

Australian Peacekeeper

SUMMER 2014

MAGAZINE

**The Investiture
Ceremony of the
Meritorious Unit
Citation**

**Down and Dirty
Downtown:
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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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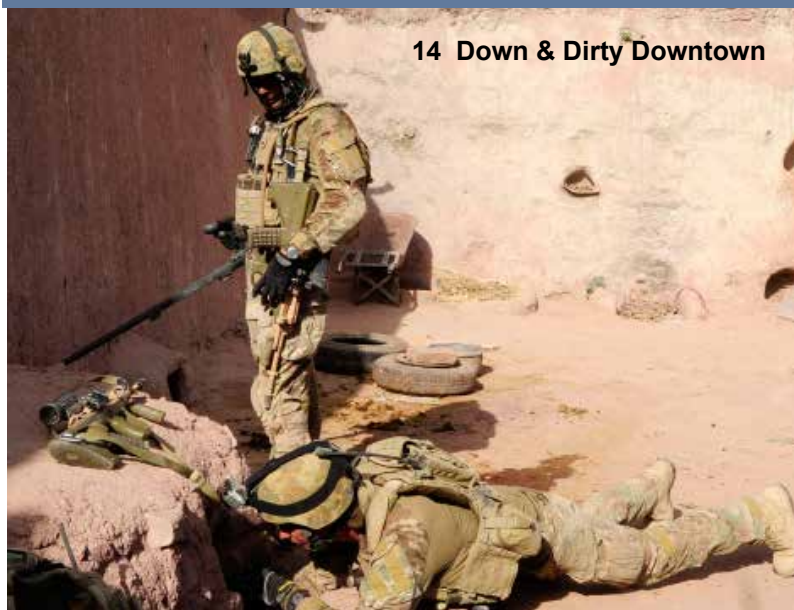
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Seaman Boatswains Mate Gareth Baker stands ready to slip lines at HMAS Larrakia departs Tacloban in the Philippines.

Royal Australian Navy Armidale Class Patrol Boat HMAS Larrakia is deployed on a six-week South East Asian Deployment to strengthen alliances and promote multilateral security cooperation. The boat will visit ports in Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Palau.

During the deployment, Larrakia will take part in annual bilateral exercise LUMBAS 14 with the Philippines Navy, and represent Australia at the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf commemorations in the Philippines.



From the President's Desk

Welcome to all our members and readers to the summer edition of the Peacekeepers Magazine. The APPVA had its Annual General Meeting at Potts Point in Sydney on the 10/11 October 2014. The Minister of Veterans' Affairs Mr Michael Ronaldson opened and addressed all at the conference and talked about the increase in ADF Pay of 1.5% over a three year period, he also talked about current rehabilitation process within Defence and DVA that would enable both parties to capture those who fell out of the system. The highlight of the Conference was the awards given out to individuals for their efforts throughout 2014; I would like to congratulate both recipients who received the President's award, Rhonda Copeland for her ongoing dedication not only as the National Treasurer but fulfilling roles as the Merchandising officer and at times assisting the National Secretaries when needed.

The other recipient has been with the APPVA for eight years and has fulfilled National Appointments as well as state appointments. One of her greatest traits is her devotion to the raising of the Diggers Opportunity Shop in Boronia which provides welfare funding for the Victorian APPVA Branch it is for this reason and her ongoing commitment to the APPVA nationally and in Victoria that Fiona Quinn also received the National President's Award.

There were others that received awards on the day, the awards come from the National Committee of Management which is comprised of all the State Presidents of APPVA. These awards again come from individual who performed exceptionally well within their states throughout the 2014 season, again there were two recipients for this award: the first recipient has been a member for 4 years and has performed numerous roles within NSW/ACT as a committee member and a pension officer I would like to congratulate Mrs. Sandra Vidler from Old Barr in receiving this award for her efforts in 2014.

The other National Committee of Management Award goes to a lady who in only a short time has proven herself not only in the association but in the greater veterans community has provided positive feedback to members and family of the ADF who are looking for information regarding entitlements or welfare information, she is on the Queensland committee of the APPVA and has recently taken up the National Merchandising appointment within APPVA, we would like to congratulate Andrea Josephs on receiving this award for her efforts in Queensland.

Some of the concerns from members of the association who attend the conference; the impact of the 2014 budget and how it would disadvantage veterans and members of the Defence Force both past and present who were currently serving. More emphasis at the meeting was placed on the current "Special Rate" disability pension under the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 and the "Special Rate Disability Pension" under the Military Rehabilitation Compensation Act 2004 we wanted assurance from the current Minister of Veterans' Affairs that there would be no further erosion to current entitlements.

There was a further push for immediate funding so the Australian Peacekeepers Memorial project by Senator Jacqui Lambie who attended the Minister of Veterans Affairs opening address.

Some of the other issues that are on the APPVA list for 2015 has derived from the 2014 budget outcomes, one significant announcement was the new ADF Super Scheme the Government decided as part of its budgetary processes to close MSBS to new members with effect 1 July 2016. There were some collective of arguably unwelcome changes as well in which we will be pursuing when we meet with departmental personnel, some of the issues we will raise will be the:

- Axing the three-month backdating of Veterans Disability Pension claims – a long standing benefit acknowledging the unique nature of military service;
- Axing the Seniors Supplement of Gold Card holders who do not receive income support - this amounts to \$876.20 annually;
- Withdrawing the Government's share of an agreement with the States to fund Service Pensioner's Concessions for travel, electricity, phone and council rates;
- Withdrawing the provision to not count as income Military Superannuation when applying for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card; and
- Withdrawing indexation on the Clean Energy Supplement added to Veterans Affairs pensions and payments causing it to quickly lose real value over time.

Each issue has been taken up with the Government by the Alliance of Defence Service Organisation (ADSO) which the APPVA are partners.

These are some of the issues highlighted by the APPVA National Executive and the ADSO; we will endeavor to keep you up to date with these issues in our coming additions of the Peacekeepers Magazine.

From the National Executive and the National Committee of Management of the APPVA we wish you all a Merry Christmas and safe New Year.

Allan Thomas
National President
Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans'
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The Investiture Ceremony of the Meritorious Unit Citation to the Force Communications – Cambodia 1992-1993

The Investiture Ceremony of the Meritorious Unit Citation to the Force Communications Unit – Cambodia 1992-1993.

The Citation: Force Communications Unit to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia 15 March 1992 to 7 October 1993

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations in the provision of communications support to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia from 15 March 1992 to 7 October 1993.

Humble Beginnings

The UNAMIC Mandate was to establish Good Offices with four factions that were in conflict for over 22 years. This also included Good Offices to Viet Nam, Laos and Thailand. Cambodia had been in conflict since Post World War 2, seeing the murderous Khmer Rouge under the leadership of Pol Pot from 1975 (known as the Year Zero) through to 1979 when the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia and installed what was known to Cambodians as a “Puppet Regime” under Hun Sen.

Prior to the arrival of the FCU UNTAC was the deployment of 45 Army Signallers on 10 November 1991. These soldiers were among the very first UN soldiers to enter Cambodia under the auspices of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) aka OP GOODWILL. Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) Russell Stuart, who was twice wounded in a French Puma helicopter by ground fire on a reconnaissance mission of the Pailin area, early February 1992, commanded OP GOODWILL. However LTCOL Stuart remained as a Staff Officer to the HQ UNTAC until September 1993. Almost two years in Cambodia.

The first Army Signallers were lightly armed with M-16 and Self Loading Pistol [9mm Browning]. In the early stages, it was decreed that the weapons be hidden from view, but to be only used in self-protection, in order not to provide for an aggressive approach by the force.

Fields of unmarked Land Mines had to be identified, and communications established between the warring factions by the Australian Signallers of UNAMIC at the earliest opportunity from arrival. On 28 February 1992, the UNAMIC Mandate ended, with the direction from the UN Security Council for UNAMIC to commence preparations for the lodgement of a Peacekeeping Force of over 16,000 troops.

The lodgement of the UNTAC Peacekeeping Force

The 65 UNAMIC signallers were the original founding members of the FCU UNTAC, who came under the command

of LTCOL Steve Ayling on 10 March 1992. His RSM was WO1 Barry Martin, with a phased insertion of UN Troops, which included FCU UNTAC, commenced arriving in Cambodia during the periods March, April, May and June 1992. Australian Lieutenant General (LTGEN) John Sanderson, AO, commanded the UNTAC Peacekeeping Force.

The ADF Contingent (ASC) to UNTAC was known as OPERATION GEMINI, in which the FCU was a part of the ASC UNTAC, along with a number of other personnel and smaller units deployed at various times to Cambodia. LTCOL Ayling was the Commander ASC (COMASC) UNTAC.

On 15 March 1992, UNTAC officially commenced its operations. The Force Communications Unit (FCU) had the mammoth task of linking all Military Communications and Provinces into the Supreme National Council (SNC), where HQ UNTAC was located in the Cambodian Capital city of Phnom Penh.

The UNTAC Communications Network commenced with Military Tactical telecommunications, utilising Combat Net Radio (CNR) High Frequency (HF) Voice networks and Radio Teletype (RATT) formal messaging systems. Provincial Communications Centres were established to link all Sector UN assets into the UNTAC Communications Network. A number of AN/MRC 127 Radio Relay detachments (dets) were deployed, with communications being either terminated or switched at “The Hub”, located at the SNC in Phnom Penh.

The FCU was based on the Melbourne-based 2nd Signal Regiment, with supplementary manning from a range of Arms and Combat Service Support Corps, 20 RAAF and RAN Communications Specialists; and up to 45 Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals (RNZSigs) Communications Specialists. All up the unit had a posted strength of 488. The majority of members posted to Cambodia had posting orders of at least 12 months.

The ADF troops were armed with the recently introduced F-88 Steyr. It was the position of LTCOL Ayling not to provide an open display of weapons, however when travelling in the countryside weapons, webbing, flak jackets and Kevlar helmets were to be carried.

On 18 May 1992, 18 of the original UNAMIC soldiers returned to Australia, leaving 22 of their colleagues who remained with FCU UNTAC until they returned to Australia in early December 1992. These original UNAMIC soldiers had completed 13 months service in Cambodia.

The Rotation

The latter signalled the commencement of the Rotation of the First Contingent of FCU UNTAC, with the arrival of LTCOL Marty Studdert in December 1992 to takeover Command from LTCOL Steve Ayling as the COMASC

UNTAC, with the Second Contingent of FCU UNTAC began to replace the first Contingent.

The FCU was also working closely with UN Field Services to install Satellite Communications in all Sectors, along with a Motorola UHF Radio network. This saw the tempo of effort increase to the demand of an ambitious timeline.

Subsequent rotations, replacing the ADF members of FCU UNTAC who arrived in 1992 occurred in March, April and June of 1993. Many of the members who deployed in 1992, had served in Cambodia for 10-15 months, by the time they were replaced. A

The impact of such lengthy service of the First Contingent was noticeable. Many returning veterans were tired, suffering operational stress and some with their fair share of trauma were to return home with difficulty in adjusting back to the Australian way of life. A survey conducted by 1 Psych Research Unit found that 68% of marriages and partnerships of ADF UNTAC veterans failed during deployment and within 12-18 months of returning home. Therefore, those partners and families felt the impact of such long periods away from home.

For the Second Contingent, the challenge of the May 1993 Elections came with the threat of violence. Upon arrival LTCOL Studdert began a program of an active defensive posture, due to the increased risk of belligerent activity. Defences were strengthened and F89 Minimi 5.56mm Light Machine Guns began to be issued to various outlying Signal Troops for self-protection. Troops were to carry weapons and ballistic protection at all times, with 150 rounds of front

line ammunition. Night Curfews were ordered, of which ADF troops were required to be in barracks for their safety.

The tension was extremely high with ambushing of UN personnel, and the threat of violence from the National Army of the Democratic Kampuchea [NADK], among other belligerents was constant and real. The significant challenge for the FCU and the UNTAC Peacekeeping Force was to ensure that Free and Fair Elections would be held for the people of Cambodia.

After the relative success of the Elections, the UNTAC Peacekeeping Force began to withdraw, however the FCU being the first unit into Cambodia, was to be the last unit to leave Cambodia. The Return to Australia phase included cleaning and packing of the massive amount of stores that had been deployed and accumulated over a total of two years deployment.

The FCU had served non-stop to ensure that the communications network was established, maintained, re-configured and upgraded, under extreme circumstances. Communications facilities had been targeted and attacked by various belligerents. The importance of Communications within the UNTAC Peacekeeping Force and other UNTAC Elements was significant and undoubtedly contributed to the success of the UNTAC Mandate.

UNTAC was and remains the largest, most expensive and most ambitious UN Peacekeeping Operation to date. For Australia, it was the largest deployment of Communications specialists since World War 2, serving under Active or Operational (Warlike) conditions of service.

The Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove (Retd), AK, MC, inspects Australian Army soldiers on parade during the Meritorious Unit Citation investiture ceremony for the Force Communications Unit of Cambodia at Simpson Barracks, Melbourne.





The Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove (Retd), AK, MC, adds the 'Force Communications Unit – Cambodia' streamer to the Princess Anne Banner during the investiture ceremony for the Forces Communications Unit of Cambodia at Simpson Barracks, Melbourne.

The MUC Process

On 4 August 1993 a nomination that was authored by the Padre, Len Eacott of the FCU was submitted to the Headquarters of Land Command. The nomination for the Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) was a matter that culminated in over 15 months of a high operational tempo of this unique unit in a highly dangerous and volatile country.

The nomination for the MUC was received at Land Headquarters and rejected due to the fact that the FCU was in receipt of the Australian Service Medal (ASM), not the required Australian Active Service Medal (AASM). The latter is the requisite for the Honour of the MUC.

The fact is, that the Australian Contingent to UNTAC was simply awarded the incorrect medal, being the ASM Clasp CAMBODIA.

On 6 March 1999, Commonwealth of Australia Gazette (CAG) correctly upgraded the ASM Clasp CAMBODIA, to the AASM. 144 FCU UNTAC members who remained in Cambodia from 8 October to 19 November 1993 retained their ASM clasp CAMBODIA and were additionally awarded the AASM Clasp CAMBODIA, due to serving in two different service classifications of warlike service from 20 September 1991 to 7 October 1993, then non-warlike from 8 October to 19 November 1993.

In April 1999, then Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Paul Copeland drafted a letter, which was approved and sent by the then Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Association (APPA) President, Wayne Lyons to the Chief of the Army, Lieutenant General Frank Hickling AO, CSC,

requesting that as a result of the upgrade of the AASM for service in Cambodia, that re-consideration of the MUC be given in light of this development.

Despite noting that the AASM was awarded to ASC UNTAC, it was apparent that the service in Cambodia was not considered Operational (Warlike) Service by the then Deputy Chief of the Army (DCA). This appears to be an administrative error, or incorrect advice to the DCA, as all FCU veterans know well that the conditions of service in Cambodia from 10 November 1991 to 7 October 1993, was warlike service conditions as per the Rotation Briefs and Posting Administrative Instructions issued to every member who deployed to Cambodia.

Over 38 articles of correspondence were exchanged between the APPA/APPVA and the ADF relating to the MUC matter. From 1999 through to 2003, matters ranged from the clarification of the warlike service in Cambodia to CARO confirming all three services and NZDF in obtaining names of those who served with the FCU UNTAC.

Included in this advice was the undertaking that Defence had committed two Public Servants to research the Nominal Roll of those who were posted into the FCU UNTAC. This was forewarned as not being an easy task, due to the time of almost 10 years had passed, along with prudent attention that other Australian Defence Force Members and Contingents that deployed to Cambodia were not added to the FCU UNTAC Nominal Roll.

In a hand-written Minute from the Office of the Chief of the Defence Force, with comments from the CDF Admiral Chris

Barrie AC, RAN, dated 25 October 2001, provided under Defence FOI, it was revealed that the CDF had endorsed the recommendation for the MUC to the FCU UNTAC in April 2000. There appeared to be a period of latency from April 2000 to 25 October 2001.

Later, as the further result of Defence FOI action by the APPVA, it was advised by a copy of a Fax from the Office of the Chief of the Army on 19 December 2001 that the MUC had been approved by the CDF. Advice was provided that Director General Personnel (DGPERS) was in the process of collating the names of the personnel who served in the FCU in Cambodia for notification.

Unfortunately the APPVA continually had to send repeated Ministerial Representations and correspondence seeking the status of the MUC for the FCU UNTAC. Further FOI action in December 2004 and other Ministerial action continued, after promises of Listing in various Australian Day and Queen's Birthday Honours Lists failed to appear, with disappointment. It appeared that various Army Senior Officers were making comparisons of the award of the MUC for the FCU UNTAC to that of the SASR in East Timor and again in Afghanistan, over 10 years from the nomination. This apparent blockage continued for up to three years.

During a Peacekeeping Conference at the Australian War Memorial in 2007, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping, LTGEN Sanderson provided a presentation to a range of interested parties and academics, of which he stated that he was very fortunate to have an Australian Force Communications Unit.

During General Sanderson's time in Cambodia, he received continual accolades of the Australian FCU, from a large range of International Commanders and Senior UN Officials. General Sanderson has always lauded the FCU as *"...the most widely dispersed unit in Cambodia...the unit saw more action than any UN Peacekeeping Force Unit and the FCU was the glue that kept the Operation together..."*

In 2008, further action was required in terms of briefing the Committee of Service Chiefs (COSC), as to the situation of the MUC for the FCU UNTAC, with involvement from then Colonel Alison Creagh, CSC. In December 2008, a phone call was received from a most apologetic SO2 Ceremonial to the APPVA in that the matter had not been actioned since the approval from the CDF Admiral Barrie on 25 October 2001.

It seemed an eternity that the MUC will be awarded to the FCU UNTAC Veterans.

The Welcomed Listing

On the 26th of January 2014, 21 years after the initial nomination and with great relief to the veterans, the award of the MUC was made formal and official with the announcement from the Governor General, which the FCU UNTAC was listed in the Australia Day Honours List and was finally gazetted for the award of the MUC.

However, the effort of ensuring that all FCU UNTAC veterans were not to be overlooked required corrective advice to Defence. Not all advice was accepted by Defence. The APPVA is most grateful for the support from



Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC)

Brigadier Steve Ayling, who represented our veteran's matters to DGPERS-A, after previous attempts to convince Defence in a range of matters had failed. As a result of his representation, a number of corrective actions were made to the benefit of a number of FCU UNTAC Veterans, including 17 UNAMIC Communicators.

Perhaps as a learning point from this matter is that such future circumstances, similar to that of the FCU UNTAC, that Defence openly discusses with the veterans who served on the particularly operation to glean the correct historical content of the given Operation. There were obvious mis-interpretations by staff of what was recorded in old documentation, versus what actually occurred.

Whilst there remains a small number of ADF veterans left to be included on the FCU UNTAC Nominal Roll for the purposes of the MUC, along with a wait for the receipt of the award; our New Zealand counterparts, of which it is estimated to be around 90 RNZSigs, await for their Government to formally accept the offer of the MUC from Australia. We sincerely hope that the NZ Government accepts this prestigious Unit award, as the RNZSigs were valued members of the FCU UNTAC.

The Reunion and Investiture Ceremony

On Saturday, 20 September 2014, a large Reunion of FCU UNTAC and former RASigs veterans, together with veterans of the 2nd Signal Regiment enjoyed a night of catching up. It is estimated that around 250 people were in attendance to this event.

On Monday morning, 22 September 2014, after 21 years since the original nomination, the Governor General of Australia, His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC, at Simpson Barracks, Macleod in Melbourne, formally invested the MUC. The Defence Force School of Signals (DFSS) Royal Guard performed to a high standard of drill for the Ceremony, including the Combined Australian Army Band – Melbourne.

Up to 125 veterans attended with an additional 68 friends and family were in attendance. The members of the DFSS, along with a range of RASigs Senior Officers witnessed history in the making with the formal attachment of the MUC Streamer to the Her Royal Highness, the Princess Anne Banner of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

The Insignia and a copy of the Warrant and Citation was awarded to the two Rotation Commanders, Brigadier Steve Ayling AM (Retired); and Colonel Marty Studdert AM (Retired); along with their respective RSMs WO1 Barry Martin OAM (Retired), and WO1 Jeff Yates OAM (Retired).



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The speeches from the Head of Corps (HOC) Major General Mike Milford AM; Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC [Retired]; and Sir Peter described a Communications unit serving in harsh conditions, in danger, attacked by belligerents, with the Communications remaining operational during some harrowing incidents and throughout the UNTAC Mandate.

All praised the FCU UNTAC for its tenacity in keeping communications open throughout Cambodia. Sir Peter commented that the display of such dedication and courage under such operational conditions, by the men and women FCU UNTAC is an example for current and future Communications Specialists of the ADF who should strive to reach such a high level of professionalism in their careers.

The FCU UNTAC Commemorative Luncheon was well attended with 152 people in attendance. General Sanderson again was the Guest Speaker, of which he described, "...every day presented a crisis in Cambodia..." including some light-hearted recollections. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and there are plans to conduct a 25th Anniversary for FCU UNTAC in 2017/2018.

To conclude. The delay of the MUC to be awarded to the FCU UNTAC 1992 to 1993 was a matter that saw the need to continue to remind Senior Commanders, Defence Bureaucrats and Federal Ministers, particularly between the period from 1999 to 2014 that this recognition should not be dropped, nor ignored. The MUC for the FCU UNTAC was a highly deserved award to a unit that had performed exceptionally well in very difficult conditions on warlike operations.

It is evident that Defence needs a more open dialogue with veteran groups, particularly when it comes to historical fact of given deployments. The APPVA hopes that such dialogue will now be part of a process for such recognition and reclassification issues, by Service Chiefs.

Finally, General Sanderson in his speech at the Investiture Ceremony surmised that the service of the FCU, performed a vital strategic role, one that Australia can be proud of, particularly immediately after the Post-Cold War Asia. He also commented that the women in the FCU also provided an excellent service, one that has paved the way for future ADF operations. General Sanderson stated: *"Why it has taken 21 years for our nation to recognise this unit – you may well ask. Nevertheless, it has happened, and those who wear this insignia should wear it with pride."*

By: Paul Copeland, FCU UNTAC Veteran.

Australian Defence Force to be Awarded The Meritorious Unit Citation Australia Day 2014

Force Communications Unit United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia 15 March 1992 to 7 October 1993.

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations in the provision of communications support to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia from 15 March 1992 to 7 October 1993.

The Force Communications Unit deployed to Cambodia as Australia's main contribution to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. The Unit comprised members of the Australian Defence Force and New Zealand Defence Force and was initially tasked to provide communications between components of the Authority, the Cambodian Supreme National Council and the military headquarters of the four political factions.

The initial task expanded to include the installation of a technically sophisticated and geographically extensive communications network linking 21 provinces of Cambodia to the seat of the government in Phnom Penh. The installation of the network was achieved as a result of the outstanding dedication and commitment of Unit members working under exceptionally difficult and hazardous circumstances. The security environment was hostile as a result of the inter-factional conflict and much of the installation occurred during the wet season creating additional hazards. Despite the difficulties, and the lack of existing communications systems, the Unit completed their task within the tight timeframe allocated.

Members of the Unit were deployed to 50 locations throughout Cambodia to operate the network. They worked for long periods without relief and were constantly under threat of violence from the warring parties. The hostilities, particularly prior to the election, specifically targeted United Nations personnel and the communications network. On many occasions communication facilities were operated while under threat from artillery, mortars and small arms fire. The Unit's efforts and achievements allowed the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia Headquarters to communicate with its components as they undertook preparations for what would be a successfully conducted election.

By their success, Force Communications Unit personnel affirmed and demonstrated their commitment to Cambodia and to the principles of the United Nations organisation. Their dedication and contribution to the peace process under the most difficult of conditions has been exemplary and in the finest traditions of the Australian Defence Force.

FCU UNTAC Veterans - 2nd Contingent





AUSTRALIAN ARCHIE DOES HIS BIT IN AFGHANISTAN

This tiny fabric aircraft hangar, known as the Arch Shelter “Archie” has been deployed to Afghanistan to cover elite military Helicopters on assignment in Afghanistan. Archie was ordered and assembled by the Royal Engineers on behalf of the English Army. Archie was especially designed to be the toughest canopy of its type in the world, and we have models for cyclone regions. Engineering included simplistic parts for very quick assemble and dismantling, easy transport via a 6 Meter container, thus a very good option for military use hangars.

Arch Shelters are dome-style fabric and steel-framed structures that are most commonly used between containers, or container structures as aircraft hangars, workshops, amenities and storage. They are popular in aviation because they do not have the convection heat issues of steel hangars, they are delightfully cool to work beneath, and keep the expensive aircraft out of the elements.

Mostly manufactured in Australia to all essential Australian temporary building codes, Arch Shelter products are strong and sturdy, and have a fail-free track record! All systems in the Arch Shelter range are lightweight and do not require licensed contractors to build them. Arch Shelter frames are made of Australian-manufactured pre-galvanised steel, with hard-dip galvanised frames optional for harsh environments. Arch Shelter fabrics are also mostly Australian-manufactured. Standard canopies are fully waterproof and block between 85 and 100 per cent of the sun’s harmful rays, or they can be covered by varying types of shade materials, canvases or PVC.

There are options of pre-engineered widths ranging from six to 20 metres wide, which can be mounted upon containers, walls, concrete pillars, steel posts and tri-frames. If required, Splash can customise Arch Shelters to suit specific needs.

Arch Shelter models The Arch Shelter Lite . The Arch Shelter Lite model container canopies (built primarily for between-container shade) feature lightweight galvanised

steel, smart trusses and all Australian-manufactured fabrics, which are fully recyclable and non-toxic. The Arch Shelter Lite is available in sizes ranging between six and 20 metres wide, and can be mounted on walls, posts and shipping containers. Lites now include welded fabric canopies and a weld-free model upon request.

The Arch Shelter Archie – the strongest, toughest and tallest Arch Shelter. Splash released its Queensland-built new range of Arch Shelter clear span and tri-frame models to the market in March 2013, and currently has six-metre and 12-metre models in regions A–D, ready engineered and selling. The new models offer extreme strength under their clear span arches; the option of weld-free, twist-lock container rails; footings for posts, poles and walls; and ground shelters. Archie takes on the big brands, with the roof shelter engineered strong enough to be picked up by a crane and transported short distances.

Arch Shelter designs include two extra height shade models: Elipse, which is a traditional U-shaped dome; and the Reno, which is a Catenary-shaped Arch Shelter ideal for high-wind locations.

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The Address By His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) On the Occasion of the

PRESENTATION OF THE MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION TO THE FORCE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT – CAMBODIA

at Simpson Barracks, Watsonia on the 22nd September 2014

Distinguished Guests;

Members of the Force Communications Unit—Cambodia;

Officers, sailors, soldiers, and airmen and airwomen of the Defence Force School of Signals; Ladies and gentlemen.

Firstly, to the Defence Force School of Signals—congratulations on your excellent parade performance. Your dress, drill and bearing are of the highest order and this should be a source of great pride to you and your Commanding Officer. This demonstrates to me—and everyone watching—that you are upholding the high standard expected of those who serve our nation as members of the Australian Defence Force.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you. You are impressive Australians, dedicated to defending our nation and our national interests, who proudly uphold the values and ethos of your individual Services. I am certain that you—as members of the Defence Force School of Signals—will be worthy custodians of the Meritorious Unit Citation soon to be awarded to your forebears for their exceptional service as the Force Communications Unit—Cambodia.

I trust you understand the additional responsibility this places upon you. You must not only meet, but also exceed, the high standard they have set. It is therefore now your duty to uphold and extend the reputation of Australian Defence Force signallers in your years of service that lie ahead.

I now address those men and women in whose honour we are gathered—the members of the Force Communications Unit—Cambodia. What a remarkable moment this is for you. It is pleasing to see that many members of your cohort are here for this presentation, noting it is over twenty years since the active service for which you are today being recognised, took place.

The Meritorious Unit Citation is very special award, and one in which you should take immense pride in receiving. It has only been presented 24 times before, because it is only awarded very selectively to a unit that has provided sustained outstanding service in warlike operations.

From March 1992 to October 1993, you served with distinction as part of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. Under the leadership of Force Commander, Lieutenant- General John Sanderson, you were an integral part of what was achieved in Cambodia. Your communications network enabled and assisted the stabilisation of the security environment, the eventual peaceful and legitimate electoral process, and the nation building activities that followed.

The environment was hostile—yet you deployed all over the country to ensure the breadth of the communication



The Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove (Retd), AK, MC, addresses the audience during the Meritorious Unit Citation at Simpson Barracks, Melbourne.

network. There was no existing reliable infrastructure—yet you quickly connected the provinces to the capital. You encountered tough environmental conditions—yet you never failed to complete a task. And you were under constant threat of targeted attack—yet you never allowed communications to go down in a manner that adversely effected operations.

Quite simply, you were critical to the success of UNTAC. You represented our nation with distinction. You furthered the reputation of the Australian Defence Force with both the United Nations and our international partners. And you demonstrated the professionalism, skill, expertise and talent of Australia's military signallers.

Thank you—for your courage, your dedication, your integrity and your loyalty—your performance was exemplary.

I also see that parents, relatives and friends are here to share in this special presentation. I want you all to know—whether your loved one is still in uniform or has retired from their military service—you are a vital part of the Defence family. Because the members of the Force Communications Unit—Cambodia simply would not have been able to serve our nation without the love, understanding and encouragement provided from the home front. I thank you for your continual support and encouragement. And I congratulate you for your contribution to this Meritorious Unit Citation.

It is now my pleasure, as Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, to invest the Force Communications Unit—Cambodia with the Meritorious Unit Citation. You must wear the insignia proudly. It was hard-earned, and is well-deserved. Bravo Zulu to you for your sterling efforts during Operation GEMINI. Thank you.

APS WILLS & ESTATES

THE IMPORTANCE OF BINDING SUPERANNUATION NOMINATIONS

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- A public retail fund (e.g. AMP Super, Colonial First State, BT Super), or
- A self-managed superannuation fund (you are a trustee or director of trustee).

If so, then it is important that you consider putting in place a “binding death benefit nomination” (BDBN) to cover what happens to your superannuation when you pass away.

If you already have a BDBN in place, you should check that it is still what you want and that it has not lapsed.

If you do not have a BDBN then it will be up to the trustee of the super fund to decide where your super is paid, which may not be what you would have wanted at all. Also, the absence of a BDBN will most likely cause unnecessary additional time, cost and inconvenience to the persons you have appointed as executors in your will. If you do not have a will then the potential problem is compounded.

A recent court case has highlighted this issue. The case concerned a mother who was in charge of the estate of her late son, where there was no will and there was superannuation not covered by a BDBN. The court decided that the mother was under a duty to request that the super be paid to the estate (where it would have to be shared with the late son’s father, who was estranged from the mother). This meant that the mother was under a duty to act in a way which was:

- contrary to her own best interests as potential beneficiary (she would receive only half the super instead of it all);
- contrary to good tax advice (as more tax would likely be payable if the super was paid to the estate); and
- contrary to the late son’s known wishes (he wanted all the superannuation to go to his mother).

The only way to avoid these issues with certainty is to have a valid BDBN in place, but having a valid will also helps.

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APS FINANCIAL PLANNING

CHANGES TO SUPER IN RETIREMENT – THE CLOCK IS TICKING!

For people entering retirement, the attainment of the Age Pension plays a crucial role in the long term financial future. For every dollar that can be obtained in Age Pension (or other 'Income Support' payments from Centrelink), this is one more dollar left in their own Superannuation fund or investments.

From 1st January 2015, Centrelink will be changing the Income Test for new pension applicants. Whilst for those already in receipt of an Age Pension (or Income Supported payment) who continue with their current arrangements, they will not see any change.

Whilst the changes affect all new pension applications, the biggest impact will be to people with alternative income sources in retirement, such as ComSuper Pensions, part time jobs or Investment Properties. Given this includes many of our members, we have focused on this aspect of the changes.

For many years Centrelink has determined eligibility based upon the Assets Test (the value of what you have) and the Income Test (the income received from your assets). Whilst the Asset Test will remain unchanged, the Income Test for Superannuation Pensions (known as 'Account Based Pensions' or 'Allocated Pensions') is changing on 1st January 2015. In very simple terms, at present Centrelink doesn't count all of the Superannuation Pension for the Income Test. From 1st January, this exemption is disappearing to be replaced by deeming.

Rather than a very lengthy and technical explanation, let's examine the impacts of this change for a typical client, John who is still working and plans to retire in early 2015:

John's age prior to 31 December	65
Current Salary	\$50,000
Current Super	\$300,000*
Other Income (eg. ComSuper lifetime Pension)#	\$18,000

*upon retirement, John would like to start a pension of \$20,000 per year from this Super fund. #fully untaxed pension.

So what would John's Age Pension be?

**If John retires
prior to 31st December** **\$501.26 per fortnight***

**If John retires
after 1st January** **\$385.20 per fortnight***

*these calculations assume John is single, has \$50,000 in personal assets, \$5,000 in the bank and owns his own home.

It is important to note that this difference will continue throughout John's retirement. So the questions John should ask?

- What is the real long term benefit of working beyond 1st January 2015 if I am already 65?
- Could I work part time to enable me to start claiming an Age Pension, even if this is only \$1 per fortnight, prior to 1st January 2015?

ARE THERE ANY TRAPS?

Like many rule changes, there are unseen implications that may not be felt for some time and not always by all clients. Let's refer to John once again: John decided to retire prior to 31st December 2015 and has enjoyed the high pension for some years. John has recently reviewed his superannuation fund and would like to move to an alternative fund. John researches the options, moves the funds and is pleased with his decision.

After notifying Centrelink of the change, he is surprised to learn that he is now captured under the new rules and will have his pension reduced by \$3,017 per year.

This point highlights the need to carefully select a superannuation fund that can provide flexible options and changes within the fund without the need to close the account or re-open a new account. Whilst John thought this was only a small change, with no impact to his overall financial position, the reduction in Centrelink pension will be felt for the rest of his life.

WHAT TO DO?

For most current Age Pension recipients there is no impact to this change if you retain your current Pension account. However if you are considering changes, planning for retirement in the coming months, or are still working over the age of 65, then further consideration of these changes is important.

Timothy Foster

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APS FINANCIAL PLANNING

Centrelink, Superannuation and retirement planning can often be confusing, stressful and time consuming. This is where APS Financial Planning can help. These strategies are how we already assist our clients, be it a once-off assistance or regular ongoing help. If you would like to discuss how we can assist further, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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Down and Dirty Downtown: Future Land Combat 2025

by Major Leo Purdy

By 2030, 60% of the world's population – approximately 5 billion people – will live in cities. In the Asia-Pacific – Australia's primary operating environment – the vast majority of these cities are currently, and will remain, situated on or near coasts in the littoral zone. Army's Future Land Warfare Report (FLWR14) estimates that in Asia alone, there will be at least 10 'megacities' – cities in excess of 10 million people. The FLWR14 goes on to state that 'For the Army, operating in high density urban terrain will no longer be a discretionary activity'. Consequently, one of the most important meta trends of FLWR14 is the 'crowded' trend.

Presently, the Army trains for offensive, defensive and stability tactical actions as well as a range of enabling activities as well as entry to a theatre of operations by air, sea and land as part of a joint force. Theoretically, this range of military activities provides government with the widest range of options to employ land power; practically this means Army must maintain and develop a wide range of capabilities to conduct them. However, if this and other analysis concerning the future character of conflict is in the ball park, the complexity of megacities makes successful execution of these activities exponentially more difficult. Although urban combat is not new – armies have fought in and razed cities since Antiquity – waging wars in mega-cities poses new problems for land warfare. The sheer geographic size of these mega-cities, their dense populations and the clutter of urban terrain all present challenges to current operating approaches which warrant deeper analysis.

So what does this mean to how the combatant – be they Armoured Cavalry, Aviator, Infantry, or Special Operator – conducts joint land combat in the urban littoral? I believe land forces require much better protection to fight and win in a future urban stoush. The weapons used against land forces in the future are likely to be more potent in the urban fight from what we have been exposed to in Iraq and Afghanistan. Man portable weapons such as mines, grenades, rockets and guided missiles, as shown in this clip taken during the Syrian Civil War, render weakly protected vehicles useless in short range close quarters combat fought on city streets. Traditionally, armoured vehicles increase their protection only by increasing their

size and weight, which can impact on their effectiveness in urban terrain as well as greatly increase the logistics footprint to move and sustain them.

Part of the answer to improving protection probably lies in not being seen to begin with. If land forces can disguise themselves, deceive the enemy or distract their sensor systems, they stand a better chance of avoiding detection and subsequent engagement. Therefore how much should Army invest in developing and acquiring decoys and active camouflage to reduce the signature of land vehicles and personnel? Should Army be pursuing emerging technologies such as Quantum Stealth which may be on the verge of providing a multi-spectrum camouflage



system to the infantry soldier? It offers the potential of cloaking the individual soldier, making them much harder to detect and offering a significant advantage over less well equipped foes. If land forces are detected, avoiding and surviving the hit becomes critical. In the last decade, active and passive defence measures, such as soft kill/hard kill technologies to defeat chemical and kinetic energy threats, have significantly improved. Systems like Trophy offer a means to defeat missiles, rockets and certain improvised explosive devices. Consequently these could become standard for future combat vehicles like those envisioned under Land 400.

Alternatively, perhaps the threat should prompt us to rethink how much and where we invest in manned land combatants. If the threats to land forces in future warfare are so significant, perhaps Army should investigate the employment of semi-autonomous ground and air combatants such as the Black Knight or Fire Scout? Similarly, exoskeleton technologies, which have significant advantages for Infantry and Special Forces who are traditionally more dependant on the physical endurance of their soldiers, may soon mature into practical military suits. Although these systems and others like them have technological limitations and create new vulnerabilities in areas Army will need to subsequently

address; semi-autonomous vehicles coupled with soldiers fortified by performance enhancing systems may help us win future battles while reducing the risk to soldiers. Hence, while well trained and motivated people remain the Army's greatest resource, these new technologies may mean a greater dependence on equipment and vehicles. Will this challenge the Army maxim that it equips the man rather than mans the equipment?

If future land forces are to remain capable, credible and relevant, there are tough challenges ahead. These technologies will not come cheaply and require significant investment in training and education to master. Army's war fighting approaches and culture may also need to change to realise the potential of new technologies and methods. Given the time it takes for any large organisation, such as Defence, to evolve it is likely that we will prosecute land combat beyond 2025 with land forces developed from decisions made in this decade. Therefore it is essential that we objectively explore what future land combat may demand of the Australian Army in order to make the best decisions possible.

Major Leo Purdy is the Staff Officer Grade 2 Joint Integration and Concepts within the Directorate of Future Land Warfare at Army Headquarters.



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Beyond the 'Iron Mountain' - The Paradox Of Efficient Logistics

by Lieutenant Colonel David Beaumont

Logistics has long been regarded as vital to a force yet equally a constraint on that force's freedom to manoeuvre. It is routinely condemned as focussing a force on locales rather than objectives; or as commonly yet usually erroneously described, confining the force to the Forward Operating Base (FOB). However, in seeking to alleviate the need for an 'iron mountain', the modern fixation on high-velocity, nominally 'efficient', logistics and 'globalised' supply chains has introduced its own quite significant challenges. Indeed it was recently argued that the ADF has yet to fully understand the consequences of an approach to logistics that now permeates its key concepts.

Logistic systems, and the concepts that drive their formation, are as influential on operations as operations should determine them. Clausewitz, although not overwhelmingly interested in issues of 'paper war', knew the irrevocable relationship logistics had with strategy and tactics. He noted, "questions of supply can exert on the form and direction of operations, as well as the choice of a theatre of war and the line of communication." Modern war shows no evidence to support any contradiction of this view. But it does reveal a paradox; in seeking to reduce the impact of logistics on strategy, operations and tactics through the artifice of efficient supply chains, planners may have in fact created new vulnerabilities from the old.

This paradox has been exemplified in Afghanistan, where the unprecedented outsourcing of logistics functions was intended to enhance operational flexibility for offensive operations, achieve national development objectives but most importantly, reduce the scale of military logistic elements in theatre. Professor Derek Gregory claims this tremendous transfer of risk funded years of warlordism and corruption, drawing away resources perhaps better employed directly in support of the deployed force. Furthermore, insurgent destruction of civilian contracted convoys and international disputes with Pakistan very quickly showed that the corporatisation of military logistics and 'just-in-time' systems failed to live up to the promise they originally offered.

As the war approaches its supposed end, militaries have sought new solutions to sustain deployed forces. War is quite clearly ironic, as many of these other options have

proved as ultimately inefficient as the 'iron mountains' they were designed to obviate. From 2006 to 2011 the USAF record of airdrops in Afghanistan had increased from 3.5 million lbs to over 80 million lbs annually, with around 40% of FOBs supplied directly from air; air elements that could have otherwise been supporting mobility tasks. As Captain Albaugh from the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron aptly described of such operations, "we're going to burn a lot of gas to drop a lot of gas".

School of Advanced Military Studies student, Major Martha Granger, in her 2003 analysis of three Afghanistan campaigns (pdf), noted logistics is never easy and there must be balance between 'iron mountains' and the lean force. This is a message that is often muted behind the effusion about 'efficient' logistics, even within the US military that has more reason than any other to understand the impact of logistics on operations. In analysing the US Navy concept of 'seabasing' the Congressional Budget Office outlined ideas from fleets of a dozen vessels per brigade of marines to airships providing sustainment to deployed forces; each idea addressing the problem of forward positioning logistics yet introducing significant operational challenges the US military has yet to effectively respond to.

As the Australian Army begins operating within an Australian Maritime Strategy, there are many parallels to such studies. The ADF's future expeditionary operations will require us to protect vital lines of communication from disruption in the tremendously complex environment of a maritime setting. Army, and the ADF more broadly, knows this and is developing operational concepts accordingly. But the question still remains; has our reliance on efficient supply chains as a means of minimising logistic forces and supply in the field led us to become victims of our own good intentions?

Academic Deborah Cowen recently wrote that we are moving to an era where 'logistic space' has been recast from an environment of economic costs to one which has significant implications for security. In a more visceral sense, in viewing logistics as a system of 'adding value' through the reduction of stock holdings or volume - counterpoised against an increasing demand for velocity - armies are becoming increasingly vulnerable to anything that interferes with or interdicts this flow. We are therefore left with a paradox. Our desire to unshackle our dispersed operations from the 'iron mountains' has only left planners with new challenges, perhaps even greater, than the problems of old.

Lieutenant Colonel Beaumont is currently Staff Officer Grade One - Logistic Plans at Headquarters Forces Command.

Brave Mate Profile: Curtis McGrath

Meet Curtis McGrath. While serving with the Australian Defence Force in Afghanistan in August 2012, Curtis stepped on an improvised explosive device and lost both of his legs. The journey that he has been on since, to regain his mobility while retaining his outlook on life, has seen Curtis become a passionate Brave Mate and paddle his way along a path to Rio.

Growing up in New Zealand with a love of sport, kayaking was one that got Curtis' attention.

"I was playing rugby, soccer, netball, swimming; a bit of everything really, anything I could get my hands on, keeping as active as I could," said Curtis.

"At school we did white water kayaking / slalom. I got quite into it at school, then I joined the ADF and it wasn't really pursued that much."

When Curtis returned from Afghanistan without his legs, he sought an opportunity that he could both do and enjoy. Curtis first heard about Mates4Mates while still in hospital, when he was offered the opportunity to participate in the Kokoda Trek Adventure Challenge.

"I have trained in the jungle, but I wasn't very interested in dealing with that with no legs, so I declined." But Mates4Mates persisted.

"After a while they told me about a big kayak expedition they were planning to do from Sydney to Brisbane. This was something I did when I was at high school and I was interested in joining the team, so I signed up," said Curtis.

"Once I got out of hospital and got my prosthetic legs, I started to train for the expedition while I was in rehab."

Curtis took part in the Mates4Mates Sea Kayak Adventure Challenge in August 2013, with his father, Paul, by his side for part of the 980km paddle. Months of training went into preparing for the 21-day open ocean voyage.

While the Mates4Mate Adventure Challenges can assist in rehabilitation and the healing process for many Brave Mates, Curtis also took on the Sea Kayak Adventure Challenge as an opportunity to get involved in something he enjoyed and to challenge himself.

"I didn't really have any big issues with losing my legs, in terms of mentally. I just sort of jumped on the band wagon of wanting to do sports and whatever opportunities arose," said Curtis.

"This was the first adventure I did with Mates4Mates, and it hasn't really stopped since. It developed into high performance sport, which has been great."

Following the Adventure Challenge, Curtis got more heavily involved in canoeing, taking up training and competing. Just five short months in, Curtis is in training with the Australian Paracanoe Team on the Gold Coast, and returned from the ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships in Moscow in August with a gold medal and a world record.

While the results are evidence of Curtis' work ethic and dedication, he is quick to acknowledge the ongoing support he has received from Mates4Mates, as well as other sponsors.

"I have had amazing support from Mates4Mates. They have given me sponsorship so I can continue to train and compete."

Opposite: Curtis during habilitation.

Below: Curtis talking with fellow Brave Mates who participated in the Sea Kayak Challenge



"I have also been supported by local Gold Coast company LEgear who supplied training attire and travel bags for my competition travel."

While Curtis' life may have taken a different path over the last two years, he focuses on the positives and the direction in which he is now paddling.

"I think if you take it as it is and try to take the positive out of it, you know, if I hadn't have lost my legs, I wouldn't be here about to represent my country in another aspect of Australian life."

"It's a good lifestyle. Trying to get up early in the morning is probably the hardest thing, but otherwise it's been good – the sunshine and the water, it's been nice," said Curtis.

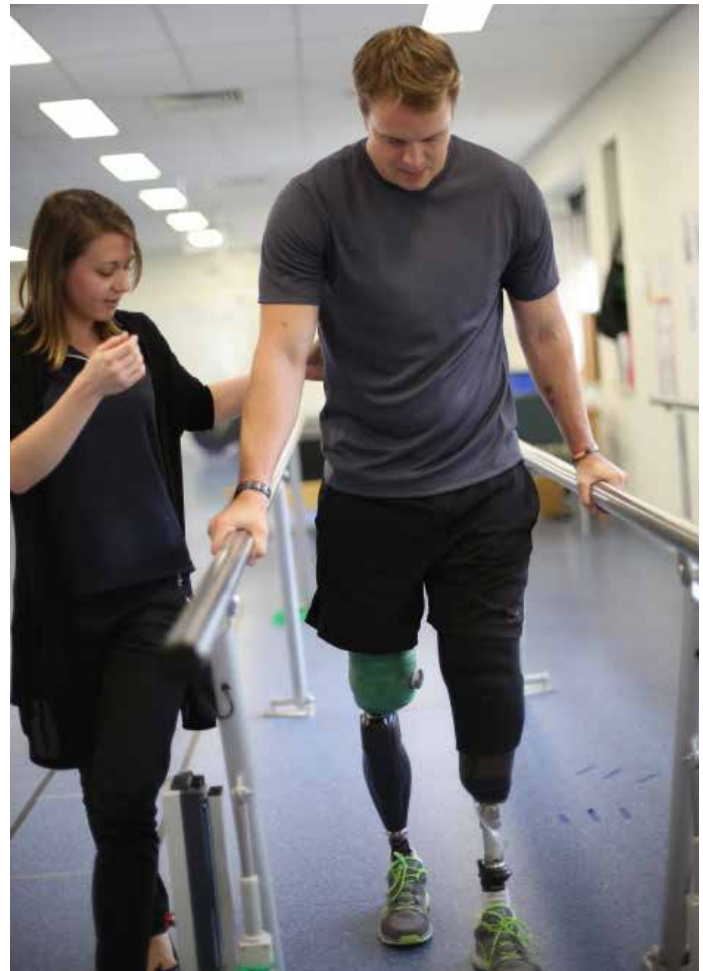
"It is all in the quest to make the Australian Paralympic Team for Rio De Janeiro in 2016. You've got to shoot for the stars, and aim big, so that's the goal."

"This is my story and if people find this inspiring then that's totally up to them. If they can find some sort of motivation to get out and do some different things that really great."

Follow Curtis' journey on Facebook: Support Sapper Curtis McGrath. *This article originally appeared in RSL (Queensland Branch) publication RSL News, Edition 04, 2014.*



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The global consulting organization Serenidad Consulting® was founded in 2010 by its CEO, Nola Hennessy, to deliver services and products that are a cut-above-the-rest and underpinned by the principles of excellence, great leadership and positive personal power. Its strategic intent is to facilitate global peace and it does so, in every context of its operations and by partnering formally and informally with like-minded others. Ms Hennessy sees global peace through an education and prevention-focused lens, not a conflict lens and, as such, has been spreading the importance of these strategies especially during her recent time in the USA.

Some say that peace will never happen; others, that peace is critical to the survival of the human race. Both those views create significant challenges to those who know that peace is achievable. The single most significant barrier to peace is at the individual level. Where there is no peace coming from within, there can be no peace sustained with others. As each person chooses a peaceful existence, so too will families, groups, societies, organizations and countries create peace and be able to flourish in the positive energy that is inherent in choosing that path.

Imagine a nation's military engagement "White Paper" visioning peace instead of ongoing conflict? Impossible, or inevitable? The question Ms Hennessy puts to each and every member of humanity is simple: "What do you want to see happen – peace or war?" When peace (and only peace) is the choice, then strategic documents will articulate that choice and provide direction to achieve that outcome.

Civilians support MH370 search

WHILE much focus was on the Australian Defence Force aircraft, vessels and people involved in the unprecedented multinational search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, civilians also provided support behind the scenes.

They included APS base support staff and contractors who provided refuelling, accommodation, firefighting, catering and base infrastructure services at RAAF Bases Pearce and Learmonth.

As well, an acting assistant secretary led the communication and media team within the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC), headed up by the former Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston (retd).

As RAAF Base Pearce ramped up in the search for MH370 from March to May, Defence Support Reform Group's base support staff were busy handling frantic requests for food, fuel, accommodation and firefighters.

The Base Support Operations Manager, Murray Sullivan, and his team made sure Defence and international counterparts got what they needed from the base.

"We were the conduit between the Air Force and the base service contractors to relay Defence's requirements for what support services were required for the base," he says.

This involved working with Transfield Services and Spotless to ensure the base could support the 24-hour operation of the search effort.

"The contractors were providing extra refuelling operations," Murray says.

"We had the base's 220 beds continuously full with people checking in and checking out every day, so we had to put on extra cleaning services as well.

"The caterers were working 24 hours a day to provide in-flight meals and messing services."

The chef and manager of the RAAF Base Learmonth Mess facility, Jason Cumberworth, says a team of up to five staff flew to the base from Perth to provide catering services during the deployment period.

"We provided upwards of 150 meals a sitting and, where possible, we tried to source fresh local produce to vary the menu choice," he says.

With an intimate knowledge of what the contractors can do, Murray and his team worked with Defence to keep RAAF Base Pearce running.

"We're in that position of knowing what contractors are

From the left, Mess manager, Jason Cumberworth, chef, Jonathan Davey, kitchen hand, Alanna Main and chef Barry Wells prepare meals at RAAF Base Learmonth during Operation Southern Indian Ocean.

Behind-the-scenes support from civilians contributed to the search efforts of military personnel in the skies and on the ocean. Photo: Corporal Colin Dadd



capable of and we liaise with them to be able to make that happen,” Murray says.

“It was a really good way to bring forward that one-team approach, which allows us to be flexible and quickly respond to any requirements.”

Murray says both Transfield Services and Spotless were pleased to provide support to the search effort.

“These guys really wanted to get the job done knowing they were contributing to a real-world activity.

“And from our perspective we’ve been able to get the job done and respond as required,” he says.

“But it wasn’t about individual organisations, it was about coming together as a team.”

Representatives from different departments and agencies came together to staff the JACC.

The Acting Assistant Secretary of Corporate Communication, David Rawlins, was also conscious of the teamwork across Defence and other agencies during the peak search period.

David represented the Department of Defence as JACC Media Director in Perth from 8 April to 2 May.

“As the Media Director, I led a team of highperforming individuals in a high tempo and demanding environment,” he says.

“The communication team was at the forefront of some of the work at the JACC.

In addition to ‘regular’ media enquiries, we also provided early morning situation reports for interdepartmental committees and prepared materials for use by the Prime Minister and Ministers.

“We also had to deal with issues as they arose, all the while maintaining our core services on a 24/7 basis.”

David says his experience of working in the Department of Defence came to the fore when working across various groups as one team and knuckling down to get the job done.


“It was disappointing that we didn’t find the aircraft but, as a public servant and a media professional, I was proud to see the Australian and international groups coming together in the search to find the plane,” he says.

“I was privileged to be asked to represent the Department of Defence.

“There were some long days. I was very tired, but then I would think, I’ve had friends who have served in theatre and they worked seven days a week for nine months straight.


“You just put your shoulder in and you get on with it.”

Additional reporting by Flight Lieutenant Kevin Barnes



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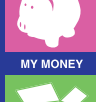
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LAMP shows the way

DSTO scientists are working to better protect the ADF as they take military vehicle and human integration on a new path.

By Simon Oldfield

The Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) has launched a vehicle research facility at its Edinburgh Defence Precinct site that will help the ADF better understand the complex processes that affect individuals and teams as they control a vehicle in a military theatre.

What started out as a request to fabricate a standard static vehicle mock-up, as part of DSTO's vehicle research program, became an engineering challenge when the Defence scientists added a motion platform to the simulator design brief.

Engineering Project Manager Tim Teske, of DSTO's Scientific Engineering Services (SES) division, acknowledges that the simulator morphed into a facility that is "a bit larger" than first envisaged.

"In fact, against competing project pressures, it took the combined technical expertise of most capability areas in SES, with the simulation engineering capabilities within DSTO's Land Division, to successfully deliver the Land Motion Platform," Tim says.

According to human systems scientist Dr Justin Fidock, without the high-level project management skills demonstrated by SES and Land Division "we could not have created this custom-designed facility that is perfectly tailored to our research needs.

"That includes managing the contributions of the many contractors and vendors that provided expertise and equipment. We now have a state-of-the-art facility that forms the core of DSTO's land vehicles/human systems integration research program for the next decade and beyond," he says.

SES engineers and technical staff sat down with Justin's scientists during the early stages of the project to develop and refine the requirements for the Land Motion Platform, referred to as 'the LAMP'.

"The basic requirement was for a military vehicle simulator that could simulate the movement of vehicles travelling through different types of terrain," Tim says.

"We needed to provide a realistic cabin environment for up to four passengers while subjecting them to similarly realistic representations of vehicle motion."

Tim admits that safely accelerating four large passengers in a 1400kg cabin, through movement in every direction, known as six degrees of freedom – in step with a virtual environment, took the mechanical and electrical design effort to a whole new level.

Apart from movement up and down, forward, backward and side to side, there is rotation in three directions (referred to as pitch, roll and yaw).

The technical effort needed was significantly advanced because the virtual world includes hurtling around city streets, racing up and down steep sand dunes, clattering along rocky creek beds, and even being hit by weapons and improvised explosive devices.

The cabin itself was designed and fabricated on-site in the SES workshops at DSTO Adelaide. The outside shape is angled to represent the shape of light protected mobility vehicles such as the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle or the Thales Hawkei.

"It would've been much simpler to stick with a square box, but the preference was for more realistic aesthetics," Tim says. "Individually, none of the components are particularly challenging from an engineering design point of view. It's when you bring it all together that you create complexity."

Inside the cabin, three monitors simulate the view from the front windscreen, while screens on each side of the cabin display side-window footage.

"The walls are white because the scientists said that would be best for simulation purposes and it also reduces motion sickness," Tim says.

The cabin is manufactured with materials commonly used in wet areas, so that any mishaps can be hosed away. Sick bags are provided in handy locations. This is a necessary precaution because simulator-induced motion sickness, often the result of slight inconsistencies between vision and motion, is common.

"After refurbishing an existing building on the Edinburgh site to house the facility, we laid the mount for the motion base before integrating the motion base, the cabin and safety systems," Tim says.

"We didn't want the cabin flying off so we bolted a test mass equivalent to that of the cabin and occupants to the motion base to test it out and ensure we could move the cabin as desired. Once we were comfortable that we could control the electric pneumatic system, we went ahead and installed the cabin." Justin says the LAMP team devoted more than 10,000 hours to achieve success.

"We are really proud of this highly capable piece of research infrastructure. Every member of the LAMP team should feel no small measure of satisfaction for

Defence Science and Technology Organisation's Land Motion Platform is designed to simulate the movement of field and combat vehicles travelling through different types of terrain. It takes up to four occupants and subjects them to realistic representations of vehicle motion, which allows researchers to understand human performance under different conditions. *Photo: Peter Hoare Photography*



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their part in making the LAMP a reality,” he says.

“Without the LAMP, the ADF would be less able to determine the impact of new mobile workspaces on troop stress levels and performance, and would have no efficient way to trial solutions to problems that arise.

“If you’ve ever used your phone while a passenger in a moving car, you’ll appreciate the effort that is required by cramped, kitted-out troops bumping around in a military vehicle to enter battle management data on a touch screen.”

Justin is confident LAMP will help Defence scientists and engineers assess and improve the design and layout of mobile workspaces, and derive practices to reduce the stress on, and improve the performance of, vehicle occupants. This will mean savings in time and money.

“It’s really an opportune time to have the LAMP hit the streets,” he says. “Defence is planning to acquire thousands of new field and combat vehicles, as well as mobile computing technology, which in combination are designed to enhance mobility, survivability and connectivity, through Projects Land 121, Land 400 and Land 75.”

Defence scientist Omio Abedin, who is trained in both engineering and psychology, is involved in the thick of calibrating and testing the LAMP.

“We’ve been comparing the output from the virtual world generated by the simulator software with the LAMP

movement to ensure it lines up,” he says.

“Additionally, we have been feeding in data that we recorded using accelerometers installed in vehicles out in the field. In essence, we are able to replay the motion experienced by the driver and crew in the real world.”

In the future, the scientists plan to collect synchronised video and motion data in the field and use that in the LAMP for an even more realistic experience.

“This is a step up from the vehicle simulators I’ve been using for research here. The LAMP definitely has a lot of capability and I’m excited about the opportunities we now have. I’ve tried it out and the immersion is quite impressive,” Omio says.

He and his colleagues will extend collaborations with research partners from academia, industry and overseas defence research organisations, via The Technical Cooperation Program, to better understand how the performance of operators, crew and teams can be enhanced in the new mobile work environments.

“We are really interested in understanding and then mitigating the effect of motion and other factors on cognitive and psychomotor performance of troops operating military vehicles and associated computer-based equipment,” Omio says.

“The LAMP will certainly enhance this research and provide a way of investigating these issues before the new vehicle capabilities are introduced into service.”



Two Army personnel experience the Land Motion Platform military vehicle simulator. *Photo Peter Hoare Photography*



Above: Army Blackhawk helicopters from 6th Aviation Regiment land on HMAS Choules flight deck in Jervis Bay during the ship's 'shakedown' period.

Below: Midshipman Thomas Miller keeps watch onboard HMAS Choules.



HMAS Choules ready to 'Render Safe'

HMAS Choules has just completed major preparations in Jervis Bay south of Sydney to prepare the ship for deployment to Bougainville for Operation RENDER SAFE 2014.

Choules' 11-day comprehensive preparation included boarding-party training and officer of the watch manoeuvres with HMAS Arunta as well as whole of ship activities including man overboard drills, damage control exercises, mexeflote training, non-combatant evacuation exercises, and working with 6 Aviation Regiment's Black Hawk helicopters to complete necessary check landing qualifications for pilots.

Choules carries two mexeflotes, each capable of ferrying up to 100 tonnes of vehicles, equipment and personnel between the ship and the shore in amphibious operations.

At the same time, boarding-party training was being conducted which encompassed the work up of two new boarding-party teams, enhancing the ship's operational capability.

Sixteen personnel underwent intensive training including equipment drills, use of force familiarisation and simulated boarding operations. Additionally, the teams practised embarking onto fast recovery craft from Choules in rough seas.

Boarding Officer Sub Lieutenant Andrew Leupen said the training helped all members of the teams.

"It was exciting and a good step forward," Sub Lieutenant Leupen said.

"The teams are to be commended for taking on this challenge with zeal and a can-do attitude."

Damage control exercises such as crash on deck to prepare for MRH-90 helicopter embarkation during RENDER SAFE were conducted to test the knowledge and readiness of the response team and aviation crew.

The aim was to gather valuable feedback in order to improve their situational awareness and active response if the highly unlikely situation should ever occur.

Ship's Aviation Officer Lieutenant Commander Mark Whanslaw said flying evolutions with 808SQN's MRH-90 helicopters and Army's Black Hawks ensured Choules' ship's company was ready for their deployment.

"Conducting damage control exercises for aviation is an important requirement for the flight-deck team and ship work up for aviation operations," Lieutenant Commander Whanslaw said.

"The crash on deck exercises re-enforced the key principles in fighting aircraft fires and introduced these to new flight-deck team members."

The ship also conducted two days of aviation workups consisting of more than 150 deck landings, assisting 6 Aviation Regiment to achieve 14 pilot qualifications. The deck-landing training also involved a range of approach and landing procedures, including some with night vision.

Over the past 18 months Choules has upgraded 10 helicopter control officers and eight flight-deck marshalls as well as qualifying the majority of Navy and Army pilots in deck landing qualifications.

Embarking MRH-90s aboard Choules earlier this year was an important milestone for MRH-90 acceptance into service as an integral part of the ADF amphibious ready element.

Towards the end of shakedown, Choules mustered a whole ship exercise to simulate a non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) as one of Choules' major roles is the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The NEO simulated during the shakedown was built on a scenario whereby Australians found themselves in a politically unstable area.

All departments on board Choules were involved in the successful extraction, processing, and accommodating of 'Australian nationals'.

The NEO aimed to prove Choules' and her ship's company's capability, aid training of personnel in the NEO itself, and test important materiel such as the mexeflote, landing craft vehicle and personnel and the fast recovery craft.

Cargo Specialist, Private Rodney Ferris, of HMAS Choules Ships Army Establishment (SAE) hard at work on Choules vehicle deck.



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PNG role building stronger links

A posting to PNG has proven stimulating, rewarding and challenging for Defence civilian Lachlan McGovern.

Being posted to Papua New Guinea (PNG) has been the next big step in Lachlan McGovern's Defence career. In January 2013 he moved to Port Moresby to take up the position of First Secretary Defence at the Australian High Commission – a far cry from his first job with the APS as a support officer with the Australian Crime Commission.

In 2010 he completed his Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies, focusing on Solomon Islands, and then transitioned across to Defence to begin working with International Policy Division on the PNG and Solomon Islands desks.

Lachlan was promoted through the ranks and, before his PNG posting, was Assistant Director Malaysia, Brunei and Counter Terrorism in the South-East Asia Branch.

As First Secretary Defence in PNG, Lachlan reports back to Australia on developments in the bilateral relationship and provides policy advice to Defence Adviser Colonel Dick Parker.

Lachlan says he really enjoys the autonomy of his current role and his ability to contribute to policy.

"I like being able to inform and shape policy," he says.

"The High Commission is a really interesting place to work in terms of working with our PNG Defence Force partners;

it's a really good relationship and a stimulating environment to work in.

"Also our Defence team here is excellent, and working closely with other agencies like DFAT is different and interesting."

Founded on the basis of history and shared experiences, the defence relationship between Australia and PNG is both strong and enduring. Many current PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) units can trace their regimental history to units formed as part of the Australian Army during and after World War II.

In more recent years, the relationship has concentrated on the development of the PNGDF's capabilities, with the Australian Government providing assistance through the Defence Cooperation Program (DCP).

Australia has DCPs with many countries in the Indo-Pacific region, but the PNG program is the largest with a budget of about \$25 million for 2013-14. The DCP aims to develop a capable and professional PNGDF and PNG Department of Defence in partnership with the PNG Government.

Lachlan was involved with some of the DCP strategy work that was done in early 2012 and is now seeing the fruits of that labour.

"It's really good to be here and implementing the policy we talked about then," he says.

"To do all the high-level planning and then be on the ground as well is amazing.

"You think well we thought this two years ago, is that still actually the case or do we need to test and adjust, then I get to carry out any adjustment."

Lachlan says his input is well received and he always feels that he has contributed to the program.

"A lot of my reporting goes back to Canberra and I have had good feedback from higher levels that they value our feedback and take us seriously," he says.

Lachlan is the only civilian in his team, making it very different from his previous job.

"I think that's really awesome, because it's great to learn the military culture, to understand and work well with it," he says.

"For Defence civilians there aren't many jobs overseas, and I think this is one of the best."



First flight for Australia's F-35A Joint Strike Fighter

The first of Australia's much anticipated Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters (JSF) successfully took flight from Fort Worth, Texas on Monday 29 September. It was a maiden flight for the Australian F-35A, lasting approximately two hours.

JSF Division Acting Program Manager for Australia, Air Commodore Cath Roberts, said that the first flight for the initial RAAF F-35A was a direct reflection on the great work of the entire JSF team.

"Seeing this aircraft fly today, combined with the fact that we will deliver our first two aircraft to Luke Air Force Base early next year, demonstrates the commitment and combined efforts of the Royal Australian Air Force, Defence Materiel Organisation, United States Air Force and the F-35 Joint Program Office team," Air Commodore Roberts said.

Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown, AO, said that the occasion of the first flight is an important symbolic step towards Australia's new air combat capability.

"The F-35A will provide the RAAF with a transformational 5th capability and significant benefits for the Australian aerospace industry," Air Marshal Brown said.

"Australian industry has already won contracts worth more than US\$412 million as a partner in the JSF program."

The first two of 72 F-35A Lightning II JSF aircraft for Australia were rolled out of the Lockheed Martin's production facility in Fort Worth, Texas on 24 July 2014. The F-35As will replace the RAAF's current fleet of ageing F/A-18A/B Hornets.

Following initial acceptance, the first aircraft will undertake flight test and airworthiness program leading to acceptance and ferry of aircraft to Luke Air Force Base (AFB), Arizona in 2015 to support the commencement of Australian pilot training.

The first F-35A aircraft will enter service in Australia in 2018 with the first operational squadron established by 2020.

Preparing for future home

Preparation for the arrival of Australia's first F-35s to Luke Air Force Base (AFB) in Arizona, Director-General JSF Acquisition and Sustainment AIRCDRE Cath Roberts visited the home of future F-35 pilot training.

AIRCDRE Roberts, Australian National Deputy GPCAPT Ian Nesbitt and Assistant National Deputy WGCADR Mick Grant toured the Aircraft Maintenance Facilities of the 61st Aircraft Maintenance Unit (AMU) from September 2-3 to review progress.

Luke AFB recently received its ninth F-35 aircraft, which rolled down the production line as AF-52 to form part of the 61st AMU.



This was AIRCDRE Roberts' first opportunity for to see the progress being made towards initial pilot training at Luke AFB in 2015.

The visit was coordinated by local Australian on-site representative SQNLDR Nathan Draper, who is the Australian Participant Maintenance Liaison Officer and first international F-35 member on base.

"It has been exciting being a part of Luke and JSF history in standing up the first international training unit with the team here at Luke AFB," SQNLDR Draper said.

The visit included meetings with the 56th Fighter Wing Commander, Brigadier General Scott Pleus, support staff from 56th Fighter Wing and Lockheed Martin, which is providing the F-35 sustainment and contracted labour for Australian F-35 operations at the base.

Chief Master Sergeant Raul Villarreal, the 61st AMU Superintendent and equivalent to unit WOE in the RAAF, also coordinated a review of flightline operations during the visit.

There has been an increasing Australian presence at Luke AFB with recent supply chain and maintenance due diligence inspection visits.

AIRCDRE Roberts said the on-site Australian series of briefs, meetings and facilities inspections was a critical milestone towards achieving Australian airworthiness, with the F-35 airworthiness board being scheduled for November.

"It's really pleasing to see the extent of our collective preparations here at Luke AFB in advance of the arrival of Australia's first F-35s," AIRCDRE Roberts said.

"Brigadier General Pleus and his team, and the whole community here in Phoenix, have been extremely supportive of Australia's participation in training operations here at Luke."

Luke AFB will be the home of Australian F-35A pilot training until facilities are finalised at RAAF Base Williamtown in early 2021.

Australia commences combat operations in Iraq

Two Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) F/A-18F Super Hornet aircraft have completed their first armed combat mission over Iraq, assisting coalition operations against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

The Super Hornet aircraft, conducted an Air Interdiction and Close Air Support mission over northern Iraq overnight AEDT (5-6 October 2014).

The Super Hornets were on-call to attack targets as identified.

On this occasion the aircraft did not use their munitions and have returned to base to disarm and prepare for future sorties.

The Australian Air Task Group's KC-30A multi-role tanker transport supported the Super Hornets while the E-7A Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft also flew over Iraq.

The flights were completed without incident and all aircraft have returned safely to Australia's main support base in the Middle East.

The Australian Air Task Group is operating as part of an Iraqi Government-approved and US-led international



Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18F Super Hornet aircraft in the skies of Iraq as part of the Air Task Group.

coalition assembled to disrupt and degrade ISIL.

Australian Special Forces await Iraqi government approval to commence advice and assist operations in Iraq.

Australia's efforts are in response to a request for assistance by the Iraqi Government in combating ISIL terrorists.

Pilot passes gruelling test

The sky is the limit for SQNLDR Marija Jovanovich. She graduated from the prestigious US Air Force Test Pilot School as the first Australian in 25 years and the RAAF's second ever female test pilot.

SQNLDR Jovanovich graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Flight Test Engineering and joins nearly 3000 alumni including more than 60 astronauts.

To complete the gruelling 48-week program at Edwards Air Force Base in California she endured 2500 academic hours, including 120 hours of in-flight training.

SQNLDR Jovanovich said her time at USAF Test Pilot School was a challenging yet rewarding experience that has prepared her for her new posting to the Aircraft Research and Development Unit at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

"I've been flying for 10 years and nothing has approached the difficulty of USAF Test Pilot School," she said.

"It was the most difficult, the most demanding but ultimately the most rewarding course I've ever done.

"The workload was very intense and what you're learning changes gears every day, but that ultimately makes you a better pilot."

During the course, SQNLDR Jovanovich flew 23 different aircraft ranging from the F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon to the An-2Colt, a Russian biplane.

As the graduation exercise, she planned and executed a real-world Test Management Project, in which her team

cleared the C-12C Huron for static-line airdrop operations.

"The Test Pilot School has given me the confidence and experience I need to succeed as a test pilot," SQNLDR Jovanovich said.

"I can now get into any aircraft and feel confident in my ability to get the job done."

OC Development and Test Wing GPCAPT Ross Bender attended SQNLDR Jovanovich's graduation and said he was proud of her achievement.

"SQNLDR Jovanovich has done immensely well to complete the course as one of three distinguished graduates," he said.

"I confidently speak on behalf of the Air Force when I say we are extremely proud of her achievement.

"The staff and instructors at USAF Test Pilot School made specific comment on her outstanding performance during the course, in particular the final oral exam during which she presented analysis and concepts that even challenged and stretched the staff"





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Pacific focus

WITH the drawing down of forces in Afghanistan, the ADF has the opportunity to refocus closer to home and contribute to regional stability, including the security and prosperity of neighbouring countries in the Pacific region.

Australia has Defence Cooperation Programs (DCPs) with various South-East Asian and South Pacific countries.

Its longstanding defence relationship with Papua New Guinea (PNG) is its largest DCP.

Defence Adviser Colonel Dick Parker says the DCP in PNG is aimed at building the capacity, capability and professionalism of the PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) and PNG Department of Defence.

“Along with an active exercise program such as Olgeta Warrior, the DCP assists with training of PNGDF personnel in Australia and PNG, refurbishment of ageing PNGDF infrastructure, supporting maritime security through the Pacific Patrol Boat program, and gifting of a landing craft heavy and providing in-line personnel to support PNGDF staff and training activities,” Dick says.

“We also provide two leased helicopters to assist the PNGDF to rebuild their air capability. The program is multi-faceted and constantly adapting to meet the needs of the PNGDF and Australia.”

Australia’s commitment to the PNG DCP has expanded in recent years with new areas of focus including enhanced capability development and sustainment, as well as enhanced DCP assistance to the PNG Department of Defence.

Australia has 27 members posted in PNG.

The DCP has also been sending mentoring training teams to PNG to assist with building the PNGDF capability and mentoring and training the PNGDF’s two infantry battalions.

An infantry team deployed to PNG in April and a recruit training team deployed in June.

By Leading Seaman Helen Frank

Lieutenant Aaron Swanson (pointing) gives orders to his men after receiving a beach handover from clearance divers at Cowley Beach.



Lieutenant Aaron Swanson from A Company, 2nd Royal Australian Regiment speaks with Colonel Mark Goina Chief of Personnel, PNG Defence Force and Lieutenant Colonel Vince Gabina, Commanding Officer of 2nd Battalion Royal Pacific Island Regiment, PNGDF in Wewak, PNG during Exercise Olgeta Warrior.



APPVA State Branch Queensland



Firstly we are proud to announce that we are now located in the Kenmore – Moggill RSL Sub Branch, in Brisbane, being our new APPVA Queensland State Headquarters.

This is a great achievement in gaining office space for our Pensions, Welfare and Advocacy delivery mainly due the time and effort made by Rod Thompson and Andrea Josephs in gaining this asset. Along with our new office space, we have some fantastic facilities at our disposal.

Amalgamation of North and South Queensland Branches

Since the amalgamation of both Queensland Branches and the forming of the APPVA Queensland State Branch, there is ongoing discussions with former South Queensland Members in taking on roles in supporting special events so that the State Branch Committee can commit to Pensions and Welfare delivery, which is our core role as an ESO.

I have however, made the attempt in supporting the former branch members for special events by making several trips to Brisbane, by trains, planes and automobiles, to services, along with working Bees which is important to our association.

Inaugural APPVA Queensland Branch AGM /EGM.

On the 14th July 2014, APPVA Queensland State Branch conducted our 1st AGM / EGM. In addition to a better than expected turn-out, also in attendance was our National President, Allan Thomas and our National Patron, Major General (ret) Prof John Pearn who was elated to be invited to our meeting, which has rekindled his desire to be more proactive in attending further meetings in both State and National meetings.

Townsville RSL Office Space

In the coming month or so, we will see an improvement in the amount of office space for us in Quinns Post. Katrina Carter our newly qualified L1 Pensions and Welfare Officer and Admin Support is doing a great job, and I would be lost without her.

After some in depth conversations with the Townsville RSL president, our work environment will improve with additional offices and office equipment. It is hoped that when Allan comes up in November, he will also bring along



with him, our National Entitlements Officer, Rod Thompson, so that further discussions may be held, to improve working conditions alongside other ESO's in the facility.

CA – Directive 22/13 on Base Access

After placing our submission and having received support in principle from the Office, Chief of Army and the RSM-A, the issue for on base access is still ongoing, principally due to the fact, that the final decision on when this will occur, rests with the Commander of 3 Bde.

Vietnam Veterans' Day / Peacekeepers Day August / September



The two services are now an annual event in supporting each other at the VVAA Burdekin, Deep Creek Veterans' Retreat. Although we did not have the numbers expected (Cowboys Home Ground Final) for 13th September PK Service, it turned out to be great day. Many thanks goes out to Scott Miles who drove all the way from Coffs Harbour to assist myself as MC and his catering skills.

Support was provided from 3 Bde which included an Armed Catafalque Guard (1RAR) and the Bugler from 1 RAR Band. The service turned out to be a very moving moment from Australia's best.



Townsville Veterans' Health Week

On the 17th October, we of the North Queensland Annex of APPVA manned our little marquee and stand for the Veterans' Health Week and Stomp for Life. This event was a day / night event, which marked the first time that it was held at the old Jezzine barracks site at the end of the Strand.

The event turned out to be a great occasions with many ESO's participating along with plenty of banter. Great music by the DVA-Ettes, pronounced deviates, food stalls and cooking contests. The evening finished with a fireworks display. This was a great Defence Family orientated event.

Success Story

A very proud moment for an APPVA success story for one Smokey's younger clients. Mr Daniel Spain and his lovely wife, Jess on their wedding day on the 4th October in Hervey Bay which Lorraine and I attended.



In Conclusion

In ending, I would like to say that we have a great bunch of people on our committee with more people coming board. We have laid the groundwork for a very dynamic APPVA Queensland State Branch. I would like to enforce the ideals, that as an ESO, our Primary role is to support the wider Veteran Community and their families. We as a younger ESO, we also need to support both special occasions and advocacy and remembering those who have fallen and for those who have left us.

APPVA Conference



Allan Thomas President addressing the Conference



BRIG Daniel Peters addressing the Conference



Allan Thomas, Paul Copeland, Kevin Ryan



Dinner with Senator Jacqui Lambie



APPVA Banner



Rod Thompson APPVA National Entitlements Officer



APPVA Pension Officer Andrea Josephs with Jacqui Lambie



National AGM



Senator Jacqui Lambie addressing the Conference



The Minister for Veterans Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson addressing the Conference



Senator Jacqui Lambie with APPVA National Secretary Kevin Ryan



Mr Geoff Evans of RSL Life Care NSW

Peter Vidler NSW Secretary

A team from NSW/ACT attended the QGM and AGM in Sydney on 9 - 11 October 2014.

Bruce Relph - President, Sandra Vidler - Vice President, Pauline Maczkowiack - Pension Entitlement Officer NSW/ACT and Peter Vidler - Secretary/Treasurer.

The Conference was very interesting and very informative presented by the dignitaries with regards to all the presentations put to the members attending.

All the team enjoyed the days in Sydney and it was always pleasurable to meet new members and also catching up with members we only see once a year or who we normally have telephone conversations at other times.

It wasn't the same without Rhonda although we all thank her for the hard work she put in to organising the Conference.

NSW/ACT held an EGM prior to the meeting to elect a new Committee which is now set up on the APPVA Webpage. We would also like to thank Peter Mathey for his leadership during his time as President and we believe he will maintain his support as a member as he did whilst he was President.

On behalf of the President and his Committee we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2015, be safe and we will see you in the New Year.

Peter Vidler
Secretary-APPVA NSW

Thinking of leaving the military?

Defence has launched a new manual that brings together all you need to know about leaving Defence, including planning and preparation, administration requirements, and support services for you and your family.

Eventually there comes a time when you start to think about life out of uniform, whether it be a permanent separation or a shift to Reserve service. Either way, planning makes the move smoother and simpler for both you and your family.

The ADF Transition Manual is a single document that describes all the policy and administrative requirements associated with your transition to civilian life or the Reserves.

Tracie Stevens, who runs Defence Community Organisation's transition support services, says it's important to start planning your transition early.

"Policies associated with separating from Defence are contained in a range of instructions, manuals and documents," she explains. "The ADF Transition Manual brings all this information into one place, effectively streamlining the process for transitioning members."

"We're pleased to launch this new manual, as it means members and their families can now plan their transition early, know their administration responsibilities, and find out what support services they can access."

Developed in close collaboration with the three Services, the Manual provides an easy to follow process to help you access

entitlements and conduct administration processes correctly.

You and your family can also talk to advisory staff at our ADF Transition Centres or attend an ADF Transition Seminar at any stage in your career, not only when planning an imminent separation.

ADF Transition Centres are located on or near military establishments and staff can provide referrals, help you with administration, and can provide information about training and employment.

ADF Transition Seminars are held throughout the year and are for military personnel and their families to get information, advice, and resources to help them plan their transition to civilian life.

"To start planning your transition, get your hands on the new ADF Transition Manual. Then, speak to your unit staff early and request an appointment with your local ADF Transition Centre," says Tracie.

"The Manual is available for download from the defence intranet. You can also visit the transitions website, call the Defence Family Helpline anytime, contact your local ADF Transition Centre, or talk to your unit staff about the pros and cons of leaving Defence and the support available if you do."

Transitions intranet site (DRN only)

www.defence.gov.au/transitions

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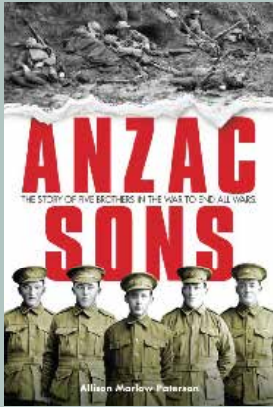
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Anzac Sons

Allison Marlow Patterson

Release Date: 26 Oct 2014

RRP: AU\$34.99

True Story/Military History/
WW1

Paperback 512pp

Digital on Amazon, apple etc

ISBN: 9781922132796

Sunshine Coast author Allison Marlow Petersons new book *Anzac Sons* (Big Sky Publishing, RRP \$34.99) provides a heartbreaking account told through over 500 letters, of five sons who fought in WW1, four of whom served in the same company of the 38th battalion, three who would never come home. A unique first hand perspective of life on the battlefield and the lives of the family and communities left behind.

By war's end, five of the six Marlow boys had enlisted and three would never come home. The sacrifice of this family was echoed throughout the nation, in cities and the smallest country towns. The legacy of their losses remains today and inspired author and family scribe Allison Marlow Paterson to mount a search for the story of her forebears and of the lives left shattered in country communities such as their hometown of Mologa, Victoria.

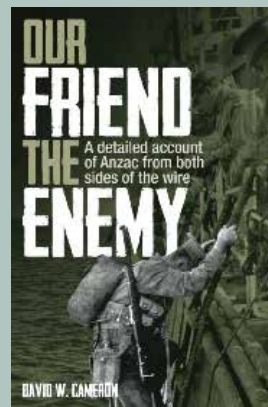
Anzac Sons contains never-before published letters, photos and postcards from all five brothers, three of these young men were killed. The collection of over 500 letters came close to being destroyed but through fate were recovered and are the catalyst for this book. Unusually it also includes some letters from Jim the oldest brother managing the family farm, their heartbroken mother and other family and friends to the brothers on the Western Front.

The letters from abroad once filled with hope, would slowly turn to sadness and despair as the brother's dealt with the death of their siblings and their own grief and fears. Their troubles are often downplayed and the reader gains an insight into the grief of the family but also the fact that the boys really have to get on with life. Through the letters they sent home, written on a knee in a soggy trench combined with the breadth of research that creates the historical foundation, we receive first hand a glimpse into their days – a context from an eyewitness to the events that history has recorded. Often the simple statements conjure up a depth of emotion.

The first brother to be killed was Albert just 19years old, buried and killed instantly only 100metres from his brother Charlie. Charlie's grief is heartbreaking and further compounded when despite desperate efforts to be at the funeral, to honour his younger brother, the one he failed to protect, he was too late, delivers an image of such grief. This we know because of the letter Charlie sent home. In an attempt to comfort his Mum, so far away, Charlie makes a point in a letter he writes home, that Alberts grave is 'well out of reach of the shells', a sentiment that somehow in death Albert would be safe.

This is a complete account of each son from prior to enlistment through to their deaths. It tells of the generational impact of war on the family, tragically upon their mother who "died of a broken heart" and the family's stoic recovery in the post-WWI years. It is also a story of the impact of war upon a small Australian community. Complete letters are used and also excerpts, along with author reflections at key points throughout the manuscript.

While *Anzac Sons* is a family history it is also a story of a community with national significance. It is told in the words of the young men and narrated by a family member with the insight and emotion which that brings.



Our Friend the Enemy

David W Cameron

Release Date: 04 October 2014

RRP: AU\$34.99

Military History/WW1/Gallipoli

Hardback 800pp

Digital on Amazon, apple etc

ISBN: 9781922132796

"Prudence here is entirely out of place. There will be and can be no reconnaissance, no half measures, no tentatives. Several cautious proposals have been set before me but this is neither the time nor the place for paddling about the shore putting one foot onto the beaches with the idea of drawing it back again if it happens to alight upon a landmine. No; we've got to take a good run at the Peninsula and jump plumb on — both feet together. At a given moment we must plunge and stake everything on the one hazard. 115" — General Sir Ian Hamilton

Our Friend the Enemy, A detailed account of Anzac from both sides of the wire by author and historian David W. Cameron is the first comprehensive history of the Gallipoli campaign at Anzac since Charles Bean's *Official History*. Viewed from both sides of the wire and described in first-hand accounts it provides a wide-ranging insight into events at Gallipoli and the decisions made on either side of the wire.

The Gallipoli campaign involved a mix of nationalities that went beyond the Anzacs and Turks to include German officers, and British and Indian troops. These are the people whose words tell this story — the courage and heroism, the monotony and often humour that accompanied the horrors of the bitter fight to claim the peninsula.

Cameron's strong narrative and detailed history pays homage to the humour and sacrifice of these men and provides an unblemished perspective on a logistically and politically fraught event.

Author - David W. Cameron, will donate 25% of royalties of all book sales for "*Our Friend the Enemy*" to Legacy Australia. *Our Friend the Enemy* is David W. Cameron's sixth book on Gallipoli.

Sixty Percent of U.S. Navy and Air Force Will Be Based in Pacific by 2020



Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work on Sept. 30, 2014 at the Council of Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. CFR Photo

More than half of U.S. Air Force and Navy forces will be based in the Asia Pacific by 2020 as part of the Pentagon's rebalance to the Pacific, Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work said during an address at the Council of Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. on September 30th.

"We may not have as many forces as we would like, but 60 percent of the forces will be in the Asia Pacific region," Work said.

"At the same time, [Pacific Command] is regaining Army units that were rotating through Afghanistan, and they're returning with all of their equipment now, such as attack aviation assets like Apaches [attack helicopters] in Korea."

In addition to numbers, Work said the U.S. military will base some its newest capabilities in the Pacific.

"The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) is going to go first to the Pacific. By 2018, the very stealthy and highly capable Zumwalt destroyer [DDG-1000] will be based in the Pacific, we hope," Work said.

"We're putting more Aegis ballistic missile defense ships in Japan, and we've put a second TPY-2 missile defense radar in Japan... which closes an important gap in our sensor net."

Work has been given the responsibility to oversee the Pacific rebalance. As part of that role, he recently returned from an extensive tour of the region.

"The purpose of my trip was to observe firsthand what was going on to the adjustments we were making to our presence out there and to discuss the strategic environment with our allies, specifically the Republic of Korea and Japan," he said.

Work addressed the ongoing conflict between China and Japan over the Senkaku (or Diaoyu) — which both countries claim but Japan controls.

Work said that the U.S. didn't have an interest who ultimately controlled the islands but said if China moved against Japan militarily, the U.S. would aid Japan.

"While the Senkakus are under Japanese control, Article 5 [of the Japan – U.S. Security Treaty] applies, and we would respond if there was an attempt to take the Senkakus, and we would support our Japanese allies," Work said.

Responding to a larger question of Chinese and Russian ambitions in the Pacific, Work said the U.S. would need to carefully engage with the pair.

"They clearly are staking out their position in their near abroads," he said.

"And this is one of the things that we're going to have to work out over the course of the next several years on what they consider to be areas of their vital interest, and what we have to do is find a means by which to make sure that those desires do not resort to the use of force and would require an overt response militarily from us. We have to work these out and make sure that Russia and China feel secure in their near abroads."

Work stressed that the rebalance would occur under the umbrella of ongoing budget pressure.

"The important goal that we're trying to wrestle with right now under intense budget pressure is to get the proper mix between the forces that are forward presence forces and those based in the United States and our U.S. territories, which are our surge forces," he said.

"That's what we're trying to do."

Privacy is now more private

Important legislative changes affect the handling, use and disclosure of personal information by Defence. The changes to the Privacy Act 1988 came into force on 12 March.

According to the Defence Privacy Officer, Michael McCulloch, they are designed to bring Australian laws in to line with international practices.

"The amended Act now contains 13 Australian Privacy Principles, or APPs," Michael says.

"They regulate the way agencies, including Defence, may collect, store, use and disclose personal information, and allow people to more easily correct errors that have occurred in the collection of their information.

"The amendments also provide penalties for the misuse of personal information.

The Privacy Act has a broad definition of personal information to which the APPs apply. Any information that identifies an individual, or from which the identify of an individual can be ascertained, can be personal information depending on the context.

"Importantly, information does not have to be true or written down in order to be considered personal information.

However, what is personal information will largely depend on the context in which it is to be used or disclosed," Michael says.

"In some cases a PMKeyS number on its own could be personal information."

Michael says the changes to the Privacy Act require

Defence to think about the purposes for which it collects personal information and to ensure the use or disclosure of collected information is in a manner that is consistent with those purposes.

“The changes also provide greater clarity than existed previously. For example, providing personal information to a lawyer for the purpose of obtaining legal advice is permitted. The changes have removed any doubt in this respect,” he says.

Michael says there is a big move towards the transparency of how personal information is handled.

“People need to be told why their personal information is being collected, what it will be used for and any circumstances where it might be given to other parties or agencies,” he says.

“As a result of the amendments to privacy law, people will be better informed about how their personal information will be handled by Defence.

“General advice about what personal information Defence collects is contained in the new Defence Privacy Policy, which is available on the DRN.

“Defence personnel will also begin to see new privacy Defence 40 July 2014

Legislation statements appear that explain the specific purposes for which Defence collects personal information in, for example, PMKeyS or in recruitment information.

“The amendments to privacy law require Defence to ensure that, when disclosing personal information to an overseas recipient, the information remains protected under Australian privacy legislation, otherwise the individual has the ability to take action in order to protect their right to privacy under the laws of the recipient country.

“Individuals should therefore feel more secure about their personal information being disclosed overseas.”

The recent amendments give new regulatory powers to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

These include the power to conduct a privacy performance assessment, authorise an enforceable undertaking and, in the case of serious or repeated breaches, seek civil penalties through Australian courts.

While individuals within Defence are protected from these penalties, Defence personnel can still be subject to disciplinary action under the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982, administrative sanctions and code of conduct action under the Public Service Act 1999.

“In certain circumstances, individuals can also be subject to criminal action under the Crimes Act for the misuse of official information, which can carry a term of imprisonment,” Michael says.

He believes it is important to view privacy and the new regulations as a framework within which to work, rather than a series of limitations.

“Within that framework, Defence can continue to achieve its objectives, but may have to think a little about how to deal properly with personal information,” he says.

Defence employees are advised to make themselves familiar with the Defence Privacy Policy and the Australian Privacy Principles.

Questions about managing potential privacy issue can be emailed to Defence.privacy@defence.gov.au. The

Defence Privacy Policy is available at www.defence.gov.au/DPG/ComplaintResolution/privacy.asp

Purchase of two C-17A Globemaster aircraft

The Australian Government has begun the process of purchasing two additional C-17A Globemaster strategic airlift aircraft, Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston announced today.

Senator Johnston said should the Government elect to exercise this option the two extra Globemasters would significantly enhance the Royal Australian Air Force’s capacity for operational tasks, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance in our region and around the world.

“Since the first delivery in 2006, we have seen the C-17A Globemaster perform exceptionally well at the forefront of Australia’s military operations and humanitarian work,” he said.

“Recent global events have seen Australia’s national capabilities like the C-17A come to the fore to assist our friends and allies.

“The C-17A Globemasters have been integral in supporting Australians at home and abroad, assisting in our aid to communities in Queensland and Victoria after flooding and cyclones, Operation Bring Them Home from the Ukraine and the search for MH370 off the West Australian coast.”

Senator Johnston said in recent years the C-17As had also delivered humanitarian aid and medical supplies to nations following natural disasters, such as the widespread flooding in Pakistan in 2010 and the Christchurch earthquake in 2011 in New Zealand.

“The ability to rapidly react and move large elements of Australia’s support systems over long distances during these times has highlighted the need for us to have a good sized fleet.

“The aircraft is also currently supporting Australian and Coalition forces in Afghanistan and the Middle East, providing a military long-range, strategic heavy airlift capability between Australia and the world,” Senator Johnston said.

Senator Johnston said the current fleet of six C-17As was based at RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland, and an additional two would integrate seamlessly into the fleet.

The Government has requested pricing and availability data for two further aircraft through the United States Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program. Decisions on these aircraft are being informed by the force structure review currently under way within Defence as part of the White Paper process.

Defence Relocations and Housing Managers are there to assist you during your relocation

By Ken Parks, Acting Assistant Director Operations, Directorate of Relocations and Housing, Department of Defence.

Defence Support and Reform Group (DSRG) has a dedicated Defence Relocations and Housing Manager based in each region. At the local level the Defence Relocations and Housing Manager (DRHM) is the primary Defence representative with Defence Housing Australia (DHA) and Toll Transitions. DRHMs are employed to assist Defence personnel and their families by liaising with DHA, Toll Transitions and the Defence Community Organisation (DCO) in each region to make their relocation easier for them and their families. The DRHMs have considerable experience in all aspects of relocations and housing.

The DRHM network seeks feedback from members on the complete relocation service. This feedback is used to provide management in Defence and the service providers with information on how members feel about their removal experience but more importantly, the feedback is used to

ensure that all removals and future removals are as stress-free as possible. A DHRM may visit you during an uplift or delivery to discuss and assess the standard of service being provided. In some instances the DRHM will contact you after a relocation to discuss whether the relocation met your expectations. In the past, these discussions can reveal region-wide trends or issues which are then addressed with contractors.

If you have an inquiry regarding your housing maintenance/ allocation or relocation services, do not hesitate to contact your local DRHM. If you are dissatisfied with the service provided or decision made by DHA or Toll Transitions your local DRHM will assist you to address and resolve your concerns.

You can assist in ensuring a smooth relocation by submitting your paperwork early. Don't leave it to the last minute. Once your posting is issued, please contact Toll as soon as possible to start the process.

DRHM Location	First Name	Surname	Phone	Mobile
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	Leo	Pope	(08) 7389 3226	0418 801 981
Bandiana	Lea	Gayfer	(02) 6055 2187	0439 452 291
Brisbane	Brian	Grear	(07) 3332 6975	0402 824 035
	Phyllis	Gore	(07) 3332 6992	
Cairns	Merv	Dicton	(07) 4411 7922	0408 457 468
Canberra	Anton	Pecovnic	(02) 6265 8808	0404 823 765
	Treena	Stone	(02) 6265 8809	0404 823 765
Darwin	James	Muir	(08) 8935 4224	0458 241 867
Hobart	Tracey	Pannell	(03) 6237 7277	0418 651 744
Hunter	Roger	Lamothe	(02) 4034 6964	0413 728 512
	Neysha	Johnston	(02) 4034 9565	0429 127 082
Liverpool	Lyn	Holding	(02) 8782 4100	0409 125 687
Nowra	Steve	Daley	(02) 4421 3855	0428 441 808
Perth	Allan	Purdue	(08) 9311 2376	0408 970 557
	Cam	Druitt	(08) 9311 2076	0408 978 979
Richmond	Sara	Sullivan	(02) 4587 2314	0408 481 880
Southern Victoria	John	Gaffney	(03) 9282 3667	0407 462 437
Sydney	Greg	Richardson	(02) 9393 2146	0420 308 387
	Carmen	Azzopardi	(02) 9377 2148	0408 972 933
Tindal	Kylie	Henderson	(08) 8973 6594	0429 780 211
Toowoomba/Ipswich	Chris	Gordon	(07) 4631 4414	0419 103 415
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