

Australian Peacekeeper

WINTER 2015

MAGAZINE

**The Quest to
Reclassify
OP HABITAT 1991
Part 2**

**Project Land 400
Climate of War
Battalion Snipers on
Target**



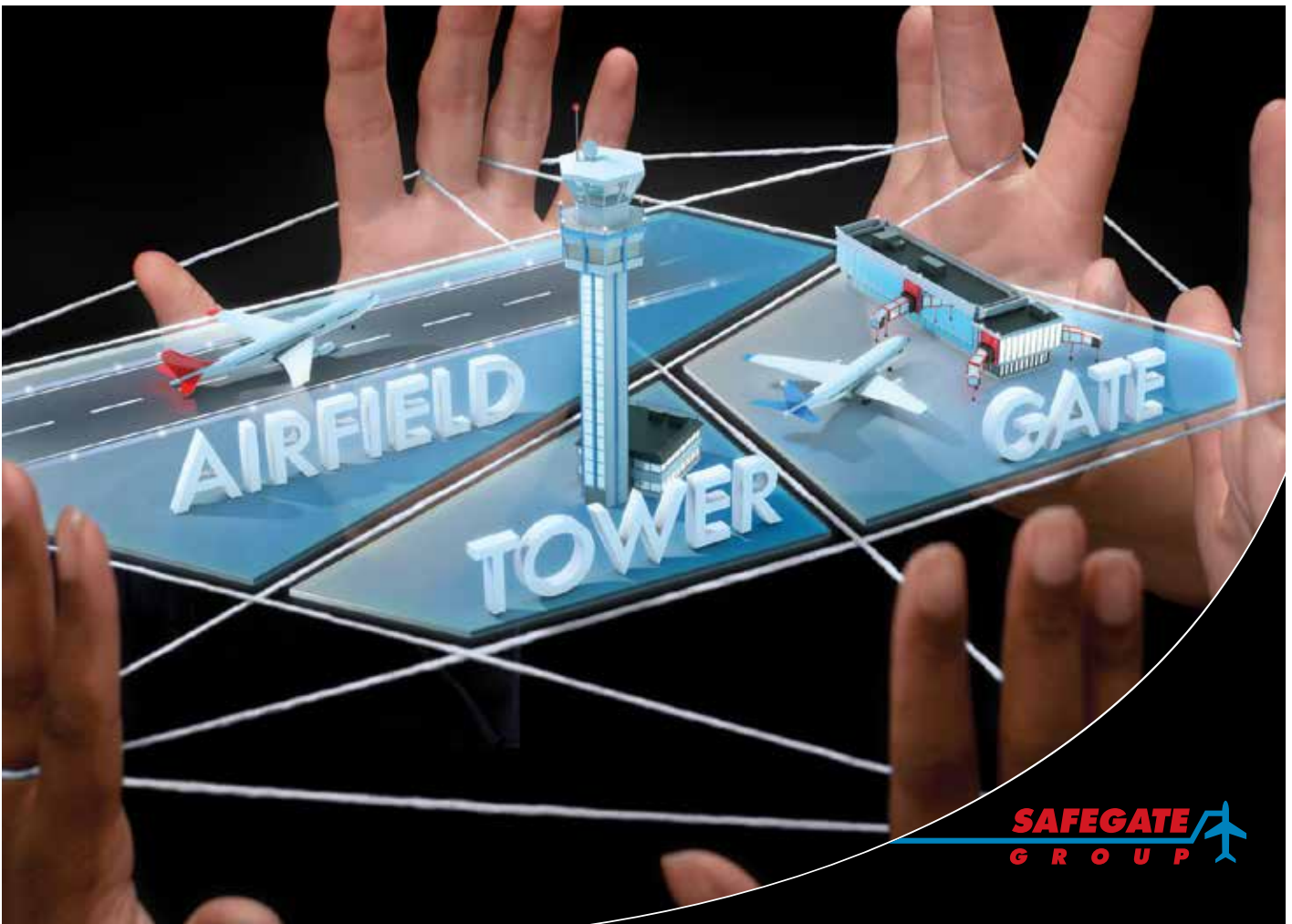


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Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

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

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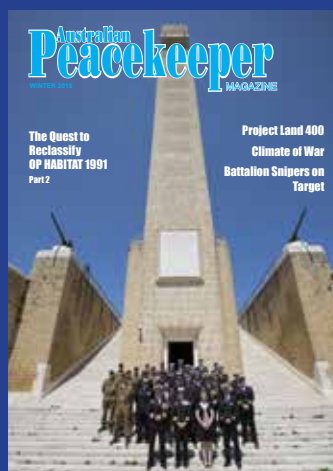
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Members of HMAS ANZAC's ship's company with sailors from the Italian Navy, at the Memorial for Italian Sailors in Brindisi, as HMAS ANZAC pays its respects to service men and women of the Italian Navy who died serving their country.

The Royal Australian Navy helicopter frigate HMAS ANZAC is commemorating the service and sacrifice made by sailors, soldiers, airmen and airwomen of all sides during Centenary of ANZAC commemorations in the Dardanelles, Cape Helles, Gallipoli and the Mediterranean in April and May.



42 Battalion Snipers on Target

From the President's Desk

As we head into the cooler months of 2015, I would like to welcome back all our members and their families that are currently serving and those who have left the Australian Defence Force. Across the country and around the world, thousands paused on the 25 April 2015 to honour those Australians and New Zealanders who first landed on the shores of Gallipoli 100 years ago, and to commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who served in all wars, conflicts and Peacekeeping operations in which Australia has been involved. It was extremely pleasing to see good high a volume of people turnout at Services in Australia and overseas as Australians from all walks of life come together to honour and remember the original ANZACs and the brave men and women who have continued their legacy of service over the past 100 years.

The Government has decided not to proceed with changes to pension indexation announced in the 2014–15 Budget and honour its pre-election commitment to give DFRB and DFRDB military superannuants aged 55 and over access to the best indexation arrangement from three indices (Consumer Price Index (CPI), Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI), and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE)) the Government will continue to index service pensions, war widows pensions, income support supplement, veteran disability pensions (including the Special Rate or TPI pension), wholly dependent partner payment and special rate disability pension against these three benchmarks.

In making this announcement, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, noted the strong views of the veteran and ex-service community about the changes proposed last year. The need to reform Australia's pension system remains. A new set of reforms have been proposed to reduce the long-term cost of Australia's income support system. The Government will look to adjust the asset limits and taper rates for service pensioners who have a greater capacity to support themselves in their retirement. The new changes will benefit veterans who do not have significant private wealth, while continuing to make our system more sustainable and address the fiscal challenges inherited from the previous Government.

The effect of the reversals is that:

- indexation of service pension, veteran disability pension, war widow pension, wholly dependent partner payment and special rate disability pension will continue to be the greater of the CPI, PBLCI or MTAWE
- income test thresholds will continue to be increased each 1 July in line with movements in the CPI

The private family home and other assets currently exempt from the asset test will continue to be exempt from these calculations.

The 2015–16 Budget proved to be a relief for most veterans when it was released last night, some of the highlights of this budget when it was released was:

Recognising the unique nature of military service

- Maintaining existing pension indexation arrangements for all veterans.
- *Social Security Assets Test – Rebalance assets test thresholds and taper rate.*
- *Increased Number of Case Coordinators*
- *Enhancing the Veterans' Vocational Rehabilitation Scheme.*
- *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) – single appeal path.*
- *Establishing a stand-alone Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act for former Australian Defence Force personnel.*
- *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 reforms – calculating permanent impairment and the maximum payable.*
- *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 reforms – multiple injuries arising out of the one event.*
- *Ongoing Restoration of Funding for Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) Programme.*

Keeping veterans and their families healthy

- Extension of Trial for In-Home Telehealth for Veterans.
- Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) – new listings and price amendments
- Expansion of the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) to Enhance the Delivery of Falls Prevention Items.

Other Government initiatives affecting DVA clients

Department of Social Services

- ***Improving the Integrity of Social Security Income Test Arrangements.*** This initiative will increase the proportion of defined benefit income streams that are assessed under the social security income test by capping the proportion of income that can be excluded from the income test at 10 per cent. However, income streams from a defined benefit military superannuation fund are excluded from this measure, as are defined benefit income streams held by DVA service pensioners and income support supplement recipients.

Department of Health

- ***Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme – increase in the safety net threshold on 1 January 2019.*** From 1 January 2016, the pharmaceutical safety net threshold will increase by two prescriptions a year, with the threshold reaching 68 prescriptions from

1 January 2019. Veterans eligible under the Veterans' Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Scheme will have the additional costs associated with the increased safety net reimbursed. This measure replaces a similar measure from the 2014–15 Budget. Further the Government is not proceeding with another component of the 2014–15 Budget measure, which related to increasing the pharmaceutical co-payment by 80 cents.

- **My Health Record – a new direction for electronic health records in Australia.** DVA clients will be engaged in the development of the Government's renamed 'My Health Record' programme.
- **Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) new and amended listings.** Some new MBS and PBS items will flow through to DVA arrangements. These include access to chemotherapy services for DVA clients with certain types of bowel cancer, and new listings of treatments for breast cancer, melanoma with specific mutations, and uncontrolled and severe asthma in adults and adolescents.
- **Junior Medical Officer Programme – interagency transfer from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.** This measure will transfer funding from DVA to the Department of Health for the training of junior medical officers at two former Repatriation Hospitals. There will be no effect on services to veterans.

The Association was also given a chance to respond to findings in regards to the Response to the Functional

Review of the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS).

One of the main concerns we emphasised was the lack of services available in regional outreach areas and the cost involved to veterans/ members of the ADF and their families to attend appointments that would incur out of pocket expenses.

Some of the recommendations that were discussed were:

- VVCS Future Role and direction
- Service Delivery
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Organisation Design

The Association support the four key recommendations that came out the discussions and will be eagerly waiting for these recommendations to develop and put into place. These are some of the measures that came out of the Budget 2015 -16, if any of our members require further information regarding the budget please contact your state committee members who will only be too happy to assist you. I look forward to providing you with more up to date information in our next edition of the Peacekeepers Magazine.

Allan Thomas
National President

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An Australian Light Armoured Vehicle Ambulance sits in over watch. The vehicle from the 1st Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force is participating in Operation Tura Ghar in the Baluchi Valley region of Uruzgan Province.



Project LAND 400

LAND 400: the insider's view

The recent ministerial announcement that government had given first pass approval and released an open request for tender for phase 2 of Project LAND 400 represents much more than a decision 'to replace Army's thousand or so M113, ASLAV, and Bushmaster combat vehicles'. LAND 400 is a key element in Plan BEERSHEBA, a series of coordinated and ongoing initiatives that will greatly enhance the Army's ability to generate credible land power and provide scalable, responsive land force options to government. In his ASPI Strategist post, Karl Claxton gives his perspective on why much of the commentary around LAND 400 has been hostile.

The announcement of first pass approval for phase 2 of LAND 400 means that Defence can now seek options to replace the ageing Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) fleet, Army's most flexible and versatile armoured fighting vehicle. Over the past 15 years, those vehicles have been at the centre of the ADF's operational deployments, from peace-support and crisis-response operations in East Timor and the Solomon Islands, to security, capacity building and major conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan. We're seeking the same characteristics of flexibility and versatility in the new fleet of Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles (CRVs) being sought through Land 400 Phase 2, with variants including reconnaissance, command and control, joint fires, surveillance, ambulance, repair and recovery.

At its heart, LAND 400 will deliver replacements for the ASLAV and M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers, complete with mobility support vehicles and integrated training systems. The new CRVs and Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs) are likely to be based on 'Military Off the Shelf' (MOTS) solutions; vehicles that are in-service with another armed force and can be sourced from an established production facility. But LAND 400 represents much more than a vehicle replacement program. The capabilities being delivered through the project will underpin the ADF's capacity to conduct decisive operations in what the Army has determined to be the defining characteristics of our future operating environment.

The new suite of vehicles will include a range of new capabilities to provide the necessary protection, armoured mobility and firepower to defeat increasing lethal and adaptive adversaries. The vehicles will likely be much heavier than their predecessors, reflecting greater levels of protection and the incorporation of new technologies to defeat the ubiquitous improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and the rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) – the traditional weapons of choice for low-tech, politically-savvy adversaries. They'll be deployable in Air Force and Navy platforms such as the C17 and Landing Helicopter Docks (LHDs), maintaining the strategic reach necessary to underwrite Australia's position as a middle power with global interests. Digital operating and communication

systems will integrate the vehicles in a collaborative network able to harness the collective capabilities of our Army, Navy and Air Force. And they will provide soldiers with access to a variety of sensors to detect and differentiate potential threats in an increasingly crowded and contested battlespace. Integrating those essential capabilities positions LAND 400 at the centre of Army's capacity to conduct joint land combat.

LAND 400 is central to a force structure determined more by the diffused lethality and complexity of contemporary operating environments than by a desire for large-scale, high-intensity operations against highly sophisticated adversaries. The project is driven by factors less concerned with fighting great tank battles on the sands of the Middle East than by the necessity to provide soldiers the protection, situational awareness and weapon systems necessary to undertake peacemaking, post-conflict reconstruction and combat operations in increasingly messy, hybrid, irregular conflicts. And rather than seeking to determine arbitrary lines of military primacy or forces of first resort in the shadow of Force Structure Review and White Paper announcements, LAND 400 seeks to maximise the collective capabilities of the Army, Navy and Air Force in delivering joint military capability as a true instrument of national power. The ministerial announcement represents a key milestone towards realising those objectives.

Ben James is currently the Director General of Project Land 400 in Army Headquarters. Image courtesy of Department of Defence.

LAND 400: it's about the enablers

Like many capability debates, LAND 400 runs the risk of becoming a multipolar web of false dichotomies and choices. The systems proposed for acquisition under LAND 400 are too large and heavy, and they come with significant opportunity cost. On the other hand, anti-armour weapons are becoming more prevalent and more capable, while casualty and risk phobia in Canberra seems unlikely to abate. In other words, Hugh White and Michael Clifford are both right, which doesn't solve the problems either raised, but does help frame the problem.

At its heart, this is a discussion about risk transfer. Lighter vehicles place risk on crewmen and decisionmakers in the court of public opinion. Heavier vehicles place risk on the entire defence force being unable to achieve appropriate, timely deployment and then conduct operations at a feasible tempo. Neither of these risks can be responsibly carried forward, and debate can't be allowed to hinge on the assumption that one must be.

If we accept that doubling the combat weight of our Army's armoured vehicle fleet is necessary to make them deployable for anything more than constabulary work,



An Australian Light Armoured Vehicle gathers dust as it climbs a feature north of Tarin Kowt

and we accept that this will make them too heavy to be supported by the infrastructure where we're most likely to send them, as well as over burdening our strategic deployment platforms and logistics forces, what should we do?

The answer is that LAND 400 needs to be supported by significant boosts to combat engineering mobility enablers, strategic deployment enablers and logistic throughput. In other words, we need to be able to field the force elements required to move and support the heavier vehicles.

Combat engineering mobility has been allowed to wither in proportion to the forces it needs to support, which is no secret in Army circles. This trend must first be arrested and corrected before the total capability to make LAND 400 a truly flexible operational tool can be put in place. This means far more bridging and breaching capability than the Army had when it fielded the Leopard tank, the ASLAV and M113 armoured personnel carrier, which means that correcting the capability gaps left by Abrams isn't itself adequate.

Likewise Army logistics isn't likely to be able to meaningfully support the Army as it sits now, let alone the heavier Army LAND 400 proposes. The hollowing and withering of Army logistics needs to be arrested and corrected, then built to meet the needs of the LAND 400 Army. Fundamentally, this means fleshing out from 17 Combat Service Support Brigade all the way forward to the integral logistics of the Combat Brigades, rather than moving personnel and equipment from one part of the logistic system to another in

an endlessly repeating cycle of Soviet-style five year plans to 'fix' logistics.

Finally, while the ADF's strategic mobility has improved immensely in the past decade, LAND 400 will require more of it. Expecting the LHDs to provide robust response options on their own is optimistic at best given the increased demands LAND 400 will place on strategic transport, both during and after initial deployment. Redundancy and flexibility needs to be built into the system with further expansion to strategic airlift to provide the government of the day with meaningful options to a variety of problems.

Failure to address any one of these four areas (combat vehicle capability, operational mobility, strategic mobility and logistic sustainability) will result in an Army that will fail to provide meaningful options to the government.

Solomon Birch is an Army logistics officer posted to the 1st Brigade. These are his personal views.

LAND 400: it's about survivability

'We're looking for a bigger, heavier vehicle to provide extra protection.' That was Major General Paul McLachlan head of DMO's Land Systems Division speaking for the benefit of the general public at the release of the Request for Tender for LAND 400 Phase 2 at Puckapunyal on 19 February. Some defence analysts see comments such as his as having already defined the characteristics of the vehicles to be acquired under LAND 400. Solomon Birch, for example,

considers that ‘The systems proposed for acquisition under LAND 400 are too large and heavy, and they come with significant opportunity cost’.

Opportunity cost? Solomon considers that the vehicles will be ‘too heavy to be supported by the infrastructure where we’re most likely to send them, as well as over burdening our strategic deployment platforms and logistics forces’. In his ‘eyes, the extra weight comes as a result of protection levels fuelled by a ‘casualty and risk phobia in Canberra’.

It’s good to see military officers at all levels entering the debate on defence matters. As Jim Molan pointed out on the Lowy Interpreter recently, there is a dimension to defence guidance beyond an ability to evaluate logically and rationally. In the case of armoured fighting vehicles (AFVs), background in their design and use provides a unique insight.

In this context, descriptive words such as ‘large’ and ‘heavy’ do not further debate. The internal volume of an AFV comes from, amongst other things, the requirements for the number of crew/passengers, plus the quantity of ammunition to be carried.

There is no weight figure specified for the LAND 400 vehicles in the Operational Requirements. There are some criteria, that is, they do not have to be able to ‘swim’, but must be compatible with strategic lift aircraft. Solomon could focus his argument by specifying the limitations that would be created regarding logistic support capacity if the LAND 400 AFVs reached a weight of x tonnes, or y tonnes.

In fact, the weight of an AFV is determined primarily by its internal volume, its protection level and the mobility required. There is little to be added to any consideration by alleging that an AFV is too large or too heavy, without linking this to the operational requirements. It is these which merit debate.

Protection is not just about armour, mobility is just as important (and for those AFVs designed to close with the enemy, their capacity to generate shock action is crucial). At some stage, however, the employment of all AFVs, by definition, will involve close engagement with the enemy. In this context, ‘protection’ should not be thought of only in terms of preventing crew casualties; its main function is to ensure an AFV’s survivability so as to enable it to defeat the enemy. Whether or not an AFV can survive to do this, will very often determine the success or otherwise of the action at hand.

Any thought of LAND 400 vehicles being overly protected as a consequence of Canberra’s supposed phobia with OH&S is misplaced. AFV survivability is the factor which will win battles and save lives. The Operational Requirements for LAND 400 vehicles are set out on DMO’s website. I recommend that those who seek to debate the characteristics of the vehicles to be acquired, reference these. It could be that changes should be made, and, as always, the more informed the debate, the better.

Bruce Cameron is a retired Army officer and author of Canister! On! FIRE! : Australian Tank Operations in Vietnam. Image courtesy of Department of Defence.

Source: <http://www.aspistrategist.org.au>

An Australian Light Armoured Vehicle moves up a ridge towards an overwatch position in the Baluchi Valley, Southern Afghanistan.



Preparing for Change

Darryl Johnston

Secretary of Defence Dennis Richardson shares his thoughts on the challenges, opportunities and changes ahead for Defence.

What will be your focus and priorities in 2015?

Not necessarily in this order, but they will be the First Principles Review, the Defence White Paper, the DECA and continued progress in respect of Pathway to Change. I also have some initiatives I wish to pursue relating to employment of people with disabilities.

What challenges, changes and opportunities do you see for the Defence APS this year with the Federal Budget, the First Principles Review, the Defence White Paper and Service Delivery Reform?

I think there'll be a fair bit of change over the course of this year flowing from the First Principles Review. I think it'll involve change both in terms of structure and also the way some business processes work.

There'll be further change in respect of shared services that'll certainly provide opportunity in some areas and probably give rise to frustrations in others.

In terms of the Budget, it's a bit too early to say anything, that's very much in the lap of the government of the day.

The Government has made a commitment not to cut the Defence budget and it's also made a commitment to grow the Defence budget over time to 2 per cent of GDP. How all of that will be reflected in the 2015-16 Budget I just don't know at the moment.

The Defence White Paper is progressing pretty well under Peter Baxter's leadership.

Peter's team is writing the White Paper and providing the intellectual muscle. There's an external panel led by Peter Jennings that provides independent advice to the Government and it's also responsible for the community consultations.

We have a Force Structure Review that's part of the White Paper led by Neil Orme, Neil Hart and their teams. The White Paper will be finalised around the middle of this year. I'm not sure when it will be publicly released.

In addition to the White Paper, the Government has committed to a Defence industry policy statement and it's also committed to a 10-year Defence Capability Plan.

What do you think APS members should be doing to improve their professionalisation, resilience and ability to deal with change?

Well, I'd simply make the point that I suspect most people in the Defence APS would probably say to themselves, 'we've seen change before, we've dealt with it before and we'll deal with this'. Similarly, I think the Defence APS is very resilient and it's shown itself to be very adaptable. So, yes there are bound to be challenges at a micro level, but at a macro level I think the Defence APS is very resilient.

Given the current environment in which we are in and where there are not the promotional opportunities that we would like, clearly it's time to look at improving one's professionalism and taking advantage of the training and development opportunities that exist.

What do you think we do best and in what areas do you think we can do better?

We have a diverse and committed workforce and one that takes pride in what it does.

Almost 10 per cent of our workforce is in the intelligence and security arena and they are acknowledged across Government as being centres of excellence.

Look at APS members who have engineering and other specialist skills or those who carry a significant burden in ICT or human resource management.

Look at the individuals in the APS who are involved in estate management or those across Defence who provide the essential enablers that allow the ADF to do the superb work it does.

It's unquestionable that our strength is in the diversity of our people and their professional skill sets.

Where can we improve, what can we do better?

We do some project management equal to any. Other project management is not up to scratch as you sometimes read in ANAO reports.

Warren King [Former DMO Chief Executive Officer] sometimes says we too often suffer from the conspiracy of optimism. I think that is probably a systemic attitudinal issue we have across the enterprise. I think we need to be a little more realistic in what we can bite off and the timeframes in which we can deliver.

How do you view current levels of morale within the Defence APS?

That's not for me to judge, it's for individuals to judge. As Secretary of the Department of Defence, my observations or comments about that would not be considered objective.

I would make the general comment that the Defence APS stands at 19,500 and 60 per cent are outside of Canberra. It's a very geographically dispersed workforce and varied in its skill sets.

I mentioned before intelligence, estate management, ICT



Squadron Leader Robert Graham, a Flying Instructor from No. 79 Squadron, shows Secretary of Defence, Mr Dennis Richardson AO, the cockpit of an A27 Hawk 127 during his visit to RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia.

and human resource management. Add the enormously skilled research and innovation at DSTO and the excellence in areas of DMO and you get enormous variety across the organisation. I think morale does vary between location and different areas and groups. That's inevitable in any large organisation.

You mentioned earlier the number of fulltime Defence APS employees currently stands at 19,500. What number do you expect this to be by year's end?

Well, at our peak in 2012 we had a full-time staff equivalent of about 22,300. We have come down by 3000 in the last two and half years.

We are going to have continued downward pressure on the numbers. That was clear in the decisions taken in last year's Budget.

My own personal view, I would think we will be around a thousand fewer than what we are today.

What is your message to staff in regard to the DECA?

Be aware of what's within the gift of the Department and what's the prerogative of the Government.

The Government has defined productivity in a particular way and that's the framework in which we have to operate.

Many people say to me 'we have come down in numbers

and that's a productivity gain.' In a classical sense that's true, equally we're not allowed to count that by the rules of the game.

We don't set the rules; we have to operate within them.

I think having an understanding of that is important.

You look at other offers that have already been put on the table around the public service, I make no judgement of that, I simply make the observation that the offer on the table should be seen in that wider context.

How do you view progress in the area of cultural reform?

It's mixed. I think there's a bit of an inclination in the Defence APS to see cultural reform as something that is about the ADF.

While that attracts most of the public attention, cultural change is as much about the APS as it is about the ADF.

We made some pretty good progress last year measured through surveys. However, I think we've got to continue to focus on personal accountability, responsibility and behaviour.

We've got to focus on what we can control as individuals.

This year the Defence Civilian Committee will meet outside Canberra. Where do you propose to meet and how important to you is it to visit other centres?

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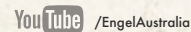
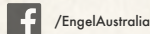
In 2015, Australians will commemorate 100 years since our nation's involvement in the First World War. Like all Australians, Engel Australia are doing their part to acknowledge this significant event in Australian history. Engel have released two special edition army green portable fridge freezers and matching camouflage transit bags. These collectors items will be available from mid-March and while stocks last. Part proceeds will go directly to Legacy to help support the families of returned service men and women.

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In conjunction with Legacy, Engel have released two special collector's edition army green portable fridge freezers and matching camouflage transit bags. These collectors' items will be available from mid-March and while stocks last. These are two models available to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Great War.

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We met in Sydney in February and Melbourne in March and it's my intention to get to as many state and territory centres as possible during the course of this year. It's about communication.

I have town hall meetings once a month in different parts of the Department. I've had about 50 to 60 town hall meetings in the two years I have been here.

I have had them in every state and territory with the exception of Tasmania. However, this is a really big place and it takes a really long time to get around.

Clearly, communication is not just about the communication of the CEO, it's about communication across the organisation.

We did a survey on communication not so long ago and it showed we are not communicating across the organisation as effectively as we should be.

Taking the Defence Civilian Committee out of Canberra once a month is a step in the right direction. In addition to having a meeting of the Committee in each of the capitals, we will have a series of town hall meetings as part of the broader communication effort.

Late last year, Kevin Andrews was appointed as the Defence Minister. What has that meant for you, the Department and APS staff?

We don't get to choose who our minister is and nor should we. That is the prerogative of government. Our job as professional public servants is to serve the minister of the day.

Our responsibility with the new Minister is to do everything we can to assist the Minister in coming up to scratch, becoming familiar with the way he works. It also involves understanding that others outside of Defence do not talk in acronyms.

Last October, Michael Thawley was appointed as the Secretary of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Both you and he worked at DFAT and you succeeded him as the Ambassador to the US. Does that background help in your working relationship? What are some of the matters that you and he have had dealings over?

Michael and I have been good friends for a long time. That does not mean we always agree on everything.

Michael is very much his own person. I'm very much my own person and if I thought I was going to get special favours out of Michael because he is now the head of PM&C I would be pretty naïve.

He is the senior public servant now across the Federal bureaucracy

and he heads up a department that serves the head of Government. That's his focus.

He also chairs the Secretaries' Committee on National Security and we do a lot of business together through that committee. We do other business as the need arises and it covers the full gambit of issues which goes before the National Security Committee of Cabinet.

On 21 March, there were parades across the nation to acknowledge those who served on Operation Slipper. Defence civilians took part alongside ADF personnel. How important is it that APS members receive recognition in this way for their service and for there to be an opportunity to highlight to the public the work of Defence's civilian workforce?

It's very important provided we keep it in perspective. It's the ADF that overwhelmingly bears the brunt of operational activity of that kind. They put their lives on the line and that is what these parades will be about.

I think the involvement of Defence civilians was recognition that no-one in this part of government operates independently of others.

We all have interdependencies and it's the way we work together that produces the outcomes.

I think it's fantastic that Defence civilians were involved in the parades. I don't think there has always been proper recognition of the work Defence civilians do and provided we keep that in perspective, then I think it's a very positive development and something for us to embrace.



The Secretary of the Department of Defence, Mr Dennis Richardson and the United States Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency John Berry unveil a new commemorative plaque at the Australian-American Memorial in Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Square at Russell Offices in Canberra on Friday, 17 October, 2014.

The Quest to Reclassify ASC OP HABITAT to Warlike Service

Part 2:

Correction to the previous edition of this story, page 15, para 6. The UK Commander was Major General Robert Jeremy “Robin” Ross, Commander of Commando Forces OP HAVEN. MAJGEN Ross was later promoted to Lieutenant General and Knighted. MAJGEN Ross is a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath and Officer of the Order of the British Empire. He was also appointed as the Commander Commando Forces of which he deployed as such to OP HAVEN in 1991; and Commandant General of the Royal Marines from 1994-1996. His full title is Lieutenant General Sir Robert Jeremy Ross, KCB, OBE (Retired).

In the Autumn Edition of *The Peacekeeper Magazine*, we looked at the Overview of The Australian Contingent of OPERATION HABITAT (ASCH), which was an ADF small Medical Support Team (MST), which consisted of 72 Australian Army specialists, primarily medical specialists and 3 RAAF Environmental Health Specialists.

The threat to ASCH members was identified in-country as significant, with a number of belligerents that included listed Kurd Terrorist organisations, yet played down by ongoing approaches to the Australian Government as “moderate” and the reason of no robust rules of engagement to adequately achieve a military objective in order to deny the classification of warlike service.

Land HQ Australia tasked ASCH **to be a part of the NATO Force** and be under Tactical Control of the 3rd Brigade, Royal Marine Commando.¹

Aim

This Part aims to contend the Government position that ASCH was a moderate risk operation with no effective ROE, which has been classified as “Hazardous” service, where it is evident that ASCH should be retrospectively reclassified to warlike service.

Identified Risks within the ASCH Post Operation Report

Much of the risks, security and safety of ASCH members and the Force were described in the last edition. However it is interesting to note the risks that were identified by the COMASC ASCH and his Staff involving Security, within the Post Operation Report (POR).

The Iraqi Army. Withdrew south of the 71 Northing, (Latitude 37° North) however there were skirmishes around the five palaces in the region. What was not added to the POR was the threat Iraqi military artillery, and armour, which were within range of attacking the NATO Force.

Iraqi Police. Were present in the Northern Iraq towns. Incidents such as murder and abduction continued between the Iraqi Police and the Kurdish population during the Operation.

Iraqi Secret Police. Numerous attempts were made by the Iraqi Secret Police to infiltrate into the NATO Safe Haven. Coalition Security Forces manning Vehicle Checkpoints would deny access, while Iraqi Secret Police identified by the Kurdish population were quickly removed to avoid incidents.

Intelligence assessments indicated that Iraqi Secret Police could have initiated covert action against Coalition Forces in order to cause embarrassment or to suggest that such incidents were caused by the Peshmerger.

PESHMERGER. Members of the PESHMERGER armed with AK-47 and RPG-7 were a frequent sight in Northern Iraq. During OP HABITAT, two reported approaches were made by armed members who demanded medical supplies. Both demands were refused, however meetings with PESHMERGER were friendly. Nevertheless, it was assessed that incidents were possible during the Coalition withdrawal, or an attempt to slow down or halt the departure of Coalition Forces. These tactics were not observed by ASCH during the withdrawal phase.

Mine Fields. In the years preceding the Gulf War, Iraqi Forces had sewn numerous minefields in Northern Iraq. Some were deliberate offensive minefields found in border regions, while others were indiscriminate anti-personnel minefields, usually unmarked and their purpose unclear. They were commonly found in and around villages previously destroyed by Iraqi Forces; defensive positions; observation posts and control points. Although no ASCH members suffered wounds from mine incidents, other members of Coalition Forces suffered several mine related fatalities.

Physical Security/Threat. There was no civil authority in Northern Iraq and accordingly, the Rule of Law was tenuous.²

Iraqi Army Artillery Threat.

The Iraqi Military threat of Artillery and the potential to use chemical weapons, with Rocket Assisted projectiles (RAP), that were within range of the Australian base at Gir-i-Pit. *Table 1* provides the list of weapons that were held by the Iraqi Military Forces after the Gulf War 1991.

Whilst not noted within the ASCH POR, the Iraqi Armed Forces were deployed south of Dahuk. This was

¹ Land Headquarters (LHQ) Operations Order (OPORD 4/91) dated 061053Z May 1991.

² OPERATION HABITAT POST OPERATION REPORT dated 31 July 1992 pp. 29-30.

Table 1.
Iraqi Army Artillery within Northern Iraq, 1991^{3 4 5 6}

| Weapon | Range(s) | In range of ASCH? Y/N |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| D-74 122mm Towed Howitzer | 24 Km | Y |
| D-20 152mm Towed Howitzer | Range Conventional 17.4km Range rocket Assisted 24km | Y |
| G5 155mm Towed Howitzer | Range Conventional 30km Range rocket Assisted 39km Range rocket Assisted 50km | Y |
| GHN-45 155mm Towed Howitzer | Range Conventional 17.8km Range Base Bleed 39.6km | Y |
| 2S1 Gvozdika 122 mm SPH (Self Propelled Howitzer) | Range Conventional 17.8km Range Base Bleed 39.6km | Y |
| 2S3 Akatsiya 152 mm SPH (Self Propelled Howitzer) | Range Conventional 18.5km Range rocket Assisted 24km | Y |
| AMX-GCT 155 mm SPH (Self Propelled Howitzer) | Range Conventional 23.5km Range rocket Assisted 28km | Y |
| ASTROS II MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) | Range Minimum 15km* Range Maximum 35km | Y |
| BM-21 Grad 122 mm MRL (Multiple Rocket Launcher) | Range Maximum 21.3km | Y |

approximately 15km southwest from the Australian Contingent located in Gir-i-pit. It is unknown what types of artillery pieces were available however, all of the types of weapons listed within Table 1, were within range of the Australian Contingent

* The United Nations classifies a rocket, bomb or artillery shell impacting within 1000m from a UN Observation Post, or population as a close proximity strike. This is due to the high-speed velocity of fragmentation objects; shrapnel; explosive shock waves and heat risks to people.

Table 2.
Estimated Number of Artillery Pieces Located South of Latitude 37° North.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Immediately available | 64 |
| Reinforcement within 24 hrs | 6 |
| Reinforcement within 48 hrs | 35 |
| Total number of Artillery Pieces | 105 |

Within Table 2, it is evident that there existed a significant risk of attack against the NATO Force (including ASCH), hence the enhanced combat composition of the NATO Force, along with a high degree of Close Air Support

³ Janes Land Warfare Platforms. Artillery and Air Defence. <https://www.ihs.com/products/janes-artillery-air-defence.html> (Subscription required).
⁴ Global Security.org. Iraqi Ground Forces-1991. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/iraq/ground-91.htm> (Subscription required).
⁵ Global Security.org. Baath Ground Forces Equipment. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/iraq/ground-equipment-intro.htm> (Subscription Required).
⁶ Australian Contingent Intelligence Summary Regarding Dispositions of Various Belligerents in the Area of Operations. Date and Signal identifier unknown. Information regarding Iraqi artillery Compiled by C2-CTF dated 29 May 1991.

(CAS). The availability of Iraqi Armour is unknown in type, however the numbers and response time to deploy to the Northern Iraq area are described within Table 3. It is known that there was a significant armoured presence, of which the Iraqi tanks were withdrawn after the lodgement of the NATO Force.

Notwithstanding, the amount of Iraqi Armour that had the potential to retaliate or attack the NATO Force was a significant threat, along with the drawing of reinforcements from the 24 and 48 hour Operational ability to deploy. Naturally, there would have been the NATO Force combat air threat that the Iraqis would have an awareness, which would have been a deterring factor of any plan of attack.

Table 3.
Estimated Number of Iraqi Military Tanks Located South of latitude 37° North

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Immediately available | 37 |
| Reinforcement within 24 hrs | 23 |
| Reinforcement within 48 hrs | 40 |
| Total number of Tanks | 92^{7 8 9 10} |

⁷ Janes Land Warfare Platforms. Armoured Fighting Vehicles. <https://www.ihs.com/products/janes-artillery-air-defence.html> (Subscription required).
⁸ Global Security.org. Iraqi Ground Forces-1991. www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/iraq/ground-91.htm (Subscription required).
⁹ Global Security.org. Baath Ground Forces Equipment. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/iraq/ground-equipment-intro.htm> (Subscription Required).
¹⁰ Australian Contingent Intelligence Summary Regarding Dispositions of Various Belligerents in the Area of Operations. Date and Signal identifier unknown. Information regarding Iraqi armour Compiled by C2-CTF dated 29 May 1991



Iraqi 2S3 Akatsiya 152mm Self Propelled Gun

The Government's Reasons for not Reclassifying OPERATION HABITAT

The response by the Clarke Review of 2002 into the proposition to have OP HABITAT retrospectively reclassified from "Hazardous" service or non-warlike service to warlike service, as a result of what was experienced at the time by ASCH, was the following:

Recommendation 29. "No change be made to the eligibility provisions of the VEA relating to service providing humanitarian relief to the Kurds as part of OPERATION HABITAT in 1991."

The reasons provided by the Clarke Review [Veteran Entitlement Review Committee (VERC)], are briefly noted as the following:

The VERC contended that it was evident that Operation Habitat was a humanitarian aid relief effort to the Kurds in northern Iraq. Personnel involved in the operation did not have specific ROE to actively pursue military objectives. The ROE were defensive only.

The VERC considered that there is no reason to accord qualifying service, that Operation Habitat was not warlike service and that the current assessment of this service as hazardous service is appropriate.¹¹

Upon receipt of the response, the APPVA requested to have the Recommendation from the Clarke Review taken to a higher level of deeper consideration and research. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs at that time, Alan Griffin, MP, forwarded the APPVA request to the Directorate of Nature of Service Branch (NOSB) for further consideration.

The Directorate of Nature of Service Review reasons for not Reclassifying OPERATION HABITAT.

Through the responses to Bruce Relph and the APPVA from the then Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Dr Mike Kelly AM, MP, the general reasons for refusing to retrospectively reclassify ASCH as follows:

1. Reaffirmation that OP HABITAT is classified as hazardous Defence service under s120 [Standard of Proof] of the Veteran Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA);
2. Hazardous service was introduced into the VEA in 1986

¹¹ Veteran Entitlement Review Committee (VERC), Vol 2, Chap 14, 14.165 to 14.169 – Post-World War II issues, 2003.

3. That Hazardous service was later defined by Cabinet in May 1993 as a category of non-warlike service, which exposes personnel to hazards above and beyond normal peacetime duty;
4. Hazardous service provides consideration of disability pension claims using the more generous reverse criminal standard of proof [Reasonable Hypothesis];
5. Under s7(A), VEA, is Qualifying Service eligibility is dependent upon being allotted for duty within an AO described in Schedule 2 of VEA;
6. Allotment for duty is the preserve of the CDF and the VCDF who may allot personnel for duty within an AO if they consider an operation to be sufficiently hazardous; and
7. The requirement for allotment for duty is only made at a time when the personnel are exposed to potential risk by reason of the fact that there is a continuing danger from activities of hostile forces or dissident elements while deployed on duty relating directly to the warlike operations or state of disturbance which required the declaration of an AO to be made.¹²

ADF Definition of Warlike & Non-warlike Service.

In order to understand the technical dynamics of this matter, it is important to note the Cabinet guidance for determining warlike service declared operations.

The definition of "warlike service" and "non-warlike service" in s5c(1) were inserted into the VEA by the *Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Budget and Compensation Measures) Act 1997* (No 157/1997) with effect from **13 May 1997**. They are defined s5c(1) as service that is determined in writing by the Minister for Defence as warlike [or non-warlike]. A more helpful description is provided by Douglas (1999):

Warlike Service:

Warlike service covers those military activities where the application of force is authorised to pursue specific military objectives and there is an expectation of casualties. These operations can encompass but are not limited to:

- a state of declared war;
- conventional combat operations against an armed adversary and;
- **Peace Enforcement** operations which are military operations in support of diplomatic efforts to restore peace between belligerents who may not be consenting to intervention and may be engaged in combat activities. Normally but not necessarily always they will be conducted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, where the application of all necessary force is authorised to restore peace and security or other like tasks.

A member of the Defence Force is taken to have been rendering operational service during any period of warlike service. Warlike service is also considered to be qualifying

¹² Letter to B. Relph from The Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, dated 8 Sep 2009.



Iraqi T-72 Tanks

service for the purpose of the Service pension [Qualifying Service].

Non-Warlike Service.

Non-Warlike Service covers those activities short of warlike operations where there is a risk associated with the assigned task(s) and where the application of force is limited to self-defence. Casualties could occur but are not expected.

- **Hazardous** Activities exposing individuals or units to a degree of hazard above and beyond that of normal peacetime duty. This can include mine avoidance and clearance, weapons inspections and destruction and Defence Force aid to Civil Power [DACP]. Service protected or assisted evacuations [SPE or SAE] and other operations requiring the application of minimum force to effect the protection of personnel and property, or other like activities are also covered. There is no entitlement to Qualifying Service.¹³

ADF Definition of Peacekeeping Service.

Peacekeeping service is an operation involving military personnel, without powers of enforcement, to help restore and maintain peace in an area of conflict with the consent of all parties. These operations can encompass but are not limited to:

- activities short of Peace Enforcement where the authorisation of the application of force is normally limited to minimum force necessary for self defence;
- activities, such as the enforcement of sanctions in a relatively benign environment which expose individuals or units to "hazards" as described above;

- military observer activities with the task of monitoring cease-fires, redirecting and alleviating cease-fire tension, providing "good offices" for negotiations and the impartial verification of assistance or cease-fire agreements, and other like activities; or
- activities that would normally involve the provision of humanitarian relief.

Notes:

1. Humanitarian relief in the above context does not include normal peacetime operations such as cyclone or earthquake relief flights or assistance.
2. Peacemaking is frequently used colloquially in place of Peace Enforcement. However, in the developing doctrine of Peace operations, Peacemaking is considered as the diplomatic process of seeking a solution to a dispute through negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation or other peaceful means.

A member of the Defence Force is taken to have been rendering operational service during any period of non-warlike service. Non-warlike service is not considered to be qualifying service for the purpose of Service pension.¹⁴

Humanitarian Intervention.

The US termed this Operation as a "*Humanitarian Intervention*." A unique descriptor for an Operation that has never seen such lethal combat firepower deployed in order to protect the Kurds from internal belligerents, the Iranian, Iraqi and Turkish Forces. In this instance, by using the term "*Intervention*" it defines the military action to prevent a massacre of hundreds of thousands of the Kurd population who are jammed in the Northern Iraq area, bordered with Iran and Turkey.

¹³ Creyke, R., Sutherland, P., *Veterans' Entitlements Law*, The Federation Press and Softlaw Community Projects, pp 24-25, 2000.

¹⁴ Creyke, R., Sutherland, P., *Veterans' Entitlements Law*, The Federation Press and Softlaw Community Projects, p25, 2000.

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Humanitarian **intervention** has been **defined** as a state's use of "**military force against another state when the chief publicly declared aim of that military action is ending human-rights violations being perpetrated by the state against which it is directed.**"¹⁵ It is argued that had the NATO Force invaded Northern Iraq and established a Security Zone in this instance.¹⁶

For the first time, the UN Security Council (UNSC) had linked humanitarian concerns to International Peace and Security and had given humanitarianism greater weight than non-intervention. This was detailed in UNSCR 688 dated 5 April 1991. UNSCR 678 (1991) was also used to implement the deployment of NATO Forces to Northern Iraq for OP HAVEN and OP PROVIDE COMFORT, which was under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to restore peace by all means necessary.

There is no one standard or legal definition of humanitarian intervention. The field of analysis (such as law, ethics or politics) often influences the definition that is chosen. Differences in definition include whether humanitarian intervention is limited to instances where there is an absence of consent from the host state; whether humanitarian intervention is limited to punishment actions; or whether humanitarian intervention is limited to cases where there has been explicit UN Security Council authorization for action.¹⁷ There is, however, a general consensus on some of its essential characteristics.¹⁸

1. Humanitarian intervention involves the threat and use of military forces as a central feature.
2. It is an intervention in the sense that it entails interfering in the internal affairs of a state by sending military forces into the territory or airspace of a sovereign state that has not committed an act of aggression against another state.
3. The intervention is in response to situations that do not necessarily pose direct threats to states' strategic interests, but instead is motivated by humanitarian objectives.

It is interesting to note that Defence has held the long-term view that the ASCH was merely a "*Humanitarian Assistance or Aid*" to the Kurds. What appears to be overlooked by consecutive Governments since the Clarke Review of 2002 is the mounting evidence that the Operation was dangerous, incurred danger on the members of ASCH and meets the requirements of Warlike service. We will look into the technicalities of such classification of service a little later.

The View of the United Nations.

Humanitarian intervention is a concept that can allow the use of force in a situation when the UN Security Council cannot pass a resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations due to veto by a permanent member.

¹⁵ Retrieved on 12 May 2015, from Wikipedia link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanitarian_intervention

¹⁶ Hylan, Heval, "The 1991 Humanitarian Intervention in Kurdistan and Iraq's Sovereignty", p. 54.

¹⁷ Jennifer M. Welsh. *Humanitarian Intervention and International Relations*. Ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

¹⁸ Alton Frye. 'Humanitarian Intervention: Crafting a Workable Doctrine.' New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2000

Chapter VII allows the Security Council to take action in situations where there is a "*threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression*". However, all five permanent members to that effect must support any resolution. The reference to the "*right*" of humanitarian intervention was, in the post Cold-War context for the first time invoked in 1990 by the UK delegation after Russia and China had failed to support a no-fly zone over Iraq.

Therefore, in addition to humanitarian objectives the concept is designed to circumvent the UN Security Council by invoking a right. However, critics base their arguments on the 1648 treaty of Westphalia, which states the rights of sovereign nations to act freely within their own borders.

This is upheld in the UN Charter of 1945, where in article 2(7) it is stated, "*nothing should authorize intervention in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.*" Thus, because both proponents and opponents of humanitarian intervention have their legal grounds on the Charter of the United Nations, there is still an ongoing controversy as to whether sovereignty or humanitarian causes should prevail. The United Nations has also continuously been involved with issues related to humanitarian intervention, with the UN intervening in an increasing number of conflicts within the borders of troubled nations.¹⁹

In relation to UN approved Humanitarian Intervention, Australia has deployed troops to the following Humanitarian Intervention Operations:

1. The US led Unified Task Force (UNITAF) to Somalia, where the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Battalion Group (1RAR BG), deployed to protect and patrol the Humanitarian Relief Sector (HRS) of Baidoa from Dec 1992 to May 1993. UNITAF handed over to the Second UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), of which a US "Ranger" Force²⁰ remained. ADF personnel posted to UNOSOM II were HQ Staff, Movement Controllers, Air Traffic Controllers, Ground Crew and an SAS Quick Reaction Force.²¹ Classified as warlike service.
2. The UN Assistance Mission to Rwanda (UNAMIR II), during the period 1994-1995; where the ADF deployed a Medical Support Force (MSF) to support the Peacekeeping Force (PKF), Internally Displaced People (IDP), and any other medical emergencies. This deployment was well known for the 33 – man Casualty Clearing Post (CCP), located in Kibeho where the Australian soldiers witnessed the massacre of over 4,000 people. Retrospectively reclassified as warlike service.
3. The ADF and AFP deployment to the UN Transitional Authority in East Timor (UNTAET) in 1999, after the violent eruption after the elections for self-governance in September 1999. UNTAET succeeded the UN Assistance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET), which was a UN PKF and Observer Force to ensure that

¹⁹ To protect sovereignty or to protect lives? (2008, May 15). "The Economist".

²⁰ **Note:** the US Rangers did not arrive until late August 1993 for OP GOTHIC SERPENT, which was outside the jurisdiction of UNOSOM II.

²¹ Deployed in 1994 until closure of the ASC UNOSOM II.

Free and Fair Elections occurred. Classified as warlike service.

4. British Military Intervention in the civil war in Sierra Leone in 2000. This operation developed into the International Military Advisory & Training Team (IMATT), of which Australian Army Officers were seconded to the British Army during the period January 2001 through to March 2003. Classified as warlike service.

In terms of the UN position regarding OP HAVEN, UNSCR 688 of 5 April 1991 particularly noted that the actions of Iraq against the Kurdish people was a threat to international peace and security. Therefore, it is derived that the Humanitarian Intervention had provided the US and UK **with the use of any force as necessary to achieve the Mission.**

Ministerial Declaration by the Minister of Defence 1991.

The Hawke Government's Minister for Defence, Gordon Bilney provided a message to those about to deploy to Northern Iraq. In summary he highlighted the human suffering that the ASCH will confront. Bilney also stated *"...as Service Personnel, they are used to venturing into areas that others avoid."*

Bilney also stated: *"The risks which you will face have been assessed as moderate. A Moderate risk²² in the Defence context is different to that risk elsewhere, but that something you already face on a regular basis. Never the less, the conflict is over and thus the primary source of danger has been removed. The hazard principally disease related and due to the uncertainty of the situation, but I have confidence in your training and the measures which have been taken to protect you."*

What Mr Bilney stated was that the ADF was conditioned at that point in time to being exposed to such harsh, hazardous and dangerous environments, with the threat of violence and death. This approach is far from realistic expectations. The deployment was going into an area that was hostile, had significant threat of attack from a range of belligerents, un-marked and marked land mines and the toxic environment of burning oil wells that would travel with wind into the AO.

The measures to protect ASCH were from a highly lethal NATO Force, along with the requirement for the ASCH to protect themselves with an unusual amount of firepower that has never been provided to a Medical Support Team since the deployment to Northern Iraq. In simplistic terms, Medics are normally protected by Infantry or other combat elements in a protected area, in order for them to conduct their primary role.

One example is with the MSF UNAMIR II with a Rifle Company providing security and protection of the ADF Medical Staff. A similar situation to that of ASCH with NATO Forces and Australian Army Military Police protecting the Medical Support Teams.

Another example was the ADF Medical or ADF Health Care Professional (HCP) personnel involved in both Afghanistan from 2001 and Iraq from 2003. These personnel were protected by Infantry regardless of whether they were located in Field Hospitals or Forward Operating Bases (FOB).

The point being made is that Medics and HCP are not expected to protect themselves, but their patients. This contradicts the reasons provided by the Government in response to the Reclassification matter, where it was stated that the ASCH *"...did not have robust Rules of Engagement (ROE) to achieve a given military objective"*. ADF HCP and Medics simply do not engage with and destroy an enemy.

Rather they support the Combat, Combat Support and Combat Services Support Arms in achieving this military objective. Regardless of the fact that medical personnel are non-combatants, they are part of a military operation. Hence the awarding of the AASM to those who were involved in for example in the Gulf War, Rwanda, Somalia, East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Minister had allocated that service of ASCH was to be "Hazardous Service", which was then non-operational service, later known as non-warlike service, within Schedule 3, Chapter 4 of the Veteran Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA), under INST 182. The benefit of this classification is minimal in comparison to warlike service.

The beneficial approach by the VEA is only applied in the Standard of Proof under the Reasonable Hypothesis, which is the more advantageous way to prove that an illness or injury occurred during that particular non-warlike service. The problem that many members of ASCH have commented about Minister Bilney's message was that it assumed that ADF members were used to Potential Traumatic Events (PTE). That going to Iraq would be normal for them. It must be noted that out of all of the members of the ASCH, only two had been previously deployed on operations

The Assessment of a moderate risk and being different to elsewhere within the Middle East region at that time is something that these deployed members were supposed to have faced on a regular basis. This is not correct. The DIO Military Threat Assessment (MTA) that was assessed as "Moderate" is perhaps in contrast to the remainder of the AO, which had ADF personnel classified as warlike service at the same time as the presence of ASCH in Iraq. A contradiction in terms of the MTA, with the threat of the Iraqi weapons noted in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

The beginning, conduct and withdrawal of the Operation, in the view of a number of ASCH veterans I have interviewed describes a completely different picture. The ASCH Intelligence Officer who had an overall picture of the situation assessed the risk in the AO as significant and that the danger was ongoing and incurred. The numerous belligerent factions and the presence of Iraqi Forces both clandestine and overt were attempting to disrupt the operation. As a result of a deteriorating situation Northern Iraq, the NATO Force hastily withdrew to Turkey.

Afterward, the US named OP PROVIDE COMFORT morphed into a No-Fly-Zone (NFZ) Operation, before, during and after the departure of the NATO land forces.

²² Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO) had determined that the risk to ASCH members was moderate.

Interpreted Service Classification Definitions toward ASCH.

**Table 4
Schedule 2 of the VEA, Volume 4,
Allotted for Duty “warlike” service.**

The warlike classification is evident in Items 10 and 11 of Schedule 2 to the VEA (Table 4), for qualifying service as being “Allotted for Duty.” In other words, the ADF presence that was present before and after the War phase of GW91 (aka Desert Shield (Aug 90 to Jan 91) and Desert Storm 15 Jan- 28 Feb 1991), are deemed to have rendered warlike service and qualified for War Service Pension accordingly. This is of course an exception of the case for those members of ASCH who were serving within the declared warlike zone, within Item 11 of Schedule 2.

In considering the definitions of warlike and non-warlike service, consideration must be made due to the fact that the NATO Force invaded Northern Iraq using the approval of the UN within the auspices of Chapter VII to the UN Charter.

The literal invasion of Northern Iraq to establish a Security Zone was not at the consent of the sovereignty of Iraq, as they were the aggressors in this particular operation in the beginning.

The Operation was a highly armed Humanitarian Intervention, which is clearly a more robust military operation that is highly comparative to Peace Enforcement. Humanitarian Intervention Operations by the ADF in Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor and South Viet Nam in 1975 are precedents that have been made toward such Humanitarian Intervention Operations.

Therefore, given the extensive explanatory notes into the Security of ASCH; the conduct of NATO in it’s overt

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>10. The area comprising the following countries and sea areas: (i) Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Island of Cyprus; (ii) the sea areas contained within the Gulf of Suez, the Gulf of Aqaba, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman; (iii) the sea area contained within the Arabian Sea north of the boundary formed by joining each of the following points to the next: (A) 20° 30’ N 70° 40’ E; (B) 14° 30’ N 67° 35’ E; (C) 8° 30’ N 60° 00’ E; (D) 6° 20’ N 53° 52’ E; (E) 5° 48’ N 49° 02’ E; (iv) the sea area contained within the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea east of 30° E.</p> | <p>The period from and including 2 August 1990 to and including 9 June 1991</p> |
| <p>11. The area comprising Iraq and Kuwait</p> | <p>The period from and including 23 February 1991 to and including 9 June 1991</p> |

Intervention into Northern Iraq, the enforced Security Zone to repatriate the Kurdish Population, the operation would therefore be logically termed as warlike service for ASCH members.

The hostilities had not petered out as was suggested by Minister Bilney in his address to the ASCH troops. The War phase may have been completed, however the area was far from being safe or at a “moderate risk level”. This is indicative of the ‘Allotted for Duty’ [warlike service], that was present from 2 August 1990 to 9 June 1991.

Ongoing Intelligence Summaries (INTSUM) reported a deteriorating situation almost immediately after the repatriation of several hundred thousand Kurds. The Ground Forces were hastily withdrawn as a result of the rising tensions, however the NFZ Patrols remained active for almost 12 years, in order to protect the Kurds, control and patrol the air space in the AO.

Classification of Service Contradictions.

As previously noted, The Hawke Government classified the service of ASCH to “Hazardous” service. Yet, it is noted that the Iraq Area of Operations (AO) for “Operational” service, or what is now known as “warlike” service, the area is overlapped with ASCH which was “Hazardous” service or non-warlike service.

This means that any ADF member not allocated to ASCH, but on a different prescribed Operation in exactly the same AO or bounds as ASCH, are entitled to the much more generous warlike service, ASCH veterans are not entitled.

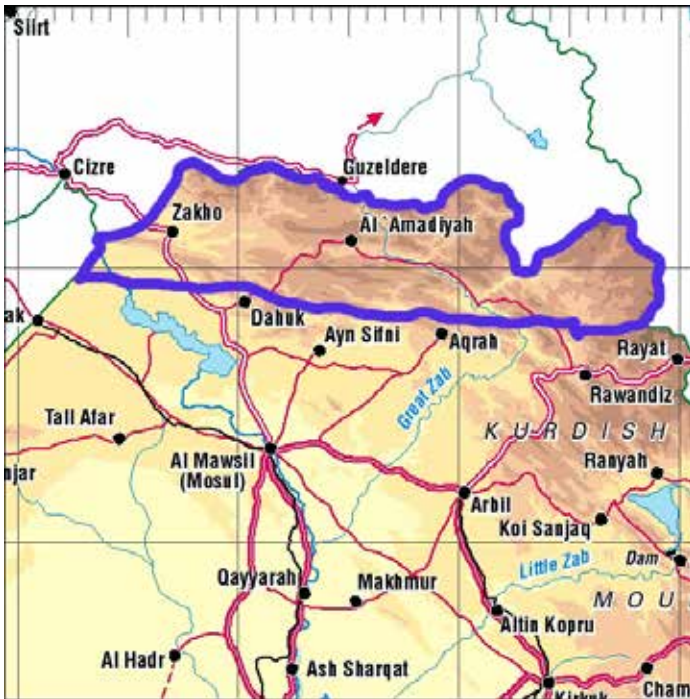
Table 4 provides the extract of Volume 4 to the VEA, Schedule 2 (Allotted for Duty), which is warlike service. The reader will note the AO encompasses the areas of the Gulf War region, particularly from 2 August 1990 to 9 June 1991. ASCH personnel were serving in the same region but classified as non-warlike service, due to being South of the 38 degree Latitude. Regardless of the location, ASCH was operating in the same geographical location as Item 11 of Schedule 2 of the VEA.

In addition to this anomaly, are the TCD RAAF and other ADF Aircrew who served on a range of NFZ Operations over Iraq and Kuwait from 30 June 1991 up to 12 January 2003, when hostilities commenced with the impending invasion of Iraq by “The Coalition of the willing.”

The overlap is clearly seen when the first of ASCH arrived on 16 May 1991 and as a result of the recommendations of the British and US Governments due to the deteriorating situation, the NATO Force was hastily withdrawn around 17 June 1991 through Turkey and then to Cyprus. The ASCH remained in Cyprus until they embarked on an RAAF No. 33 Sqn B707 and returned to Australia on 30 June 1991.

Reclassification of Operations – identified precedents.

The Clarke Review did not consider the evidence that the APPVA possesses now in terms of the additional information in supporting the claim for reclassification of ASCH to warlike service. Whilst the ASCH may have had restrictive, but developing ROE that was reactive to the situation on the ground, ASCH was a part of the NATO



Force as so directed in the LHQ OPOD 4/91.

ASCH was a Medical Support Team, under command of the 3rd Brigade RM Commando, who, along with the entire NATO Force had robust ROE, Combat Fire support and was protecting the Kurds in repatriation back to their homeland. They were prepared for the worst situation and potential engagement of belligerents. ASCH provided Medical Support – in a Coalition **Humanitarian Intervention Operation**, not *Humanitarian Aid* as is so incorrectly stated by the Australian Government.

The presence of a highly armed and ready NATO Force was a deterrent to belligerents such as Iraq and Iran, however

it did not stop some of the Kurdish and Iraqi military covert belligerents in attempting to interfere with the process in addition to the other threats. The end result of course was the hasty withdrawal, due to the deterioration of the security situation.

The comparison of OP HABITAT to Afghanistan is not commensurate, nor appropriate to those warlike operations that have been retrospectively re-classified. It is obvious that there was a threat on the land and in the air for the NATO Forces of OP HAVEN. The un-marked land mines also provided for a dangerous environment. The DIO Military Threat Assessments [MTA] must have also identified such threats within the AO, as the 'Allotted to Duty' provisions remained in both Kuwait and Iraq until 9 June 1991 – when ASCH had been into their 4th week on deployment in Iraq.

Iraqi No Fly Zone Reclassification

In 2008, the retrospective reclassification of the Third Country Deployments (TCD) of ADF Aircrew to the Northern and Southern Iraq airspace No-Fly Zones [NFZ], from non-warlike service to warlike service saw little resistance or argument by Defence and the Federal Government. The TCD NFZ Operations were actively patrolled by UK and US warplanes, with ADF aircrew.

These NFZ Operations are now classified as warlike service and from 30 June 1991 through to February 2003. Suffice to say the MTA would not have differed to any degree for the ADF TCD Aircrew operating within the AO. The same MTA for TCD NFZ would have differed little from the classification of warlike service in Item 11 of Schedule 2 to the VEA. It is unknown why a separate MTA was utilised when deciding the Conditions of Service for members of ASCH, as it would logically be the same, if not increasingly risky for land-based soldiers operating in Iraq.

It should also be noted the Iraqi Air Force was all but decimated during the war phase (Operation Desert Storm). Therefore the level of incurred danger against the aircrews was significantly less than that incurred by the ASCH on the ground.

Change of entitlement – RAAF Ubon.

Later retrospective reclassification was also approved for the RAAF based in Ubon, Thailand, along with an Australian Army Engineer unit to warlike service. Yet there was no significant threat in comparison to those who served in ASCH in Northern Iraq. RAAF Ubon was also awarded the Viet Nam Logistics Support Medal (VLSM), although the unit was no-where near the South Vietnamese AO, nor was its task to venture outside of Thai airspace.

This is an unusual precedent, particularly with the awarding of the VLSM, which was accepted by the Government in 2013.²³ This situation does not provide logic to the matter, however it demonstrates the flexibility of the Government to accept the argument of lobbying for awards and retrospective reclassification of service.

Reclassification of UNICEF Assistance by

²³ Media Release, Senator David Feeney, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, dated 21 February 2013.

RAAF in Viet Nam, 1975.

The RAAF Transport Support Flight [TSF] and HQRICDET (S), were deployed to Saigon's main airport [Tan Sun Nhut Airport], at the request by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), to Australia to airlift orphans out of South Viet Nam (SVN) in 1975. The TSF and HQRICDET (S) were noted to have been seconded to UNICEF and did not have any apparent ROE or Orders to Open Fire (OFOF), mostly un-armed, however were classified as non-warlike service for the period 29 March 1975 to 28 April 1975.

However, in 2001, after lobbying by that particular group of veterans, the matter was reclassified to warlike service for one day or one sortie in SVN. As a result the RAAF Veterans who served on this mission also received the AASM 75- Clasp VIETNAM.

It is noted that the UNICEF Operation in SVN was not a defined Humanitarian Intervention, nor did the UN Security Council sanction it by utilising Chapter VII of the UN Charter. However it was noted by the DHAAT Inquiry into the recognition for the Vietnam Medal Inquiry, that: *"The Government expressly described the Mission as Humanitarian, to transport fleeing refugees in Da Nang to a place of safety in Saigon. However, Da Nang fell before the mission got underway. The mission was then modified to providing relief further south and to assist in the distribution of Red Cross supplies and other non-military tasks."*²⁴

From 4 to 17 April 1975 war orphans were evacuated from Saigon to Bangkok in the US led mission known as 'Operation Babylift'. Other sorties carrying relief supplies were flown from Saigon to An Thoi and to the island of Phu Quoc. The situation deteriorated, so the Detachment moved to Bangkok. The Australian Embassy Staff were evacuated, with protection provided by four Airfield Defence Guards (ADG) armed with pistols.

This RAAF Humanitarian mission was retrospectively recognised as warlike service and the AASM 75- Clasp VIETNAM awarded accordingly.

Reclassification of Sierra Leone.

Retrospective reclassification of the conditions of service for the Australian Army Contingent (ASC) to the UK led International Military Advisor and Training Team [IMATT] Sierra Leone, were made in 2008 from non-warlike to warlike service.

The Rudd Government reclassification of the ASC to IMATT was enacted because the ASC Officers ventured outside the limits of the Sierra Leone Capital City of Freetown. Apparently the MTA was greater in the countryside, than the situation was within Freetown.

Reclassification of the Israeli/Lebanese War of 2006.

In 2007, Australian Army UN Military Observer (UNMO), then CAPT Matina Stanfield (later MAJ Matina Jewell)

appeared on the ABC production of *"Australian Story"* presenting her near death experiences and serious injury as a result of the Israeli/Lebanese War of 2006 (12 July to 14 August 2006). Four members of Matina's UNMO Team located at Patrol Base (PB) Khiyam (Team Sierra) UN Military Observation Post (OP), were all killed whilst taking shelter in their OP by an Israeli Aerial precision-guided bomb destroying the clearly marked UN OP, on 25 July 2006.

CAPT Stanfield (at that time) was extremely fortunate to have been forced to rotate for an in-coming rotation of MAJ Hans-Peter Lang, an Austrian UNMO, around 19 July 2006. Had Matina remained with her team, she would have undoubtedly been killed on 25 July.²⁵

Matina's story drew the attention of the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, who had MAJ Jewell and three of her counterparts reclassified to warlike service from non-warlike service as a result of these UNMO being caught in the middle of the war and continuing to Observe within the UN Charter of the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO). The reclassification was from 12 July to 14 August 2006.

East Timor – same AO, different Entitlements.

In East Timor, during UNTAET (OP TANAGER and CITADEL), members of the ADF Australian Training Support Team – East Timor (ATST-EM), which was mainly an Australian Army manned Team, were tasked to train the East Timor Defence Force (ETDF). This was a Defence Cooperation Program (DCP), however it was within the UN Mandate for East Timor, in terms of nation building.

ADF members who served in the AO of East Timor on land, sea and air, were classified as eligible for warlike service, which were the declared areas and designated sea coordinates of East Timor and the West Timorese enclave of Oecussi were within the warlike zone of operations. The ADF UN Military Liaison Officers (UNMLO), were unarmed, had no ROE, nor were an aggressive force to achieve a particular military objective, however were approved for all warlike service entitlements.

ATST-EM was unarmed, training a former guerrilla force with their New Zealand, Portuguese and Korean counterparts in remote areas of East Timor. All of the soldiers of the countries that served alongside ATST-EM soldiers were recognised by their country's active service conditions medals and were permitted to be awarded and wear the UN embellishments and receive the UN Medal East Timor.

ATST-EM was registered with the UN PKF, but was classified by the Australian Government to be on Peacetime Service and not permitted to wear UN embellishments by the ADF. The reasons for this situation are unclear. In other words ATST-EM soldiers served in a declared warlike AO or zone – but received entitlements as though they were serving in Australia. They were performing their tasks according to a range of UNSC Resolutions, which were Mission essential.

²⁴ Inquiry into the eligibility of the Royal Australian Air Force personnel serving in Vietnam, between 29 March to 29 April 1975, for the Vietnam Medal [DHAAT] 2009, p.10.

²⁵ Jewell, Matina, "Caught in the Crossfire – An Australian Peacekeeper beyond the front-line", 2011, Allen & Unwin, ISBN 978 1 74237 567 0.

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The Australian Service Medal 75- (ASM) Clasp EAST TIMOR was apparently reluctantly awarded to the members of ATST-EM. Previously, some members of ATST-EM were awarded the UN Medal East Timor, as were their ADF cohorts in the Office of Defence Force Development (ODFD) and those other foreign counterparts who served alongside ATST-EM, conducting the same task. Once it was realised that the UN Medal was awarded to ATST-EM soldiers, the UN medal was forfeited from them, by order of the Office of the Chief of the Army (Australia). In contrast, the ODFD staff retained their UN Medals.

Forfeiture of a medal from a service person, particularly a soldier is one of the most humiliating and insulting acts, particularly when their surrounding countrymen and their foreign cohorts were awarded the UN Medal East Timor collectively, for conducting the same duties.

In 2007, after the success of the Rwanda reclassification in February 2006, the APPVA took the ATST-EM matter directly to the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard. Mr Howard was most supportive to have ATST-EM be reclassified to warlike service entitlements and to be afforded the UN Embellishments, including the awarding of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) Clasp EAST TIMOR and the UN Medal.

Such heartache experienced by the ATST-EM soldiers could have been easily avoided with common sense, equity and fairness. Thankfully, the Howard Government saw the hypocritical situation that these soldiers were placed into, by serving in a declared warlike AO or zone, on Peacetime service conditions.

A letter sent to the APPVA, by Mr Howard, approved the reclassification and the approval for the UN Embellishments, and was one of his last acts as the Australian Prime Minister, prior to losing the 2007 Election to the Rudd ALP Government. This wrong was reluctantly accepted and corrected in 2008, by the Rudd Government.

The situation of ATST-EM is no different to the case of ASCH with other ADF members who were operating in the Gulf War AO within Item 11, Schedule 2 of the VEA. ASCH was located in Iraq, the same warlike declared zone as other ADF elements and personnel during their period of service in Iraq and Kuwait from 2 August 1990 through to 9 June 1991 [Item 11].

The MTA must have been the same for those ADF elements to be determined as warlike service within Items 10 & 11, however the ASCH was located in the same declared zone in Item 11 during the same time of deployment, but declared non-warlike service. A contradictory situation, just like the ATST-EM case.

Summary of Precedents.

This situation of Classification for ASCH along with other ADF members serving in the relatively same AO, is highly questionable and leaves the precedent open for ASCH to be reclassified to warlike service due to its geographical location within the declared warlike zone as designated in Item 11 of Schedule 2 to the VEA.

The cases presented argue the point that retrospective reclassification has occurred for a range of ADF Operations

including TCD NFZ; RAAF Ubon; RAAF Vietnam 1975; IMATT in Sierra Leone; UNTSO in Southern Lebanon; and ATST-EM all provide tangible examples of the service rendered by members of ASCH, that logically questions their classification of non-warlike service.

What are the Benefits of Reclassification to Warlike service?

Given the high ratio of casualties from ASCH, particularly toward the latency of Mental illness and other illnesses that are linked to their respective deployment in Iraq, entitlements for retrospective reclassification to warlike service provides a veteran the following:

1. War Service Pension (QS), if the eligible veteran satisfies one of the three criteria:
 - a. Reaching the Age of 60 (known as the "burnt out veterans" pension);
 - b. An Invalided veteran has an Impairment rating of 40 points or more under the Guide to Assessment of Rates of a veteran's Pension (GARP);
 - c. An Invalided veteran is unable to work more than 8 hours per week for conditions that are not accepted by the Commonwealth; and
 - d. The veteran is in receipt of the Special Rate of Pension, being Totally & Permanently Incapacitated (TPI).²⁶
2. Home Loan Assistance (various conditions apply);
3. The award of Active Service and Campaign Medals.

Medals for OP HABITAT.

The ASM (75-) Clasp IRAQ was awarded to the returned veterans of ASCH in 1991. What has been discovered in Defence Freedom of Information (FOI) applications, was that the Commander of the 3rd Brigade, Royal Marine Commando recommended that the 75 members of ASCH be awarded the British General Service Medal 1962- (GSM) Clasp "N. IRAQ & S. TURKEY".

The correspondence that we have obtained shows that the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom (MODUK) officially offered the GSM to the ASCH members, as they satisfied the Royal Warrant for the award of the GSM, by virtue of being under their immediate command as a Commonwealth Force.

There has been no documentation located within Defence that declines the offer of the GSM. In fact, we do not know why the GSM was not accepted by the Australian Government or, in particular the ADF. The GSM is a Foreign Award, however the Australian Government accepted British awards up to 5 October 1992. There is no logical reason as to why these deserving ASCH members were not permitted to receive the medal and hence did not receive the GSM offer from MODUK.

In addition to the GSM, it was known that the US offered their Service Medal [South West Asia] to ASCH. Apparently, this offer was also declined, however by who and what

²⁶ The War Service Pension is Means and Assets Tested. The maximum payment (per fortnight) for Singles is \$860.20; and Couples Rate is \$648.40 each. Fact Sheet IS30 updated 20 March 2015.



Corporal Edward "Ted" Simons [RIP] on his shift (gun picquet), on the General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) MAG58. OP HABITAT had 10 GPMG MAG58 guns for the self-protection of the 75 member Medical Support Team. This is considered a high amount of fire-power for a small group of Medical Specialists. Photo courtesy Gary Daly (Member Australian Contingent OP HABITAT).

the reasons for the declination are unknown. There is no record of such an offer and it would be more appropriate for the acceptance of the GSM in any case as the ASCH satisfied the eligibility criterion of the Royal Warrant of the GSM, being a Commonwealth unit under Operational Command of the 3rd Brigade, Royal Marine Commando.

The GSM matter is now before the Defence Honours Awards & Appeal Tribunal (DHAAT), after rejection from the Defence Honours & Awards (DH&A), in an application lodged by the APPVA NSW President, Bruce Relph. It may be of interest to note DH&A did not specifically state why the GSM was rejected, but used the reason that the GSM was a Foreign Award and not under the auspices of the Australian Honours & Awards system. We note the point that up to 5 October 1992, Australia accepted UK Honours & Awards as part of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

As a point of particular note, all ADF members serving on operations that were awarded the Imperial GSM, were Allotted for Duty, hence in receipt of warlike service entitlements, along with being awarded some decades later with the AASM (45-75) Clasp of the particular operation (e.g. MALAYSIA, BORNEO, VIETNAM etc.).

There is an abundance of evidence regarding the Australian Government approving the acceptance and wearing of one or more foreign awards. This includes awards from the U.N., U.K., U.S., NATO and other foreign awards. It is particularly noted that a number of ADF members who served with UK forces in Kuwait (Gulf War 91); received and were permitted to officially wear the UK Gulf War Medal, for

rendering continuous service for 30 days [7 days between 15 January and 28 February 1991] between 2 August 1990 to 7 March 1991.²⁷

The approval for ADF members to wear the UK Gulf Medal 1990-1991 also included ADF members being approved to wear the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal (KLM), which was specifically awarded to Coalition forces that participated in the War Phase of GW91 only between the period of the main war effort of 17 January to 28 February 1991.²⁸ All ADF Gulf War veterans eligible for the KLM were approved to wear the Medal.

The Kuwait Government offered the Liberation of Kuwait Medal (LOK) on 16 July 1994, to Coalition Forces who served one day or one sortie in the operations against Iraq; in the Operational Area of the Gulf, including on land in Iraq during the period 2 August 1991 to 31 August 1993.²⁹ The

²⁷ MODUK Gulf War Medal 1990-1991 Policy: DCI Gen 185/91

²⁸ Code of Federal Regulations Title 32 - National Defense Volume: 3Date: 2008-07-01Original Date: 2008-07-01Title: Section 578.130 - Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia. Context Title 32 - National Defense. Subtitle A - Department of Defense (Continued). CHAPTER V - DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. SUBCHAPTER F - PERSONNEL. PART 578 - DECORATIONS, MEDALS, RIBBONS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES. - General. S578.130Kuwait Liberation Medal—Saudi Arabia.

²⁹ Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32 - National Defense Volume: 3Date: 2008-07-01Original Date: 2008-07-01Title: Section 578.131 - Kuwait Liberation Medal-Kuwait. Context: Title 32 - National Defense. Subtitle A - Department of Defense (Continued). CHAPTER V - DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. SUBCHAPTER F - PERSONNEL. PART 578 - DECORATIONS, MEDALS, RIBBONS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES. - General. S 578.131 Kuwait Liberation Medal—Kuwait.

Australian Government accepted the LOK as a “keepsake”, but did not allow it or the ribbon to be worn on uniform. It also appears that the Australian Government, or Defence, did not consider the LOK medal for those ADF members who served in the AO from 2 August 1990 to 14 January 1991 and then 1 March 1991 to 31 August 1993.

Closing Remarks.

The research, evidence, precedents and other information that has been discovered in the matter to reclassify ASCH members to warlike service, weighs in favour for such retrospective reclassification to warlike service. In turn the AASM Clasp IRAQ and the GSM Clasp N. IRAQ & S. TURKEY, are awards that must be approved for ASCH veterans, in order to maintain consistency by Defence from such precedents that have been made to a significant number of ADF members in a range of conflicts.

As this story goes to print, there remains a Defence FOI request, which will hopefully divulge the degree of consideration and decision-making that has denied this group of deserving veterans their rightful classification of warlike service.

The Potential Traumatic Events (PTE); along with some unexplained illnesses of the veterans of ASCH is high. Over 50% of these veterans are suffering mental illness, 4 have committed suicide and 2 have died from cancer and motor neurone disease. Such casualties of this size, provides evidence that ASCH did suffer over a 58% casualty rate, after the past 24 years. A casualty rate that is not normally recorded for any war list or placement of those who are deceased onto the Honour Roll at the Australian War Memorial (AWM). It is indeed a significantly high number and ratio toward any given ADF Contingent to a range of conflicts, wars and PKO for over 100 years.

Unfortunately, these casualties will not be given the same status, as those who actually suffer or die on ADF operations. It is additionally noted that ASCH is included in the Gulf War 1991 Health Study series – as they were physically on the ground in Iraq and exposed to the same



NATO Helicopter Operations, in the vicinity of the Australian Contingent at Gir-i-pit, during OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT

environmental risks and Military threat as those who were ‘Allotted for Duty.’

Whilst a common denominator of the collateral damage of ADF veterans who have latent clinical onset of various medical conditions, these veterans are unable to access Qualifying Service (QS) or other warlike service benefits in comparison to their ADF counterparts who served in the same AO at the same time.

Once the APPVA has completed such research, a Ministerial Submission will be drafted and lodged for action by Defence. Since the Clarke Review of 2002, through to the refusal by successive Governments to reclassify ASCH, the evidence and research that has been conducted by the APPVA is significantly more evidence based than was presented in the past. The presentation of this evidence, along with the precedents that have been retrospectively reclassified, would be very difficult to refute by Defence bureaucrats.

This article has articulated the facts where it is evident that ASCH was a **Humanitarian Intervention** in terms that the situation required a rapid response to prevent the Iraqi Military in destroying the Kurds. The NATO Force had to invade the Northern area of Iraq, without consent of the Sovereign power in order to repatriate the Kurds into a Security Zone. ASCH veterans served under the auspices of **Chapter VII** of the UN Charter, which in ADF terms and definitions for warlike service was a **“Peace Enforcement Operation”**, in that it was to use any means necessary to successfully repatriate hundreds of thousands of Kurds to their homeland. Hence, ASCH service was **warlike service**.

Lastly, we are deeply grateful that the Commander of the Australian Contingent (COMASC) of OP HABITAT (ASCH), COL David Ross CSC (Retd), fully supports reclassification of the nature of service of Operation Habitat and is assisting the APPVA with the drafting of the Ministerial Submission. David Ross only became aware of the MODUK offer of the GSM to contingent members when shown correspondence addressed to him by APPVA. He has expressed disappointment at not previously being made aware of the offer following his return from Northern Iraq, and the seemingly arbitrary nature with which it was dealt with at the time. He supports a more transparent re-examination of the process taking account of all relevant material.

In closing, I would like to thank the veterans of OP HABITAT for sharing with me their experiences and photographs; David Vinen [APPVA Research Officer]; and Bruce Relph for his unrelenting passion to see this injustice corrected.

Paul Copeland, OAM, JP.

National Advisor.22 May 2015.

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Navy Should Stay Anchored In Sydney

The NSW government has thrown its support behind the navy remaining at Garden Island rather than a move to Port Kembla.

In a submission to the 2015 defence white paper, NSW Premier Mike Baird says the government wants the navy to remain at Garden Island.

Illawarra-based Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells also made a submission looking to have Port Kembla considered as a new home for Garden Island – known to the navy as Fleet Base East.

That location is under increasing pressure, with the navy being forced to share the space with cruise ships.

Some of the region's leaders met on Wednesday to present a united front on moving the base to Port Kembla and to look to lobby politicians and the navy itself.

In a covering letter for the NSW government's submission, Mr Baird asks for the federal government to publicly state its support for Garden Island.

"The White Paper should confirm Fleet Base as the home port for the Landing Helicopter Docks and Air Warfare Destroyers," Mr Baird's letter said.

The submission itself also asks the Commonwealth government to "consider whether part of Australia's submarine fleet should be based at Fleet Base East".

However, the submission does consider the possibility of augmenting Fleet Base East with other naval locations in the state.

"The NSW government would welcome the opportunity to explore with the Commonwealth government ways of meeting both expanding navy capability requirements along the NSW seaboard and the state's growth and development," the submission said.

The Premier also recognises the contribution the defence forces make to the NSW economy with Commonwealth spending in the last financial year passing \$5.8billion.

"This equates to approximately 30per cent of total Defence expenditure," the letter said.

"More than 80 Defence bases and facilities and approximately 28per cent of Australia's civilian and military personnel are located in NSW; more than in any other state or territory."

When asked if the NSW government would accept a navy move to Port Kembla, given it would still benefit the state's economy, the Premier's department effectively said no.

"The NSW government supports the continued use of Garden Island by Defence," a spokesman for Mr Baird said. "However we continue to call for increased access for cruise ships at this site."

Senator Fierravanti-Wells said the support for Garden Island did not rule out the possibility of Port Kembla being used as well.

"I don't think the two things are inconsistent," she said.



Climate of War

The greatest danger posed by climate change isn't the warming of the planet or changes in rainfall patterns, but the effects these events will have on the fabric of society, according to the Director of Research for Strategic Plans for Army.

Dr Albert Palazzo was speaking on the impact climate change will have on defence planning during a seminar at Defence Headquarters in Canberra.

He says climate change is not new and has been going on since before humans inhabited the earth.

"It's well documented in anthropological and geological records, but the novelty is with the current generation whose memory does not extend that far into the past," Dr Palazzo says.

"However, with the increase in population over the last 100 years, the world is just barely producing enough food for its population.

"Some societies have collapsed through population growth and resource stress and this has caused a decline in the ability to provide food to their people.

"The problems in Syria stem from an underlying food shortage issue."

Dr Palazzo says climate change will affect the availability of resources, which in turn will affect the nature of and number of wars.

"Wars will become more numerous, more frequent, more

violent, more lethal, more divisive and less ethical. There will also be higher casualty rates," he says.

"The parameters of future war will change to wars of societal fracture, wars of movement, wars of existence and not choice, and wars without limits."

Dr Palazzo says wars of societal fracture would occur where governments could not hold society together and peoples' allegiances might shift to a lower level, such as tribal or religious groupings.

"Wars of movement would occur when people could no longer support themselves in their own societies so they move somewhere where they can be supported," he says.

"Wars of existence, not choice, would happen where people need to find the resources they require or die, so they may be prepared to fight for these resources.

"Wars without limits would see people doing much nastier things because they will do whatever they need to get the resources they require."

He says Australia will need a robust and resilient Defence Force to safeguard the nation from this more violent future.

"This will be best secured by a whole-of-government response. But as is the case now, much of the work will be done by the ADF," Dr Palazzo says.

"The countries that survive this more violent future will be the most pragmatic ones, the ones prepared to adapt to the conditions."

Pallets of Australian Aid (blankets, tarpaulins, hygiene kits and water purification tablets) are loaded onto a No. 36 Squadron C-17A Globemaster aircraft in preparation for delivery to Nepal.



Innovative Solution

The Chief Information Officer Group has partnered with a leading recycler to produce cost savings and lower Defence's carbon footprint.

Since 2012, the Chief Information Officer Group (CIOG) has disposed of 182,690 ICT hardware assets, providing cost savings and benefits to Defence and the Australian Government.

CIOG manages the disposal of information and communications technology (ICT) for Defence through ongoing engagement with a third-party service provider, Greenbox. This partnership allows Defence to remove and decommission surplus ICT hardware, ensuring it is sanitised of any Defence data to prevent it entering into the public domain.

It also allows CIOG to ethically dispose of, or redistribute, ICT hardware through an end-to-end lifecycle solution called eCycle Innovation.

The eCycle Innovation solution is designed to lower Defence's carbon footprint – preventing hardware going to landfill and hazardous waste being exported to Third World countries.

ICT assets are handled to retain maximum value for potential resale, providing best value for money in the secondhand market.

Where assets cannot be sold in the marketplace, they are broken down to raw materials for recycling.

This process has returned \$1.9 million in revenue to the Australian Government since the Greenbox partnership began in 2012.

CIOG's ICT National Fleet Manager, Mark Scarborough, says it's reassuring to know we have an efficient and ethical method of disposing of ICT assets when they reach end of life.

"This process with our disposal agent Greenbox has been fine-tuned over the years to be very effective and provide great returns for the Government," he says.

The Greenbox Chief Executive Officer, Shane Mulholland, says with the Earth's resources currently stretched to 140 per cent of capacity, it is clear the "consumption-only" model of commerce is overdue for rethinking.

"That is why eCycle Innovation was developed. Since inception, there have been more than 1 million computers repurposed and sold. For each item so handled, there is now one less new item required," he says.

"So less resources are consumed and the toxic landfill burden is lowered.

"Reduce, reuse, recycle. It's the way of the future. Again, Defence leads the way and we're proud to be part of that initiative."

The disposal of ICT is an integral part of hardware accounting and management in Defence.



Greenbox CEO Shane Mulholland, eCycleInnovation Product Manager Peter Pole, Greenbox National Operations Manager Cameron Tappin and Mark Scarborough.

CIOG provides tracking, control and financial management of Defence's ICT through lifecycle asset management – from planning to acquisition through to decommission.



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17 Construction Squadron UNTAG reunion March 2015 Namibia



In March 1989, 17 Construction Squadron was deployed to what was then known as South West Africa (SWA) to assist SWA and UN resolution 435 to transition from South Africa rule to independence and what is called now called Namibia.

Australian and Kiwi Sappers formed 17 Construction Squadron (UNTAG) for two tours of Namibia from March 1989 for approximately 12 months.

In 2015 Namibia, celebrated the silver jubilee of Independence and a number of UNTAG Veterans returned to celebrate and observe the 3rd Namibian president be inaugurated to power with numerous heads of states from Africa and around the world.

On the 20th March these Veterans met and conducted a presentation to the Government of Namibia on behalf of 17 Construction and Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Associations (APPVA).

The Namibian government was represented by the Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Hon Hilma Nicanor as well as head of Department and the Veterans were supported by the High Commissioner for Australia Pretoria Charge D'Affaires Chris Munn, Australian Honorary Consular Generals, Windhoek based Ed Humphrey and Sydney based Antonio Gelasi and partners.

The framed board presented from 17 Construction Squadron and APPVA Associations contained a UNTAG flag, Land Commanders Citation (1990), Honour Distinction award presented by the Australian Governor General (2013), AASM clamp Namibia, ADM and UNTAG medals, RAE corp and APPVA Badges and a commemorative 17 Construction Association coin.

Each of the officials at the presentation received a Commemorative Coin, 17 Construction Squadron and APPVA lapel badge in a case as a memento of the reunion. A commemorative coin was also presented to the Namibian Independence Museum.

The Charge D'affaires Chris Munn read a moving account of 17 Constructions Squadrons (UNTAG) that highlighted the pivotal role the "Little Bear Unit" had played in this mission.

"The Squadron performed a role well beyond what was expected and brought great credit on itself, the Australian Army and Australia. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-



UNTAG Veterans from Australia, Britain and Denmark with Namibian Veterans Affairs Ministers



WO1 David Buckland (Ret) RAEME/ RAAOC in front of the framed board presented to the Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs Namibia , the Hon Hilma Nicanor.



Namibian military personnel with retiring president of Namibia Hifikepune Lucas Pohamba inspecting the troops on parade for the Presidential inauguration and Silver Jubilee 21st March 2015

General of the United Nations, wrote to Gareth Evans (Australia's Foreign Minister) about the "remarkable contribution made by the Australian military and electoral personnel", saying that their "dedication and professionalism had been widely and deservedly praised".

"Today, on this occasion we should remember the selfless spirit of all of those 4493 men and women who comprised UNTAG from 50 countries in addition to the 613 Australian engineers.

The following list of contributing countries is not exhaustive but illustrative of the fact that UNTAG was a genuine commitment on behalf of the world, at the end of the cold war, to ensure that Namibian Independence was nurtured, sustained and where necessary defended hard against those who did not wish this to occur.

UNTAG troops came from as far a field as Fiji and New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, Costa Rica, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and the United Kingdom. Aside from our Oceania neighbours, there were also many of our Asian partners including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

The result of UNTAG's work and legacy is modern Namibia – a strong, vibrant, free, proud and democratic country with a bright future.

Let me conclude by specifically mentioning and thanking those Australian UNTAG engineers here with us today. Although a total of 19 UN personnel lost their lives in Namibia, the two Australian contingents achieved their

mission without sustaining any fatalities – one of the few military units in UNTAG to do so."

The next day – 21st March, the UNTAG Veterans and partners were invited to the VIP area of the Independence Stadium with Heads of State from numerous countries and Namibians to witness the inauguration of the new president and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Independence celebrations with a military parade and formal lunch.

ANZAC Day saw an invitation from the Australian High Commissioner South Africa in Pretoria. Two UNTAG Veterans WO1 David Buckland (Bucko) ret RAEME/17 Workshops/RAAOC and myself (Editor Stalag 17 journalist and Combat Draftie HQ 17 Works Section, attending the dawn service at Freedom Park followed by an official breakfast and two up at his residence.

On the Namibian Independence Medal (NIM) issue, additional letters of submission are required before we apply for the NIM Medal. This will be submitted by the end of June 2015 to the government in Windhoek, Namibia for consideration but the ground work that we did over the month in Namibia and South Africa should have some positive news hopefully this year.

Sgt "Jack" Horner
Combat Draftie and editor Stalag 17



Lifelong mates and ex Sappers, Mark Aldridge, Leigh Thomas and Neville McAuliffe from 17 Construction Squadron (UNTAG) celebrating the Silver Jubilee from the VIP pavilion 21st March 2015 in Windhoek Namibia

Australian High Commission South Africa

Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Chris Munn

Speech at UNTAG Barbecue

Friday 20 March 2015

Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Hon Hilma Nicanor
Resident and non-resident diplomatic representatives.

Australia's Honorary Consul to Namibia, Mr Ed Humphreys
and his wonderful wife Aino who have been fantastic hosts
to us this weekend .

Gathered Australian UNTAG representatives here today
Australian Volunteers in Namibia

Our friends the people of Namibia who I congratulate on
their first peaceful and constructive twenty five years as
a sovereign country and I wish them many, many more
Other nationalities represented here tonight and fellow
Australians not already mentioned

Welcome

As Australia's current Charge d'Affaires in Pretoria, I am
delighted to be in Windhoek for the first time this weekend.
As we all know, it is a very

exciting weekend for the people of Namibia celebrating this
milestone Anniversary of Independence and to participate
actively in the inauguration ceremonies and festivities
for Namibia's third President, HE Dr Hage Geingob,
continuing the efforts of Presidents Nujoma and Pohamba
who have steered Namibia over the past 25 years of peace
and growing prosperity.

While this weekend belongs to Namibia, it is also a very
special time for a select group of Australians here for this
occasion. They are a group of UNTAG peacekeepers who
have returned to Namibia after more than 25 years. They
are just some of the 613 defence force engineers Australia
proudly sent, under the aegis of the United Nations in the
lead up to Independence in 1989 and 1990 to help ensure
that the people of Namibia could set up an independent and
peaceful country following the many years of occupation
and war.

The diggers are here for their pilgrimages to the Namibia
they remember and to see the new Namibia. I am sure that
they are proud to see the signs of development in Windhoek
and other parts of the country and they can rightly claim to
have made a significant contribution to this progress.

I want to spend a few minutes to recall a little of what those
613 men saw and experienced in Namibia over twenty five
years ago. I then want to tie that in briefly to the proud
history of Australia's contributions to United Nations and
other peacekeeping efforts and reconstruction activities as
a result of war and natural disasters.

On 11 May 2013, former Governor-General, Her Excellency,
Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO presented the Australian Army's
first Honour Distinction to 17 Construction Squadron at a

ceremonial parade at Steele Barracks, Holsworthy. The
citation for that well-deserved honour sums up the sense of
duty and achievement of the Australian UNTAG engineers
and I would like to repeat that now:

Despite being deployed to provide engineering support,
when the ceasefire broke down at the start of the mission,
members of the squadron helped establish Assembly
Points, which enabled the mission to continue.

This activity was conducted in the face of hostility from
elements of the former colonial power and personal danger
arising from the breakdown of the cease fire.

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

Members of 17 Construction Squadron ensured that, as
much as possible, the election was able to proceed without
interruption or interference and ensured that all parties
were free from intimidation or duress. With the selfless
support of individuals from other units of the Australian
Defence Force, 17 Construction Squadron played a key
role in the smooth and effective transition of Namibia from
colonial rule to independence.

The Squadron performed a role well beyond what was
expected and brought great credit on itself, the Australian
Army and Australia. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-
General of the United Nations, wrote to Gareth Evans
(Australia's Foreign Minister) about the "remarkable
contribution made by the Australian military and electoral
personnel", saying that their "dedication and professionalism
had been widely and deservedly praised". Although a
total of 19 UN personnel lost their lives in Namibia, the
two Australian contingents achieved their mission without
sustaining any fatalities – one of the few military units in
UNTAG to do so.

The Australian UNTAG mission in 1989 and 1990 was the
largest deployment of Australian troops since the Vietnam
War in the 1960s and 1970s.

Australia's very proud history in this field began long before
the 1960s and Australians were the first peacekeepers to
serve under United Nations auspices when the Australian
Government sent military observers to Indonesia in 1947
during the independence struggle.

About 65,000 Australian personnel have participated in
more than fifty peacekeeping operations, in at least 25
different conflicts. Operations include military observation,
monitoring cease-fires, clearing landmines, humanitarian
aid and the repatriation of refugees.

Since 1947 Australians have joined peacekeeping operations in Cambodia and Korea and in Africa in Namibia, Rwanda, and Somalia.

All three services of the Australian Defence Force, as well as police officers and civilians, have been involved in peacekeeping activities.

The most significant involvement of Australian peacekeeping troops was in the East Timorese Independence process. Australia initially offered between 1,000 and 1,300 infantry, three Royal Australian Navy ships (HMAS Manoora and HMAS Kanimbla already stationed nearby, and HMAS Tobruk) along with other support capabilities.

Australia's involvement in East Timor was through UNMISSET, the United Nations Mission of Support to East Timor, UNOTIL, the United Nations Office in Timor Leste and UNMIT, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

Australia also has peacekeepers from the Australian Defence Force participating in the United Nations Mission in Sudan, to support the African Union's Mission in Darfur.

Today, on this occasion we should remember the selfless spirit of all of those 4493 men and women who comprised UNTAG from 50 countries in addition to the 613 Australian engineers.

The following list of contributing countries is not exhaustive but illustrative of the fact that UNTAG was a genuine commitment on behalf of the world, at the end of the cold war, to ensure that Namibian Independence was nurtured, sustained and where necessary defended hard against

those who did not wish this to occur.

UNTAG troops came from as far a field as Fiji and New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, Costa Rica, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and the United Kingdom. Aside from our Oceania neighbours, there were also many of our Asian partners including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

The result of UNTAG's work and legacy is modern Namibia – a strong, vibrant, free, proud and democratic country with a bright future.

Let me conclude by specifically mentioning and thanking those Australian UNTAG engineers here with us today. As we approach the centenary of the first ANZAC DAY next month, I honour and thank you and all Australian defence men and women for your contributions over the years in helping to bring peace and order in many parts of the world where harmony and cooperation have broken down and where communities require major assistance to recover from major natural and manmade disasters.

Many of you here today will know that the latest region where the Australian Defence Force has been sent to assist was to our South Pacific neighbour Vanuatu devastated by Cyclone Pam less than a week ago.

To those Australian UNTAG engineers here today, you embodied and continue to embody the indomitable ANZAC spirit and you should be forever proud of your achievements. Australia is. <http://southafrica.embassy.gov.au/pre/pret/media.html>.



Recognising Winning Work

Three members of the Defence Science and Technology Organisation have been recognised internationally and domestically for their groundbreaking work. They are Dr Bob Mathews, Dr Stephen Burke and Rhys Lehman.

David Kilmartin and Sergeant Dave Morley

Chemical weapons disarmament expert Dr Bob Mathews' lifelong dedication to achieving a world free of chemical weapons was recognised and rewarded when he co-received the inaugural Hague Award from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Bob is one of three DSTO scientists who recently received awards.

Dr Stephen Burke won the Defence Minister's Achievement Award for his work in the life extension of Defence platforms.

Young researcher, Rhys Lehmann, received an aviation safety award. Bob was presented with his internationally acclaimed award last December by the Director-General of OPCW, Ahmet Uzumcu, at a function in The Hague, Netherlands.

A 45-year veteran of DSTO, Bob has dedicated his career to the elimination of chemical and biological weapons as well as developing protective measures against the threats they pose.

He became deeply committed to the cause after seeing the

"barbarous effects" of the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s.

Bob says he is very grateful to the OPCW for its recognition of his contribution over the past 30 years.

"It is the highlight of my career. I have been most fortunate for the opportunity to be a member of the various Australian teams which have been involved in the different stages of the Chemical Weapons Convention," he says.

"The Australian Government's commitment to the eradication of chemical weapons has enabled me to be involved with the Convention from the early negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from 1984 through to the end-game process in 1991-92, the Preparatory Commission years, which resulted in the establishment of the OPCW in 1997 and the operational Convention."

Bob was Scientific Adviser to the Australian delegation to the Conference on Disarmament from 1984-1992, and was appointed in 2004 to the Scientific Advisory Board of the OPCW, a position he held until 2011.



The co-winner of the inaugural OPCW-The Hague award, Dr Bob Mathews

He collaborated with scientists in the UK and US in developing the Chemical Agent Monitor, which was approved for use in 1984 to detect chemical contamination in people, equipment and terrain.

In the mid-1980s, he was successful in establishing DSTO as an UN-designated laboratory for analysing samples for investigations into the alleged use of chemical weapons.

In 1994, Bob was awarded an Order of Australia medal.

He has published more than 50 articles and working papers on chemical disarmament.

In 2002, he was appointed an honorary Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne Law School. In 2003 Latrobe University conferred a Doctor of Science degree.

Looking back over those years, Bob says he had the privilege of working with some wonderful friends and colleagues from every corner of the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

"I think of this award as also very much belonging to all those dedicated individuals," he says.

The co-recipient of the award, the Finnish Institute for the Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, has been in existence for 40 years.

OPCW – The Hague Award

The award, created by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, was an outcome of the Organisation winning the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize.

It is intended to honour and recognise individuals and non-profit, nongovernmental organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

In doing so, the potential awardees will have:

- contributed significantly to advancing one or more of the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention; and/or
- provided sustained leadership to practical and collaborative initiatives related to the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention through research, publication, education, training or outreach to relevant stakeholders.

During that time it has made a sustained contribution to chemical disarmament by focusing on the development and dissemination of analytical chemistry techniques and tools for the verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



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ANZAC in Brindisi, Italy

The Royal Australian Navy's helicopter frigate HMAS ANZAC has arrived in Brindisi, Italy, as part of her Northern Trident 2015 deployment.

While in Brindisi, members of ship's company will commemorate military service alongside colleagues from the Marina Militare (Italian Navy) at the Bari War Cemetery and at the Monument for Italian Sailors.

Together with the Australian Embassy in Rome, ANZAC will co-host an official reception during the port visit, and ANZAC's Commanding Officer Commander Belinda Wood will also host a mentoring session with female members of the Italian military.

"The original ANZACs of 100 years ago served throughout the Mediterranean, and it is significant that we are able to visit the Bari War Cemetery where two Australian Navy personnel are among the 43 Australian military members buried there," Commander Wood said.

"We are also proud to be able to attend a wreath laying ceremony at the Monument for Italian Sailors, where we recognise the camaraderie that Australian and Italian mariners have shared over the years.

"I look forward to working with members of the Marina Militare and Brindisi community, and my crew are looking forward to enjoying the famous Italian cuisine and culture," Commander Wood said.

ANZAC departed Sydney in March 2015, and transited the Southern Ocean, Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and Suez Canal before arriving in the Mediterranean Sea.

During the five month deployment, the ship has represented Australia at Centenary of ANZAC commemorative events in the Sea of Marmara, Cape Helles and Gallipoli and is continuing to do so in Italy and Malta.



Above: The Lancelin range offered varied settings. Two dozen army snipers and sniper team leaders took part in a 10-day training concentration under the guidance of Special Air Service Regiment personnel, using a competition-based format.

Below: Spotter and sniper work together at the Lancelin range.



Battalion Snipers on Target

At Lancelin Range, 110km north of Perth, wind whistles off the Indian Ocean over low, undulating scrubland.

Four firing stations face outwards to all points of the compass, picking up every nuance of the swiftly changing breeze.

Two dozen Army snipers and sniper team leaders are consolidating the lessons of a 10-day training concentration under the guidance of Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) personnel.

"This is the third year the regiment has conducted the Sniper Concentration, providing development and training opportunities for battalion snipers outside of their own units," SASR sniper Cpl L said.

"We achieve that by using a competition-based atmosphere where guys are under self-induced stress – you're competing, there's unit pride up for grabs."

Competitors participated in scored range shoots, observational exercises and range estimation exercises, both static and live fire, and in live-fire stalks in rural and urban environments.

The Swanbourne Special Range Facility at Campbell Barracks and the Lancelin and Bindoon training areas were used.

"These competitors are all competent snipers, having passed their basic sniper course and some have gone on to do their team leaders course," Cpl L said.

"Now's the time for them to step up and demonstrate their proficiency and experience within their specialist skill set.

"There's nowhere to hide; at the end of the two weeks the scores will tell the story."

Weapons used are the SR98 7.62mm bolt-action sniper rifle, SR25 semi-automatic 7.62mm rifle, H&K 417 7.62mm semi-automatic weapon, .50 calibre Barrett semi-automatic anti-materiel weapon, and the primary operational sniper weapon, the Blaser .338, with choice of 7.62mm barrel.

Some are new to the participants.

"If they haven't had an opportunity to gain a particular weapon qualification we'll provide the training and assessment for them," Cpl L said.

Darwin-based Pte Ryan Lee, of 5RAR, completed his basic sniper course eight weeks before the concentration.

"No other soldier in the battalion would get to share something as good as this – this kind of training with these guys in Perth," Pte Lee said.

Cpl Matthew Mack, a sniper for two years, led the 5RAR team.

"It's a good learning experience, doing a lot of different shooting that we wouldn't otherwise get to do," Cpl Mack said.

"The ranges are different to what we have in Darwin so it's

good experience to shoot in different environments."

Six weapons were in use, compared with just three in the battalion, and participants shot more than 600 rounds during the concentration.

"That's more than we get to shoot in the battalion in a year," Cpl Mack said.

"We are getting exposed to some new techniques that end in being able to engage targets faster. That's good because we can take back the lessons to the lads in the cell."

Pte Morgan Preston, of 6RAR, has been a sniper for 18 months and said he learnt a lot.

"As team leaders we learnt how to give orders and brief officers, but here we've improved our shooting tenfold," he said.

"We've learnt to engage targets in four-to-six seconds out to 600m, whereas before that would take us a minute.

"There's stuff we'll take back to the battalion that's incredibly useful that we'd never be aware of unless we came here."

Pte Simon Lancaster, of 7RAR, recently qualified as a sniper team leader.

"There are a few different drills here that were not taught on course – different ways to solve a problem, more knowledge of ballistics and heaps more rounds downrange than we normally do," he said

Cpl L said the competition reinforced the same skills taught at battalion level.

"It's a worthwhile exercise for all involved," he said.

"Every member who participated has been exposed to a stressful environment. Sure it's just a competition, but without running or sleep deprivation associated with operations, where else can you be lying prone on a sterile range with a heart rate around 150bpm trying to release that perfect shot. How do you train for that situation?"

"I'd rather have an idea of what my body is about to be put through and develop a plan for that, before finding out on operations when it's just you and your rifle."

Participants showed some interest in progressing to Special Forces, but Cpl L said that was not the focus.

"There's been some pushback from some of the units that we're trying to poach their best blokes," he said.

"That's not the case. It happens to be a happy by-product. The guys see a 'day-in-the-life' of the regiment, but that's a secondary effect.

"At the end of the day their unit has to nominate them for selection and there are no free passes. You have to fit the mould at the end of selection."

In the final tally, SASR came from behind to win, with 1RAR second and 7RAR third.

50 Years Service for M113

From their first service in Vietnam, through to UN deployments and local exercises, the M113 family has protected and transported soldiers for 50 years.

On March 19, 1965, the first M113A1 vehicles were issued to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

That year the Armoured School and 1 Armd Regt were the only regular armoured units. Two Citizen Military Forces (CMF) units had one regular squadron each – 4/19 Prince of Wales Light Horse (Reconnaissance) and 2/14 Queensland Mounted Infantry (Anti-Tank).

1 Tp, A Sqn, 4/19PWLH, was the first unit to receive the new vehicles. The troop had less than two months to train on the new vehicles before five vehicles departed for Vietnam on May 27, 1965.

The M113A1 family had been ordered in 1963-64, although the vehicles were ordered separately from the radio and harness. This led to different delivery times, causing problems in Vietnam.

Vietnam – the M113A1's first war

The firepower and mobility of the armoured personnel carrier (APC) element deployed with 1RAR soon proved its worth.

By September 1965, APC numbers had raised to 13, able to carry an infantry rifle company.

Meanwhile, 1 APC Sqn had been raised in Australia and relieved the troop in Vietnam in June 1966 as part of the new 1st Australian Task Force.

1 APC Sqn arrived with only two APC troops, and took over the PWLH vehicles to form 3 Tp.

The squadron's first major action came on August 18, 1966, when 3 Tp reacted with the task force reserve to relieve D Coy, 6RAR, at Long Tan.

3 Tp had only seven serviceable APCs – the rest of the worn-out PWLH carriers were in repair. 3 Tp was reinforced by three carriers from 2 Tp, which had no gun shields or intercom. 3 Tp also had outdated radios, which had problems communicating with the infantry and artillery. The radios and harness ordered with the vehicles still had not all arrived.

Long Tan accelerated a search for a protected station for APC crew commanders.

The US "bathtub" solution was not accepted and Army sought a turret.

M74C cupolas were acquired and fitted but it was very cramped – only 20 were available and suffered from spares problems.

In 1966, Army started trials with the T-50 turret, which could be fitted with two .30 machine guns or a .50/.30 combination. This proved an adequate short-term solution,

but the decision to fit all APCs with T-50 turrets caused problems for the next 30 years.

In November 1966, all ARA RAAC regiments were numbered sequentially, so 1 Armd Regt was joined by 2 and 3 Cav Regts.

3 Cav Regt was raised in January 1967 with two squadrons – one in Vietnam and one training in Australia.

The M113A1s and their crews performed exceptionally well in Vietnam, but the M113A1s were light armoured vehicles.

During Operation Bribie, in February 1967, one APC was destroyed by three hits from 75mm recoilless rifle and another destroyed by a mine made from a five-inch shell that blew the engine through the driver's compartment. Mines were to remain the main threat in Vietnam, requiring a belly armour program.

3 Cav Regt began to withdraw from Vietnam in late 1971, with the last APC troop leaving country in May 1972.

Service in Australia

Back in Australia, the M113A1 became the Army's light armoured fighting vehicle (AFV).

From 1967, a unique Australian vehicle had been developed by fitting a Saladin armoured car turret to an M113A1, adopted as the fire support vehicle (FSV).

Specialist tracked light reconnaissance vehicles (LRV) were rejected and the M113A1 APC became the APC/LRV.

As the ARA adapted to service in Australia, in 1972 the decision was made to equip all CMF units with the M113A1 vehicles.

The simple and robust M113A1 proved an ideal vehicle for the CMF. Easy to maintain and drive, it permitted part-time soldiers with limited training time an opportunity to focus on tactics.

In 1973, the CMF became the Army Reserve.

A new FSV based on the British Scorpion turret was accepted for service in 1976. It was the first RAAC AFV fitted with a passive (image intensifying) night sight. It was soon redesignated the medium reconnaissance vehicle (MRV).

As well as ARA reconnaissance squadrons, reserve RAAC units were issued MRV or the Saladin FSV to reintroduce full bore gunnery to the reserve force. In 1976, 5/7RAR began trialling mechanised infantry, with such success that the role became permanent and in 1 Bde the infantry operated its own M113A1 vehicles.

The mechanised role survived the de-linking of the battalions in 2007 but under Plan Beersheba the battalions converted back to light infantry in 2013. Armoured mobility will now be provided by RAAC APC units.

The focus on operations in Australia led to increasing interest in wheeled AFV.

An M1A1 Abrams Tank patrols for enemy forces at Cultana Training Area, South Australia.





Australian Army soldiers from 2nd Cavalry Regiment line the parade ground in M113 armoured personnel carriers during the parade welcoming the regiment to 3rd Brigade at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville, Queensland, 27 November 2014.

In 1980, Project Waler examined replacing the Army's fleet of Light AFV. Both wheeled and tracked vehicles were considered. The Defence of Australia paper of 1987 focused on Northern Australia, leading to plans to relocate 2 Cav Regt to Darwin and re-equip it with wheeled AFV, leaving a reduced M113 fleet of about 600, some of which would be upgraded.

It was not until 1992 that plans to purchase sufficient ASLAVs to equip 2 Cav Regt were announced. The M113 upgrade project was to see many changes before anything happened. Exercises such as Kangaroo '89 involved 1 Armd Regt, 2 Cav Regt and B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt deploying to northern Australia with M113A1 vehicles, as well as the 1 Armd Regt Leopard tanks. UN deployments. In 1992-93, the Australian Government contributed to UN forces in Somalia. 1RAR Group formed the main part of Operation Solace, including elements of B Sqn, 3/4 Cav Regt. The manning cap meant that only a reduced squadron with two APC troops could deploy.

The M113A1 family performed well once again, albeit the squadron had serious problems with maintenance, especially the supply of track link, in conditions where RAN sea transport was limited.

In 1994-95, the government accepted a further UN request for assistance in Rwanda. Operation Tamar initially involved a company of 2/4RAR deployed with a section of

three APCs, plus a fitters' vehicle. This was to be the first time RAAC AFVs were painted UN white.

The second rotation came from 5/7RAR, which took over the vehicles in location. More planning. In 1994, Army agreed on a M113 upgrade to consist of:

- Phase 1 – suspension and engine cooling modifications to M113A2 standard. New turret with power traverse and elevation with single. M2HB QCB .50 machine gun. Spall liners and a cooled drinking water system were to be fitted, and the crew commander and driver provided with night-vision goggles.
- Phase 2 – to move to M113A3 standard. This included a new engine and transmission, external fuel cells, appliqué armour and climate control system for crew compartment. In 1996, the MRV was retired. 2 Cav Regt was already equipping with the ASLAV, signalling the end of the M113A1 in the medium reconnaissance role.

In 1998, the first four M113A2 vehicles were delivered from upgrade. At this point, the Phase 1 upgrade was halted and combined with Phase 2, the new vehicle to be known as the M113AS3.

One more operation for M113A1

In September 1999, the Australian Government sent a force to East Timor to secure the country while the UN prepared a peacekeeping force to take over. The Australian component of Interfet on Operation Warden included 2RAR and 3RAR, supported by B Sqn, 3/4 Cav Regt. After securing Dili, Australian forces moved to the area of the border. 2 Cav Regt ASLAVs were deployed but had problems with the narrow streets, tending to damage buildings when going around corners. The M113A1, being shorter and, when necessary, able to skid-turn, had no such problems. The ASLAVs were withdrawn – they were to have their turn in Iraq and Afghanistan – and the M113A1 soldiered on. With the two Australian battalions on the border, a third battalion was required to secure Dili and its surrounds. 5/7RAR (Mech) deployed with its M113A1s and proved the advantages of armoured mobility in the security role.

When Interfet withdrew, 5/7RAR became the first Australian battalion on Operation Tanager.

Subsequent Australian battalion deployments were supported by RAAC APC elements until 2002.

Towards M113AS4

The M113AS3 concept was further modified, with a lengthened version to be called the M113AS4, while the short version remained the AS3.

CO 2 Cav Regt Lt-Col James Davis said 259 M113AS4 variants were procured as APCs, fitters vehicles and Armoured Logistics Vehicles.

“The unstretched A3 versions are used as ambulance, command, recovery and mortar vehicles,” he said.

“The upgraded M113 family have a new engine, drive train, electrical and fuel systems, as well as a redesigned internal layout to accommodate safe stowage in a variety of situations.

“The APC version has a new electrically operated turret with day/night weapon sights. The AS4 vehicle is lengthened, with the six, rather than five, pairs of road wheels each side providing an instant identification feature.”

The M113AS3/4 is planned to serve until at least 2025.

A well camouflaged M1A1 Abrams Tank waits for orders to move into battle during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise for the Deployable Battle Group. Exercise Southern Reach

During the period 20 August - 30 November, soldiers from the 1st Brigade are participating in Exercise Southern Reach, a training activity in the Cultana Field Training Area, South Australia.



What if we think prevention, instead of reaction?

In Australia, as we see the appointment of a specialist Federal Government official to ensure consistency and efficacy in counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism activities, once again the word “prevention” comes to the surface. Prevention is the cornerstone to Serenidad Consulting®’s trademarked products and services, as are Excellence, Great Leadership and Positive Personal Power.

We know terrorism thrives where fear abounds. We know that when terrorist groups feel they are losing their positional power, they resort to underhanded tactics that are usually based on the element of surprise and an intent for catastrophic consequences. As many would realize, risk managing acts of terror therefore becomes synonymous with the strategic question ‘what don’t we know?’ If we know the threat(s) and can assess associated risks, we are best placed to eliminate or, if not, at least mitigate those risks. In 2015 the world’s friendly nations know most of the threats and if not known, can at least surmise the likely risks associated with any potential act of terror. But, is that going to stop what is fast becoming a reactive, not proactive, approach? Is that going to stop children and adults from radicalizing and joining the terror effort?

The worst risk management scenario is when we ignore known threats in the hope that they will go away on their own. Over centuries, in fact millennia, we have (more and more) seen ‘violence’ become the agent of choice for communication and change. What Serenidad Consulting® is bringing to the attention of governments around the globe is that the root cause of violence lies deeper in society. It lies in the education systems that deflect or abjectly ignore their accountabilities to communicate and consult with, influence and help parents to focus the minds of the young on positive relationships, tolerance and understanding. It lies in parents blatantly ignoring their responsibility and accountability to raise their children as good citizens who build and nurture, not destroy, human-to-human relationships. It lies in the governments who refuse (or rather ignore) the necessity for preventative measures to become the foundation for sustainable change.

Many of you will know the health mantra “prevention is better than cure”. No differently, this mantra should be applied to the goal of eliminating terrorism. Instead of continuing to rely on Band-Aid, short-term and confrontation-based responses, and not seriously looking at the apparent lack of a return-on-investment that war creates, humanity can learn to be proactive in its approach. When communities can see terrorists for the bullies that they are; hold strong and says “no” in the face of threats; and embed laws and government-supported systems that aim to really strengthen and build unwavering resilience in communities, then we will start to see real, positive change.

As a terrorist or terror group starts to lose its positional power, what does it do? It seeks greater control. Bullies don’t like to be challenged. They like to have complete

control over their so-called ‘victims’. They gain power by shouting louder, escalating the violence each time, and being unpredictable. When we stand up to bullies, and facilitate their own self-destruction by being strategic in our responses, we disempower them completely and enduringly.

As a thought leader on peace and strong advocate for prevention-based strategies, Serenidad Consulting®’s Principal leaves this to ponder: “What if we think prevention, instead of reaction?”

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History of Naval Aviation on Show



(L-R) Lieutenant Matthew Hudson, a pilot with 816 Squadron, with his father, Mr Bruce Hudson, a volunteer at the Fleet Air Arm Museum Nowra and one of two people responsible for the War and Peace exhibition.

During May Rear Admiral Neil Ralph (Rtd) officially opened the Fleet Air Arm Museum's latest exhibition, War and Peace, a photographic celebration of 100 years of naval aviation.

The exhibition was developed by two of the museum's volunteers, Ms Maggie Cooper and Mr Bruce Hudson and the opening was timed to coincide with the national commemorations of the ANZAC Centenary.

Museum Curator, Ms Ailsa Chittick said Ms Cooper and Mr Hudson made a formidable team.

"The museum has a lot of amazing material in its archives and it was great to see what drew Maggie and Bruce's attention and how they chose the imagery to fit with their theme," she said.

"They also had to be quite concise while dealing with a sizeable chunk of naval aviation history which can't have been easy.

"The exhibition covers the period from the First World War through to current conflicts and peacekeeping operations, and I particularly enjoy their focus on the characters of the Fleet Air Arm."

Mr Hudson, who has been volunteering at the museum for fifteen months said the museum provided a great outlet for his interests.

"I served 27 years with the RAAF and after my retirement I wanted something that would keep me busy but also allow me to give back to the community.

"I do feel we make a worthwhile contribution here and I also really enjoy the comradeship. "I also do it because its fun!

"It was great working with Maggie - we spent a few months assembling the exhibition, discussing what we thought was appropriate and we worked terrifically well together.

"She's not at all military whereas I'm steeped in it so I think together we got a good balance.

"We could only display 40 images and we wanted every one of them to encapsulate the theme of the exhibition, which is all about the people, who are obviously the essence of military life."

War and Peace will be at the Museum until November 2015.



Fleet Air Arm Museum (FAAM) volunteers (L-R) Mr Bruce Hudson and Mrs Maggie Cooper.

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Resilience App now Available

A new smartphone app to help serving and former Australian Defence Force members manage immediate responses to stress, and help build resilience, has been developed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs in partnership with Defence.

Director of Strategic and Operational Mental Health at Campbell Park, Colonel Nicole Sadler, said the increased popularity of online and mobile mental health tools had led to the development of tools specifically for current and former Australian Defence Force personnel.

"The 'High Res' app forms part of a suite of online and mobile resources being developed by Department of Veterans' Affairs in collaboration with Defence," she said.

"This includes development of a resilience website due for completion later in 2015.

"Two other mobile apps, the 'PTSD Coach Australia' and 'ON TRACK with the Right Mix', are already available."

Colonel Sadler said military service posed unique mental stresses and 'High Res' offered tools to manage stress on-the-go and helped build mental strength over time.

"This will be particularly helpful for those managing the daily stresses of service career, deployment, injury, transition to civilian life and life post-service," she said.

"The 'High Res' app is based on Defence's Battle SMART (Self-Management and Resilience Training) program, which adapts evidence-based cognitive behaviour therapy tools for daily stress management and resilience training.

"The app allows users to 'test and adjust' their responses to stressful situations and build resilience, and also allows individuals access to mental health tools at any time, including on operations."

Colonel Sadler said there was potential within Defence to use 'High Res' across a variety of settings, based on the broad applicability of the stress management and resilience building tools.

"The app can be personalised according to whether the user is a serving, ex-serving or family member," she said.

"The app will be promoted during the resilience and mental health training available to all Australian Defence Force members, as well as through health providers, noting that it is a self-help tool and not designed to replace professional help.

"This free app complements the comprehensive range of mental health and wellbeing services available to members and their families."

Petty Officer Electronics Technician Zoe Mack, of the Navy People Career Management Agency, said it was good the app allowed you to personalise tools and set up your own goals.

"What I like about the 'High Res' app is the extent of its uses; it provides tools from stress management to performance training," she said.

"One of my favourite parts of the app is the heart rate monitor, and the ability to test before conducting the exercises.

"The results are saved and you can keep track of which exercises work best for you.

"The 'High Res' app helps prepare us for whatever life throws our way; building resilience is all about helping ourselves become mentally tough and safeguarding ourselves against the difficult times."

Petty Officer Mack's husband, Petty Officer Combat Systems Supervisor Kim Green, Assistant to the Warrant Officer of the Navy, said he liked the fact that he could use 'High Res' for a variety of situations.

"For example, if you need help straight away, if you want to improve your resilience, or if you want to work towards achieving some goals," he said.

'High Res' is free to download from the iOS App Store and Android Google Play.

Further information is available at www.defence.gov.au/health/healthportal/.



Royal Australian Navy Petty Officer Zoe Mack and her husband Petty Officer Kim Green of Canberra look at the new 'High Res' smartphone app to assist Australian Defence Force members.

Australia's wartime history App

With the growing interest in our wartime heritage a FREE App highlighting Australia's war heritage sites has been released just in time for the ANZAC Centenary.

Big Sky Publishing in partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Australian Army History Unit and award winning App developer Gridstone undertook to establish a comprehensive record of Australia's war heritage sites.

The Remembering Them smart phone and tablet application provides a geo-coded list and historical descriptions of thousands of memorials, museums, shrines, statues, monuments, buildings, wartime bases, wartime facilities, war graves and other Australian sites that commemorate our wartime history.

The objectives of the Remembering Them App & website are:

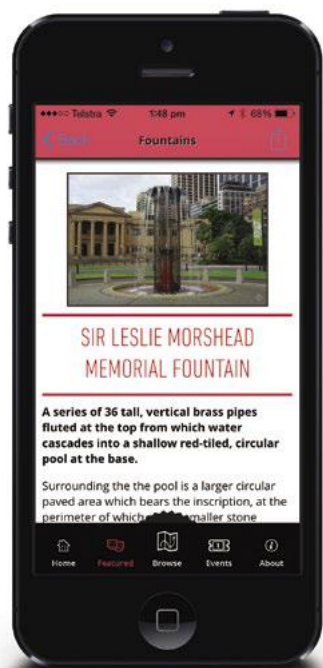
- Create the most comprehensive record of Australia's war heritage sites
- Identify where the sites are located
- Provide a concise history of each site
- Provide users with the opportunity to explore and discover Australia's wartime history
- Provide the App for free to the public so as to assist with educating and generating awareness of our wartime history and heritage

The project commenced three years ago and whilst it is now available to the public. It will continue to evolve

as new listings are identified and entered.

Download the App for free from Itunes or Google Play or access the web based directory at

www.rememberingthem.com.au



Read a brief history of each site



Browse Sites by Category and Location

YouTube Video Launched for the ADF Community

A video reminding Australian Defence Force members that support is available no matter what stage of their career they're at has been launched by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson.

Developed in conjunction with the Department of Defence, the video is aimed at serving members with the central message being that while you may not need help now, you might need it down the track.

The video is part of a wider campaign to inform the defence and veteran community about services and support available, flowing from the Review of Military Compensation Arrangements recommendations.

The Review was conducted to establish how well the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (2004) is meeting the needs of the current and former serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families.

Following a thorough public consultation process with the defence and veteran community, the Review made 108 recommendations, of which 96 were accepted by Government.

The implementation of the recommendations is ongoing but the majority of those that have been actioned have resulted in significant positive outcomes for current serving members, veterans and their families, including expanded eligibility to access support, health care and rehabilitation, increased compensation and a more seamless delivery of these entitlements.

To view the video visit www.youtube.com/user/DVAAus. For more information on the Review of Military Compensation Arrangements visit www.dva.gov.au

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 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.

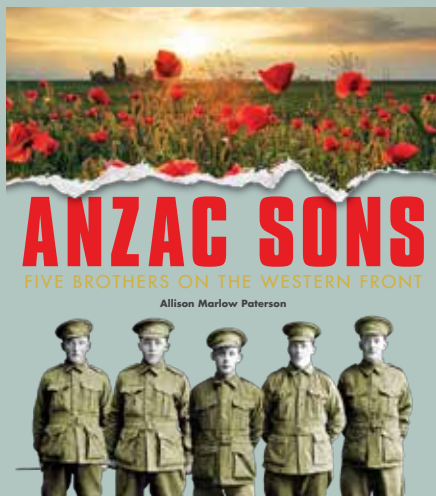
ANZAC Sons

Five Brothers on the Western Front

Author: Allison Marlow Paterson

Release Date: 01/Apr/2015

Pages: 52



A unique, new children's book based on a true story captures the reality of World War 1 – beyond Gallipoli – and into the hearts of the soldiers fighting far from home – interview available

"I believe that in schools we rely heavily on fiction accounts to convey the tragedy of war and that ANZAC Sons is an opportunity to tell a real story, not one based on events where the reader is constantly challenged and sometimes misled by the blurring of fact and fiction. My intention is that this book can be read individually or aloud to a class. It is a factual account of war which can be used to generate discussion on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day and as a catalyst for more in depth study of Australians on the Western Front." – Allison Marlow Paterson

ANZAC Sons, Five Brothers on the Western Front by Allison Marlow Paterson (Big Sky Publishing, RRP \$14.99) is a remarkable and inspirational true story that will transport younger readers from all ages into the hearts and minds of five brothers who served their country in World War 1. The perfect book to introduce children to the full breadth of the World War 1 campaign - beyond Gallipoli – and into the hearts of the soldiers fighting far from home and the lives of the family and communities left behind.

Told through the eyes of the five Marlow brothers, three who would never return home, their letters, photos and postcards offer a first-hand perspective on the trials our young soldiers faced. From enlistment through to training, their first battle and the despair as the brother's dealt with the death of their siblings and their own grief and fears ANZAC Sons will engage and educate.

Reflecting on the reason behind writing ANZAC Sons, Paterson commented, "I hope it provides an appreciation for the great suffering that both soldiers and their families endured and an understanding of the Australian experience of WWI and society at the time. I intend that it

will also develop an understanding of what it means to be Australian; I strongly believe that we need to understand our past to move forward to the future with conviction and empathy."

ANZAC Sons is adaptable across a broad range of readers from 6-14 years of age.

For more information

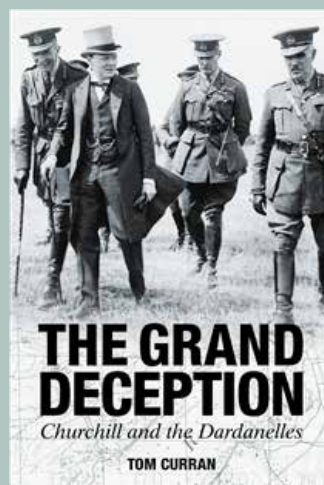
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The Grand Deception Churchill and the Dardanelles

Author: Tom Curran

Release Date: 01/Mar/2015

Pages: 416



The century that has elapsed since the 1915 Dardanelles campaign has done little to quell the debate that rages over its inglorious end. The origins of the campaign are likewise the subject of ongoing scrutiny, particularly the role of First Sea Lord Winston Churchill, with whom the ill-fated campaign has been closely identified. Tom Curran's The Grand Deception: Churchill and the Dardanelles presents a detailed examination of Churchill's role in the decision-making process that led to the Gallipoli landings.

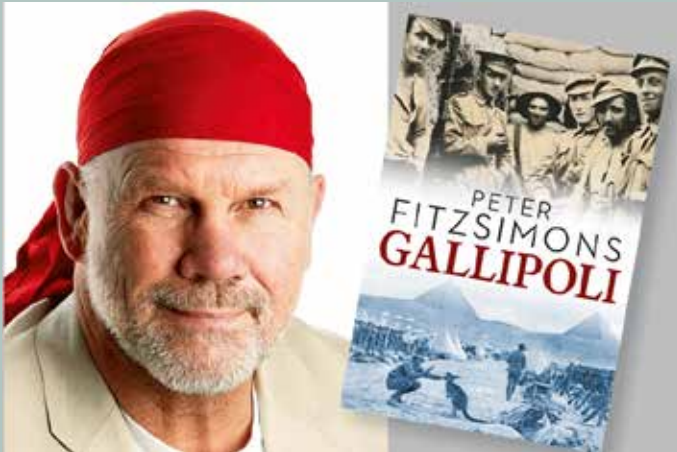
Using unpublished British archival sources and a range of additional material, both contemporary and modern, Curran's meticulous research casts new light on the lead-up to a campaign that would profoundly affect Australian military history. Curran portrays Churchill as disingenuous and interfering, a man who disregarded the advice of his commanders to champion a risky military enterprise. With the spectre of failure looming large, he attempted to shift ultimate blame for the fiasco to Admiral Jackie Fisher and General Horatio Kitchener in a bid to salvage his political career, obscuring his own role by rewriting the history of the campaign. Curran's hard-hitting account reveals the machinations behind the campaign, his careful research creating a new perspective on an extraordinary period of history. For the first time, the story of Churchill's role in the Dardanelles campaign is told in its entirety, adding a crucial chapter to the chronicle of Australia's baptism of fire.

Peter Fitzsimons : bringing Gallipoli to life

Peter: Peter Fitzsimons

Pages: 848 pages

Release Date: 08/03/2015



One of the nation's best selling writers, Peter Fitzsimons has a knack of bringing historical events to life. His books about the Eureka Stockade, Ned Kelly, Kokoda, Tobruk and the incredible story of the Batavia have all been the result of hundreds of hours of thorough research to find the story behind the events.

So when Peter took on the challenge of delivering the story of Gallipoli, he knew that it was going to be a big book, and at 824 pages it certainly is for many, the definitive story of the events of 1915.

"I aim to do a book a year, and I knew the Centenary was coming up," Peter said on the phone during a book tour.

"I thought it would be interesting to look back and ask the questions why were we there, what was it like and what actually happened?"

"To work on Australia's most iconic story was most rewarding, and I wanted to do the whole 'enchilada'. I wanted to tell the whole story.

"I wanted the Australian side, the Turkish side, what the correspondents wrote, what happened with the War Council – and is it a big book? Damn right it's a big book but it had to be to cover the whole story."

After doing so many books on historical events in the past, Peter knew the challenges he would face when taking on a story so close to the heart of all Australians.

"The secret is: I pay a fortune to five researchers. When I was doing 'Kokoda' one researcher said to me that I couldn't do it without moving to Canberra for six months and live in the archives.

"I hired a researcher to work on it and she's been with me ever since. I have another researcher who speaks Turkish and went to Turkey for three weeks, and I have another who speaks German and went through the German archives. They are the best in the business, and they know what I'm looking for. I'm looking for details to make a book come to life.

"I have two mantras. One is 'LNB' which stands for 'Live 'n Breathe', and my other is 'SNT' which means 'Show Not Tell'. A lot of what I do is gathering materials from diaries, letters, contemporary accounts; all the time looking for a theme and seeing how it all fits together, while keeping the reader engrossed.

"If I can sum it up, someone once sent me a quote. The king dies and then the queen dies. That isn't a story. The king dies, and the queen dies from grief – that's a story!"

"When I was researching 'Gallipoli', I realised I should know how many soldiers there are in a division, a battalion or a platoon. I don't, and I never did. So I find out and put in those building blocks for the reader as to how an army comes together. In a way I'm using my ignorance as a tool. I write in a way that the reader can understand, and I too can understand.

"I see Gallipoli as a big jigsaw puzzle, and piece by piece I had to put it all together to tell the story.

"With over 100 pages of footnotes at the back, it is one of the biggest pieces I've undertaken, and for me it was important to get information from all sides. I knew from the start it was going to be a massive undertaking."

After working on the book, Peter has a clear picture of why the Gallipoli story is so revered amongst veterans, and all Australians.

"I think people are fascinated with Gallipoli because it was the first such event for Australia. At the time Banjo Patterson wrote an exhilarating poem about it, which in essence said that now we've been baptised in battle we are worthy of calling ourselves a nation.

"To people at that time we were a bunch of states with no feeling of national pride or identity. There were far bloodier and cleverer battles than Gallipoli. But battles are not founded on the dead, or the manoeuvres, but by the grittiness of the men who were facing their first time in battle and the outpouring of national pride for the first time. For Australians at home, it was the first time we felt like one nation."

So does Peter have a favourite story from all the stories he has put in the book that all bring the events to life?

"The truce on the 24th May I find staggering. Both sides came out of their trenches to bury their dead and for the first time looked at each other, finding that instant empathy.

"I love so many stories from Gallipoli, and I'm thrilled with the final result."

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NSW Report

Well we are heading into the cold part of the year but we are still undertaking quite an array of function throughout the state.

Our President attended the ANZAC march in Sydney which was led by Peter Matthey and what Bruce has said was a great day had by all and was a good time after the march having met some of his old friends for a social get together.

Peter and Sandra Vidler who now reside on the mid north coast, have been busy attending Pension and Welfare meetings in the area and now have been taking claim work on from around the area as they are very short on Pension Officers.

We have also been busy submitting the BEST grant for 2015 – 16, which we hope we are successful in obtaining the funds we need to run the state for another year as the pension team have been very busy this year with numbers well above that of last year and from the President he thanks all members for their outstanding contribution in the work that they do both paid and voluntary WELL DONE TEAM.

Sandra was unable to attend ANZAC as her Father had passed away three days before and was unable to attend. Peter being part of the Old Bar Sub Branch Committee was busy leading up to the event as well as on the day attending the dawn service and was the lead Marshall for the march through the town with his Assistance Dog, Cheeky by his side.



Peter laid a wreath on behalf of APPVA with the assistance of a current serving naval member, Peter Coates who is local and happened to be on leave at the time.

Speaking to the President of the Sub Branch he said it was the biggest march they have had in Old Bar for 13 years.

Trevor has been very busy when he is not undertaking TIP training all over the state, he is driving 104 kms attending Casino RSM undertake new claims by our ex and serving members.

Pauline has been very busy with her pension claims as well as the upgrading of her local war memorial and she has attached a brief story of her home town of Dunoon and the memorial she has spent a great deal of her spare time with the help of other volunteers.



Dunoon District War Memorial The Great War 1914-1919

Dunoon is a small village on the far north coast of NSW with a population of around 500, people some would say it has a laid back or alternate lifestyle approach.

Originally it was farming land but has become the Macadamia capital of Australia in more recent times.

Dunoon, for it's size, has seen many men leave our shores for WW1, WW2, Vietnam, peacekeeping operations and more recently Afghanistan.

Gallipoli is where we sustained the largest loss of veteran's. The names of the seventeen, men on our War memorial paid the supreme sacrifice, many more around the district if you consider all those from the Lismore area. Regional Australia certainly contributed to the war effort, and due to the fact country men are great horsemen there were many joined the Light Horse. WW2, Dunoon alone, had seven that paid the supreme sacrifice not counting others around the district.

Dunoon District War Memorial was built by the Dunoon community in agreement with Lismore Council. An unveiling ceremony and dedication was held on ANZAC Day 1934 at 1100 hrs, many that returned from Gallipoli were in attendance on that day.

Very little had been done to Dunoon War Memorial since 1934, so with the Centenary approaching it was a great time to apply for grants. Some would argue that too much government money was spent on the Centenary, I beg to differ. War memorials represent, and are a reminder to all of Australia's history, so to restore and preserve these monuments is not only paying respect to those we lost but a reminder to future generations to keep our history alive.

Dunoon war memorial's restoration has now been completed with the inclusion of a flag pole. A large community involvement, local tradesmen and volunteers gave so much to achieve this restoration on budget, along with ladies supplying lunches at working bees. Once again a community united to remember and pay tribute to those Dunoon gentlemen that remain in cemeteries overseas.

With the support of The City of Lismore Sub branch and the NSW Branch APPVA, Dunoon Community Hall Committee Trustees will host a Rededication Ceremony for The

Tasmanian Report

A Commemorative Service for the United Nations International Day for Peacekeeping was held at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart on Saturday the 30th May 2015. The main address was given by the Honourable Ivan Dean MLC, a military veteran of Malaya/Borneo who has also served with the United Nations Civil Police in Cyprus.



Lieutenant Colonel Neil Grierson, Wing Commander Deb Phillips and Senior Sergeant Adam Stanwix laying wreaths.



Senior Sergeant Adam Stanwix saying the Police Prayer.

Dunoon War Memorial 23 May 2015 at 1100 hrs. Due to our research it is fitting that prayers and Hymn's at the Rededication Ceremony be the same as those of ANZAC Day 1934. I look forward to reporting the success of 23 May 2015 in our next issue.

Pauline Maczkowiack NSW APPVA.

Well done Pauline and we all hope the day is a success.

From the Team of NSW.

Your AAPVA Membership fees are due 1st July

To all APPVA Members

Membership Fees will be due as at 1 July 2015. Fees remain at \$25 for renewal and \$35 for re-joining.

Any member who previously paid by Credit Card that has now expired, we need your new number ASAP.

For those members not paid for FY 13/14, 14/15 and requiring payment for FY 15/16, a one time offer of \$25 will be accepted to retain membership.

Anyone with fees owing from FY 12/13 will require to pay \$35 as a re-join fee.

Please contact the National Secretary Kevin Ryan with any payment details.

Contact can be made via email, phone or post.

Post: PO Box 480 Boronia VIC 3155

Phone: 0419 544 342

Email: secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au

Fighting the Blast

It takes bravery to tackle explosives, and Australian military experts are continuing to help their Afghan allies to take the blast out of the fight.

Last year, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) claimed more than eight lives per day in Afghanistan.

These devices range from rough, cobbled together contraptions, to sophisticated gadgets capable of killing or maiming dozens of people in an instant.

Three Australians are among the dedicated team of Counter Improvised Explosive Device (CIED) Advisers trying to help the Afghan government stop the carnage.

Flight Sergeant Dean Maher, an adviser to the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI), is one of those advisers currently deployed on Operation Highroad, Australia's contribution to the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

Resolute Support is focused on training, advising and assisting the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) and Afghan security institutions.

FSGT Maher's advises at the Central Training Centre in Kabul, which delivers both the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Improvised Explosive Device Defeat (IEDD) courses.

"EOD training deals with unexploded ordnance found in the public domain. It could be from previous conflicts or the current troubles," he said.

"IED training deals with specific devices created by the insurgents to attack Coalition forces and the ANDSF.

FSGT Maher said his role is to engage with Centre Command and address any training issues they might have.

"I help ensure the tactical-level instruction is being carried out correctly, that there are no issues with the training, they have the correct number of instructors and other aspects of training delivery," he said.

"Training is also facilitated through Coalition contractors mentoring Afghan instructors," he said.

FSGT Maher said CIED trained personnel in the ANDSF are needed now more than ever.

"The IED trend certainly isn't decreasing," he said.

"Here in Kabul we mainly see a Vehicle-Born IED threat whereas in wider Afghanistan we see what we've been facing for some time now in the Victim Operated and Radio Operated devices in places like roadsides and areas where the ANDSF usually patrol."

On completion of their training the students go out into the field to put their skills to work, highlighting what's at stake for the Afghan people.

"Once the students graduate from this training they'll immediately return to their provinces as they come from all over Afghanistan," FSGT Maher said.

"They'll return to their normal places of duty and begin field

operations immediately."

With the change from combat operations to the train, advise and assist Resolute Support mission, NATO and Coalition forces are focused on leaving Afghanistan able to support itself.

"We're supporting this training to make sure that when the Coalition leaves Afghanistan, the Afghans have a sustainable training capability for the future," FSGT Maher said.

"The current mission has a schedule to have the training entirely led by Afghan instructors by the end of 2015.

"I believe they're on track to meet that."



An Afghan National Defense and Security Forces student in an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) suit uses a metal detector during an explosive ordnance test at the EOD School at the Central Training Centre in Kabul, Afghanistan.

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)
ABN 59 558 194 094
APPVA
PO Box 480, Boronia Vic 3155
Phone: 0419 544 342
Email: secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Contact Details

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr (Rank) Address
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Given Name(s) State Post Code
Date of Birth...../...../..... Country.....
Name of Parent/Partner/Child Email.....
(Complete only for Affiliate Membership)
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Service Details

Missions *(Attach separate sheet if necessary)*

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

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