

Australian Peacekeeper

SUMMER 2012

MAGAZINE

**Timor
Mission
Over**

**Force
Protection
Remains High
Priority**

PLUS

**Duty First for VC Recipient
Timor Mission Over
Let us Honour Peacekeepers**

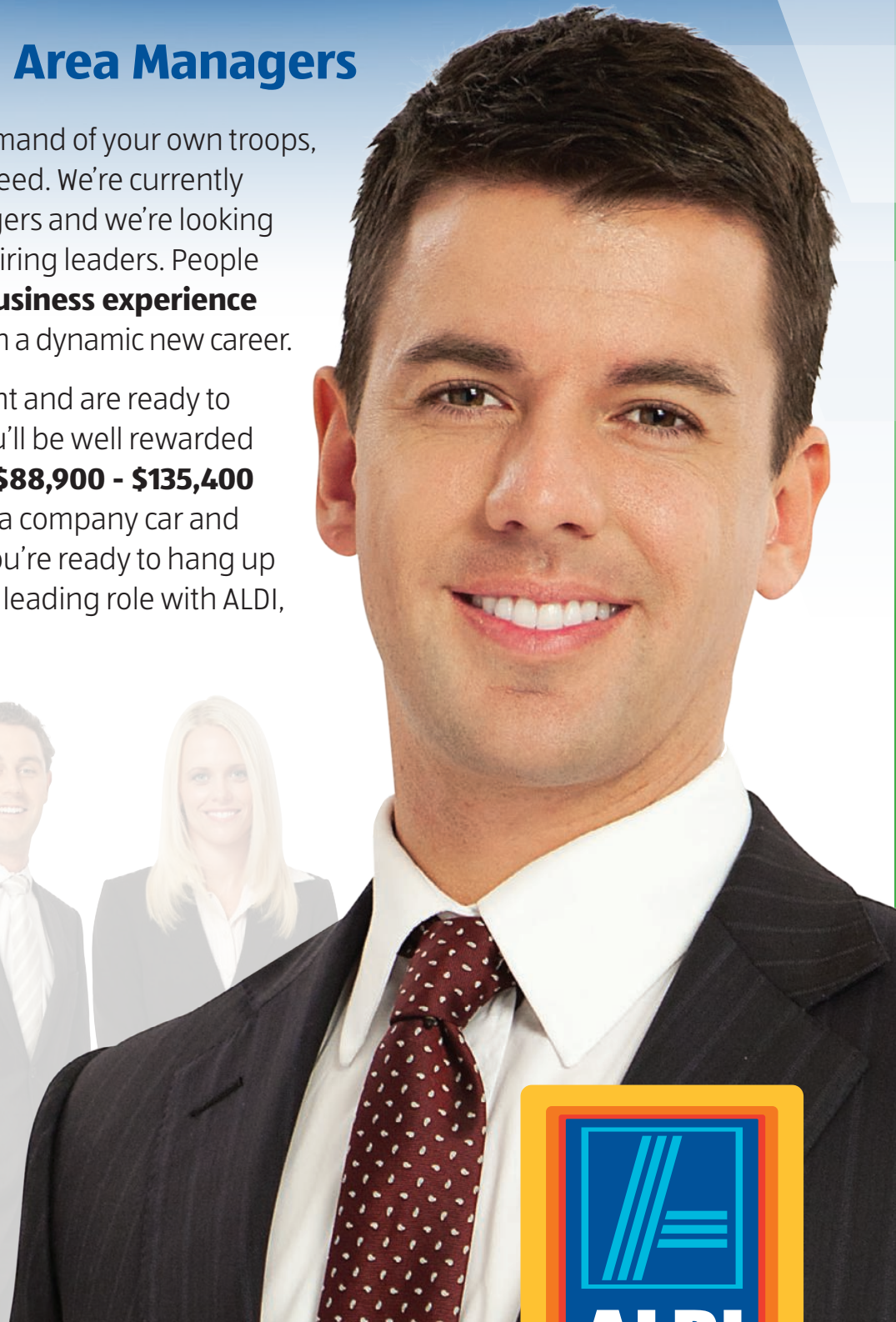


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Australian Peacekeeper MAGAZINE

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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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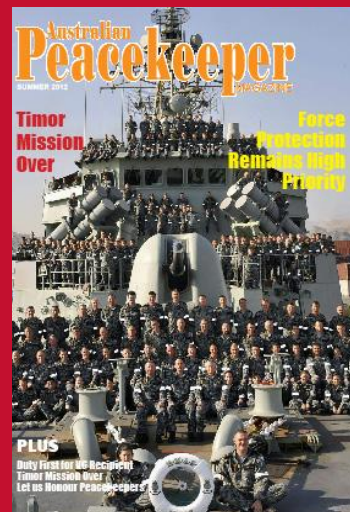
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HMAS Anzac ships company, Port Sultan Qaboos Muscat, Oman.





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From the President's Desk

The recent passing of two motions in the Senate by the Australian Greens represents a significant success for the APPVA and families of deceased peacekeepers in the quest for recognition.

Senator Penny Wright, Greens spokesperson for Veterans' Affairs, recently moved a motion in the Senate for the Government to ask the Council of the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to place the 48 peacekeepers on the Roll of Honour.

The motion was supported by the Senate and will be referred to the Government for consideration with the AWM at a later date.

Sadly, at this stage, there appears to be little consideration within the AWM Council who, after receiving a petition with nearly 20,000 signatures from Avril Clark and Sarah McCarthy, quickly voted to maintain the status quo.

The Board, which includes the three Service chiefs, don't realize how out of step the current position is. If they don't consider 20,000 signatures and the wishes of the families an indication of community feeling on this issue, one wonders why they believe that by denying this recognition, that the matter will fade away.

Media opinion, and therefore public opinion, is against the AWM Council on this issue. The speed at which they voted to maintain the status quo means no consideration was given to the issue.

In reality the broader community, the ex-service community and families believe it is a divisive position and the AWM struggles to maintain relevance with its clichéd talking points about all Rolls being equal.

Should that be the case, why were the families of those killed in Afghanistan (rightly) invited to the AWM to see the new section of the Roll of Honour unveiled recently? Yet no similar courtesy or respect is ever afforded to the families of the deceased peacekeepers – so all Rolls are not the same.

But then as author and AWM Council member Peter Fitzsimmons so clearly put it recently – “they don't win VC's.” And that sums up the attitude in Government and the AWM Council towards peacekeeping operations overall.

The New Year is fast approaching and during this year many people have worked hard within the APPVA. I'd like to take this time to thank you all for your efforts but as we head to the 2013 election, there is a need to work equally hard in the lead-up as the veteran community has been let down by this Government and there's very little change coming from the Opposition.

We are grateful for the assistance of the Australian Greens with Senator Penny Wright for supporting us on the AWM and other issues.

So for all of you – whether you are at home with your families, travelling around Australia or perhaps serving overseas on an operation, have a safe Christmas, a great New Year and I look forward to catching up with you all somewhere during 2013.

Allan Thomas
APPVA National President

From the Editor's Desk

Another year closes and another four editions of the Australian Peacekeeper have been published.

In closing off with the final 2012 edition and my final column, I want to acknowledge a unique group of individuals who often go un-noticed in the work of the ADF.

Throughout the year we access hundred of images in our search for decent stories and many of these are the world as reflected through the eyes and lenses of the Defence photographers.

This group of individuals who come from the 1st Joint Public Affairs Unit and also the Service newspapers on lesser occasions are the story-tellers. Through their imagery, they tell the story of the ADF on operations, exercises, training and ceremonial occasions.

They may find themselves out in extreme or dangerous conditions but are equally at home covering a major ceremonial parade.

There's no high level medals ever awarded to these men and women and no Meritorious Unit Citations for what is arguably the ADF's most deployed unit. Their satisfaction is telling the story of the men and women of the ADF undertaking their jobs around the country and around the world.

So as you read this edition and perhaps jump over to the Defence website to view some of the latest imagery and stories, spare a thought for the story-tellers – the ADF photographers, whose lineage goes back to the Boer War.

To all members of the APPVA and our fellow ESO's, the families and friends, our publishers at K & R Publishing, the serving members who won't be home for Christmas, I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Together with Kylie and the crew at our publishers and the APPVA team, I look forward to bringing you The Australian Peacekeeper in 2013.

Phil Pyke
Editor

Letter to the Editor of The Australian

28 November 2012

Dear Editor

We were disgusted with the behaviour of four particular senators on 28 November during a speech honouring those who have fallen in service to our country, in the Senate.

We had travelled from interstate to hear Australian Greens spokesperson on Veteran Affairs Senator Penny Wright speak in favour of acknowledging the service of peacekeepers on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial Council.

The four Senators present, talked and laughed during the speech in which Senator Wright named each peacekeeper

who has fallen in the line of duty. At one stage Senator Wright was barely audible from their noise.

We feel that the Senators responsible did not show due respect to our Peacekeepers. As a peacekeeper veteran who is permanently incapacitated from his Peacekeeping Service, and father of a peacekeeper who was killed on Peacekeeping service last year, we were deeply offended by their behaviour.

PAUL COPELAND, OAM,

Australian President, Soldiers of Peace International Association.

PETER PRIDUE

Father of Beau Pridue, peacekeeper, who was killed in Timor Leste on 15 September 2011



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BAE SYSTEMS

BAE Systems will be using the 2012 Land Warfare and MilCIS conferences to highlight some of its key solution offerings in the deployed networks domain.

BAE Systems is offering its' deployed network solutions for key ADF projects, including JP2072 Phase 2B, which will provide a new Integrated Battlefield Telecommunication Network (I-BTN), and JP2008 Phase 5B1, which will deliver a family of transportable land SATCOM terminals that will form the primary communications bearer capability for the I-BTN.

BAE Systems' deployed network solutions are underpinned by several system-level design features that have become important issues for military forces in many countries. These features include scalability, design for rapid technology insertion, and consistent and intuitive network management.

Scalability allows a system to 'flex' to changes in the size and nature of the forces it is supporting and the activities that are being conducted, and must be explicitly designed into a system. BAE System's I-BTN solution is underpinned by a 'core switch' or Point of Presence (PoP) module, common across all wide area communication nodes types. This 'common PoP' design feature means that the fundamental difference between Unit, Formation and Force level wide area communication nodes is simply the quantities of communication equipment within the node. Individual equipment can be used in any node type. Operationally, a smaller Unit Node can be augmented with additional common equipment to scale that node into a larger Formation node, and likewise a Formation Node can be scaled to form a Force Node.

Ultimately the 'common PoP' design also ensures that the ADF can reconfigure the established deployed network capability to accommodate future force structure changes, and minimise additional equipment procurements.

BAE System's solution for JP2008 Phase 5B1 utilises a SATCOM Terminal Management System (TMS) that can also scale to accommodate different quantities of terminal and concurrent modes of operation, all within a single, simple and consistent operating environment. This TMS has been developed by Australian SME Clearbox Systems with assistance from BAE Systems.

Importantly, BAE System's I-BTN and transportable land terminal systems can scale together, ensuring that 'scalability' is a harmonised feature of the entire deployed network.

Military forces are also looking for innovative approaches that will permit them to stay abreast of developments and advancements in networking technology through rapid technology insertion. BAE System's I-BTN is designed for rapid technology insertion because it 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. The equipment protection strategy ensures that COTS technology can be easily replaced in response to obsolescence, or requirements for increased performance.

Finally, BAE Systems deployed network solutions feature simplified and integrated Network Management capabilities that allow a deployed network operator to manage their I-BTN wide area communications node, including their transportable land terminals, from a single operator station.

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Fulfilling the Mission – HMAS Anzac in the Middle East



Currently deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO), HMAS *Anzac* has been involved in counter piracy and maritime security operations mainly within the Gulf of Aden and the Internationally Recognised Transit Corridor during the first three months of the deployment.

Her presence is the Royal Australian Navy's contribution to the Australian Government's continued commitment to Maritime Security Operations in the region.

Since July 2012, when *Anzac* arrived in the region, *Anzac's* boarding parties have conducted flag verification boardings and approach-and-assist visits to dhows and skiffs operating in the area.

Commander HMAS *Anzac*, Commander John Stavridis, said he was impressed with the patterns of life-data collected by the ship's Boarding Parties and their interaction with local traders and fishermen.

"This information is vital to ensuring the Combined Maritime Force is able to build up the necessary data to effectively employ assets assigned to the operation," he said.

It was perhaps an example of the high operational tempo in the region when *Anzac's* Seahawk completed 5000 flying hours includes surface search for suspect vessels, logistics support, personnel transfers to international ships and top cover for boarding operations.

Anzac has also conducted visits to Diego Garcia, Djibouti, Fujairah, the Seychelles, Muscat and Salalah as she has transited a vast operational area. The latter three ports afforded the crew some opportunity for well-earned rest.

During the visit to the Seychelles *Anzac's* ship's company conducted some much needed work at the Plaisance Home for the Elderly and Plaisance Crèche.

The ship's company painted areas of both facilities and conducted a clean-up of the grounds before enjoying the local delights supplied by the staff and parents of the crèche afterward.

Anzac's Padre, Chaplain Paul Stuart, said it was a great opportunity for the crew of *Anzac* to do something for the local community who had shown great generosity during the visit.

"It is hoped that future RAN vessels visiting the Seychelles continue with this work," Chaplain Stuart said.

Additionally *Anzac* embarked four Australian Members of Parliament in the Seychelles as part of the ADF Parliamentary Program (ADFPP): Natasha Griggs MP, Scott Buchholz MP, Mark Coulton MP and Bert Van Manen MP. The Members of Parliament spent six days on *Anzac* experiencing life at sea and gaining an insight into the Royal Australian Navy.

Anzac flew the white ensign for Australia as 20 countries participated in the first International Mine Counter Measures Exercise 12 (IMCMEX12) during September.

This exercise was conducted throughout the MEAO, with *Anzac's* participation occurring off the coast of Djibouti. *Anzac's* crew cross-decked with USS *Gunston Hall* and hosted US sailors and Djiboutian Commandos during the exercise.

More recently, *Anzac* was overflowed by the last flight of the RAAF APC-3 Orion as the contingent, based in the United Arab Emirates, prepared to return to Australia following a decade long surveillance operation in support of Operation Slipper.

HMAS *Anzac* will remain on station until early 2013 before returning to Australia for a well-earned break for her crew.



Opposite: HMAS Anzac patrols in International Waters in the Middle East Area of Operations.

Above: Commanding Officer of HMAS Anzac, Commander John Stavridis, addresses some of the ship's company.

Below: Leading Seaman Marine Technician Chad Buchan is commended for his vigilance, in identifying a potential electrical hazard, by Commanding Officer HMAS Anzac, Commander John Stavridis while operating in International Waters in the Middle East Area of Operations.



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Above: On its last operational flight before it returns home to Australia the AP-3C Orion operating in the Middle East Area of Operations passes HMAS Anzac. As a farewell gesture the Orion dispenses flares as it heads for home.

Below: Seaman Marine Technician Charles Friend is promoted to Able Seaman by (L-R) Chief Petty Officer Combat Systems Manager Peter Burnett and Lieutenant Commander Eric Young, onboard HMAS Anzac while operating in International Waters in the Middle East Area of Operations.



“Duty First” for VC Recipient

Action under fire has seen Corporal Daniel Alan Keighran VC invested as the recipient of Australia’s 99th Victoria Cross by Governor-General Quentin Bryce during a ceremony at Government House, Canberra.

His citation reads: “For the most conspicuous acts of gallantry and extreme devotion to duty in action in circumstances of great peril at Derapet, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, as part of the Mentoring Task Force One on Operation SLIPPER” on 24 August 2010.

At the time, Corporal Keighran was a member of the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, deployed to Afghanistan with Mentoring Task Force One.

He is only the third recipient of the Victoria Cross for Australia, which in 1991 replaced the British or Imperial Victoria Cross awarded to 96 Australians and the first member of the Royal Australian Regiment to receive the country’s highest military honour.

Corporal Keighran said he was surprised and honoured to receive the award.

“This is a very unexpected and humbling experience and I don’t think it has really sunk in yet,” he said.

“I am very proud of the boys from Delta Company, 6 RAR and how they performed that day. This award is as much for their efforts as it is for mine.

“I would also like to acknowledge my family, friends and especially my wife Kathryn. They have been very supportive throughout my service and deployments and I would like to recognise and thank them.”

The Chief of the Defence Force, General David Hurley, congratulated Corporal Daniel Keighran, VC on being awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia.

“Corporal Keighran acted with exceptional clarity and composure that spread to those soldiers around him, giving them confidence to operate effectively in an extremely stressful and dangerous situation,” General Hurley said.

“His actions identified and suppressed enemy firing points and turned the fight in our favour.

“Corporal Keighran joins an esteemed group of Australians revered for their courage in combat. The official citation will show that “his valour is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force,” but perhaps the greatest honour comes from one of his comrades who said ‘I would fight to serve with Corporal Dan Keighran in the future’.”

The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, commented on the enduring humility, dedication and mateship demonstrated by Corporal Keighran.

“Corporal Keighran has shown tremendous humility and has continually recognised that his actions were undertaken as part of a team,” Lieutenant General Morrison said.

“His dedication to his mates and to the operation saw him repeatedly put himself in harm’s way that day. He

epitomises ‘Duty First’, the motto of the Royal Australian Regiment.

“The valour of his actions and those of the other members of his patrol, are exemplars of the very best in Australian soldiering,” Lieutenant General Morrison said.

Australian Army Awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia Corporal Daniel Alan Keighran, VC Citation

For the most conspicuous acts of gallantry and extreme devotion to duty in action in circumstances of great peril at Derapet, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan as part of the Mentoring Task Force One on Operation SLIPPER.

Corporal Keighran deployed to Afghanistan in February 2010 with the 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. On 24 August 2010 he was a member of a partnered fighting patrol with soldiers of the Afghan National Army’s 1st Kandak, 4th Brigade, 205th (Hero) Corps which was engaged by a numerically superior and coordinated enemy attack from multiple firing points in three separate locations. The attack was initiated by a high volume of sustained and accurate machine-gun and small-arms fire which pinned down the combined Australian and Afghan patrol and caused a loss of momentum.

In the early stages of the attack, and upon realising that the forward elements of the patrol needed effective fire support, Corporal Keighran and another patrol member moved under sustained and accurate enemy fire to an exposed ridgeline to identify enemy locations and direct the return fire of both Australian and Afghan machine guns.

On reaching this position and with complete disregard for his own wellbeing, Corporal Keighran deliberately drew enemy fire by leaving the limited cover he had and moved over the ridgeline in order to positively identify targets for the machine gunners of the combined patrol. After identifying some of the enemy firing positions, Corporal Keighran, under persistent enemy fire continued to lead and mentor his team and move around the ridge to both direct the fire of the Afghan and Australian machine gunners and to move them to more effective firing positions.

As the intensity of enemy fire grew, Corporal Keighran returned to the crest of the ridgeline to identify targets and adjust the fire of Australian Light Armoured vehicles. His actions resulted in the effective suppression of enemy firing points, which assisted in turning the fight in the favour of the combined patrol. Moving to a new position, Corporal Keighran deliberately and repeatedly again

Opposite top: Corporal Daniel Keighran, VC with his wife Kathryn.

Opposite below: Corporal Keighran outside Patrol Base Anar Joy, Tangi Valley, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, as he prepares to go on patrol (2010)



exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to assist in target identification and the marking of the forward line of troops for fire support elements whilst simultaneously engaging the enemy.

Realising that the new position provided a better location for the patrol's joint fire controller, Corporal Keighran moved over 100 metres across exposed parts of the ridgeline, attracting a high volume of accurate enemy fire, to locate and move the fire controller to the new position. He then rose from cover again to expose his position on four successive occasions, each movement drawing more intense fire than the last in order to assist in the identification of a further three enemy firing points that were subsequently engaged by fire support elements.

During one of these occasions, when his patrol sustained an Australian casualty, Corporal Keighran with complete

disregard for his own safety, left his position of cover on the ridgeline to deliberately draw fire away from the team treating the casualty. Corporal Keighran remained exposed and under heavy fire while traversing the ridgeline, in order to direct suppressing fire and then assist in the clearance of the landing zone to enable evacuation of the casualty.

Corporal Keighran's acts of the most conspicuous gallantry to repeatedly expose himself to accurate and intense enemy fire, thereby placing himself in grave danger, ultimately enabled the identification and suppression of enemy firing positions by both Australian and Afghan fire support elements. These deliberate acts of exceptional courage in circumstances of great peril were instrumental in permitting the withdrawal of the combined Australian and Afghan patrol with no further casualties. His valour is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

International Forum on Veterans' Affairs

Four Ministers with Veterans' Affairs portfolios from across the globe joined together in Canberra in mid-November to discuss issues affecting servicemen and women, particularly current serving men and women.

Represented at the table were the Coalition countries of Australia, the United States, Canada and New Zealand.

Each Minister acknowledged their country's fundamentally shared values and commitment to honour the men and women who serve in the respective defence forces.

Achieving a seamless transition from military to civilian life is a challenge facing younger veterans from all countries. However, it was agreed that cooperation between the Defence and Veterans' Affairs portfolios was key to achieving successful transition. They also acknowledged the impact of service on serving members, veterans and their families.

There was broad recognition that the demand on veterans' administrations will continue to grow as the result of recent and current operational experiences in the areas of healthcare, compensation and support to families.

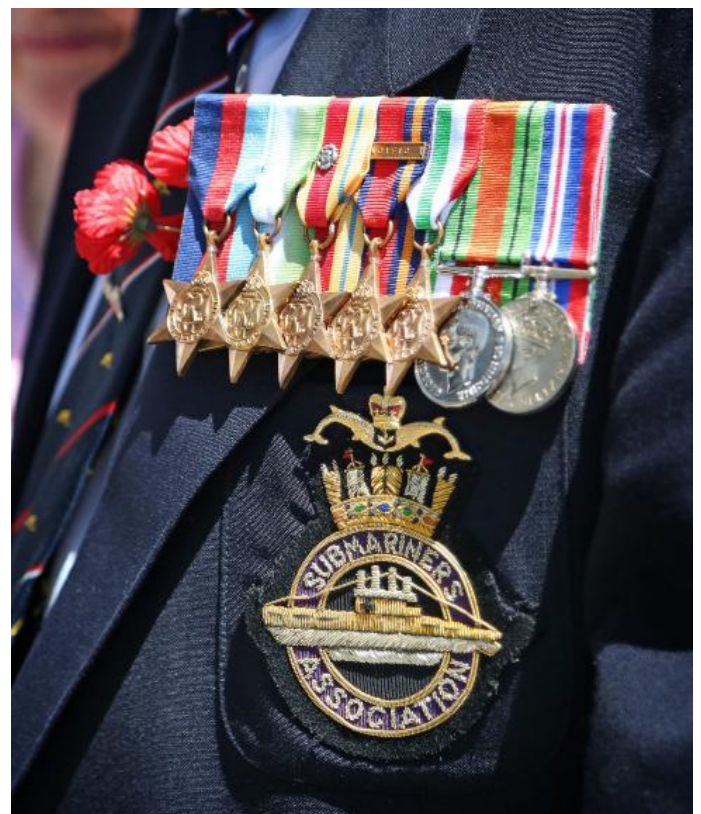
Foreseeing physical and mental health issues caused by multiple deployments, and providing a strategic approach to addressing them, is a challenge but one that needs to be informed and enriched by research. Working together to anticipate the impacts of deployment on the individual, serving members and their families will be vital to meeting their needs in the future.

The Ministers agreed to explore and share research in the following areas:

- developing a common vocabulary and terminology in mental health research and common approaches to research in this field;
- female health issues and the impact of combat on their health;

- the effects of environmental exposures informed by ongoing, longitudinal research; and
- gaps in the understanding of neuroscience, in particular in traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

As an outcome of the meeting, the four Veterans' Affairs Ministers committed to continuing to explore solutions to contemporary and newly emerging problems caused by modern combat environments in order to best serve the current and next generation of veterans and their families.



Progressing Policing in Afghanistan



Left: Afghan Army and Police officers role-play interview techniques during a course delivered by the Australian Federal Police and Australian Army at Multi National Base - Tarin Kot.

Below: Australian Federal Police Sergeant Annette Outtrim teaches a class on interview skills to Afghan Army and Police officers at Multi National Base - Tarin Kot.

A whole of Government effort is assisting Afghan members of national and local police in gaining skills in crime scene examination and interview.

Key to the success of this effort is the provincial reconstruction team (PRT). These have been established from an identified need to stabilise the operating environment by developing the infrastructure and building capacity necessary for the Afghan people to succeed in a post-conflict environment.

The Government of Afghanistan is combating an insurgency while simultaneously rebuilding its infrastructure to become a strong sovereign state no longer requiring assistance

from Coalition nations and the PRT's (sponsored by all Coalition nations) play a vital role in this capacity building across the country.

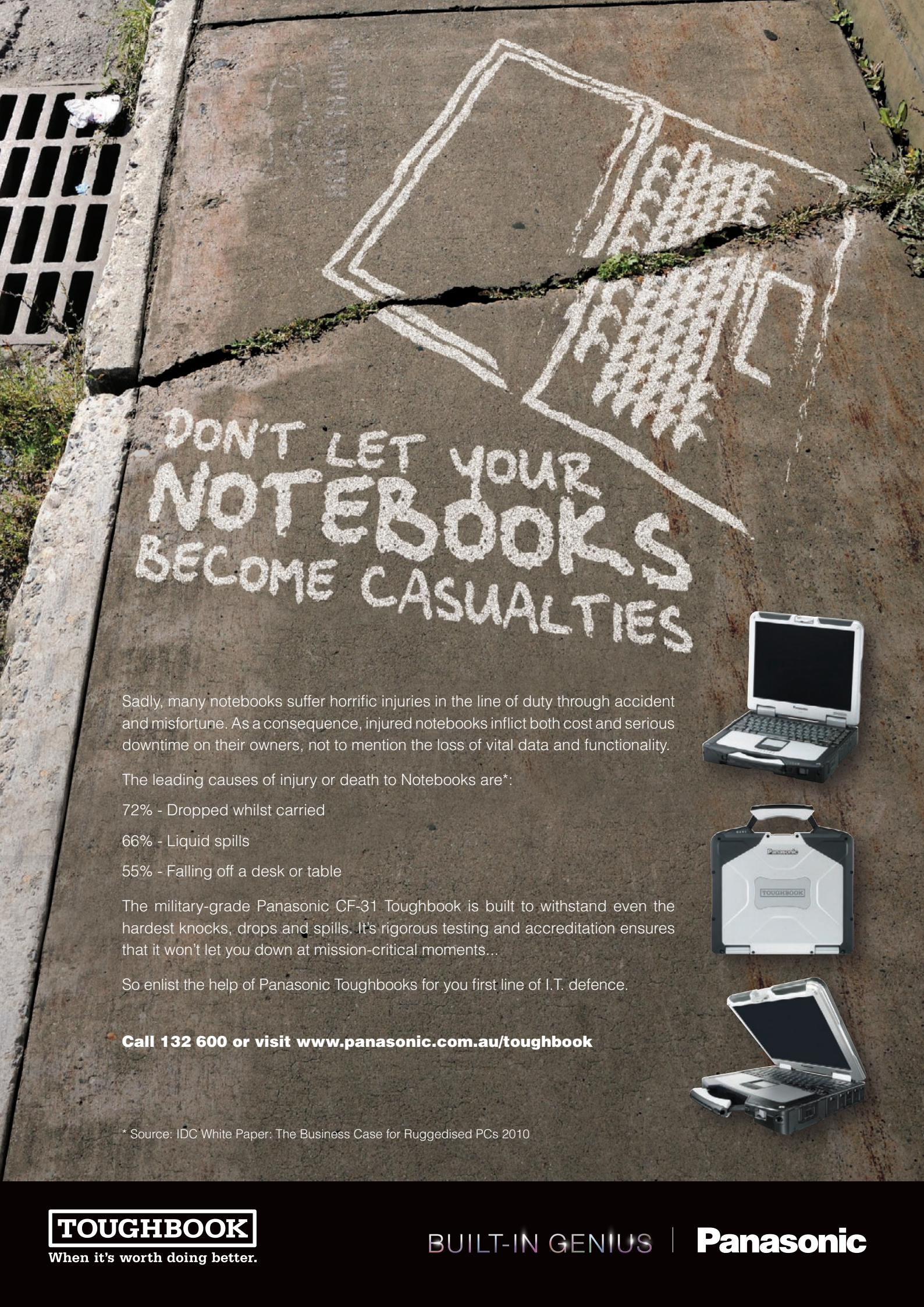
In October, Australian Federal Police, Army officers from the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group and Australian Military Police officers

taught interview techniques to Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army officers during a course held in at Multi National Base - Tarin Kot.

Good interview techniques are essential to the security forces developing robust evidence briefs used in the prosecution of criminals.

The training, the first of its kind in Uruzgan province, is part of a dedicated effort between the Government of Afghanistan and the International Security Assistance Force to improve evidence based operations and professionalise the security forces.





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Above: Sergeant Stephen Dietzer, Sergeant Ian Dale, Major Andrew Olechnowicz, Craftsman Anthony Quinsee and Sergeant David Langley rehearse late at night inside the 3RAR Task Group Workshop at Multi National Base - Tarin Kot. American and Australian Service personnel with a musical bent have formed an impromptu musical group to provide Thursday night entertainment for the troops at a recreational venue known as the 'Windmill'. Australian talent joined the group from the 3RAR Task Group when Workshop Troop's Sergeant David Langley and Craftsman Anthony Quinsee, both keen guitarists, chanced to turn up on a Thursday night.





A Tongan member of the Catafalque Party Rests on Arms.

Members of the Combined Task Force 635 (CTF635) deployed to the Solomon Islands in support of Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands (RAMSI) took time out to acknowledge Remembrance Day at a fitting service in the CTF635 base just outside Honiara. The Task Force, made up of Australian, New Zealand, Tongan and Papua New Guinean personnel, came together with various distinguished guests and the Participating Police Forces at the base chapel to remember the end of WWI and those who had died bringing peace to the Pacific nation.



Lone Mechanic Offers New Lease of Life

Craftsman Tom Cotton, 22, from Wynnum in Brisbane, QLD, is a Vehicle Mechanic at Forward Operating Base Hadrian serving with the 3 RAR Task Group.

As the lone Army mechanic at Forward Operating Base Hadrian in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan Tom is keeping the fleet on the road.

He loves being his own boss and is proud of the fact that he is maintaining the fleet of Bushmasters, ASLAV's, up armoured Unimog's and Mack trucks that service the base.

While this entails very long hours of skilled labour, in between repairing and servicing the fleet, he indulges in another passion - restoring worn out motorcycles located at the base. It presents a challenge that sharpens his skills but also gives the motorcycles a new lease of life for coalition and Afghan National Security Force to use

Force Protection Remains High Priority

A device designed to measure the impact of blasts will assist combat medics in treating injured soldiers.

Known as blast gauges, the roll-out of these high tech devices will see 10,000 issued to troops over the next 12 months.

The blast gauges measure the impact of blasts, particularly from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), displaying a yellow, green or red light to indicate the level of pressure from a blast.

The gauges will help medics in Afghanistan treat injured soldiers by detecting and capturing data from blasts that will then be used to guide treatment.

“The trial will enable medics to access data to immediately assess the effects of blast pressure and acceleration from an IED or other explosion on a soldier,” the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Mr Snowdon said.

“We all know the injuries footballers and boxers get from a big hit. Being hit by the blast of a bomb is much worse.”

“Bomb blasts can put enormous force and pressure on the brain. These devices measure that and help our medics treat our soldiers who have been hit.”

The new blast gauges are being rolled out by the Army’s Diggerworks Team, which is responsible for developing

combat soldier capability and are similar to the United States Marine Corps’ Gruntworks.

Three blast gauges will be worn by soldiers – on the outside of their helmet, on their non-firing shoulder and on their chest. The gauges are designed to withstand tough weather conditions and weigh less than 29g each.

The blast gauge technology has been developed by the United States Defence Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and it is here Minister Snowdon first saw this technology when he visited DARPA in 2011.

United States troops in Afghanistan are also trialling these gauges – and have collected information from more than 250 blasts to date.

“This is part of making sure we continue to apply world class technology to our Defence Force, giving health professionals the latest technology to treat brain injuries resulting from a blast,” Mr Snowdon said.

According to the Minister, over \$1 billion in equipment has been committed to protect troops in Afghanistan, including;

- new combat body armour,
- upgraded Bushmaster vehicles,
- enhanced mine and IED detection equipment,
- the CRAM counter rocket, artillery and mortar system,
- Maximi machine guns and a new combat uniform.



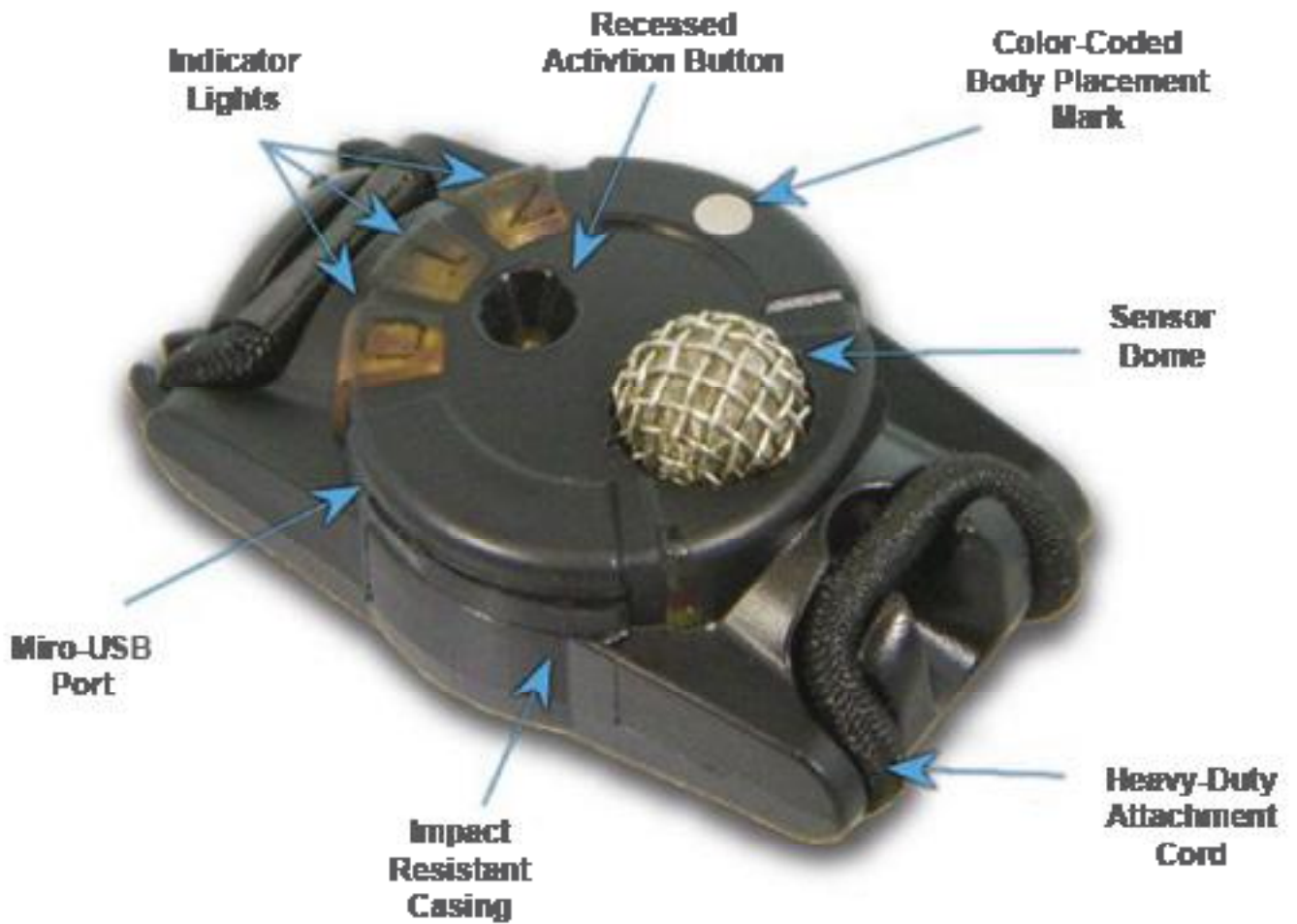


Above: Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowden and LT Gary Fintelman, Army Diggerworks Engineer at the announcement of the rollout of Blast Gauges to Australian forces in Afghanistan. The blast gauges measure the intensity of overpressure and acceleration which ADF personnel may be exposed to in the event of an explosion. The equipment allows for rapid assessment of potential internal and brain injuries which may have been inflicted in a blast.



Left: The Counter-Rocket Artillery and Mortar (CRAM) early detection radar at Multinational Base Tarin Kot, Afghanistan. The Australian Defence Force has assumed responsibility for early detection against rocket, artillery and mortar attack at the Multi-National Base Tarin Kot, Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, using a network of Giraffe Agile Multi Beam radar and the light weight counter mortar radars, which provide coverage out to 25 kilometres. The safety and force protection has significantly improved for Defence members in Uruzgan.

Opposite page: Private Van Stappen fires a 7.62mm Maximi Machine Gun at the Heavy Weapons Range (HWR) in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan



Below: Gunner Scott Perry checks the Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR).





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Marathon around Afghanistan



More than 6000 Victorian runners and 130 troops in Afghanistan had something in common on Sunday 14 October 2012 - all participating in the Melbourne Marathon, but on very different courses.

The idea came to fruition when Royal Australian Air Force Physical Training Instructor Sergeant Cassandra Fien, who is based in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan, spoke to Melbourne Marathon organisers about running a joint event. Sergeant Fien, a regular participant in the Melbourne Marathon when she is back home, had the idea that deployed personnel

could wear actual Melbourne Marathon race numbers but run it on a separate course in Afghanistan. The attraction for many was an opportunity to run in a big event and to raise money for a good cause – in this case for acquired brain injury and cancer awareness charities.

The troops did have the option to get off a little lighter distance-wise than their Melbourne compatriots, with the choice of running a half marathon or even a 5 km stint. Personnel from Australia, United States and Singapore at Multi National Base Tarin Kot participated in the event.




Above: Anne Cumpston from Combined Team Uruzgan runs in the marathon while a Slovakian Army soldier provides security on the track.

Right: Sergeant Cassandra Fein announces the start to the marathon as the competitors set their watches and prepare to run the Melbourne Marathon.



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Bringing Awareness to Invisible Wounds

A new series of online videos aims to bring more awareness of the mental health issues faced by some of our current and ex-serving members of the Defence Force, following active service.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, said the videos offer an insight into the experiences of veterans and current sailors, soldiers, airmen and women, and their families post deployment.

"The pace of military operations has increased considerably over the past decade and we have seen some of the impact of this increase, along with the multiple deployments some members of the Defence Force undertake," he said.

"This impact is not only felt by those who served, but also their family and friends."

The series of videos feature current servicemen and women, veterans and family members, including an Afghan war widow, sharing their experiences in dealing with issues from depression through to anxiety and loneliness.

"I hope this series starts a discussion among the current and ex-serving communities on subjects that can be a

sensitive topic amongst these groups. We want to reduce the stigma that is associated with seeking help, and talking openly to others about any problems you may be experiencing.

"Reaching out to others is not a sign of weakness, there are other people out there going through the same thing you are. The message out of all this is that help is out there, and help can make a difference," Mr Snowdon said.

The videos, produced by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), were launched today by Mr Snowdon at the 2012 Ministerial Summit for Veterans' Administration being held in Canberra.

Delegates from Canada, New Zealand and the United States attended the summit to discuss several topics, with support and care for veterans, and servicemen and women high on the agenda.

The videos are available for viewing online at the DVA YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/DVAAus or via the DVA Facebook page www.facebook.com/DVAAUS

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Coalition efforts keep piracy down but trade routes still at risk

The Director of Combined Maritime Forces in the Gulf region says coalition efforts have led to a fall in piracy attacks against merchant shipping and local fishing dhows but the risk to trade remains high.

The International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre reported just one attempted attack by Somali pirates from July 2012 to September 2012, compared with 36 incidents in the same three-month period last year.

Speaking from CMF's Headquarters in Bahrain, RAN Captain Bruce Legge said that whilst the figures are encouraging, it does not signal an end to piracy nor a dramatic improvement to maritime security in the region.

"Our area of responsibility here stretches across a challenging 2.5 million square kilometers – an area about the size of mainland Australia," CAPT Legge said. "

"The decrease in piracy is due in a large part to the ongoing coordinated efforts of the CMF counter-piracy Taskforce 151, with the Task Forces from the EUNAVFOR and NATO."

"The RAN always has a frigate in the region conducting maritime security patrols – right now that frigate is HMAS Anzac."

"However, local factors also played a part in the IMB reported statistics, including an increased awareness of piracy by the merchant ships and fishing vessels and the Southwest monsoon period which prevents pirates getting off the beach in Somalia."

"Nonetheless, the encouraging fact is that we are not seeing a dramatic upsurge in piracy now that the monsoon season has ended."

Whilst unrest and lack of Governance in Somalia has been widely attributed to providing the conditions necessary to perpetuate the sort of maritime piracy where ships are held for ransoms, in recent months there has been a change in the Presidency and Government which is seeking to rectify the instability of the nation.

There has been a significant growth in international shipping and container traffic in recent years. The Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean in general are critical to global trade. It is said that over 23,000 ships per year passage through the Gulf of Aden, either going to or from the Suez Canal.

"As our Chief of Navy has recently stated, the Indian Ocean is critical to the end-to-end global trading system on which Australia depends," CAPT Legge said.

"Whether ships come through the Gulf of Aden, the Suez Canal or through the Strait of Hormuz - the goods or material they carry might not be bound for Australia, but, they are almost certainly bound for one of our major trading partners."

In December, the RAN will assume Command of Combined Task Force 150, focusing on Maritime Security Operations

(MSO), ensuring that the lawful and stable maritime environment is free from terrorism, smuggling and other illegal activities.

Story courtesy of Royal Australian Navy



Top: Captain Bruce Legge, Director of Operations Combined Maritime Forces in the Middle East

Above: Members of CTF151 intercept suspected pirate vessel

Let us honour peacekeepers

GERALDINE DOOGUE

The Australian October 02, 2012

LAST week when Julia Gillard addressed the UN General Assembly and pitched for a seat at the Security Council, she said that Australia merited consideration based on the record of its peacekeepers.

It is gratifying to hear the Prime Minister praising our peacekeepers, but what the friends, family and colleagues of fallen peacekeepers want is a monument. Believe it or not, there isn't one.

Back in 2004, when I accepted the invitation to be the civilian patron for a memorial for peacekeepers, I honestly thought it was a bit of a no-brainer: that this was such a manifestly good cause our work would be done and dusted in three years, max.

I thought the memorial would simply speak for itself: that the work of our 66,000 peacekeepers (military, federal police and civilians, especially public servants) needed to be named and honoured in Parade in Canberra, alongside all the other Australian forces' commitments through the years. Well, it hasn't quite turned out that way.

When I suggested that, in his next book, Peter Fitzsimons might like to lionise the marvellous but largely unsung work of Australia's peacekeepers, considering that they're celebrating 65 venerable years of service, he said "Nah, it wouldn't sell enough copies."

Then, seeing my face fall, he explained. "Look, they don't win VCs!" he barked, more in sorrow than glee, I must add.

No, thus far, none has. The work is typically full of the painstaking negotiations and compromises that come with working in states rife with civil conflict, poverty and chronic fear, and this can bring a sort of disabling fatalism that "things will never change". Not a familiar emotion in can-do Australia, I'm happy to say.

But that's what our peacekeepers have to work with, carefully, patiently, intelligently. General Peter Cosgrove enthralled a Sydney Institute audience some years back with tales from his experiences in East Timor. He spoke of the "great aptitude" Australians had for peacekeeping, a yen to get things done; the ability of young personnel to take highly creative and fateful decisions on their own; the clear readiness to strike up and maintain close relationships with people from the local culture, always with an eye to what was sustainable, to what mattered to them, in their community.

And remember, these are mostly conflicts (these days, especially, with the nature of modern peacekeeping) with intrastate chronic hostilities -- conflicts that are, strictly speaking, not ours.

But we all have a stake in peace -- that vital interest -- by reaping a yield from living among functioning states. Our peacekeepers must try to explicitly define what a functioning society might look like on local cultural terms

-- spell it out, then teach and mentor often exhausted communities to try to live it daily.

How magnificent! No wonder so many of us feel so proud of this type of utterly constructive work, that taps the very best of our young men and women.

So I hope the Prime Minister's words kick-start more curiosity about the men and women, drawn from such wide varieties of Australian life, who have found such purpose, often such a surprising sense of achievement, from developing the complex skills of nurturing peace.

In her message to the recent dinner celebration for the 65th anniversary of peacekeeping, Gillard spoke of the "enduring motivation" of Australian peacekeepers to help bring peace by "restoring hope to societies ravaged by conflict and violence".

Plus we do it so well. One has to be careful throwing around stories about national temperamental styles. But there is considerable evidence that our habits and emphases do convert into an ideal suite of skills as peacekeepers and builders.

Yet little of this seems to have found its way into the national psyche. We haven't developed those characters around peacekeeping that add to our stories of nationhood: no Simpson and his donkey, no Weary Dunlop, no Vivian Bullwinkel.

And many of the peacekeepers I've met don't evangelise about their deeds: neither are they encouraged to by their superiors -- which particularly vexes me, I have to say, as a member of the media.

Is our peacekeeping one of Australia's best-kept secrets, I wonder? We were first on the scene in the transition from the Dutch to the Indonesian republic back in 1947 and we are still at work.

Maybe it's because it is hard work too, not overly glorious, that it remains under the radar somewhat. During a recent visit to Britain, I stumbled on one of those slightly quaint English country public meetings where the public speaker just happened to be Field Marshal Richard Vincent, who had been Chief of Defence staff in 1991-92.

After a fascinating overview of his time in this lofty position, question time arrived and I took the opportunity to ask how he'd characterise the differences between being a soldier in a shooting war and one operating as a peacekeeper. He heard my accent and his eyes widened in surprise at hearing an Australian sitting in this very English gathering, in the middle of beautiful Winchester.

So he immediately commended the Australian peacekeepers he'd worked beside, then added: "Oh, it's harder work, more demanding. You are more hemmed in by regulation than in normal settings." He had found himself consulting lawyers as much as his military strategists as to how he should proceed, he said. It had clearly been very demanding to this able man.

So no, maybe these ventures don't get immortalised in the books of, say, Peter Fitz or Paul Ham or Les Carlyon, though there are two good histories from Peter Londey and David Horner.

Maybe our peacekeeping won't inspire the poets. But I believe that our peacekeeping tradition is genuinely noble and should be honoured, particularly with a memorial in Canberra where friends, relatives, fellow peacekeepers and the public can go for comfort and inspiration: for in the

honouring, we as a nation may be articulating important qualities to prize in ourselves and in the worlds we're seeking to build.

Geraldine Doogue is the host of ABC Radio National's Saturday Extra and is civilian patron of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project.

Used with acknowledgement to The Australian 02 October 2012



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Helicopter Cowling Reminder of Sacrifice

The parents of Private Benjamin Chuck, who was killed in Afghanistan in June 2011, met with the Chief of Joint Operations Lieutenant General Ash Power, and the helicopter cowling that was presented to the Australian War Memorial on November 11. During a small ceremony on Remembrance Day, the Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Ash Power, presented the Australian War Memorial with an engine cowling from a coalition helicopter that crashed in Southern Afghanistan on 21 June 2010. Quick-thinking military personnel had used the engine cowling as an improvised stretcher to extract the wounded from the crash site.

Despite aero-medical evacuation and the heroic efforts by all involved in the incident, three Australian Commandos, Private Benjamin Chuck, Private Timothy Aplin and Private Scott Palmer from the Special Operations Task Group were killed as a result of the crash, and eight others were wounded.

Several relatives of those killed, as well as representatives from the Army, attended the ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

Lieutenant General Power said the engine cowling could serve as a reminder for all Australians of the valour and sacrifice of their fellow countrymen.

"The significance of the remnant lies not only in representing the terrible loss of life that day, but also reflects the heroic efforts of the rescue personnel to transport the wounded, eventually allowing for their return home," Lieutenant General Power said.

The makeshift stretcher hung in the hospital trauma area in the ISAF Role 3 Medical Centre at Kandahar as a memorial to those who lost their lives and as a token of recognition to the health staff involved in resuscitation efforts on that fateful day.

It is expected that the cowling will go on display at the Australian War Memorial.



The parents of Private Benjamin Chuck, Gordon and Susan Chuck, with the Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Ash Power, and the helicopter cowling that was presented to the Australian War Memorial on 11 November.

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Above: Padre Collin Acton holds a service for El Alamein veterans at the Al Minhad Air Base memorial during their recent visit to Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates.

Below: Current Air Force members Flight Sergeant Colin Renton and Sergeant Ross Tindale talk with retired Air Force El Alamein veteran Mr Keith Hansen during his recent visit to Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates.

70 Year Gap Bridged

A seven decade gap was bridged when Australian Second World War veterans recently visited an Australian Defence Force base in the Middle East to meet current serving younger veterans.

Members based in the Middle East Area of Operations under Operation Slipper at Al Minhad Air Base (AMAB) in the United Arab Emirates were pleased to meet with the twenty-one veterans who had recently commemorated 70 years at El Alamein in Egypt.

The WWII veterans paid respects to those who had given

their lives in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2002 with a service at the Memorial in the grounds of the base.

Later they were treated to a lunch at the mess, enjoying the time with the current serving men and women who are of the same age group many of the older veterans were during WWII.

In turn, the younger veterans at AMAB felt proud to meet these men and women who helped defeat the Germans and Italians in North Africa in 1942, which culminated in the Battle of El Alamein.



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 \$5,000 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!





The US Ambassador to Australia, The Hon. Jeffrey Bleich, the Chief of the Air Force Air Marshal Geoff Brown, the Minister for Defence Materiel, Jason Clare, and the President and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space and Security Mr Dennis Muilenburg, standing in front of the Wedgetail aircraft at the Fairbairn Defence Establishment, Canberra

New Advanced Air Battle-Space Capability for RAAF

Australia has been provided with the most advanced air battle-space management capabilities in the world as the Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) Wedgetail aircraft achieves Initial Operational Capability,

The achievement follows close collaboration between the Royal Australian Air Force, the Defence Materiel Organisation, Boeing and their subcontractors.

The Wedgetail aircraft can fly 10,000 metres above the earth's surface and maintain surveillance over a surface area of 400,000 square kilometres at any given time. Over a 10-hour mission the Wedgetail can cover over 4 million square kilometres.

Since 2011 Wedgetail has participated in Exercise

Bersama Lima in Malaysia, Exercise Cope North Guam, Exercise Bersama Shield, Exercise Red Flag, Alaska and most recently Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC).

The project was approved in 2000 with a budget of \$3.45 billion to procure six 737-700 commercial aircraft which were then fitted with an advanced multi-role electronically scanned radar and 10 mission crew consoles.

Initial Operational Capability is the minimum standard required by Defence to operate the fleet and takes into account not only the aircraft itself, but also logistics, sustainment, as well as training of aircrews, ground crews and technical support staff.

Kirsty and Alex at Visual Expanse offer you the best in Military items that you could ever wish for! They cover all Arms of Service with Replica and new Militaria items available instore or online for you. From a Rising Sun to a RAAF Squadron Badge to a RAN Submariners Badge, and not to forget our Merchant Navy, a Red Ensign badge or two.



But as they say, that's just the tip of the iceberg...the girls proudly hand make with all possible care the most exquisite Military Honour frames in the country. Using the finest suede boards to match your Arm of Service and the highest quality badges and replica medals we can create for you the ultimate memorabilia piece for you, or your relatives, proud service. All periods are covered and we have created pieces from the Sudan War right up to today's conflicts. Each piece is individually tailored to your needs, we don't just offer three or four tightly constrained frame types, and we allow you to choose exactly what you want. And they have the highest quality replica medals in the country.

Worried about how the medals will be mounted in the frame? Or if the girls can create a set for you to wear with pride on Anzac day, or display in a beautiful medal case every day????? Well, between them they not only have close to 20 years in the field, but their medal mounting skills have been praised country wide. The highest quality is all that ever leaves the shop, and this is shown by the Mudgee RSL endorsing their skills. What better praise can you get? The girls were also chosen to mount medals to be presented to the families of fallen soldiers from the Afghanistan conflict and commissioned by RMC Duntroon to construct their 100th Anniversary Military Frame. Their skills are second to none.

As members of the Professional Picture Framers Association (international) and being Professional Medal Mounters you know your Military Honour Frame will be your most prized possession. Check out our website for a taste of what we offer, have a look at our Facebook page and 'like' our works, come instore and see for yourself. Whichever way you choose, you will be impressed.



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Girls perform better at single-sex schools

Girls who attend a single-sex school will perform better in science and mathematics than their cohorts in co-educational facilities, according to research conducted by British academic, Alice Sullivan. Sullivan also concluded, "women who had attended single-sex schools were more likely than co-educated women to gain their highest qualification by age 33 in a male-dominated field" (Sullivan, Joshi & Leonard, 2010, p. 25). Sullivan concluded, "this confirms the view that single-sex environments can actually reduce the tendency of students to behave according to gender-typical stereotypes or norms".

"Put simply, girls in single-sex environments are not afraid to test scientific waters," St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School Principal Karen Spiller said.

"Fewer than 10 percent of engineers in Australia are women however, St Aidan's is bucking this trend. We are putting our time and money into programs designed to get our girls interested in pursuing a career in maths or science.

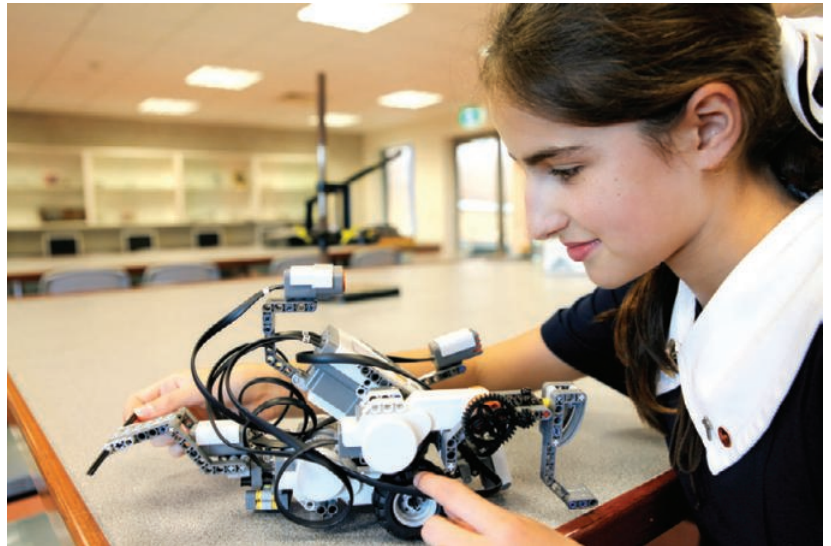
"For example, the School's national and international reputation in science and engineering is bolstered through continued student participation in the annual Australian Space Design Competition. The team from St Aidan's this year scooped first place for the third time. Three St Aidan's students represented

Australia at the International Space Settlement Design Competition in the United States in August."

Mrs Spiller invites Defence Force personnel who are relocating their families to Amberley to visit

St Aidan's and meet with her and support staff.

"The team at St Aidan's will be only too happy to show you the incredible facilities we have on offer to educate your girls," she said.



St Aidan's confidence to *explore* from Kindy to Year 12

FACT: Girls who attend all-girls' schools are more than six times as likely to earn degrees in maths and science subjects.

St Aidan's endeavours to create a stimulating and positive learning environment and a focus on striving to achieve.

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War memorial council's problem is 'warlike'

ROSS EASTGATE | November 23rd, 2012

Used with Acknowledgement to the Townsville Bulletin

ANALYSIS: INCLUDING the names of peacekeeper casualties on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour should be a no-brainer.

AWM Council chair and RSL national president Rear Admiral Ken Doolan announced last week the council had decided not to include peacekeepers' names "for the time being".

Under current rules, a deceased member of the Australian Defence Force can be included on the Roll of Honour if the person died during or as an immediate result of service classified as warlike by the Department of Defence.

That excludes most post-World War II peacekeeping and humanitarian missions, but not all.

Defence bureaucrats seem to have great difficulty actually defining what is warlike service.

Attempts by peacekeeping veterans to have particular periods of service recognised as warlike have been constantly frustrated by contradictory decisions by the relevant Defence decision makers, particularly the Defence Honours and Awards Review Tribunal.

Affected veterans have little faith in DHART's thoroughness or impartiality.

Current DHART member Professor David Horner recently indicated a personal if not academic bias about other people's military service when he stated: "Everybody wants a medal. Everybody wants to be recognised. Every child gets a prize."

Prof Horner seemed to think it was the Anzac's fault.

"Gallipoli was one of our most significant military campaigns," he said.

"Now everybody wants to be an Anzac."

No, but peacekeepers whose service is apparently considered second class by people like Horner simply want their service to be recognised fairly and equally.

Some peacekeepers have had their service reclassified.

A recent example was then Defence Minister John Faulkner's 2010 decision to recognise some service with the UN Truce Supervision Organisation in the Middle East in 2006 as warlike.

UNTSO was formed in 1948 with the first Australian observers arriving in 1956.

UNTSO personnel have been in the thick of every major and minor campaign in which Israel has engaged.

As recent events demonstrated, regional tensions can suddenly escalate.

During a particularly tense period in South Lebanon in 2006, Major Matina Jewell was injured in a vehicle accident

returning from Patrol Base Khiam.

PB Khiam was destroyed after Major Jewell's departure by a targeted Israeli air strike and her erstwhile UNTSO team-mates killed.

Major Matina Jewell and three other Australians who served in Lebanon in a 33-day period between July and August 2006 later had their service upgraded to warlike.

Australian observers have regularly experienced similar or worse situations during UNTSO service.

In 1988 Captain Peter McCarthy was killed in South Lebanon when his vehicle hit a landmine.

He was Australia's first peacekeeping fatality.

Because Defence doesn't routinely consider service in UNTSO at this or any other time as warlike, McCarthy's name is excluded from the Roll of Honour.

To be fair to Admiral Doolan, this and other matters will be considered by the AWM council early next year.

Peacekeepers and others don't expect their service to be regarded in the same league as the Anzac's, they simply want it to be treated fairly and equitably.

After all, equal service deserves equal recognition.

Ross Eastgate is a military historian, writer and journalist specialising in Defence. A graduate of Duntroon and the Army Command and Staff College, he served in the Middle East, PNG and East Timor.

No Lower Standards In Defence Health

Commander Joint Health and ADF Surgeon-General, Rear Admiral Robyn Walker, has hit back at media suggestions the new health contract will provide a lower standard of service.

"The story "Health cuts hit military" published (in News Ltd) on Wednesday 17 October 2012 contains a number of misleading and incorrect statements," said Rear Admiral Walker in a recent letter.

"Defence's highest priority is the health and well being of its people. Without fit and healthy personnel, the ADF could not continue to succeed on operations."

In June 2012, Defence entered into a \$1.3 billion, four-year contract with Medibank Health Solutions to provide health care services to ADF personnel across Australia.

"The claim that the new contract represents "an assault on military entitlements" is simply wrong. Under this contract there will be no reduction in health care entitlements to ADF members."

Rear Admiral Walker said the New Ltd story claims that military personnel will receive lower standards of care under the contract was wrong.

"Our servicemen and women will continue to receive the highest quality of health care services. Importantly, Defence's contract with Medibank Health Solutions contains monitoring and quality assurance measures to make sure our people get top quality and timely care."

The assertion that service personnel will not have a choice of medical specialists is also incorrect. The contract makes provision for a choice of providers where feasible noting there are some geographically isolated areas where there are limited health providers.

According to Defence, the contractor Medibank is continuing to engage specialist medical providers with the contract terms between Medibank and those specialists being a commercial matter.

“Defence has entered into the contract with Medibank Health Solutions for two important reasons, to ensure our people receive high quality medical care, while at the same time ensuring prudent use of taxpayers’ money,” Rear Admiral Walker said.

Honour Distinction for 17 Construction Squadron

Australia’s first Honour Distinction is to be awarded to the 17 Construction Squadron for their work in Namibia 1989 – 1990 under UNTAG.

In a recent letter, Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, outlined how the Australian Army has a system of theatre and battle honours to recognise service by Arms Corps units in combat and combat related roles.

“Until recently, there was no provision for such recognition of outstanding service in dangerous operations short of war,” Lt General Morrison wrote.

The Army Battle Honours Committee recognises that the Army now fights in ways different from the past, having amended the battle and theatre honours system to provide for the recognition of outstanding service in operations other than declared theatres of war.

After careful review, the Battle Honours Committee determined that 17 Construction Squadron had performed a role well beyond that for which they deployed.

The Honour is the first awarded since Vietnam and the first Honour Distinction under the new criteria. The citation reads:

17 Construction Squadron is awarded the Honour Distinction Namibia 1989 -1990 in recognition of its creditable performance in support of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group operation to manage the transition of Namibia to independence in 1990. Despite being deployed to provide engineering support, when the ceasefire broke down at the start of the mission, members of the Squadron helped establish Assembly Points, which enable the mission to continue. This activity was conducted in the face of hostility from elements of the former colonial power and personal danger arising from the breakdown of the cease fire.

Later, 17 Construction Squadron became involved in the election process itself, providing security, transport and logistic support to election officials, monitors, other UN personnel, voters and polling stations. Members

of 17 Construction Squadron ensured that as much as possible the election was able to proceed without interruption or interference and ensured all parties were free from intimidation or duress. With the selfless support of individuals from other units of the Australian Defence Force, 17 Construction Squadron played a key role in the smooth and effective transition of Namibia from colonial rule to independence. The Squadron performed a role well beyond what was expected and bought great credit on itself, the Australian Army and Australia.

Lt. General Morrison identified the Honour Award as “... a significant occasion for the Australian Army and it is a public acknowledgement of outstanding performance.”

The Honour Award will be presented to 17 Construction Squadron by Her Excellency, The Governor General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, in a ceremony on International Peacekeepers Day 29th of May 2013.

Proposed Cambodia/ UNTAC Gathering

Canberra on Saturday May 25, 2013

In May 1993, despite threats from the Khmer Rouge, over 4 million Cambodians (about 90% of eligible voters) participated in elections, the first after the devastating reign of Pol Pot and occupation by the Vietnamese. A democratically elected government was installed which, despite some serious stumbles along the way, holds to this day.

The elections occurred more than a year after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords (23 October 1991) and the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 745 (adopted 28 February 1992). Under the banner of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) there is probably little doubt they could have occurred without the intensive support provided by the international community through UNTAC, Non-Government Organizations (NGO) and diplomatic missions.

Australia played a key role in this process. From those involved with the Paris Peace Accord to UNTAC, military, NGO and diplomatic personnel, hundreds (if not thousands) of Australians spent time in Cambodia in the 1992-93 period. Twenty years on, democracy holds and the professional and social ties of Aussies who lived and worked intensively together during that period live on in many ways.

Proposal: To mark the occasion of this 20-year Anniversary we are proposing a gathering in Canberra of those who lived, worked and served in Cambodia during the 1992-93 (UNTAC) period. The proposed occasion will revolve around a dinner at Royal Military College Duntroon on Saturday May 25 2013. Other social gatherings will be organised also depending on numbers and interest.

We propose to make this a fundraising event for a Cambodian charity (to be nominated) and the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project.

Request: If you think you might be interested in attending

please reply to one or all of us (as listed below) with your name and email address and we'll keep you informed on details. To get a 'gauge' on the levels of interest we ask for your non-committal reply as soon as possible.

Importantly, please also forward this invitation to anyone you know who was involved in Cambodia during this period or, send us names and any contact details you have and we'll endeavor to try and get in touch with them. Please also feel free to convey suggestions or ideas to us about what this weekend might involve, potential sponsors, charitable beneficiaries or anything else that comes to mind.

Lisa Studdert (formerly of Australian Mission) - lisastuddert@gmail.com

Bill Mason (formerly of NGO Catholic Relief Services, Australia) - wfmason@home.com.au

Peter Daniel (formerly of UNTAC and still of Australian Army) - peter.daniel@defence.gov.au

Are you financially prepared

Not only are financially savvy Defence families better able to create long-term wealth, they are better able to cope with disruptions to normal life, such as deployments. Defence members receive briefings on these topics at career stages and at Force Preparation by the ADF Financial Services Consumer Council (the Council). Here are some tips will help ensure that your family has its financial affairs squared away.

Budgeting

Having a budget is essential to taking control of your finances. Simply go to the Council's website and use the interactive ADF Online Budget Planner.

www.adfconsumer.gov.au

Insurance, compensation and superannuation

In order to determine if you need extra personal insurance, you must understand your existing benefits and entitlements. ADF members should contact ComSuper—see the website below—for detailed information, and spouses should speak to their superannuation funds and other insurers. www.militarysuper.gov.au

The Council's website also contains information about personal insurance policies available to Defence members which do not contain restrictions such as War Zone exclusions.

Bank accounts

Make sure your next of kin knows where details of your bank accounts are kept. Carefully consider making your spouse, partner or someone else you trust a signatory on your accounts, or giving them online access to a joint account, so that living expenses can be met while you're away.

Credit cards and bills

Some Defence members have run into trouble with their credit cards while they've been on deployment, because they haven't made arrangements for the bills to be paid.

In some cases, this has meant Defence members have received a bad credit rating, which makes it extremely difficult to obtain future credit cards, mortgages and other loans.

Taxation

The Australian Tax Office has produced a guide for ADF members, so draw this to the attention of your Registered Tax Agent. When completing tax returns, make sure all your claims are legitimate and you have appropriate documentary evidence.

Wills

Some Defence members may have an invalid will. Usually this is because the member has not updated the will on the occurrence of a major life event, such as marriage, which may invalidate a will in place before the marriage. See the article on page 34 for more information.

Powers of attorney

You must absolutely trust a person before giving them an enduring or general power of attorney. If you do grant a power of attorney to your spouse or partner, keep a list of those organisations which have been given copies of the document so that they can be easily notified in the event that the power is to be changed or cancelled. For more information about wills and powers of attorney, watch the film Protecting Your Assets—the Legal Issues on the Council's website.

Financial advice—what is it?

Do you need it? If so, how do you find an adviser that is going to meet your needs? What lessons can you learn from the experience of other Defence families? To understand all about finding good financial advice, watch the short film Financial Advisers—the Facts and the Fiction on the Council's website.

More information

Contact the Council by email or check out the website.

Email: ADF.ConsumerCouncil@defence.gov.au

www.adfconsumer.gov.au

Personal Insurance for ADF Members

Version – May 2012

Check whether this version of the Force Preparation Checklist and Personal Insurance information is current at www.adfconsumer.gov.au

Defence looks after ADF members and their families through the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Scheme, and through death and invalidity benefits contained in the Military Superannuation schemes. These are your statutory entitlements. Most ADF members have found that their statutory entitlements are adequate to meet their needs.

For ADF members, insurance provides optional extra cover for those people who depend on you financially should you die or become disabled. Insurance should be considered as part of your life's financial planning, and not just at deployment time. Some ADF members have decided

that, due to their particular circumstances, they require extra cover. A good way of working out whether you need extra personal insurance is to have a look at what you would be entitled to under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Scheme and your Military Superannuation scheme (websites listed on the checklist), and then work out what your dependants would need, each year, to maintain their current lifestyle. If there is a gap, you might want to consider additional insurance.

You should make sure that whichever personal insurance policy you have, it is valid in a war zone or in war-like activity. These are called 'war exclusions', but can apply more widely than just in war. Even if you are applying for a new insurance policy that does not contain these exclusions, the insurance company might not agree to accept you because of the nature of your ADF duties.

Where you own an existing policy that you purchased PRIOR to receiving formal notice of deployment, the insurance company may continue to cover you even if your policy contains a war exclusion. However, it is strongly recommended, first, that you should DISCLOSE to the insurer that you are being deployed AND secondly, that you receive WRITTEN CONFIRMATION from the insurer (before you leave) that cover will continue while you are away. Otherwise the insurer may deny cover to you and your family when you need it most.

The Australian Government Actuary has advised Defence that Asteron offers a life insurance policy called Term Life that does not contain war exclusions or other related acceptance restrictions. However, to be effective, the policy must be purchased PRIOR to formal notice of deployment. Defence Health can advise you about this Asteron policy T: 1800 335 425.

The Chartis (formerly known as AIG) insurance policy known as the 'Services Security Plan,' 'Injury & Accident Insurance' and 'Services Accident Insurance' was previously available to ADF members. Chartis made a commercial decision to discontinue this policy, so it is now not available to new applicants. However, Chartis has advised that if you are already a policyholder, you will be eligible to keep the policy until August 2012.

The Australian Government Actuary has advised Defence that Chartis has released a new personal injury and accidental death policy called D-Pax under which an option exists for ADF members to purchase limited 'high risk location cover.' Chartis can advise you about this policy T: 1300 030 886.

The Zurich life insurance policy known as Ezicover Term Life was previously available to ADF members through Navy Health. Navy Health has advised Defence that Zurich has made a commercial decision to discontinue availability of this policy to ADF members. However, the Zurich Ezicover Term Life product is guaranteed renewable, meaning that if you are already a policyholder, coverage will continue as long as you continue to pay the premium.

The above information must not be treated as personal advice. You should consider your specific needs and think about consulting an insurance company or a licensed financial adviser of your choice prior to deployment.



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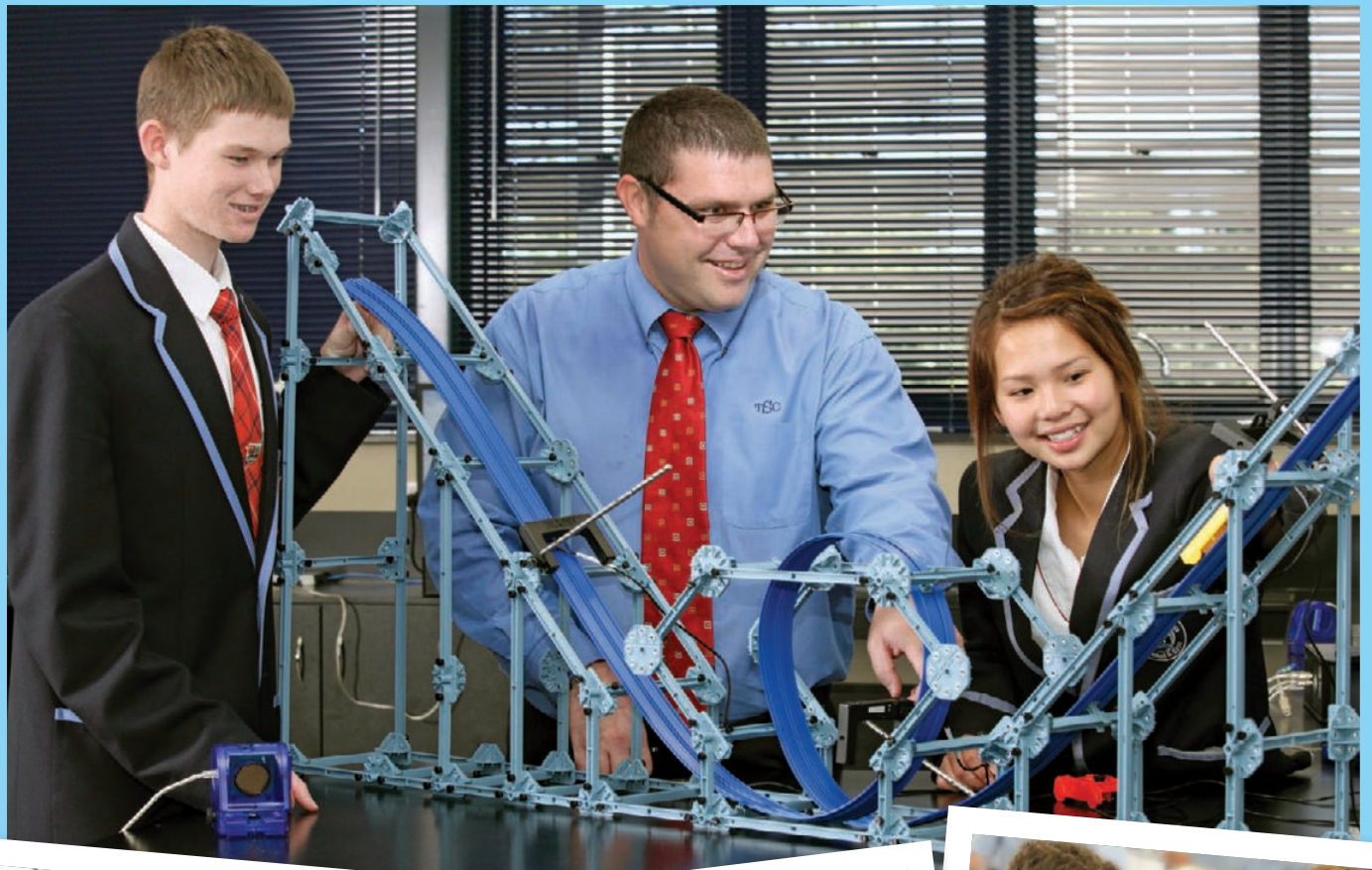
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A Track Record of Achievement and Success

O'Loughlin Catholic College has commenced its 25th year – its Silver Jubilee.

The College opened as a Junior Secondary School in 1987 with 90 students and 10 staff. In 2011 student enrolment topped 500 and the professional staff comprised 50. During the intervening 25 years, O'Loughlin has evolved and grown almost beyond recognition.

The College has earned an enviable reputation for the quality of its programs, innovative approaches and pastoral care of students. Indeed, O'Loughlin Catholic College was the inaugural winner of the National Middle Years of Schooling Association Award for Curriculum Innovation.

Senior students are able to complete their NTCEET via a traditional pattern of SACE subjects, by undertaking an integrated program of Vocational Training and SACE options, or by opting for the Vocational Training and Work Ready Program.

An extensive range of co-curricular activities adds richness to College life. Programs such as the Senior Arts Excursion to the National Gallery, the Odyssey, the World Challenge Program, the New Zealand Ski Trip, the Senior Surfing Excursion to Port Macquarie, and the World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Spain are vital in supporting and supplementing the learning experience of our students.

In the area of technology, the College has implemented its Second Generation

ICT Strategic Plan. College Servers, Wireless Technology, Fibre-Optic Cabling and Switching Devices have all been upgraded. Software Resources have been expanded, and an additional 150 computers have been installed to provide students unprecedented access to a rich range of ICT Resources.

Over recent years the College has also completed a major initiative to extend and upgrade its Physical Resources. Nine new classrooms have been completed; Science Laboratories have been re-designed and re-built; the Home Economics Area has been upgraded; older classrooms have been re-furnished; fencing and security have been upgraded; the Canteen has been extended and refurbished; a



new change room, shower and toilet facility has been built; and, older ablution facilities have been re-built.

What has not changed over time is our commitment to the principles on which the College was founded.

We remain committed to excellence in student achievement because this opens doors to employment, further training and study opportunities. We remain committed to developing

in our students a sense of human dignity, an appreciation for life, and an aspiration to live life ethically with love, with compassion and with resilience.

We are proud of our students and their achievements and we look forward with excitement and anticipation to celebrating our Silver Jubilee Year.



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Timor Mission Over



Company after receiving Timor-Leste Solidarity Medals during a parade at Fatu Hada (F-FDTL Headquarters), Dili, East Timor in a ceremony held in Dili on 3rd Sept 2012.

Australian troops deployed with the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in East Timor have been awarded the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal by the Government of Timor-Leste since 2006.

More than 240 Australian personnel on Operation ASTUTE comprising personnel from Anzac Company, the Combat Service Support Team and Force Communications Element 6 were awarded the medal at a ceremony at the F-FDTL Headquarters.

For thirteen years Australia has had a military, police and Government presence in Timor Leste.

From the initial deployment to assist the country to independence following a vote by the Timorese in 1999 to re-deploying in 2006 when the country again erupted into violence – the mission for Australia is finally over

Defence Minister Stephen Smith and Foreign Minister Bob Carr recently announced the end of Australia's security operations in Timor-Leste.

The Australian-led International Stabilisation Force (ISF) ceased security operations on 22 November and commenced withdrawal from Timor-Leste.

The ISF, made up of Australian and New Zealand forces, has supported peace and stability in Timor Leste since 2006. Even during the crisis of February 2008, when President Jose Ramos Horta was shot, the Timorese showed a new level of maturity with the streets remaining relatively calm.

The Timorese economy has grown and institutions strengthened, culminating this year in three successful rounds of national elections, celebrations for Timor-Leste's 10th anniversary of independence, and the formation of a new government.

Timorese security services have also risen to the challenge and served their nation well throughout these events.

The UN peacekeeping mission, UNMIT, also made an important contribution during Timor-Leste's transition and will

also end its operation in Timor-Leste at the end of the year.

ISF support to UNMIT is a prime example of Australian forces working alongside regional partners in support of UN efforts to build peace and stability.

"Australian Defence Force personnel who served in Timor-Leste have shown great courage and dedication, and built strong personal relationships with Timor-Leste that will last long after the withdrawal of our security forces," said Ministers Carr and Smith in a released statement.

"We also extend our thanks and appreciation to our ISF partner, New Zealand, who participated in the ISF from the outset."

ISF withdrawal will continue through to April 2013 as equipment is repatriated, bases closed, and property and buildings returned to the Government of Timor-Leste.

However, the withdrawal of the ISF is not the end of Australia's defence and police engagement with Timor-Leste. This will continue through the Defence Cooperation Program and Australian Federal Police support to Timor-Leste's police forces.

The 13-year operation came at the cost of four Australian, five New Zealand lives and countless civilian lives.

For the thousands of ADF and police personnel who have served in one of Australia's closest neighbours over the past 13 years, the transition means Timor Leste has finally come of age and is entering a new phase in its future development.

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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 2013.

Taking up the Fight

Afghan National Security Forces in Deh Rawud district, Uruzgan province have been taking the fight to the insurgency with the help of their Australian mentors from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, Task Group (3 RAR TG).

During operations in September and October the Afghans uncovered caches and effectively disrupted insurgent operations in the Deh Rawud area.

Major Mathew Gill, Officer Commanding Mentoring Team – Alpha, has been impressed by the progress made by his Afghan partners from 1st Kandak, 4th Brigade, 205 Hero Corps and the Afghan National Police.

“It has become increasingly evident throughout our time with 1 Kandak that the ANA has progressed significantly in both skill and proficiency when searching.

“This has resulted in a large number of successful deliberate search operations within the Deh Rawud ‘triangle’ recently that have helped to rid the battle space of weapons and equipment for the insurgents,” he said.

Colonel Matine, Commander of the 1st Kandak, says his soldiers are ready to operate without support from the Australians following independent operations in recent months.

“In September when the Australian and coalition forces were confined to Forward Operating Base Hadrian, we cleared the insurgents out of Deh Rawud Triangle and

Dizak without any coalition forces assistance,” he said.

The Afghan forces’ progress was highlighted during a recent joint Army and Police reconnaissance in force in the Juy Ye Now area of Deh Rawud.

During the operation in late October, the Army and Police, with support from 3 RAR TG, found four caches during a morning operation, recovering weapons, grenades, small arms ammunition and opium.

The cache finds in this operation followed similar successes through late September and early October in the Deh Rawud district.

In Barakai village on the West Bank of the Helmand River, seven RPG warheads, 10 RPG fuel cells, two AK 47 rifles, a PKM machine gun, ammunition and hundreds of fuses were recovered. In the Shingowla area the searches uncovered equipment, ammunition, mortar rounds and Improvised Explosive Device components.

Major Gill said cooperation between the Army and Police was an important part of the improved security situation in Deh Rawud.

“The increased frequency of joint Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police patrolling has proved beneficial and provided an Afghan government and Afghan National Security Force face to security operations within the Deh Rawud district,” he said.

Chief of Joint Operations Lieutenant General Ash Power AO CSC and Warrant Officer of Joint Operations Simon Hall look in on an Afghan National Army lesson being conducted at the Explosive Hazards Reduction Course area at Multi National Base Tarin Kot. Lieutenant General Ash Power visited the Middle East Area of Operations in mid-October including Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Afghanistan. The purpose of his visit was to interact with deployed Australian troops and conduct strategic level discussions with key political and military foreign and coalition figures.





Above: Members of Mentoring Team One, part of Mentoring Task Force - Four, conduct a mentored patrol with members of the Afghanistan National Army in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan.

Below: Lieutenant Dave Nazareth from Mentoring Task Force - Four together with members of the Afghan National Army discuss the mission before stepping off on a mentored patrol in Deh Rawud, Uruzgan province, Afghanistan.



Improving Police Liaison

From improved liaison with Tasmania Police to conducting gardening workshops across the State, the Tasmania branch of the APPVA is working hard to raise its profile.

“The Tasmanian Branch of the APPVA has continued to raise its profile in the service and ex-service community and more recently within Tasmania Police,” said APPVA-TAS President Mike Romalis.

“APPVA-TAS Welfare, Pension and Membership Officer, Nigel McIntosh, has made considerable progress with both Tasmania Police and the Police Association of Tasmania.”

“Both organisations have recognised that we are providing a service which they weren’t were covering for members who have deployed on peacekeeping operations and support arrangements are currently being formalised through both organisations.”

Veterans Health Week was a busy time in the southern State and ABC gardening guru Peter Cundall conducted two well attended APPVA-TAS/DVA sponsored gardening workshops in the north and south of the state (see separate story).

“The Branch went from the spring sunshine to the darkness of a computer gaming lounge, where we held a computer gaming competition aiming at attracting the younger veterans,” Mike said.

“While attendance was low the night was deemed a success, and we will be holding another night in the New Year.”

In late November members held a fund raising BBQ at the internationally attended Midlands Military Meet & Rendezvous (MMMR) at the Campbell Town Showgrounds.

“The Christmas and New Year season is a busy time for everyone. We thank our members for their support over the last 12 months, and wish everyone and their families a safe and happy holiday period,” Mike said.

Gardening Workshops Just Bloomin’ Great

This spring, younger veterans in the island state decided to get outside and dig in for Veterans’ Health Week with ABC gardening guru Peter Cundall, a Korean War veteran, who promotes gardening as therapy for veterans.

For some, gardening allows them to reorientate using the simple rhythms of nature. For others the physical work followed by the fulfilment of the harvest re-establishes their self-worth and ability to contribute. For yet others the simple act of shared work in a community garden re-establishes the rapport and camaraderie which allows them to talk and share their problems.

“When APPVA-TAS Branch contacted Peter about doing two gardening workshops he enthusiastically volunteered his time, skills and experience to assist us,” said Mike

Romalis.

“Once the dates and locations were set, the Branch worked with DVA, VVCS and the RSL to advertise the workshops to Veterans, War Widows, serving Defence and police members and families.”

The first workshop was held at the Tresca Community Centre in Exeter, just north of Launceston.

“On a beautiful spring day Peter shared his gardening tips and expertise to over 30 participants, some having travelled across half the state to be there,” said Mike.

“During the lunch break a class of disabled children visited the workshop and presented vegetable seedlings they had grown to the attendees. At the end of the day everyone left with all the making for their own vegetable garden - plants, seeds and an information booklet written by Peter.”

The second workshop was held two days later at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart and over 50 people attended with media coverage provided by ABC local radio.

Due to inclement weather the workshop had to relocate to the Nursery after lunch, but no one was disappointed as the Nursery staff had some surprises up their sleeves. The glass house was full of advanced vegetable seedlings, 2 litre containers of ‘Tiger Worm Tea’; and for the ladies, Air Force and Navy guys, large sprays of Orchid flowers from the Gardens Conservatory – all free to take home!

“A lot of positive feedback has been received since the gardening workshops were conducted. VVCS has reported that several clients they had recommended to attend had had a great time.”

“A regular Veteran’s gardening group has been formed with a horticultural therapist in the Hobart area, and eight existing community gardens in the north and south of the state have offered to foster Veterans’ Plots.”

“Interstate we are aware of two Veterans Community Gardens being established on the NSW Central Coast, and up in Queensland the Caloundra RSL Sub-Branch is planning to convert an old bowling green into a vegetable garden.”

“Our thanks are extended to Peter Cundall, Tresca Community Centre, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and the Department of Veterans Affairs for making these workshops possible.”

“APPVA-TAS Branch now has links into a national network of gardening experts who are prepared to help veterans. If you are interested in starting your own garden or having a workshop in your area please drop us a line.”

Opposite top: Peter Cundall (left) gets the Hobart gardening workshop underway with a joke (Image - Galina Romalis)

Opposite bottom: APPVA-TAS membes with Peter Cundall at Launceston workshop



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Compliment Turns Into National Recognition

For APPVA NSW member, Milan Nikolic, a compliment to his wife has turned into an idea that ended up at the Prime Minister's Office.

In January last year, Rwandan peacekeeper Milan Nikolic, told his wife Diane she deserved a medal for dealing with the stress and turmoil of their 21-year-old son Adrian serving in the RAAF.

Milan says it was this conversation that began a strong effort to acknowledge all defence force families across Australia in the form of a Family Pin of Recognition.

"I believe the Australian Defence Force Family Pin of Recognition acknowledges the contribution of those who love and support our ADF men and women who serve Australia," Milan told *The Australian Peacekeeper*.

Mr Nikolic approached his local member Deb O'Neill with the idea who then took it to Canberra.

Recently, the Family Pin of Recognition was launched by Prime Minister Julia Gillard during a ceremony on board HMAS Darwin at Sydney's Garden Island naval base.

Ms Gillard said the pin is a small recognition of the large toll on those left behind when loved ones are serving overseas.

"It's fantastic that in our country, modern Australia, we can still see times when an idea comes into a local member of parliament and it ends up being a nation's policy.

"I think it says something about us as a country that we are still that open and at the right size and scale where a local idea can make a big difference to the nation," she said in an interview with Fairfax media.

Ironically, Mr Nikolic first took the idea to the local RSL branch.

"They said 'no,' that it wouldn't work, that the government wouldn't be interested," he said.

Milan said he and his family are very grateful and humbled to have been given the opportunity for this very important initiative to have now taken place and importantly endorsed by our government.

"It's been a long independent emotional goal of mine to see this through, particularly prior to the return of our serving men and women from Afghanistan," he said.

"This now signifies Australia's

respect as it acknowledges the courage of those who are the partners and families of the men and women of the ADF deployed around the world on operations, including Peacekeeping."

"These families sometimes often become the unlisted casualties of war and carry the ongoing burden. Our families have been overlooked for far too long."

Milan acknowledged the support of his wife Dianne and three sons Adrian, Alexander and Nathan.

"My family has given me the strength to pursue this initiative regardless of those who opposed my intent," he said.

Milan said he understood intimately how family relationships suffer as a result of the impact of service and the many trans-generational effects on children, particularly during transition from ADF life into civilian life, with added stressors of injury, illness or sometimes both and including the stress of homecoming from operational service.

"My family and I wish to take this opportunity to publically thank my local federal member for Robertson Ms Deborah O'Neil who presented our submission to the Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard and Veterans Affairs Minister Warren Snowdon for consideration."

"Without Deborah's support the final outcome would not have been achieved," Milan said.

"I am honoured to serve in Rwanda and now Dianne and I are also very proud of eldest son Adrian who currently serves in the RAAF."



The Nikolic family, including son, Adrian, with Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Chief of the Defence Force, General David Hurley.

APPVA National Conference Report

19/20 October 2012

Key members of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association gathered at the RAAF-A Victoria Branch offices in East Hawthorn in mid October to hold the 2012 National Conference, National AGM and National QGM.

Friday the 19th of October was conference day, commencing with an official welcome by Allan Thomas as National President. First speaker was Mr Ian Campbell, Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Victoria, Mr John Geary. Mr Campbell represented the Minister who had sent a written apology due to his absence in North Africa for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein.

A video message from the Hon Warren Snowden MP was played before Mr Campbell spoke on the DVA On-Base initiative, BEST funding, the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project, and the subject of a consultative forum for younger Veterans. At the end of his presentation Mr Campbell stayed for some time taking questions from the delegates.

Senator Gary Humphries spoke on behalf of the Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs. Topics covered by the Senator were:

- The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project;
- Recognition of Peacekeepers on the Australian War Memorial Honour Roll; and
- MRCA Review and BEST funding.

The VVCS Director – Victoria, Ms Ann O'Kane gave the conference with an update on young veteran clientele figures and activities.

Service representation at the conference was provided with Commodore Elizabeth Rushbrook representing the Chief of Navy and Air Commodore John Hewitson from the Air Force Training Group representing the Chief of Air Force.

ESO representatives also addressed the conference with Colonel David Jamison, National President of the Defence Force Welfare Association speaking about the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations, the Fair Go campaign, indexation issues with COMSUPER and current serving ADF member issues.

Bob Elworthy, Victorian State President of the VVAA, spoke passionately about the VVAA and APPVA MOA and current Veterans issues.

The final session of the Conference started with a presentation about Assistance Wellbeing Ability Recovery & Empowerment (A.W.A.R.E.) Dogs. Rod Thompson (National Entitlements Officer) introduced the dogs by explaining the relevance of the dogs and the recent

successes in having these dogs recognised by DVA.

The final speaker for the conference was Mr Doug Humphreys from the Veteran Review Board, who gave a refreshing presentation about how the VRB was improving its processes and had implemented a no loss pre-lodgement review mechanism for proposed claims. After some closing words by Allan Thomas, the Conference delegates retired to the Glenferrie Hotel for drinks and dinner.

Saturday the 20th of October was a working day for the National Executive and National Committee. The first session of the day was devoted to the QGM. Key topics discussed were the future of the South and North Queensland Branches, and the establishment of an on-line Advocates Forum / interactive website. The next QGM was scheduled for Wednesday the 20th of February 2013. Session two was the AGM, with the two key items being the introduction of the Badge of Respect for families with deployed members, and changes to the National constitution. The next AGM will be in October 2013 and will be hosted by the Tasmanian Branch.

Mike Romalis
President APPVA-Tas Branch
27th November 2012

Veteran Photographer Assists APPVA

Galina is the petite, dedicated and long suffering wife of Mike Romalis from the Tasmania Branch. Her interest in photography started while watching her father developing his photos under a mysterious red light that would transform the family bathroom into a laboratory where images in black and white would magically appear on wet paper. Galina has recently started her own small business Magnolia Photography & Printing, printing photos for other people as well as her own. She willingly donates her time and expertise to capture APPVA activities in Tasmania, and attended the National Conference in Melbourne where she took the attached images.





Top left: Mr Alan Evered, National Secretary Korea Veteran's Association of Australia with Paul Copeland. Top right: Allan Thomas (National President), Mick Quinn (National Vice President) and Fiona Quinn (Victorian Branch Treasurer)

Left: Rod Thompson (Left) with Mr Bob Elworthy, Vic President VVAA

Below: Che Forest from A.W.A.R.E. Dogs Australia Inc. With Ben, Narla and Anzac





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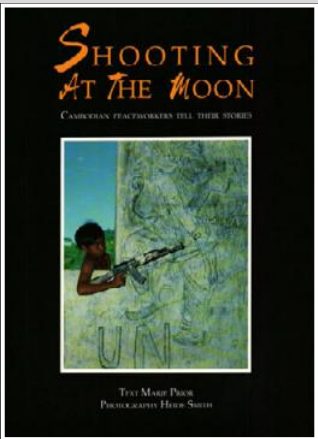
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Corporal Scott James Smith

It is with deep regret that the Australian Defence Force announces the death of Corporal Scott James Smith on operations in Afghanistan on 21 October 2012.

Details of Corporal Scott James Smith

Corporal Smith was a member of the Special Operations Task Group and was from the Special Operations Engineer Regiment based at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney, New South Wales. He is survived by his partner Liv, his parents Katrina Paterson and Murray Smith and sister Roxanne.

Scott Smith was born in the Barossa Valley South Australia in 1988 and joined the Army in February 2006. On completion of his initial employment training, he was posted to the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment, Darwin. In 2008, Corporal Smith was posted to the then Incident Response Regiment as a search operator.

Corporal Smith was an exceptional soldier who possessed all the qualities and charisma of a great junior leader. He is described as a genuine, honest and dedicated member who was probably one of the best Junior Non-Commissioned Officers his unit has seen. His loss will be deeply felt.

Corporal Smith has been awarded the following honours and awards:

- Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International
- Coalition Against Terrorism,
- Afghan Campaign Medal,
- Australian Service Medal with Clasp Solomon Islands,
- Australian Service Medal with Clasp – Counter Terrorism/ Special Recovery,
- Australian Defence Medal,
- NATO International Stabilisation Assistance Force Medal with Multi-Tour Indicator 2,
- Army Soldiers Medallion,
- Army Combat Badge,
- Returned from Active Service Badge.

During Corporal Smith's service in the Australian Army he deployed on the following operations:

- Operation ANODE (Solomon Islands) – Nov 06 – Dec 06,
- Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – Feb 10 – July 10,
- Operation NORWICH (Australia) – Nov 11,
- Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan) – July 12 – Oct 12.

Statement from the family of Corporal Scott James Smith

Defence releases the following statement on behalf of the family of Corporal Scott James Smith.

Scott was a tremendous soldier. It is openly acknowledged that he was well respected within his workplace and by those who knew him.

We knew the Army was Scott's second family, his home away from home. Scott truly believed his actions made a difference; he was a truly dedicated soldier, who also knew how to relax in his time away from work.

Scott lived life to the fullest. He was born in the Barossa Valley and was water skiing as soon as he could stand – it

was one of his great loves.

Scott attended school in the local area and used his school holidays to learn to barefoot water ski.

Liv, Scott's German princess, met him when she was an exchange student in Australia. After that, the pair could be found in all sorts of mischief together.

Scott loved being outdoors and keeping fit throughout his lifetime and pursued many sports - from long distance running, to cricket and any sort of competition he could be involved in.

Scott had a great sense of humour and was very much into practical jokes. He could also be very relaxed when not at work - becoming renowned for his cheeky smile and kind words. But mostly Scott will always be renowned for being the loveable character that held the family together.

Scott had a lot of time for those who had time for him, and his generosity in all things was often spoken about. One of the things you could rely on Scott for was calling whenever he was able and was thinking of you, at midday, midnight, or anywhere in between.

Scott had a larrikin charm that endeared him to all those around him, and these qualities ensure he will always be held in the hearts of those who knew him.

Our family is united in grief as we try to come to terms with our loss.

We thank everyone for their heartfelt wishes and messages of condolences, but ask that our privacy be respected during this difficult time.

Australian soldier killed in 'IED factory'

Defence has described the compound where Australian soldier Corporal Scott James Smith was killed as an "IED factory".

Corporal Smith, 24, was killed instantly on Sunday when an improvised device exploded during a mission to target insurgents in Uruzgan province.

It has been revealed he was leaving a compound filled with bombs when he was killed.

Chief of Joint Operations General Ash Power told ABC News that Corporal Smith had been helping to clear the site, which had more than 100 of the improvised explosive devices.

General Power says the compound, which is now destroyed, was used by an insurgent network funded by narcotics sales.

Corporal Smith, from the Barossa Valley in South Australia, was a member of the Special Operations Engineer Regiment based at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney.

He had been in the army more than six years and was on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan, having previously served in the Solomon Islands and is the 39th Australian soldier killed in Afghanistan.

Acknowledgement to ABC News



Above: Corporal Scott Smith is carried aboard a RAAF C-17 air craft for his last journey home from Al Minhad Air Base, United Arab Emirates.

Left: A Special Operations Task Group member of the Catafalque Party stands vigil during the Memorial Service in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan for Corporal Scott Smith.

Below: Soldiers salute as a Long Range Patrol Vehicle carries Corporal Scott Smith to the RAAF C-130 Aircraft that will carry him on his last journey home from Tarin Kot, Afghanistan to Australia.



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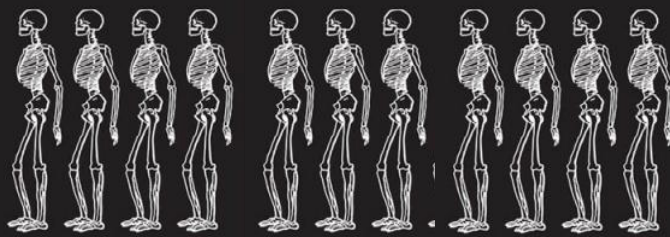
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AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



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.

Signed Dated.....

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Name..... Signature.....

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Send application in mail with cheque or money order payable to APPVA

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ABN 59 558 194 094
PO Box 552 Torquay Vic 3228
Email: merchandise@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

MERCHANDISE	QUANTITY	OPTIONS – Please Circle	COST	SUB TOTAL
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Light Blue Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$40	
Putty Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$40	
Choc Brown Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$40	
Pink Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$40	
Black Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$40	
White Polo Shirt		S M L XL XXL MENS/WOMENS	\$40	
Long Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Neck: cm Chest: cm	\$55	
Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Neck: cm Chest: cm	\$55	

MERCHANDISE	QTY	COST	MERCHANDISE	QTY	COST	SUB TOTAL
APPVA Cap		\$20	Stubby Holder		\$8	
APPVA Sticker		\$6	APPVA Magazine issue:		\$8 ea	
Book - COMBAT MEDIC		\$29				
Book - SOLDIERS' Tales		\$19				
Book - Aussie SOLDIER		\$29				
Please Note – GST, Postage and handling included.						TOTAL \$

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Name..... **Signature**.....

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- The product does not match the sample or description

Proof of purchase (APPVA merchandise receipt) must be provided in order to:

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- Re-issue a like article

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