

Australian Peacekeeper

WINTER 2014

MAGAZINE

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on the next
generation

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Australian Peacekeeper MAGAZINE

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



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11 Marksmanship Training with Philippines Forces



An SA-330J Puma Helicopter position supplies on the flight deck of HMAS Perth during a vertrep with supply ship United States Naval Ship (USNS) Cesar Chavez as part of Operation SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN, HMAS Perth is in search of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.



From the President's Desk

I welcome back all our members and observers to our winter addition of the APPVA Magazine, it has been a memorable occasion for most of our members and constituents who were involved with Anzac Day commemorations around Australia and the world for their roles as Peacekeepers and/or Peacemakers during their service. This was acknowledged nationally by the civilian population who turned up to show their gratitude to these past and present servicemen and servicewomen as well as those who were part of the Australian Federal Police, other government organisations and those who were part of a philanthropic organisation.

The President and National Executive and members would like to convey our thanks to Phillip Pyke our editor who has resigned due to work commitments for his continued support in ensuring we kept our members and on lookers up to date with articles pertaining to our current soldiers. In losing Phillip as our editor it gives me great pleasure to introduce Kylie McQueen from K & R Publishing who has volunteered to take up the position as the APPVA editor, if you have any articles of interest that you want to share please feel free to email Kylie at peacekeeper6@bigpond.com.

The DVA Federal Budget

The Abbott Government delivered more than \$12 billion in overall funding for Australia's veteran community in the 2014-15 Federal Budget including \$6.5 billion in pensions and income support and \$5.4 billion in health services. The Budget is part of the Government's Economic Action Strategy to build a strong, prosperous economy and a safe, secure Australia. Recognising the unique nature of military service and the sacrifices military personnel and their families make on behalf of all Australians, the Government will continue and strengthen vital services for veterans and their families. In the budget the Abbott Government honoured its commitment to deliver funding for fair indexation to military superannuants under the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits scheme (DFRB), the Defence Force Retirement, Death Benefits scheme (DFRDB) and for reversionary (widow) pensioners.

\$1 million per has restored advocacy funding for the veteran community by providing an additional \$1 million per year to the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) programme over the forward estimates. This funding will support the work of veterans' advocates, pension and welfare officers, in helping veterans to access important information and services. Tackling mental health challenges is one of the four pillars of the Government's plan for veterans and their families.

There is a comprehensive service system that stands ready to meet the mental health needs of the veteran and ex-service community. The Government recognises that more effort is needed, which is why we are proceeding with the implementation of a number of mental health initiatives from 1 July 2014.

These mental health initiatives include:

- greater access to the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service for ex-serving members and their families, for those with border protection service, service in a disaster zone either in Australia or overseas, and members medically discharged;
- greater access for eligible veterans to treatment for diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression, without the need to establish that their mental health condition is related to service;
- from 1 July 2014, DVA will also pay for treatment for diagnosed alcohol and substance use disorders; and more categories of peacetime service will also become eligible; and
- funding under Medicare for a new physical and mental health assessment for ex-serving personnel to help their GPs identify any mental and physical health concerns early and to treat or refer appropriately to other services.

The new look Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on veteran mental health, which the Minister of Veterans' Affairs announced on 13 March 2014, elevates and highlights the Government's determination to address the mental health needs of the veteran and ex-service community.

The Government will deliver \$6.9 million to develop a detailed business case for the construction of an Australian Western Front Interpretive Centre at Villers-Bretonneux in France to be an enduring legacy of the Centenary of Anzac.

The Minister stated that the Centenary of Anzac is the most significant period of commemoration in our nation's history, to support activities at the grass-roots level the Minister for Veterans' Affairs increased funding under the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Programme to \$125,000 per electorate.

Efficiencies in delivering services to veterans include aligning the indexation of DVA funded services for dental and allied health care providers with current arrangements for Medicare and DVA medical services. This will not change how veterans access these services, but will ensure consistency across health care providers.

The Minister said that the government will continue to respond to the changing needs of veterans and their families. We are proud to deliver our election commitments for veterans and their families in this Budget.

I look forward to keeping you informed with current issues as they arise in our next addition of the Peacekeepers Magazine.

Allan Thomas
National President

From the Secretary's Desk

Over the past few months a number of members have queried whether they can have their magazine available to them electronically via download as opposed to being sent as a hard copy every quarter.

We understand that many members prefer to have their magazine mailed as they may not be overly familiar with computers, iPads, and the majority of downloadable means.

If you would prefer to receive your magazine electronically as an available download could you please advise me, either by email (secretary@peacekeeperes.asn.au) or in writing to the above listed PO Box address.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Regards

Kevin Ryan JP
National Secretary
APPVA



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Packing up a mighty mission

By Corporal Mark Doran and Sharon Palmer

The Disposal Support Team has helped bring to a close Australia's presence in Uruzgan

AUSTRALIAN Public Service personnel have contributed to the successful remediation and drawdown of the Australian Defence Force base in Afghanistan's Uruzgan province.

Three Defence Materiel Organisation members formed the Disposal Support Team, part of the Joint Task Force 633 Redeployment Fusion Cell at Multinational Base Tarin Kot. The ADF mission in Uruzgan province ended in December and the Disposal Support Team completed its work in February. Their experience in the management of Defence equipment and its inventory proved invaluable

Mark Hardwick of the Helicopter Systems Division, Jodi Graham of the Explosive Ordnance Division, Directorate of Logistics, and Kelly Yager of the Materiel Logistics Office provided advice and assistance across three main areas: managing not-in-catalogue (NIC) items; disposal by gifting, sale or destruction; and container management.

Jodi and Kelly replaced Tom Traynor of the Land Systems Division and Craig Evans of the Materiel Logistics Office, who returned to Australia in October 2013 after a six-month deployment.

Mark Hardwick

Mark was responsible for the Middle East Area of Operations NIC items and disposal by gifting.

"NIC items are mainly articles purchased by units which are not normally required for operations but are needed in the MEAO for the unit's day-to-day business. We needed to account for these items, as they were bought with public monies," Mark says.

"Units were not permitted to return this equipment to Australia unless it was approved by the relevant capability manager, which for this operation was primarily the Chief of Army."

Mark says equipment was sold, destroyed or donated - nothing was abandoned.

"With the gifting process, we needed to ensure the recipients had the training, technical ability and the tools to maintain the items," he says.

Mark describes his six months in Afghanistan as hectic but fulfilling.

"Being a public servant without a military background, I never thought I would have an opportunity to deploy to Afghanistan," he says.

"It was the most rewarding role of my life, both personally and professionally. Not too many public servants get an opportunity to participate where the capabilities we support are used.

"Many people had an input into the closure of Tarin Kot,

but to be there and affecting the resulting closure was very satisfying."

Kelly Yager

While Kelly is ex-RAAF, her time in Afghanistan was her first overseas deployment.

"The biggest highlight was being part of a deployment and finally understanding the bond that is developed by deployed personnel - they become your family and everyone tries to help everyone else," she says.

Kelly relished her job as Container Manager and the deployment's routine and camaraderie.

"The work ethic, the health mentality, the simplicity of life and the total focus you can apply to the end goal - very little distracts you," she says.

"During the last three months in Tarin Kot, there were approximately 800 containers on base that were being tracked. In line with policy, all assets owned by one of the coalition forces or contractors had to be remediated ... either through sale or destruction."

She says a few of the containers were identified for donation to the Afghan forces as they held a range of items such as tools and linen.

She was amazed at the "lunar scape" around Multinational Base Tarin Kot.

"A lot of rock is brought in from nearby to help reduce the dust, but the dust is ever present. A chopper landed one day and the dust cloud swelled as high as a five-storey building, rolling and billowing outwards, covering everything in brown-red silt," she says.

"I would also never want to experience dust again like I did in Tarin Kot, but having said that, the mountains were amazing. Stark, ravaged with deep cuts down their side, they still exhibit the scars of two continents colliding. And rocks, rocks and more rocks, I will not miss them - my legs got a workout moving over them each day."

Jodi Graham

Jodi is also a former RAAF member and, although she had deployed to the MEAO twice in uniform, she had not been to Afghanistan.

"Seeing Tarin Kot for the first time was a highlight for me even though the base had reduced in size by the time I got there. Nothing compares to seeing something in person," she says.

As Disposals Manager, Jodi oversaw the sale and destruction of surplus assets.

"It has been a great experience and has built on my previous experiences and given me a more appreciative understanding of the whole area of operations and of our



Kelly Yager, Mark Hardwick and Jodi Graham from the Defence Materiel Organisation's Disposal Support Team at Multi National Base - Tarin Kot.

role, in particular as a contributing nation to the International Security Assistance Force," she says.

Jodi believes the Disposal Support Team proved a "valid and successful venture for Defence".

"The concepts, processes and procedures are enduring and can be adapted to suit the disposal environment in Australia. I hope our collective experience will be drawn upon to shape the future of disposals," she says.

Tom Traynor

Tom was primarily responsible for disposing of equipment by sale or destruction.

"There are different disposal plans for a range of products, including those controlled under the United States International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)," Tom says.

"If it was not value for money to return equipment to Australia, we disposed of it subject to these requirements and completed the destruction by accessing the US Defence Logistics Agency Disposition Services located in Kandahar or Tarin Kot."

Working closely with coalition forces, contractors and Afghans was diverse and interesting, says Tom, especially with regard to the cultural challenges.

"As an ex-soldier, I understand how the military system works and the related processes, which enabled me to negotiate with people and build trust and understanding," he says. "It was a rewarding experience and I have many good memories."

Craig Evans

Craig mainly looked after container management during his six months at Tarin Kot.

When he first arrived, he had to contend with nearly 1500 containers. When he left Afghanistan last October there

were less than 400, with the others having been sold, disposed of or returned to their original owners.

"If we had to transport the containers to Kandahar and sell them it cost nearly \$4000, so by selling them in Tarin Kot we saved money," Craig says.

By the time the containers returned to Australia they would be at the end of their life cycle and would have had to be scrapped anyway.

"This also means we saved cargo space on a C-17 Globemaster and also money for Defence and the Australian taxpayer," he says.

Source <http://www.defence.gov.au/defencemagazine/>



Organisation's Disposal Support Team at Multi National Base - Tarin Kot.

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Focusing on the Next Generation

By Simone Liebelt

After a year as Chief Information Officer, Dr Peter Lawrence says there are many challenges and changes ahead for the complex Defence ICT environment

Making the shift to Next Generation Desktop (NGD) will affect every person in Defence when it is rolled out across the organisation this year, according to Chief Information Officer Dr Peter Lawrence.

Peter, who has been running Defence's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) network for more than a year, says NGD will "touch everyone in Defence over the next couple of years as systems are effectively upgraded to the Windows 7 environment and all the associated infrastructure".

"Everyone will see a change in the operating environment they use," Peter says.

"Also, as part of the Telstra [Terrestrial Communications contract], we are going to refresh all the network connections so we have a higher capacity, more resilient network to enable NGD to run more effectively."

Rollout of the new system is scheduled to start early this year, with the Defence Secret Network the first to be upgraded, followed by the Defence Restricted Network.

Peter says all the groundwork has been laid for the transition, which will roll into next year.

"About 1200 people were on NGD as part of a pilot program which began in late 2012," he says. "That pilot proved very useful as we learnt a number of things about the environment that we managed to improve and things that did and didn't work.

"We are currently installing the infrastructure for the Defence Secret Network and the plan is to start that rollout as soon as possible using Chief Information Officer Group (CIOG) as the first group, so we can 'take our own medicine'.

"We will then work our way around the country in a geographical rollout so we can take the teams through all the areas at the same time."

There will be full support provided along the way, he says.

"Our aim is to make the rollout as smooth and as painless as possible, notwithstanding there will no doubt be some challenges," Peter says.

"As the transition nears, there will be more detailed communications to all the Groups and Services around what the plans are and how we're going to do things. We will have 'shift' agents, people who will help make the shift to NGD in all the areas and the bases to help people through that process - no-one will be left alone to work it

out for themselves."

Peter says while NGD is a key priority for CIOG, another important "next generation" project under way is updating the Defence ICT strategy.

"We have embarked on a journey to refresh the ICT strategy," he says. "The '09 strategy set us on a journey about really fixing the broken backbone of Defence's [ICT network], which was around remediating the core infrastructure that we run - the voice and data networks, the desktops, where we compute.

"With the next generation strategy we have started working on, there are some early themes emerging around the complexity of the applications we run in Defence and really having to look at how we simplify that.

"We have to get a better handle on all that digital information - where we're storing it, where we're processing it and what some of the skills and capabilities we need to develop to enable Defence to be more effective and efficient in its use of IT."

The challenge, Peter says, will be to set realistic goals over the next couple of years.

"The lead time on decisions is longer than you would ideally like in an ICT world so we can miss technology cycles because of the time it takes to get through the decision making and the implementation process," he says.

"The '09 strategy is just starting to be delivered now, four years later, so we need to be able to look at how we can cycle things through a little bit faster than we are at the moment."

Keeping up with technology will always be a challenge for the Defence ICT environment, according to Peter.

"In any corporate environment consumer technology is often moving faster than the corporate world so a lot of people will have better technology at home than we can deliver in the office," he says.

"If we look at the rate of change with mobile phones, most new products are on lifecycles of six, nine or 12 months, so can we ever keep up with the rate of change in the consumer world and bring it back into the business world?"

He says how technology enables society in the future will radically change how Defence operates.

"People are buying and consuming IT in a different way and I don't think that will be any different for us. [For example], there's a lot of talk now about whether the keyboard will still exist in five years or whether people will use touch screens for everything," Peter says.

"The traditional model of how we thought about IT has been turned on its head so we will need to look at what this

will actually mean for Defence in the next few years.

"That's a really profound challenge for us."

Big business

Peter says the Defence ICT environment is "probably as big as any in this country in terms of the scale of the networks and the scale of the communications".

"We have satellites, terrestrial communications, we integrate everything together and make sure it works on a 24/7 basis," he says.

"We have 116,000 accounts across the DRN and the DSN at the moment, we have assets in excess of 140,000 and we've got a complex application environment, so it's complicated in scale."

He says some elements are "really quite modern and forward looking", such as work being done with satellites and communications, whereas with some areas there has been a lack of investment over recent years.

"Age and the end of technology life cycles adds to the complexity," he says.

"When you're at the end of technology life cycles and you've got new technologies, the two don't necessarily match together.

"We've really just got to try and mature how we do some

of these things so we've got that better repeatability and reliability within the system."

Migration reward

CIOG's Data Centre Migration Project team has been acknowledged for its dedication and professionalism in undertaking a complex and high-risk activity - successfully migrating more than 125 applications to the new Primary Data Centre in Sydney and decommissioning the former Primary Data Centre in Canberra.

CIO Dr Peter Lawrence says the commendation is "a testament to CIOG's delivery of a major project and has provided the Group with the capacity to enable numerous new ICT systems".

"It's not often there are activities as complex as the Data Centre Migration Project - involving so many dependencies and stakeholders," Peter says.

The project took 18 months to complete and has given Defence the increased scalability, flexibility and resilience needed to support mission-critical ICT systems. During the project, the team migrated Defence's largest ICT systems in the financial, personnel, logistics and security domains.

At the height of the project, the team managed more than 300 stakeholders from across Defence and external agencies.

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Marksmanship Training with Philippines Forces

Soldiers from 2nd Commando Regiment have conducted marksmanship training with US and Philippines personnel as part of Exercise Balikatan.

The training included advanced marksmanship principles relating to body positioning, spotter dialogue and long-range marksmanship.

The training was held at Fort Magsaysay, about two hours north of Manila on 1 May.

One of the soldiers from 2 Commando Regiment said the training gave the Australians an opportunity to assist personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

“These guys have solid proficiency so we are helping them to further develop their skills,” he said.

“We are able to pass on techniques that we have found useful and over the day we have already seen them improve.”

A US 1st Special Forces Group non-commissioned officer said that having the members of 2 Commando Regiment involved was important for developing the skills of the marksman from the Armed Forces of the Philippines .

“The Australians do things a little bit differently and have different experiences to me and my team, so having them involved gave the Filipino guys a wider range of experiences to draw from,” he said.

A Philippines Army corporal participating in the exercise said the training had been beneficial.

“It has been good to join the forces because we have been able to exchange ideas and techniques,” he said.

Exercise Balikatan is an annual Philippines-United States activity that features bilateral military training and humanitarian assistance engagement.

Marksmanship training by Australian Army and United States Marine Corps for Philippines Special Forces Regiment (Airborne) members.



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Solomon Islands Disaster Relief Mission Complete

The ADF engineering reconnaissance and planning assistance teams sent to Solomon Islands in the wake of severe flooding have returned home.

Responding to a request from the Solomon Islands Government the ADF contributed to Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) disaster relief efforts.

The engineering reconnaissance team assisted Solomon Islands authorities by assessing crucial civil infrastructure.

The team provided a vital engineering design solution allowing Honiara's key Mataniko Bridge to be reopened to heavy vehicle traffic.

The planning assistance team conducted rapid

damage assessments and provided specialist planning support to the DFAT relief efforts to assist the thousands of effected residents in and around Honiara.

The engineering reconnaissance and planning assistance teams flew out of RAAF Base Amberley in southern Queensland with 12 hours notice following the request for support by the Solomon Islands Government on 05 April.

The ADF support to DFAT relief efforts also included strategic airlift from Australia to Honiara for personnel and stores carried out by Royal Australian Air Force C-130J Hercules and C-17A Globemaster aircraft and crews.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade member Mr Ray Bojczuk briefs the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands Mr Gordon Darcy Lilo on the humanitarian aid stored on board the Australian C-17 Globemaster after it arrived in Honiara on 09 April.



Operation Copper

Concerning the murder of NSW Police Constable Spencer Henry Walklate and others – Muschu Island in the Japanese occupied Territory of Papua & New Guinea – April 1945.

by Detective Senior Sergeant Garry Nowlan

On the 150th anniversary of the NSW Police Force many former and retired Police Officers who have contributed so richly to our history have been remembered. However, we rarely mention the achievements of Police Officers in times of war. Many NSW Police Officers have served during many wars, deployments and peacekeeping operations over many years and some have paid the supreme sacrifice. This is the story of one of them.

Spencer Henry Walklate was born at Brushgrove on the Clarence River near Maclean in northern NSW on the 11th January 1918. He was enrolled and educated at the nearby Wardell Public School in 1923. Spencer attended Church, Methodist Sunday School and was a fit and healthy country kid who excelled at sport. After leaving school he became a grocery salesman and purveyor of small- goods. He later met a Grenfell girl named Linda Maude O'Keefe who was to become the love of his life. They married at Gunnedah on the 31 January 1938 and settled down to start a family.

But, these were uncertain times and war clouds gathered over Europe. A fragile peace had existed with Germany since the end of WW1 but that was shattered when Hitler invaded Poland in 1939. When Britain declared war on Germany and her allies Australia and all the other Commonwealth Nations also went to war. Many young Australian men went off to fight in Europe the Middle East and North Africa.

Life was good in quiet country NSW for a young man with a new wife and a bright future. However, due to events abroad, Spencer became unsettled and through a strong sense of duty to country, joined the 33rd Militia Battalion at Gunnedah, where he underwent basic military training.

Meanwhile, Japan watched events in Europe unfold with interest. Japan had until the 19th century been a very isolationist society with little contact from the outside world. Then, in 1860 Japan formed an unlikely but long standing cultural and intellectual association with Germany. But, due to conflicting political aspirations over China, Japan declared war on Germany and fought on the British side during WW1. An uneasy peace existed for the next decade or so but in 1931 Japan invaded Manchuria and fought a long and bloody war against China, committing many atrocities. The conflict expanded Japanese military power in the region and it's troops soon became battle hardened, experienced combat veterans. By the mid 1930's a rising Japan had formed a strong military alliance with an increasingly aggressive Germany and became part of the Axis Alliance along with Mussolini's Fascist Italy. The ultimate aim of this pact was world domination.



A young and handsome Spencer Henry Walklate taken about 1943

On observing Hitler's early successes in Europe, Japan a small country with limited resources, cast it's eyes south. To the rich resources of land, agriculture, oil, rubber, iron ore and coal. And their aspirations turned to South East Asia, and beyond. The U.S. had remained neutral for the first 2 years of WW2 but they had a powerful naval presence in the pacific based at Pearl Harbour, which threatened Japanese ambitions. So, on 7 December 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Simultaneously and through a series of co-ordinated, vicious attacks Japan invaded the Philippines, and moved quickly south through Indo-China taking Burma, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaya. Fortress Singapore fell on 15 February 1942 after one week of bitter fighting and 130,000 Commonwealth troops entered the hell of Japanese captivity. This included over 22,000 Australian troops mainly from the 8th Division.



HDML1321 The naval patrol boat which conveyed the Operation Copper men to Muschu Island

The boat returned to the island for several nights hoping to pick up survivors.

Just 4 days later on 19 February 1942 Darwin was bombed by a massive Japanese force destroying much of the town and many Allied ships in Darwin Harbour. The attack was carried out by the same bomber group which attacked Pearl Harbour, however more bombs were dropped on Darwin than at Pearl Harbour. Australia would be attacked and bombed by the Japanese on 63 occasions. This was followed up with the raid in Sydney harbour on 31 May 1942 by 3 midget Japanese submarines. Sydney and Newcastle were shelled by Japanese submarines and Allied shipping was sunk off the eastern coast of Australia. The Japanese invaded Rabaul massacring 130 Australian POW's at Tol Plantation and began building an airfield on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands to provide a base from which to further isolate and attack Australia. By July 1942 the Japanese occupied the Mandated Territory of Papua & New Guinea, Timor, Nauru, and the Solomon Islands and also held many other islands just to our north.

These were the darkest days for Australia and the Japanese advance south seemed unstoppable. Due to the imminent threat to Australia, Prime Minister Curtin defied Winston Churchill and brought Australian troops home from the Middle East and North Africa to defend Australia. The battle on the Kokoda Track was still raging, when in September 1942 Japanese land forces were for the first time stopped and defeated by Australian troops at the battle of Milne Bay. The tide had turned. Then the slow and painful slog through mud, swamp and jungle began, to push the Japanese back. To borrow the words of Winston Churchill, "This was not the end. It was not even the beginning of the end. But it was the end of the beginning." It looked for the first time like the Battle for Australia could be won.

Meanwhile, Spencer Walklate observed events from afar. He had decided to move closer to the action and he and Linda left the bush and moved to Sydney taking up residence at Bondi Junction. Again through a sense of duty he decided to join the NSW Police Force at the age of 22 years so he could do his bit to defend the homeland. He joined the NSW Police Force on 3rd July 1940 and after initial training at the Burke Street Police Academy Redfern, was posted as a Probationary Constable to No 2 Division Regent Street. He performed wartime General Duties and was no doubt disturbed by world events, particularly the Darwin air raids and Japanese Submarine attacks on Sydney Harbour. Spencer had developed into a fine, solidly built, very large and physically fit young man. In addition to his

demanding role as Constable of Police pounding the beat around Central Railway Station, Broadway and Paddy's Market, he had developed into a first class footballer. He joined St. George Football Club and in 1943 played 15 first grade games as a forward scoring 2 tries and 3 goals. He was also a strong swimmer and in his spare time was a Bondi Surf Life Saver. Spencer Walklate was a big man of many talents. Just the kind of man you might need when your country was fighting for it's very existence

In June 1942 the Australian Military formed a Special Forces unit for clandestine commando operations behind enemy lines. Their main role was reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, sabotage and supporting resistance efforts in occupied territories. It was a secret force named simply 'Z' Special Unit. The unit was administered through Special Operations Executive (SOE) Australia and was made up entirely of volunteers. It's recruits came from various army and naval units who volunteered for 'Special' service in extremely high risk and dangerous operation's. They trained in a variety of secret training camps including Camp Z in Broken Bay, Z Experimental Station in Cairns and there was a commando school on Fraser Island. In June 1943 a 'Z' Special Unit commando team based on Magnetic Island staged a mock raid in Townsville Harbour by placing dummy limpet mines on allied shipping. When the mines were discovered it caused a furore as the navy thought the mines were real. The commander of the unit was arrested and subject to disciplinary action. But, the lessons learned here were later used in the highly successful Operation Jaywick raid by 'Z' Special Unit in Singapore Harbour, where 39,000 tons of enemy shipping was destroyed by limpet mines.

By late 1943 Constable Walklate was in a state of personal crisis. He did not want to leave his young wife or his job, but could find no other option. His country was at war and he had army training. He knew men who were going off to fight. Not to go was unthinkable.

At the time the Police Force was designated a reserved occupation. Police were not permitted to join the military forces as it was deemed just as important for them to remain at home to keep the peace, defend the homeland and protect critical infrastructure. But, as so many Police were resigning to enlist, the rule was later relaxed and Police were allowed to enlist and return to the Force at the end of their military deployment.



Members of 'Z' Special Unit Operation Copper raiding party about to board HDML1321 at Aitape 11 April 1945 on their fateful mission

So, Spencer made the only decision he could. In order to enlist he resigned from the NSW Police Force on 16th December 1943 and joined the AIF at Paddington on 31 December. On 5 January 1944 Spencer Henry Walklate Serial No NX202843 marched into 3rd Australian Army Recruit Training Battalion. He was 25 years of age.

Private Walklate's Police Training and leadership abilities held him in good stead and 3 months later he was promoted to Lance Corporal on 16 April. On 16 July 1944 Lance Corporal Walklate attended and successfully completed the jungle warfare course at the Australian Jungle Warfare Training Centre, Canungra. But, as in peacetime Spencer Walklate excelled and wanted to be among the best. So, on 4 August he volunteered for, and was accepted into 'Z' Special Unit. As this was a highly specialised unit he had to accept reduction to the rank of Private. But, after gaining all his skills and proficiency levels on 29 October 1944 his rank was reinstated to Lance Corporal.

Due to the level of secrecy involved, not much is known of his service over the next four months however it is highly likely he attended one or more of the 'Z' Special Unit training camps for specialised training in espionage and battle survival techniques. He departed Australia in secrecy for war service in the occupied Territory of Papua & New Guinea on 21 February 1945. He did not know he would never see Australia or his beloved wife Linda again.

Lance Corporal Spencer Walklate was posted to Group 'C' - 'Z' Special Unit in Lae where he trained in secret with other members of the group. It is not known what Spencer Walklate did or where he went for the next several weeks. But, what is known is that he was about to enter the history books as taking part in one of the boldest, most heroic and tragic commando raids behind enemy lines in the South West Pacific theatre of war. Operation Copper.

Of course the name is a mere co-incidence, but the irony is not lost on the astute reader.

By April 1945 the allies were well and truly winning the war. In Europe the Russians were advancing on Berlin and Hitler would commit suicide within weeks. The Japanese had lost the war but were in denial and were being pushed back to Japan or decimated island by island. General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Allied Commander in the South West Pacific, was island hopping eager to

complete his self fulfilling prophecy of, "I shall return" to the Philippines. And he did not care how many Australians had to die in order for him to fulfil it. As the Japanese had already proved they would rather die than surrender, the Americans were by-passing Japanese held islands in their rush north. MacArthur, determined to have all the glory for America had relegated the Australian troops, who were the first to ever stop the Japanese and who had done the lion's share of the fighting in New Guinea, to clearing up the stranded Japanese remnants. But, this was no easy task as the Japanese had been on some of these islands for years. They had established strong defences and built food gardens to enable them to survive and were willing to fight to the death to hold their ground.

And so it was that plans were made for an Australian invasion of Wewak on the north coast of New Guinea where the Japanese were stranded in strength, with nowhere else to go. Many diggers after the war would say that many a good man was lost and most of these operations were unnecessary as the Japanese could have just been left to starve and 'wither on the vine'.

Intelligence reports indicated that there were two big 140mm naval guns situated on Muschu Island which commanded the coastline where the invasion was to take place and could wreak havoc on Australian invasion troops and shipping. Muschu was a small nondescript tropical island, like thousands of other small tropical islands, situated just 4kms off the coast near Wewak. Surrounded by coral reefs it was flat around the fringes, with scattered rocky coves, spectacular lagoons and beaches. It was hilly in the middle with a couple of isolated native villages and covered in dense tropical jungle. It was also the home for 700 very hostile Japanese soldiers. 'Z' Special Unit and Lance Corporal Spencer Walklate, were given the task of locating and disabling the guns on Muschu Island.

The following members of the Group 'C' - 'Z' Special Unit raiding party were assembled and briefed at Aitape on 8 April 1945:



Lt General Horace Robertson Australian 6th Division accepts Japanese Surrender from General Hatazo Adachi at Cape Wom, Wewak 13/9/1945. Adachi was later convicted of war crimes and sentenced to life imprisonment but committed suicide 2 months later.



Photograph found on body of dead Japanese soldier depicts NX143314 Sgt. Leonard Siffleet an Australian "M" Special Unit Commando kneeling before his grave about to be ritualistically beheaded at Aitape on 24/1/1943 by Yasuno Chikao. A similar fate befell many of the Operation Copper men.

Lt. Thomas Barnes, Lt. Alan Gubbay, Sergeant Max Weber, Signalman Michael Hagger, Private John Chandler, Private Ron Eagleton, Sapper Edward 'Mick' Dennis and Lance Corporal Spencer Henry Walklate.

'Mick' Dennis and 'Spence' Walklate had already become best mates and both had close familial connections with the NSW Police Force. 'Mick' had been an unarmed combat instructor with the NSW Police Force before the war. His sister, Clare Dennis, was a 1932 Olympic 200 metre breaststroke swimming Gold Medallist, who was married to George Golding, a NSW Police Detective and 1930 Empire Games track and field Bronze Medallist. His father Alexander Dennis was a Police Prosecutor in the NSW Police Force at Burwood.

During the Aitape briefing the team was provided with maps, prismatic compasses, aerial photographs, secret wireless codes and intelligence reports on their area of operations. They would be inserted into the area by Naval Patrol Boat and would then paddle to the island by folding canvas kyak-like boats called 'folboats'. Each man carried a 9mm automatic Sten SMG backed up by a .38 calibre Smith and Wesson Model 10 revolver. The raiding party was also issued with three 9mm 'Welrods' which were a silenced bolt action repeating pistol also known as 'The Assassins Gun'. Other equipment included the Fairbairn-Sykes commando fighting knife, two radio transmitters,

walkie talkies, Very lights (flares), signal mirrors and rations for 24 hours. The mission was simple. Get in, capture a Japanese prisoner for interrogation, find the guns, disable them if possible, contact the naval patrol boat by wireless and get out.

The night of 11 April 1945 was selected as it was a dark, moonless night with favourable tides. That afternoon the raiding party boarded Harbour Defence Motor Launch (HDML) 1231 at Aitape and was conveyed under cover of darkness on the 8 hour, 150 kms journey to within 5 kms of Muschu Island. At 2130 hrs they disembarked the patrol boat in four folboats, two men paddling in each and set off into enemy held territory. And into the lion's den.

As the men's night vision kicked in all eyes strained on the dark brooding mass ahead. The only sight that pierced the darkness was the luminous trail left in the rippling wake of the boats as they carved their way through the calm tropical waters. The only sound that broke the silence was the dip of paddles as they sliced the still black water, the slap of the waves against the flimsy canvas hulls of the tiny boats, and the faintly suppressed groans of straining men as they pulled the fragile craft closer. The eerie blackness was occasionally violated by the phosphorescent flash made by some unseen creature lurking in the murky depths below the sweating, determined men. On they went through the still, balmy, tropical night towards the dark foreboding shadow of the unseen enemy's lair.

Then disaster struck. At 2230 hrs the folboats hit an uncharted reef and capsized. The party managed to recover the boats but much of the party's weapons and equipment was saturated or lost in the black churning water. Two hours later 8 tired, wet and bedraggled men dragged themselves to shore where the party slept fitfully 15 metres inland.

At 0500 hrs on 12 April they stood to. Weapons at the ready clutched in tense, sweating hands, eyes straining through the thick jungle foliage and ears fine-tuned to pick up the slightest hostile sound. When no enemy activity was detected they concealed the boats 50 metres inland in dense undergrowth and set up a base camp some 100 metres further inland where the wireless transmitter and equipment was concealed.

The team then moved east for 30 minutes where they located two well oiled Juki machine guns in firing positions covering the beach. They dismantled the guns and threw them into the sea. The party continued across the island and found strong enemy posts every 50 metres along the coast with a network of trenches and connecting tracks behind. A further four machine guns were located and dismantled. A food garden and some enemy occupied huts were located. There were some bomb craters in this area and here they obtained fresh rain water for the first time. That afternoon they captured a Japanese soldier who was bound and gagged. They then tried to find their way back to their base camp but got lost. Taking the wrong track they came upon a Japanese camp. They diverted around the camp and on some cliffs found several gun positions. They made contact with two Japanese near some huts and both were shot dead with the silenced 'Welrods'. They then moved back east and finally found the naval gun positions



Japanese officer shows his sword to Australian troops after the surrender. 'Shin Gunto' military swords like this were used to murder Australian soldiers by ritualistic decapitation, a barbaric practice loosely based on the Samurai tradition of 'Seppuku'.

they were looking for. Grid references were taken so the guns could be destroyed by allied aircraft and with the mission nearly accomplished they began to make their way back to base camp.

But, again disaster struck. As they passed near a Japanese patrol the prisoner slipped his gag and called out alerting the enemy. The prisoner was immediately shot and the party went to ground. There was a strong Japanese presence on the island and by now they were alerted to the presence of the raiders and several hundred Japanese were out in force searching for the Australians. That evening they moved back to the folboats but found they had been discovered by the Japanese and an ambush had been set nearby with a machine gun covering the boats. The party then withdrew, made a fresh base camp and now with no wireless transmitters had to plan their getaway.

They decided to try for the mainland so constructed a raft from logs and at 2000 hrs put to sea but the raft smashed to pieces on a coral reef. This time they lost the remainder of their weapons and equipment and the only man to retain his weapon and pack was Sapper Dennis. It would save his life and enable him to live to tell the story of what happened next.

They returned to the island and after much debate decided by democratic vote to break up into two groups. One group of four men being Sergeant Weber, Private Chandler, Signalmen Hagger and Sapper Dennis, favoured remaining on the island and would try to recover a wireless transmitter to contact the rescue boat. The other group comprising Lt Barnes, Lt Gubbay, Private Eagleton and Lance Corporal Spencer Walklate, favoured putting to sea on separate logs

to try to make it to nearby Kairiru Island and signal patrolling allied reconnaissance aircraft with mirrors. The men said their goodbyes, shook hands and wished each other luck. Spencer Walklate and his party then set to sea and the last time he or his mates were seen alive by friendly eyes was as they paddled quietly off into the darkness. Four tiny, bedraggled figures bobbing along on coconut logs carried on the unpredictable currents of the Solomon Sea. Into the vast, enemy held, shark infested unknown.

The story of what happened to Spencer Walklate and his mates cannot be told without reference to the extraordinary tale of survival by Sapper Dennis. The Dennis party moved inland and rested. They spent the 13/14 April observing the movements of the Japanese and watching for signals. At 0600 hrs on 15 April they moved back to their original base and recovered one of the wireless transmitters. While moving back to a safe position to set up the radio they were ambushed by a Japanese patrol. Sapper Dennis shot two Japanese with his sten gun and the party split up discarding the wireless set in the scrub. Dennis was unable to locate the rest of the party throughout the day. He returned to the bomb crater to get fresh water but found it sour and bitter to the taste. The Japanese were poisoning the water holes to deny the intruders water. Dennis then moved west and in an encounter near a hut shot one Japanese. He then surprised a Japanese Patrol of four and shot one wounding several others. He hid for the night in the scrub and heard Japanese patrols moving around and heard shots near the beach. Having given up hope of finding the rest of the party he continued west and found a Japanese machine gun in position but unattended so he toppled it over a cliff. He slept in a sago forest and could hear and see the Japanese searching for him. As per mission objectives he continued to record the details and grid references of all Japanese positions, strengths and infrastructure in his note book. On 16 April he reached the west coast of the island near Muschu Bay and decided to try for the mainland. He found a suitable plank on a wrecked Japanese barge and hid it. He remained in the area until night and returning to the plank found it had been removed back to the barge. He retrieved the plank and then paddled for 10 hours through shark infested waters and battled strong ocean currents until making the mainland two hours before dawn. He rested, then on 17 April set off north west towards what he hoped were the Australian lines. He evaded Japanese patrols but was observed by two Japanese and shot one. He later encountered another four man Japanese patrol and shot two. He then surprised two Japanese but his SMG misfired. The Japanese were so frightened one lost his rifle and they both ran away. He continued west for 20 kms through enemy territory until 1400 hrs on 20 April when he contacted a patrol of the 2/7th Australian Commando Company. His ordeal was over and the details of his intelligence debrief conducted at Aitape on 21 April 1945 form the basis for this narrative. Sapper 'Mick' Dennis, former NSW Police unarmed combat instructor, was awarded the Military Medal for this extraordinary feat of courage and endurance.

But what of the other 7 men of Operation Copper?

The war ended just 4 months later with the dropping of the atomic bombs 'Little Boy' and 'Fat Man' at Hiroshima and



Colonel Maruyama the medical officer and war criminal who ordered the murder of Spencer Walkate and others on Muschu Island 1945. Pictured after the Japanese surrender (right) he was never tried as a war criminal.

Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August 1945 respectively. After cessation of hostilities the Australian military commenced it's War Crimes investigations and trials into Japanese atrocities. Muschu Island was converted to an internment camp for Japanese POW's and Japanese officers and soldiers were interviewed to establish what happened to missing allied servicemen and women. But, the Japanese were often untruthful, uncooperative and sought to cover up the truth for fear of being tried and executed as war criminals. It had been a long and bloody war and most Allied Governments just wanted to forget about it. The Americans were even less enthusiastic to pursue high level war criminals as General MacArthur was given the task to re build post-war Japan and he used high ranking Japanese officers and officials, many of whom were war criminals, in the process. So, many war criminals escaped justice, as was to be the case for the missing men of Operation Copper.

In 1945/46 war crimes investigators interviewed senior Japanese officers on Muschu Island re the fate of the Operation Copper men. They were told that the three men from the Dennis party were ambushed and killed while trying to operate a radio set. However, natives had reported seeing the mutilated bodies of these men on Muschu in April 1945. While the Japanese claimed the bodies had been damaged by artillery shells, Sapper Dennis has always disagreed with this. He believes his three mates were captured, tortured and murdered by the Japanese. The mutilated bodies could indicate they were cannibalised which was a common practice by the Japanese in New Guinea during WW2. After the war the remains of the bodies of Sergeant Weber, Private Chandler and Signalman Hagger were recovered from a shallow grave and re-buried at Wewak. They were later exhumed and moved to Lae

war cemetery. At least one body appeared to have been decapitated and another was shot through the head.

But what of Spencer Walkate and his 3 mates, who set off into the unknown so long ago on coconut logs?

The Australian Army concluded in 1946 the party was drowned at sea or taken by sharks. But, many years after the war, with the declassification of military documents, new information became available and has shed fresh light on what happened.

It is now known that natives on nearby Kairiru Island told military investigators that up to three Australian's came ashore on Kairiru in April 1945 and were executed by the Japanese. The Japanese denied this claim stating that two airmen did come ashore but they died of sickness and disease two days later. The native claims were ignored and never followed up at the time.

But, recently Australian Army documents have surfaced containing eye witness accounts of the murder of two Australian soldiers on Kairiru Island, including an account by the Japanese officer who carried out the executions. According to these primary source documents between April-June (sic) 1945 a very large Australian 'airman', perfectly fitting the description of Spencer Walkate, was captured on Kairiru. 'Z' Special Unit operatives would have used a cover story if captured as espionage was punishable by summary execution, while ordinary servicemen were entitled to protection under the Japanese Code of Military Law. (Japan was not a signatory to the Geneva Convention). So, claiming to be an airman shot down or crash landing in the vicinity made perfect sense. It is also known that checks of military war dairies indicate that no Australian airmen were lost in that location at that time. The Australian POW referred to in this document is almost certainly Spencer Henry Walkate.

Following is the disturbing firsthand account of his beheading murder, sourced from official Australian Department of Army War Crimes Archives and extracts taken from an interview with Ensign OAWAGA Waichi of the Japanese Imperial Navy, who was stationed on Muschu Island in 1945.



Reburial service for Operation Copper men Sgt Weber, Private Chandler and Signalman Hagger at Wewak on 14/9/1945 conducted by Chaplain S. Cowan HQ 6th Division. Major R. Cardew Commander 'Z' Special Unit Lae looks on (4th from left).



Muschu Island view from Cape Wom, Wewak

OAWAGA Waichi (states): During the first part of June 1945, an Australian airman was brought to headquarters from the north coast. At about 1300 Medical Officer MARUYAMA came to the sick bay and I received the order:

“Petty Officer OAGAWA, execute him.”

Thereupon I went to the scene of the action. At a spot about 100 yards away in the direction of headquarters a large Australian airman, blindfolded and wearing Japanese summer clothing, was being held with his arms behind his back by a guard detail of the sixth squad. He was kneeling on both knees in front of a hole in the ground. I approached Ensign FUMIYA, the chief of the guards, and reported:

“I have come upon orders from the medical officer.”

“Hurry and execute him.” (HYAKU Kire) I was ordered, so I borrowed the sword from the NCO who had come for liaison purposes and decapitated (the prisoner). With only a single stroke of the sword, he fell forward and died.

At this time there were present from headquarters the Staff Engineer Officer, Secretary KAWADA, Medical Ensign OMOTEZAKA, Supervisor Petty Officer (medical) SUZUKI and Leading Seaman MACHI. Besides these there were fifteen to twenty officers and guards. The corpse was buried on the spot under the direction of Ensign FUMIYA.

The same grim, barbaric ritual was repeated 10 days later with the capture and murder of a second member of the Operation Copper party. However, the precise identity of this soldier is not known and he was heavily drugged with Narcopon (Opium) prior to execution.

OAWAGA Waichi (states): “About ten days had passed since the first incident when again an Australian airman was brought to headquarters from the north coast. At about 1500 I received the order from the medical officer:

‘Execute him with an injection of one CC of Narcopon.’

Thereupon I took one CC hypodermic needle and one CC of narcopon from the dispensary and went to the scene of the action. Lt (s.g) AMENOMORI and Secretary KAWADA were investigating in the finance room. A fatigue detail was digging a hole. In about two hours the investigation was finished and an Australian of average stature, blindfolded and wearing Japanese summer clothes, was lead out by the guards. His hands were held behind his back and he

was made to kneel in front of the hole. The medical officer ordered me:

‘Give him the injection’ (CHUSHA SHIRO), so I injected one CC of Narcopon into the lower part of the left shoulder blade. Then I borrowed a sword from Superior Petty Officer KAWANO. About fifteen to twenty minutes after the injection the order:

‘Execute him’ (KIRE) was given, so I raised the sword over my head and brought it down, decapitating (the prisoner). The Australian fell forward and died. Under the direction of Ensign FUMIYA, the corpse was buried on the spot.”

It appears that possibly one other member of the Walklate party met a similar fate with the fourth probably lost at sea.

Surprisingly, no Japanese soldier was ever charged with war crimes regarding the murders of the Operation Copper men, in spite of this compelling evidence. The information provided by Sapper Dennis, the sole survivor of the Operation Copper raid, was used in the planning for the successful invasion of Wewak and the subsequent defeat of the Japanese which ended the Japanese occupation in New Guinea.

And so ends the heroic but tragic story of the men of Operation Copper and of the murder of Spencer Henry Walklate. Athlete, elite sportsman, football star, surf life saver, soldier, commando, POW, war hero, loving husband and NSW Constable of Police. Executed without trial by war criminals, he lies in an unmarked grave, in a lonely foreign place, on a tiny god forsaken island no one has ever heard of.

Postscript:

Each ANZAC Day, Edward Thomas ‘Mick’ Dennis MM, rises early. He polishes his shoes, dresses in his best suit and carefully pins the shining row of bronze and silver medals with their brightly coloured ribands on the left breast of his jacket just above the pocket. The RSL badge and Returned From Active Service badge complete the ritual. Then, arming himself with his walking cane, he shuffles off to the dawn service. Rain, hail or shine, he has done it dutifully for 69 years. At 96 it is getting harder, but he knows he has to go. As he stands for The Last Post, on weakened, shaky legs, he remembers. He remembers the happy, smiling, youthful faces of his mates. He remembers them just the way they were, then. As if frozen still in time. Their bodies not wasted by age or sickness or despair. They have become ageless. He remembers Muschu Island, his mate ‘Spence’ Walklate and what they did there so long ago. And for a brief moment he stiffens and somehow grows taller. A tear comes to his eye. He wipes it with his handkerchief and with head bowed, shuffles slowly off home. Until next year.

In a final irony, the naval guns at Muschu Island were never fired in anger and remained silent during the campaign. The Japanese commander was afraid if they were used the Allies would be alerted to their position and they would be destroyed by superior allied air power. They are still there today. Lest We Forget.

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ww.gunsofmuschu.com

Australian National Archives.

Australian War Memorial Archives.

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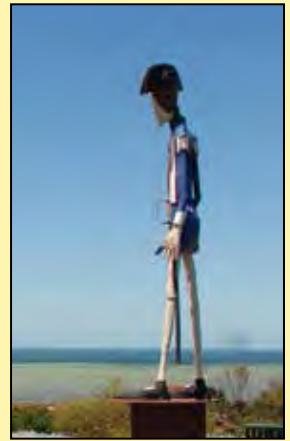
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International Military Air Search Fleet returns Home

Aircraft and crew from the seven countries that contributed to air search operations for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 gathered at RAAF Base Pearce to say their farewells on 29 April.

The search has entered a new phase, as Prime Minister Tony Abbott declared on 28 April.

The focus has shifted from air search operations to searching the ocean floor over a much larger area.

At the farewell, the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin, said the search had put aircraft at the edge of their operating envelopes in a vast area almost 2000 kilometres from Perth.

The aircraft conducted 344 missions across 42 days of search operations to scan over 4.5 million square kilometres of the ocean surface.

"The search has brought together a remarkable coalition of nations under the watchful eye of the world," Air Marshal Binskin said.

He thanked all the men and women involved, including uniformed, civilian, volunteers and contractors for their fantastic efforts.

"Sadly though, we have not yet been successful and have now had to refocus our efforts to the underwater search," he said.

The Officer Commanding 92 Wing, Group Captain Craig Heap, said the hand of friendship had been extended among the Chinese, Malaysian, Korean, Japanese, British, New Zealand and United States and Australian personnel.

"Contributing militaries can be assured that when misfortune next occurs in our neighbourhood, familiar faces would be there to assist," he said.

The farewell ceremony ended with the flypast of a Royal Malaysian Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft that was part of the first search sortie from Kuala Lumpur on 9 March.

On 29 April 2014, the Australian Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF), Air Marshal Mark Binskin, AC, and foreign Defence Attaches visited RAAF Base Pearce. The intent of the visit was to thank the multinational team for their efforts in the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. Following group photographs in front of the aircraft flown by the participating Nations in the search for MH370, both the VCDF and Commander Air Task Group, Group Captain Craig Heap, addressed all personnel at the RAAF Base Pearce Combined Mess. They both reiterated that the search for MH370 has now transitioned from a visual and acoustic search to an underwater search. VCDF also emphasised that all Nations involved in the search have been working cohesively as a single team, in an attempt to bring closure for the families of those aboard MH370.



Energy Security Fuel for Thought

By Michael Brooke

An innovative integration framework has been developed to enhance Defence's energy security into the next century

A JOINT Australian Public Service and Australian Defence Force team is working with all areas of Defence to link current energy initiatives, assess system challenges, and identify innovative energy approaches. It is establishing a Defence Energy Integration Framework designed to enhance Defence joint operational capability.

Today's military missions require large amounts of energy, and depend on fuel supply lines that can be costly and vulnerable to disruption. The way it is consumed and managed directly affects mission success.

With new fuel and energy technologies becoming available, and the introduction of new capabilities expected to double ADF energy needs in the next 20 years, it is a fitting time for Defence to consider its current and future energy supply.

In line with this, Air Vice-Marshal Neil Hart, Head of Joint Capability Coordination Division in the Vice Chief of the Defence Force Group, has coordinated the development of a Defence Energy Integration Framework (DEIF).

The aim of the DEIF is to ensure delivery of sustainable energy security for operations, both now and in the longer term.

Defence's ability to measure operational energy requirements will be improved, demand reduced, and the

diversity and resilience of our energy supply increased.

Air Vice-Marshal Hart says the DEIF has been designed to provide an integrated approach to ensuring energy security, so that the right energy will be in the right place at the right time.

"The Australian energy industry sector is becoming increasingly integrated into global energy supply networks, and supply chains are shaped by market efficiency imperatives rather than Defence energy security requirements," he says.

"A defence force less reliant on energy supply and vulnerable to supply disruptions will be more resilient and adaptable operationally – both locally and on deployment."

The Defence challenge is to use energy as a strategic advantage rather than a burden.

Air Vice-Marshal Hart says clever use of energy may also offer tactical and operational advantages, and needs to be an important consideration in concept development, future force design, preparedness and operational planning.

"The Australian base in Tarin Kot relied on energy supplied through generators, that in turn relied on high risk road resupply and targetable bulk storage facilities. Key allies such as the US and UK have diversified their operational energy demand and supply, cognisant of the operational risks from existing systems."



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Air Vice-Marshal Hart adds that Defence's energy profile also has direct budgetary consequences.

The combined cost of Defence's liquid fuels is already the second biggest component of the sustainment budget, and in the context of increasing global demand, this is set to rise.

Overall, Defence's energy profile is heading in a direction that is strategically unsustainable over the medium to long term.

"If we have to spend an increasingly larger budget proportion on fuel, then we will have correspondingly less to spend on re-equipping and training our people," Air Vice-Marshal Hart says.

"As we are making capability decisions often with 30-year outcomes, energy needs to be properly conceptualised from the tactical to the strategic level, and will need to be more prominent in capability decisions.

"In the longer term, oil price growth is likely to increase the amount it costs to run the liquid fuel powered mobile platforms our capability is currently reliant upon.

"Increasing Defence's whole-of-organisation energy efficiency will give Defence a clear capability advantage."

Through the efforts of DEIF chief developer Colonel Neil Greet, there is a broad picture emerging of Defence's existing energy mix (mostly liquid fuel and electricity).

Colonel Greet says there is systemic security risk in the

way the global energy market is configured, making it vulnerable to environmental change and other shocks.

Furthermore, changes in the energy marketplace – such as the continuing closure of refineries in Australia – need to be fully understood, because many fuel types used by Defence will have to be fully imported.

While the market will adjust to changes, the resilience risk equation for Defence will also change.

"Commercial supply chains can take time to fully respond to unexpected demand surges, due to their length and efficiency focus," Colonel Greet says.

"If energy supply chains were interrupted during the course of an operation – by vectors as diverse as natural disasters, human pandemics or enemy action – the Defence response might be constrained in the short term by the lack of a continuous energy supply. Any such disruption may not necessarily occur on Australian territory."

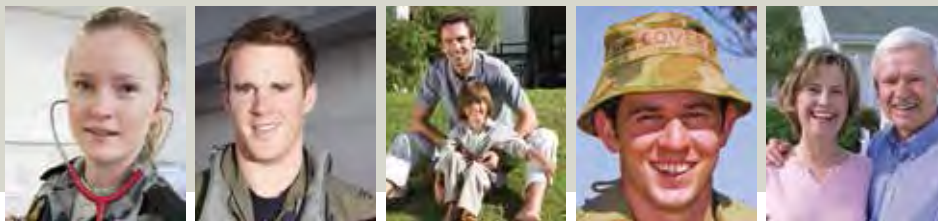
DEIF co-developer Group Captain Peter Layton adds that energy affects all the foundation military capabilities including range, endurance, persistence, sustainment, and command and control. As such, energy considerations should inform capability development and acquisition choices.

"Capabilities must take advantage of and enable technology advancements that provide for intelligent and improved use of energy. This includes the logistics supply chain needed to manage and deliver energy," he says.

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Defence Supports Search and Rescue in Bougainville

A Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft has successfully located and helped rescue 15 people who were adrift at sea when their 'banana boat' lost power when travelling from Nissan Island to Buka Island in Bougainville.

The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Port Moresby requested assistance from Rescue Coordination Centre Australia after the boat failed to reach its destination.

Air Force Director General Capability and Planning, Air Commodore Michael Kitcher, said the rescue was another example of the excellent work being done by the RAAF in conjunction with Australia's neighbours.

"The crew of the Orion did an excellent job in locating the boat and helping to arrange for the subsequent rescue," Air Commodore Kitcher said.

"This is another demonstration of Air Force's ability to be anywhere at any time and is testament to the high standard of training of our air and ground crews."

The RAAF Orion aircraft was despatched to Port Moresby on the evening of 30 April 2014. The aircraft launched from Port Moresby the next day and located the missing boat, dropping an SAR8 Air-Sea Rescue Kit.

The SAR8 kit, which contained two inflatable life rafts and two containers of emergency supplies, was successfully recovered by occupants of the boat. The Orion also dropped a search and rescue reference datum marker buoy.

The passengers were then rescued by a vessel dispatched by MRCC Port Moresby. No injuries were reported among the people rescued.

The Orion returned to Port Moresby after the successful completion of the task.

Air Sea Rescue Kit drop training from an AP-3C Orion in Gulf St Vincent, South Australia.





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F-35As to Transform Australia's Air Combat Capability

Australia will acquire another 58 F-35A Lightning II aircraft in a major boost to the nation's air combat capability, Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced in Canberra on April 23.

The additional aircraft will lift the total number of F-35As Australia will acquire to 72, after a previous decision to purchase 14.

This will create a total of three operational squadrons – two at RAAF Base Williamtown and one at RAAF Base Tindal – and a training squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown

The F-35A will replace the Royal Australian Air Force's fleet of F/A-18A/B Hornets.

The first aircraft will arrive in Australia in 2018, with Number 3 Squadron operational by 2021. All 72 aircraft are expected to be operational by 2023.

The total cost will be \$12.4 billion including about \$1.6 billion for new facilities at RAAF Bases Williamtown and Tindal.

The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown, is enthusiastic about the F-35's stealth capabilities.

He said the jump between a fourth- and fifth-generation fighter was dramatic.

"It's the difference between being in a biplane against a monoplane pre-World War II, the difference between a piston engine and a jet – it's one of those game-changing events," he said.

Air Marshal Brown said the announcement of an additional 58 Joint Strike Fighters allowed Air Force to plan for the full withdrawal of the 71 F/A-18A/B Hornets.

"The Hornet's been the mainstay of our air combat fleet for nearly 30 years. To be signed up to the future means we can go forward and plan how we're going to transition," he said.

"The transition will be quite a difficult thing to do because we need to move people from that era of technology into a completely different generation."

Air Marshal Brown said the F-35As would need upgrades to maintain their combat edge but the Joint Strike Fighter program was designed for easier improvements than the F/A-18s.

He said the F-35As would be complemented by the RAAF's 24 F/A-18F Super Hornets and 12 EA-18G Growlers.

A 'mock-up' of the F-35A Lightning II aircraft (commonly known as the Joint Strike Fighter) on display at Defence Establishment Fairbairn.



Global Threat Cooperation

After marking the 10th anniversary of the Proliferation Security Initiative last year, Assistant Secretary Arms Control Branch Angus Kirkwood talks about the key role of Defence in Australia's engagement in the global cooperative

What is the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)?

The PSI is a cooperative global effort to deter, interrupt and intercept the illicit transshipment of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) materials. It does this through the national capabilities of each participant's foreign ministries, defence forces, customs and enforcement agencies, and legal authorities.

The PSI provides unique opportunities for states to share best practice on countering proliferation, enhance interdiction processes, examine inter-agency and multilateral coordination and share lessons learned with PSI partners around the world.

All PSI activity is voluntary and consistent with international law and domestic legislation. States contribute according to their national capability and interests.

The PSI has an Operational Experts Group (OEG) which convenes on a periodic basis to plan future activities, discuss recent interdiction operations and other relevant matters. The OEG comprises the 21 of the 102 PSI endorsing states. As a strong supporter of PSI, Australia is an active member of the OEG.

How does PSI fit into the Arms Control Branch?

The Counter-Proliferation and Arms Control Section (CP&AC), within Arms Control Branch, provides policy advice on, and coordinates Defence's contribution to, counter-proliferation and arms control issues. CP&AC is the Australian point of contact for international PSI enquiries and facilitates Defence engagement with other Australian Government agencies to contribute to the whole-of-government approach to PSI.

What is your knowledge/involvement in the PSI?

I participate in whole-of-government meetings on PSI and I am the Australian Head of Delegation for PSI OEG meetings. My knowledge and involvement in PSI started with Defence hosting a domestic PSI tabletop exercise soon after my appointment in 2012. The exercise was designed to work through a fictional interdiction scenario, explaining the role of key personnel across various agencies in coordinating a response.

Why is PSI important to Defence?

As the operational lead for PSI activities, Defence's actions are vital to promote Australia's PSI engagement. Australia is deeply concerned about the threat of WMD proliferation

and about the danger posed by WMD in the hands of terrorists. Countering the threat of WMD proliferation is a key security priority. Participation in practical initiatives, such as the PSI, is an important component of Australia's multi-dimensional strategy in addressing this growing threat. The proliferation problem is especially relevant in the Indo-Pacific region due to its high-volume trade routes, and Australia is committed to working with its neighbours on non-proliferation and disarmament objectives.

The PSI has transformed how nations act together against proliferation, harnessing their diplomatic, military, law enforcement and intelligence assets in a multinational, yet flexible, fashion. For example, in May 2011, the maritime vessel MV Light departed North Korea in an attempt to deliver a suspected arms-related cargo in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. Working together, a number of PSI partner states induced the ship to return to North Korea, thereby preventing the shipment.

Interdictions happen on a regular basis, but are often not publicised due to the sensitivity of information involved.

What kind of PSI activities does Defence get involved with?

Defence has been a strong supporter of the PSI since its inception in 2003. This has included hosting the inaugural PSI maritime interdiction exercise Pacific Protector in 2003. Subsequent Australian-hosted Pacific Protector exercises in 2006 and 2010 have demonstrated Australia's ability to interdict an aircraft suspected of carrying a cargo of proliferation concern.

Defence contributes ADF assets and personnel to international PSI exercises. For example, during Exercise Eastern Endeavour held in 2012 Defence contributed a surveillance aircraft and crew as well as interdiction and boarding. Specialists were embarked in a number of the ships participating in the exercise.

Defence also provides policy support to the overall Initiative. This includes the creation and maintenance of key policy documents, guidelines and managing a list of upcoming activities.

What is ahead on the PSI calendar?

The next OEG meeting which Australia is likely to attend is currently planned to be held at Rhode Island in the US in May. This meeting will focus on the policy aspects of PSI - reviewing recent activities and providing support for newer participants to further establish their own national arrangements. We may also be invited to assist upcoming PSI exercises held by countries in our region - the ability to

contribute ADF assets would be considered by Government at the time in light of our national interests, the operational requirements and the exercise scenario. In addition to this, Australia is next scheduled to host a major multinational PSI activity in 2017.

Joining forces

The PSI celebrated its 10th anniversary milestone with international events in Poland last year. Defence subject matter experts supported a High Level Political Meeting in Warsaw, attended by senior representatives of 71 partner states of the PSI and three international organisations. During the meeting, Australia announced its intention to join with five other PSI states - the US, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan and South Korea - to form an annual rotation of PSI exercises in the Asia-Pacific region and to promote similar efforts in other regions. These exercises will help strengthen the capacity of partner states to interdict weapons of mass destruction-related cargoes, and encourage the expansion of bilateral and multilateral outreach efforts to potential PSI endorsers, international and regional institutions, and the public.



Right: Pictured on a baggage conveyer are members from the UK Survey Team. They are proceeding to search a New Zealand Air Force Boeing 757 aircraft for illicit cargo of proliferation concern.



Pictured are Specialist Response personnel from Singapore preparing to deal with illicit cargo of proliferation concern.

Photographs by Petty Officer Photographer Damian Pawlenko



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New Military Super Arrangements

The Government is introducing new modern military superannuation arrangements for people joining the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

The new arrangements will allow ADF members to choose which superannuation fund they belong to and, for the first time, give those members the ability to transfer their accumulated benefits to a new fund if they leave the ADF.

As part of these changes, the Government will establish ADF Super on 1 July 2016.

These new arrangements form an important part of the Government's plan to provide flexible working conditions for all ADF members under Project Suakin, the ADF's future workforce model.

ADF Super will apply to:

those joining the ADF from 1 July 2016; and

serving and returning members of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme who choose to join the new scheme.

Importantly, members of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme who are currently serving or who rejoin the ADF from 1 July 2016 can choose to stay in their current scheme, or to join ADF Super. There will be no compulsion to transfer to the new arrangements.

The current Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme will be closed to new members from 1 July 2016.

Under the new arrangements, the employer contribution rate will be 15.4 per cent, increasing to 18 per cent during periods of warlike service in recognition of the unique

nature of military service.

There will be no requirement for ADF members to contribute to their superannuation under the new arrangements. This will provide greater flexibility for individuals in how they manage their finances at various stages of their working life.

Recognising that military service can be a dangerous undertaking, ADF members will continue to receive statutory cover for death and invalidity. Importantly, benefits under the new arrangements for these members will be the same as what exists under the current scheme.

ADF Super will be established and managed by the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, which is currently the trustee for the major Commonwealth schemes, including the current and past military superannuation schemes.

The introduction of modern superannuation arrangements for ADF members, combined with the delivery of new indexation for DFRB and DFRDB members, demonstrates the Government's commitment to ensuring appropriate superannuation arrangements are available to current and former ADF members.

The Government will work with ex-service organisations such as the RSL, Defence Force Welfare Association and Alliance of Defence Service Organisations to ensure the successful introduction of the new superannuation arrangements.

Group photo of HMAS Sydney deployed support team, 2013.



Living In Accommodation is changing

Defence Housing Australia's (DHA) rollout of the new Living In Accommodation (LIA) booking and allocation system will soon be complete. The new system will allow Defence members and employees to actively manage all types of LIA bookings via Online Services.

Queensland, northern New South Wales, Victoria, the Northern Territory and South Australia have transitioned to the new system. All other regions will transition by mid-June.

For more information about rollout dates or to book LIA for an exercise, a course, a cadet camp, reserve duty, permanent accommodation or individual transit, visit dha.gov.au/lia

 139 342  dha.gov.au/lia



Minister for Defence – Budget 2014-15 – Defence Budget Overview

In Budget 2014-15, the Abbott Government has delivered on its promise of no further cuts to the Defence Budget and reaffirmed its commitment to growing the Defence budget to two per cent of GDP within a decade.

This Budget is about building a strong and prosperous economy for a safe and secure Australia, and that means a strong and capable Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Against the backdrop of a difficult budget, the Government will lay down a deliverable and sustainable path to our target following the 2015 Defence White Paper and associated reviews which will determine the capabilities we need to ensure Australia's national security in coming decades.

The Government will provide Defence with \$29.2 billion in 2014-15 and \$122.7 billion over the Forward Estimates – up \$9.6 billion increase on the figure provided by the previous Government. This demonstrates our firm commitment to a strong and capable Australian Defence Force (ADF).

The Budget includes a total of \$436.8 million in 2014-15 and \$669.4 million across the Forward Estimates for the continuation of Operations in the Middle East, enhanced border security under Operation RESOLUTE, the provision of ADF support to the November summit of G20 leaders in Brisbane, and the Defence contribution to the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.

The Government has also provided Defence with an additional \$338.7 million in 2014-15 and \$1.6 billion across the Forward Estimates to fund our election commitments, which include:

- New indexation of the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits (DFRB) and Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DRRDB) superannuation schemes – \$320.4 million in 2014-15 and \$1.4 billion across the Forward Estimates; and
- Reinstatement of the popular ADF Gap Year Programme scrapped by Labor – \$18.3 million in 2014-15 and \$191.8 million across the Forward Estimates.

To start repairing the damage done by Labor's Defence cuts and delays, we have brought forward \$1.5 billion in spending from 2017-18. This includes an increase of \$500m in 2013-14 to purchase vital capabilities and a further \$1 billion distributed across 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. \$520 million has been deferred from 2017-18 to 2019-20 and 2020-21 to provide Defence with an achievable funding growth path.

These actions by the Abbott Government will provide Defence with a stable and sustainable funding growth path, in contrast to the mess left by the previous Government, which never owned up to the unbridgeable gap between its Defence promises and its unwillingness to pay for them.

The Government has also agreed to Defence retaining the proceeds of sales of Defence property. This will mean an additional \$37.9 million in 2014-15 and \$110.6 million across the Forward Estimates for reinvestment in Defence capability.

Defence will not be immune from the Government's insistence on value for money. The Government is committed to finding ongoing efficiencies in Defence administration and redistributing these to the sharp end. Defence has identified \$1.2 billion in back-office savings over the Forward Estimates which will be reinvested into Defence capability. Also, in keeping with our election commitment to get the Budget back under control, an efficiency dividend of \$75.8 million across the Forward Estimates has been applied to the non-capability aspects of the Defence Budget.

Defence will also play its part in the longer-term effort to put the nation's finances on a sustainable footing. The Government will implement a modern, fully-funded accumulation superannuation scheme for the ADF to further complement the attractive employment offer the ADF provides. The scheme will provide, for the first time, superannuation scheme choice, rate of contribution choice, and portability of benefits for Australians who choose to serve our country. Importantly, we will pay our superannuation obligations when they are due, rather than deferring them for future generations to bear.

Further work is required to ensure we have the Defence capability we need, when we need it in an uncertain world. That is why the Government is undertaking a Force Structure Review, which will be the basis for the new White Paper to be released in 2015. The White Paper and resultant Defence Capability Plan will provide the Australian community and Defence industry with the clarity and certainty that Labor failed to deliver. We will lay out a clear, fully-funded plan for a strong and secure Australia.

For more information and access to the Portfolio Budget Statement go to <http://www.defence.gov.au/budget/14-15/pbs/>

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Chinese Navy Liaison Officer Farewelled after Successful Visit

Commander Lin Wan of the People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) was farewelled from HMAS Success on 20 April following a successful 12-day placement as part of Operation Southern Indian Ocean.

Commander Wan joined Success as a Liaison Officer for the Chinese vessels searching as part of the international fleet trying to locate Malaysia Airlines flight MH370.

During his stay, Commander Wan gained a unique insight into life on board the Royal Australian Navy resupply ship.

"There are many similarities in the working and living environment on Chinese and Australian navy vessels, however there are differences in such things as daily routines," he said.

"Our day begins at 0600, with work commencing at 0730 and finishing at 1730—following lunch, personnel not keeping watch have a designated rest time of 60-90 minutes so they are refreshed for the afternoon's work and must turn in for the night at 2130—this difference in routine was quite surprising to members of Success," he said.

Commander Wan commented it was the first time he had experienced western-style food and hospitality for an extended period.

"The food choices are quite varied and reflect the multicultural nature of Australia," he said.

"The warmth and openness of the crew was evident from the moment I arrived—this has helped me to fit in and do my work whilst onboard," Commander Wan said.

The Commanding Officer of Success, Captain Allison Norris, RAN, said the opportunity to closely coordinate search efforts with one of Australia's international partners was valuable.

"It has been a pleasure having Commander Wan as our guest during this phase of what has been a very challenging search and recovery mission—his insight has given us a greater understanding of one of our key partners and has contributed to a cooperative effort in this important endeavour," she said.

Success was the first ship tasked to find evidence of the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean search area when she sailed from Fremantle on March 19 and has since cooperated with ships from Australia, China, Malaysia, United Kingdom and the United States.

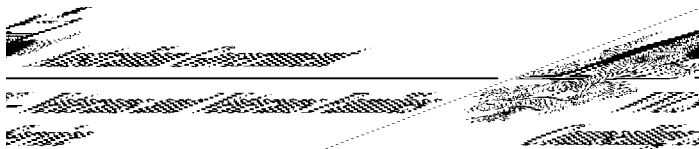
The Commanding Officer of HMAS Success CAPT Allison Norris farewells Commander Lin Wan of the People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) following a successful 12-day placement on board Success as part of Operation Southern Indian Ocean.





Above: Commanding Officer of HMAS Perth, Captain Lee Goddard, RAN looks at charts of MH370 search zone in the Southern Indian Ocean during a command brief onboard HMAS Perth as part of Operation SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN. HMAS Perth is in search of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.

Below: Hose line party await for United States Naval Ship (USNS) Cesar Chavez to conduct a replenishment at sea with HMAS Perth and HMAS Success as part of Operation SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN. HMAS Perth is in search of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.



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Army on watch in HMAS Perth

The support to Operation SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN is truly a tri-service undertaking with soldiers from HMAS Perth's Ship's Army Detachment (SAD) assisting the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force in the search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370.

The Army Reserve detachment primarily drawn from 5/6 battalion, The Royal Victorian Regiment, was serving in Perth while assigned to operations in northern Australian waters and the soldiers readily adapted to the change of task when the ship was re-routed to the search.

One of the embarked soldiers, Lance Corporal Jye Staff, said he saw this as a once-in-lifetime opportunity to support such a massive search.

"This is great, we are doing our bit to help solve one of the world's greatest mysteries. I am proud to be a part of one of the largest search efforts in history," Lance Corporal Staff said.

Perth's role is to respond to suspected wreckage sightings and conduct surface searches. Her radars and missile defence systems are state-of-the-art but one of the most effective methods for detecting flotsam in vast areas of water is by using visual lookouts.

The Army Detachment has augmented the ship's lookouts and is providing an immediate, disciplined and effective force in the search for clues to the missing aircraft.

Private Michael Cook said that when he joined the Army he did not expect to be conducting a lookout for a missing aircraft on the ocean.

"We search throughout all sorts of terrain as infantry; I must admit I didn't ever think I would be searching for a downed aircraft out in the middle of the ocean," he said.

"Discipline and a rotating schedule of lookouts to keep fresh eyes on the task make sure we clear an area before moving forward to the next one."

Commanding Officer Perth Captain Lee Goddard said he was very impressed with both the attitude and professionalism of the Army detachment.

"The men and women, these soldiers, are great. As our program changed and we moved into another line of operation, the soldiers of the Royal Victorian Regiment just rolled with the changes and readily volunteered to help in any and every capacity they could," Captain Goddard said.

The unit has easily integrated into the ship's activities, including taking part in replenishments at sea, and have proved quick learners. The soldiers are even rotating through watches to attain helmsman endorsement so they can 'drive' the ship.

Vessels from the United States, United Kingdom, China and Malaysia have also deployed, demonstrating the depth of international co-operation involved in the operation.

Electronic Technician, Adam Jaynes stands on 02 deck aft of HMAS Perth during a replenishment at sea with supply ship United States Naval Ship (USNS) Cesar Chavez as part of Operation SOUTHERN INDIAN OCEAN.





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Raymond Doyle - Gympie man at work in Afghanistan

Raymond Doyle will not be among the Dawn Service crowd at Gympie's Cenotaph this year because he will be busy at work – in Afghanistan.

Now Lance Corporal (LCPL) Doyle, 52, the Australian Army Cargo Specialist is deployed to Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan with Force Support Unit -9 as part of the logistics element at Camp Baker, Kandahar.

He is one of approximately 400 Australian personnel who remain deployed to Afghanistan playing their part in the train, advise and assist mission for the Afghan National Security Forces.

The jovial former Gympie farmhand, labourer and bakery worker is revelling in his role in the land-locked nation but is quick to point out that it is still a dangerous place to work.

"There are still a lot of us here doing our job and we are regularly practising rocket attack drills and are still required to carry our weapons," he said.

"This is my first warlike operation and it's going to be a real honour to be here in Afghanistan for the Anzac Day Dawn Service.

"I am pretty confident it's going to be a bit warmer here at dawn than it will be at the Memorial Gates in Mary Street!

LCPL Doyle joined the Army a little later than most after establishing his life in Gympie with Prongers as a window assembler, Gympie Hot Bread Kitchen as a chef's assistant and also working as a farmhand for David Anderson's Dairy Farm at Mooloo.

The son of Raymond and Gwendolene James initially trained as a chef before transferring over to the "Termites" (Army Cargo Specialist) where he prepares cargo for transport by sea, air and land.

This is his second overseas deployment after spending six months in Timor Leste in 2007 but despite his extraordinary experiences, family remains close to his heart.

"Meeting my wife Naomi and having my children changed my life. I really miss my son Brenton - who is also in the Army – his lovely wife Emma and of course my grandson Aiden who is two years old.

"I won't leave out my first daughter Olivia who gave us a beautiful grand daughter Lilly, who turns four on 24 April and lastly Sarah who loves being with her mother and lives at home in Townsville where I am posted.

"Support is a big thing and I'd like to thank extended family; Val – she will be remembered always; Keith Payne a terrific father figure and Helen, a special woman in our life.

"When I get back it'll be time to put my feet up and catch up with all my family members who hold a very special place in my heart.

"It'll also be refreshing to shower without thongs on,

eat with steel cutlery, sleep in my own bed and walk around in a building with windows – we are in reinforced accommodation here to resist incoming rounds."

Following the completion of Australia's mission in Afghanistan's Uruzgan province last year, Australia's efforts have shifted to a nationally-orientated mission throughout 2014, providing training and advisory support to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

Around 400 ADF personnel will continue to work in Afghanistan in 2014 through training and advising the ANSF in both Kabul and Kandahar.

Lance Corporal (LCPL) Raymond Doyle, 52, is an Australian Army Cargo Specialist deployed on Operation SLIPPER in Afghanistan with Force Support Unit - 9 as part of the logistics element at Camp Baker, Kandahar.

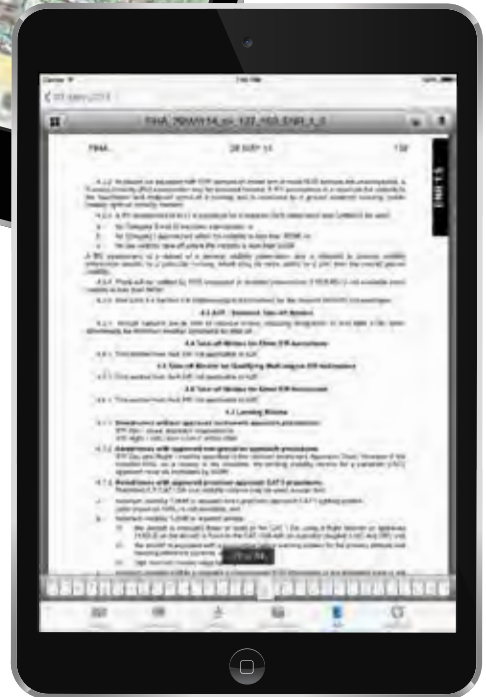


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Australia's Military put to the Test in a Multi-national Environment

The Australian Defence Force is undertaking a simulation-based, multi-layered Command Post Exercise at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane and Headquarters Joint Operations Command in Bungendore, NSW.

Exercise VITAL PROSPECT will see some 1200 ADF personnel practice operational command and control of a coalition force incorporating approximately 200 personnel from the American, British, Canadian and New Zealand defence forces in a high-end, mid-intensity conflict scenario, against a highly capable fictitious enemy.

During the exercise the Brisbane-based Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (DJFHQ) and the ADF's Theatre Air Control Centre (TACS) will be put to the test running the conflict at an operational level, across the expanses of northern Australia and its approaches.

Exercise BLUE DIAMOND, within VITAL PROSPECT, will focus on assessing the Australian Army's 7th Brigade Headquarters in its role within the land phase of the conflict scenario.

An American, British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Armies Program (ABCA) Command Post Exercise, Exercise AQUA TERRA, will be integrated within VITAL PROSPECT to maximise interoperability within a coalition environment.

The Chief of Joint Operations Command, Lieutenant General Ash Power, will oversee the exercises and said they provide an opportunity to confirm the ADF's deployable command and control capabilities within a complex and demanding scenario.

"Operations don't just happen—each requires intricate planning. These exercises provide both the ADF and our coalition partners with the opportunity to plan and to practise Joint Task Force Headquarters processes, using the power of simulation," Lieutenant General Power said.

"We are rehearsing some very complex processes during these exercises.

"This enables us to put into practice the lessons we and our coalition partners have learned on recent operations, against a tough adversary, to ensure we continue to maintain and improve our capabilities. The power of modern simulation systems allows us to practice far more realistically and cost effectively than has been possible in the past.

"This year, the integration of the ABCA Exercise AQUA TERRA will give the ADF the opportunity to work closely with our coalition partners, improve interoperability, and exploit information to support the ongoing transformation and modernisation of ABCA armies."



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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

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 ultimate aim of the DRHM is to ensure that you and your family experience high quality customer service as you undergo a removal or change to your housing situation.

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 DRHM 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 have revealed region-wide trends or issues which have been 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.

| DRHM Location | First Name | Surname | Phone | Mobile |
|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Adelaide | Bill | Griggs | (08) 7389 3225 | 0407 211 389 |
| | 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 | Alan | Purude | (08) 8935 4346 | 0408 970 557 |
| | 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 | Carey | Byrne | (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 |
| Townsville | Merv | Dickson | (07) 4411 7922 | 0408 457 468 |
| Wagga | Lea | Gayfer | (02) 6055 2187 | 0439 452 291 |

Change to Relocation Model

Defence and Toll have developed, and will implement a new model for the sourcing of removals and associated dates for Uplift of a member's furniture and effects.

The new model is called the Whole of Relocation Cost model (WORC)

The WORC model is based on the premise that substantial savings in relocation costs can be achieved under the following circumstances:

- taking advantage of cost differences in services arising from the day the service is supplied (e.g. generally midweek hotel rates are less than a Friday);

- Sourcing quotes for services within a date range as opposed to a specific date (e.g. a relocation price for an uplift for each individual day in the date range of Monday to Friday);
- Considering all relocation costs across each day of the requested uplift week when making the procurement decision (e.g. removal, accommodation, flights and allowances); and
- Choosing the day of the week which provides the most cost effective combination of costs, unless operational considerations or extenuating personal circumstances dictate otherwise.

The WORC model was successfully trialled in South Queensland from 30 July 2013 -30 Oct 2013.



ANZAC Day Tasmania



Tasmanian Veterans' & Families Garden Plot

In September 2013 the Tasmanian Veteran community was given a unique opportunity to establish a garden plot in the new Tasmanian Community Food Garden in the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. After running successful gardening workshops during Veterans' Health Week in 2012 and 2013, the plot will allow Tasmanian Veterans to have a permanent garden and also demonstrate they are active in the wider Tasmanian community.

The reasons for Veterans' gardening are numerous. Gardening promotes Veteran's health and well being, self reliance, social inclusion, community interaction and has also been identified as an alternative therapy for Veterans suffering both mental and physical injuries. It is also recognised that Veterans' families can also benefit from gardening, so to make it more inclusive the new plot has been named the Veterans' & Families Garden Plot.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is sponsoring the Garden Plot along with the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association Tasmania Branch and the Greater Hobart RSL Sub-Branch. The Plot was officially opened on the 6th of April 2014 with the initial planting done with the assistance of Tino Carnevale from ABC Gardening Australia. The Plot currently has about

a dozen members including Vietnam, East Timor, Gulf War, Iraq and Afghan Veterans, War Widows and family members. The Plot has already been featured on the ABC Radio AM Current Affairs program (Saturday 3 May 14) and will be seen in Tino's segment in ABC Gardening Australia on Saturday the 28th of June 2014.



Membership of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden gives Plot members the opportunity to work in a community garden, expert horticultural assistance from Garden staff, access to gardening and cooking workshops and of course fresh vegetables. Members officially meet at midday on the second Thursday of each month but pop in to check the Plot when they can. If you are interested in joining the Plot or want more information about Veterans' Gardening please contact the Coordinator Mike Romalis on mobile: 0408 002892 or email: tasvetgarden@hotmail.com.au

By: Mike Romalis

Photo by: David Stevens



Tino Carnevale from ABC Gardening Australia helping APPVA Members plant out seedlings

NSW Report

It has been very busy these last few months for our President and Vice President in assisting in the organising the Sydney ANZAC March for 2014 and getting involve with the big one next year in relation to APPVA and the younger veterans that have returned over the past twelve months from services overseas were ever they have returned from.

On behalf of the President and members of APPVA NSW / ACT we would like to welcome you back to Australia and don't forget there is a lot of support out there for you and for the older veterans' as well. APPVA have advocates all over Australia who are willing to assist in any way you only have to look on our website for the state in which you reside if that is not help ring the NSW site and we will help.

The members on the Far North Coast have been attending all types of function prior to ANZAC Day Pauline Maczkowiack, Sandra & Peter Vidler attended a service at Fromelles RSL Care Nursing home and gave a reading to the audience on behalf APPVA.

Pauline carried the banner for the Lismore RSL on ANZAC Day to a large town support and we were proud that Pauline was part of APPVA.

Kerry Roche carried the banner at Casino in the ANZAC March to a good turnout as well and as you can see she looked so proud to be part of the APPVA Association



wearing her badge with pride.

Kery also attended a funeral for one of her clients that passed away after being granted his TPI Rest in Peace lan.

Pauline, Kerry, Sandra, Paul & Peter have continued to do advocacy work for the local veteran community as we as obtaining a few from Queensland and Sydney to help other advocates.

Sandra and Peter Vidler and our National President Allan Thomas attended the ANZAC march in our local village at Alstonville which was very well attended by the local veteran community and the support of the towns people covered both sides of the street to cheer the vets.

Paul Smith who is a member of APPVA is also the Vice President of Mullumbimby RSL he is also a level 3 advocate, but has been heavily involved with the reconstruction of the new centaph at Mullum which has taken up a fair deal of his time and what we have heard he has been doing a fantasic job so well done Paul.

I would like to inform NSW/ACT members that our treasurer and his wife are relocating to the mid north coast in May but will remain as the treasurer and has met up with members of the Sub Branch and will continue to act as advocates for the area.

Look forward to our next input to the magazine have a cool winter.



Victorian Report



ANZAC Day

Afghanistan and Iraq veterans led the march this ANZAC day along with the Peace Keepers, Peacemakers and Defence Veterans. We had a good turn out on the day and having been given the honor of leading the march encouraged many to march that had not before. Naomi Ager led the march and I believe this highlighted the commitment and service to our country by service women and hopefully gave some much-needed public awareness.

Aussie Veteran Opportunity Shop

3 years ago on 30 Jun the RASC Vietnam association gifted APPVA Victoria an opportunity shop to carry on the services and welfare, to the veteran group that followed after them. The shop is manned and run by over 30 volunteers who are made up of a number of veterans who are keen to put back to the veteran community; but most of the volunteers come from the local community.

The Opportunity Shop has a spirit of community in its own right. The local volunteers are not only dedicated to provide assistance to the veteran community though fund raising, but also help the local community as well. There is an atmosphere in the shop created by the volunteers that I find very uplifting and this flows on to the popularity of the shop in the local community. In the shop we have a small drop in center where we have a regular flow of guests

and this doubles as a lunch area. Ted Ryan is a Vietnam Veteran who provides justice of the peace and pension services for our older veterans and we have a number of younger veteran providing welfare and advocacy services through our network to younger veterans.

I would like to thank all the volunteers involved with this very successful shop; my wife and I are very proud to be apart of this community.

Mick Quinn
President
APPVA Victoria



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