and rescue and national celebration," Mr Snowdon said.

"In particular I'd like to thank the men and women of the 817 Squadron past and present, who have served with distinction over the past 48 years. They have lived up to their motto 'Aude Facere' – 'Dare To Do', and have always served Australia with professionalism and skill."

"They were there for the 1994 bushfires, the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the 2001 North NSW floods and just this year in the South East Queensland flood relief."

"I also pay tribute to those who have lost their lives while serving in 817 Squadron, their service and sacrifice must never be forgotten," he said.

Sea Kings have been there countless times when called upon in times of disaster, such as the 1994 bushfires, the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the 2001 Northern NSW floods and in the South East Queensland flood relief efforts to name just a few examples.

The Australian Government announced in June, that Sea King Shark 07, which saw service in Timor, the Middle East and Iraq, would be included in the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Nowra, to preserve the Sea Kings' heritage for future generations.

The permanent display of Shark 07 will honour those who died when Shark 02 crashed during humanitarian operations on the Indonesian Island of Nias in April 2005. Lieutenant Paul Kimlin, who died in the crash, piloted Shark 07 in the Middle East alongside now Commander Paul Moggach who now commands 817 Squadron.

Commander Paul Moggach led a formation leaving from the Naval Air Station at HMAS Albatross in the farewell flight of the Sea Kings. The formation made a flying visit up the NSW coast, arriving over Sydney for a flight up Sydney Harbour, followed by a flyover the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Commander Moggach described the last flight as a fitting end to a remarkable career for these aircraft.

"We call them the Mack trucks of the skies. The Sea Kings are a very capable aircraft that has served Australia well, and all of who have maintained and operated them feel honoured to have done so," Commander Moggach said.

"After 35 years, it is time to look to the future with a new generation of aircraft."

The amphibious and maritime logistics support role played by the Sea Kings will be undertaken by the new MRH90 Multi-Role Helicopter, which is currently undergoing acceptance trials.



Above and below: March past at the decommissioning of 817 Squadron

Opposite: Lieutenant Commander Scott Palmer, Executive Officer of 817 Squadron remembers the fallen at the decommissioning ceremony of 817 Squadron at HMAS Albatross Above and below: March past at the decommissioning of 817 Squadron



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Australian Government

VVCS – Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

Supporting Australia's peacekeepers, peacemakers, veterans and their families

WCS provides counselling and group programs to veterans, peacekeepers, partners, widows, sons and daughters and eligible ADF personnel and F-111 Fuel Tank Maintenance workers and their immediate family members. VVCS is a specialised, free and confidential Australia-wide service.

WCS can provide you with:

- Individual, couple and family counselling
- Case management services
- After-hours crisis telephone counselling service via Veterans Line
- Group programs for common mental health issues (e.g. anxiety, depression, sleep and anger)
- Psycho-educational programs for couples, including a residential lifestyle management program
- Health promotion programs including Heart Health – a 52 week supervised exercise and health education program offered in group and correspondence formats
- The Stepping Out Program, a 2-day 'transition' program for ADF members and their partners preparing to leave the military
- Changing the Mix, a self-paced alcohol reduction correspondence program
- Operation Life Workshops
- Information, education and self-help resources
- Referral to other services.

WCS counsellors can assist you to work through stress, lifestyle, relationship or family problems, and emotional or psychological concerns associated with your military service.

If you need support, would like more information about us or if you know someone who does, please give us a call or visit our website.

1800 011 046*

www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs

* Free local call. Calls from mobile and pay phones may incur charges.



Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

A service founded by Vietnam veterans

Emergency Assistance Given to Iranian Vessel

As tensions rise in the Persian Gulf with threats by Iran to close the Straits of Hormuz, HMAS *Parramatta* has provided essential life saving assistance to an Iranian flagged vessel in distress on Christmas Eve.

Parramatta is on patrol in the Gulf of Aden conducting the Australian Operation Slipper rotation 27 under tasking to Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150).

On 23 December, HMAS *Parramatta* received the call from a vessel 400 nautical miles off the Eastern coast of Yemen that was stopped in the water and indicating distress. *Parramatta* immediately increased speed and sailed to the vessel's aid over the next 24 hours. After the ship's helicopter and coalition aircraft located the vessel on the morning of 24 December, *Parramatta* closed in to assess the situation.

"The vessel's crew were waving to the helicopter and to us and had an orange flag flying at the front of the vessel," said Commander of HMAS *Parramatta*, Guy Blackburn.

"These are all recognised international signals of distress and we immediately knew that something must be wrong".

"The vessel's Master waved at us and asked us to come onboard to help them. It is a time honoured mariner's tradition to help those in need on the sea," Commander Blackburn said.

After receiving assistance from HMAS *Parramatta*, the vessel was able to make its own way into port. *Parramatta* transferred more than 700 litres of fuel, life saving water and food to the vessel and its crew, making it safe to proceed to the nearest port.

HMAS *Parramatta* was participating in routine duties with CTF 150, one of three task forces operated by the

Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). CMF is responsible for maritime security operations in the Gulf region, the maritime environment around the Horn of Africa, and counter piracy/terrorism operations in the Gulf of Aden.

More recently the ship detected and destroyed more than 240 kilograms of illegal narcotics with an estimated street value of \$US 5 million.

The narcotics with an estimated street value of US \$5 million were seized during an investigative boarding of a vessel in the North Arabian Sea on Friday 3 February 2012.

Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150), part of the United States led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) directed HMAS *Parramatta* to intercept, board, and search the suspect vessel.

The search revealed over 240 kilograms of amphetamine and heroin concealed in bags of flour and rice that were subsequently destroyed.

Commander Guy Blackburn, described the mission as a significant event.

"This was a great day for HMAS *Parramatta*, the Combined Maritime Forces and the Australian Forces in the Middle East Area of Operations," Commander Blackburn said.

HMAS *Parramatta*'s focus is to enforce maritime security in the Middle East Area of Operations as part of the multinational Combined Maritime Task Force.

HMAS *Parramatta* and her crew of more than 190 personnel remained on patrol and on watch over the Christmas period having been deployed from their homeport since 26 September 2011.

HMAS *Parramatta*'s Boarding Team onboard a vessel in distress in the Gulf of Aden



Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project

The Peacekeepers

Australian military, police and civilians have been undertaking peace operations for over 60 years. Over 90,000 Australians have served in more than 60 peacekeeping missions around the world. Reflecting the commitment and sacrifice of past, present and future peacekeepers, the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial will be a living memorial on ANZAC Parade. This will be the first Australian National Peacekeeping Memorial.



The Memorial - a Design and a Site

We have the design. The Memorial will be an enduring landmark. The design encompasses a glowing passage of light that is the powerful entry for the Memorial. The passage is between two massive monoliths, raised slightly off the ground in a stone courtyard. The lit interior will evoke the Australian Peacekeepers' role and their help to local populations.

We have the site

The Canberra National Memorials Committee has approved a site for the Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. The Memorial will be a focal point for national parades and remembrance ceremonies in recognition of Australian peacekeeping on occasions such as ANZAC day, UN International Day of Peacekeepers, Australian Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Day and United Nations Day.

The Management

A voluntary Committee of peacekeeping veterans includes representatives from the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police, the United Nations Association of Australia, the United Nations Police Association of Australia, the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association and the National Headquarters of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

The Support

Patrons, Champions, Partners, Friends and Mates

We have wide ranging support. Our Patron-in-Chief is Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and our Patrons are John Sanderson AC, Geraldine Doogue AO, and Tony Negus APM,

Our Champions have donated \$100,000 or more and are The Department of Veterans' Affairs and PDL Toll. Our Partners have made donations of \$25,000 or more and our Friends have made donations of \$5000 or more.

Mates of Peacekeeping are individuals who support the Memorial Project by making regular contributions using their credit card or by direct deposit from a bank account.

The Target

Our funding target is \$3.5m. We have raised over \$600,000 to date and have spend part of those funds on the Memorial design and prototyping. We feel that we need to raise a further \$2m to bring the project to completion. We need your help.

Communications

You can visit our website at <http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au> You can subscribe to our Newsletter by sending a note to secretariat@peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

What we hope you will do

Subscribe to the eNewsletter, become a Mate and pass on the word!



Navy Dentist Sinks Teeth into Air Force Dog Surgery

This was certainly not the usual patient for the dentist chair. However, urgent work recently required on a young Military Working Dog gave one Navy dentist a unique opportunity to carry out a canine root canal.

The urgent need for the Military Working Dog “Rocco” to ease a painful toothache saw Navy and Air Force combine with a veterinary hospital.

“Rocco” required root canal surgery to repair an existing injury and prevent future teething problems.

Unfortunately with no currently qualified animal dentists in the Northern Territory, Rocco and his handler, Leading Aircraftswoman Tegan Bowden, would have been forced into a costly interstate trip and longer period of recovery—until Navy dentist Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Daniel Allan took on the challenge.

LCDR Allan said it was not unusual for uniformed dentists to carry out urgent specialised procedures on animals – especially if the procedure provides the opportunity to hone professional skills and build valuable relationships with a local veterinary clinic.

“I was approached by the RAAF working dog section to assess one of their dogs with a dental problem as there are no veterinary dentists in Darwin,” Lieutenant Commander Allan said.

“After a thorough evaluation, we recognised that the injury needed attention and worked through a solution with the Parap Veterinary Hospital.

“Personally, it is giving me the opportunity to work with other health care providers, albeit animal ones, so that we can both learn from each other and benefit our clients. It is also an opportunity to work beyond the scope of normal practice while still contributing to the dental health of our ADF members.

“Undertaking this surgery also helps establish links with the wider community and gives an opportunity to show the ADF values all of its members and the capabilities they provide.”

Parap Veterinary Hospital Practice Manager, Alison Lawlor, said the cooperation was another example in a long history of supporting Air Force in Darwin.

“Our surgery has been supporting the Air Force dogs for last 20 years and we are pleased to be able to support them on this occasion,” Ms Lawlor said.

LACW Bowden and MWD Rocco are employed within 3SQN Security Police Flight to protect assets and operations around the clock at RAAF Darwin. This includes the provision of after-hours security, crime prevention patrols and emergency response. Military working dogs are highly effective in detecting and capturing intruders and adversaries.

The Handler and Dog form a strong bond and work together as a team in either aggressive or non-aggressive functions often for up to eight years, and can be posted at various locations around Australia or deployed overseas.

Below left: Lieutenant Commander Daniel Allan of Joint Health Command uses his dental skills normally reserved for human patients on Rocco, a Military Working Dog from 13 Squadron, RAAF Base Darwin

Below right: Leading Aircraftswoman Teagan Bowden of 13 Squadron, with her Military Working Dog, Rocco, at RAAF Base Darwin



Ultrasonic Non Destructive Testing

Ultrasonic Testing (UT) is a widely used method of non-destructive testing (NDT). UT can both measure the thickness and detect flaws in many materials. UT equipment ranges from the simple and inexpensive - such as the thickness gauge shown in the first photograph- to sophisticated automated systems.

Like all NDT methods, UT has both advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages include:

- Access to only one side of component is required
- A wide range of materials can be tested, including metals, plastics, rubber, glass, ceramics and composite materials such as carbon fibre reinforced polymers (CFRP)
- UT can both detect and measure small defects
- Real-time results
- Can be very accurate

Disadvantages include:

- Unlike audible sound, UT does not transmit through air. Due its high frequency, it can travel only through solids and liquids, not gases. This means that
 - Couplant such as water, oil or gel is required between the UT transducer (probe) and the part being tested
 - Materials such as foams or honeycombs which contain air bubbles can generally not be tested

Ultrasound is vibration at frequencies above those of human hearing; typical transducers for NDT have frequencies from 0.5MHz (500 kHz) to around 15 MHz.

A very wide range of UT transducers are available in different frequencies, shapes and sizes. Higher frequencies can detect smaller defects but have greater attenuation and therefore can penetrate less far, particularly in coarse-grained materials.

Conventional UT probes for thickness testing and flaw detection are usually single element. For corrosion monitoring dual element probes are often used.

In Phased Array ultrasound (PAUT), the probe consists of many elements. By controlling the timing of the voltage pulses that fire these elements, different UT beam can be created. One probe can produce a beam covering a range of angles (sectorial scan) or the beam can be electronically scanned along the



probe. As well as the Epoch series of conventional UT flaw detectors, Olympus manufactures the Omniscan, a versatile instrument which can be used for PAUT, conventional UT and Time of Flight Diffraction (TOFD). The second photograph shows the Omniscan and a 128-element PA probe being used to scan a CFRP panel. The probe is attached to a Glider scanner which has suction feet to hold it in place on the panel. The scanner also allows for encoding - ie distance measurement - in both the x- and y-axes. A colour-coded raster scan of the panel is built up and can be seen on the display of the Omniscan.

UT and PAUT are used both in manufacturing and in service. Applications in the defence industry include:

- Corrosion monitoring
- Weld inspection - eg on aircraft landing gear
- Thickness measurement
 - Thin aluminium on aircraft
 - Thickness gauges such as the Olympus 38DL can measure multiple layers simultaneously, eg for multi-layer windows and windshields or fuel tanks
- Detection of delaminations and voids in composites skins and structures
- Detection of disbands between composite skins and honeycomb fillers
- Detection of cracking of shafts, supports and bolts

Tutorials on UT and PAUT, product information, videos of equipment in use and a wide range of Applications Notes are available on the Olympus IMS website at

For further information in Australia, please contact Olympus Customer Service on [add number] or Alison Glover on 0418 351 021 (email address Alison.Glover@olympus.com.au).





EPOCH 600 ULTRASONIC FLAW DETECTOR

The EPOCH 600 Digital Ultrasonic Flaw Detector combines Olympus' industry leading conventional flaw detection capabilities with the efficiency of a highly portable, intuitive instrument.

- Compact and rugged, weighs only 1.68 kg (3.72 lb.)
- Vibrant full VGA sunlight viewable display
- PerfectSquare™ tunable square wave pulser
- Intuitive user interface
- EN12668-1 compliant
- Digital high dynamic range receiver
- Digital filtering enhances signal-to-noise ratio



38DL PLUS ULTRASONIC THICKNESS GAGE

The 38DL PLUS is an innovative, versatile thickness gage for applications ranging from internally corroded pipes to very thin or thick plastics, metals, composites, rubber, and glass.

- A full line of dual and single element transducers
 - Dual element for corrosion measurements
 - Single element (0.5 MHz to 30 MHz) for thin or difficult to penetrate materials
- Rugged, designed for IP67 rating
- Vibrant full VGA display
- Wide thickness range: 0.08 mm (0.003 in.) to 635 mm (25 in.)*
- THRU-COAT® and Echo-to-Echo avoid paint removal
- Internal Oxide/Scale software option
- V-Path Builder for better precision when using non-standard transducers

* depending on material and transducer selection

High Level Visit to MEAO Personnel

Vice Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Mark Binskin has just visited Australian Defence Force personnel deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO). With him was Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Senator David Feeney.

They visited the Multi National Base – Tarin Kot and Kandahar Air Field in Afghanistan, and Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates.

Air Marshal Binskin said the visit was an important opportunity to see the progress that Australian forces had made in training the Afghan National Army's (ANA) 4th brigade in Uruzgan province.

"The 4th Brigade is increasingly taking the lead for planning and undertaking tactical operations. This is a credit to previous ADF Mentoring Task Forces which have trained the ANA elements in recent years, and this great work continues with Mentoring Task Force 4 (MTF-4) which has just deployed into Uruzgan," Air Marshal Binskin said.

"Throughout 2012, MTF-4 will focus on further building the ANA's capabilities, especially in medical, logistics and mechanical skills. The 4th Brigade is expected to be ready to assume responsibility for security in Uruzgan Province by 2014,"

"We also met the Special Operations Task Group which continues to work successfully with its Afghan partners to

disrupt the insurgency's leadership and revenue streams.

"Across the MEAO, Air Force's heavy workload continues with AP-3C Orions, C-130s, C-17s and Heron elements providing crucial support to Australian and Coalition forces. The Royal Australian Navy is also making an important maritime security contribution. Only last week, HMAS Parramatta interdicted a narcotics shipment in the North Arabian Sea," Air Marshal Binskin said.

Senator Feeney acknowledged the ADF members who continue to make outstanding contributions to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force and, more broadly, regional security.

"They are working long hours, achieving great results – sometimes with little public recognition – and doing Australia proud," he said.

He also noted there are currently 91 Reservists deployed to the MEAO including 12 women, with nearly 60 Reserve members on the ground in Afghanistan and more than 30 elsewhere in the Area of Operations. They are undertaking a wide variety of tasks including air crew, intelligence, signals and transport.

"ADF operations in the MEAO demonstrate the outstanding operational capability achieved by part-time and full-time personnel working together for their country," Senator Feeney said.



ANZAC Centenary goes beyond ANZAC DAY

From 2014 to 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary – 100 years since our nation's involvement in the First World War. During this time, not only the Anzacs who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front will be remembered, but all Australian servicemen and women who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

The Anzac Centenary is about respectfully honouring all men and women of the Australian Defence Force – past and present – while creating a lasting legacy for all Australians.

The Anzac Centenary is a program of national significance and at the first meeting of the Anzac Centenary Advisory Board on 14 October 2011, the Board resolved that a motif for the Anzac Centenary should be developed for consideration by Government.

The Board is comprised of eminent Australians, including business and community leaders and chaired by Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, AC, AFC (Ret'd) – former Chief of the Defence Force.

The development of a motif was also proposed by the National Commission on the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary, which included former Prime Ministers the Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser and the Honourable Bob Hawke in addition to APPVA Ambassador Mattina Jewel. In its report to Government the Commission recommended “...an instantly recognisable motif...that conveys an overall theme should be attached to the centenary program.”

Highly-regarded motifs have been developed for similar programs such as the 1995 commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War *Australia Remembers*.

Any motif representing the commemorative period needs to have wide resonance, be readily understood by a broad cross section of the community and appropriately reflect the significance of the Centenary.

Consultation was held in both regional parts of the country along with capital cities, and consisted of the public, current serving personnel and veterans.



Government Says No to Queen's Jubilee Medal

In a decision consistent with the stance of the current Government on medals, including the APPVA submission for an Australian Peacekeeping Medal recognising 65 years of Australia's contribution to peacekeeping operations, the Federal Government recently announced Australians would not be the recipients of the Queen's Jubilee Medal – despite other Commonwealth nations doing so.

Many Australians have been disappointed that Jubilee Medals will not be included in Australia's celebrations, with some expressing their views on Facebook about ACT Senator Kate Lundy.

Senator Lundy who as the Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Prime Minister, has traditionally had responsibility for such occasions also said the medals were not part of the Australian honours system.

Other Commonwealth nations - such as Britain, New Zealand and Canada - have announced plans to celebrate the 85-year-old monarch's 60th year on the throne, including the presentation of Jubilee Medals, public exhibitions of famous artwork, jewels and other historic artefacts from the Royal Collection; a planned armada of decorated ships and boats on the Thames River; extravagant gifts; commemorative emblems, coins, and stamps; public holidays and an official "Diamond Jubilee Week" in Canada.

Canada unveiled a \$7.5 million plan including presentation of 60,000 Diamond Jubilee medals and an early gift for the Queen - a platinum brooch featuring a maple leaf encrusted with 60 individual diamonds, a gold cannon and a stylised crown set with a sapphire, emeralds and rubies.

In Australia, a commemorative silver 50c coin will be produced by the Royal Australian Mint and local community events are planned by monarchist groups, the City of Sydney, and the Queensland State Government. The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall also plan to visit Australia.

Ms Gillard committed to making a contribution to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund during the royal visit to Australia last October, but is yet to put a dollar figure on the contribution.

"The Queen has been received here in Australia on this visit with a great deal of affection and I know that Australians will be very excited to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee," Ms Gillard said in an interview in *The Canberra Times*.



BAE Systems

BAE Systems has just submitted its tender to provide the Australian Defence Force with a new Integrated – Battlefield Telecommunications Network, or I-BTN, under Joint Project 2072, Phase 2B. BAE Systems team includes Thales Australia, providing key Local Area Network integration expertise, and Cisco Systems Australia who are providing key technologies and inter-networking expertise.

The I-BTN will replace the existing Parakeet BTN. Parakeet, whilst it has been a successful capability for the ADF, is effectively at end of life, as it does not provide the data rates required to support the digitisation of deployed land forces. Replacement of the BTN will be one of the most important defence programs undertaken by Australia in the near future, as it will provide the digital network that will be the communications backbone for ADF people and equipment deployed on all forms of operations ranging from war, through to peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

BAE Systems originally delivered the Parakeet system to the ADF, and has successfully supported the system since its introduction into service, but is now looking forward to the opportunity to provide a next generation system. BAE Systems will leverage its capabilities and experience gained in delivering a similar all IP (Internet Protocol) solution to the United Kingdom's Armed Forces through the UK FALCON program.

However, BAE Systems is not offering the FALCON solution off the shelf, as the Australian operational and technical requirements do have significant differences to those of the UK.

In fact, there is no existing off the shelf solution that meets the ADF's requirements for the I-BTN, and for this reason BAE Systems is offering a system featuring an 'Australian system architecture', underpinned by COTS and MOTS technology that mitigates a lot of the potential integration risk in the program.

The Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), as the primary users of the system, need a system that will permit them to stay abreast of developments and advancements in networking technology.

"This is a critical point and a key opportunity," says Peter Cantwell, Strategic Development Manager – C4 Systems, for BAE Systems Australia. "The new I-BTN must be readily

and cost effectively upgradeable so that the system can meet current and future bandwidth demands of deployed forces."

For this reason, BAE Systems' I-BTN solution uses true COTS at its core, protected to ensure that it is suitable for operational deployment. This COTS technology is 'form, fit and function' identical to the latest technologies found in corporate networks around the world, and will provide the ADF with unprecedented bandwidth.

This solution is also highly modular and scalable, with the 'core switch' or Point of Presence (PoP) module, common across all wide area communication nodes types. The PoP underpins a deployment architecture that is flexible and can be scaled to match the I-BTN requirements for specific deployments.

"We know the ADF of the future must be a highly flexible force that can support a wide range of contingencies," says Cantwell, "and a flexible force requires flexible systems to support it."

Network Management is another very important aspect of the I-BTN. A key feature of the I-BTN is that it involves multiple security domains, and multi-domain network management is a key technical risk for JP2072 Phase 2B. BAE Systems' mission system has a proven, state of the art, multi domain network management capability through its adoption of the UK FALCON Management System.

"Our non-ITAR controlled FALCON Network Management System (NMS) will form the basis of our JP2072 Integrated Network Management System," Cantwell stated. "The FALCON NMS allows a single operator to monitor and control four different security domains from a single position, and integrates the planning, deployment and monitoring functions in a single application."

And the FALCON NMS is now the basis of a core NMS product line that BAE Systems is marketing globally, ensuring that the ADF will receive a system that has a strong technology roadmap to the future.

"BAE Systems is a leading provider of deployed networks, both locally and globally. We have brought our very best capabilities to bear for JP2072 Phase 2B. Our strong track record, and that of our partners, demonstrates that we are committed team that can be trusted to deliver the future I-BTN for the ADF."



AUSTRALIA'S MOST EXPERIENCED TEAM.

For two decades, BAE Systems has proudly equipped the ADF with a trusted battlefield communications system.

Now we've joined forces with Thales and Cisco to create Australia's most experienced military communications team and offer the ADF a new digital network under JP2072 - Phase 2B.

Our solution is modular, scalable and delivers the lowest possible life cycle costs by integrating COTS technology.

Our experience is the difference.



www.baesystems.com/australia



THALES

BAE SYSTEMS

FCU-5 Troops Home for Christmas



Above: FCU-5 official photograph - supplied courtesy of Dept of Defence

Below: Signalman Matthew Head displays the Task Group 633.14 Force Communications Unit badge during the Force Communication Unit 5Five(FCU-5) medal presentations at Al Minhad Air Base, UAE.

For the families of almost 120 Australian Defence Force members, Christmas came early as their loved ones arrived home in Australia just before Christmas after a seven-month deployment to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) with Force Communication Unit Five (FCU-5).

The deployed personnel were predominantly from the Townsville-based 3 Combat Signal Regiment, with elements also drawn from 17 units across the three Services.

Commanding Officer of FCU-5, Lieutenant Colonel Dan Bennett said the deployment, which included active service on both Operation KRUGER and Operation SLIPPER, was a success.

“FCU-5 is a joint unit that was able to utilise the combined skills and experiences of Navy, Army and Air Force personnel to provide Joint Task Force 633 (JTF633) with national Communication Information Systems (CIS),” Lieutenant Colonel Bennett said.

The mission of FCU-5 was to provide Australia’s JTF 633 with communications capability throughout the MEAO. This included the coordination of coalition CIS services, which enabled national command and Australian Defence Force (ADF) interoperability with coalition partners.

During their deployment, FCU-5 personnel provided 24-hour, 7-days-a-week (24/7) CIS support to three Forward Operating Bases and up to five Patrol Bases in Uruzgan Province.

FCU-5 also developed and provided CIS solutions in support of the ADF’s Heron detachment at Kandahar Air Field.

“I’m very proud of my team, they have met every challenge head on and have represented the ADF as a professional and adaptive force,” Lieutenant Colonel Bennett said.

“They are handing over to Force Communication Unit Six (FCU-6) robust and reliable CIS networks which are agile enough to meet the needs of changing operational situation.”

FCU-5 handed over control to FCU-6 at the Transfer of Authority parade at Al Minhad Airbase, in the United Arab Emirates, on Tuesday (13 December 2011). At the ceremony, a number of personnel were awarded Commander JTF633 Commendations in recognition of their exceptional service during their deployment.



Increased Security comes at a Price

Since arriving in June 11, Mentoring Task Force - 3 (MTF - 3) have seen significant improvement in the Afghan National Army's (ANA) capability and confidence. The result is greater security across a larger footprint in Uruzgan Province – but this success came at a cost.

Lead by the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), MTF-3 is preparing to head home after a seven-and-a-half month deployment in Afghanistan.

Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Smith, said when MTF-3 arrived in June 2011 the ANA was conducting around 25 activities on its own across the Brigade each week. By the end of the tour, that number had grown to around 100 independent activities a week.

“The sophistication of those operations has also improved to encompass far more complex cordon and search operations, linked in with intelligence, to achieve a much greater effect out of their operations,” Lieutenant Colonel Smith said.

Sadly, these gains did not come without sacrifice. Three MTF - 3 soldiers were killed in action. Private Matthew Lambert died from wounds sustained in an IED strike on 22 August 2011, while Lance Corporal Luke Gavin and Captain Bryce Duffy were killed in action along with Corporal Ashley Birt from Combined Team Uruzgan, when an ANA soldier opened fire at Forward Operating Base

Sorkh Bed on 29 October 2011.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith said despite two such incidents, Australians continue to work side by side with their Afghan counterparts.

“Our soldiers recognise that most of the ANA members are interested in maintaining security in their country, they're eager to learn, eager to do the right thing.”

Lieutenant Colonel Smith said he was proud of his soldiers' achievements and those of their Afghan partners.

“I think we really hit an important point in the past seven months, all the great foundations laid by others have created quite significant improvements. As a consequence, the ANA in Uruzgan Province is in a better position to fulfil their role following security transition in the province.

“I am very happy to be heading home to see my family, but I am also reluctant to let go because we have achieved so much and there is a sense that there are further successes yet to come,” Lieutenant Colonel Smith said.

MTF – 3 handed over responsibility for the mission to the soldiers from the Brisbane based 8/9th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (8/9 RAR) who make up Mentoring Task Force - 4 (MTF – 4) and Commanding Officer Lieutenant Khalil Fegan on 24 January 2012.

Australian soldier Gunner Cameron Smith, Mentoring Task Force - 3 Other Government Agencies Platoon, meets local Afghan children during a clearing patrol of a village in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan, prior to a series of meetings with elders and the women of the village.





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Getting some serious toboggan air, Lieutenant Richard Naisbitt uses a range target as an improvised sled to take advantage of the heaviest snowfall that Multi National Base - Tarin Kot in Afghanistan has experienced. There were snowball fights galore occurring in Tarin Kot, as well as snowmen building and tobogganing, as a blanket of snow covered Multi National Base - Tarin Kot and the TK bowl overnight. Up to eight inches of snow covered the mountains, armoured vehicles and the base, in what is believed to be the heaviest snowfall since coalition forces began keeping weather records. While snow is common on the mountains around Tarin Kot, it is very unusual for snow to fall, let alone settle on the town and Coalition Headquarters in the province. Soldiers and civilians from Australia, America, Slovakia, Singapore and Afghanistan, found their "inner child" as the snow let them forget the dangerous work they do, at least for a while. With temperatures expected to drop to -8 Celsius overnight, even heavier snow is expected in the coming days.



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New RMA Chair Appointed

Professor Nicholas Saunders has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) and will commence his five year appointment with the RMA on 1 July 2012.

"I congratulate Professor Saunders and welcome him to the role. He is a highly respected and experienced leader, who has held high profile positions in the academic and medical professions over many years. He is well qualified for his new role," the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon said.

Professor Saunders was awarded an MBBS with first class honours (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) from the University of Sydney in 1970; he became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians Canada in 1975, followed by fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1976. He has also served as the Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council from 2000-2003.

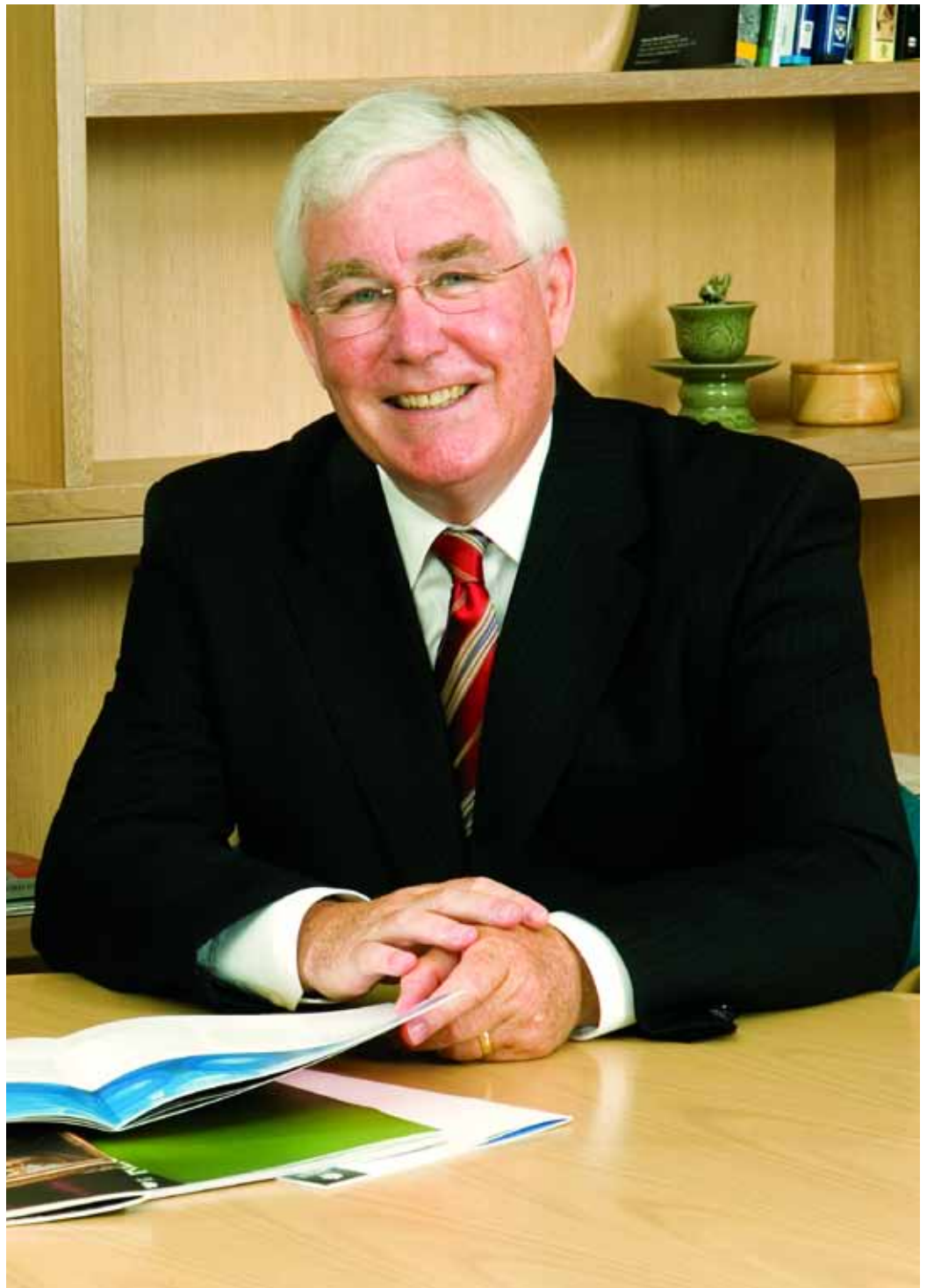
Professor Saunders was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2002 for his contribution to the success of the nation. He also received the College Medal in 2002 for his outstanding services to The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, which is responsible for the training and education of more than 13,500 physicians and pediatricians in Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Saunders will replace outgoing chairperson, Professor Ken Donald, who has held the position since the inception of the RMA in 1994.

"I would like to thank Professor Donald for his dedication to the RMA and for his many achievements over the past 17 years including setting up the Statement of Principle regime, which is a critical element of the system established to provide compensation to veterans who may have service related injuries or illnesses," Mr Snowdon said.

"Professor Donald has left a lasting legacy with both the RMA and DVA and I wish him all the best for the future."

The RMA was established in 1994 to reform the process of decision making about disease causation. It is an independent statutory authority responsible to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. It consists of a panel of five practitioners eminent in fields of medical science, who each determine Statements of Principles for any disease, injury or death that could be related to military service, based on sound medical-scientific evidence.



Afghan Civilian Casualties Assisted

A group of Afghan civilians, seriously injured by insurgent rocket propelled grenade (RPG) fire, during a contact in Helmand Province in early January were given assistance by the National Security Force personnel and Australian Special Forces.

The partnered patrol was conducting a targeted counter-narcotics mission when they observed the insurgent fire impact on an occupied quala (a walled living complex).

After moving to the complex, the patrol identified four seriously injured Afghan women within the quala.

Working with their interpreters, Special Operations Task Group medics attempted to treat the women and organised a helicopter casualty evacuation.

Despite repeated offers, the women refused treatment. However, the soldiers provided a small amount of Afghan currency to cover the costs of travel to a nearby medical clinic for treatment and cancelled the medical evacuation helicopter.

After receiving the money, the women directed the soldiers to another room in the complex where they found a recently deceased child wrapped in a blanket.

The Special Operations Task Group medics assessed that the child, believed to be between five and eight years of age, was killed by the insurgent rocket propelled grenade detonation.

Having provided all of the support they could, the patrol then continued with its mission.

A post mission review of the incident confirmed that the insurgent RPG fire struck the compound and was responsible for the civilian casualties.

The announcement of this incident has been delayed pending the conclusion of the operation and the post mission review of the incident.



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Assistance to Lightning Ridge

A RAAF C-130 Hercules recently assisted the New South Wales State Emergency Service by carrying essential supplies to the flood-affected community of Lightning Ridge in the state's north.

The Hercules took off from Richmond in mid-February, loaded with groceries, provisions and drinking water. The aircraft made two trips to Lightning Ridge, delivering over 19 tonnes of supplies to the isolated town.

In preparation, a Hercules previously flew to Lightning Ridge, delivering a forklift and a four-person mobile air load team to quickly unload and distribute the supplies as they arrived in the main lift.

Commander of Air Lift Group, Air Commodore Gary Martin, said the men and women of the Air Force are trained and equipped to respond to a broad range of contingencies, including helping those impacted by natural disasters.

"Delivering aid to those in need is something that we are well-practised in," Air Commodore Martin said.

"On this occasion we have

assisted the State Emergency Service to get urgent supplies to the people of Lightning Ridge, ensuring their wellbeing until normal transport routes reopen."

The relief flight was in response to a request for assistance by the NSW Government, and follows on from recent Air Force airlifts to Southern Queensland communities affected by the recent floods.



Seven Decades of Number 34 Squadron

A Gala Dinner for the Royal Australian Air Force's Number 34 Squadron on the occasion of their 70th Anniversary was held recently at Parliament House.

Number 34 Squadron was established four days after the Bombing of Darwin in 1942, beginning with just two officers, four airmen and two De Havilland DH-84A Dragon aircraft.

Since those humble beginnings, No. 34 Squadron has gone from strength to strength, and now provides between 1200 and 1800 special purpose flights each year for official travel for the Governor General, Australian Government, and visiting international heads of state and dignitaries.

As an example of their current workload, over the past 12 months, No. 34 Squadron have provided transport for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Tour of Frederick, Crown Prince of Denmark, with Mary, Crown Princess of

Denmark, the Royal Tour by His Royal Highness Prince William Duke of Cambridge, and critical support for the visit of President of the United States Barack Obama.

Number 34 Squadron also made history in 1944 as the first operational Squadron, to have members of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force amongst their members and were engaged in the evacuation of ex-Prisoners of War from camps in Sumatra, Java and Thailand for return to Australia.

The Squadron was disbanded on 6 June 1946, but re-created as Number 34 (VIP) Flight in 1956, and later renamed Number 34 Squadron in 1963.

Today, Number 34 Squadron provides an air transport capability to the Australian Government, Governor General and visiting international heads of state and dignitaries.



Above: Chief Master Staff Sergeant Satoshi Yudahira (left), from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force, talks to Armament Technician Sergeant Daniel Scott (right), from the Royal Australian Air Force's No. 1 Squadron, about the F/A-18F Super Hornet

Right: Royal Australian Air Force No. 1 Squadron (1SQN) maintenance crew personnel engage in conversation with the aircrew of the 1SQN F/A-18F Super Hornet on their return from a sortie during Exercise Cope North Guam 2012.



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Tri-lateral North Pacific Exercise for Air Force

February saw aircraft and pilots along with ground staff from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) recently join with air forces from the United States and Japan in Guam for Exercise COPE NORTH, a joint training exercise to enhance tactical skills and joint operational capability.

This is the first time the RAAF had participated in Exercise COPE NORTH, a bi-annual exercise historically for the United States Air Force and the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force that started in 1978.

RAAF Super Hornets and Airborne Early Warning and Control Wedgetail aircraft, along with 300 Air Force personnel participated in the air defence exercise on the North Pacific nation of Guam.

Commander of the Australian contingent for the exercise, Group Captain Geoffrey Harland, said the exercise provided excellent opportunities for RAAF personnel to

integrate with a joint task force to learn how other countries operate.

“Exercise COPE NORTH will allow the aircrew to develop an appreciation of the capabilities and strengths of the different aircraft types which is valuable training for air combat and Surveillance and Response Group personnel who may be required to operate in a coalition environment in the future.”

The international aircraft fleet also comprised of the USAF’s F-16s, B-52s, F-15Cs, F-16CJs and KC-135 from the United States and F-15Js, F2s and E2Cs from Japan. More than 1,000 military personnel from around the world also took part.

During Exercise COPE NORTH, Number 37 Squadron’s C-130 also participated in a separate exercise on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.



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Winter Fails to Deter C-130 Flights

While South-East Australia swelters in high summer temperatures, another day began in Uruzgan, Afghanistan, with fog shrouding the Tarin Kot bowl. Australian Defence Force personnel, who have been experiencing severe winter conditions, spent the morning scanning the skies in anticipation of it clearing to allow more aircraft to land after days of airfield closures due to fog, ice and snow. On cue, the sun appeared in the afternoon and with it the drone of a Royal Australian Air Force C-130 Hercules descending on its final approach to the airfield. The aircrews ferried in supplies and personnel, and for many personnel who have recently completed their deployment, the ever-reliable grey workhorses were their first step in their journey back to Australia. For the aircrews, while the C-130s were parked on the runway, they took the chance to take some photographs in the snow and experience winter – an opportunity that they do not get at their base at Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates. Images courtesy of Defence.



Above: Flight Lieutenant Scott Harris in the snow of Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.

Left: RAAF air movements personnel from No. 1 Airfield Operations Support Squadron load cargo onto an Australian C-130 Hercules while a storm closes in on Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan



Below: Trooper Andrew Carman sets to work helping broom snow off the runway in readiness for the landing of the RAAF C-130's.



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Kassie Neville – Copacabana (NSW)

Soldiering is a definitely a family affair for Copacabana's Kassie Neville with Kassie and her twin sister Hayley both in uniform and older brother Matt recently discharged after serving in Afghanistan in 2010.

All three signed up together in 2008, completed their soldier training together, with the twins later going on to do specific employment training for the Royal Australian Corps of Transport.

Both girls were posted to Townsville together, although Kassie has been the first to deploy to Afghanistan.

"But Hayley got promoted first so I guess that makes us even!" said Kassie.

Kassie is currently on a seven-month deployment at the Joint Task Force headquarters, Afghanistan, located in Kabul, the nation's capital.

In another first, Kassie is the first female driver for a female Commander, Brigadier Simone Wilke, Assistant Commander Joint Task Force 633 – Afghanistan. But the girl-power aspects don't bother Kassie.

"I'm just here doing my job and I love it," Kassie said. "This is the deployment that every driver in the Army hopes for.

"It's been an eye opening experience seeing how the Afghan people live — but I feel proud to be part of trying to build a safer country for these people."

Growing up in Copacabana, Kassie was an avid sportswoman, playing for the Kincumber Netball Club and also playing at the representative level for Gosford.

Her mum, Kerry Neville, who works at the Woy Woy hospital, is very proud of her daughter and is always on hand for late night phone calls.

"Sometimes I can only call when it's late at night in Australia, but Mum is always happy to hear from me," Kassie said.

"With Dad living in China it's a bit harder to talk but we Skype a lot."

"I get a lot of parcels and care packages and it's great to know everyone is thinking of you when you're away and a bit homesick," Kassie said.

Peter Nelson – Malvern (SA)

Peter Nelson has had an impressive career in the Australian Defence Force that began in 1977 — and he's still going.

These days the RAAF Squadron Leader is usually based at Edinburgh, but at the moment he's on duty in the Middle East.

Peter began his career in 1977 as an observer in the Navy's Fleet Air Arm and transferred to pilot in 1982. He flew for 20 years before taking a civilian job as a rescue pilot for SouthCare Aero Medical Retrieval Unit.

"Then I joined the RAAF in 2001 as a P3 Orion pilot to keep flying after my civvy job ended," said Peter.

A veteran of both Gulf Wars, East Timor, peacekeeping in the Sinai and numerous deployments to the Middle East, Peter is now serving in there as the liaison officer for RAAF surveillance aircraft with the Combined Maritime Force He is also responsible for the coordination of all international maritime patrol aircraft.



The 26-nation taskforce is there to promote security across approximately 2.5 million square miles of international waters in the Middle East. That's an area bigger than Australia and includes some of the world's most important shipping lanes.

"The best part for me has been the success we've had with-out counter piracy operations," Peter said. "We had Christmas Day off but other than that it has been an intense four-month deployment.

When Peter returns to Australia he will be taking a well deserved break.

"I'm looking forward to a 2 week holiday with my wife in Tassie, drinking some Shiraz, having a wonderful meal at De Angelo's in Battery Point and remembering how to sleep in past 5:15 am!"

Adam Sharp - Alice Springs (NT)

Currently serving in the Middle East in support of Operation Slipper, former Alice Springs resident, Adam Sharp is the Deputy Supply Officer on board the Anzac Class Frigate, HMAS *Parramatta*.

His current posting to sea sees him responsible for the day-to-day management of the logistics and supplies for HMAS *Parramatta* ensure it is well provisioned and equipped for six months at sea.

"On board HMAS *Parramatta* I'm responsible for the management of the ship's Supply department and overseeing the operation of five sub-departments, including medical, catering administration and stores.

"It's a busy job but like all officers onboard I also have a number of ancillary duties which include the ship's helicopter control officer,

boarding party officer, safety officer and visits liaison officer," he said.

It's little wonder that Lieutenant Sharp said he finds the job rewarding particularly with the opportunity to also travel. Listing off some of the places he has already seen he cites, trips to Christmas Island, Surabaya (Indonesia), Penang (Malaysia), Sattahip (Thailand), Singapore and the Middle East among the highlights.

"It's difficult to put into words why I love my job. The feeling that I am part of something important and making a difference towards the security of our nation protecting our sea lanes and safeguarding our territorial areas, is very rewarding.

"This particular deployment is important to me because I feel as if I now have the opportunity to promote the Royal

Australian Navy as a globally responsible and professional organisation who is making a real contribution to the security and stability of the Middle East Area of Operations – combating the opportunities for terrorist organisations to take hold and potentially preventing acts of piracy against merchant shipping," said a proud Lieutenant Sharp.

When he returns to Australia from his current deployment, Lieutenant Sharp plans for a posting ashore and is looking forward to spending quality time with family and settling back into a more stable routine.

"My goals and ambitions are always evolving. Promotion to Lieutenant Commander is the short term goal with a view to expanding my knowledge in both the operational space and the integrated logistic supply project management areas.

I see this as a long term career and with an employer like the RAN the career opportunities are many and varied. Who wouldn't love a job like this," said Lieutenant Sharp.



APPVA news from Victoria

A Letter To Politicians

Jeremy Muhling, APPVA-Victoria State Secretary, has raised the issue of Special Rate Disability Pension Safety Net Payment (SRDP) under the Military, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) of 2004. Below is a copy of the correspondence he has circulated to key politicians on this issue which no doubt affects other younger veterans.

Dear Sir,

I am writing this correspondence with regards to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) classification of 'TPI' on Departmental 'Gold' Health Cards and also with regards to the Special Rate Disability Pension Safety Net Payment (SRDP) under the Military, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) of 2004.

Also, I am writing this not only as the APPVA Victorian State Secretary, but also as a Totally & Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Veteran. I have been classified as such by Military Super (ComSuper), however, unfortunately, the DVA disagrees with this classification.

This reason for this disagreement being that my Service was rendered entirely under the MRCA and not the Veterans' Entitlements Act (VEA) of 1986.

On the 22nd of October 2009, the then-Minister for Defence Personnel, Material and Science, the Hon Greg Combet MP, announced a change in the Compulsory Retirement Age (CRA) within the Australian Defence Force; this change resulting in the new CRA increasing from the age of fifty five to age sixty.

This change (which was implemented in 2011, with respect to Military Super Pensions), has had the effect in that now **all** Military Super Class A Invalidity Pensioners are now **ineligible** to be made an offer of the SRDP, the SRDP basically being the MRCA's version of the VEA Special Rate Pension.

To quote DVA Factsheet MRC09, "*The SRDP provides an alternative form of periodic compensation (instead of incapacity payments) for people whose capacity for work has been severely restricted because of conditions due to military service on or after 1 July 2004. SRDP is not automatically granted. If you are assessed as being eligible for the SRDP, you will be offered the choice between commencing SRDP or continuing to receive incapacity payments.*"

Also, "*There are also supplementary entitlements associated with being eligible for the SRDP, even where you choose not to receive it and continue receiving incapacity payments. Once you are eligible for SRDP you will receive a Gold Repatriation Health Card embossed with the letters 'TPI' and start receiving the MRCA Supplement payment. In addition, your dependent children will be eligible for education assistance through the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS).*"

Section 199 of the MRCA which defines eligibility for the

SRDP as:

- a. *the person is receiving compensation worked out under Division 2 of Part 4 as a result of one or more service injuries or diseases;*
- b. *as a result of the injuries or diseases, the person has suffered an impairment that is likely to continue indefinitely;*
- c. *the Commission has determined under Part 2 that the person's impairment constitutes at least 50 impairment points;*
- d. *the person is unable to undertake remunerative work for more than 10 hours per week, and rehabilitation is unlikely to increase the person's capacity to undertake remunerative work*

"Compensation worked out under Division 2 of Part 4" equates to Incapacity Payments (one of the eligibility criteria to be assessed as being eligible for the SRDP).

DVA Factsheet MRC08 defines Incapacity Payments as, "*payments for economic loss due to the inability to work because of injury or disease that has been accepted as service related under the MRCA.*"

DVA Factsheet MRC09 states that, "*SRDP is compensation for both "economic" and "non-economic" loss.*"

Furthermore, whilst Incapacity Payments are classed as taxable income and cease being payable at age sixty five, the SRDP is exempt from taxation and is payable for life.

The Department also has a different view on the TPI classification with the Department stating that, "*SRDP is different to the Special Rate pension (formerly known as T&PI) under the VEA, even though the two names sound alike. While the rate of SRDP payable is aligned with the Special Rate pension, the SRDP is intended to be a safety net for only the most disadvantaged of those persons eligible to receive incapacity payments under the MRCA. It also reflects the fact that a combination of permanent impairment and incapacity payments is not available under the VEA.*"

The Department also gives another (seemingly) plausible, explanation for this statement, "*An example of a former member who could benefit by receiving SRDP is: a former part-time member with a low civilian income and no access to Commonwealth superannuation.*"

This is in fact true, to a point, but is also now blatantly discriminatory in nature to Veterans with non-VEA Service.

The implementation of the CRA changes and the resultant increases in Military Super Pensions, has had the effect that, according to the Department "your new Military Super Pension exceeds seventy five percent of your former income". This has resulted (for a former Private equivalent and therefore most probably all Ranks) in a zero dollar amount of Incapacity Payment/s entitlement from the Department. There are even some Veterans whose recalculated Incapacity Payments have resulted in those individuals owing the Department sizeable lump sums.

Therefore, if an individual is *not* in receipt of Incapacity Payments, then they are **not eligible** for an offer of SRDP to be made.

No offer of SRDP, no 'Gold' Health Card embossed with 'TPI' either.

Even if the entitled amount of SRDP payable was a zero dollar amount then the individual should still be offered the SRDP regardless. If the amount of SRDP was an amount owed to the Department, then the Department should waive this amount and the individual should still be made an offer of SRDP.

Strangely, though, if an individual is in receipt of a Military Super Class B or C Invalidity Pension (meaning that Military Super had deemed the individual has less of a degree of incapacity for remunerative work) and that individual is certified by an appropriate Doctor as unable to work, then that individual *would* be entitled to Incapacity Payments from the Department.

Therefore, under the MRCA, it is legislated (under Section 199) that should this individual meet the necessary eligibility, then this individual *must* be offered the SRDP, in writing, "as soon as practicable".

This situation clearly defies any reasonable logic, in addition to being openly discriminatory.

In closing, the changes made to the CRA has had the extremely unfortunate consequence of Younger Veterans with exclusive MRCA Service being ineligible to be offered the SRDP which then also denies the same Veterans with a Department 'Gold' Health Card embossed with 'TPI'. This 'pathway' for TPI to be embossed on the Card, under the MRCA, (although not legislated) was established by the former Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Alan Griffin MP. This 'pathway' continues to this day and has not been revoked.

To be blunt and straight to the point, Totally & Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) should reflect what it has *always* reflected under the VEA (as it should also reflect under the MRCA), in that a person is Totally and Permanently Incapacitated for remunerative work; not that this classification now "*only (applies to) the most disadvantaged of those persons eligible to receive incapacity payments under the MRCA.*"

The APPVA holds the view that those eligible for a 'TPI' embossed DVA 'Gold' Health Card (under the MRCA) should be those who have the necessary impairment rating, also that the person is unable to undertake remunerative work for more than ten hours per week and rehabilitation is unlikely to increase the person's capacity to undertake such work.

The APPVA also hold the view that Veterans who are covered under the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (SRCA) of 1988 should also be entitled to be in receipt of DVA 'Gold' Health Cards embossed with 'TPI' should they meet the necessary requirements, to *not* do so is also blatant discrimination and morally, wrong.

A view which the APPVA and surely many other Ex-Service Organisations can agree upon is neither a price nor a 'play upon words' **cannot** be put upon a Departmental 'Gold'

Health Card embossed with 'TPI' to those Veterans who rightfully deserve it.

Currently, the Department has, publicly at least, done nothing to alter this gross injustice and even callous theft of a Veteran's rightful and just entitlement.

As evidence of these changes that have been made, I have enclosed a copy of correspondence I have received from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and ComSuper (Military Super). I have removed my personal details for privacy reasons; however, I give my full permission for the Senator and his Office to use this document however the Senator may see fit.

I have also enclosed (for your convenience) DVA Factsheets MRC08 and MRC09.

If this current situation remains unchanged then, eventually, the TPI classification, will, quite simply, virtually cease to exist. It is with this in mind and also the fact that the current Federal Government simply *does not care* about this issue that the APPVA respectfully highlights this current unacceptable, even disgraceful, situation to yourself as the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

I thank you for your valuable time with regards to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

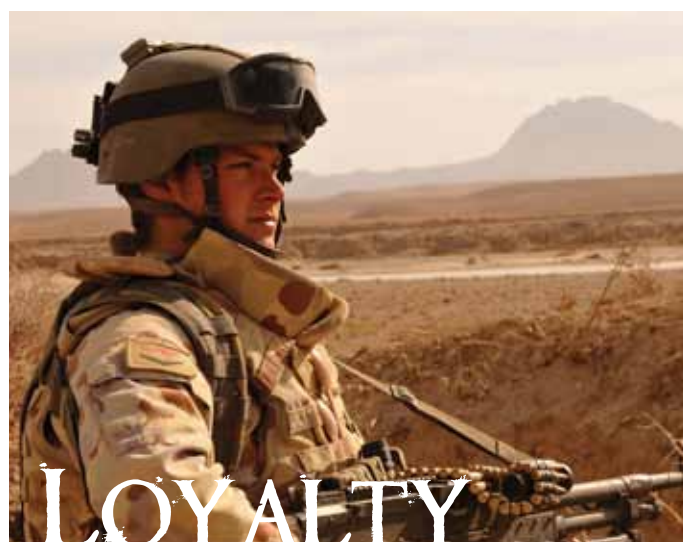
(original signed)

Jeremy Muhling

Victorian State Secretary

Enclosures: 1. Correspondence from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and ComSuper, dated 19th October 2010

2. DVA Factsheet MRC08
3. DVA Factsheet MRC09



GO ABOVE AND WAY BEYOND.

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
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www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Letter

Dear Mr Copeland

I have recently read excerpts of your association's submission "Inquiry into Recognition for Defence Forcer Personnel Who served as Peacekeepers from 1947 Onward". I discovered this document on your website whilst researching the eligibility criteria for award of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) and the Australian Service Medal (ASM), following my disappointment at the outcome of a recent personal experience with this issue.

Earlier this year, I discovered by chance that I had become entitled to receive the AASM with clasp Kuwait as a result of my service in HMAS CANBERRA on Operation Damask VI between 13 and 19 January 1993. The ship's company was originally awarded the ASM with clasp Kuwait, having served over thirty days in the area of operations conducting Maritime Interception Force Operations between November 1992 and February 1993. Upon recognition of operations undertaken by CANBERRA during the period 13 to 19 January 1993 as warlike service, entitlement to the AASM was established.

Having submitted an application for issue of the AASM and receiving a reply from the Directorate of Honours and Awards (DHA), I was dismayed to learn that having been awarded the AASM, my ASM was cancelled and that I am required to return the ASM before the AASM will be issued. I wrote to DHA seeking clarification of this 'policy', given that the ASM was awarded for having served over thirty days in the area of operations conducting Maritime Interception Force Operations, and that CANBERRA was deployed to perform a separate task over the period 13 to 19 January 1993, which has been deemed active service.

It is my contention that the ship's company of CANBERRA met the qualification criteria for each separate award, and subsequent qualification for the AASM should not annul entitlement to the ASM simply because the criteria for both awards were met during the same deployment.

I note that Part G of your submission covers the issue of dual awarding of the AASM and ASM, and would be appreciative if you could advise me whether there has been any progress toward resolving this issue. I feel quite strongly about this matter, and am keen to keep abreast of any developments.

Could you please also advise if there are any organizations or individuals to whom I might put this case. I am considering raising this issue with my State and Federal Members of Parliament, the former of whom is State Minister for Veterans Affairs and the latter being Mr Andrew Wilkie, himself an ex-serviceman.

Until recently I was unaware of the existence of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association. Although my active service was relative minor and pales in comparison to that of many others, it is comforting to know that organisations such as you are active in supporting service and ex-service men and women. Having familiarized myself with your activities and objectives, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your obvious efforts in assisting, representing and advising peacekeeper and peacemaker veterans.

Yours sincerely,

Rod Jones

COMMEMORATIVE CRICKET MATCH BETWEEN THE 2/14 LIGHTHORSE REGIMENT AND BROOKFIELD UNITED CRICKET CLUB ANZAC DAY 2012

VENUE: Brookfield Show Grounds 550 Brookfield Road Brookfield
DATE: 25TH APRIL 2012
TIME: 1400 HRS -1730 HRS
AIM: As a commemorative event to honour past and serving members of the ADF in a new and innovative way in keeping with the ANZAC tradition.
FORMAT: 20/20
ORGANISATION: Jointly between APPVA and BUCC
CONTACTS: Allan Thomas National President Appva, Mike Kay President Bucc and Rod Thompson Liaison

Contacts:
Rod Thompson 0415988015 od_yepp@hotmail.com
Allan Thomas 0432099270 president@peacekeepers.asn.au
Mike Kay 33741225 mike@goldcreekwines.com.au

Please note that all funds raised will go toward the Australian Peacekeepers Memorial Project.

APPVA news from Tasmania

The Tasmanian Branch of the APPVA held an overdue AGM on the 27th October 2011 where a new Committee was elected, which held its first meeting on the 14th December 2011.

The first challenge is that the branch and one third of the committee is geographically separated between Hobart and Launceston. The second challenge is that the current constitution requires five Committee members to be present to constitute a quorum. Pending an amendment to the constitution being made at an AGM, the Committee is now actively investigating options on how it can operate within these constraints.

The new Committee has already embarked on a campaign to increase the profile and activities of the association within the State. Letters have already been sent to the Governor, State Government, DVA, Defence and local ESOs advising of the new Committee appointments. A meeting has been arranged with the State Minister for Veterans Affairs in early March, and delegates have already been accepted by DVA for the Deputy Commissioner's and TIP Consultative Groups.

Initial liaison has also occurred with VVAA-Tas Branch, and the President has accepted an invitation to observe and talk to the VVAA-Tas Branch AGM in Burnie on the 18th of February.

The Branch has implemented a monthly electronic newsletter. As the majority of our membership have busy work, service and family lives; the idea of the newsletter is to minimise the amount of email traffic while providing useful information to members on a regular basis. The impact of this on National Committee communications is that we are not automatically on-forwarding email messages to our membership, but are consolidating them for inclusion in the newsletter. The other engagement initiative is our own Face Book page that is linked to the national one.

As part of the invigoration of APPVA-Tas, at the AGM the membership endorsed a proposal to form an affiliation with the Greater Hobart RSL Sub-Branch. The intent of the affiliation is to provide ready access to facilities, pension and welfare services. In return our younger membership is boosting the numbers and activities of the sub-branch. An MoA is currently being jointly developed to formally record the agreed arrangements. Actions already taken are that the mailing address for Branch has changed, the Committee is already meeting in the Sub-Branch facilities, and the APPVA President has been accepted as a member (Vice President) of the RSL Sub-Branch Committee.

The proposed DVA reduction in BEST funding has been addressed in Tasmania by a consortium of ESO's who have commissioned a consultant to develop a 'way ahead'



APPVA-TAS President Mike Romalis (left) with RSL Greater Hobart Sub-branch President Steve Cocker.

for the delivery of pension and welfare services across the state. APPVA-Tas was invited to join the consortium and is actively contributing to the Strategic Delivery Initiative.

The Tas Branch has only one 'support' request at this time. The request concerns DHOAS entitlements and has been referred to Paul Copeland at the national level.

The Stepping Out Program

– What is it?

A free two-day program for Australia Defence Force personnel and their partners, who are in the process of, or have recently transitioned from the military provided by VVCS –Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service.

What can the program do for you?

Attending Stepping Out gives you two full days to learn, discuss, think about and prepare for the social and emotional changes that come with leaving the ADF, for you and your family. Time out from work to attend the program is approved by the ADF.

It provides an opportunity for you to assess your skills, need for more skills, and opportunities.

It provides stress management skills.

It teaches you how to become motivated, how to prepare and plan for the future.

It provides the opportunity to meet others in the same situation and to gain insight from their experiences.

It gives you a good understanding of the control that you do have over your own future.

It helps you to identify the value of looking for support from others outside of the military and who and where those people are.

What have participants said about the Stepping Out Program?

Comments from recent participants include:

“Attending the program allowed me to get a good insight into the issues with discharge that I may not have thought about before.”

“It got me thinking about what transition would be like aside from the pay and discharge process.”

“It complimented the Defence Transition Seminars.”

“It gave me time to focus and prepare for my transition.”

How is the program run?

In small groups of no more than 15 people, with an experienced facilitator who knows the challenges facing military personnel embarking on transition into civilian life.

Where and when can you attend the program?

VVCS STEPPING OUT PROGRAM 2012		
Month	Date	Location
February	2 - 3	Revesby NSW
	27 - 28	Townsville Qld
March	5 - 6	Hobart Tas
	22 - 23	Newcastle NSW
	26 - 27	Townsville Qld
April	2 - 3	Palmerston NT
	17 - 18	Edinburgh SA
	18 - 19	Parramatta NSW
	19 - 20	Brisbane Qld
May	23 - 24	Townsville Qld
	21 - 22	Townsville Qld
June	24 - 25	Canberra ACT
	4 - 5	Adelaide SA
July	4 - 5	Palmerston NT
	4 - 5	Townsville Qld
	16 - 17	Melbourne Vic
August	19 - 20	Brisbane Qld
	26 - 27	Nowra NSW
	30 - 31	Townsville Qld
	6 - 7	Wodonga Vic
September	7 - 8	Parramatta NSW
	9 - 10	Cairns Qld
	9 - 10	Newcastle NSW
	13 - 14	Townsville Qld
October	17 - 18	Townsville Qld
	24 - 25	Hobart Tas
	27 - 28	Canberra ACT
November	18 - 19	Brisbane Qld
	29 - 30	Townsville
December	12 - 13	Townsville Qld
	19 - 20	Melbourne Vic
	29 - 30	Canberra ACT
December	5 - 6	Parramatta NSW

As at printing 2012 dates are in the following table:

For up to date information you can visit the VVCS website at www.dva.gov.au/vvcs

Contact your nearest VVCS on 1800 011 046 to register your interest in attending.



LEST WE FORGET

This quality timepiece honours a loved one who served our country courageously



From the shores of Gallipoli to the deserts of Iraq, Australia's armed forces have honoured us with courage and valour. In their fight for our freedom, these sons and daughters are never far from our thoughts or our hearts. Now you can remember the bravery of a loved one who served in a very personal and touching way – a quality timepiece which pays tribute to your gallant hero.



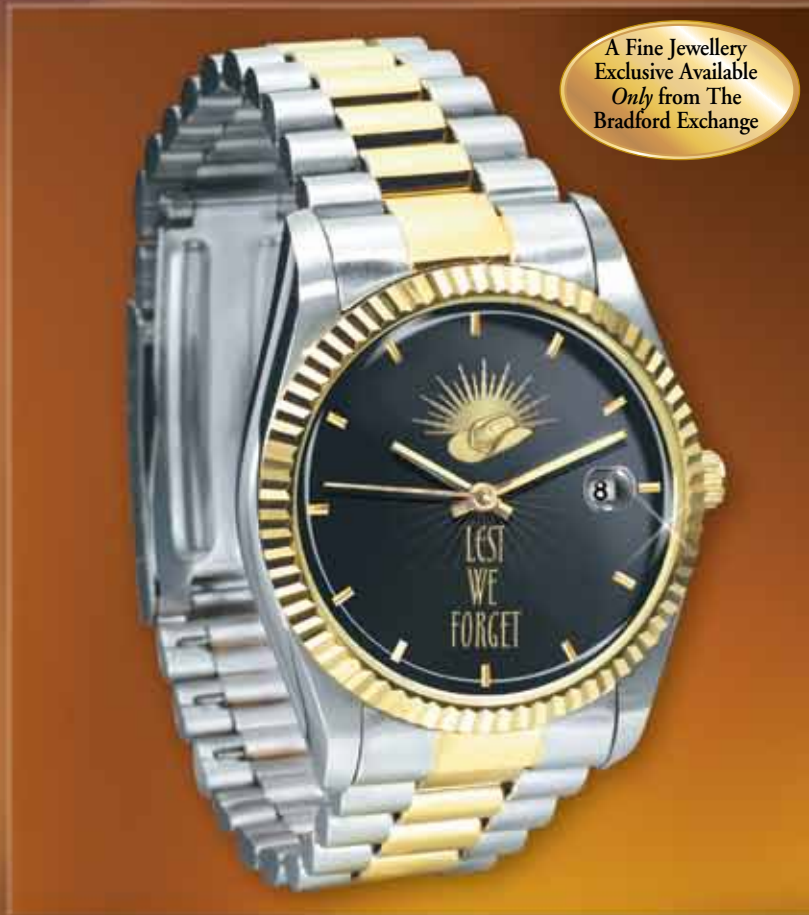
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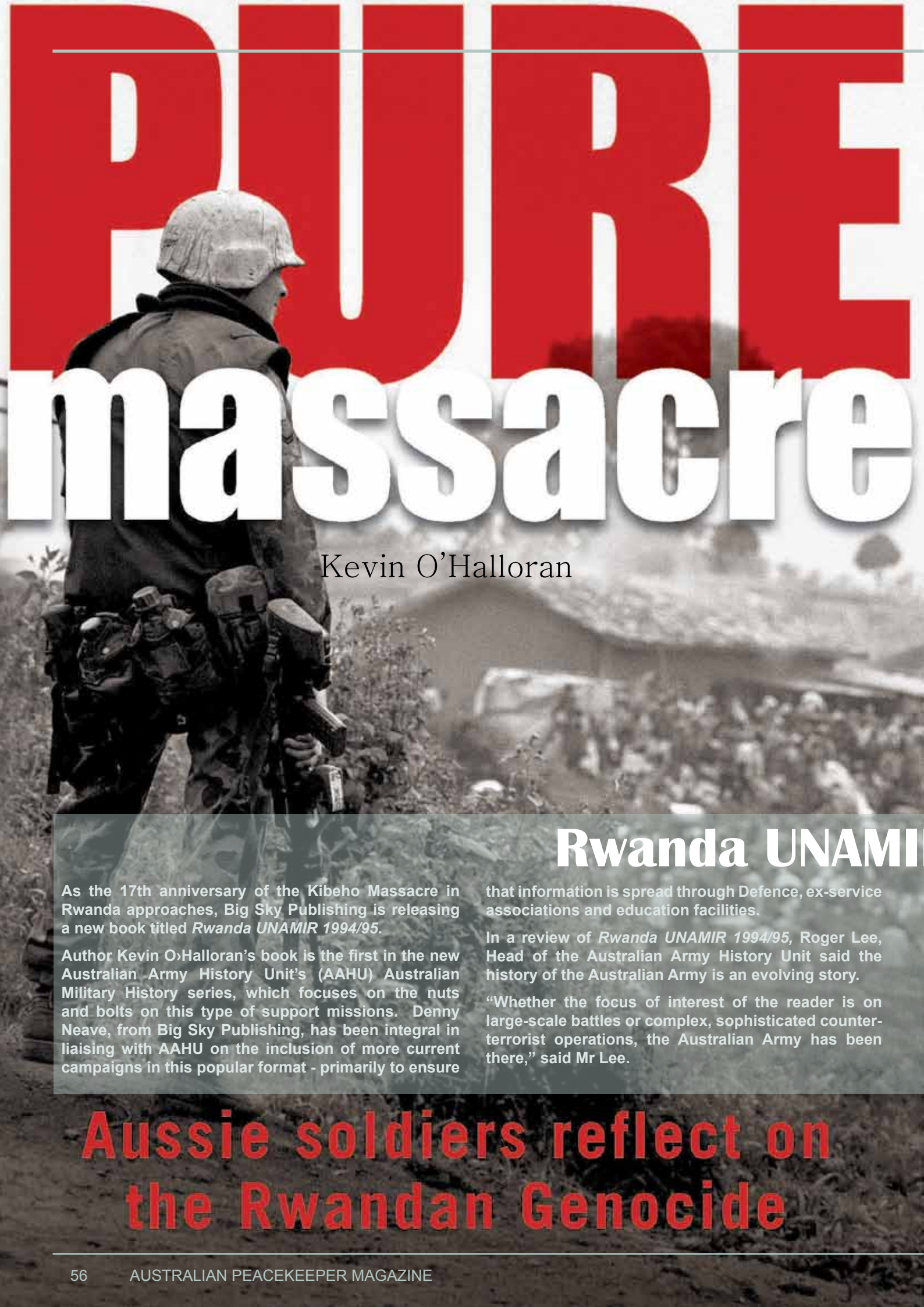
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PURPLE massacre

Kevin O'Halloran

Rwanda UNAMIR

As the 17th anniversary of the Kibeho Massacre in Rwanda approaches, Big Sky Publishing is releasing a new book titled *Rwanda UNAMIR 1994/95*.

Author Kevin O'Halloran's book is the first in the new Australian Army History Unit's (AAHU) Australian Military History series, which focuses on the nuts and bolts on this type of support missions. Denny Neave, from Big Sky Publishing, has been integral in liaising with AAHU on the inclusion of more current campaigns in this popular format - primarily to ensure

that information is spread through Defence, ex-service associations and education facilities.

In a review of *Rwanda UNAMIR 1994/95*, Roger Lee, Head of the Australian Army History Unit said the history of the Australian Army is an evolving story.

"Whether the focus of interest of the reader is on large-scale battles or complex, sophisticated counter-terrorist operations, the Australian Army has been there," said Mr Lee.

Aussie soldiers reflect on the Rwandan Genocide



RWANDA

UNAMIR 1994/95



R Remembered

“Following the establishment of the United Nations after World War II, many of the Army’s post-war deployments have been as part of UN-sponsored missions. They present some unique challenges to the soldiers involved and the Australian Government who deployed them.”

“One of the most frustrating and politically complex deployments in the Army’s history was the mission to Rwanda and so it is entirely fitting that the story of this deployment is the launch title of the new sub-set

of the Australian Army Campaign Series that focuses on this type of support mission.”

Our friends at Big Sky Publishing have provided *The Australian Peacekeeper* copies of *Rwanda UNAMIR 1994/95* and *Lost At Sea: Found At Fukushima* to give-away to readers.

Readers are invited to answer the question – who was the photographer who captured so much of the operation? Answers may be emailed to editor@peacekeepers.asn.au

Kevin O’Halloran



Additional Work Opportunities for Reservists

Are you an Active or Standby Reservist who would like to do additional Reserve work?

Are you looking for an opportunity to experience Army and the ADO outside the Reserve unit?

Army has established a program that provides additional workforce opportunities for Reservists. Administered and managed by the Active Standby Staff Group (ASSG), the program matches reservist military and civilian skills with vacancies within Army and the ADO.

There are a variety of tasks or projects that can be performed remotely or on site over short and long periods. The type of work you perform is based on your availability and choice.

Registration is quick and easy, accessible on the ASSG website: www.army.gov.au/ASSG

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Join us for a Trek in 2012 - 70th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. Visit our website www.RWBKokoda.com

Reaching the Wilderness & Beyond

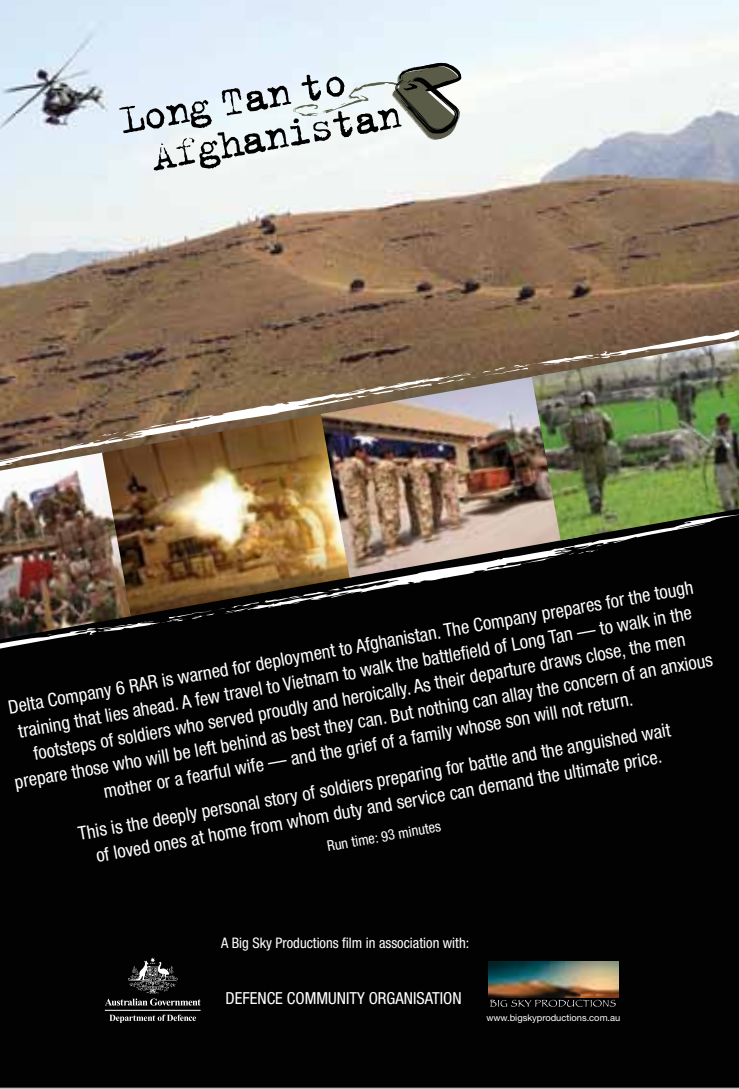
RWB Adventures PNG and RWB Adventure PNG Ltd. were founded by Bob Bulloch after completing the trek himself. After meeting and being with the people from the track over the 9 days of trekking, Bob decided to found the company with the aim of providing jobs for the people of the track especially those from villages around Owers Corner.

The Kokoda campaign first started on July 21st, 1942 with the Japanese landing on the northern side at Buna & Gona. With the many battles taking place firstly between Popondetta and Kokoda and then along the track there were many casualties who needed to be transported back to Owers Corner (Port Moresby end of the track). Unfortunately the track was so rugged and mountainous that vehicle access of any type was not possible. The people of PNG came to our troops aid and either carried or helped our wounded through atrocious conditions (in some cases days of travel) back to Uberi (a medical dressing station) and then onto Owers Corner where they were transported to nearby hospitals. These natives were dubbed 'ANGELS' by those who they helped and subsequently were known as 'FUZZY WUZZY ANGELS'. The first of these people originated from the villages of Owers Corner and Kokoda. Many of the other companies offering treks use people from the track as porters and guides but the people from the villages of Owers Corner are largely forgotten. All of RWB Adventures PNG Porters and Guides come from villages around Owers Corner. RWB's head guide Willie Anapa has 16 years experience and has guided 102 treks over the track. His brother Steven, also a RWB guide, has led 104

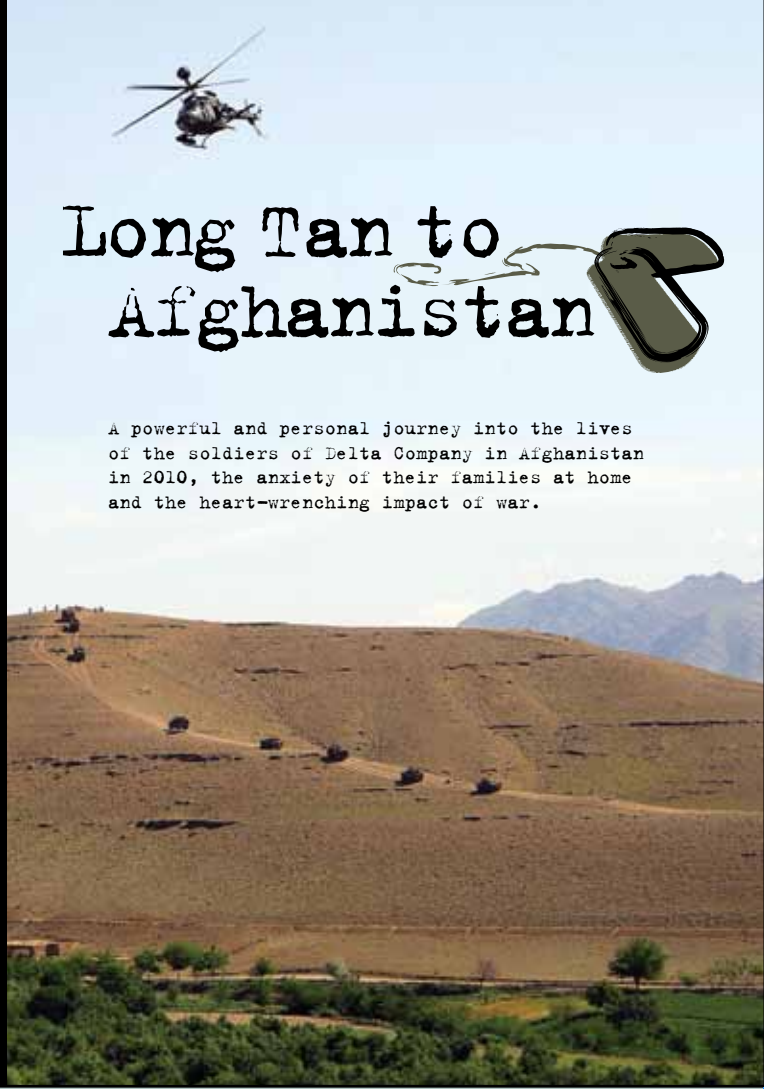
treks over the Kokoda track. All of our guides and many of our porters are First Aid trained and hold certificates. The Kokoda track is centuries old. It was originally used by natives to travel between their villages and to move from the Hinterland to the coast, often to escape inter-tribal warfare. The Kokoda Track is definitely one of the world's greatest treks with it being challenging to the mind as well as physical. The track follows World War II, wartime route of the Australian Diggers as closely as possible but a number of villages have moved to nearby locations and some in fact have been abandoned. The track winds its way over many ranges, ridges and valleys, crossing rivers and creeks and all the time that you are on the track imagining what it would have been for the men who defended Australia and Papua New Guinea from the enemy onslaught. History is very much present today as you venture through your trek you will come upon monuments, trenches and gun pits. When in the villages you will also see many relics such as mortar shells, rifle barrels and helmets. The relics have mostly been found in the jungle by locals when clearing land for new farming fields and even today relics are still being found.

RWB Adventures PNG operate a variety of treks including two EXPRESS TREKS which are run over 5 nights and 6 days. These treks are for the very fit and operate in May and August.

Join us on one of our treks in 2012, marking the 70th anniversary of the Kokoda campaign.



Long Tan to
Afghanistan






Long Tan to Afghanistan

A powerful and personal journey into the lives of the soldiers of Delta Company in Afghanistan in 2010, the anxiety of their families at home and the heart-wrenching impact of war.

Delta Company 6 RAR is warned for deployment to Afghanistan. The Company prepares for the tough training that lies ahead. A few travel to Vietnam to walk the battlefield of Long Tan — to walk in the footsteps of soldiers who served proudly and heroically. As their departure draws close, the men prepare those who will be left behind as best they can. But nothing can allay the concern of an anxious mother or a fearful wife — and the grief of a family whose son will not return.

This is the deeply personal story of soldiers preparing for battle and the anguished wait of loved ones at home from whom duty and service can demand the ultimate price.

Run time: 93 minutes

A Big Sky Productions film in association with:




Long Tan to Afghanistan

A Review by Phil Pyke

As Delta Company 6 RAR is warned for deployment to Afghanistan to form the nucleus of the Battle Group that made up Mentoring Task Force 1, the Company prepares for the tough training that lies ahead. A few travel to Vietnam to walk the battlefield of Long Tan — to walk in the footsteps of soldiers who served proudly and heroically on that day in August 1966.

As their departure draws close, the members of the Company prepare those who will be left behind as best they can. But certainly as many younger veterans can attest to, nothing can allay the concern of an anxious mother or a fearful wife — and the grief of a family whose son will not return.

Long Tan to Afghanistan is the deeply personal story of soldiers preparing for battle and the anguished wait of loved ones at home from whom duty and service can demand the ultimate price.

The documentary has been described as a powerful, insightful journey into the lives of the soldiers of ahead of their deployment, their families at home and the heart-wrenching impact of war.

The emotions of leaving, the parallels of Vietnam and Afghanistan, the trauma of losing mates as the result of battle, operating in a hostile environment and the eventual

return home as very different soldiers. It is a story that has been unequalled in recent times except perhaps by Chris Master's *A Careful War*.

There are the inevitable comparisons drawn between the battle of Long Tan in 1966 and contemporary warfare in Afghanistan through the eyes of Long Tan veterans, young soldiers, and the families who support the soldiers from back home.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon said *Long Tan to Afghanistan* gives Australians an insight into the motivations and emotions felt by our Australian Defence Force members in the lead up to deployment to Afghanistan.

"Most Australians will never know exactly what it feels like to wear an ADF uniform and prepare to enter a conflict zone, but this film gives us some insight into the challenges our serving men and women and their families face."

Michael Callan, Director General of the Defence Community Organisation that provides support services to Defence families, said the documentary examines the emotional investment of partners, family and friends.

"It also looks at how the Defence Community Organisation prepares partners and families for an operational

deployment and how it supports the families when their loved one is away.”

“This documentary is a celebration of the strength and courage of the families supporting the men and women who serve Australia’s national interests,” Mr Callan said.

Produced under a partnership between the Defence Community Organisation and Big Sky Productions, *Long Tan to Afghanistan*, narrated by Bryan Brown, is a documentary well worth seeing. The commendable work

of Denny Neave, Adam Dodd (cameraman) and the contribution of Long Tan veterans and the soldiers and families of 6 RAR brings an insight into a conflict that many Australians remain ignorant about.

Sadly the major networks will never show this documentary that is also wonderful tribute to those who never returned home and to those who did bearing injuries and scars.

Long Tan to Afghanistan is available from Big Sky Publishers at www.bigskypublishing.com.au



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- Military Heritage Art Exhibition @ Old Post Office Seymour
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AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



ABN 59 558 194 094
Heidelberg Repatriation Veterans' Centre
PO Box 5444 Heidelberg West Vic 3081
Phone: 03 9496 2353
Email: membership@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Contact Details

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr (Rank) Address

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

Date of Birth...../...../..... Country.....

Name of Parent/Partner/Child Email.....
(Complete only for Affiliate Membership)

Phone Mobile

Service Details

Missions *(Attach separate sheet if necessary)*

Service (Navy, Army, Air Force, AFP etc) Operation name..... Country.....

Service Regt Number Dates deployed to

Current / Former Rank..... Operation name..... Country

Post Nominal Date deployed to

I apply for either Full, Associate or Affiliate Membership to the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA). I agree to abide by its Constitution, rules and regulations. By signing the document, I authorise the APPVA to verify my stated Service or that of my partner or parent / child. I understand my details as supplied on this form, will be kept on record by the National Executive and my respective State or Territory Branch.

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 Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

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Black Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$38	
White Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$38	
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Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Neck: cm Chest: cm	\$40	

MERCHANDISE	QTY	COST	QTY	MERCHANDISE	QTY	COST	SUB TOTAL
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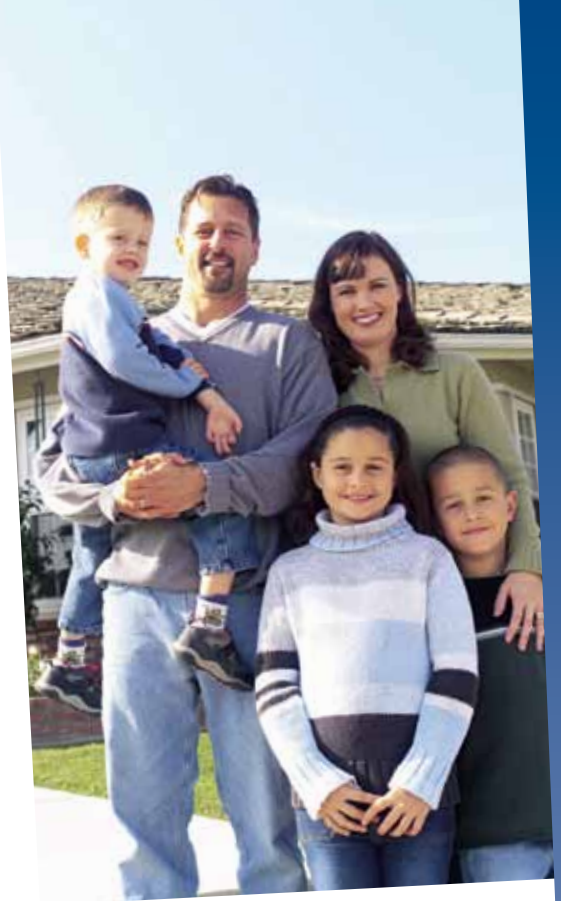


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