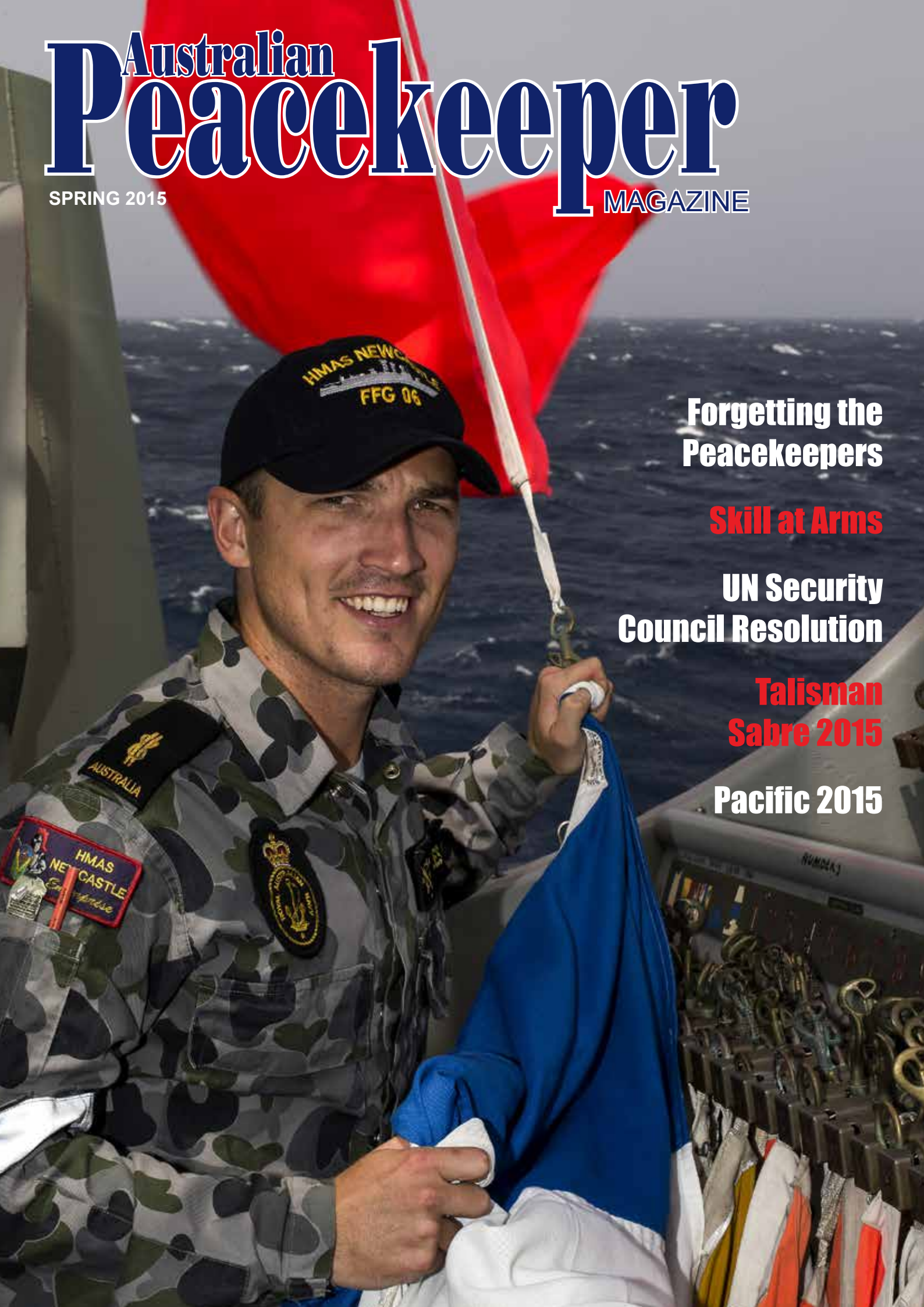


# Australian Peacekeeper

SPRING 2015

MAGAZINE



**Forgetting the  
Peacekeepers**

**Skill at Arms**

**UN Security  
Council Resolution**

**Talisman  
Sabre 2015**

**Pacific 2015**

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# Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

**Contributors:** Australian Defence Force, Australian Federal Police and The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Phil Pyke, Department of Defence, Paul Copeland, New Zealand Defence Force

**President:** Allan Thomas JP  
*president@peacekeepers.asn.au*

**Vice President:** Michael Quinn  
*wo1mick@gmail.com*

**Editor Enquiries:**  
Paul Copeland *chook660@gmail.com*  
Kylie McQueen *peacekeeper6@bigpond.com*

**Treasurer:** Rhonda Copeland  
*treasurer@peacekeepers.asn.au*

**Advertising:** Sharon Pace  
*peacekeeper6@bigpond.com*

**McQueen Media:** Kylie McQueen  
02 9386 4213

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[www.peacekeepers.asn.au](http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au)

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.



59 More than \$1billion seized in narcotics

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Able Seaman Communications and Information Systems Michael Sales hoists signal flags onboard HMAS Newcastle as the ship and crew carry out surveillance for narcotics trafficking in the Indian Ocean. HMAS Newcastle is tasked to carry out maritime security patrols in the Indian Ocean as part of the Combined Maritime Forces.



# From the President's Desk

Welcome to all our members and on-lookers, throughout the recent months, The APPVA have been monitoring trends within Veteran Rehabilitation and Compensation that is made available through the DVA once eligibility has been established and liability has been accepted. The Secretary to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, Mr Simon Lewis, PSM, said the department would be looking at ways of improving services to current and former members of the ADF, and the greater veterans' community, as it is one of the Department's significant priorities.

The DVA strategic plan, DVA Towards 2020, emphasised the importance of DVA continuing to be responsive and flexible, efficiently delivering high quality and connected services and making the best use of the many channels available to interact with those who may have an entitlement under the various Act(s). The APPVA do acknowledge that DVA has improved service delivery to current and former ADF members and the greater veteran community, but it is just unfortunate that with improvement there has been some disruptions to some services which an APPVA delegation will look at discussing with the Key Appointments within DVA in the not too distant future, we will keep you posted as these key issues are progressing.

The APPVA National Conference will be held at the Geelong RSL on Friday the 18th of September 2015 and our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday the 19th of September 2015 at the same location, members of the association who wish to attend may obtain information from the APPVA Website under "up and coming events". If you require further information please contact the National Secretary. This National Conference has the potential to provide a good opportunity for members of our association to attend and meet with guest speakers from Parliament, the Australian Defence Force and the DVA who always provide the most up to date information. It will also be good to meet our members.

The APPVA has just recently provided a response to the Functional Review of the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service [VVCS]. The response to the Functional Review of the VVCS was initiated following consultation with the VVCS senior National Management Team. Further input was to be provided by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, National Advisory Committee on VVCS (NAC); the review is intended to form the basis of future discussions with staff and stakeholders on the future direction, structure and functions of the VVCS.

The review was commissioned by the DVA to identify opportunities to enhance administrative and clinical efficacy. The Review focused on identifying areas for improvement and/or enhancement in order to position VVCS to remain a flexible and responsive service that continues to deliver positive client outcomes. I will keep you further updated on the outcome of the review in our next addition of the Peacekeepers Magazines.

The APPVA continue to represent on younger veteran's issues nationally, we also represent on issues of

entitlement and wellbeing, honour and awards recognition and continue to consult Parliament regarding the erection of the National Peacekeepers Memorial in Canberra. We entice those of current or recent conflicts or Peacekeeping Operations to join the association in the endeavour to prevent further erosion of veteran's entitlements and ensure that adequate provisions are still maintained for veterans and their families now and into the not too distant future that will require ongoing care through the range of Health Care Providers for the conditions accepted. The APPVA is unique and dynamic in today's society in what we are trying to achieve as we strive to consult with peak bodies to ensure services are maintained for current members and their families so they are able to maintain some quality of life after service.

If you would like to assist in anyway please don't hesitate to contact your local APPVA Branch within your state or visit our website [www.peacekeepers.asn.au](http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au) where we will only be too happy to assist you with your enquiry. The association would like to hear from you regarding some theme's that you may want to see happen and possibly assist in during the Veterans' Health Week which will be held on the 10th to the 18th October 2015, this event is sponsored by the DVA. The week is an opportunity for veterans, war widows, widowers, current and ex-Australian Defence Force members and their families to participate, connect and influence the health and wellbeing of themselves and their friends.

DVA will be partnering with ex-service organisations and community groups to develop a programme of fun and interactive events and activities at a local level. Contact your local APPVA Branch and meet other veterans of most recent conflicts and their families and join in on the activities. I look forward to your participation and hopefully capture some highlights of events that transpire during the "Veterans' Health Week".

**Allan Thomas**  
**National President**



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# 2015 PACIFIC

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXPOSITION

6 - 8 OCTOBER 2015 SYDNEY EXHIBITION CENTRE AT GLEBE ISLAND SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Since its inception in 2000, the biennial Pacific International Maritime Exposition has become a fixture on the maritime industry calendar.

The next Pacific International Maritime Exposition will be held in Sydney, Australia, on 6-8 October 2015 to coincide with Navy Week, and PACIFIC 2015 will be held at an all-new venue: the Sydney Exhibition Centre @ Glebe Island.

This year's event has attracted an unprecedented number of international naval delegations.

No fewer than 58 foreign naval missions, from 47 countries, have signalled their intention to attend the event.

It will be the largest number of overseas naval delegations ever to visit a PACIFIC Exposition with groups coming from throughout the Asia Indo-Pacific region, Europe and the Americas.

Countries include the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Saudi Arabia, India, China, Korea and Japan. Naval delegations from Africa and South America will also be in attendance.

The change in dates from the traditional January-February timeslot is a result of the success of PACIFIC 2013, which was held in October 2013 to coincide with the Royal Australian Navy's Centenary celebrations and International Fleet Review on 4 October.

Now, in lockstep with the Royal Australian Navy, the Pacific International Maritime Exposition will in future coincide with Navy Week, celebrated during the first week in October.

As the only comprehensive international exhibition of its kind in Australia, Asia and the Indo-Pacific region, PACIFIC 2015 will again provide the ideal showcase for commercial maritime and naval defence industries to promote their capabilities to decision makers from around the world.

PACIFIC 2015 will be held at the new Sydney Exhibition Centre at Glebe Island, on the magnificent harbour foreshore - near the ANZAC Bridge and close to Darling Harbour and the Sydney CBD. PACIFIC 2015 will be the ninth in the Pacific series and builds on the highly successful biennial events held in Sydney since 2000.

Specifically developed to satisfy the needs of industry, government and defence professionals across the broad spectrum of maritime affairs, PACIFIC 2015 will bring the latest international expertise to Australia and promote Australia's industrial and technological capabilities to the world.

Exclusive to industry, government and defence professionals, PACIFIC 2015 is not open to the general

public. It will be held over three industry-only days from Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8 October 2015.

The major players in the international maritime, naval, underwater and defence-related communities will be at PACIFIC 2015 in force.

- Ship Builders • Key defence, government and commercial decision makers • Propulsion system manufacturers • Component designers and suppliers • Electronics and navigational hardware suppliers • Port management and service providers • Defence systems manufacturers • Ship owners and operators • A wide range of maritime, naval and defence related service and technology companies • Training and simulation providers • Communications providers

Displays will be presented by more than 400 participating exhibitor global companies. The exposition is expected to attract a total attendance exceeding 10,000 from Australia and around the world, as well as numerous senior commercial, military and government delegations from some 30 countries.

PACIFIC 2015 will provide delegates, exhibitors, participants and visitors alike with a unique opportunity to meet with their peers, potential suppliers and customers. Issues and proposals will be discussed, ideas and information exchanged, contacts made and networks developed.

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# Outgoing Transfer of Authority for Force Communications Element

Force Communications Element Two (FCE-2) has completed its six-month rotation to Operations ACCORDION and HIGHROAD and transferred authority to Force Communication Element Three (FCE-3) on 4 August.

The second rotation of the communications element, downsized from unit strength in 2014, has been responsible for maintaining national communications across all Australian Defence Force locations in the Middle East Region.

Outgoing Officer Commanding (OC) Major Mathew Hegarty said while the tempo of operations has changed, the complexity of the communications environment remains. "Taking ownership of the communications challenges across the Middle East Region was the focus of FCE-2 from the start," he said.

"Not only did the team take on these day-to-day issues, they found creative solutions to future-proof our national network."

"Add to this the sudden increase in tempo with a new task group and the speed and efficiency with which its communications were integrated, FCE-2 has performed well above expectation.

"The enthusiasm and dedication shown by the team throughout this deployment is commendable and I could not be prouder of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen of FCE-2 for all they have achieved.

"I have every confidence that FCE-3 will further build on and refine the communications and information systems needs of Australia's largest current operational effort."



Director Operations Joint Task Force 633 Captain Mark Hill (left) presents Signaller Malcolm Tye with the Operational Service Medal during the Force Communication Element -2 medal parade

Incoming OC, FCE-3, Major Belinda Beard said the new rotation is equal to the task ahead.

"During the force concentration period, FCE-3 has taken on board the lessons learned from previous rotations so we can hit the ground running," Major Beard said.

"As we hand over, our team is not only ready but looking forward to the challenges our six-month rotation will offer."

The Force Communication Element falls under the national command of Joint Task Force 633 and is also responsible for the provision of welfare communications systems for deployed members to stay in touch with home.



Members of Force Communication Element – 2 during their medal parade at Australia's main command and logistics base in the Middle East Region.



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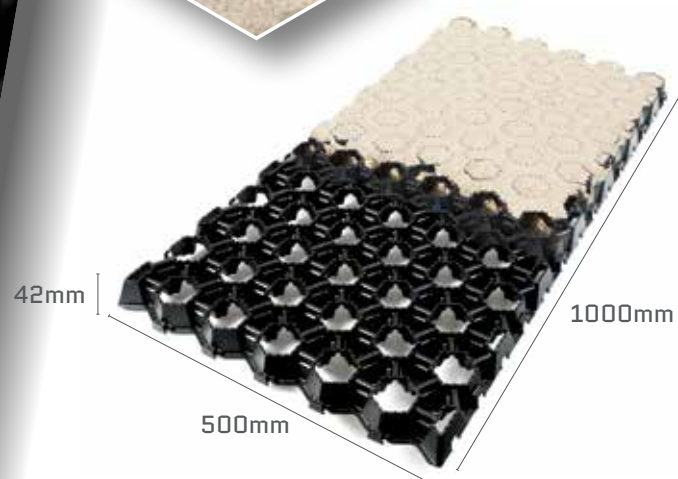
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\*Results are based on a filled product, Tested at the Centre for Geotechnical and Materials Modelling, The University of Newcastle.



# Fijian Born Medic Gives Back to Pacific Communities

Darwin'a Mele "Bee" Buadromo, 27, a Fijian-born Royal Australian Navy medic is enjoying giving back to communities in the Pacific on a mission spanning from Fiji to Vietnam.

Able Seaman (AB) Buadromo is currently deployed in the American hospital ship USNS Mercy as a part of Pacific Partnership, an annual US-led humanitarian and civic assistance mission aimed at strengthening international relationships with partner and host nations in the Asia-Pacific regions.

AB Buadromo is a medic sailor posted to HMAS Cerberus near Melbourne, comes from a family rich in military tradition and said she followed in her father's footsteps, joining the Australian Regular Army eight years ago and then transferring to the Royal Australian Navy last year to pursue new horizons and travel opportunities.

"Navy has offered me a better work life balance and I am able to spend more time with my daughter Tamara-Rose," she said.

Selection for places on Pacific Partnership was extremely competitive, with many more volunteers for the positions available.

After being one of two selected from 200 Navy medics to participate in Pacific Partnership 2015, Bee is now putting her skills to good use while consolidating her previous training and working alongside US Navy counterparts as a fully integrated member of the ship's company.

"I have only been in the Navy for a year and I am stoked to be chosen for this amazing trip.

"I'm working in the adult ward carrying out a range of pre and post-surgery care and administration roles."

USNS Mercy has already visited Fiji as one of her four scheduled country destinations resulting in almost 250 patients receiving treatment in the casualty recovery and the adult ward.



"Travelling to Fiji really hit home for me as that's where I grew up before moving to Australia.

"I've really enjoyed everything about this mission. Being part of patient care and humanitarian aid work is something I really love. I have made great friends and I feel so proud to be able to give back as a member of the Royal Australian Navy."

**Image and story courtesy Lieutenant Commander Darren Mallett**

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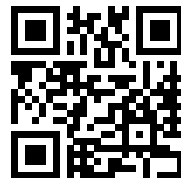
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and power and propulsion for Canberra Class Landing Helicopter Docks as well as the surface fleet's Teamcenter configuration management software and support. It's also Siemens' technology being used to update the Royal New Zealand Navy's ANZAC Frigates with the latest in fully integrated platform management systems. This includes an integrated bridge, on-board training, automated touch-screen battle damage control and unmanned machinery space capability.

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# Air Force Receives First Growler

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) received its first EA-18G Growler on 30th July. Prime contractor Boeing and the U.S. Navy formally presented the aircraft to the RAAF at a ceremony in St Louis in the United States.

Former Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown (ret'd), who represented the RAAF at the ceremony, confirmed that Australia would be the first nation outside the United States to fly the airborne electronic attack platform.

"The Growlers will complement our existing and future air combat capability, and ours will be a much more lethal force with this advanced technology," Air Marshal Brown said.

"In many respects, it's the final piece of the air power jigsaw puzzle for the RAAF, and my prediction is it will have one of the biggest strategic effects for the Australian Defence Force since the introduction of the F-111 in the 1970s."

A derivative of the F/A-18F Super Hornet, the EA-18G Growler is the only aircraft in production providing tactical jamming and electronic protection.

The Growler will enhance Air Force's current fleet of 24 Super Hornets and future fleet of F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters, and advances 'Plan Jericho', the initiative to transform the Air Force into an integrated, networked force able to deliver air power in all operating environments. Growler will also be a key enabler for both maritime and land forces.

The first aircraft to be delivered, A46-301, made its first flight on July 13 but was formally presented in front of RAAF




and US Navy representatives, Boeing employees and the Governor of Missouri, Jay Nixon.

"The aircraft will now fly to Naval Air Station China Lake, California, for flight testing and then Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington State, where RAAF operators will continue training with U.S. Navy aircrew to gain expertise in the highly technical electronic warfare mission," Air Marshal Brown said.

The second RAAF Growler has also made its first flight, while the following 10 aircraft are in various stages of assembly at Boeing's St Louis plant. On current plans, all 12 aircraft will arrive in Australia by the end of 2017.





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# Afghan National Army Soldiers Learn the Basics

Before Afghan soldiers can fight with 205 Hero Corps against the Taliban, they learn the basics of warfare at the Regional Military Training Centre outside Kandahar.

Recruits learn military skills, drill, weapons and section work during the nine-week Warrior Training Course run by Afghan instructors.

Capt Dan Gale, deployed to Operation HIGHROAD in Afghanistan is the only coalition advisor at the centre, working with the Afghan commander.

“A lot of the trainees are very keen and eager,” he said.

“That’s evident on march-out day, they have a lot of pride in their army and what they’ve achieved. It’s great to see their force generation function working well.”

As one of several regional military training centres around Afghanistan, they receive recruits after final medical and security screening in Kabul.

“Unlike the Australian Army, recruits are rarely afforded a preference on where they are posted,” Capt Gale said.

“They’re sent where soldiers are required around the country and it’s not long after they complete their basic training that they’re on operations.

“That’s why the quality of training here is important.”

The top 200 recruits generally stay-on at the centre after graduation, with 100 starting a four-week team leader’s

course to become sergeants.

About 50 top soldiers go on to the eight-week combat medic’s course at the nearby hospital, while a number are sometimes selected for drivers’ course.

Capt Gale advises the centre’s Afghan commander, Col Momand Haroon, and sometimes tries get extra aspects added to courses.

“An example is counter-IED training,” Capt Gale said.

“I have been helping expand on their theory lessons to include more practical aspects such as a basic IED observation lane.

“It’s a pretty set program of instruction for the trainees but I work with the staff to enhance the program wherever possible.”

Col Haroon and Capt Gale meet up to five days per week to discuss current and upcoming courses along with any course issues arising.

About 30,000 personnel have graduated from the centre over the past six years with nearly 16,000 currently serving in 205 Corps.

“The bosses have been satisfied when the graduates report for duty, the result has been very positive,” Col Haroon said.

“But it’s not like I did this whole job. We have very good cooperation between the officers and teachers,

that’s why we present very professional personnel.”

Capt Gale started work with Col Haroon in December last year and will continue until the main Australian force leaves Kandahar in October.

“He’s not only my advisor, he’s my best friend and he’s always giving me good advice,” Col Haroon said.

“After his service in Afghanistan is finished, I hope he gets a promotion to Major.”

**Article and images by CPL Max Bree**



**Captions: Australian Army Captain Dan Gale with Afghan National Army Colonel Momand Haroon, commander of the Afghan National Army’s Regional Military Training Centre in Kandahar.**



Afghan National Army Sergeant Iszai Noorah instructs recruits on stripping and assembling the M-16 rifle in a new building at the Regional Military Training Centre in Kandahar.

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# Talisman Sabre 2015

Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2015 is a biennial combined Australian and United States (US) training activity, designed to train our respective military forces in planning and conducting Combined Task Force operations to improve the combat readiness and interoperability between our respective forces. This exercise is a major undertaking that reflects the closeness of our alliance and the strength of the ongoing military-military relationship.

The Talisman Sabre series of exercises is a major Australian and United States military training exercise focused on the planning and conduct of mid-intensity “high end” warfighting. This will be the sixth time the Exercise has been conducted and will involve up to 30,000 Australian and US defence personnel.

TS15 will incorporate force preparation activities, Special Forces activities, amphibious landings, parachuting, land force manoeuvre, urban operations, air operations, maritime operations and the coordinated firing of live ammunition and explosive ordnance from small arms, artillery, naval vessels and aircraft.



**The Prime Minister of Australia, The Honourable Tony Abbott MP, meets with United States Marines from 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit**



**The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Kevin Andrews, MP, meets with Australian Defence Force personnel**

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, also visited HMAS Choules for the first time, while in the Northern Territory to witness Exercise Talisman Sabre 2015.

Chief Joint Operations, Vice Admiral David Johnston who accompanied the Prime Minister, said the visit provided Mr Abbott with an opportunity to witness firsthand Choules’ amphibious capabilities.

“This was a great chance to show the Prime Minister HMAS Choules performing in a realistic operational environment by taking on a central role in the ADF’s amphibious contribution to TS15,” Vice Admiral Johnston said.

The Commanding Officer of HMAS Choules, Commander Chris Aulmann, was especially pleased the Prime Minister had requested to meet with Ship’s Company.

“The Prime Minister specifically asked to meet informally with Ship’s Company so he could talk freely and thank them for their contribution,” CMDR Aulmann said.

One of those to meet the Prime Minister was Seaman, Communication and Information Systems, Sam Clarke, who said Mr Abbott seemed genuinely interested in life at sea and asked several questions about living and working onboard for extended periods.

“He obviously knew a lot about Choules’ recent operations and personally thanked us for our efforts over the past nine months,” said SMNCIS Clarke.

CMDR Aulmann said the visit had been great for the ship’s morale as they had worked hard to prepare for TS15 and were thrilled to receive the PM’s positive feedback.

“It doesn’t matter which political party you support, a visit from any Prime Minister is a very special event,” said CMDR Aulmann.

In a whistlestop tour to Darwin for Exercise Talisman Sabre 2015, the Minister for Defence, Kevin Andrews, visited four bases in one day – for briefings from Australian and US defence personnel, and meetings with soldiers, sailors and airmen and women.

It was the Minister’s first visit to Larrakeyah Barracks, HMAS Coonawarra, RAAF base Darwin and Robertson Barracks. He also visited HMAS Arunta, travelling there on a Navy Seahawk helicopter.

At the end of a very full day, Minister Andrews was appreciative of the opportunity to see first-hand what has been happening during the Exercise – the largest combined military exercise undertaken by the Australian Defence Force.

“We have a very significant relationship with the United States in particular,” the Minister said.

“They have, for decades, been our major defence ally. It will be important in the future that we are able to operate seamlessly together and that our forces are truly interoperable at a practical level.



**United States Marine Corps officer Lt-Col Eric Dougherty, Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, fires an Australian Army M-777 from the 8th/12th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery at the Bradshaw Field Training Area, Northern Territory, during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2015.**

“This gives us an opportunity to test that interoperability and see what we can learn from it so that we can grow in terms of the professionalism and the capability of the forces and their ability to meet future challenges,” the Minister said.

## **Air Mobile Artillery**

Lt Thomas Jordan and the 8/12 Regt RAA gunners of 101 Bty based in Darwin joined the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment (3/12) with two guns to form a combined Australian and US eight-gun M-777 battery.

Rounding out the contingent were the joint fires and effects cell from 102 (Coral) Bty and a joint fires team from 103 Bty.

The US marine artillery battalion is based in Okinawa, Japan.

During TS15 the Australian M-777s were air-lifted by US Marine CH-53 Super Stallions to conduct three air mobile operations at the Bradshaw Field Training Area (BFTA).

The Darwin gunners fired close to 500 rounds during the month-long exercise.

Lt Jordan said during TS15, 101 Bty supported Australian and US manoeuvre call-signs as they conducted the various assaults on objectives in the exercise area.

“We linked our two guns into 3/12’s Mike Bty to construct an eight-gun battery and mainly fired at depth targets and

suppressed the enemy’s air defences,” Lt Thomas said.

“Being linked to the US regiment was a very good experience.

“The marines are very similar to us and with how they go about their business, but there are some solid differences.

“Their approach when artillery moves into a position is to dominate the area, whereas the Australian approach is to be concealed and stay within the protection threshold.”

Lt Thomas said the US guns had muzzle velocity measuring equipment attached to their barrels, which was the next scheduled upgrade for the Australian M-777s.

“The new upgrade will allow the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFTADS) to calculate the required individual changes required in elevation.

“The marines have also the upgraded AFTADS terminal, but we can link our systems together, which will be our next step.

“The reason we purchased the M-777s and AFTADS to be able to have that level of interoperability.”

Lt Thomas said the Australian/US relationship building on TS15 was very good.

“Most of the gunners managed to trade some form of memorabilia, such as patches of knives, and all the guys get along well,” he said.



Pictured at Fort Hill Wharf, Darwin Northern Territory, where they worked on Exercise Talisman Sabre 2015 are (left to right) LCDR Troy Gosswiller, USNCAG (United States Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping); Chief Jason Butterfield (USNCAG); LEUT Robert Webber, MTO (Maritime Trade Operations); and LEUT Darren Cooper, MTO.

“They are like minded and all love their jobs.

“This type of exercise was a new experience for most of the soldiers and they loved it because it is not often we can get out to see impressive weapons like the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and the considerable capabilities of the USMC.

“Occasionally 5 Avn Regt CH-47 Chinooks will come from Townsville to support the regiment, but we are unable to do it consistently, so it is good to have the capability of Marine Rotational Force – Darwin to enable us to do these type of operations.”

Bdr Alex Carless, of 8/12 Regt RAA, said it was an excellent experience to integrate on the gun-line with the US marines of Mike Bty ‘Mayhem’.

“We conducted bilateral dismounted operations, which gave us an opportunity to see each other’s patrol drills and tactics, as well as learn from each other, and we also ran informal lessons on each other’s weapon systems,” Bdr Carless said.

“The USMC gunners are very similar to Australian gunners – we share the same attitude, same jokes and same camaraderie.”

Bdr Carless said TS15 was a valuable exercise.

“It wasn’t too hard and the weather was kind to us,” he said.

“The air mobile operations were at a higher level to normal, as we uplifted the ammunition as well as our equipment before engaging the enemy more than 10km away from the pick-up site.

“This capability is a big step forward for the regiment and the ADF.”

## Maintaining Sea Lines of Communication

LEUT Robert Webber loves his job as a Reserve Officer in the Royal Australian Navy’s Maritime Trade Operations (MTO) unit MTO Team 1.

And why wouldn’t he?

“In Exercise Talisman Sabre we get to play in two worlds,” he said. “The real world and the Exercise world.”

A Townsville resident, LEUT Webber is currently working alongside RANR and USN counterparts in Darwin, including periods of time embedded at the Darwin Harbour Control Centre.

“In the Exercise world (of mock battles), we’ve been assessing Darwin,” he said. “It’s been hypothetically bombed and damaged, so we’re looking at Darwin’s port capabilities for both naval and commercial shipping, and for humanitarian aid and disaster relief.”

The scenario continues...

“People evacuating fictitious countries are now on board naval ships,” he said. “How does Darwin deal with that? It’s been damaged and people may be arriving in large numbers.”

Within this Exercise scenario, the MTO personnel have been providing information to their counterparts at the San Diego-based Combined Force Maritime Component Command headquarters (located at Command Third Fleet) to advise what Darwin might do under these conditions.

Happily, it’s a military exercise, albeit the largest ever undertaken in Australia, with around 30,000 participants from Australia, the US, Japan and New Zealand actively involved in the Northern Territory and around Shoalwater Bay, Queensland.

While in Darwin, LEUT Webber also performs the “real world” functions of an MTO officer, liaising with the maritime industry and briefing ships’ masters on why they’re seeing so much military activity, especially the concentrations of warships off the northern Australian coast.

“We’re assuring them that nothing’s going on, that it’s a series of mock war exercises,” he said.

“In times of conflict and tension, MTO teams can operate in ports to let them know what the Defence Force is doing and why there might be so many naval ships around.”

MTO Team 1 provides a link between the commercial maritime industry and the Australian Defence Force, enabling the protection of seaborne trade while also aiming to optimise military operational effectiveness.

“One of Navy’s roles is to protect Australia’s trade with other countries,” LEUT Webber said. “That means our exports, our imports, our seafarers and our way of life. MTO Team 1 facilitates civil and military cooperation (CIMIC) in the maritime environment – and this is about working effectively together.”

For example, if a merchant ship transits from the Indian Ocean or through the Indonesian Archipelago, then enters the Timor Sea where there might be 25 warships and an air craft carrier taking part in the Exercise, the vessel’s master or its owners may hold concerns about the activity.

“We let them know that there’s nothing wrong, that what they’re seeing is part of an exercise,” he said.

MTO officers also educate the master mariners on how Navy could help them if the situation was, in fact, real.

“The team can give advice on high risk areas, and how masters can prepare themselves to improve the security and safety of their ship and the people and trade that they carry,” LEUT Webber said.

“We inform them about current and evolving situations, and about what protection may be available if required.”

## Combined Special Forces Exercise in Darwin

It was a different type of action at Hidden Valley Motor Raceway in the Darwin suburb of Berrimah on the night of 21st July.

Instead of the roar of race car burnouts, sounds from hovering helicopters, cracking gunfire and distant voices issuing orders broke through the night as 150 Special Forces soldiers from Australia, the United States and New Zealand fought a mock battle in the vast complex.

The training activity was designed to prepare Australian, US and NZ Special Forces to work together to conduct operations across a range of scenarios.

Special Forces spokesman ‘Major R’ is the Special Operations Command Lead Exercise Planner for Exercise Talisman Sabre 2015. Major R said there was a long history of Australian and US Special Forces serving overseas on operations and Exercise Talisman Sabre enabled both countries to continue that interoperability.

“A lot of our equipment within the Australian Defence Force and, in particular, Special Operations, comes from the United States,” he said.

“So we have a natural ability to be interoperable with communications, weapons systems and the air frames we use. Also there are links to our standard operating procedures as well, which are similarly aligned.”

After insertion by Australian and US Blackhawk helicopters and vehicles, the Special Forces teams moved to rapidly assault multiple enemy locations and clear them of enemy forces. They relied on intelligence feeds from fixed wing platforms and ground based intelligence assets to formulate a plan to execute the mission.

Australian Special Forces units taking part in the mission were the 2nd Commando Regiment (2CDO), the Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER) and the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR).

Talisman Sabre has allowed the Special Forces to refresh themselves on operating within rural and urban settings, Major R said.

“It’s important for special operations missions to be adaptive and flexible to different and changing mission sets. For this reason, the Australian and the US special forces units have appreciated the diversity of mission sets conducted during Exercise Sabre.”

Following the 90-minute mission, the work continued, with planners evaluating the mission.

“We’ll be looking at the speed of clearing the objectives, the command and control of the elements as they moved through the complex, and various other objectives listed to assess the effectiveness of the mission,” Major R said.

## HMAS Arunta and HMAS Perth rise to the challenge

As Australian soldiers and US Marines landed on the beach at Fog Bay in the Northern Territory, HMAS Arunta



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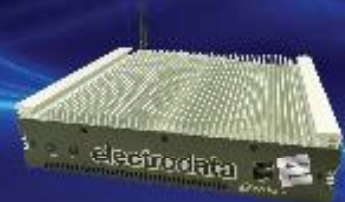
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**A Royal Australian Navy sailor, Able Seaman Boatswain's Mate Matthew Parry, fires the HMAS Arunta 12.7mm machine gun as HMA Ships Arunta, Perth, USS Preble and HMNZS Te Kaha conduct an anti-aircraft firing serial against a towed target off the Northern Territory coast.**

and HMAS Perth were on watch, just over the horizon. As part of the Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG), The ANZAC Class Frigates were working alongside destroyers and cruisers with the Aircraft Carrier USS George Washington as part of Talisman Sabre 2015.

Acting CO of HMAS Arunta, LCDR Kingsley Scarce says the strike Group's primary role in the exercise was to make sure the troops got ashore safely. 'Arunta's roles to date have included defending the ESG from the air, surface and sub-surface attacks. 'The ship has also been conducting engagements against 'enemy' units.

The benefits of exercising with the US Navy are vast and varied. The most obvious advantage is the size of the force that the USN has participating in the exercise. The inclusion of a large number of cutting edge warships and aircraft allow many more training opportunities than a purely Australian Defence Force exercise could accomplish. It also allows the ADF to learn about capabilities that are either new into service or being brought into service in the coming years. The opportunity to observe AEGIS destroyers and cruisers provides a unique insight into the capability being introduced in the Hobart Class Destroyer.

Along with the many benefits of working alongside the US Navy there are also challenges. Controlling such a large force requires sophisticated Command, Control

and Communications networks. When the navies are operating independently these networks are generally well established and understood but in a combined exercise environment such as TS15, it takes significant effort to ensure that these networks are established, maintained and understood by all the participants. There are also differences in tactics, techniques and procedures.

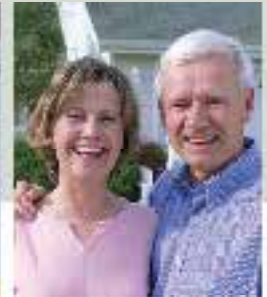
LCDR Scarce says the most obvious lesson learnt in the exercise to date revolves around communication. 'Being able to communicate in an easy to understand and timely manner is crucial to the successful conduct of the exercise, LCDR Scarce agreed. 'Whilst we are very similar to the USN, some terminology used is slightly different and we needed to identify these differences early so we all understood what each other meant.'

Overall though TS15 has been a great success and gave HMAS Arunta's ships company the chance to re-adjust to a higher tempo after seven months in re-fit. 'Talisman Sabre has been a fantastic way to spend our first month at sea since 2014,' LCDR Scarce said. 'The experience for the crew is obviously varied but on a whole it has been mostly positive. Operating in close proximity with some of the most powerful warships in the world is something that most in the RAN don't experience outside of exercises such as these.'

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## Fleet battle staff put to the test in San Diego

As Australian and United States Navy warships participating in Talisman Sabre 2015 continue high end maritime operations off the northern and eastern Australian coasts, a team of Australian warfare specialists are also being put through their paces on the other side of the world.

Led by the Royal Australian Navy's Commodore Warfare (COMWAR) CDRE Peter Leavy, Australia's contingent is comprised of core elements of the Fleet Battle Staff augmented by individuals drawn from all three arms of the ADF across a broad range of warfare disciplines. The team is being supported by personnel from the Royal New Zealand Navy and International Policy Division.

Operating from the Third Fleet Headquarters in San Diego, California, Australian personnel have integrated throughout the combined CFMCC Staff and are working closely alongside their USN counterparts in all aspects of the Talisman Sabre 2015 campaign. The focus of the Australian Staff has been the conduct of activities in support of the training outcomes of Talisman Sabre 2015 including the refinement of inter-operability between the ADF and US Forces in a coalition environment.

CDRE Leavy, who is performing the role of Deputy at the Combined Forces Maritime Command (CFMCC), said that he was impressed with the level of enthusiasm of all of the participants. He was particularly happy with the manner in which the Australian and US teams have coalesced to produce solid efforts in the current phase of the exercise. "It is shaping up to be another well planned and well executed exercise," CDRE Leavy said. "The training value and experience the participants will receive out of this event will stand them in good stead for the conduct of combined operations into the future."

## 4-25 ID jumps Down Under

Rockhampton, Australia – Over 400 Army paratroopers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division have parachuted from seven C-17 Globemasters onto Kapyong Air Field, Australia as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 15, July 8.

"The first and foremost reason we are here today, is not only to deepen the already strong relationship between the U.S. Army and the Australian Army, but between the Australian Defence Force, U.S. military and the United States of America and Australia," said Brigadier Mick Ryan, Commander Australian 1st Brigade.

Major exercises like these train service men and women to enhance interoperability and employ skills needed for long range, high tempo and short notice missions around the world.

It builds the basics to planning, communicating, and deploying around the world said Ryan. "Those fundamental skills can be adapted across the board from humanitarian aid and disaster relief to high-end operations and deployments that our governments might want to engage

in," he added.

The U.S. military regularly deploys in joint operational environments, both in conflict and in peacekeeping missions. Being able to operate effectively with other nations and services can facilitate the accomplishment of key objectives.

"With the current operating situation around the world; being able to conduct exercises like this, in a combined operating environment, allows us the opportunity to showcase the capabilities in the pacific region," said Capt. Zachary Miller, the commander of 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

Strategic Air Drop was one of the larger events of the Central Queensland part of the exercise. Concurrent activities are occurring in Northern Australia.

It is always exciting to watch the culmination of months of training and coordination between the Australians and the U.S., said U.S. Army Pacific Exercise Commander Brigadier General Brian Alvin. "The beautiful thing about this jump was that the Australians flew two of their aircraft up to Alaska, joining five of the U.S. aircraft and after a 17 hour flight back they enabled the U.S. Soldiers parachute onto the airfield in Australia," he added.

The U.S. and Australian military has had a long history of working together and cooperation. The partnership has been forged out of mutual trust and respect.

"The relationship that the U.S. and Australians have is a wonderful thing and it is growing," said Alvin. "I just spoke with the Australian Chief of Army and we believe that the partnership we have will only become stronger as time progresses."

"We love working side-by-side with the U.S. Army, like we did in the First World War," said Ryan. "It's a relationship that we, the Australian soldiers, really treasure and it's part of the ongoing nurturing of that relationship that we look forward to these events."



Australian and US battle group commanders discuss plans for an upcoming assault on a heavily fortified enemy position Shoalwater Bay training area, Queensland.

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# Forgetting the Peacekeepers

*This piece was written for News Ltd as an opinion piece by APPVA Tas member, Phil Pyke, in the lead up to UN Peacekeepers Day. The focus of this piece sets the agenda as Australia heads towards the 70th Anniversary of Peacekeeping in 2017.*

Amid the intense lead-up to the Centenary of ANZAC, a significant anniversary quietly passed unnoticed – remembered only by those who witnessed one of the world's horrific acts of genocide.

April 1995 saw Australian Defence Force personnel deployed as United Nations Peacekeepers under The Second United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR II) at the Kibeho Internally Displaced Persons Camp where 80,000 – 100,000 people were housed in 9 square km.

Thirty-three Australians including medical staff were sent to the camp to support the UN effort, setting up at a hospital operated by Médecins Sans Frontières.

Leading up to 22 April, the Australians witnessed the Rwandan Patriotic Army channeling the entire camp population into an area 1000m x 500m like cattle.

Before long shooting started, the refugees unable to break out of the area –being gunned down in front of the Australians who could not respond under UN Rules of Engagement.

The next day the Australians collected the bodies, counting over 4000 in the areas they accessed. Some believe 8000 refugees died that day but the UN places the figure at 2000 and the Rwandan Government at 338.

If the Australian contingent had opened fire at the Rwandan army, they would have certainly been wiped out, and the Rwandan government would certainly have demanded the immediate removal of the UN mission. Later they were accused of doing nothing – a criticism that rested heavily with those involved.

Many were later diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and four Australian peacekeepers awarded the Medal of Gallantry - the first time gallantry medals were awarded since Vietnam.

Despite Kibeho being such a horrific and disturbing event, for many years the action was classified non-warlike until lobbying by the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association (APPVA), bought change to warlike service in 2006.

When Australian and international forces under INTERFET entered Timor in 1999 the service for those involved in bringing the nation to independence was classified as warlike.

However, for a small group of soldiers under the Australian Support Training Team – East Timor, their service while

training the East Timorese guerillas into a fledgling army was classified as peacetime service.

Receiving different medals and entitlements to other Australian forces, the training team staff unbelievably later had their UN medals withdrawn. While their service was later aligned with the ADF UN Peacekeeping Force in East Timor, in 2009 thanks to the APPVA, to this day the battle for their UN medal goes on.

Australia's peacekeeping commitment is this nation's enduring but very much overlooked mission. The first world's first peacekeepers under the UN were four Australians sent to Indonesia as observers in 1947.

Over nearly seven decades Australians have been involved in over 70 UN sanctioned operations, one of the largest being the Korean War.

Peacekeeping in the broader context covers peace enforcement, monitoring of ceasefire agreements, border protection patrols, humanitarian operations (including humanitarian intervention operations] and maintenance of global security, peace and order. It can involve full war-like conflict or low-level operations.

Most Australians wouldn't know Australian Federal Police remain monitoring the border between Greek and Turkish held territory in Cyprus since 1964 or ongoing involvement in the Solomon Islands (2003) or the Sudan (2011).

Equally many wouldn't be aware of ADF peacekeepers still serve in the Sinai (1982), Lebanon (1956) or in the Sudan as well. Australian citizens have also given high levels of service across multiple UN operations in a range of roles.

Australia's peacekeeping history isn't viewed in the same way as our major conflicts in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Operations, despite peacekeepers being faced with high-levels of danger, are generally classified as non-warlike, giving a different level of pension and compensation entitlements.

Despite the tens of millions being channeled into the Centenary of ANZAC, the National Peacekeeping Memorial project on ANZAC Parade in Canberra sits unfinished – unable to attract the necessary funds for completion.

Peacekeeping is not seen as relevant enough to attract the attention of corporate Australia and the project completion was removed from the Centenary of ANZAC funding by the Gillard Government.

For over a decade the APPVA battled to have the names of those 48 who died on peacekeeping, peace enforcement and humanitarian operations placed on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.

The three Australian police officers who died in Cyprus and protective service officer killed in the Solomon Islands were placed on the National Police Memorial – no issues, no double standards and no bureaucratic interference.

The inclusion of peacekeepers on the Roll of Honour was blocked by bureaucrats, senior national RSL heads,

the former AWM Director and unsupported by both major parties, the families of the 48 had to contend with second-rate recognition with a book locked in a cabinet.

Permission had to be gained from AWM staff for the families to see the name of their loved one unlike the families of the other 103,000 Australians who have died in war could see and touch names on the bronze Roll.

Captain Peter McCarthy was killed when his vehicle struck a land-mine in Lebanon 1988. His service as a UN Military Observer was non-warlike and his name was placed in the book. Sgt Andrew Russell was killed in a similar incident in 2002 in Afghanistan. As Sgt Russell was serving in a war-like environment, his name rightfully went on the Roll. But the deaths of these two men highlighted the inequality shown to peacekeepers.

A new APPVA campaign in 2011 – 12 assisted initially through ABC 7.30 Tasmania, a petition drawing over 42,000 signatures, a motion in the Senate by the Australian Greens and a change in the AWM Director finally bought change and peace to the families.

The names of 48 Australians killed on peacekeeping, peace enforcement, border protection and humanitarian operations were placed finally on the Roll in August 2013. But this was a battle for recognition that should never have occurred.

Today many peacekeepers remain fighting for recognition and entitlements. One Hobart man who was part of a small UN contingent in the Middle East, during the Lebanese War, has been battling government departments for over 15 years for reclassification – a single voice ignored and his case constantly overlooked.

The Australian public better understands PTSD cases from Iraq and Afghanistan. Not so cases suffered by those from peacekeeping including border protection retrieving bodies and survivors off northern Australia – the result of a failed government policy.

The Peacekeeper Mental Health Study was released in October 2014 after taking six years to complete. The APPVA lobbied for this Study, as a concern that many Peacekeeper veterans who served in Rwanda, Cambodia, Somalia and were reporting with high levels of mental illness.

The Report identified high rate of mental illness in peacekeeping veterans, almost on par with Viet Nam Veterans. Many peacekeeping veterans suffer a number of Potential Traumatic Events, due to the inability to intervene with restrictive Rules of Engagement.



**Private Elliot Dun cleans up a stab wound at the Busoro Clinic. Image Courtesy Dept of Defence**

Many veterans are traumatised as a result of a range of violent events, serving in a malevolent environment, along with stress of combat situations or in humanitarian crises with significant death and injury tolls. Peacekeeping operations have cost this nation 48 ADF and four police lives.

There are few welcome home parades and scant public recognition with anniversaries like Rwanda slipping past unnoticed. The bureaucrats in Canberra quashed an APPVA proposition for recognition of the unique nature of peacekeeping service through an Australian Peacekeeping Medal.

The 70th Anniversary of Peacekeeping in 2017 isn't on the Dept of Veterans' Affairs website calendar amid the significant commemorative anniversaries over the next four years.

On Saturday Tasmania's small peacekeeping community of police, ADF and civilians will gather at the Anglesea Barracks Peacekeeping Memorial for the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

The Anglesea memorial is unique in design – a peacekeeper walking over broken ground carrying a child, inspired by the image of SAS medic Jonathan Church carrying a child away from Kibeho.

The memorial bears testament to the contribution, commitment and sacrifice of those police, Defence members and civilians who at times placed themselves in harms way to make the world a safer place – sometimes around the failures of the United Nations.

As the 70th Anniversary of Australia's enduring mission approaches it is timely for the public and governments to remember that the nation's peacekeepers are indeed veterans worthy of recognition.

# Dream comes true for RAAF Flight Lieutenant volunteering in Africa

"I don't consider the work as important, I consider it essential," Canberra Hospital's Shannon Rutledge says of her four months of volunteer service with the medical charity Mercy Ships onboard the hospital ship Africa Mercy.

"Coming from a First World country, I believe we often forget those that are less fortunate than ourselves. I began to lose my empathy and compassion," Miss Rutledge, 26, said.

"Then I saw a documentary on television prior to qualifying as a nurse. Since then my life's goals, dreams and aspirations changed and from that day I have worked towards serving on board."

The Africa Mercy arrived in Tamatave, Madagascar in October 2014 with plans to provide approximately 1,700 surgeries for adult and child patients onboard, to treat approximately 8,000 at a land-based dental and eye clinics renovated for those purposes, and provide holistic health care education to Malagasy health care professionals and community leaders during its eight-month stay in port.

"A lot of people want to hear my story and they encourage me to share it. They are living this journey through me and I have inspired some friends to also volunteer. I am often asked what I have learnt or gained from this experience and the answer is 'perspective'; life is fragile and we only have one chance.

"I have seen so much, learnt so much. My eyes have been opened to a world full of injustices, where people die before their time. My heart is heavy as I can't help everyone but I am witness to miracles and blessings on a daily basis."

"Our patients depend on us; their lives are in our hands. Despite the language barrier, I feel emotionally invested. Just a smile from these patients emphasises why I am here and gives me so much joy – joy that I carry with me day in and day out and will continue to carry when I depart the ship."

One of Miss Rutledge's patients was a five-year-old girl named Mioty whose nose, cheek and eye had been eaten away by noma, a flesh-eating bacteria.

"When I first started working here, Mioty wouldn't let me near her let alone touch her. She'd barely look at me and when she did it was a frown. She fought us all with even the smallest nursing cares. Since her surgery Mioty is a new little girl. Every time she passes by me she smacks me, giggles and then runs away. It makes me so happy to see her acting like a little girl again."

"As a member of the Australian Air Force the core values of integrity, service before self, and excellence have been instilled upon me and I live by them. 'Service before self' is exactly what I am doing on board."

Miss Rutledge will soon return home to Australia to complete a masters degree in Public Health in Developing Nations while also being a foster mum, with plans to adopt a child from Africa. "In the future I plan to return to Mercy



Ships with my partner as a long-term volunteer, hopefully bringing our children along."

To support the work of Mercy Ships by volunteering or making a donation, visit [www.mercyships.org.au](http://www.mercyships.org.au) or call 1300 739 899



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# Timor-Leste Defence Force Participates in AACAP 2015

Timor-Leste Defence Force (F-FDTL) Army engineers joined Australian Army engineers to deliver building projects to the remote Indigenous community of Titjikala.

The soldiers are deployed as part of the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Programme (AACAP), which is a collaborative partnership between the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and the Australian Army.

AACAP Contingent Commander Major Chris Sampson said this is the third consecutive year that the F-FDTL have participated in AACAP.

“The soldiers arrived in the Northern Territory in June and will work for about four weeks in the Titjikala community, alongside soldiers from the 6th Engineer Support Regiment” Major Sampson said.

“The programme helps the F-FDTL soldiers enhance their engineering capability. This year the soldiers will gain an applied understanding of ‘block laying’.

“The inclusion of the F-FDTL creates a unique multicultural team environment where the cultural diversity of the combined forces produces innovative approaches to construction in remote locations.”

AACAP aims to improve the environmental health and living conditions in remote Indigenous communities.

Resourcing is shared between PM&C, which provides up to \$6 million per project, and the Australian Army, which contributes significant personnel and equipment.



**Aircraftwoman Amy Morschel, an Air Force firefighter from RAAF Base Williamstown, checks her equipment**

## Release of Defence Firefighters' health study

Monash University recently published the results of the Defence Firefighters' Health Study, which examined the incidences of death and cancer in current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) firefighters, the majority of whom served in the Air Force.

The study found the death rate among ADF firefighters was significantly lower than the age-matched Australian population and that the rates of cancer were about the same.

However, due to the relatively young age of the cohort and limitations on the number of former ADF firefighters who could be included in the study, researchers could not draw a definitive conclusion from the results and suggested the study be updated in 10-15 years.

In responding to the study, the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies AO, CSC, reiterated Defence's determination to look after its personnel.

“I want to assure all ADF personnel, past and present, that your health and welfare are central to everything we do as a military and I strongly encourage any current or former ADF firefighters who have a diagnosed health condition, which they believe is service related, to contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs,” Air Marshal Davies said.

“The Defence Firefighters' Health Study provides an addition to the growing body of research being conducted into human exposure to hazardous chemicals, including the Jet Fuel Exposure Syndrome Study and the fourth update of the F-111 Mortality and Cancer Incidence Study, which is due to be completed in early 2016.

“This study is not the final word but it will certainly help Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs to better understand the effects of military service on personnel and enable both organisations to improve the care and welfare they provide to all ADF members.”

The Department of Defence commissioned the Firefighters' Health Study in 2012 in response to representations by an ex-ADF firefighter group led by Pat and Ted Mildren.

The study included current and former ADF firefighters who served between 1980 and 2011. The study compared their statistical health data against the national cancer and death registers.

Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs will continue to work closely with relevant ex-Service organisations on all matters relating to the health of former Defence members.

Further details on the study can be found at: [coeh.monash.org/ausfirefr.html](http://coeh.monash.org/ausfirefr.html)



Above: Aircraftwoman Amy Morschel (left to right), Leading Aircraftman Martin Cooper and Aircraftman Chris Wilson, all firefighters from RAAF Base Williamtown and RAAF Base Richmond, representing RAAF firefighters at the 2015 Australian International Airshow.

Below: Aircraftwoman Amy Morschel, practices rolling a fire hose.



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# Peacekeeper Mental Study

## – a Brief Analysis

This is an opinion piece by Paul Copeland, who not only lobbied for this important study, but was also a Consulting Forum Member of the Peacekeeper Mental Health Study, that was released by the Minister, Senator Michael Ronaldson on 28 October 2014. The Department of Veterans' Affairs is gratefully thanked for funding and overseeing this highly important and significant Study.

To read the Reports for the Peacekeeper Mental Health Study, visit the link: <http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/research-and-development/health-studies/peacekeepers-health-study>

The Australian Peacekeeper Mental Health Study (PK MHS), in its detail, provides a world first in determining such detailed data collection of the Mental Health of Peacekeeper Veterans. The Study also drew the attention of the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Veterans' Affairs, who were eager to analyse the data of the Technical Report. This is suggested to be as a result of the significant amount of Canadian Forces Peacekeeper Veterans, of which Canada is among the highest of the Western nations contributors to International Peacekeeping Operations.

The extracted facts provides for an alarming awareness to the reader as to how important this Mental Health Study is to the Peacekeeper veteran community. To the APPVA, it was the result of seeking a "snap-shot" of Peacekeeper Mental Health for a number of years. The study included veterans from the following deployments from 1989 to 2009:



Namibia (UN Transitional Administration Group [UNTAG]); Cambodia (UN Assistance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] & UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]); Western Sahara (UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara [MINURSO]); East Timor (INTERFET 1999 and 1999-2002); and Somalia (both the Unified Task Force [UNITAF], UN Operation in Somalia [UNOSOM] & The Second UN Operation in Somalia [UNOSOM II]).

The Comparator Groups were: The 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (NSMWH), which is a civilian population Survey; The Centre of Military and Veteran Health (CMVH), that included service in East Timor and Bougainville; The Australian Gulf War 1991 Veteran Health Study (GWVHS); and The ADF Mental Health Prevalence and Wellbeing Study (Never Deployed).

The main diagnoses in the Study was Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); Major Depressive Episode (MDE); General Anxiety Disorder (GAD) and substance use Disorders. The Average Age of the sample group (Peacekeepers) 46.5 years of age. 48% of the group were in receipt of a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Benefit. Out of those 22% were Gold Card Holders (Treatment for All Conditions in Australia) and 28% were White card (Specific Treatment Entitlement Card (STEC)).

Out of the group 74% had deployed on only one Operation. 19% had deployed on Operations twice, and 7% had deployed on three or more Operations.

The Potential Traumatic Events (PTE), were reported by veterans who had experienced the following:

The threat of injury or being wounded = 83%

Fear or expectation of Death = 77%

Seeing dead bodies = 78%

Witnessing degradation and misery = 72%

Hearing of a fellow service person (or colloquially speaking "a mate") being wounded, injured or killed = 64%

The veteran had caused Death (17%), Injury (20%) of other people was least reported.

PTSD was diagnosed in a high proportion of Peacekeeper veterans, with 17% matching the Composite International Diagnostic Interview, Ver.3 (CIDI) and self-reported in the PTSD Checklist (PCL) was 20%. The rates are 2-3 times higher than that found in the Comparator Military Samples.

Peacekeepers with PTSD nominated that Peacekeeping, Combat, and witnessing atrocities as criterion A (causal link) event. Military experiences were the most likely cause of the onset of PTSD. This data does not include the latest Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders version Five (DSM V) stressors, including serving in a malevolent environment.

GAD and Alcohol abuse/dependence was noted as being substantially higher than comparator samples.

It was noted that there was no difference of deployments classified either 'high stress' or 'low stress'. Peacekeeping veterans have twice the risk of depression, which is a predictor in deployments.

The General health and wellbeing scale (K10), revealed 14% of Peacekeeper sample scored in the very high range compared to 3% ADF, 7% East Timor, and 5% Bougainville. People in this score range have 10 times the population risk of meeting criteria for an anxiety or depressive disorder a 20 times the population at risk of ever being made a suicide attempt. Suicidal ideation is 11% with Peacekeepers in comparison to 4% ADF and 3% Civilians.

Severe or extreme anger was reported at 16%. 34% of Peacekeeping veterans have high levels of demoralisation, and 24% reported being socially isolated. Severe social isolation occurred at a much higher rate in peacekeeper veterans than in the general community (24% versus 2%). This social isolation results in the prevalence of diagnosable Mental Health Conditions.

The findings reveal a disturbingly high level of Mental Health problems in the Peacekeeper sample. ¼ of the Peacekeepers report moderate levels of Mental Health and vulnerability. 30% of Peacekeepers are reporting more severe diagnosable problems. This is marginally below that of Australian South Viet Nam [SVN] veterans. It is suggested that this position has now shifted with Peacekeepers now above the SVN cohort.

In comparison to other recent deployments of which research exists, the pattern of symptoms in this Peacekeeper population is characterised by high levels of PTSD and Substance Abuse, with moderate levels of Generalised Anxiety Disorder [GAD] and Major Depressive Episode [MDE].

Associated features such as anger, demoralisation, Social isolation and suicidal ideation provide additional risks.

## Peacekeeper General Health

35% of Peacekeepers reported their health to be fair to poor health. Peacekeepers are 3 times likely to report in fair or poor health than the male community sample.

1/3 of peacekeepers reported Sleep Problems, movement difficulties, allergies or fatigue. Younger Veterans have better health than older veterans. Health service use of Peacekeepers was high at 68% seeing a GP. Those with a mental health condition was noted at 80%. 17% of Peacekeepers had not seen a specialist such as a psychiatrist, psychologist etc.

The Quality of Life of the Peacekeeper sample was inferior to the civilian sample. Peacekeeper health is estimated to cost around \$582M per annum.

A Key Finding is that Peacekeeping missions are associated with a substantial risk of subsequent Mental Health problems. Peacekeeper PTSD rates were high – substantially higher than those found among current serving ADF personnel or any other Deployment Studies.

The suggestion sometimes heard anecdotally that Peacekeeping Operations are easier, less stressful, and less damaging than combat deployments: is not supported by the Peacekeeping Mental Health Study findings.

The question now is "where to from here?" in terms of the outcomes for the Peacekeeper Mental Health Study [PK MHS] and the Rwanda Veteran Study. This is an area that the APPVA wishes to engage Government in terms of seeking workable solutions.

My observations toward the PK MHS, is that the Phoenix Australian Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health [ACPMH] were extremely alarmed and shocked at the results within the Report. There was some concern about releasing the report due to the severity of the occurrence of PTSD and Mental Illness within the Peacekeeper [PK] cohort in comparison to the SVN Veteran Cohort; and it is exceptionally well above in terms of the incidence of such co-morbid illness and symptomatology as exponentially well above the public norm as a result of the co-morbid effects of Peacekeeping Service.

## Conclusion

There is deep concern as to how unwell our Peacekeeping veterans are in terms of mental health and wellbeing. The concern is that Peacekeeping veterans reporting with co-morbid conditions that were collected during the period of 2008, is that it was marginally below that of the Viet Nam Veteran cohort. It is a potential realisation that these levels of co-morbidity in Peacekeeping Veterans may have surpassed the Viet Nam Veteran cohort in terms of incidence.

It is quite evident that Peacekeeping Veterans are one of the most vulnerable groups of veterans who are suffering mental illness, including a high degree of demoralization, since the Viet Nam veteran cohort. It therefore remains that Peacekeepers are the most mis-understood, most under-recognised and most under-represented group of veterans that this country has ever seen – surpassing the Viet Nam Veteran community.

It is understood that the Department of Veterans' Affairs [DVA] are analysing the data, however it is now over seven years since the Study was conducted. Unfortunately the delay was as a result of the unfortunate terminal illness of the lead researcher, Professor Graeme Hawthorne.

Affirmative Action in terms of engagement with Peacekeeping Veterans from 1989-2002, and beyond needs to become part of inclusive dialogue by the Government.

The results also justify the continued belief that Peacekeepers, particularly those who are not classified as "Contemporary Veterans", needs to be included in the language, consultation and strategic planning of DVA, the ADF and the Government in general, in order to provide wider consideration of the results of this Study and the suffering of this Peacekeeper veteran cohort.

The service, courage and sacrifice of those who have served in Peacekeeping Operations from 1989 to 2002 needs to be lifted by the Government in its approach

toward reconciling and recognising this highly vulnerable veteran cohort. Consideration must also be extended to Peacekeeper veterans who have served from 14 September 1947 to the present and the future.

It is highly recommended that a Peacekeeper Representative is appointed to the Prime Minister’s Advisory Council Veteran’s Mental Health, in order to represent this group of veterans. Currently, there is no specific Peacekeeper Representative that specialises in the Peacekeeper Veteran Mental Health Study cohort.

There are a number of suggested intrinsic and extrinsic matters that will lift the profile and perhaps improve the health and wellbeing of Peacekeepers, particularly those who have participated in this Study. The evidence of the Study tells of a demoralised group of veterans that needs better treatment outreach, representation, understanding, recognition and acknowledgement from the Government and the Community.

A paper on this Study is being drafted by the APPVA for submission to Government, making a comparative analysis of Australian and International Peacekeeping Veteran Mental Health Studies. We will post this particular paper on the APPVA Website and publish segments in the “Peacekeeper” Journal.

The APPVA looks forward to a consultative dialogue with the Government in order to assist in resolving the problematic outcomes of the Peacekeeping Mental Health Study and the Rwanda Veteran Health Study.



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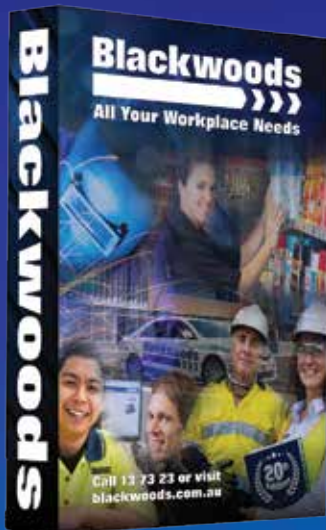
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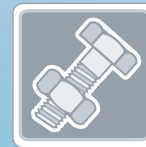
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# UN Security Council Resolution 2185 – AFP and international policing

**Perspective by Federal Agent Martin Hess, Australian Civil-Military Centre**

**Courtesy Australian Federal Police**

**Australia and AFP peacekeeping experience was instrumental in having United Nations Security Council Resolution 2185 adopted unanimously as a centerpiece initiative of Australia's presidency of the United Nations Security Council in November 2014.**

## Introduction

Australia is a founding member of the United Nations and in January 2013 assumed a non-permanent two-year seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Australia acted as UNSC President on two month-long occasions during this time. During its second period as president in November 2014, Australia was instrumental in having *UNSC Resolution 2185: The Role of Police in Peacekeeping and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding* adopted unanimously.

In support of Australia's time on the Council, the AFP deployed personnel to the UNSC Taskforce within DFAT to further support the work done by the Police Advisor UN New York, Superintendent Sue King. Superintendent King was one of the chief architects of UNSCR 2185, which was a centerpiece initiative run by Australia during our second Council presidency.

After significant work by Superintendent King and DFAT colleagues, the text of the Resolution was negotiated and agreed with whole-of-government partners and all parties on the Security Council. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop travelled to New York to chair the Council session at which UNSCR 2185 was adopted unanimously. AFP Assistant Commissioner Ian McCartney and Manager Americas, Europe and Africa Commander David Sharpe were also in the UNSC chamber for the occasion.

UNSCR 2185 is the first resolution to specifically address police and policing in peacekeeping operations, which are traditionally dominated by military considerations and processes. Superintendent King is one of only approximately 16 professional police advisers at the UN, among approximately 170 military advisers.

In addition to significant contributions to international debates on policing issues, Australia makes noted

contributions to peacekeeping operations, drawing on extensive contemporary regional experience, including operations in Timor Leste and Solomon Islands.

## Evolution in international policing

The road to UNSCR 2185 reflects an evolution in the theory and practice of peacekeeping. Traditional monitoring and humanitarian assistance roles of peacekeeping missions began to evolve significantly from 2000.

Peacekeeping missions today still incorporate important traditional roles. However, they are now augmented by additional police roles such as protection, interim law enforcement, training and mentoring, advisory support, reform and restructuring and capacity building. This is in response to shifting global dynamics with less inter-state conflicts and more intra-state conflicts that expose more civilians to danger.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute highlighted this change in a 2014 statement:

“police peacekeepers perform critical roles in assisting host states to reform policing and law enforcement institutions ...

“Those efforts are essential to establishing the rule of law in post-conflict societies and supporting the eventual transition and drawdown of the mission ...

“Of the 103,952 uniformed personnel deployed to peacekeeping missions as of October 2014, nearly 12 per cent (12,331) are police. The role of police peacekeepers has evolved and expanded as peacekeeping missions have become multidimensional.”

Australia welcomes and supports initiatives that further law and justice internationally. As a long-term and active member of the international community, Australia has supported many UNSC resolutions. A significant recent example is *UNSCR 2151: the maintenance of international peace and security: Security sector reform: challenges and opportunities*.

UNSCR 2151 was proposed by Nigeria during its presidency in April 2014 and was unanimously adopted. It provides a solid platform for the development of domestic policing capability within a viable criminal justice system. It was an important building block to UNSCR 2185. UNSCR 2151 stressed that:

“Reforming the security sector in post-conflict environments is critical to the consolidation of peace

# Growing Complexity of Police Tasks

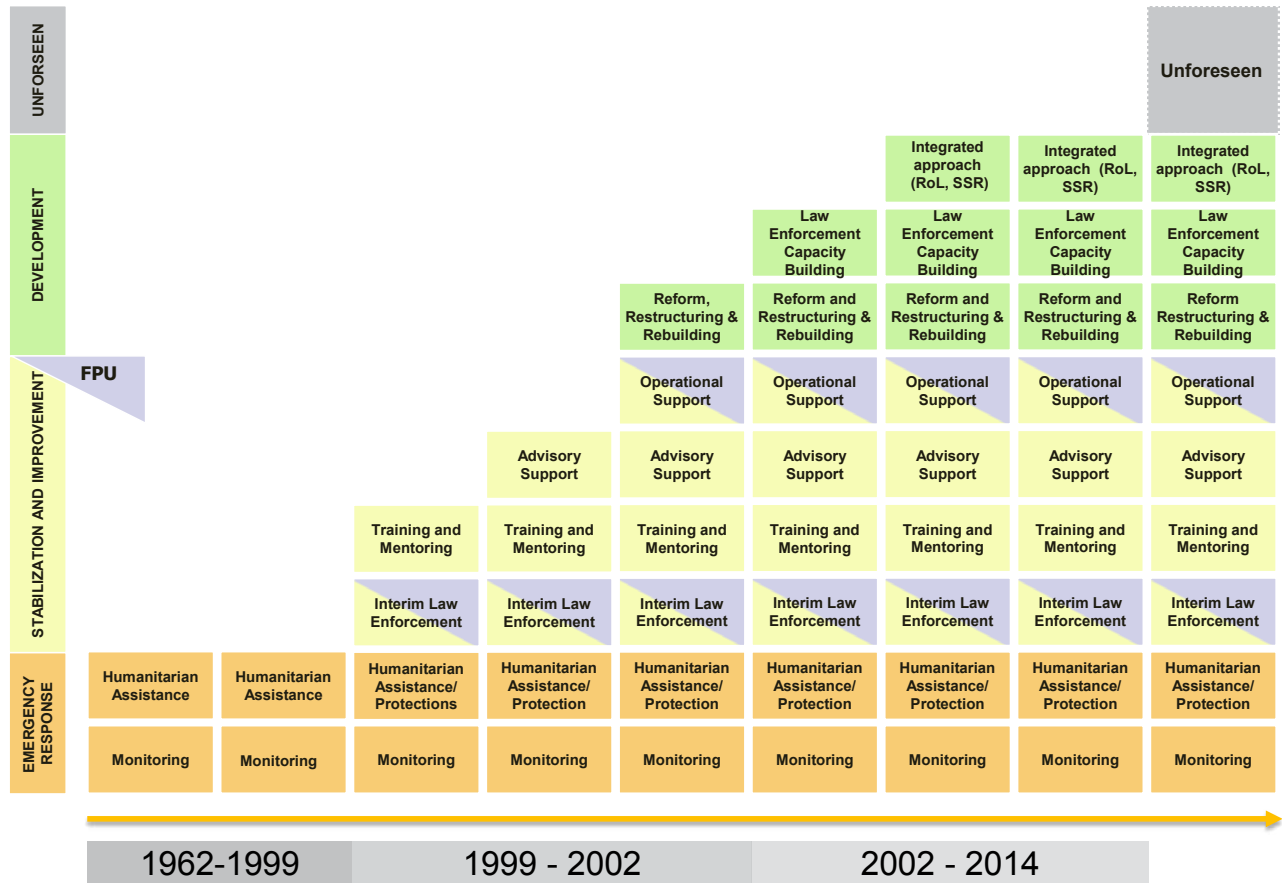


Figure 1: Growing complexity of Police tasks. [docslide.com/un-police-presentation/](https://docslide.com/un-police-presentation/) (adapted slightly by AFP)

and stability, promoting poverty reduction, rule of law and good governance, extending legitimate state authority and preventing countries from relapsing into conflict.”

International policing has evolved to become a key element of security sector reform which now constitutes ‘a core component of conflict prevention, stabilisation, and development efforts in support of fragile and conflict-affected states’.

Figure 1 illustrates the growing complexity of policing in UN missions. The increase in policing ‘blocks’ between 1960-1999 and 2002-2014 reflects the widespread acknowledgement that international interventions have a better likelihood of lasting success if stability is achieved through improved governance.

As a result, programs such as security and justice sector reform, where police play a pivotal role, are increasingly considered at the strategic level. The development of effective and accountable policing is now more prominent in mission planning and mandates, as it underpins sustainable peace and equitable prosperity, which are key factors in long-term stability.

The ‘Unforeseen’ row of Figure 1 is highly relevant to police given the unpredictability of global events that can arise with little or no notice. Australian Government response to incidents such as the MH17 is an example.

AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin reflected on this during his Lowy Institute address on 5 March this year:

“Had you asked me 12 months ago if I could see a situation where the AFP would deploy teams of unarmed men and women to the heart of an active conflict zone in eastern Ukraine – with no notice, no area familiarity, no established links or local partnerships – to identify and bring home the remains of Australian victims, and to investigate the shooting down of a passenger plane, I would probably have told you that even as a hypothetical exercise, it was a bridge too far.”

## Operationalising UNSCR 2185

Policing expertise was central to the development of UNSCR 2151 and the AFP contributed on the basis of its expertise and the understanding gained in places such as Timor Leste and Solomon Islands and is reflected in key International Deployment Group (IDG) policy and doctrine including the Strategic Framework for Police Development and the IDG Gender Strategy.

The AFP’s policing experience has positioned it well to take on major leadership roles in peacekeeping and capacity building missions. As Foreign Minister Bishop noted during her speech at the Security Council on 20 November 2014:

“Australia has invested heavily in international police peacekeeping. The Australian Federal Police International Deployment Group is one of the world’s few stand-alone deployable police peacekeeping capacities, and the first in the world to receive United Nations recognition for its pre-deployment training. In



the last 12 months alone, the Group provided training to over 3500 law and justice officials from 20 nations.”

This experience was an important foundation for UNSCR 2185, which resolved to include policing as an integral part of the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and emphasises “conflict prevention and sustainable peace” once the military mission has achieved its objectives.

At the strategic level, UNSCR 2185 focuses on the “operational and structural measures for the prevention of armed conflict ... strengthening the rule of law ... and promoting sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, gender equality and respect for, and protection of, human rights”. This focus is also central to Australia’s new aid policy – *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability, the purpose of which is to promote Australia’s national interests by contributing to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.*

Figure 2 depicts a theoretical ‘policing gap’ between what host police would aspire to do in a post-conflict state and what is generally the reality on the ground. Closing this gap is the key to the successful planning, implementation and, ultimately the success of international interventions, including police interventions. Addressing ‘gap’ issues is critical to the successful transition from military security and control to host nation police autonomy.

The aim of peace operations should be to move from an international military-led intervention, to a democratic host nation-led society under the rule of law that can stand alone with little or no international assistance. It is only under the latter that economic development and community harmony, which is usually associated with such development, is made possible.

The key is to engender better community relations, recognising police as the primary interface between the citizenry and the government, which in any society requires a level of trust engendered by legitimacy and accountability. These efforts have broader diplomatic effects by providing a foundation upon which peace and prosperity can be given a greater chance of success. This serves Australia’s national interest and global good citizenship.

Foreign Minister Bishop stated in a Lowy Institute address on 18 August 2014:

“If the goal of traditional diplomacy is peace, then the goal of economic diplomacy is peace and prosperity. Australia’s prosperity is dependent on regional and global prosperity”.

At the operational level, UNSCR 2185 focuses on key features of international policing which closely reflect the IDG’s doctrine on policing support missions including:

- The assistance that international partners can provide to host state efforts to professionalise policing and other law enforcement agencies, noting that the host state should lead capacity building efforts to ensure legitimacy

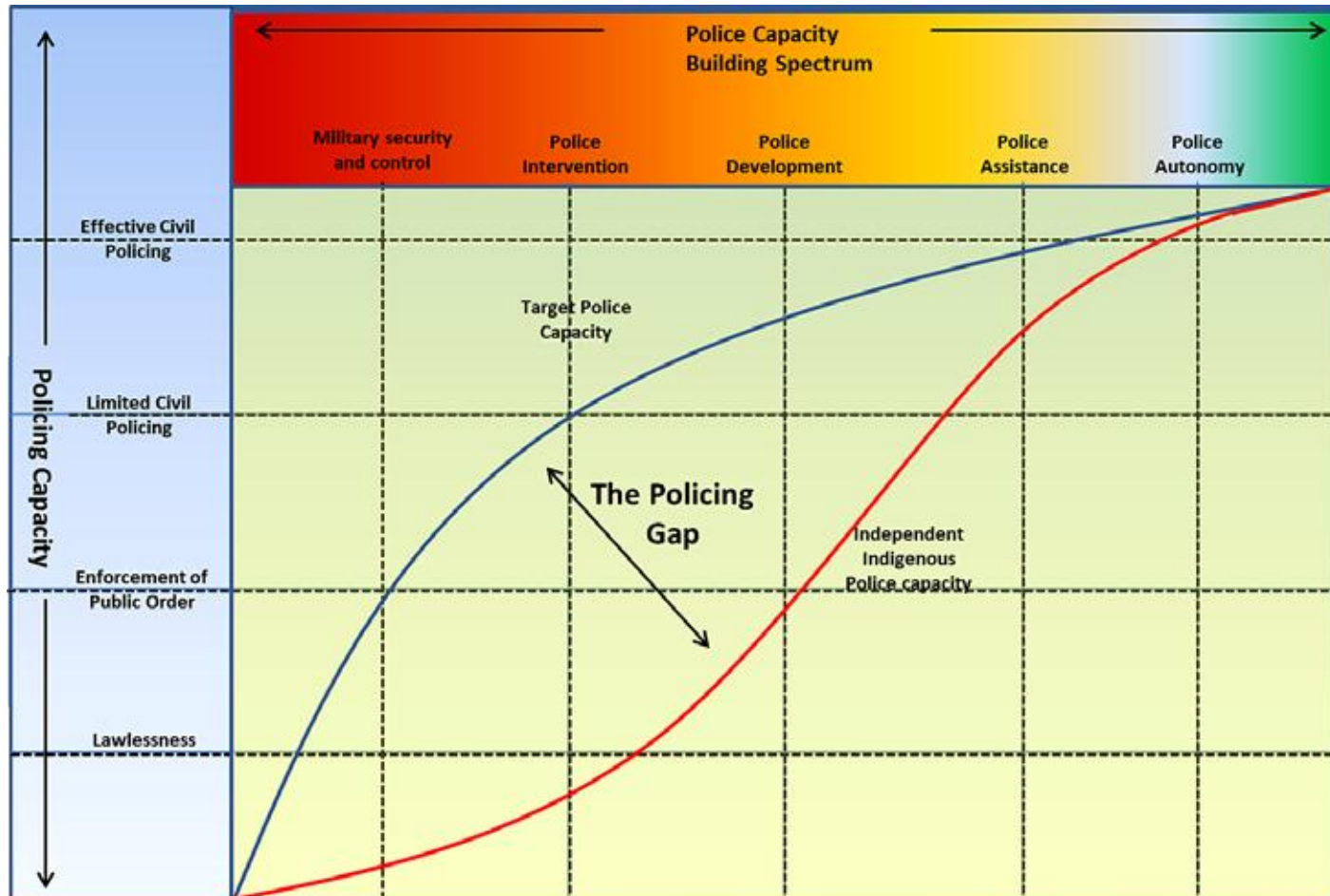
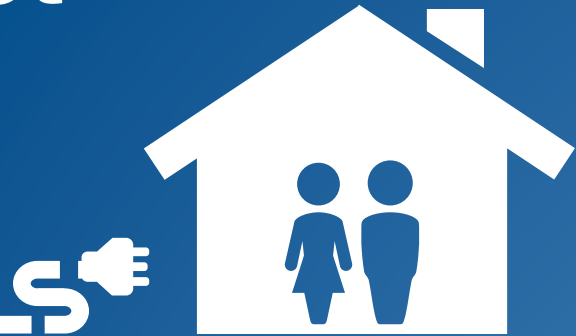


Figure 2: Security Force Capacity Building Handbook; ABCA Publication 369, Edition 2

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AFP Commissioner Andrew Colvin delivers his Lowy address.  
Photo courtesy Lowy Institute/Peter Morris.

and ownership of the reform process.

- The important role the UN police components can play in strengthening the rule of law by providing operational policing support to host state policing, which reflects the IDG's stability operations including in Timor Leste and Solomon Islands.
- The important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, reflecting the women, peace and security agenda, which is operationalised in the AFP under the *IDG Gender Strategy*.

## Police-led diplomacy

International policing presents further significant opportunities in Australia's pursuit of national and regional interests. Perhaps most significantly, international policing, both in the form of executive policing support and local capacity building, develops productive working relationships among police – based largely on trust – which can become extremely important, even decisive, in crisis situations. Police-to-police engagement has provided Australia with the capacity to positively influence key regional security leadership in often highly volatile political and other crisis situations.

In the future, crisis situations requiring cooperation among police could include natural disasters, terrorist actions or accidents and the chances of Australian citizens being

caught up in them are reasonably high. This is particularly important in a regional context and police-to-police relationships may be critical.

In that sense, operational policing support and police capacity development missions nest seamlessly with the strategy to strengthen Australia from crime by helping our neighbours develop their own capabilities, safety and security.

Commissioner Colvin referred to this new concept as 'police-led diplomacy':

"[Police-led diplomacy] utilises law enforcement links more broadly to build upon, and find common bilateral and diplomatic ground when more traditional exchanges present barriers ... what country doesn't want to cooperate on combating terrorism, organised crime, child sex tourism, cybercrime and the like?"

The challenge for the AFP is to prioritise resources applied to police capacity development within a tight fiscal environment. The dedication of appropriate resources is particularly important in post-conflict states, but is just as relevant in fragile or poorly governed states.

## Conclusion

Australia has a well-deserved reputation as an active participant in the international community and a leader in many endeavours, particularly the Pacific region. The AFP, in turn, has developed a reputation for delivering on and

-serving two significant aspects of Australian foreign policy – international good citizenship and the national interest.

UNSCR 2185 was heavily influenced by Australia and creates a foundation upon which the ‘unknown’ element in Figure 2 can be more effectively addressed by international police either under a UN banner or otherwise, by addressing the policing gap. No doubt the AFP will continue to play a significant role as this concept develops.

The proof of effectiveness will be on the ground. As stated by Australian Strategic Policy Institute: The adoption of resolution 2185: ‘is a milestone achievement... But like all resolutions, its success will ultimately depend on implementation. Ongoing engagement by experienced police-contributing countries, such as Australia, will be important to those efforts.’

In this regard the Australian Mission to the United Nations and AFP Police Advisor, Detective Superintendent Sue King are working closely with the UN Police Division to operationalise UNSCR 2185 in order to achieve the practical implementation of the resolution in the field.

UNSCR 2185 also should provide a more stable conceptual platform from which a consistent and coherent approach to police missions can be developed. Australia is well-positioned to provide significant input.

Finally, Commissioner Colvin in his Lowy address noted that the AFP operates one of the world’s largest and most diverse law enforcement international networks:

“The regional instability, technological advances,

innovative criminal syndicates and a widening of terrorist networks have combined with a globalised world to see the AFP’s international footprint expand, become more sophisticated and more reliant on relationships than ever before ... We are responsible for significant capacity development projects and are one of Australia’s largest deliverers of foreign aid – on the surface an odd role for law enforcement – but in reality it builds perfectly on the strategy to strengthen Australia from crime by helping our neighbours develop their own capabilities, safety and security.”



**Riots in Honiara: Australian experience in peacekeeping missions was instrumental in having UNSC Resolution 2185: The Role of Police in Peacekeeping and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding adopted unanimously.**

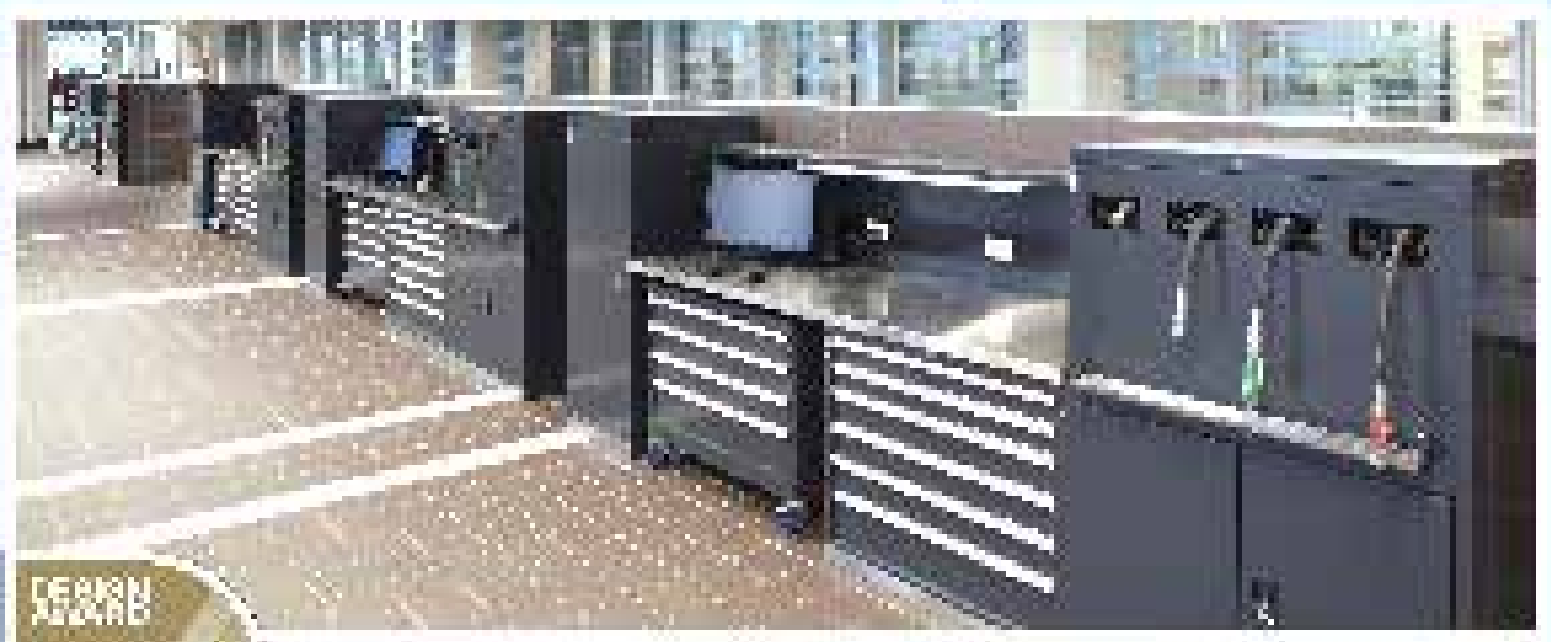
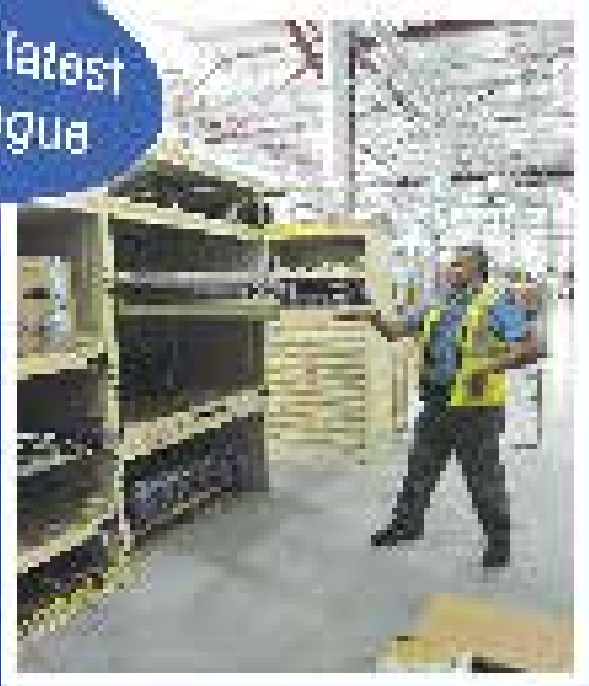


**Australia has a well-deserved reputation as an active participant in the international community, Papua New Guinea below (Photo courtesy UN photo by Yutaka Nagata)**



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# A New WAVE is Coming

By Dan Johnson

Is it even conceivable that in a single decade a new class of airplanes has reached its third generation? The answer is yes and Vickers Aircraft's Wave is proof through its contemporary construction, innovative features, and modern equipment.

In 2004 America's FAA released a new rule, nearly 15 years in the making. The goal was audacious. FAA sought to create a new category where conventional means of government approval gave way to industry consensus standards.

Could such an idea work? Yes! In only 10 years, FAA's Sport Pilot / Light-Sport Aircraft rule not only upended the old order but swept around the world and is now leading to a similar system for larger aircraft.

## Third Generation Disruption

The phrase "disruptive innovation" is often used to describe a development that doesn't merely change products ... it changes markets. A century ago, mass production of automobiles was a disruptive innovation because it changed the transportation market. Apple's iPhone is a more recent example.

Light-Sport Aircraft and its ASTM standards system of assuring quality aircraft is racing around the world, already accepted in USA, Brazil, Europe, South Africa, China, Australia and New Zealand. Many more countries are reviewing the concept.

The first aircraft that arrived — call them Generation One — were previously existing aircraft modified to fit the LSA parameters. They dramatically reduced costs, flew well, had the most modern appointments and thereby found market acceptance.

Generation Two aircraft were purpose designed for the category, aimed precisely at the new definition. These aircraft brought desirable, user-demanded changes the older method of certification simply wouldn't allow due to high and inexorably rising costs.

Now, Generation Three airplanes are arriving and Vickers Aircraft's Wave is a gleaming example.

## Molding the Future

From nose to tail, Wave is a fresh examination of how to create a seaplane. In development since 2011, the project is funded and nearing completion for a forecast debut at America's Oshkosh 2016.

Wave's advanced design uses carbon fiber extensively. "Early on we spent time working on construction techniques to ensure they could efficiently be used in production," said designer and principal Paul Vickers.

"Our aircraft is 100% designed on computers," said Vickers. "It's incredible what computers offer modern engineers. One wonders what might have been if the Wright brothers had access to some of the tools we have at our disposal."

With a background in marine hull design and fabrication, Vickers addresses that aspect of engineering with great experience and competency.

"By manufacturing nearly all components in house, we ensure high accuracy both dimensionally and regarding weight," Vickers explained. We are very pleased to report our design weights match actual part weights. We opted to use prepreg carbon fiber as used on supercars and Formula One race cars so that we can assure repeatability during production." He emphasized many steps were taken during the design process with an eye to serial production.

## Exciting Specifications

A few of the parameters that Light-Sport Aircraft must meet reveal Wave in a measurable way: Two seats; gross weight of 650 kilograms (1,430 pounds); a 180-horsepower powerplant swinging a three-blade prop; either avgas or premium auto fuel; max cruise 120 knots; range with 190 liters (50 gallons) of fuel 720 nautical miles; takeoff in 600 feet.

By now you may be thinking, "Well, it sounds exotic but I probably cannot afford a Wave. Each person's budget is different but consider this, "Our sale price in the USA will be less than US\$180,000 including the 180 horsepower engine, powered folding wings, and airframe parachute." In addition, fuel burn is half that of a Cessna 172 even though Wave will fly faster. Maintenance should consume much less of an owner's operations budget thanks to long lasting components, simpler design execution, and rigorous attention to details during Wave's creation.

While the Light Sport Aircraft category exists in Australia and New Zealand, Wave expects to qualify and be available for the ultralight and microlight categories.

Seaplanes have not only become sexy machines in the age of industry consensus standards, but they offer major advantages. Perhaps more than any other, an example is the huge number of places an amphibious airplane can land. Reducing pilot workload through digital instrumentation and innovative landing gear means a focus on safety older airplane designs cannot match.

A focus on safety is evident in the Wave, by the inclusion of a ballistic parachute as a standard feature and also sliding doors as opposed to the traditional forward hinging canopies, which provide an obvious advantage for water landings.

In this modern age of new methods of certification, design tools that only came into existence in recent decades, airborne info for the pilot that exceeds that available in airliners, and safety features unknown in the past, Wave prepares to launch in an exciting era of aircraft design. Pilots of the world, rejoice!

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# Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting 2015

**AASAM was at full capacity this year with 150 ADF and another 264 competitors from 16 other militaries attending the Puckapunyal Military Area.**

Teams and individuals honed their combat marksmanship skills and abilities on rifles, pistols and machine guns.

AASAM's focus in 2015 was on more combat-orientated matches, including rifle matches with bayonets fixed.

This year also recognised the Centenary of ANZAC with the introduction of an ANZAC team made up of Australian and New Zealand firers.

Corporal (Cpl) Aaron Woolston, of 10/27 Royal South Australia Regiment, was named Champion Shot of the ADF.

CO AASAM Lieutenant Colonel Angus Bell said every competitor left with improved combat marksmanship skills.

"The foundation warfighting skills developed at AASAM will save lives on operations," he said.

He said AASAM constantly focused on improving capability.

"The underlying goal of every activity is to improve ADF combat marksmanship, making members aim and shoot better, faster and smarter," he said.

This year was the first AASAM where every firer competed in all their matches with full body armour, including helmet and vest equipped with training plates, which reinforced the combat marksmanship focus. Carrying 15kg of gear made close combat events more physically demanding and realistic.

The expanded use of robotic targets, developed by Australian company Marathon Targets, was a highlight of the competition.

The realistic plastic figures, wearing uniforms atop a four-wheeled base vehicle, challenged all firers by manoeuvring independently and reacting when fired upon.

During the sniper competition, the robotic targets snuck up on competitors quickly, adding a level of stress that taught soldiers to expect the unexpected.

Competitors also had to scale obstacles and aim through large wooden boards with holes in them of various shapes. This taught firers to shoot at awkward angles.

Twelve months of planning went into AASAM 2015 with reservists preparing and running the massive event.

Lt-Col Bell said CATC and Forcomd were big supporters

and provided valuable administrative support as they understood the important role AASAM played in a soldier's marksmanship development.

Regimental Sergeant Major - Army Warrant Officer Dave Ashley is one of AASAM's biggest fans and said it made him proud to see so many militaries sharing their marksmanship knowledge.

"From the international engagement perspective, AASAM is the jewel in the crown," he said.

"I love it when I stand on the range and I can see 60 lanes and different uniforms and different coloured berets."

## League of Nations

The most anticipated match of the AASAM was the new ANZAC challenge.

The ANZAC team, made up of both Australian and New Zealand firers, took on a coalition team of randomly selected shooters from the other nations competing at AASAM.

The teams fired at targets from 450m to 50m and machine gunners had to use suppression tactics so their teammates could advance forward. At 100m shooters fixed bayonets for a final assault.

After the physically demanding run-down from 450m to 50m during serials, the ANZAC team was victorious with 526 points compared to the coalition's 378.

All firers said it was the best match they fired at AASAM.

The Guardsman Trophy involved the Australian Army Combat Shooting Team (AACST) taking on the British Army Combat Shooting team over the same 450m to 50m course. The AACST came out on top.

Meanwhile, the British Army won the sniper competition, 2RAR claimed second place and Japan jumped up the rankings this year to place third.

Overall, Indonesia claimed the greatest medal tally. Its team has been one of the dominant forces at AASAM since joining in 1991.

Timor-Leste also made some noticeable improvements after training with the AACST in the lead up to AASAM 2015.

"Australia's close neighbour will now take these new skills and this marksmanship knowledge back home, improving its whole defence force," said Commanding Officer AASAM Lt-Col Angus Bell.

## Our champion shot

A beekeeper from the coastal farming town of Meningie, south-east of Adelaide, has beaten the best of the best and been named the ADF's most accurate shooter.



Cpl Aaron Woolston, of 10/27 Royal South Australia Regiment, now holds the proud title Champion Shot of the ADF.

“I grew up shooting rabbits and foxes on farms around Meningie from an early age,” he said.

Persistence paid off during the recent AASAM and he beat more than 150 of the best shooters from the Army, Navy and Air Force during two weeks of demanding combat shooting.

Cpl Woolston consistently got top scores on still and moving targets from 25 to 450m.

The keen marksman has a long history of shooting in his family. Both his uncle and grandfather were members of the Salisbury rifle team that won the South Australian Country Rifle Championship in 1956. His grandfather also competed regularly in the King’s and Queen’s medal competitions in the 1940s and ’50s.

Now the soldier wants to improve marksmanship in Defence as part of the Australian Army Combat Shooting Team.

“Possibilities include running shooting courses around the country for arms corps and other units, testing and giving feedback on new weapon systems and equipment, and participation in other international shooting events to broaden and bring back knowledge,” he said.

“We have a small military, so to off-set this it is important to ensure the skills we have are of the highest quality.”



**Above: Australian Army soldiers Lance Corporal Matt Hawker (left) and Private Jack Baker, 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, after completing their shoot in the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting sniper match held at Puckapunyal military area, Victoria.**

**Below: Australian Army soldier Private Jack Baker, 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, lines up his target during the Australian Army Skills at Arms Meeting sniper match held at Puckapunyal military area, Victoria, May 2015.**



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# Australian Recognition for Kiwi Service in Cambodia 1992-1993

## NZDF Media Release

New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel who served with a combined Australian and New Zealand military unit in Cambodia in the early 1990s are to be awarded the Australian Meritorious Unit Citation.

The Force Communications Unit was a combined Australian and New Zealand military unit which served as part of the United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC) in Cambodia from 15 March 1992 to 7 October 1993. The unit provided communications between components of UNTAC, the Cambodian Supreme National Council and the military headquarters of the four political factions.

In 2014 the Australian Government awarded the Australian Meritorious Unit Citation to Australian Defence Force personnel who served in the Force Communications Unit. The same recognition has now been offered to the members of the New Zealand Armed Forces who served in this unit for their "sustained outstanding service" in Cambodia.

Prime Minister John Key has approved the acceptance and wear of this Australian award by the 65 eligible New Zealanders.

## Presentation

A presentation is planned for Linton Military Camp in early August 2015.

All eligible persons should contact Warrant Officer Class One Dale Wetere, Regimental Sergeant Major Land Operations Training Centre, Palmerston North. Telephone: 06 352 8522, mobile 021 419 057, email dale.wetere@nzdf.mil.nz

Those who are not able to attend the presentation can have their award mailed to them.

## More information

More information can be found on the Australian Meritorious Unit Citation for Cambodia Frequently Asked Questions page of the NZDF Medals website.

Frequently Asked Questions - The award of the Australian Meritorious Unit Citation to New Zealand Defence Force personnel who served in the Force Communications Unit in Cambodia 1992-1993

## Background

The Force Communications Unit deployed to Cambodia in 1992 as Australia's main contribution to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The Force Communications Unit comprised members of both the Australian Defence Force and New Zealand Defence Force and provided communications between UNTAC, the Cambodian Supreme National Council and the military

headquarters of the four political factions.

As elections in Cambodia moved closer, the Force Communications Unit was called on to provide additional logistic support to the election process, often in hostile conditions. This was whilst they maintained the communications network at 50 locations across Cambodia.

The role of the Force Communications Unit, and the conditions under which they operated, expanded well beyond what was expected or required of the Unit at the time of their deployment. It is this commitment and dedication to the United Nations mission in Cambodia that has resulted in the Australian Government decision to award a Meritorious Unit Citation to the Force Communications Unit.

## What is the Australian Meritorious Unit Citation?

The Australian Meritorious Unit Citation is awarded to a unit, for sustained outstanding service in warlike operations. The Honour comprises an award of a Certificate of Citation to the unit signed by the Australian Governor-General and insignia of the Citation worn by members of the unit.

The Meritorious Unit Citation was approved for introduction into the Australian Honours System on 15 January 1991. To date there have been 24 Meritorious Unit Citations presented, including one to 3 Squadron, Royal New Zealand Air Force for service in East Timor between 1999 and 2002 as part of the Australian led International Force East Timor (INTERFET) and with successive Australian and New Zealand battalions.

Has the Honour been extended to the members of the New Zealand Defence Force who were part of Force Communications Unit – Cambodia?

Yes. The New Zealand Prime Minister has approved the acceptance and wear of the citation by New Zealand members of the Force Communication Unit who served in Cambodia.

## Who will be the custodian of the Meritorious Unit Citation as the Force Communications Unit – Cambodia is not an existing military unit?

The Force Communications Unit – Cambodia included members from the Australian Defence Force and the New Zealand Defence Force. The original Citation will be held by the Australian Defence Force School of Signals in Victoria.

A copy of the Meritorious Unit Citation will be placed in the Headquarters of the 1st New Zealand Signals Regiment as the successor unit to the Royal New Zealand Signals units who provided the personnel for this deployment.

## When will the presentation ceremony be held?

A presentation ceremony for New Zealand recipients will be held in Linton Camp in early August 2015. Full details will be advised by the 1st New Zealand Signals Regiment.



The Australian Meritorious Unit Citation and insignia

Telephone: 06 352 8522; mobile 021 419 057

email: dale.wetere@nzdf.mil.nz

It is expected that most former Force Communications Unit personnel would like to be attend the presentation ceremony in Linton Camp in August 2014.

Personnel are encouraged to attend with their families.

Eligible personnel who are not presented the Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia at the investiture ceremony need to advise their contact and delivery details to Warrant Officer Class One Dale Wetere (his contact details are as above) and the Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia will be issued to them by 1st New Zealand Signals Regiment.

**I believe my deceased husband is eligible for the Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia? How do I apply to receive his insignia?**

As the 1st New Zealand Signals Regiment will be the custodian of the Citation, they will organise and host the presentation ceremony in consultation with the Regimental Colonel, Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals, and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association.

Note: The Australian members of the Force Communications Unit received their Insignia in September 2014.

### **What are the eligibility criteria to receive the Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia?**

To be eligible to receive the Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia a person must have served in Cambodia for at least 30 days during the period 15 March 1992 to 7 October 1993 while posted to the Force Communications Unit.

1st New Zealand Signals Regiment has compiled a nominal roll of NZDF personnel who have been deemed eligible for the Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia. Only those personnel listed (or any later additions that may be approved) may wear the citation.

### **How many persons have been identified on the nominal roll as being eligible to receive the Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia?**

The nominal roll contains 65 names from the New Zealand Defence Force. A small number are still serving, but the majority of entitled recipients have left the military.

### **How do I apply for the Australian Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia?**

Please contact:

Warrant Officer Class One Dale Wetere  
Regimental Sergeant Major Land Operations Training Centre,  
Palmerston North

Please complete NZDF Medals Office Form 2 – Application for the Posthumous Issue of Medals, located on the Application Forms page of the NZDF Medals website, and mail the signed form to the postal address.

### **Can I be presented at Linton Camp in early August 2015 with the Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia for my deceased husband?**

Yes, you can be. For more information, please contact:

Warrant Officer Class One Dale Wetere  
Regimental Sergeant Major Land Operations Training Centre  
Palmerston North  
Telephone: 06 352 8522; mobile 021 419 057  
email dale.wetere@nzdf.mil.nz

Will the Meritorious Unit Citation Insignia without the Federation Star be issued to members of Units that provided personnel to Force Communications Unit – Cambodia?

When a Meritorious Unit Citation is authorised by the Australian Governor-General the insignia with Federation Star is awarded to the original members of the unit.

The Force Communications Unit – Cambodia was raised with members from across the Australian Defence Force and New Zealand Defence Force to support a contribution to the United Nations Transitional Authority to Cambodia. On completion of the mission, this particular unit ceased to exist. As the Force Communications Unit no longer exists only insignia with the Federation Star will be issued.

Other Royal New Zealand Signals personnel who did not serve in Cambodia with the Force Communications Unit may not wear this insignia.

Source New Zealand Defence Force [www.nzdf.mil.nz](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz)

# Former Aussie FCU UNTAC Veterans Pay Tribute to Kiwi Cousins

By Paul Copeland

On 5 August 2015, approximately 60 current and ex-serving members of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals [RNZSIGS], who served alongside their Australian Defence Force [ADF] cousins in Cambodia, received due recognition for their service with the Force Communications Unit [FCU] to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

Three former Australian Regular Army [ARA] members of the FCU UNTAC made the flight “across the ditch” to not only bear witness to a long standing matter that took 22 years to recognise their service in Cambodia; but to also re-acquaint themselves with good friends whom they made in Cambodia, and new friendships were made and forged.

Former FCU Operations Officer - MAJ John McLeod; Former Sihanoukville [Kompong Som] Signal Troop SGT - SGT Paul Copeland; and Former FCU Workshops Vehicle Mechanic – CFN Paul Clark joined with their NZ cousins to recognise their service in Cambodia during the week 4-7 August 2015, in the southern part of the North Island.

The evening before at the Royal Hotel in Palmerston North saw re-acquainted and new friendships struck, as the atmosphere from our Kiwi cousins was open-armed, welcoming and involved a variety of refreshments that lasted until around 0200. Kevin “The Irish” O’Shaughnessy ensuring that the bar was nice and tidy before closure.

After a convivial and jovial breakfast and recounting the prior evening’s activities, all returned to their Hotel to dress in a respectable manner and we were taken to Linton Army Camp. The Kiwis put on a bit of a show with a display of all types of capability ranging from vehicle recovery, logistics, cooks, Air Dispatchers, Recon Platoon, Heavy Weapons Platoon, as LAV and a Communications Display (I hope I didn’t miss anyone out).

A gathering at the Linton Camp Warrant Officer’s and Senior Non-Commissioned Officer’s Mess was well attended, with the Chief of the Army Brigadier Peter Kelly, MNZM; along with Warrant Officer Mark “Titch” Mortiboy, DSD, the Sergeant Major of the NZ Army and other dignitaries in attendance. The MUC was individually presented to each former member of the FCU, by the NZ Australian Defence Attaché` Group Captain John Davidson, RAAF.

Whilst it was noted that the First NZ Contingent served 12 months, on low allowances and poor entitlement; the Second NZ Contingent served a somewhat less tour than the First, but were paid better. The word was not to tell the First Contingent – that lasted as fast as a snowflake’s chances of survival in the heat of Cambodia! Unfortunately, for the First Contingent their pay was never re-adjusted and back-paid. A very sore point for the First Contingent members.

Overall approximately 40 RNZSIGS members served in each Contingent to the FCU UNTAC. However, the NZDF have only been able to contact 69 former members. Some have unfortunately died or are un-contactable. The father of one of those veterans who died through “mis-adventure” was present and he was awarded his son’s MUC. Perhaps a little bitter sweet; however he was justly proud of his son’s service to New Zealand in Cambodia.

The Kiwis were requested by the Australian Government to contribute Communications Specialists to assist with the shortfall of manning of the FCU UNTAC. The ADF at the time could not afford to extract approximately 520 Royal Australian Corps of Signals Communications Specialists in a given Contingent, due to the Operational needs of Australia; particularly with EXERCISE K92 being conducted in Northern Australia that year.

It is with no doubt that the NZ Signallers contributed to a high standard in maintaining communications, mainly in the Communications Centre at the Supreme National Council [SNC]; “The Hub”; Stung Treng Signal Troop in the North East of Cambodia; and Tbeng Meanchey in the N.W. of Cambodia.

One particular Detachment Commander, CPL Todd Forrester was located at Pailin, in the National Army of the Democratic Kampuchea [NADK aka as the feared Khmer Rouge] territory<sup>1</sup>, when he and his Communications Detachment members were kept prisoners by the NADK for three months. Todd was awarded the British Empire Medal [BEM] (Military) in the New Zealand Honours List in 1994, for his outstanding leadership under House Arrest by the NADK.

Another distinguished soldier, CPL Phillip Moore was also recognised in the same List as Todd with the BEM, for his exceptional service in technical Telecommunications management in Phnom Penh. It is pleasing to see that New Zealand recognised two of their Signals soldiers for their particular service in Cambodia.

Refreshments commenced at around 1500 and continued, at least until 0300 the next morning. Two of the Aussies being relieved that they departed at around 1930h “to get changed”. It was truly a huge reunion for the New Zealand

<sup>1</sup> The Pailin Communications Detachment is where CPL Michael Quinn and his Detachment members were held under House Arrest and Prisoner by the NADK in December 1991 to February 1992. This Detachment continued to operate and were unable to be extracted due to the threats of death and shooting down any UN Helicopters approaching the area, throughout it’s operation from November 1991 until withdrawal in September 1993. LTCOL Russell Stuart (COMASC UNAMIC [OP GOODWILL]) was wounded twice by ground to air small arms fire on a Recon flight over the area on 26 February 1992.



**“Some of the Kiwi Signallers who received the MUC, with two of their Aussie friends, Linton Army Camp, NZ, 5 Aug 2015” Photo Courtesy: Paul Copeland.**

Signallers, some of them not serving in Cambodia, but seizing on the opportunity to catch up with their mates after so many years.

Many travelled from afar, Singapore, Sydney, Brisbane and of course the three Aussies from Victoria; to be a part of this special occasion.

The trip over the ditch was well worth catching up with some familiar faces and not-so-familiar faces, however the friendliness of the Kiwis was warm and strikingly memorable.

For the author, this is perhaps the final end of the trail in terms of the MUC matter for the FCU UNTAC recognition, with a fitting and satisfying finale.

As LTGEN Sanderson said at the Australian Investiture of the MUC on 22 September 2014 said: *“Why it has taken 21 years for our nation to recognise this unit – you may well ask. Nevertheless, it has happened, and those who wear this insignia should wear it with pride.”*

For our Kiwi cousins, they had to wait another year, but it was worth the wait.

Our thanks to The Commanding Officer and members of the 1st New Zealand Signal Regiment, and WO1 Dale Wetere, RSM Linton Camp and the NZDF veterans of FCU UNTAC for their exceptional welcoming hospitality.



**Top: Former RNZSIGS CPL Todd Forrester, BEM, who was a Prisoner of the Khmer Rouge in Pailin for 3 months, with his Communications Detachment members.**

**Bottom: NZ Army Members receive their Meritorious Unit Citation for service to the Force Communications Unit - Cambodia, by the Australian Consulate Defence Adviser, Group Captain John Davidson, RAAF. Photo Courtesy: Paul Copeland**

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# Army Welcomes Tenth Regimental Sergeant Major

A change in leadership occurred at Army Headquarters on 9 July 2015, with the ninth Regimental Sergeant Major of the Australian Army, Warrant Officer Dave Ashley, AM, handing over to Warrant Officer Don Spinks, OAM.

The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army is the senior enlisted position in the Australian Army, and an integral part of Army's command team.

Warrant Officer Ashley expressed his gratitude to his colleagues, friends and family for their support during his nearly 37-year career, which has included senior appointments in the Pilbara Regiment, the 3rd Brigade and Forces Command, as well as deployments to Timor-Leste and Afghanistan as the Task Force Regimental Sergeant Major.

"I have seen many changes over my long career, but there are some things which never change," Warrant Officer Ashley said.

"Pride, faith, mateship and opportunity are as apparent today as they were when I joined nearly 37 years ago.

"What has changed is that we now have the public very visibly behind us, which wasn't always apparent in the late 70s or early 80s. We must all continue to earn and retain the pride and trust of our nation. After all, they have entrusted us with the defence of our nation.

"Living our lives, and not just our careers, in our values of courage, initiative, respect and teamwork will always keep us on track.

"The last line in our Contract with Australia is 'I am an Australian Soldier - always'. I will always be an Australian Soldier in my heart."

The position of the Regimental Sergeant Major of Army was first established in 1983 and is the only person in the Australian Army to hold the rank of Warrant Officer.

Warrant Officer Don Spinks is the tenth Regimental Sergeant Major of Army.

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# Northrop Grumman's AN/AQS-24A Minehunting System Brings Advanced Capabilities to Navies throughout the World

Northrop Grumman's AQS-24A and its predecessors, the AQS-24 and the AQS-14, all built by Northrop Grumman, have been used by the U.S. Navy for the past 30 years. During that time period, thousands of operational hours have been logged from a variety of platforms.

The AQS-24A is a high-speed minehunting system that is primarily towed from the MH-53E helicopter and has been adapted for use on the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force's (JMSDF) MCH-101 aircraft. Northrop Grumman has delivered the first of four AQS-24A minehunting systems to the JMSDF for deployment on Japan's new helicopter platform.

The system is rapidly deployable and flexible, having been successfully towed from aircraft, surface craft and unmanned surface vehicles. The first unmanned surface vehicles with the AQS-24A have recently been delivered.

The AQS-24A airborne minehunting system provides unparalleled performance to meet current and future minehunting challenges. It is the only fielded and operationally proven, high-speed minehunting system in the world. The system provides high-resolution side-scan sonar for real-time detection, localization and classification of bottom and moored mines at high area coverage rates.

The AQS-24A also contains an integrated laser line scanner that enables precision optical identification of underwater mines and other objects of interest. State-of-the-art electronics in the operator console and towed body enable high-resolution threat imaging at extended ranges in both shallow and deep water.

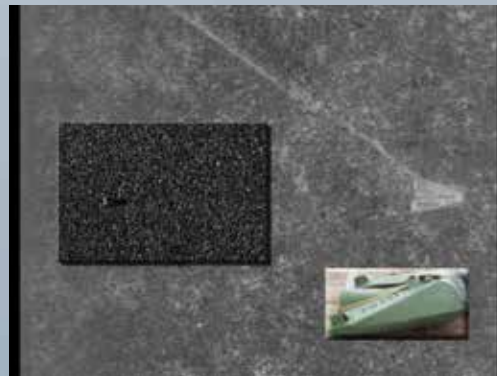
The operator console includes a 19-inch monitor for simultaneous display of high-quality laser and sonar imagery. The system design includes commercial off-the-shelf processing, open Graphics Library graphics, and high speed digital recording. The operator controls are enabled through on-screen menus.

Northrop Grumman's heritage in minehunting is expanding internationally and the AQS-24A is the ideal choice for allied navies that want to increase their overall capability in minehunting.

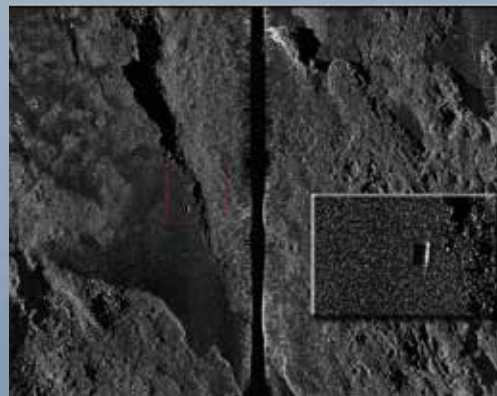
## AN/AQS-24A Airborne Minehunting System



**Advanced Capabilities/ Performance Meeting the U.S. Navy's Current and Future Minehunting Challenges**



**Laser Line Scanner**



**High Resolution Sonar**



**Northrop Grumman's AN/AQS-24A Operated Remotely from Unmanned Surface Vessel**



**Ruggedized Electronics**

# Squadron Flies High

Since 1968, the prestigious McNicoll Trophy has been awarded annually to the Royal Australian Navy helicopter squadron which has excelled in all aspects of aviation operations, safety, reliability and unit level training.

This year the trophy was awarded to 808 Squadron, which flies the MRH-90 multi-role helicopter.

Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, presented the award to Squadron Commanding Officer, Commander Adrian Capner, during a recent visit to HMAS Albatross.

"The attitude of 808 Squadron has been fantastic," Rear Admiral said.

"Your desire to make this capability work has been first rate and has been much commented on.

"Your dedication and hard work can be seen by the maintenance availability and flying rate, and the Squadron's ability to get this aircraft to sea and on operations has been impressive."

Afterwards, Commander Capner said that it was gratifying to see the tireless efforts of his personnel over the last 12 months recognised with the presentation of the award.

"It's been a very high tempo time for us and we have achieved some significant milestones.

"We are particularly proud of the Squadron's rapid response to humanitarian assistance tasking for Operation PHILLIPINES ASSIST, following Tropical Cyclone Haiyan and Operation PACIFIC ASSIST earlier this year in response to Cyclone Pam.

"On both occasions the Squadron was able to embark within 48 hours and provide continuous service throughout.

"This clearly demonstrated the versatility and reliability of the MRH-90 and the professionalism of the crews.

"808 Squadron worked hard to achieve the Operational Capability Maritime 1 qualification and we received this just in time to time to deploy for Operation PACIFIC ASSIST.

"The qualification allowed us a greater range of flying operations, and our contribution to both operations proved invaluable with the MRH-90 helicopter providing a reliable and efficient means of distributing supplies, providing medical help and accessing remote communities.

"Most recently 808 Squadron supported Navy's role in Exercise TALISMAN SABRE, where they provided essential logistical support, in both a ship-to-ship, and ship-to-shore environment and supporting front line operations. During the exercise we also completed a record number of cross deck landings on US ships."

(Front L-R) Commander Australian Fleet (COMAUSFLT), Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, CSC and Bar, RAN, presents the McNicholl trophy, to 808 Squadron which is accepted by the Commanding Officer, Commander Adrian Capner, RAN.



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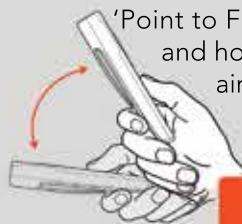
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# HMAS Newcastle Seizes more than \$1 billion in Narcotics

Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Newcastle patrolling with the Combined Maritime Forces in the Middle East region has seized another 581kg of illegal narcotics with an estimated street value of approximately \$520 million.

The half-tonne heroin haul is Newcastle's fifth in two months and comes on the back of her recent 724kg narcotics seizure.

Acting Commander of Australia's Joint Task Force 633 Brigadier Nagy Sorial said the latest haul was the second largest in Combined Maritime Forces history. Since February 2014, Australian ships assigned to JTF633 have seized more than 4 tonnes of heroin.

The weekend's find made Australia's maritime contribution to Combined Maritime Forces one of the world's most effective current heroin interdiction forces," Brigadier Sorial said.

"To date HMAS Newcastle's total seizures for Operation MANITOU is just over 1.3 tonnes of heroin valued at approximately \$1.114 billion."

HMAS Newcastle intercepted the stateless dhow off the east African coast where her boarding party uncovered the hidden narcotics onboard.

Newcastle's Boarding Officer Lieutenant Gideon Watkin said the boarding was part of Combined Maritime Forces counter terrorism operations.

"Our haul today validates our mission and continues to demonstrate Newcastle's effectiveness as a result of continued teamwork and dedicated training," LEUT Watkin said.

Newcastle's Commanding Officer Commander Dominic MacNamara spoke of his crew's continued success since joining Operation MANITOU.

"HMAS Newcastle continues to contribute to the maritime security of the Middle East Region as part of the Combined Maritime Forces," Commander MacNamara said.

"Newcastle has again succeeded because of the professional manner in which they have carried out their duties and their meticulous observation of suspicious activity.

"Today we've stopped more than 581kg of narcotics from reaching the streets and the resulting proceeds from feeding back to terrorist organisations.

HMAS Newcastle is the 60th rotation of a Royal Australian Navy vessel to the Middle East region since the first Gulf War in 1990.





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Our business relationship with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) was established over 15 years ago with the initial supply of TEK300D Pre Conditioned Air ground carts. A new generation higher capacity ACU-804 unit was introduced into the fleet some 7 years ago with the ability to fulfill AC requirements for the C130, C17 and KC-30A, and has since seen a gradual full fleet replacement occur of the older TEK300D's. (The TLD ACU804 Pre Conditioned Air is pictured above with the RAAF C17 at the 2013 Avalon Air Show).

Freightquip's most recent project has been supporting the supply of the new Aircraft Loader fleet and has provided the opportunity to showcase to the RAAF, Freightquip's ability to deliver local technical expertise and support. Combined with enhanced OEM support, Freightquip has led the training, delivery and on site equipment commissioning assisting with the fleets transition into service.

Freightquip and TLD have partnered together in delivering to the RAAF a new ACL fleet consisting of a single specification delivering fleet

continuity. Beyond the advantages of the equipment, Freightquip brings enhanced operator, maintainer and parts support and has also developed a compliant and accompanying RAAF approved Training Package for both Operators and Maintainers. These courses have been implemented as per contract commitment and we look forward to further assisting the RAAF when and where required.

We have seen to date the successful delivery and implementation of the full compliment of units into Richmond and Amberley Bases with the roll out of the remaining fleet into other bases on schedule.

The PFA50 was purpose built for military applications and includes many innovative features not previously seen or even considered on earlier generations of this type equipment. Fast and easy deployment and aircraft approach, air transportable on both C130 and C17, self-loadable, 22.7 tonne 5 pallet lifting capacity and a rugged design which is enhanced by it's variable ground clearance and ability to compensate for extreme ground conditions.

The feedback from all RAAF stakeholders has been extremely positive throughout the entire project. Through the culmination of all of the stakeholders input, the first units entered into limited operational service in November 2014. This in itself was a major milestone as this operational activation was well in advance of the original projections.

**Freightquip Pty Ltd and TLD is proud to be associated with the Royal Australian Air Force.**



Fleet of RAAF PFA50 Aircraft Loaders



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# Fastest C-17A Delivery in Australian History

The seventh C-17A Globemaster III aircraft arrived in Australia at RAAF Base Amberley July 30th, marking the fastest C-17A delivery in our fleet.

Minister for Defence Kevin Andrews said the rapid acquisition of the aircraft is a testament to the close relationship that exists between Australia and the United States.

“The active involvement of a number of United States and Australian agencies has been pivotal in meeting the successful delivery of this aircraft and I applaud everyone involved in the acquisition program,” Minister Andrews said.

“This acquisition signifies considerable work opportunities for the local industry, with \$300 million being spent to upgrade facilities.

“With its proven ability to transport heavy equipment, vehicles and helicopters in a short time frame, the C-17A’s capabilities are vital to Australia’s national security and safety.”

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Leo Davies, AO, CSC said the acquisition of two additional C-17A aircraft will increase

the Australian Defence Force’s capacity to provide vital community and humanitarian assistance.

“The C-17A fleet has been integral to recent operations including the rapid deployment of Australian forces in support of the Iraq Government , assistance in the Queensland floods, and the recovery of MH17 victims from Eastern Ukraine,” Air Marshal Davies said.

“This latest acquisition will bolster our existing fleet of strategic lift aircraft – providing vital heavy airlift support to a range of operations, and increase our capacity to provide swift disaster relief and humanitarian assistance at home and abroad.

“Under Plan Jericho, the Air Force is dedicated to developing a networked, future joint force that can respond across the spectrum – from combat to humanitarian support. An additional two C-17A aircraft will help us achieve that,” Air Marshal Davies said.

The Government announced the acquisition of two additional C-17A aircraft in April 2015 representing a \$1 billion investment in Australia’s security and Defence Force. The eighth C-17A is planned to arrive in Australia in late 2015.



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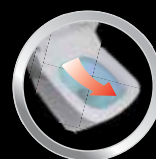
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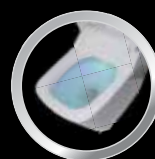
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Our trademark logo has been accepted by the US Patent and Trademark Office across 5 distinct classes (similar to that in place in Australia).

**US Class 16** – education and training in a broad range of fields including business leadership & management, organizational excellence, corporate intelligence, community resilience, individual/personal resilience & security, self-intelligence, CVE, national & international security, diplomacy, knowledge & information management, risk management, collaborative & alternative dispute resolution, mediation, constructive change management, effective relationship repair/development/solidification.

**US Class 35** – business consultancy services related to (e.g.): strategic planning, quality management systems, organizational & corporate management, business benchmarking, business risk management, business projects, negotiation of contracts; charitable services (volunteer programs and community service projects).

**US Class 41** – educational services for government

and non-government, including the military including mentoring and coaching for individual and organizational effectiveness; structured education in a wide range of fields including those represented in Class 16.

**US Class 42** – scientific and other related consultancy services in the fields of: IT and engineering, occupational health and safety including ergonomics, technology planning, disaster recovery for data communications, and computer security.

**US Class 45** – advisory and legal services including threat analyses for public safety in the fields of homeland security, international security, personal and corporate/organizational security.

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## OP OKRA

A New Zealand trainer provides instruction on countering Improvised Explosive Devices on an Iraqi Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle in Iraq.

Iraqi Security Forces, supported by Task Group Taji Australian and New Zealand trainers, learnt critical survival skills in mid June at the Taji Military Complex, Iraq

Soldiers from 76th Iraqi Army (IA) Brigade taught about different types of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and how to defeat them. The Iraqi soldiers were tested on clearing and identifying IEDs in buildings and also on their mounted drills for their Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles gifted by the United States

Task Group Taji continued to train the 76th Brigade until late June as part of the Building Partner Capacity mission.



## Are you an Old Paradian?

As part of Centenary of ANZAC, the Old Paradians' Association is convening a dinner on Friday 23 October to honour former students of Parade College who have served, or who presently serve in their country's uniform.

This promises to be a very special evening, and we are keen to make contact with any Old Paradians who have had military service, and the families of deceased Veterans, so that we can issue a personal invitation to join us on the night.

If you are currently serving and unable to make it to the event, you might like to forward a personal video message from your mobile phone. If so, you should preface your message with your name, rank, your final year at Parade, where you are currently serving, and a personal greeting.

Videos of no more than 60 seconds duration should be emailed to [tony.debolfo@carltonfc.com.au](mailto:tony.debolfo@carltonfc.com.au)

For further information, please contact Tony, Ph: 03 9468 3301

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## Thinking of leaving the military?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Developed in close collaboration with the three Services, the Manual provides an easy to follow process to help you access entitlements and conduct administration processes correctly.

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

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

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

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

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

Transitions intranet site (DRN only) [www.defence.gov.au/transitions](http://www.defence.gov.au/transitions) 1800 624 608 Defence Family Helpline

## Your DHOAS payments after posting or separation

ADF personnel receiving Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) payments are advised to check how a posting or transition out of service could affect their subsidies.

Members who are transitioning out of the ADF can continue to receive payments if they have sufficient service credit but they need to be mindful of changes to their DHOAS eligibility as a separated member.

For personnel being posted, usually they can also continue to receive DHOAS payments if they follow administrative procedures. This includes advising the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) of their change in circumstances before they relocate.

## Separation and DHOAS eligibility

Separating from the ADF can impact on members' DHOAS eligibility, including their subsidy amount and the number of subsidy certificates they can access.

If they have completed 20 or more years of service when they separate they will receive their subsidy payments at the Tier 3 level. Otherwise, their subsidy will be paid at the Tier 1 level regardless of their tier while serving. It is important they advise DVA of the change in their circumstances, to ensure they don't receive an overpayment of subsidy which they will be required to pay back.

Members can receive only one subsidy certificate after they separate and they must apply for this certificate within two years of separating. They need to keep this mind if they want to access their DHOAS entitlement and start receiving subsidy payments or make a change to their existing DHOAS arrangements.

The certificates are valid for only 12 months so members need to ensure they use their final certificate before it expires. There are no options to extend it.

Some members may choose to apply for a subsidy certificate before separating, so their one, post-separation certificate can be accessed at a later date if necessary.

If they are making progressive draw-downs on a construction loan, and they are separated, they may wish to defer applying for their one post-separation certificate until construction is complete, keeping in mind it must still be within two years of their separation. This is so they can receive subsidy payments that are calculated on the maximum home loan balance possible.

## Posting and 12 month occupancy

A condition of receiving DHOAS payments is that members (or their dependents) must occupy the subsidised home for 12 months from when the subsidy starts. However, if a member moves into a DHOAS-subsidised property with the intention of staying for 12 months and is later issued a posting order, then payments can continue.

To ensure payments aren't stopped, they must advise DVA of their posting before they relocate and request an occupancy waiver. They can use a change of circumstances form found on the DHOAS website, and attach their posting order.

Those members receiving the DHOAS subsidy during the construction of their home must officially occupy the home before posting out in order to continue to receive the payments. They cannot receive an occupancy waiver. If they receive their posting order and are unable to move into their DHOAS-subsidised home before relocating, DVA must cease subsidy payments.

Members can re-apply for a new subsidy certificate and re-commence payments once they're able to occupy the home and remain in the property for 12 months.

Once members have occupied their subsidised homes for 12 months, they can continue receiving subsidy payments, regardless of whether or not they reside in the homes, as long as the existing DHOAS loan remains current and is not paid out.

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- Affiliate Member**  
Open to all persons who have not been discharged for reasons of discipline, War Widows / Widowers, Defence Widows / Widowers, Partner(s), Parents and Children of an APPVA Veteran. No voting rights.

Persons applying for membership as a member or ex-member of an Armed Force, Police Force or, as a Defence Civilian meeting the above criteria for Full or Associate Membership, are required to complete the Service Details above. Persons applying for Affiliate Membership as a Parent, Partner or Child of a current APPVA member are required to complete the "Parent / Partner / Child" section in the Contact Details area above, to confirm the membership of the APPVA Member.

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &  
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION  
**MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM**



(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)  
ABN 59 558 194 094  
APPVA  
PO Box 480, Boronia Vic 3155  
Email: secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au  
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

MERCHANDISE	QUANTITY	OPTIONS – Please Circle	COST	SUB TOTAL
Navy Blue Polo Shirt		S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL MENS/WOMENS	\$30	
Pink Polo Shirt		WOMENS size 10-16	\$30	
Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Size: M XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL MENS	\$45	
Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Size: 10 12 14 16 WOMENS	\$45	
APPVA Cap Navy Blue		One Size	\$20	
APPVA Cap Pink		One Size	\$20	
APPVA Stickers			\$6	
Book - COMBAT MEDIC			\$29	
Book - SOLDIERS' Tales			\$19	
Book - Aussie SOLDIER			\$29	
Please note - GST, postage and handling included			<b>TOTAL</b>	

**CREDIT CARD**

Send order form with completed details to Merchandise - APPVA PO Box 480, Boronia Vic 3155

Please charge my credit card for the amount of:.....  Visa  Mastercard

**Credit Card No** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Expiry Date** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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

**CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER** - Send order in mail with cheque or money order payable to APPVA PO Box 480, Boronia Vic 3155

**DIRECT CREDIT - Internet Transfer**

*For Def Credit account holders:*

Account: APPVA (AUS) BSB: 803-205 Account: 20638827 Member No: 153601  
Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form.  
Enter Member No 153601 (if required)

*For All other Financial Institutions:*

Account: APPVA BSB: 803-205 Account: 20638827 Member No: 153601  
Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form.  
Enter Member No 153601 (if required)

**DELIVERY DETAILS**

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

Last Name ..... City .....

Given Name(s) ..... State ..... Post Code .....

Email..... Country .....

Mobile.....

The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) will accept returned products / merchandise where:

- The product is faulty, or not fit for the purpose
- The product does not match the sample or description

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

- Obtain a refund (if paid by credit card, the credit card will be credited), otherwise a cheque will be provided, or
- Re-issue a like article

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

The APPVA will take the utmost care in packaging; however, we will not accept any responsibility for goods damaged in transit.

The APPVA will not accept returns where the product or merchandise is ordered specifically for an individual (e.g. Montage, clothing, etc).

All queries for return of merchandise must be received within 30 days from date of purchase and directed to APPVA Merchandise Officer at merchandise@peacekeepers.asn.au. Item returns will be at the discretion of the APPVA Merchandise Officer provided the above criterion is met in the first instance. Please choose carefully as APPVA cannot accept returns due to change of mind.