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AUTUMN 2016

MAGAZINE

**Veterans Rally by Calling for
a Royal Commission**

**HMAS Darwin at the
International Fleet Review**



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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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Able Seaman Communication and Information Systems Letisha Scott-Davies sets the flag at half mast during a ceremony onboard HMAS Darwin.



From the President's Desk

A warm welcome to all our members, onlookers in 2016, this year so far we have seen a lot of controversy with Australian of the Year Award 2016 recipient "Lieutenant General David Morrison (Retired)" for his efforts in raising his awareness through his three priorities "action on a republic, domestic violence and gender equality". The greater veterans' community were dismayed that he was awarded the Australian of the Year in 2016 for speaking up against those very three points.

The greater veterans' community feel that they have been let down once again by senior ranking officers within the Australian Defence Force who know fully well, that in service their superiors had failed in their duty of care in fulfilling their statutory and legislative requirement under the Defence Act of 1903, in administering those soldiers who have had Warlike, Non-Warlike or Peacetime service who suffered or contracted an injury or disease.

As a National President and a practicing advocate, I find that a lot of claims that I am currently addressing under various Acts that servicemen and servicewomen may have an entitlement to, have failed in some way or form from either veterans filling in their own claims online not fully knowing the ramifications or the impact it will have on further claims submissions or delegates failing to address the evidence and linking the Statement of Principle (SoP) to a relevant factors that may apply within the SoP. This process in itself is very demanding on advocates who perform these duties daily voluntary.

In 2015, the APPVA opposed the Government's Legislation for a Single Pathway in the Senate. This was successfully blocked in the Senate by the ALP and Cross benchers. Instigating this charge was Senator Lambie. Unfortunately, for the second attempt by the Government to push this disadvantageous Amendment through, the Government consulted only with the RSL and the Australian Defence Service Organisation (ADSO), not the APPVA on this matter. The Government is continuing to slash costs to a Department that needs to be providing the utmost

beneficial approach to veterans. The mere saving will be around \$2.3M, which is minimal, is the excuse behind the Amendment.

"The saving of around \$2.3M is a meagre saving over 4 years and supposedly simplifies the appeal process within MRCA. DVA will have a significant legal advantage at the Veteran Review Board (VRB) appeal phase. The APPVA have briefed the ALP and other cross-benchers in the Senate who will insist on further amendments to the benefit of the veteran"

The APPVA will rigorously oppose the current Amendment, to ensure that veterans get a better appeal, as time has taught us over the decades that any changes the government makes to legislation will only impact veterans now and into the future in regards to entitlements and benefits.

Members of the APPVA who are also members of the RSL and various other organisations' have formed a working group seeking a "Royal Commission" into DVA in 2016. On 2 March 2016, a Veteran Rally took place in front of out the front of Parliament House, to protest about veterans' entitlements under the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004, todays veterans are frustrated about their entitlements and benefits eroding under the current legislation and will seek a Royal Commission to audit the functionality of the DVA and its processes.

The Rally was a resounding success and further Rallies have been planned around the country by the Veteran Royal Commission Working Group (VRCWG). The APPVA supports this Group of veterans and will post of future activities via Facebook and our website. Please also look at our website and Social Media for advice of ANZAC Day 2016 events around Australia

Regards

Allan Thomas
National President



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Second Rotation of IMP in Kabul

Policing is a tough job.

Being a Military Policeman at Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) in Kabul is even tougher when dealing with a world of different nationalities and languages.

Fortunately for the deployed Australian Army Military Police a bit of Aussie friendliness goes a long way towards crossing the language gap.

Four soldiers, from the 1st Military Police Battalion in Brisbane, are integrated into a 16-strong Danish-led International Military Police (IMP) team for the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

They also work closely with soldiers from the Turkish Army who are responsible for the security of HKIA, which is a sprawling base the size of a small town and currently home to thousands of military personnel and civilian contractors.

Close to 250 Australian Defence Force personnel are deployed in Afghanistan as part of Operation Highroad, which is Australia's contribution to the NATO-led mission Resolute Support.

IMP Supervisor, Corporal (CPL) Aaron Wilcox, said his role as a manager of the unit's military police investigators was to ensure the safety of all the troops and civilians who worked at HKIA.

"Our team is responsible for policing the rules and regulations of the base, including traffic control, weapon states and dress standards," he said.

"We also conduct security and identification checks and search for prohibited items and substances at the entry control points.

"This requires us to liaise with people from more than 40 countries as we conduct our investigations.

"We are also responsible for the security of visiting VIPs from the nations contributing to the Resolute Support mission."

CPL Wilcox said a highlight of his deployment was being part of a capable team of soldiers in a policing role.

"We are getting out and doing our job," he said.

"The people at HKIA respect us because we are making a difference and helping them stay safe.

CPL Wilcox said while the Australians worked to their Army policing standards, the Royal Danish Army military police had taught the Aussies different professional skills.

"The Danes are also learning a lot from us because we are very detailed in our investigations and spend a lot of time getting to know the people of the HKIA community," he said.

Private (PTE) Jessica Clune, of IMP, said a highpoint was working in the international environment of HKIA.

"It's been exciting to be doing my job on deployment and amazing to learn how the military forces from across the world go about their business," she said.

"Sometimes it can be a challenge working with the other nationalities and trying to understand their languages, but we collaborate well and get the job done.

"The Danes have been teaching us Danish words and we have Aussie words to teach them every day.

"We also work closely with the Turks at the entry control points and when they find prohibited items our job is to control the scene, assist in the search and collect the evidence for our reports."

PTE Clune said another important task of the IMP was working with the HKIA Hospital Emergency Department when casualties are admitted.

"Our job is to clear casualties of weapons and explosive ordnance before they are admitted into the facility," she said.

"It was eerie when the United Kingdom Puma helicopter crashed on the base on October 11th because we were rehearsing for a mass-casualty aircraft crash scenario at the hospital at the time."

Australian Army Military Police personnel, Private (PTE) Marcus Patiniotis, PTE Jessica Clune and PTE Lachlan Cauchi, patrol Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport military base in support of the International Military Police as part of Australia's contribution to the NATO-led Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan.





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Australian Navy Keeps the Helm at CMF

Australian leadership in a key Middle East role has been passed between two Royal Australian Navy (RAN) officers who share a passion for maritime security operations.

Captain (CAPT) Tony Aldred assumed the role of Director Operations with the multinational Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) from CAPT Michael Turner in Bahrain, on December 3.

CMF is a 30-nation naval partnership promoting security, stability and prosperity across nearly 3.2 million square miles of international waters, which encompass some of the world's most important shipping lanes.

In the dual-hat role CAPT Aldred, who is on his second rotation with CMF, is now also the commander of the Australian personnel who form the Maritime Operations Support Group (MOSG) who are deployed to the region under Operation MANITOU.

The MOSG fills key leadership and operations support positions within CMF headquarters and deliver services to RAN units deployed in the Middle East region.

CAPT Turner, who began his deployment in December 2014, said the Director Operations was responsible for the coordination of the day-to-day operations of the three CMF Combined Task Forces.

"The multinational force is comprised of Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, which conducts maritime security and counter-terrorism, CTF 151, which conducts counter piracy and CTF 152, which is responsible for the Arabian Gulf security and cooperation," he said.

"There is also an Australian responsibility as the Maritime Operations Advisor to the Commander of Joint Task Force 633.

"My previous RAN operational experience in the Middle

Below: Royal Australian Navy officer Captain Tony Aldred, Director Operations Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and Commander Maritime Operations Support Group (MOSG), is seen at the Naval Support Activity in Manama, Bahrain.

Opposite: Members of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Maritime Operations Support Group (MOSG) based at the Naval Support Activity is Manama, Bahrain under the command of Captain Tony Aldred, RAN (centre left).



East, along with my time working with CMF in 2007/08 and the last Australian-led CTF 150 in 2013/14 as the Plans and Regional Engagements Officer, prepared me well for the role in a multinational environment.”

The 30 member nations of CMF are Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Yemen.

There are up to 3000 personnel, 15 warships and three maritime patrol aircraft in the region available for CMF Combined Task Forces.

CAPT Turner said his final task as a representative of CMF was to brief the UN Sanctions Committee of the Security Council in New York in a joint presentation with the Afghan Ambassador to the UN, the UN Al-Qaida Taliban Monitoring Team and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

“The concept is for CMF contributors to be endorsed to work with these agencies and use the full powers of the UN Sanctions Committee, particularly UNSC Resolutions 1988 and 1989, which deal with Al-Qaida and Taliban funding,” he said.

“CMF want to work with their international law enforcement partners and the UN to use CMF boardings to generate a direct effect against terrorist financiers.

“One of CMF’s key achievements has been to progress from conducting purely military operations to recognising and developing a method to work together with international law enforcement agencies and international organisations, such as the UN, to defeat serious trans-national criminal networks with terrorist links.”

CMF’s ongoing success in intercepting high-purity Afghan-origin heroin crossing the Indian Ocean— more than eight tonnes in the past three years – has attracted international attention, with 2015 being CMF’s most successful year to date.

CAPT Aldred said he was also well prepared to be Director Operations as he previously served in this CMF role in 2011 and has deployed after busy posting as Director Current Operations at Headquarters Joint Operations Command.

He said the job and the nature of the threats to be countered had changed dramatically since his last deployment.

“The persistent efforts of CMF, the European Union Naval Force and NATO over the past few years have suppressed piracy in this region,” he said.

“Now we are focused on regional maritime security and counter-terrorism, particularly in regards to meeting our responsibilities under United Nations Security Council Resolutions and international maritime law.

“A key role now is interdicting illicit narcotics or weapons, spear-heading our efforts to undermine the flow of money to terrorist organisations.”

CAPT Aldred said measuring success in the Middle East region is different for the various contributing governments and their militaries, however for CMF its day-to-day

success is evident through the interdiction of the illicit trade that funds terrorist activities.

“Each interdiction is a tactical victory for CMF, with continual tactical success impacting on the terrorists’ funding arrangements,” he said.

“Terrorists groups have come to understand we are watching them and can stop them through disrupting their business model, so CMF is contributing significantly to the global counter-terrorism effort.”

The 30 nations comprising CMF, whose collective motto is “Ready Together”, are not bound by a political or military mandate.

Instead, the multinational naval force is a culmination of alliances, such the European Union and NATO, and like-minded nations.

As a result nearly a third of the world’s sovereign states are engaged in maritime security operations in the Middle East region.

CAPT Aldred said maritime security was the lynchpin to global security.

“Close to 50,000 ships pass through CMF’s area of operations each year, representing nearly 90 per cent of the world’s trade and nearly the same percentage of the world’s fuel supplies,” he said.

“Most of these ships pass through three major choke points, namely the Straits of Hormuz, the Bab-el-Mandeb at the southern end of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, so any event affecting these areas could severely impact this trade.

“No one can predict the future, but I have no doubt terrorist groups will continue to threaten global security for some time, while other security threats, such as piracy, could also re-emerge with little notice.

“We need to be fully committed to tackling such threats for the long term, hence organisations like CMF, who focus the efforts of like-minded nations to contribute to global security solutions, are invaluable.”



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The recent crash of the Australian retailer Dick Smith has once again demonstrated the importance of effective inventory management. The impact of inappropriate inventory holdings on Defence is exactly the same as it is in the commercial world; it costs money and affects operational performance. After building up a stock inventory of over \$293m from bulk purchasing programs, which the retailer anticipated would be consumed, it ran out of money.

There are, of course, good reasons to hold inventory. Unless replacements for failed parts are ready to hand, airlines suffer lengthy delays and passenger defection. Without stock on shelves, retailers lose sales. Product lines shut down if factories don't have spares to keep productive assets working. Battles are lost if Navies, Armies or Air Forces have too many ships, tanks or fighter aircraft out of commission, not to mention shortages of boots, bullets or bottles of water etc.

So it is clearly essential that Defence acquisition projects and in-service Program Offices get the initial and ongoing platform inventory requirements correct, both to support operational effectiveness and to efficiently exploit budgetary constraints. Unfortunately, this is easier said than done.

The problem is that the vast majority of inventory planning systems wastefully inflate stock levels to cope with varying demand; a tiny minority are more cost-effective but rely on highly skilled specialists and/or exhaustive data to get it right. The question has always been, "how much inventory?" At an early stage in the search for answers, the world happened on the proposition that it would be a good idea to hold enough of any given item to ensure an acceptably high probability of it being in stock when needed. This resulted in a universal model of stock planning recommendations that relied on the probability that a given item will be on the shelf when demanded. This probability is usually called the fill rate, demand satisfaction rate or service level and is the fundamental reason that inappropriate inventory levels are often held across Defence platforms and many commercial equivalents such as airlines.

Researchers at the RAND Corporation, a prestigious think-tank favoured by the US military, quickly came to a realisation that system availability is a function not only of the rate at which shortages arise but also of how long they persist. This attracted them to a measure of inventory effectiveness called expected backorders, which takes both attributes properly into account. The same researchers also saw cost optimisation possibilities: if you set tighter backorder targets for cheaper items than for the more expensive ones, you'll pay less for whatever level of availability you stipulate. Thus the term Cost Weighted Back Order was born (CWBO).

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Diggers in Air Trial

Troops evaluate interoperability and cargo loading for air mobility of units

Diggers from Townsville have had their first opportunity to put 'boots on board' an Air Force C-27J Spartan.

This occurred when a C-27J from No. 35 Sqn conducted operational test and evaluation at RAAF Base Townsville late last year.

The visit will inform the C-27J's future interoperability with the Army, according to 35 Sqn pilot FLTLT Mark Seery.

"We're utilising Army resources, including troops and the CH-47 Chinook, in order to better determine how we can be interoperable with them," FLTLT Seery said. "The trials will ensure we can fit the required amount of troops on board in the kitting they need to wear."

"Depending on the configuration of the aircraft and how the troops are equipped, we can carry between 30 and 40 combat troops."

Trials were also conducted to see how to cross-load pallets and cargo between the Spartan and CH-47 Chinook. Supported by specialists from Air Movements Training and Development Unit (AMTDU), the trials will inform how future loading methods are prepared for the Spartan.

Gunners from 4 Regt, RAA, were among Army personnel involved in the Townsville trials.

GNR Josh Boxsell, of 109 Bty, was one of 18 soldiers from the regiment who joined 12 soldiers from other 3 Bde units.

"We tested the seating configurations for 35 personnel in patrol order, and the results seemed to be fine because we

moved on fairly quickly. We also tested eight soldiers with patrol order and cargo," GNR Boxsell said.

"When the cargo pallets were there we had to climb around them, dodge the hooks and all that on the walls. You had to be mindful of that and it slowed you down a little bit until the aircrew showed us different techniques, which help speed up our evacuation. You could tell they knew what they were doing."

He never imagined doing trials such as this when he joined the Army.

"I never expected to work with the RAAF so much, same with the Army choppers. At 4 Regt we seem to have a good relationship with these guys and it means we get to see how each other operates, which was especially important for us in the gun group when we need to do air mobility operations," he said.

The trials of the pax and cargo loading configurations were successful and the 3 Bde personnel walked away with a clear understanding of how the Spartan may be used to assist their units in air mobility in the future.

While at RAAF Base Townsville, the Spartan's crew took the opportunity to build experience operating the Spartan in Northern Australia.

This included operating from a dirt airstrip in the High Range Field Training Area. FLTLT Seery said these sort of trials were essential to the C-27J Spartan performing as a battlefield air-lifter for the ADF.

Below & opposite: Royal Australian Air Force and Australian Army personnel conduct load transfer trials between a C-27J Spartan battlefield airlifter aircraft and an Australian Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter at RAAF Base Townsville, Queensland, on 12 November 2015.







Salute to India

HMAS *Darwin* joins 23 other countries in the Bay of Bengal for the International Fleet Review

HMAS *Darwin* took its place on the world stage at the International Fleet Review (IFR) in India in early February, joining 90 vessels from 24 countries. *Darwin* entered the Indian port of Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal sailing in company with Indonesian Navy Ship *Kri Usman Harun* and Malaysian Navy Ship *KD Lekir*.

The ship's company ventured to the upper decks to be met by the spectacular sight of more than 42 warships in formation anchorage from countries including China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the UK, France and Japan, with the Indian aircraft carriers *Viraat* and *Vikramaditya* at the peak.

"I've never seen so many warships anchored in the same place at once," SMNET Clapton Fawke said.

"It takes your breath away when you see it for the first time."

A few lucky Darwin personnel also participated in tours provided by the Indian defence forces with destinations such as New Delhi, Agra (Taj Mahal) and Bodh Gaya.

Providing an opportunity for navies from around the world to build trust and confidence with their maritime neighbours and partners, 25 foreign naval chiefs attended the IFR, which allowed host nation India the opportunity to display its maritime capabilities and the relationship it has built with other maritime nations.

Darwin's passage to the IFR in company presented significant opportunities for manoeuvring and communication exercises, and the change to better understand how each Navy does business.

Passage activities included conducting replenishment manoeuvres with *Darwin* acting as the guide, and cross-

Opposite: The crew of HMAS *Darwin* during a 'Cheer Ship Ceremony', during the Indian International Fleet Review in Visakhapatnam, India.

Below: HMAS *Darwin* personnel march down Beach Road in Visakhapatnam, India, for the Indian International Fleet Review.



decking of personnel between *Kri Usman Harun* and *Darwin*.

Darwin's navigator LEUT Scott Benstead said the occasion provided rare opportunities for cooperation.

"It was a pleasure to be on the bridge today," LEUT Benstead said.

"The professionalism of the Indonesian and Malaysian crews was on display and they didn't disappoint."

Joined by the Japanese destroyer *Matsuyuki*, *Darwin* conducted helicopter exercise.

As both *Darwin* and *Matsuyuki* are equipped with Seahawks, there was a rare opportunity to practice landing on the flight deck of the other ship.

LEUT Jake Wadsworth piloted *Darwin*'s helicopter 'Battlecat' for the exercise.

"While there were some small differences in the Japanese way of landing a helicopter on deck compared with the RAN, my training kicked in and the professionalism of the Japanese sailors ensured the landing was conducted safely," LEUT Wadsworth said.

"It was my first time landing on a foreign ship and it was an awesome experience."

Ship's company pauses to remember tragedy

En route to the IFR, the ship's company of HMAS *Darwin* paid tribute to the nine Air Force and Navy personnel who lost their lives during Operation Sumatra Assist Phase I and Phase II after the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and March 2005 earthquake.

Sailing up the north-east coast of Sumatra near where Sumatra Assist took place, the entire company – under the command of CMDR Phillip Henry – paused to remember those who were lost in the humanitarian effort.

CHAP Richard Quadrio used the ship's main broadcast system to provide a background on the operation and read out the names of those personnel who were lost.

The minute's silence ended when, on cue, *Darwin*'s embarked Seahawk 'Battlecat' conducted a ceremonial pass down the starboard side of the ship. The nine personnel died on April 2, 2005, when Shark 02 crashed on the Island of Nias, south of Sumatra.

Flight Commander LCDR Kye Hayman said the tribute was a special occasion.

"The Shark 02 tragedy hit the Fleet Air Arm community very hard, and sailing in this region reminds me, and many others, of the events of 11 years ago," LCDR Hayman said.

"I'm glad we could do something that remembers the sacrifices made that day."

HMAS *Darwin* arrives at the Indian International Fleet Review in Visakhapatnam, India.



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Police Peacekeeping: A Brief Overview

By Jason Byrnes

Australia's civilian police have been involved in international peacekeeping efforts since May 1964, when 40 officers urgently deployed to join the then newly created United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). With inter-communal violence out of control on the Mediterranean island, the United Nations (UN) had urgently appealed to the international community for both soldiers and police.

Australia's Menzies Government was sympathetic to the UN's requests but needed to retain its military forces close to home (at the time it was providing military support to the governments of Malaysia and South Vietnam). The Commonwealth instead authorised a police deployment and in lightning speed for the time, the police (all volunteers) were selected, trained and then deployed in just over three weeks. In Cyprus the Aussies joined (or were later joined by) civilian police colleagues from Austria, Denmark, New Zealand and Sweden.

UNFICYP was the UN's (and Australia's) first mission in which its civilian police component performed a peacekeeping role without legislated law enforcement powers (also known as executive authority). Fifty-two years later, Australian police are still part of UNFICYP but it is now just one among many international missions currently being undertaken by the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

The use of civilian police as peacekeepers is in keeping with the origins of the English model of community policing as adapted in Australia (where police work with communities to solve problems and to reduce communal tensions). The basic rationale of civilian policing is to uphold both the rule of law and the rights of individuals, and to resolve incidents with the minimum use of force. This makes civilian police a logical component of peacekeeping operations, in addition to diplomatic and military personnel.

This article will briefly explain some of the features of police peacekeeping (and how they can vary from military deployments), outline the role that Australia's civilian police have played in international peacekeeping efforts since 1964, and explain the current emphasis of AFP missions on building the capacity and capability of host nation police to serve their communities and counter criminal threats (both local and transnational).

Police Deployments

There is no standardised template for an international police mission; mission structure will depend on the peculiarities of each scenario, which in turn determine factors such as force construct, command, control and coordination (C3) responsibilities, deployment locations and the limits of the mandate of the civilian policing component. Possibly the one commonality between a deployment of AFP and that of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel is that



An AFP officer receives a medal from a senior UN diplomat in Cyprus.

the ultimate decision to deploy and withdraw Australian civilian policing contributions is made by the Government of Australia on the basis of what it believes is best for Australia's national interests.

Prior to 2004, staffing each mission was undertaken on a relatively ad-hoc basis with AFP personnel applying for expected vacancies (sometimes at very short notice). Police volunteers from Australia's State / Territory police were occasionally called upon to deploy as special AFP members during periods where demand for police was high there were insufficient AFP personnel available (eg: Timor-Leste between 2000 and 2006, and previously, Cyprus between 1964 and 1978).¹ In 2004 the Commonwealth Government for the first time provided dedicated funding for the AFP to establish a standing capacity to deploy personnel (police and support staff) off-shore, without adversely impacting on domestic policing operations. Today, that capacity is provided through the AFP's International Operations portfolio.

AFP officers volunteer for international service; experience and expertise is sought as officers operate mostly in remote communities, in poorly defined or ambiguous legal and security environments, and live among locals with limited exposure to independent police, Australians and Australian culture. Unlike military deployments where units deploy and operate as a group, in most policing missions AFP officers work in small groups (even pairs) alongside civilian police from other contributing nations and/or with

¹ The AFP was formed in 1979 with the merger of the Commonwealth Police, the Australian Capital Territory Police and, later, the Federal Narcotics Bureau. Prior to 1979 the Commonwealth Police was responsible for providing police personnel overseas.

host nation police. The UN in particular adopted a policy in the mid-1990s to integrate their civilian police contingents. It is therefore not uncommon in a contemporary UN police mission for an Australian police officer to rarely work with another Australian on a day-to-day basis during their deployment. This has both many advantages and challenges for an individual, and is another reason that experienced, self-sufficient and well-rounded police are selected for deployment.

The type of equipment (including firearms) and the logistics systems used by AFP personnel will depend upon the location and the mission mandate. In most of its current peacekeeping and capacity building missions AFP officers are unarmed as they do not have an executive authority role. In some historic missions it was also felt that to arm the AFP would be counter-productive as local warring factions had access to more powerful weaponry, and the AFP had to rely on their communication skills and interaction as a way of ensuring they weren't regarded as posing a threat (eg: Cambodia, Mozambique and Bougainville).

Mission Case Studies

Since 1964, over 3,000 Australian civilian police have been deployed on peacekeeping, stability operations and capacity building missions to locations as diverse as Somalia, Thailand, Haiti, Namibia, Bougainville and Mozambique. The following handful of examples gives insight to the diverse roles that have been and are being undertaken by police.

Cambodia: An Arm of International Diplomacy

Australia took a prominent role in the UN brokered restoration of civil rule in Cambodia in the early-to-mid 1990s. As part of Australia's efforts, between May 1992 and August 1993 a total of 20 AFP personnel were attached to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Operating in a province under the shared command of rival Cambodian factions (including the Khmer Rouge), the unarmed AFP personnel resided in an isolated village and worked with German, Tunisian, Indian and French police to establish relations with local warring factions. The AFP officers attached to the UN investigated over 200 cases of human rights violations, liaised and networked with local factions to bring about an environment of calm and confidence for a national election in May 1993, as well as trained and developed over 400 local police in the most rudimentary of environments. Police fingerprint experts from NSW, Victoria and Queensland were also separately deployed as part of Australia's contribution to supervising the May 1993 elections.

Haiti: An Urgent Request of a Friend

In late 1994 the Government of Australia agreed to an urgent request by the Government of the United States of America to contribute personnel to international efforts to restore democracy in the Caribbean nation of Haiti. Between November 1994 and March 1995, 30 AFP (including special AFP members from the Victoria and Queensland police forces) deployed to a remote Haitian village. There



AFP personnel on parade, being welcomed by local residents in a formal ceremony in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

they worked to engender community confidence through the close monitoring and mentoring of local Haitian security forces.

Timor-Leste: A Dual Presence

The AFP has had a continuous presence in Timor-Leste since 1999 when 50 AFP personnel joined the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET). Initially unarmed, AFP and other UNAMET staff organised and conducted a vote on Timorese independence from Indonesia. After the vote and Timor's rapid descent into terrible violence, additional AFP officers (along with the ADF and military / police personnel from other nations) deployed as part of UN stability operations. AFP personnel serving with the UN during this phase were armed, utilised executive authority and helped train a fledgling Timorese police force. The UN ceased peacekeeping operations in 2005.

In the wake of a dramatic political and community violence crisis in Timor-Leste in late 2006, the AFP surged personnel (along with the ADF and other international partners) to restore order. While some AFP personnel were subsequently attached to a new UN peacekeeping mission (2006 – 2012), the AFP maintained a separate capacity building mission of its own in Timor-Leste.

The AFP's Timor-Leste Police Development Program



An AFP officer giving a police presentation to ADF personnel in Dili, Timor-Leste.

(TLPDP) was established in 2004 to assist developing and building the capability of Timor-Leste's national police, the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste, through a range of training, executive development, infrastructure building and mentoring initiatives. Delivered at times in cooperation with other donor nations, TLPDP is an unarmed mission based in Dili which uses a mix of police staff and contractors.

Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)

RAMSI commenced in 2003 at the request of the Government of the Solomon Islands and under the auspices of the Pacific Islands Forum. Years of ethnic tensions prior to 2003 had fermented civil unrest and destabilisation throughout the nation, including compromising the ability of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) to conduct its duties impartially. Disorder descended to the point that international intervention was needed to restore peace.

Over 300 AFP, New Zealand and Pacific Islands police were supported by the ADF and regional partners in restoring security. RAMSI's police component initially focussed on operational policing (executive authority) and assisting in removing corrupt elements within the RSIPF. As time passed RAMSI (and AFP efforts) increasingly focussed on mentoring, advising and rebuilding the RSIPF into a modern and effective police force. RAMSI has continued post the withdrawal of the ADF in 2012, and through a mix of successful capacity building initiatives and the willingness of the RSIPF to improve its professionalism, the mission is on-track to conclude mid-2017. Discussions are now underway to determine what type of assistance from the AFP will be required post-RAMSI.

Afghanistan

Between 2007 and 2014 the AFP deployed a total of over 130 officers to a capacity building mission agreed to on a bilateral basis between the governments of Australia and Afghanistan.

The role of the AFP evolved over time and included providing policy and strategic advice to Afghan and coalition forces in Kabul, intelligence sharing, operational and investigative



An AFP member, an officer from the Afghan National Police and ADF personnel at the Tarin Kowt Police Training Centre in Afghanistan, in 2009.

training and advice, as well as recruit training to Afghan police in Tarin Kowt in southern Afghanistan. AFP efforts were delivered in consultation and partnership with broader Australian assistance efforts and the priorities of the international coalition.

AFP personnel were armed and relied on logistics support from the ADF in southern Afghanistan, and used private security contractors in Kabul. The AFP withdrew its presence in January 2014 within the context of Australia's broader drawdown strategy in Afghanistan.

Contemporary Mission Focus

As time has passed the emphasis of AFP international deployments have evolved. In the late 20th Century police deployments were focussed on traditional peacekeeping methodologies under the auspices of the UN (eg: Cyprus, Cambodia, Mozambique) or other multilateral bodies or agreements (eg: the Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville and the International Peace Monitoring Team in the Solomon Islands). These missions often involved either maintaining a status quo, supervising the implementation of a political agreement or monitoring human rights matters pending major elections.

At the turn of the century though, a number of high-profile stability operations missions occurred requiring rapid police and military deployments to stabilise community violence, prevent a law-and-order vacuum, and provide training and support to the host-nation's police force. Some of these missions lasted for a considerable period of time (eg: the UN's presence in Timor-Leste from 1999 to 2005 and then late-2006 to 2012, and RAMSI from 2003 to the present); others were short-term crises deployments (eg: 2006 AFP stability operations deployments to both Tonga and Timor-Leste).

Over the course of the last decade a major change has occurred in the paradigm of international police assistance. Whereas the emphasis was once on short-term stability operations, a realisation occurred that the most effective way to support post-conflict and developing nations was to meaningfully build the capacity of local police and the broader justice sector, to provide sustainable (ie: locally appropriate) community protection. For Australia and the



An AFP member teaching Afghan police in Southern Afghanistan.

AFP, this evolution in approach came at the same time as an increased understanding by police, policy makers and successive governments, that under-developed and limited policing capacity in neighbouring nations was not only detrimental to those local communities (through varying degrees of lawlessness), but also to Australia's security. A policing vacuum in developing and post-conflict nations emboldens transnational criminal syndicates to use those locations as bases for their exploits against Australia (eg: the smuggling of illicit drugs and people, and complex international fraud schemes).

As a consequence, while the AFP is still able to deploy personnel to peacekeeping missions on the direction of the Government of Australia, the organisation now focuses its international deployment efforts on capacity building missions, particularly in the South Pacific. Each mission works within the key AFP doctrinal requirements for police capacity building; providing support to a police force's operational capacity, its leadership and enabling services. This means the AFP offers a range of thematic support - courses, and initiatives to improve a host police force's efforts in the areas of police leadership, operations, management, investigations, intelligence, C3, gender, finance, governance, policy and information communications technology (cyber). The thematic of gender is weaved through all initiatives as it is vital to encourage the active participation and involvement of women in host police forces and the broader justice sector.

Current AFP Peacekeeping and Capacity Building Missions

There are currently over 250 AFP personnel deployed to one of the following missions:

Cyprus: UNFICYP monitors the 1974 ceasefire and the buffer zone separating the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities, and undertakes humanitarian activities. The AFP's contribution to UNFICYP is scheduled to conclude mid-2017.

Liberia: Since early 2014 a senior AFP officer has performed the role of UN Police Commissioner to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Nauru: Three AFP officers provide long-term mentoring and capacity development support to the Nauru Police Force.

New York City: A senior AFP officer is attached to the Australian mission at the UN Headquarters. The officer undertakes strategic liaison with UN and other interlocutors.

Pacific Police Development Program – Regional: This is a unique program in which Australian based AFP officers provide assistance that promotes effective operational policing, which in turn enhances the safety and security of Pacific Island communities. The program utilises 'fly-in-fly-out' modes of assistance to the nations of the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Niue, Tuvalu and Palau.

Papua New Guinea: Over 70 AFP staff, most of whom are unarmed police in uniform, work as advisors, mentors and coaches in publicly visible roles with members of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) in Port

Moresby and Lae. The AFP also provides instructional staff to conduct recruit training, facilitate RPNGC infrastructure enhancements and mentoring support to the RPNGC in major events planning.

Samoa: Three AFP officers develop the capacity of the Samoan Police Service through providing/facilitating training, infrastructure development and equipment acquisition.

Solomon Islands: Around 70 AFP personnel work with New Zealand and Pacific Island police to build the capacity of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF). Transitioning of responsibility for providing security throughout the nation is well underway, with the RSIPF scheduled to assume full responsibility by mid-2017.

Timor-Leste: Around 30 AFP personnel are currently focussing on improving the effectiveness of Timor-Leste's police through initiatives in the areas of governance, leadership, management, training support, investigations, operations and gender equity.

Tonga: The Tonga Police Development Program is a trilateral initiative between Tonga, Australia (AFP) and New Zealand. Three AFP officers work with their New Zealand and Tonga colleagues to professionalise the Tonga Police through providing training and infrastructure improvements.

Vanuatu: The Vanuatu Australia Police Project is a joint program with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Vanuatu Police Force, and focuses on capacity developing through infrastructure and training initiatives. Three AFP officers are attached to the program.

About the author:

Jason Byrnes is a Superintendent in the AFP and is currently Coordinator Strategic Commitments for the AFP's International Operations function. He has served overseas with UNFICYP and as part of the AFP's mission in Afghanistan.

Former AFP International Missions	
Afghanistan	2007 - 2014
Bougainville	1997 - 2003
Cambodia (UN)	1992 - 1993
Haiti	1994 - 1995
Mauritius (UN)	2012 - 2014
Mozambique (UN)	1994
Namibia (UN)	1989 - 1990
Papua New Guinea	2004 - 2005
Solomon Islands	2000 - 2002
Somalia (UN)	1993 - 1994
South Africa	1992 - 1994
South Sudan (UN)	2011 - 2014
Sudan (UN)	2006 - 2011
Thailand (UN)	1989 - 1990
Timor-Leste (UN)	1999 - 2005 & 2006 - 2012



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Commonwealth Laws Encroaching on Freedom

07 March 2016

Lara Bullock, Lawyers Weekly

Multiple Commonwealth laws that encroach upon traditional rights, freedoms and privileges recognised by common law have been identified in the Australian Law Reform Commission's latest report.

The ALRC's final Traditional Rights and Freedoms – Encroachments by Commonwealth Laws report was released by the government last week following one of the broadest inquiries ever undertaken by the Commission.

In 2014 Attorney-General George Brandis QC asked the ALRC to identify any Commonwealth laws that encroached upon traditional rights, freedoms and privileges.

Of the 20 traditional rights, freedoms and privileges provided as Terms of Reference by Attorney-General Brandis QC, the ALRC identified Commonwealth laws that encroach upon 12 of them.

"Important rights and freedoms should only be interfered with reluctantly – when truly necessary," Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, ALRC president and commissioner-in-charge of the inquiry said.

"This report identifies and critically examines laws that limit rights, and will inform decisions about whether such laws might be amended or repealed."

The 12 traditional rights, freedoms and privileges that have encroaching Commonwealth laws warranting further consideration or review are freedom of speech, freedom of association and assembly, freedom of movement, fair trial, burden of proof, strict or absolute liability, privilege against self-incrimination, legal professional privilege, retrospective laws, procedural fairness, judicial review and property rights.

Based on that list, the report calls for further consideration or review into the Crimes Act 1914, the Charter of the United Nations Act 1945, the Taxation Administration Act 1953, the Bankruptcy Act 1966, the Copyright Act 1968, the Racial Discrimination Act 1975, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979, the **Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986**, the Migration Regulations 1994, the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, the Corporations Act 2001, the Australian Crime Commission Act 2002, the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, the EPBC Act, the Water Act, the ASIO Act, the Migration Act and multiple Criminal Codes.

"Some of these laws might be reviewed by a parliamentary committee, a government department, or a body such as the INSLM or the ALRC itself. Others may simply warrant reconsideration by government, given their effect on traditional rights and freedom," the report read.

Attorney-General Brandis QC has asked his ministerial colleagues to carefully consider what action might be taken in relation to the laws that the ALRC has identified as warranting further consideration, so as to preserve and maintain the freedoms that underpin the principles of democracy.

"Australia is one of the world's great liberal democracies, where respect for human rights forms part of the fabric of our society. Individual personal freedom, liberal democratic values and the rule of law sit at the core of our national identity," he said.

"The report acknowledges the role of Australia's Parliament in preserving fundamental rights and freedoms and will be a valuable contribution to public debate on ensuring limitations to these rights is justified."

Retrieved from: <http://www.lawyersweekly.com.au/news/18104-commonwealth-laws-encroaching-on-freedom> on 7 March 2016.



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Veterans Rally for Change by Calling for a Royal Commission into DVA

**Article written by Simon Harrison
Partner at Kaden Boriss and delivered to
the Royal Commission Rally in Canberra
on 2 March 2016**

“My name is Simon Harrison and I’m a Lawyer at Kaden Boriss and part of the Royal Commission Working Group and its a pleasure to be speaking for the Group today.

Last week I wrote to Prime Minister Turnbull, the Governor General and Her Majesty, The Queen; with a request for a Royal commission into *The Department of Veterans’ Affairs* and took the unprecedented step of drafting the proposed Terms of Reference, or Letters Patent, for the Commission.

I like many of my colleagues in the working group have seen the failure of the *Department of Veterans’ Affairs* system first hand. In my case working for the F111 De-seal & Reseal Crews who have fought, and often lost, the battle against the most appalling of chemical exposures only to begin another debilitating turf war against *The Department of Veterans’ Affairs* itself - a system that, in many of their views, repeatedly and systematically failed them.

I have seen many clients die from the rigours of the conditions they contracted during their work on the F1-11s and also know of people who have suicided simply because in many cases, as their families have said, they couldn’t simultaneously cope with their illness and the system.

Or ask East Timor and Iraq Veteran Angus Sim – here today – whose PTSD was in his words “*demeaned and enhanced by Vet Affairs*”.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Angus who at his own costs commissioned a survey of Vet Affairs which revealed 80% of respondents were caused hardship by *The Department of Veterans’ Affairs* and 84% reported that they have been given conflicting advice by the very *Department that is supposed to look after them*.

Angus confirms that “*their actions have exacerbated his recovery in so many ways*”.

Those like me who are card carrying civilians go through our lives living out of harms way taking our safety and our rights and our freedoms too much for granted.

Safety and rights and freedoms secured for us by those who take up the call to arms so that we don’t have to.

We civilians don’t bear any witness to conflict other than as voyeurs through our TV screens

Others bear direct witness for us and those ‘others’ become the principal players and its not that we don’t care but as third party viewers we can’t feel the loss.

Yet, the all consuming danger our military men and women accept on our behalf and the trauma it creates are monumental in their impact.

They are sent into the *war and peacekeeping zones* of an increasingly menacing and unpredictable 21st century- where even armed children pose threats to them and on their backs these brave men and women carry their fears and the debilitating need to be ever vigilant but also they carry the worries of their loved ones 24/7.

When they return home less able and less certain than when they departed we expect that they will be *fixed* – put right - as fully rehabilitated as is humanly possible; and that they will also be compensated – what a terrible word that is **compensated**, they are made to feel that it’s a reluctant payment a favour a hand out and something that you may not want to be receiving - at least that’s how this system all too frequently seems to operate.



**The Committee Members of the Veterans’ Royal Commission Working Group [VRCWG]
Front Row: Fiona Quinn, Allan Thomas, JP; Angus Sim; Simon Harrison;
Back Row: Michael “Mick” Quinn, and John McNiel.**



Veterans supporting the call for a Royal Commission into DVA

Four veterans of differing conflicts including Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Cambodia, and East Timor; hold the “Support a Royal Commission into DVA” Placards that were used in the Veteran Rally at the Front Lawn of the Australian Parliament House on Wednesday morning, 2nd March 2016. In the background a range of veterans, both young and old from a large range of conflicts and service meet with the same common cause in mind – to see change in the way the Department of Veterans’ Affairs is treating all veterans. The Veterans claim that the Department of Veterans’ Affairs is an adversarial system to deal with when seeking compensation and that they feel under-valued that their service caused medical or mental conditions are placed under heavy scrutiny from an over-burdened and clunky Department. The very Department that was Constituted to look after them and their families under Australian Law since 1921.

They tell us time and time again that they feel devalued at a time when they couldn't feel more at risk from a body and a mind that has also turned against them and a body and mind reengineered by trauma to be relentless in bringing them down add to that weight a guilt in claiming – and you exacerbate their feeling of alienation and despair.

Yet what we fail to understand is that this isn't just about levels of compensation - compensation is actually indicative of our level of recognition as such we would expect that only the best rehabilitation AND the best financial support is given to them in our name - they were after all *wounded, injured or ill* from their service in our name.

But, in our name, this simply hasn't been happening.

Instead in our name they have been mistreated by the system.

A system that should be a right not an option.

A system that should be replete with utmost respect in its very DNA not doused in abuse as a default mechanism.

And a system that we should be proud to see operating in our name.

Yet time after time we have seen platitudinous attempts at reform that sees hopes scattered to the winds in a gust of disingenuous flag waving.

And Aided by Surveys of the most dubious nature arbitrary conclusions from suspect demographics.

With money thrown at half hearted inquiries like defensive flak.

Avoiding the issues.

Avoiding justice.

And avoiding Veterans.

Can I also say this shouldn't be a partisan issue its an ALL Australian issue?

And the measure of a grateful Australia isn't about how grand we build our cenotaphs it's about how well we rebuild the lives of our veterans.

The only way, THE ONLY WAY to achieve equity, to restore faith and to deliver the right outcomes is for a full investigative no holds barred high profile Royal Commission to once and for all open up *The Department of Veterans' Affairs* and make us proud again of how we treat our veterans.

No more, not in our name.

Enough is enough is enough.

You can't play politics and you can't play economics with

veteran's lives - lives that have been exhausted in battle and service; only to be debilitated by the *Department of Veterans' Affairs* system.

But I tell you when it comes to the looming battle ahead to establish this Royal Commission then like our veterans we also won't stop when we get tired - we, like you, will stop only when the job is done and a Royal Commission delivered."

About the Author: Mr Simon Harrison previously worked in the Middle East and Australia with US law firm Squire Patton Boggs. Simon has worked in many areas of law including: International Litigation Services including contractual disputes, fraud and corruption; Sovereign State Representation; and Defence Industry - procurement and project. Simon has also been a Partner of TressCox Lawyers in Brisbane and is currently a Partner of Kaden Boriss. Mr Harrison has also worked for corporate clients and governments across India and south east Asia and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland.
 Ph: +61 7 3013 2700 M: +61 4495 33315
 Email: simon@kadenborissbrisbane.com.au

Photos: Adam Pritchard

Please see links below or further information on the rally.

WIN News Link: <https://www.facebook.com/Australian-Peacekeeper-and-Peacemaker-Veterans-Association-209494352511385/?fref=ts>

The Age: [http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/hundreds-of-angry-veterans-to-rally-behind-dva-royal-](http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/hundreds-of-angry-veterans-to-rally-behind-dva-royal-commission-call-in-canberra-20160301-gn74g8.html)



Our little Helper

Isis van Duren, 3 year old daughter of young veteran Shane and Javina van Duren. Shane was unable to attend the Rally in Canberra, due to being hospitalised. Unfortunately, many were unable to attend, due to being ill, working or simply being unable to afford to do so.

[commission-call-in-canberra-20160301-gn74g8.html](http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/hundreds-of-angry-veterans-to-rally-behind-dva-royal-commission-call-in-canberra-20160301-gn74g8.html)

The APPVA You Tube as to the reasons why we need a Royal Commission: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6JHdOhlakc>

Highlights on You Tube of the Rally at Parliament House 2 March 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cl50SEcrTw&feature=youtu.be>



Nicholas Hodge, Veteran of East Timor and also former Police Officer, protests outside of the Veterans' Affairs Office in Brisbane. Nicholas was protesting in support of his fellow veterans in Canberra on 2 March 2016".

MY NAME IS NICHOLAS HODGE.
 I AM A MEDICALLY RETIRED VETERAN.
 I AM DEMONSTRATING IN SUPPORT
 OF THE RALLY CONDUCTED TODAY IN
 CANBERRA BY 100+ OF VETERANS
 DELIVERING AN APPLICATION FOR
 A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE
 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
 SO FAR THIS YEAR THERE HAVE
 BEEN SEVERAL SUICIDES.

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Divided into two parts Part One (Professional Development) and Part Two (Practical Problem Solving) the qualification culminates in a 60 – credit 'Professional Practice in Aviation' paper, consisting of two assignments.

- I. Investigation and Report; whereby students may choose to investigate a problem or situation for their employer.
- II. Formal Presentation: whereby students are required to take the above Report and turn it into a formal oral presentation, as if they were presenting it to a Board of Directors, - again developing critical skills required of those in a mid-senior management role.

The MAv (Prof.Pathway) is therefore ideally suited to mid-career ADF aviation professionals who wish to add an aviation post- graduate qualification to their career portfolio.

Flight Lieutenant Jason Skeggs - Royal New Zealand Air Force

Jason graduated with his Massey University Bachelor of Aviation Management degree in November 2014 and then decided to continue his University studies by enrolling in Massey's Master of Aviation (Professional Pathway) programme as a distance student.

Why does Jason see a benefit in postgraduate study?

Jason says that he is attracted to the fact that the papers in the MAv programme are offered by distance learning – allowing him to continue in his new full time Staff Officer role at the New Zealand Defence Force Headquarters, tasking the P-3K2 Orion on Search and Rescues and other tasking, while studying in his free time.

He sees the papers offered in the MAv (Professional Pathway) as being relevant to his current role as they enable him to gain a strategic view of not only his own specialised area of the aviation world but of the broader aviation community with whom he works closely in his RNZAF capacity.

Jason finds that studying at a postgraduate level is increasing his skills in report writing, and enables him to develop the confidence to present his findings as a result of his investigation and research in the papers he undertakes during the MAv programme. These are all skills he sees as critical in a rapidly evolving modern work place – be it military or civilian.

By reinforcing his military training with University studies Jason hopes that in the future - armed with a postgraduate Master of Aviation qualification - he will have gained the skills and knowledge to be successful in undertaking increasingly senior roles within the RNZAF.



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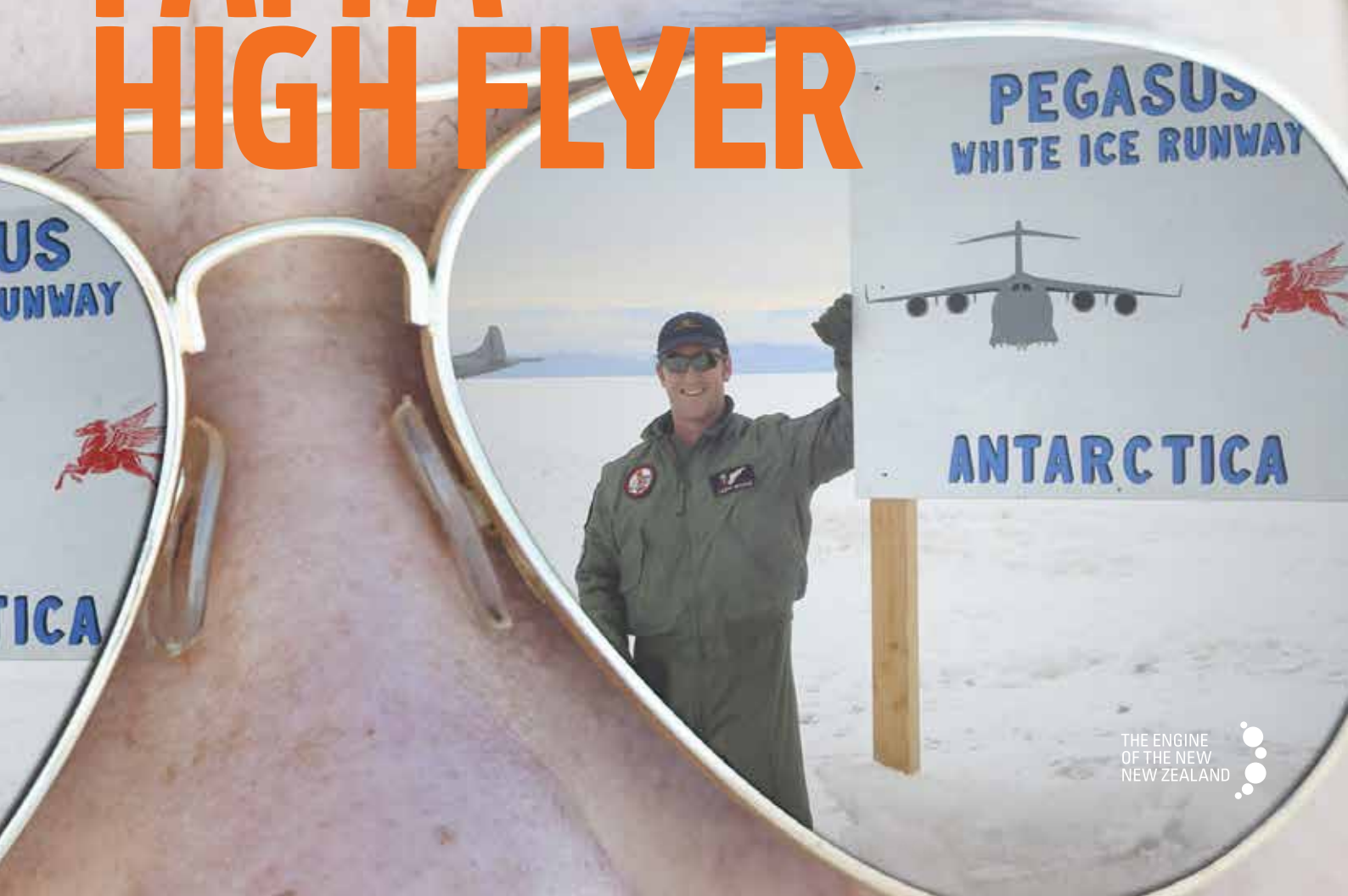
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Key Messages for the Proposed Royal Commission into The Department of Veterans' Affairs, Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association.

1. **Repeal the MRCA 2004**, as the process is resource intensive, has a poor Time Taken to Process [TTTP] rate; is an adversarial process for veterans negotiating the process; Repetitive Assessments for Rehabilitation; delays in payment of PI and IP, particularly where the veteran is unable to work and has no other income.

2. **Enact the VEA 1986 and SRCA 1988**, by placing dual eligibility. The Rehabilitation process provides beneficial opportunities for veterans, particularly whilst serving within the ADF, which is counted toward the requirements of rehabilitation for the purposes of stability for the payment of Permanent Incapacity; and/or General Rate or Above General Rate pensions.

3. **The Fechner matter (Ms K.E. Fechner v The Repatriation Commission [2012/0757] of 18 December 2013)**. The complaint of the subjective and incorrect content of the Writeway Report, which was used against the veteran at an AAT Hearing. The handling of the complaint by the Department by using Clayton Utz, which took over 18 months, denied an input by the plaintiff for the Terms of Reference; Mrs Latta's [nee Fechner], complaint was dove-tailed into four main complaints, although the Department stated that there were 36 Complaints of Writeway Reports during the period 2013-2014; The Investigation denied Natural Justice and Procedural Fairness; The Investigation took as fact the evidence from Defence being sound, when at the AAT it was defeated, because Mrs Latta proved should could understand the chatter of Indonesian Operators; that the fact that the letter unsigned was fraudulently made and that the individual concerned has not been charged under the Public Service Act; and that there was no Right of Reply provided by the Department. The matter was posted on the DVA Website within 10 hours after "debriefing".

The Department has completely ignored the concerns raised at the debriefing and through an email of complaint toward the conduct of this "investigation" that was sent to the DC Victoria [Mr John Geary] and to the former Minister of Veterans' Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson

The Veteran is willing to present as a witness. The Course program is also available as evidence, as is the complaint of Jan 2014.

4. **The Iraq War Veteranmatter** of refusal of a claim for IP by a delegate in Townsville, which placed the veteran at high risk of suicide over the Christmas period. He was isolated in Mt Isa, with no support available and his father died during this period. The young veteran had to borrow money off the APPVA to resettle back to Victoria. The young veteran's case was heard at the Victorian VRB, which was in the veterans' favour within minutes of the

hearing. Therefore, the Department was responsible for significant psychiatric stress on the veteran for a period of at least 3 months. If it had not been for the assistance by the APPVA, the veteran would have taken his own life.

5. **A Senior DVA Manager** in NSW, including a Delegate in S.A. accused a Veteran who left the army on a walking stick of lying about his income, by stating that he was on MSBS Invalidity Pension, when he was not. Evidence supported this contention by the veteran, of which in any case he was denied IP under SRCA due to not being able to work as a result of his accepted Back Condition. A re-assessment of the veteran was not offered by the Department in their decision-making, which would have easily identified the Incapacity that the veteran is suffering and not being able to work, as was the case. The Veteran is willing to present as a witness.

6. **Refusal for a veteran to have LASIK surgery**, regardless of the clinical need identified by his GP, Psychiatrist and Optometrist. Refusal to fund a specific drug, for the veteran's mental health; and denying the veteran to have at least 5 Viagra pills prescribed per week, rather than just 1. The Veteran's Psychiatrist has written to the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Committee as they made the adversarial decision of the pharmaceuticals aforementioned. The Veteran is Vic Lalli-Cafini of W.A. and is willing to present as a witness. [Details available on request]. Of note, the veteran's father who is a Senior Commonwealth Health Card [SCHC] holder had the LASIK surgery done at the age of 85, without any problems from the Government.

This provides an analogy or comparison of what is available to veterans and what is available to the general population [non-veteran] who are beneficiaries of various Commonwealth Health Care entitlements.

7. **Apparently there is no scope for appealing a decision by the Department for refusing treatment for particular conditions, with the focus on those who hold Gold Cards for "All Conditions"**. This denies natural justice and procedural fairness to a veteran who contends the Departmental decision to reject various treatments that they deem as having "no clinical need..." This is believed to be a fundamental lack of basic Human Rights and discriminates against those who are disabled [Disability Act 1992].

8. Over time the Department has **increased the Safety Net for RPBS** from 50 scripts per year to 60 and now it is up to 70. This is a degradation of previously a fair system to one that is now costing veterans and other entitled people \$138.60 per annum.

9. **The removal of the Beneficial approach within the SRCA for any treatment** deemed reasonable has been stripped from veterans and replaced by the RPBS and MEDICARE List system. Public Servants under the same Act are treated better than veterans under this treatment and pharmaceutical entitlement. This situation was not agreed by the ESO community, as the deal was that the VEA White Card be used in situations where the veteran is unable to pay up-front, however the beneficial payment for any reasonable cost for treatment and pharmaceuticals was taken away instead.

10. **There has been confusion with the treatment for veterans** on and from 1 January 2014. Health Care Providers have not been adequately informed of any changes to treatment to veterans. The cuts to Veteran Health Care and RPBS entitlements are having significant ramifications to a demoralised veteran group, being Peacekeeper veterans; and this has also been significantly noted and experienced by those who have served the ADF in any capacity, who are Gold and White Card Holders, under the VEA, SRCA and MRCA.

11. **The Timor Leste Health Study; The Peacekeeper Mental Health Study; The Rwanda Health Study; and the Viet Nam Veteran's Family Study into Intergenerational Health** affects all had no recommendations, nor has there been any active attempts made by the Department to address the conclusions that were found.

PK MHS: <http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/research-and-development/health-studies/peacekeepers-health-study>

Timor Leste Family Health Study: <http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/research-and-development/health-studies/timor-leste-family-study>

Viet Nam Veterans' Family Health Study [Intergenerational Health Study]: <http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/research-and-development/health-studies/vietnam-veterans-family-study>

Rwanda Health Study: <http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/research-and-development/health-studies/rwanda-deployment-health-study>

Note, the APPVA has written responses to the PK MHS and is currently working on the Timor Leste Family Health Study; and the Rwanda Health Study.

12. **A Tetraplegic veteran of Warrnambool** was told to buy a goat to keep his grass down by the Department, who refused to pay for Gardening Assistance to this highly incapacitated veteran.

Mick Quinn may wish to elaborate on this case as there was a problem also with the Department assisting the veteran with a car fitted out for his disabilities under MRCA.

13. **TPI Veterans have lost a previous entitlement of Family Tax B**, in addition to receiving Veteran Children's Education Scheme [VCES] or the Military Rehabilitation Children's Assistance for Education and Training Scheme [MRCAETS]. The loss encountered by TPI veterans is now for each child aged under 5 years is \$4,339.85 p.a., and a child from 5 to 18 years is \$3,139.00 p.a. A FTB Part B

supplement of up to \$354.05 per family is paid after the end of the financial year once your payments have been balanced. TPI veterans have been targeted in this area by the Department of Finance. The FTB and VCES or MRCAETS as separate payments should be reinstated.

14. **Peacekeeping Veterans on non-warlike service should be entitled to Qualifying Service [QS]**, in order to receive War Service Pension. In the recently released Peacekeeper Mental Health Study, it was found that Peacekeeping Veterans have suffered significant Potential Traumatic Events [PTE], of which they have been exposed to a malevolent or combat environment with parallels drawn alongside warlike service.

15. **ADF Personnel who have served/serve on Border Protection Command [BPC] should be reclassified from Peacetime Service to non-warlike Service.** A recent study into serving ADF members who have undertaken BPC service has noted a number of PTEs, witnessing of human suffering, deaths, attacks against their safety and personal integrity by aggressive asylum seekers and other dangers. This service, particularly that of the RAN Patrol Boat Group [RANPBG], should have back-dated coverage to 1967, when RANPBG Patrols began at the request of the Department of Primary Industries to protect the sovereign border of Australia, its Fishing resources from poachers; the Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ]; and protecting Australia against illegal immigrants, contraband, and potential devastating disease entering Australia.

BPC is deemed to be above and beyond normal peacetime service in Australia and it has remained on an operational tempo since 1948 when the RAAF first conducted Maritime Patrols; RANPBG in 1967 onward; and the Regional Force Surveillance Units [RFSU] of the Army since 1981 onward.

16. **ADF Personnel who have served/serve on Disaster Relief Operations [DRO] should be reclassified from Peacetime Service to non-warlike service.** A number of ADF personnel who have served on DRO have been significantly affected by this service, particularly when these veterans are the first to enter a country that has been devastated by natural disaster. Veterans of these DRO have experienced significant PTEs as a result of the death and destruction from such DRO, which is risk that is above and beyond that of normal Peacetime Service in Australia.

17. **The Plausibility of evidence factor of the Defence Abuse Reparation Taskforce [DART]** should be used for those current or former members of the ADF, who have been bullied, assaulted and/or sexually assaulted, to access Veteran Entitlements via claims for Commonwealth Liability.

18. **An "SM" number should be issued to members who join the ADF**, in order to firstly satisfy the Proof of Identity [POI] process; and secondly to provide the new ADF member with awareness of their veteran entitlements.

19. **There is grave concern that the Veteran portfolio may be changed to a Commonwealth Welfare agency, namely Centrelink or the Department for the Aged.** Australia made a promise in 1921 that it would look after any service person that went to war. This of

course has developed over the past century, noting the inherent dangers of ADF service on Operations and during peacetime. The Unique Nature of Service for ADF is significantly different to a range of occupations throughout Australia. Veterans are also a significant part of Australia's history and culture. ADF service cannot be taken for granted and the retention of DVA is imperative to recognising and looking after those ADF members who were willing to sacrifice their lives, health and wellbeing for Australia.

Evidence of this is the closure of Veteran Assistance Network [VAN], in various regional centres and have a desk located within Centrelink, along with the newly appointed Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Human Services, which is causing a great deal of unease, within the veteran community.

20. **The effects and recommendations of the Dunt Review** do not appear to be completed as action items. The main points that we note is a seamless transition for an ADF Member discharging and being placed into the Veteran Entitlement system; and finalisation for Recommendation 8., particularly Recommendation 8.2 [Paid Advocates and Training qualifications]. There are problems being experienced by current and ex-serving members.

APPVA Dunt Review: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/veterans/studies/Dunt%20Suicide%20Study%20Jan%202009.pdf>

DVA Dunt Review Recommendations: <http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/research-and-development/health-studies/review-mental-health-care-australian>

21. **For the Military Compensation Review 2009**, the APPVA placed a significant submission to the Department, particularly responding to the Government's further consultation of the Review. The Key Messages were the following:

2. APPVA Key Messages for MRCA Review.

2.1 **Remove the Tiered Service differential** of compensation amounts against Peacetime Service and have a single aggregated Impairment Point system within Guide to the Assessment of Rate of Pensions (GARP M - MRCA), without reduction in compensation to any form of service. Therefore, the result will be to revoke the GARP M and utilise the current GARP V of the VEA.

2.2 **Remove the Age discrimination** of compensation amounts on the sliding scale, which is not consistent to Non-Economic Loss (NEL) compensation Permanent Impairment (PI) payment philosophy. The Age Discrimination is a Superannuation structure – not a compensation structure for calculation of Impairment Points.

2.3 **Remove the Gender discrimination** of compensation amounts on the sliding scale, which is not consistent to NEL compensation of PI compensation philosophy. The Gender discrimination is Superannuation structure – not a compensation structure for the calculation of Impairment Points.

2.4 **Remove the Special Rate of Disability Pension (SRDP) under s204 MRCA**, as it is not consistent

with the beneficial approach as previously accessible to those on Special Rate under the VEA, who have COMSUPER(Defence Force Retirement & Death Benefits Scheme (DFRDB); and Military Superannuation Benefits Scheme (MSBS)). It is estimated that less than 1% of MRCA Clients are in receipt of SRDP. Renewed paper, dated 26 August 2015, on this matter may be provided upon request.

2.5 **Exclusions relating to serious defaults or wilful acts**; Reasonable Counselling;

Travelling during Peacetime Service and Tobacco Products – within Chap 2, Part 4, s32 (in its entirety) is revoked. Rationale as discussed in this paper and within the MRCA Table.

2.6 **The Department to pay travel up-front** for those veterans who require travel to and from Rehabilitation and/or Treatment (s43, s47, s48, and s49). The system of Booked Car with Driver (BCWD) to continue with MRCA, in order to not place the veteran with high up-front costs, which take some months for the Department to reimburse the veteran.

2.7 **That the 80 Impairment Point** threshold within s80 of MRCA be reduced to 70

Impairment Points, as the 80 Impairment Points is excessively high for those who are unable to work due to their service caused serious incapacity. That those veterans unable to work 10 hours or more per week, with 60 Impairment Points to be treated in similar context to Special Rate under the VEA, if the veteran is unable to work 10 hours or more per week. Therefore, obtaining a Gold Card stamped "TPI".

2.8 **That the MRCA system incorporates a card system that is recognised by State and Local Governments** in terms of Concessions (Example the White Card for Specified Treatment Entitlement Card (STEC), or the Gold Card (Treatment for all Conditions). This includes access to the Pensioner Concession Card (PCC), in order to provide Concessions for the veteran and his/her family as a result of being in receipt of Incapacity Payments (IP), as IP usually negates the access for those veterans with Qualifying Service (QS) to War Service Pension (WSP), which is provided under the VEA.

2.9 **The Department investigates the use of technology to improve billing arrangements under MRCA.** That billing for non-Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (RPBS) or standard VEA treatment entitlement or pharmaceuticals are paid with an electronic billing system, which provides real-time payment. The current system is cumbersome and takes months to have the Department to pay the bills for such treatment, rehabilitation and/or pharmaceuticals. In the Information Age, of which we are a part thereof, there must be smarter technological solutions available to rectify these problems.

2.10 **That the Transition Management is comprehensively over-hauled** with ESO consultation. This is consistent with the Dunt Report into Suicide in the Ex-service Community; and the Independent Study of Prof Dunt into the Review of Mental Health cover in the ADF and Transition through Discharge. This is suggested

to be contextualised within a multi-eligibility and multiple deployment simulation to ensure a consistent and highly professional level of service to exiting members of the ADF.

2.11 Significant Streamlining of the MRCA to make the Act a simpler system to work. This includes processing of claims ranging from Commonwealth Liability; Permanent Impairment or Increase applications; Incapacity Payments; notation of the Defence Allowance (s183) in correspondence to claimants; Needs Assessments; Rehabilitation Programs and general administration of the system. Simply, the Time Taken To Process (TTTTP) of MRCA requires significant overhaul and improvement.

2.11.1 It is strongly recommended that the Government increase the **Average Staffing Levels (ASL)** for DVA and also train Staff to be multiple eligibility capable, rather than singular eligibility capable, in terms of handling complex cases.

2.12 That Service Chiefs in their capacity as MRCC ensure that all possible efforts have been made to rehabilitate an ADF member, retain, retrain and provide the opportunity for decisions to be made on MRCA claims for Permanent Impairment prior to Medical Discharge, along with potential retention in the Reserve and Return to Work strategies whilst on convalescence Leave. This is consistent with the ADF Rehabilitation Plan and DI-G (PERS) 16-15, Australian Defence Force Medical Employment Classification System – Deferment of Medical Termination Action paras 48-50. *(The Single Service Chiefs being the MRCC has now been changed to the Chief of the Defence Force [CDF] as the single MRCC body within MRCA for the ADF.)*

2.13 That the recommendations made within the **MRCA Table at Annex A** (of the APPVA Submission) are taken into consideration for improvement and Legislative changes.

2.14 That the ADF refrains from cuts in costs to medical treatment to serving members, regardless of the type of service the member has rendered. The best possible Rehabilitation and Treatment must be made available to a serving member, regardless of which Compensation Act they are under. This is considered to be a Duty of Care by the ADF to ensure that a fit and healthy workforce is maintained.

2.15 That regardless of service type, whether current or ex-serving, a veteran or service member be entitled to the previous entitlement under the VEA of the **Temporary Incapacity Allowance (TIA)**, for admission into a hospital and paid after 28 days after treatment for rest and recuperation of such treatment. TIA is noted not to be included in the MRCA. The intent of TIA is to provide for NEL payments for pain and suffering of a veteran undergoing such treatment and recuperation.

Note the TIA was revoked from the VEA in 2014.

2.16 That a veteran under the MRCA who is over age 65, is not disadvantaged in terms of seeking NEL compensation by being able to claim conditions as a result of their service, either clinically onset, aggravated or sequelae. This is consistent with the approach made in the VEA, of which veterans are able to continue claiming conditions until their death. Consideration must be placed

toward **Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA)**, in terms of Lifestyle Rating of 6 and 70 Impairment Points (GARP V), within the MRCA, utilising a parallel calculation under the GARP M.

2.17 Incapacity Payments to be paid to the veteran at 100% up to the time of 45 weeks and beyond, if the condition is not stabilised and a Permanent Impairment Payment not paid.

2.18 Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA), must be must be relinquished from Human Services. However the Disability Support Pension [DSP] remain in place.

2.19 If a veteran dies, regardless of living and financial arrangements, the partner and/or dependents should be entitled to compensation. However, if a veteran or ADF member dies, it is considered that compensation be only payable to those who are financially reliant on the deceased. This is consistent with Compensation structures outside of the Veteran Entitlement law. Only in special cases, should there be consideration toward such compensation if the Commission is convinced, to be payable to a person. For example if an ADF member was posted on compassionate grounds to care for a family member with a debilitating illness or disease, and dies as a result of his/her service, then compensation would be thought to be payable to the family member.

2.20 The Appeal Process is streamlined into one system that was previously available to a veteran under VEA. Specifically: s31 Review/Appeal; Veteran Review Board (VRB); Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT); and further appeal at Federal Court levels.

N.B. This single pathway was presented as Schedule 2 to Legislative Amendments to MRCA and VEA. There are concerns of the lack of equal legal representation at the VRB and AAT. Costs for representation of the Veteran needs to be considered into the various phases of Review and Appeal Levels.

Last Point: The APPVA prefers to revocation of the MRCA 2004, with a modified eligibility into VEA & SRCA. We believe this will save on significant resources to administer a highly complex Veteran Entitlement Legislation, which has notably caused high levels of stress for those young veterans who are negotiating their way through what is colloquially known as a "a Veteran Entitlement Law bowl of spaghetti" in terms of the difficulty of the individual to fully comprehend the MRCA.

APPVA Military Compensation Review Submission link: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/veterans/submissions/Final%20Cut%20-%20Military%20Compensation%20Arrangements%20Jul%202009.pdf>

The Government's Response to MRCA Review: <http://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/consultation%20and%20grants/reviews/mrca/mrcareport/vol1-recommendations18032011-3.pdf>

APPVA's Reply to Government Response August 2011: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/veterans/submissions/MRCA%20Response%20Final.pdf>

APPVA Response, May 2012: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/veterans/submissions/MRCA%20Response%20Final.pdf>

22. Clarke Review Comments.

Key Messages:

1. That the Government Rejects Recommendation 26 and supports the cases presented, for retrospective reclassification and recognition to warlike service of the Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and other operations presented. Change of service to the following Peacekeeping Operations:

a. the Australian Army Contingent to OP PALLADIN (UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)), during the Arab/Israeli Wars since 1956, particularly during combat operations during Feb 1984 and Jul-Aug 2006 from non-warlike service to warlike service during the periods of war listed in the attached paper, Link: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/veterans/submissions/APPVA%20Clarke%20UNTSO%20Reclass.pdf>

b. The ADF Contingent to OP HABITAT (Northern Iraq) is reclassified to warlike service from non-warlike service for the period 9 May to 30 June 1991 (*Submission in Draft due to be finalised March 2016*);

c. RAAF crews and GLO to be classified to warlike service for Namibia as for the army contingent under INST040; and

d. OP ASTUTE (JTF631) to Timor Leste to be reclassified from non-warlike service to warlike service during the period May 2006-April 2008.

<http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/veterans/submissions/MINSUB%20-%20Reclass%20JTF631%20Nov%2008%20Main.pdf>

and;

<http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/veterans/submissions/APPVA%20Relcass%20OP%20ASTUTE%2011%20Mar%2009.pdf>

4. That the Government Rejects Recommendation 29 and supports the case presented for retrospective reclassification of the ADF Contingent to the NATO OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT (OP HABITAT), Northern Iraq. That the inconsistencies of the classification of service in the Gulf during 1991 are made consistent to the VEA classification of service from Non-warlike Service to Warlike Service for OPERATION HABITAT, and that this change is made retrospectively.

5. That the Government Supports Recommendation 32 and commissions the ADF to conduct an investigation into the conditions of service, recognition and veteran entitlements to those who serve on Covert Intelligence and Signals Operations. That these operations are investigated by the Australian Defence Force for VEA & MRCA non-warlike service (Hazardous Service) and award the Australian Service Medal Clasp "SPECIAL OPS" to these specialists, for current and retrospective operations.

6. That the Government Review Recommendation 42 for the retrospective reclassification of Overseas Humanitarian Operations from Peacetime Service to Non-warlike Service. That the peacetime extension of VEA or MRCA service of Humanitarian Operations overseas are reclassified from

peacetime service to non-warlike (hazardous) service for current and retrospective operations.

7. That the Government Rejects Recommendation 92 in total. This recommendation appears to have been made without the intricate knowledge of dual-eligibility provisions of ADF members under the VEA and SRCA, and the Military Compensation Rehabilitation Service (MCRS) instituted on 10 April 1994. That the dual eligibility of VEA and SRCA provisions remains eligible to those veterans under the provisions of the Acts pre-1 July 2004 and that the Consequential Transition Provisions Act 2004 under MRCA not influence such changes to pre-existing eligibility.

8. That the Government Rejects the Recommendations made at 93; 103 through to 106: Rehabilitation. The current in-service (ADF) arrangements are adequate in terms of rehabilitation. This rehabilitation should be used for decision making for stabilisation of conditions under the MRCA and/or SRCA. Within the veteran community, many are covered under the MRCA and SRCA, which allows them ongoing rehabilitation. Sensible approaches are made toward rehabilitation of veterans. That rehabilitation programs are offered to Mentally Ill veterans as a choice, not as a mandatory necessity.

9. That the Government Rejects Recommendation 106: "Mental Health Rehabilitation as a priority group." The targeted veterans in this recommendation are high risk that is the veteran has gone through rehabilitation, in many cases the veteran continues seeking treatment by a consulting psychiatrist and trauma counselling from VVCS.

10. That the Government reviews the APPA (APPVA) Submission 1264, in conjunction with this submission. Of particular note are the following sections within Submission 1264, for closer consideration:

a. Section 4: Special Operations – Serving Vital Interests;

b. Section 5: Humanitarian Overseas Operations;

c. Section 6: Totally & Permanently Incapacitated and General Rate Younger Veterans (an emphasis of Younger Veterans to access a credible Veteran Entitlement to the Defence Service Homes Loan to be increased to the current Australian Median Housing Index with CPI);

d. Section 8: War Widows and Children of Younger Veterans;

e. Section 9: Means and Assets testing of Veteran Entitlements;

f. Section 11: namely the recommendations listed in 11.1:

(i) 2. The Committee recommends to the Minister: that veterans who have served on Overseas Humanitarian Operations, are issued an instrument in order to be recognised within the VEA & MRCA for Compensation and Benefits, namely retrospective reclassification to non-warlike service;

(ii) 3. The Committee recommends to the Minister: that all veterans employed within Special Operations and Special Operations Units be provided an instrument issued by the CDF, for inclusion into the VEA & MRCA as non-warlike service

(iii) 5. That the Committee recommends to the Minister:

consideration be given to the Younger Veteran of today for TPI; SR; GR and inclusive of a veteran who has completed 6 years of continuous full time service, in the form of the incentives suggested by APPA in this submission (1264). The incentives are namely:

- (1) Wealth Generation or creation schemes;
- (2) Defence Service Home Loan Scheme for Younger Veterans. Currently younger veterans with low income or tax-free pensions are not eligible for home loans through home loan institutions. This is denying the veteran to provide for themselves and their respective families;
- (3) Younger Veteran Career Incentive Scheme;
- (4) Superannuation or Wealth Creation Education program for Younger Veterans; and
- (5) No detrimental clauses for the Young Veteran on TPI (Severely Injured Adjustment (SIA) under SRCA), returning from work onto TPI SR.

g. 9. That War Widows/Widowers and their compensation pension are not counted as income toward Centrelink allowances and MCRS benefits and payments.

h. 10. That War Widows/Widowers have a sustainable Income Support Supplement (ISS), that is commensurate to the average standard of living in Australia;

i. 11. The Children of Younger Veterans, who have contracted a Biological, Chemical or Nuclear mutation from their veteran parent, are adequately compensated and supported by the Government.

Link to APPVA Clarke Review Submission: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/veterans/submissions/APPVA%20Clarke%20Review%202009%20Main%2011%20Mar%2009.pdf>

Link to The Veteran Entitlement Review Committee (VERC), aka The Clark Review: http://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/consultation%20and%20grants/reviews/clark/ch1_4.pdf

23. Defence Disaster Relief Operations—Reclassified from Peacetime Service to non-warlike service.

Key Messages:

- a. The dangers to ADF personnel whilst serving on Humanitarian or DACC Overseas Operations;
- b. Veteran Entitlement coverage of ADF members who serve or have served on Humanitarian or DACC Overseas Operations for Non-warlike Service “Hazardous Service”; and

APPVA Humanitarian Operations Link: <http://www.peacekeepers.asn.au/veterans/submissions/Reclass%20Humanitarian%20Ops%20Submission%20at%2017%20Dec%2008.pdf>

24. Departmental Mal-administration.

a. That Veterans have and continue to be poorly administered with the lack of removing over-payments for either SRCA or MRCA, of which one Veteran has been charged up to \$200,000 due to an error by the Incapacity

Payments section, who did not identify the veteran’s additional DFRDB Pension. This and many other veterans have had their Incapacity Payments revoked, without appropriate dialogue and consultation between the decision-maker and the veteran.

b. The above has occurred to 30% of Incapacity Payment recipients within the MRCA and SRCA. This provides significant concern; the error is that of the Department, however the approach by the Government is an aggressive debt recovery for veterans that are not financially well off, taking away \$200 p.f. places inappropriate strain on the veteran their family.

25. Indexation matters.

The APPVA is concerned with the indexation of the Veteran Entitlement payments, particularly for TPI, Pensions (War Service and General Rate of Pensions). It appears that the indexation system is not being beneficial to the Veteran community, in comparison to the rising costs of living. This matter requires full review to ensure that a recipient of the TPI pension is not eroding the equity in the cost of living in comparative value for example.

26. Cuts to Previous Government Entitlements.

The APPVA has noted an erosion of previously entitled payments from the Government in terms of the Family Tax Benefit B [FTB]; Carer Allowance; and Carer Payment.

Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A is paid for each child. The amount you get is based on your family’s individual circumstances. This amount is paid to veterans, particularly TPI or SRDP Veterans.

Family Tax Benefit B: Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part B is for single parents and couples where the primary earner has an adjusted taxable income of \$100,000 or less per year. FTB assists a single parent or family to raise their child. There is no inference to offsetting from the VCES or MCAETS.

Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part B gives extra help to single parents and families with one main income.

An example of this may be where one parent stays at home to care for a child full time or balances some paid work with caring for a child. This payment is income tested.

You may be eligible for FTB Part B if you have care for a child at least 35% of the time who is a dependent:

- child younger than 16 years of age, or
- full time secondary student up until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18 years of age

Home schooling for children aged 16 to 19 years of age does not satisfy study requirements for FTB.

The rate of FTB Part B is based on an income test. You also need to meet residence requirements.

You and your partner cannot receive FTB Part B during the Paid Parental Leave period, but it may be paid after the Paid Parental Leave period ends.

Eligible carers

You may be eligible for FTB Part B if you are a:

- parent

- guardian
- foster carer
- grandparent, or
- carer

The APPVA views that no matter the income of a veteran, if they require the assistance of a Carer, which is normally the partner of the veteran, it should be granted, regardless of eligibility of VCES or MRCAETS. Most Carers require respite from Incapacitated veterans. Incapacitated veterans rely on their partners to assist them with normal every day living, including ensuring medication is taken, that the veteran is feeding well and assists in the veteran's wellbeing. This is virtually a free service being provided by Partners, as a result of that Incapacitated veteran's service to Australia.

Family Tax Benefit may be paid to income support pensioners in respect of dependent children. Veterans' Affairs income support pensioners receive the maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A irrespective of their income. If income support is not received for a period of time, the normal income test for FTB A will apply during that period. This may result in less than the maximum rate of payment being received until the DVA benefit becomes payable again.

In other words, Veterans and their families in the case of FTB [B], including Carer Allowance and Carer Payment, should be reinstated, without the harsh Government Legislative amendments, to assist our most needy veteran, including the principle of the matter in that a TPI or SRDP veteran, his/her partner and their family retains a relatively decent quality of life.

27. Non-Indexation of Common Law Action against the Commonwealth.

The current amount of \$110,000 as noted within MRCA and SRCA has not been indexed since December 1988, when SRCA was enacted. In terms of SRCA, the amount was established, along with the Permanent Incapacity Payments (IP for Non-Economic Loss [NEL]). The maximum amount for any given condition or to take Common Law action against the Commonwealth was not indexed from 8 December 1988, until 1 July 2004. The period of 16 years of non-indexation has been an unfair practise by the Government.

Meanwhile the highest IP Lump Sum available under MRCA is approx. \$400,000. This has been an indexed Lump Sum since 1 July 2004. Under SRCA however, the IP Lump Sum only began indexation and has seen a significant erosion in the compensable amount.

The continued use of the figure of \$110,000 is simply an unfair payment to seek Common Law action against the Commonwealth, of which the PI Lump Sum amount should be indexed in the same manner as the MRCA or SRCA PI Lump Sum Indexation.

It is preferred that the Common Law amount is commensurate with the MRCA indexed PI Lump Sum (\$400,000), therefore increased to retain relevance of the value of the Lump Sum in today's terms, not that of 1988.

28. SRCA Incapacity Payments.

The use of SRCA and MRCA IP as Salary within the ADF.

A paper has been devised that explains the ATO, ADF and DVA perspectives toward the use of SRCA and MRCA IP as a Salary within the Australian Defence Organisation [ADO]. Apparently, when in receipt of IP of SRCA or MRCA, the recipient is an employee of the ADO.

This technically terms the IP recipient as an employee of the ADO, which denies some Concessions available to the general public who are disabled and in receipt of various Commonwealth and State Concessions. This is in stark comparison to the concessions of an Incapacitated former ADF member.

SRCA "Superannuation Guarantee".

In relation to s21A of SRCA, the matter of the Superannuation Guarantee [SG] is an issue that has not been appropriately answered by various Government bureaucrats, particularly when asked to provide the answer as to why this SG has been placed into the SRCA, along with what purpose that the SG serves the veteran, given that it is explained within the SRCA as a Superannuation Contribution, that does not have any audit trail of payment into a Superannuation Fund toward the benefit of the Incapacity Payment [IP] recipient.

The view of the APPVA is that the member is a superannuation fund contributor and after retirement is the beneficiary of such superannuation. We therefore contend that the Superannuation Contributions, which reduces the IP by 5%, is not consistent with modern compensation philosophy. Therefore the removal of s20, s21, and s21A is an imperative matter.

Additionally, within the Transitional Provisions (CTPA) and SRCA, s20, s21 and s21A all penalise a retired or invalided member who holds SRCA eligibility toward compensation. The amount of IP is reduced, which is of detriment to the veteran. See Annex F, serials 009 through to 011.

The matter requires investigation as there is a penalty against the IP recipient, of which the Act [SRCA s21A], implicates that there is a superannuation scheme that has yet to be realised or the 5% is simply an under-payment to the recipient of IP. In either case, clarification of this matter is imperative given the significant amount of money that the IP recipient is losing under s21A.

Last of note – MRCA does not have the same requirements under s21A SRCA. The full 75% is available for IP recipients under MRCA. This raises questions as to the validity of the s21A SRCA "Superannuation Contribution" [SC] or the Superannuation Guarantee [SG]. In other words, where is the money going for SRCA IP recipients?

Editor's Comment: The matters raised in this article are not restrictive. The APPVA knows of many cases that has caused significant distress to veterans and their families. These people want their story heard in a fair manner. The VRCWG doesn't seek any form of Review or Senate Committee Inquiry, that will not be actioned, as it has been observed for the past 15 years. What is required is a Royal Commission, that makes the findings legal and binding. The concerns raised by the Australian National Office of Audit in 2013, also need to be addressed by the Department and Government. Fiscal slashing on veteran entitlements is simply unacceptable.

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Major 2016 Activities

Joint Land Series – May to July

FORCOMD units will work with 1 Div, Socomd, Navy, Air Force and other government organisations to achieve a high level of preparedness against a range of potential operational scenarios and against a variety of threats and problems.

The Joint Land Series exercises will consist of the 1 Bde 'Road to War' from March to May, Exercises Silicon Predator and Vital Prospect in May, and Exercise Warfighter in June. The series will culminate with the capstone exercise, Hamel, in July.

Key force elements involved in the Joint Land Series include, DJFHQ, 1 Bde, HQ3Bde, 6Bde, 16Bde, 17CSSBde, Socomd, HMAS Adelaide, Air Force, other Australian interagency partners, a NZDF combat team, US 25 Inf Div force elements, and the US Marine Corps.

Exercise RIMPAC – June to July

THE US Pacific Command-led maritime warfare exercise with Pacific Rim forces promotes stability in the region. Forcomd forces normally consist of an infantry company, however, the ADF plans to send the Amphibious Ready Element to participate in 2016.

Exercise Pitch Black – August

FORCOMD will provide JTAC and indirect fire support force elements from 1 and 6 Bdes for the ADF's major enabling exercise for air combat capability.

Exercise Northern Shield – September

THIS exercise is conducted in the north of Australia to confirm our ability to force project and protect Australia sovereign territory involving high-readiness force elements.

Exercise Croix Du Sud – November

THIS biennial exercise with the French Army in New Caledonia practises evacuation, humanitarian aid and disaster relief operations. This is Forcomd's primary off-shore readiness activity and involves a company of the Ready Battle Group.



Soldiers Put to Test

Army's training goals for 2016 will be tailored to achieve the Chief of Army's priorities of providing support to operations; supporting Army's injured, ill and wounded; modernisation; and the renewal of Army's culture.

Director Joint and Major Exercises COL Steve D'Arcy said Forcomd would focus on three key areas to achieve Army's priorities.

"They are preparedness, modernisation and resilience," COL D'Arcy said.

"Forcomd's design for both individual and collective training will progress Army towards greater individual and organisational resilience and enhance joint preparedness with Navy, Air Force and overseas forces. "This includes supporting the 1 Div-led sea series of exercises in April, May and October.

"Key training events, particularly those conducted as part of Joint Land Series, held from May to July, will also test and review our modernisation efforts."

Of the six significant exercise activities in which Army will participate this year, COL D'Arcy said Exercise Hamel, to be held from June to July, would be the most important. "It will be the culminating exercise in the Joint Land Series," he said. "This is where the Joint Task Force, with 1 Bde, Special Operations forces, Navy, Air Force and other elements,

will be tested against a demanding live adversary and will be confronted with a range of difficult problems, such as conducting operations against a mix of irregular, hybrid and conventional adversaries." This year units will also contribute to a number of key international engagement training activities. "These are important events to enhance interoperability, while also strengthening relationships with our regional and global partners,"

COL D'Arcy said. "Feature international events will be Exercise RIMPAC, where the ADF plans to send the Amphibious Ready Element, and Exercise Croix Du Sud, which is Army's primary off-shore readiness exercise in New Caledonia, which will be held in November."

Opposite: LT Daniel Kirkham prepares to advance to a new fire position during an amphibious assault in Hawaii during Exercise RIMPAC 2014.

Below: LT Daniel Kirkham from the Australian Army's 5th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, conducts sentry duty over Amphibious Assault Vehicles from the Indonesian Marine Corps and United States Marine Corps during a major amphibious landing and beach assault serial conducted at the end of Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2014 (RIMPAC).





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Singleton's Urban Operations Training Facility (UOTF) opened in August last year for use during the infantry IET, specialist and platoon commander courses, and is available for unit training at other times.

US Army MAJ Chris Choi, of the School of Infantry's Specialist Wing, said the facility was the first in a series of new UOTF facilities being constructed across Defence training areas.

The live-fire demonstration conducted late last year by the DFSW, pioneer and sniper cells was used to identify faults within the facility and will inform the design of future facilities. The Singleton UOTF has the capability to accommodate training by platoon to battalionminus-sized groups.

"Some units have already run specialist basic courses here and others are scheduled to use the facility for their sniper and pioneer basic courses this year," he said

"Once the units start to hear about the capabilities of the facility, we'll gain interest in its use. There are a lot of reserve units that also have the opportunity to use it." Various urban warfare techniques can be practised individually, and rolling, multi-faceted scenarios can also be staged. Soldiers can move in before snipers engage targets with live rounds from urban hides.

Other soldiers can then move into explosive breaching and room clearances to secure the rest of the town. During the live-fire demonstration, the snipers from Specialist Wing demonstrated the ability to conduct a loop-hole shoot from within a room with a shotgun breach, while a mutually supporting sniper team was forward of their position and well within the doctrinal safety angles.

This activity displayed that creativity, appropriate risk mitigation measures and the submission of a waiver to a formation commander can lead to advanced live-fire training in a short amount of time. After a live explosive breach and clearance of a five-storey building, an enemy counterattack can be repelled with live rounds from a multi-storey building on the edge of the facility that backs onto a range.

Soldiers will be able to live-fire the 84mm Carl Gustav from within rooms once the construction faults that were identified during this demonstration are corrected. In the meantime, soldiers can live-fire through windows adjacent to the two-storey building.

"Being able to conduct advanced firing techniques builds confidence for soldiers who've never done it and probably thought it was unsafe to do," MAJ Choi said. "It gives them the confidence they need to have when firing in different environments."

Units using the facility need to provide their own activity staff and safety supervisors, however MAJ Choi said the School of Infantry would be able to provide advice. MAJChoi said the popularity of urban training in the US Army had fluctuated over the past 15 years.

"The focus was on urban operations, particularly when Iraq was surging, but since 2010 the focus has shifted back to conventional fighting while maintaining urban training," he said. "We've realised after years of high operational tempo that we needed to keep training in multiple environments."

During his exchange with the Australian Army, he noticed a balanced focus between conventional and urban operations.

"During Exercise Hamel last year I observed a battalion urban attack on Raspberry Creek, and then observed the same battalion execute an attack on a dug-in enemy on top of a ridge," he said. "It shows that Army is ensuring units are prepared to fight in different environments."



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Above: (L-R) Able Seaman (AB) Jason Duvell, Lieutenant (LEUT) Liam, Petty Officer (PO) Genevieve Richardson, PO Andrew Childs, PO Michael Watkins, Leading Seaman (LS) Yu Su, Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Julian Brett and LCDR Tristan Radford.

Below : Executive Officer, HMAS Melbourne, LCDR Rodney Skinner praises the Ship's Company for their hard work during a port visit to the Naval Support Activity in Manama, Bahrain on February 3.



Commander JTF633 Commendations for HMAS Melbourne

Nine members of HMAS Melbourne's crew were awarded Commander Joint Task Force 633 (JTF 633) Commendations at the Naval Support Activity in Manama, Bahrain on February 3.

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Julian Brett, Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Darren Smith, Petty Officer (PO) Genevieve Richardson and PO Michael Watkins were awarded Silver Commendations.

Bronze Commendations were awarded to LCDR Tristan Radford, Lieutenant Liam Catterson, PO Andrew Childs, Leading Seaman (LS) Yu Su, and Able Seaman (AB) Jason Duvall.

The awards were presented by Commodore Braddon Wheeler, Deputy Commander Joint Task Force 633 who congratulated the recipients and said it was not just individuals who made a team work.

"This has been a very high-performing team and everyone should be proud of their efforts in their deployment," he said.

"HMAS Melbourne has a great reputation within the Combined Maritime Forces and the work that has been done during Operation Manitou has been tremendous."

"The professionalism and skills shown is key to making Navy and the Australian Defence Force better in the future."

Lieutenant (LEUT) Liam Catterson, was awarded a Bronze Commendation and the main points of his certificate were his diligent work and attention to detail as a consummate professional.

LEUT Catterson said it was humbling to be recognised with a commendation and noted the hard work performed by everyone in the Ship's Company during the past six months.

"It was a long deployment, but it was also enjoyable to be a part of a successful tour," he said.

"We have been kept busy, but it feels like we have made a difference."

LEUT Catterson has three main roles aboard Melbourne.

As Special Sea Dutyman Officer of the Watch he is responsible for bringing the warship alongside and providing oversight for junior members of the bridge team.

LEUT Catterson also coordinates the training for damage control and fire-fighting exercises onboard as the Assistant Damage Control Training Officer to help the ship survive combat damage at sea.

In his role as the Assistant Principle Warfare Officer he provides direct support to the Principle Warfare Officers in the operational environment.

LEUT Catterson said the highlights of the deployment were

the boardings and success of the drug interdictions.

"It was also a highlight to watch everyone grow as a team during the past 18 months and be awarded the Duke of Gloucester Cup," he said.

"Our biggest challenge is maintaining focus for the long period away from home, especially during the Christmas season."

AB Duvall was awarded his commendation for his outstanding devotion to duty, enthusiasm and reliability while conducting his core role as the Ship's Registry Clerk and his ancillary responsibilities including boarding parties and the Ship's Emergency Medical Team.

He said his commendation was a reflection upon his supervisor, PO Richardson, who was a great mentor in the registry and the rest of the Ship's Company who worked well together in the successful operation.

"We have done a good job," he said.

AB Duvall said it was fulfilling to be part of Melbourne's boarding party because it gave him a chance to see how Operation MANITOU made a difference.

"It is sometimes hard to change the mindset from my normal role of customer service to the complete opposite during boarding party missions, searching for illegal narcotics," he said.

"It has been a long trip, but I have made some great friends and had a good time with the crew."

CPO Mark Baldwin and AB Callum Wirth are also recipients of Bronze Commendations and will be presented their awards upon arrival in Australia.



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Sallyman on Operations

A Sallyman serving on operations with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is the first to be deployed overseas since a support officer served in the Timor Leste during 2009.

He is also the first Australian philanthropic support representative to deploy to the Middle East region since World War II.

Chief Commissioner (CComm) Lyndley Fabre, of the Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services (RSDS), is providing welfare services at Camp Baird.

The deployment of a non-Defence Christian support officer at Australia's main command and support base will be on a four-month rotational basis, alternating with the Everyman's Welfare Service.

CComm Fabre said the main role of the ADF philanthropic organisations is to provide commanders with another option for welfare services to improve the troops' morale and well-being.

"The Sallyman and Everyman have always provided a listening ear," he said.

"We work closely with the ADF chaplains, but we are also outside of the military system, which is unique and can be a drawcard for some people.

"The challenge for me is that RSDS have mainly worked with the Army, so the Air Force and Navy personnel don't really know us or what we can provide.

"Part of my role will be to break new ground with the airmen, sailors and Defence civilians and hopefully the soldiers here will back me up based on their experiences with the Sallyman."

The Salvation Army has been providing services and offering support and spiritual guidance to ADF personnel since 1889 during the Boer War.

First established in Australia in 1914, Red Shield representatives served alongside Australian troops overseas during the First World War.

The Everyman's Welfare Service has been serving the ADF for nearly 80 years following their establishment in 1936.

Red Shield and Everyman's representatives have supported Australian troops on deployment in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

In more recent years RSDS and Everyman's representatives have worked on ADF peacekeeping and stabilisation deployments in Cambodia, Somalia, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands.

CComm Fabre, who has been a member of the Salvation Army for 20 years, said he has been an ordained minister and with RSDS for 15 years.

"I spent five years as a RSDS representative with the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in Brisbane then another five years at the Royal Military College in Canberra," he said.

"I then returned to Queensland to work for two years with the 1st Signals Regiment before I became the Chief Commissioner in 2013.

"It is fantastic to be where the troops are, provide support and demonstrate RSDS is a deployable department."



Above: Chief Commissioner Lindley Fabre, of the Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services, provides a unique welfare service for Australian Defence Force personnel during his deployment in the Middle East on Operation Accordion.

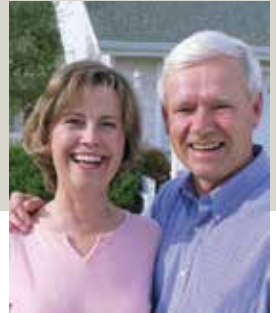
Below: (L-R) Chaplain Mark Willis, Private Nicholas Rheinburger, Chief Commissioner Lindley Fabre of the Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services, Chaplain Rainer Schack, Private Milissa Cromston and Chaplain Murray Fraser share a joke at Camp Baird during their deployment in the Middle East on Operation Accordion.



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The story of how we got the ex HMAS Adelaide

By Sue Dengate

Central Coast Artificial Reef Project (CCARP)

It was the year 2000 and a navy guy 'in the know' told a few of us that an Australian ship was about to be decommissioned and "maybe we should have a go at getting it for an artificial reef"

This seemed an impossible task but 8 of us mad crazy divers thought we'd have a go anyway.

The ship wasn't the Adelaide, it was the HMAS Brisbane.

We formed a group and called ourselves the **Central Coast Artificial Reef Project** inc, CCARP for short and begun lobbying every politician Federal, State and local Governments and on all sides of government.

As the secretary and media spokesperson for CCARP I began writing letters to all of them and we personally visited every local politician, plonked my laptop in front of them and gave them a powerpoint presentation on the vast advantages that this project would bring to the Central Coast. Over the years I wrote to no less than 2 Prime Ministers, 5 NSW Premiers (and 1 QLD Premier), 5 ministers for Defence, and countless ministers and local members of Parliament. We eventually had complete bipartisan support on all levels of government.

We also had to select a site for the eventual scuttling and after identifying several potential locations we conducted underwater benthic surveys. We needed a depth of approximately 32 mtrs, a seabed that had no rocks and a depth of sand that was at least 2 metres deep. This would ensure that the ship would settle in the sand and be able to remain upright without incurring any damage. The site that we selected was a large envelope of approximately 1.5 to 2 kms off North Avoca Beach and the Terrigal Skillion. This eventually proved to be the one that was approved by the Dept of Lands.

In November 2002 we conducted a special presentation to a large audience at the auditorium in Ourimbah University Campus and got huge support from quarters that we hadn't imagined before including the two local Federal Members, Jim Lloyd and Ken Ticehurst and we were on a real high. Things were looking good, then the crest of the wave broke on us and the Navy, being steeped in tradition, gifted the Brisbane to the state of Queensland (even though they hadn't asked for it).

We found that all 8 of us in CCARP had a *never say die* attitude and decided that we should go for anything and everything in order to create our artificial reef and over the next 7 years applied for all sorts of things - **The drug ship Pong Su**. This was politically sensitive so they took it about

10 kms out and used it for target practice. The English navy vessel that ran aground **HMS Nottingham**. The British Admiralty sent us a one sentence reply We guessed we insulted them. The **Cape Don**. The **Cotswald Prince**. A couple of ferries and a helicopter (we were getting desperate). The **USS Kinkaid** – we thought this was a big order and anyway **we really wanted an Australian War Ship**. Time marched on and disappointments kept coming our way, but we continued to have monthly meetings and work towards our vision. Almost 8 years after we started, in early 2008 Jim Lloyd and Ken Ticehurst had worn the parliamentary carpet out between their offices and the office of the Minister for Defence Brendon Nelson.

They had not only secured the Adelaide for NSW, but specifically for the Central Coast. This ensured that even if there was a change of Govt, either State or Federal (which there was in both) we would still get the Adelaide ... our prize was at long last within our grasp. The Adelaide was decommissioned and the *official* announcement made on the deck of the Adelaide in Sydney on 3rd July 2009.

Before The Adelaide's final trip to Sydney to be de-stored we had contacted the Skipper and asked if he could bring her to Terrigal, a request that he happily granted. WOW, did he put on a show for us. At Dawn of the day that she





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Conflict Resolution and Peace starts with Individual Commitment

With increasing levels of violence and discourse, the world in which we live seems a far cry from yesteryear. But, is it really a different world or is it that our awareness of acts of violence and conflict been raised through having wider media coverage? Or, are more people wanting to see change? Or, is it just due to there being more people on earth and incident rates have increased exponentially as a result?

On January 1st 2016 open carry by licensed gun owners became the norm in Texas USA. Some business owners, government buildings and public places have made clear their intention not to allow open carry, yet many will advocate that by restricting open carry an individual's lawful rights are being restricted. When people feel unsafe, they deserve the right to protect themselves. The question of whose rights are more important then creates an inevitable ambiguity and the potential for litigation and conflict again raises its ugly head. One can clearly see that Texans and Texas will take a while to adapt to the new norm, however will it mean an end to mass shootings, or an increase in lone actors taking situations into their own hands and resolving conflict with a gun?

US Presidential Candidate Jeb Bush recently spoke of the need for peace and yet had to ask for the audience to applaud after he finished speaking. Is that a sign that humanity has become so used to conflict, violence and

atrocities that most are thinking 'war and conflict are inevitable?'. When the media, as recently as Dec 2015, place headlines advocating that terrorism is the new norm.....who do we need to start holding accountable for the lack of positive change (towards peace)? When US President Obama challenges his citizens to ask "why?" in the face of increasing gun violence and senseless killings, and Congress and lobby groups choose not to act in the way that is best for peaceful outcomes, who do we need to start holding accountable?

Each individual can achieve inner peace and choose a life of calm and serenity. Each family can choose to resolve conflict and learn to get along together. Every community (social, business, educational, government and diplomatic) has the capability to talk through issues, find common ground and resolve conflict. Does that gives us the answer as to who should be held accountable? The individual who makes the choice to side against peace and harmony?

These are challenging questions. And yet, if humanity does not become extinct in this century due to the selfish and non-strategic choices of many, who will our future generations hold accountable for the current dysfunction? Each person is given options to choose from, in every context, every day.

What will your choice be today?



was due to dock in Sydney the skipper brought her into the bay of Terrigal as far as the depth would allow, sounded her blower a few times and as she left Terrigal, her turbines went into full power and the skipper zig zagged around as she headed out again. This manoeuvre apparently sent the full breakfast plates all over the sailors mess ... the mess was a real mess.

Then the fun started! As the ship was being stripped and cleaned for scuttling (due to take place in March 2010), a group calling themselves the No Ship Acon Group (NSAG) from Avoca decided to create fear in the local population using fabrications and exaggerations and finally lodged an appeal in the Administrative Tribunal to stop the scuttling just 3 days prior to the due date. In July 2010 we found ourselves in the courtroom for 4 days and finally common sense prevailed and we successfully scuttled the Ex HMAS Adelaide on 13th April 2011. We did have another delay though as a large pod of dolphins came in to give their blessing to the Adelaide's new future. As dolphins have always been a good luck sign for sailors this was no exception.

Even though they delayed the scuttling by almost an hour, this me allowed the wind to blow away derogatory words that had been written in the sky over the site by the No Ship group, yet another failure for them.

It was a great day and some bitter-sweet feelings for many of her ex crew who had tears in their eyes as their home for many years slipped beneath the waves. However they were happy to see her future looking bright as a home for marine life instead of being made into razorblades. I have heard many of them say that of all the ships that they have served on, the Adelaide had been the best with the comradery on board being second to none. Don't worry though, they all drowned their sorrows with copious amounts of port and beer on the day!

The ship is now home to a great variety of marine life like huge kingfish, cuttle fish, moewong, brim, banner fish, wobbiegong sharks, stripies, blue grouper along with sponges, molluscs and the list goes on.

We also have the seasonal visitors like migrating humpback whales and gentle greynurse sharks. This new Adelaide artificial reef has already grown and enhanced the marine environment. Everything that we hoped would happen has come to fruition even earlier than we thought and everything that the No Ship protesters said would happen **didn't** happen.

The Adelaide now takes on different personas depending on the weather and sea conditions - majestic, beautiful, spooky, formidable and awe-inspiring.

One of our CCARP members, Barry Dawson sadly passed away before we heard that we had secured the Adelaide and we wanted to remember him and also the work that all 8 of us had put in to getting the Adelaide. So we had arranged for brackets to be welded on the rear bulkhead of the Bridge before she was scuttled so that we could mount a tribute.

So each time a diver visits the Adelaide, and goes into the bridge and sits in the skipper's chair (which everyone wants to do) they turn around and take a close look at a Scuba tank that is mounted on the bulkhead. It had belonged to Barry Dawson and in it is an Adelaide 10th anniversary commemorative port bottle that was given to me by my son Dave Messenger who served on the Adelaide when it went to the Gulf War Conflict , "Operation Damask". By the way, my son and I drank the contents of the bottle as we watched her sink to her final resting place. On the bottom of the tank are the names of the members of CCARP, and we ask that when a diver visits that they give the tank a rub to keep it clean.

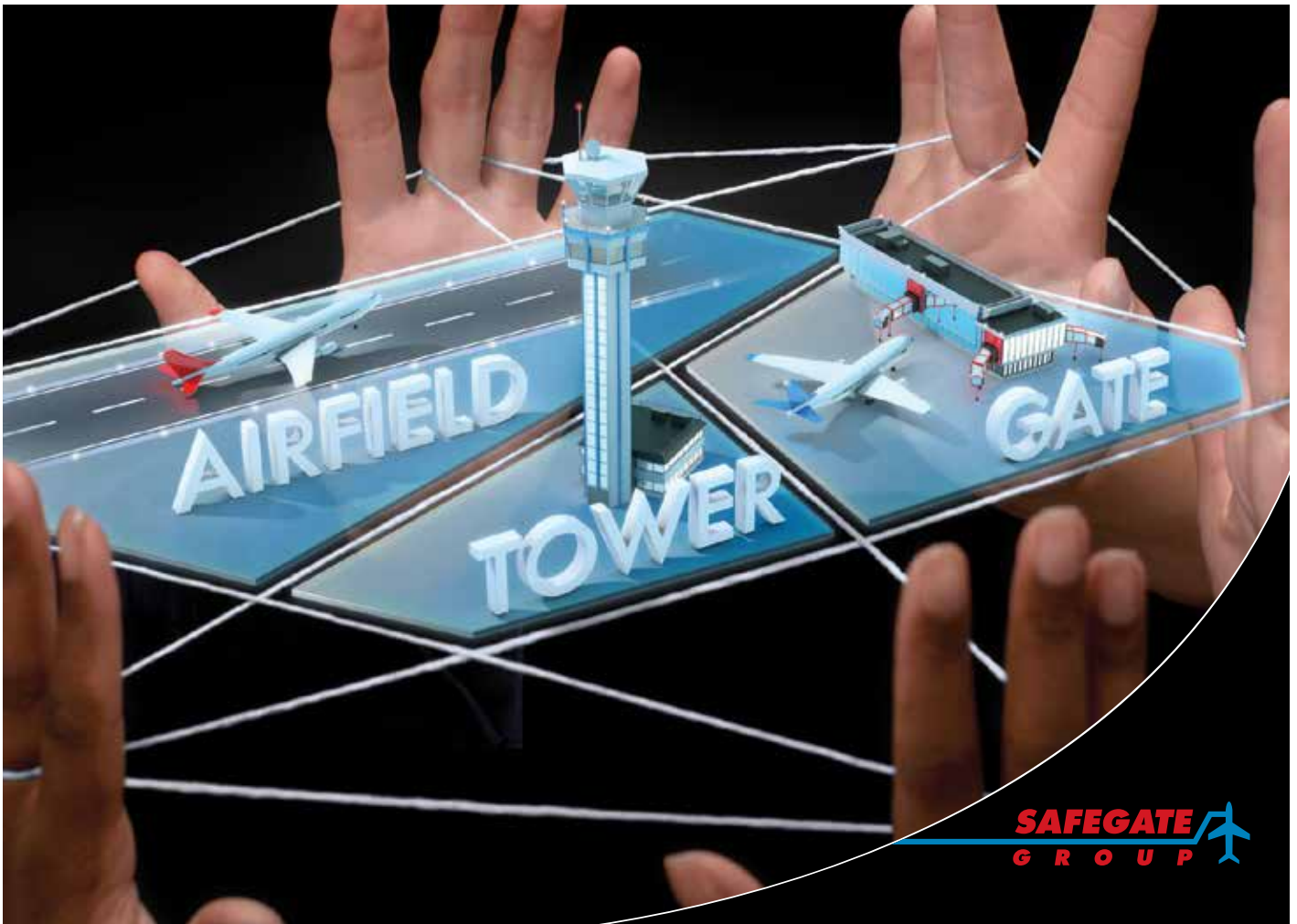


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United Nations Recognises Vital Role of Young People as Peacebuilders

By Laura McManus

It is a historic and game changing moment for the global youth peacebuilding movement: on 9 December 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. It was the first time in the 70-year history of the institution that the explicit role of young people in creating peaceful societies has been front and centre of the Security Council.

Resolution 2250 not only highlights the unique protection needs of young people in conflict, it recognises globally that “youth should be actively engaged in shaping lasting peace”.

Today, more than 1.5 billion people live in conflict affected and fragile states, many of which have predominantly young populations. In these environments young people have been imagined only as perpetrators or victims of violence, a narrative that sidelines their roles in conflict transformation and peacebuilding. In traditional peace and security discourses, youth based peacebuilding initiatives remain on the periphery, often considered ad hoc, small scale and therefore non-consequential. Yet, to marginalise the voices of a major and influential stakeholder group is to ultimately undermine the success of peacebuilding interventions.

Over the past two years, young people and our freedoms, education, cultures and aspirations have been increasing targets of violence:

- In April 2014, 276 Nigerian schoolgirls aged 16-18 were kidnapped by Boko Haram militants in the northeastern town of Chibok;
- In December 2014, the Taliban targeted students and staff of an army-run school in Peshawar in north-west Pakistan, killing 141;
- In April 2015, 147 students at Kenya's Garissa University College were targeted as they were preparing for the day; and
- Just over a month ago, modern youth culture was at the heart of ISIL terrorist attacks in Paris that killed 130 locals and foreigners.

Technology and social media platforms have been utilised by ultraviolent extremist groups to disseminate ideologies of hate and recruit often disenfranchised young people to radical causes. Today, violence is being carried out by young people and against young people. Now, the UN acknowledges the different and vital role of youth in *countering violent extremism* and *building peace*. Globally, young people constitute 1.8 billion people, the largest generation of 10-24 year-olds the world has ever seen.

We must be a part of the solution. It's time for a dramatic paradigm shift.

Resolution 2250 is the product of advocacy efforts lead by the United Network of Young Peacebuilders and championed by Search for Common Ground. Together we have been successful in ensuring that peace is not only a goal in the new Sustainable Development agenda, but mainstreamed across all SDGs; developed a call to action with the recent adoption of the Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security; held more than 100 high level meetings through UN lobbying missions; and continued to support the tireless work of grassroots youth for peace activists. Our work in conflict transformation, peace education and entrepreneurship for peace has been recognised in Resolution 2250.

But what next? In order to see this Resolution as a living document, there are important steps that civil society and all governments and intergovernmental bodies can implement to support the work of youth peace actors. Echoing the language of the Resolution itself, there are five key pillars of actions:

- *Participation*: to increase inclusive and genuine representation of young people in decision making, including in implementing peace agreements and supporting local peacebuilding initiatives.
- *Protection*: to recognise the unique and different ways in which conflict affects young people, including access to education and economic opportunities.
- *Prevention*: to highlight the importance of young people as key actors in conflict prevention through projects that support social cohesion.
- *Partnerships*: to underscore the need for more resources including technical, finance and logistics to support the work of grassroots actors.
- *Disengagement and reintegration*: to ensure young people have the skills, training and employment opportunities to prevent marginalisation and promote societal engagement.

The role of youth as equal and necessary actors in peacebuilding has long been overlooked. We are active and enthusiastic, creative and effective. Resolution 2250 is our best chance yet to take the lead in how young people perceive and do peacebuilding.

Laura McManus is a member of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders Global Youth Advocacy Team. This article may be republished under a Creative Commons License. Join the conversation at #Youth4Peace #SCR2250 @unoy_peace. Published December 18, 2015

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How the Simple Act of Planting Trees is Transforming the Lives of Children in South Sudan

March 6, 2016 12:00am

Adam Bell: News Local Daily Telegraph.

A qualified horticulturist, he had the idea after hearing about One Tree Per Child late last year — a project which aims for every child in Australia to plant a tree.

That was before Christmas and he has been planting trees at the camp every day since.

The positive impact the project is having on the kids — many of whom have lost loved ones — is hard to overstate, he says.

“The first thing the kids would say is that it is something that is theirs, something they actually own,” he said by phone from Africa.

“These kids don’t own much. They probably have their clothes and their exercise book they take to school and that’s about it.

“On top of that, it is something they can care for and it grows.

“They often show me the progress of their tree and are proud of any new growth. Sometimes they might exaggerate a little about how big their tree is, but that’s OK. “It’s just magic”

A typical evening for Colonel Bond involves carrying five tree saplings up from the River Nile and going from tent to tent planting.

“I’m met at the gate everyday by about 50 very excited kids who see me from about 100 metres out and start jumping up and down,” he said. “It’s just a wonderful expression of delight, I’ve gotta say.

“Then from about 50m out, they start yelling, ‘Michael running! Michael running!’ which is my cue that I should, in fact, be running which is quite hard holding five trees.

“It really is a wonderful thing, I get home of an evening in a ball of sweat, exhausted but with a huge grin on my face.”

And while the plantings are providing some respite from the conflict, the daily threat of violence for the 2300 people living at Bor is all too real.

In 2014, the simmering tensions between the two warring tribal groups boiled over when an armed mob broke the camp’s perimeter and killed 47 civilians.

Yet despite the challenges, Colonel Bond said the situation is improving and he hopes people will be able to return to their homes later this year.

“I am pointing to the trees and saying to the children ‘by waist high, you will be home’,” he said.



Australian UN peacekeeper Colonel Michael Bond plants trees with children at a camp in South Sudan as part of One Tree Per Child.



Colonel Bond has served with the Australian Army Reserve for over three decades including with peacekeeping forces in East Timor in 1999 under then Major General Peter Cosgrove.

In civilian life, he is married and lives in Brisbane where he works as a lawyer specialising in child protection.

Jon Dee launched One Tree Per Child last year with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Environment Minister Greg Hunt, who have pitched in \$300,000 for the first 100,000 trees.

“Our aim is to have every child plant a tree before they leave primary school, but to do that we need councils and schools to get on board,” said Mr Dee.

To apply visit onetreeperchild.com.

Retrieved from: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal>

Long Tan 50th Anniversary Tour-A better choice

Two-tour Vietnamese-speaking Vietnam Veteran, Walter Pearson says people wanting to visit Long Tan on the 50th Anniversary of the famous battle have very little choice in tours.

That's why he's drawn on his considerable knowledge of Viet Nam to put together a 13-day tour that will give people something more than the usual.

Walter has been involved in Viet Nam in one way or another for the past 40 years. He served with 5RAR as a forward observer and with the last Australian units in 1972 as a linguist. Since the war, he has searched for Australia's MIAs, led tour groups of Australian and American veterans and their families, advised film companies, written and produced the acclaimed 2005 documentary *Vietnam Minefield* and lived in Vietnam for nearly half a decade.

"It is important to be at Long Tan on this significant anniversary," Walter says, "but the tour also visits Dien Bien Phu, site of the world-changing battle that saw the French exit Viet Nam and the country divided into the two zones that became the focus of the subsequent 20-year war. The area is full of historical relics in a fascinating mountain region where the beautiful scenery alone would be enough to make the visit worthwhile as a highlight of the tour as well as being exposed to the local culture and cuisine on our nights there.

The tour covers the old Phouc Tuy area, Coral and Balmoral battle sites, the original Long Tan Cross and the little-known Green House where the first two Americans were killed in the Viet Nam War. Also on the program An Loc and Loc Ninh near the Cambodian border.

"An Loc was the site of a famous 1972 battle that saw northern tanks used in the southern region for the first time," Walter explains. Loc Ninh was the site of the end of hostilities and negotiations between the north, the south, the PLF (VC) and the US. It was also the end of the Ho Chi Minh Trail and now has a museum to the trail there. Just outside the town are what the Vietnamese call historical vestiges of the Headquarters that ran the final campaign of the war in 1975 that led to the fall of Saigon.

"No other tour gives so much variety and historical depth as our tour; you see places and things covering the war from French times to 1975 as well as Australia's first important battle, where we will attend a memorial service on 18 August" Walter says.

Vietnam History Alive runs 15 - 27 August 2106

Contact Walter at JCP Tours on 0424177590

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The tour leader is two-tour Vietnam veteran WALTER PEARSON. Fluent in Vietnamese, he blends decades of research with personal knowledge of Vietnam to give you a unique experience. Combat soldier in 1969. One of the last Australian soldiers out in 1972. One of the first veterans back in 1989. Central in the search for Australia's MIAs. Television reporter, documentary maker, on-screen talent and production advisor to Vietnam: The War That Made Australia, In Their Footsteps, Australian Story, Foreign Correspondent and Vietnam Minefield. Resident in Viet Nam for nearly half a decade. Tour guide since 2000.

Soldiers' Performance will be Enhanced by Technological Advances

Mechanical warriors with powered exoskeletons might seem like something confined to computer games or Hollywood. But the capability is one being closely watched by Army as it maps out a path to improve human performance.

A number of companies are conducting research in this field and devices such as Raytheon's XOS2 or Lockheed Martin's HULC are under consideration by Australia's allies.

But the technology isn't ready for the battlefield yet, according to MaJ George Acheson-Thom, of Army's Directorate of Force Development.

"Army doesn't want a large, powered exoskeleton that lets a soldier lift 300kg, but restricts walking to 2km/h and has limited range due to power constraints," he said. "If you're wearing an exoskeleton that can't replicate your movements precisely, it actually starts constraining you."

Instead, Army is working closely with the Defence Science and Technology Group to develop an unpowered exoskeleton (Project OX) that will help alleviate the burden of the loads carried by certain dismounted soldiers.

Army is also looking to enhance the performance of soldiers' bodies and minds to find ways to gain a physical and mental advantage over potential adversaries.

"Until now we might have focused purely on technology for answers," MaJ George Acheson-Thom said. "We're planning to prepare soldiers for the operational environment – if that's not done with best practice in cognitive training and physical development, we are potentially missing an

opportunity to gain a competitive edge.

"Our people have always been central to Army capability – warfighting remains a human endeavour."

MAJ George Acheson-Thom and his colleagues in Army HQ are looking closely at ways to help soldiers outperform and outlast a lethal, adaptable and well-connected adversary. Initiatives include using biometric monitoring to track soldiers' physiological functions; autonomous robotic targets to improve marksmanship; and development of cognitive team dynamics. "Say you've got a combat team. The first soldier chosen to get up the rope is likely to be the lightest and quickest because of their physical attributes," Maj Acheson-Thom said.

"Another may be better at making the complex decisions frequently demanded of soldiers in the modern operational environment. "The key for leaders is knowing the cognitive strengths of various team members and drawing upon those skills for maximum effect." With potential adversaries now having unprecedented access to weapons and technology, developing soldiers' performance is a way of staying ahead of the competition. "Using basic equipment that can be purchased at an electronics hobby store, the ability to quickly put together something like a small drone capable of monitoring our movements is within most people's grasp," MAJ George Acheson-Thom said. "Technology is more accessible than it's ever been before; one way to gain an edge is by improving the way we operate, the way we think and our physical performance."



From Rwanda to Iraq

Operation OKRA (Taji, Iraq): IRAQ has seen an unplanned reunion of three Australian Army medical officers who served in Rwanda over 21 years ago and are now deployed on Operation OKRA.

Current Officer Commander of the Health Unit in Iraq, MAJ Sean Kennaway, anaesthetist LTCOL Peter Tralaggan and intensivist COL Thomas did not think they would serve together again after their time in Rwanda in the 1990s.

Colonel Thomas said the trio shared stories of the similarities faced by a first rotation providing medical care in Rwanda and now in Iraq.

“In Rwanda when we first arrived we had all the challenges that a first contingent always has,” COL Thomas said.

“We couldn’t locate all our equipment easily in the first week.

“For example, in our intensive care unit we fixed damaged ventilators to give us some capability until our equipment arrived.”

MAJ Kennaway said moving modern medical equipment from Australia to the other side of the world and then establishing a hospital always has some issues.

“There was a lot of cleaning up to be done in both Rwanda

and Iraq,” MAJ Kennaway said.

“To turn a brown-field site into what we consider a first-world best practice facility is a big task.”

According to MAJ Kennaway, who was a young Lieutenant during his first deployment as part of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR II), their tasks in Rwanda were very similar to their tasks in Iraq.

“Our role was to provide surgical support to the United Nations force, which is what we are providing to the Coalition at the Taji Military Complex,” MAJ Kennaway said.

“The major difference is that in Rwanda most of the work ended up being caring for and treating the locals.

“Due to the nature of our mission here, we are not providing care to the local population, but we are sharing best medical practices with the Iraqi Army medical staff.”

In Rwanda the Australian medical personnel were based at the Central Hospital Kigali, where they assisted local hospital staff.

“We trained nurses to give anaesthetics,” Lieutenant Colonel Tralaggan said.

“We assisted the hospital and local Non-Government Organisations in supporting their huge workload.

(L-R) Australian Army medical officers MAJ Kennaway, Colonel Peter Thomas, LTCOL Peter Tralaggan in the Intensive Care Unit at the Taji Military Complex Medical Facility, Iraq.





“I remember on Christmas eve or Christmas day we worked late operating.”

In Iraq, the Australian medics have continued similar support by sharing medical techniques with their local Iraqi Army medical counterparts.

“Treating the population in Rwanda did a lot to improve relationship with the United Nations and the Tutsis,” Lieutenant Colonel Tralaggan said.

“The thing I found troublesome was the minefields and the injuries the kids would sustain.”

MAJ Kennaway said it is hard to believe it has been 21 years since they served in Rwanda.

“The injuries, thankfully, have not been anything like Rwanda but it’s important to know that the medical capability at Taji is prepared to handle any incident,” he said.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Nasveld, who was the Officer Commanding of the Medical Company in Rwanda, is also currently serving in the Middle East as the senior Health Officer based at Headquarters Joint Task Force 633.

Left: Australian Army anaesthetist LTCOL Peter Tralaggan checks medical supplies at the Taji Military Complex Medical Facility, Iraq.

Below: Australian Army Intensivist Colonel Peter Thomas checks over his equipment in the Intensive Care Unit at the Taji Military Complex Medical Facility, Iraq.





Corporal Luke McKinnon is seen in the forward cupola of an Australian Army Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle at Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan.

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Driving Change in Afghanistan

37-year old Toowoomba local Luke McKinnon always had a passion for driving.

When hoards of schoolies descended on Surfers Paradise in 1995, Luke was among them, not to party, but to start his first job as a delivery driver for Marie's Pizzas on the Gold Coast.

Little did he know, Luke's enthusiasm for driving and his conviction for hard, honest work would take him to some of the most diverse corners of the globe.

Luke's father served 20 years in the Australian Army as a combat engineer and ordnance clerk. His great grandfather served and died in World War II in Burma, and his mum's great uncle perished in Changi, Thailand.

Despite his military pedigree, Luke said he grew up with a dislike for Army.

"We just moved from town to town, place to place far too often," he said.

"It wasn't until I was older and wiser that I realised I needed something more secure."

Before joining the Army, Luke spent 18 months living and working on dairy farms in New Zealand.

When he returned to Queensland he spent the following three years working in the abattoir KR Darling Downs.

"I did short stints on the kill floor, the boning room, fresh meat packing, and inedible offal," he said.

"After three years I thought, no, I'm done, I can't do this anymore.

"That's when I thought about joining the Army."

12 years later and Luke, now a transport driver with the rank of Corporal in the Australian Army, has just returned from his third overseas deployment, his second to Afghanistan.

In 2015, Luke deployed to Kandahar and Kabul as a member of the Force Protection Element, driving the Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) and Mack trucks.

He said that despite the risks, the opportunity to drive on the open road in cities like Kabul and Kandahar has been rewarding.

"Most people in the military spend their time in training and on exercises," he said.

"I feel like it's a privilege to be able to do my job in real-time."

Luke first deployed to Uruzgan province, Afghanistan in 2012.

As a Transport Manager he supervised maintenance for a fleet of PMV's, Mack trucks and 20-tonne trailers, including servicing, equipment and cargo.

"It was our job to resupply the forward operating bases with food, water, firewood; anything they wanted we would try to get it to them," he said.

Luke admitted that although the tempo of driving has been higher in 2015, the threats were greater in 2012.

"We were targeted by insurgents using improvised explosive devices (IED).

"We had the engineers out the front and they did a fantastic job of finding the IEDs and disabling them in place."

Luke said the highlight of his most recent deployment is being able to see the change that's slowly being affected.

"We provide the transportation and force protection for Australian Defence Force mentors as they conduct their meetings and provide advice to their Afghan counterparts," he said.

"It's a good feeling being able to drive in to an Afghan National Army barracks and lower our weapons.

"We wave at people and they wave back and we share a lot of mutual respect."

Australian Defence Force personnel are deployed across Afghanistan in a variety of roles 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 Defence and Security Forces and Afghan security institutions at the operational, institutional and ministerial levels.



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Maddison Collins is a service that individually caters for you. We take your situation seriously and work through a variety of steps that ultimately gets you where you want to be. A Transition Specialist works on your priorities which may include professional resume and cover letter writing, preparing for interview, highlighting your talents, building confidence or working on the barriers that may be holding you back. Our experienced, skilled, caring staff will individually assess your needs and equip you with the tools and attitude to achieve your next career goal. Together we recognize and highlight your strengths to devise a career plan and support you step by step along the road to success.

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Director
0409 883 134

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2016 ADF Transition Seminar Calendar

ADF Transition Seminars have been designed to assist with preparing your transition from Defence, by providing impartial information and directing you to additional sources of information.

The following topics are addressed during the seminars:

- Your Career and You
- Your Money and You
- Transition Support Benefits
- Transition Support & Administration
- Reserves
- Superannuation
- Health Insurance
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Services

To find out more about the ADF Transition Seminars contact your nearest ADF Transition Centre:

http://www.defence.gov.au/transitions/my_nearest_adf_transition_centre.htm

http://www.defence.gov.au/dco/Moving_back_into_civilian_life.htm

Date	Location
9 - 10 March	Sydney
15 - 16 March	Brisbane
22 - 23 March	Townsville
13 - 14 April	Adelaide
19 - 20 April	Canberra
18 - 19 May	Melbourne
25 - 26 May	Darwin
1 - 2 June	Perth
15 - 16 June	Newcastle
21 - 22 June	Wagga
12 - 13 July	Brisbane
20 - 21 July	Sydney
26 - 27 July	Cairns
2 - 4 August	Shoalhaven
10 - 11 August	Hobart
7 - 8 September	Canberra
14 - 15 September	Adelaide
21 - 22 September	Darwin
12 - 13 October	Melbourne
18 - 19 October	Brisbane
25 - 26 October	Townsville
2 - 3 November	Liverpool
16 - 17 November	Perth



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APPVA Welfare Outreach Centre Northern NSW

Update.

We opened our doors in September last year, expecting to gradually grow....we have exceeded our expectations!!! We are now looking to rent bigger rooms to offer more services and extra activities for our Veteran community and families. The Welfare Outreach Centre is the first of it's kind in the Northern Rivers.

The demand has been gradually increasing, with clients from all conflicts, Peacekeepers and AFP. We offer a friendly and non threatening environment.

We have supported Veterans at mediation meetings in Brisbane, Outreach visits to western NSW, the central coast and country NSW, supported Veteran thru the DART Restorative process, with welfare and pension support for our homeless Veterans. We have also conducted a days clean up for a Vet who was struggling with his PTSD. We have utilised Defence Care services, voluntary Solicitor, VVCS and Mens Health Peer provider. We have information on many services available for our clients, both military and civilian, and endeavour to have information available on many ESO'S and similar groups targetting the Veteran community.

Our pension and welfare officers, Pauline and Liz, have visited many Veterans, many of whom are usually a few hours drive away, so as to deliver a concise service to them and their families.....we call this The Thelma and Louise Road Trip. !!!! Our centre has a Pensions officer, a level 3 and 4, and Advocate services. There are three J.P.'s available most mornings, and there has been a steady response from the public for that. This year, we will be mentoring a new Pension's officer, a past client, and we welcome his enthusiasm and aquired knowledge from having been thru the process of DVA.

Our official opening was well attended , with both our Federal and State members officiating, along with the Mayor. We also had TV coverage.

The Outreach Centre has been supported by the local community, but there is always more to do.

There continues to be a need for donations to continue and expand our services, one avenue we will be conducting soon, is a 500 Club, raffle. We have a signed and framed Rugby shirt from Drew Mitchell, the highest scorer for the Wallaby's.so better be quick and buy a \$5 ticket or two!!! Details below. We would be appreciative of any donations to assist us, as we are currently paying for some things out of pocket.

Please call us or drop in if in town and share with us this exciting and expanding...and most rewarding Outreach Centre.

**Cheers Liz Hill JP
Welfare Officer APPVA NSW**

PENSIONS:

Allan Thomas JP
0432 099 270

Level 4 Advocate
Pauline Maczkowiack 0407 108 616
Level 2 Advocate

WELFARE:

Liz Hill JP 0414 281 325

Find us at:

1/76 Main Street, ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477
(02) 6628 3096



Safe Space and help for Veterans

**Ross Kendall Northern Star Newspaper
Page 3 9.12.2015**

A new Welfare Outreach Centre for returned war veterans and allied personnel will be officially opened this weekend in Alstonville.

The Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association had previously operated on a roaming basis, travelling between borrowed rooms at the RSL clubs around the region. But with more and more people accessing the services of the APPVA this became unworkable. "So we decided to open our office,"the organisation's welfare practitioner, Liz Hill said.

The association provides a free service for veterans who need help with a range of issues, from dealing with government departments through to assisting with

accommodation and finances. The next closest outlet is in Coffs Harbour.

This Sunday at 1pm the office will be officially opened by local politicians including Page MP Kevin Hogan, Ballina MP Tamara Smith and Lismore mayor Mayor Jenny Dowell, as well as representatives of various veteran organisations.

Cameron McKnight served in the Air Force for 32 years and experienced active duty across that period. Returning to civilian life he felt the physical and mental strain take its toll on his family, health and finances. He gets help from the APPVA to navigate the many federal departments he needs. "You have to go between the Department of Defence, Commonwealth Super and the Department of Veterans affairs. When there are lawyers involved it gets even more complicated," Mr McKnight said. It is great to have a space that affords privacy and security for veterans to talk about what they need to talk about.

The office is located at 1/76 Main Street, Alstonville, or phone 66293096.

"Service vets, spouses, parents or friends are all welcome", Mrs Hill said.

Centre Will Improve Support For Veterans

By Ross Kendall
Northern Star
15th December 2015 Page 2

Local politicians joined veterans and volunteers from the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veteran Association to officially open their new Welfare outreach Centre in Alstonville.

APPVA Treasurer, Paul Smith said the facility could become a "vital organisation in the community", at the official opening and ribbon cutting on Sunday afternoon at the Main Street office.

Federal MP Kevin Hogan, State MP Tamara Smith and Mayor Jenny Dowell joined the APPVA National President Allan Thomas and local APPVA Welfare Officers.

The association helps returned veterans and former police officers deal with government departments for legal issues and entitlements, and in health and social services.

It is funded by Federal Government but also relies on donations and is staffed by volunteers. Mr Hogan said war veterans often relied on peers to recover, which meant "grassroots organisations" such as APPVA had an important role to play in re-integrating veterans into civilian life. Parents reflected that they sent young men into the services but "tortured souls" were sent back to them, he said.

Increase in Membership Fees

Due to the overwhelming costs and price rises within Australia Post the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc will increase its joining fee from \$35 to \$40 and annual fees from \$25 to \$30 effective 1 July 2016.

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OUR PROGRAM INVOLVES:

The program aims to improve the quality of life for participants by addressing the following issues:

- Education about PTSD and related disorders
- Learning how to deal with painful thoughts and feelings associated with mental trauma
- Learning to manage depression, anxiety, anger, alcohol and drug-related problems, and sleeping difficulties
- Medication prescription, when indicated
- Developing ways to manage relationship difficulties
- Partners' Support Groups

These issues are addressed using individual and group therapy approaches, as appropriate.

REFERRALS:

Referrals from: Psychiatrists, GPs, WCS, self or if serving, through the Medical Officer.

WE OFFER:

- 8 week program:
2 days for 2 weeks,
4 days for 4 weeks,
2 days for 2 weeks (24 days)
- A partner's program is included

2016 PROGRAM DATES

April 6 - May 26 | June 8 - July 28
August 17 - October 6
October 19 - December 8

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Introducing The Bravery Trust: New Name and New Fundraising Campaign for Remembrance Day 2015

Partnership with Coles to raise urgently needed funds in support of Aussie veterans and their families.

The Australian Defence Force Assistance Trust today announced its new name, Bravery Trust, in the lead up to a fundraising campaign with Coles to raise \$1 million in support of Australian veterans and their families.

From 28 October until Remembrance Day on 11 November across Australia, Coles will match every dollar donated by customers at the check-out or via Coles Online in support of the Bravery Trust, up to a total of \$500,000.

Since the start of its partnership in April 2014, Coles has raised and donated more than \$3.6 million for the Trust.

Bravery Trust is the new trading name of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Assistance Trust, a charity established in 2012 to provide urgently needed financial, emotional and practical support to veterans of all branches of the ADF who are suffering as a result of their service to our country.

The new name was chosen to better convey the heroism of the former service personnel and their families supported by the Bravery Trust. The Trust recognises that not all injuries suffered by veterans in the line of duty are physical, and that these returned heroes are increasingly dealing with mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety.

Currently, more than 3000 ADF personnel who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and in the greater Middle East region have been diagnosed with a service-related mental illness including post-traumatic stress and depression. The prevalence of traumatic illness is a common thread in many of the people and families we help.

Assistance provided by the Trust can be as simple as help with household, medical and food bills, but also extends to longer term support for education, retraining to join the workforce, special medical needs, mental health rehabilitation and carers' assistance.

"While there is already work being done to provide assistance to returned veterans, we can always do more to help them and their families," said Dr Ken Michael AC, Chairman of the Bravery Trust. "Remembrance Day 2015 is the perfect time to remind people that while fighting for your country takes courage, many of the men and women of our Defence community face an even greater battle when they return. The Bravery Trust needs your help to continue its work."

The Trust's inaugural Ambassador, Victoria Cross for Australia recipient Daniel Keighran, is delighted to maintain his support and advocacy for the work of the Trust as it works to raise awareness of and funding for our wounded Defence Force personnel and their families.

It is expected that demand for the Trust's assistance will grow in the coming years as the incidence of traumatic physical and mental injuries amongst service personnel increases.

The Trust's access to funds is very limited and it faces having to turn away those in need as a result. It needs the community to help support its work.

BAE says army test vehicles are ready

Defence company BAE Systems Australia says its test vehicles bidding for a major defence force contract are ready to go.

The three AMV35 mounted combat reconnaissance vehicles could now be tested by the army for 12 months as part of a tender evaluation process.

"We believe the AMV35 is technically superior to its rivals and is a value-for-money solution for the Australian Defence Force," BAE chief executive Glynn Phillips said early February.

The federal government is expected to announce the short list of vehicles to be tested in March.

The project aims to deliver to the army the next generation of armoured fighting vehicles with high levels of firepower, protection and mobility.

BAE said its offering was a low-risk solution and would create more than 200 jobs through its commitment to manufacture, assemble and support the vehicles in Australia.

This will secure and retain local production capabilities and contribute significantly to the Australian economy throughout the expected 30-plus year life of the vehicles, the company said.

Japan Steps Up Bid To Win Australian Submarine Contract

Japan has assured Australia it will share its most secret stealth technology if it wins a contract to design and build Canberra's next generation of submarines, a report said Monday.

Three international bidders are competing for the project worth up to Aus\$50 billion (US\$36 billion) to replace Australia's current diesel and electric-powered Collins Class submarines which are set to be retired from about 2026.

The tender process is now closed with submissions received from DCNS of France, Germany's TKMS and the Japanese government.

Besides matching the range and endurance of the Collins Class, the new generation of subs are expected to offer superior sensor performance and stealth capabilities.

Japan's Deputy Defence Minister Kenji Wakamiya said

Tokyo ordinarily only shared details of its Soryu class submarine with the United States, but Australia was also considered a deeply trusted ally.

"It is of major importance to us that we will be sharing this secret technology with Australia," he told The Australian newspaper in comments published Monday 8th February.

Wakamiya added that Tokyo's willingness to do this demonstrated the importance it placed on maintaining regional security.

"Please also recognise that this decision was based on Japan seeing Australia as a very important partner," he said.

"And I believe that a joint project to build the new submarine would contribute greatly to maritime safety in this region."

Late last year Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani echoed similar sentiments that picking Tokyo could help ensure maritime security in the Asia-Pacific.

He was alluding to the importance of allies such as the US, Japan and Australia working together in the face of China's growing military might.

For Australia, cooperating with Japan -- whose Soryu is widely seen as the best submarine of its type -- risks angering its biggest trading partner China.

According to the report, Japan is offering to build a new Soryu with its hull extended six to eight metres (20 to 26 feet) to carry more batteries and fuel to take account of the massive distances the Australian navy travels.

The tender process has been politically sensitive, with Canberra keen to maximise Australian industry involvement and jobs. There are fears that any off-the-shelf purchase could kill off the domestic shipbuilding industry.

Japan, France and Germany all have said they will build a large part or all of their submarines in Australia with the competitive evaluation process expected to take 10 months.

The US B-52 Stratofortress

One of the world's largest bombers touched down at Darwin's RAAF base on Tuesday 9th February landing at 4.20pm as part of a US Air Force training exercise.

The behemoth has a top flying speed of 1,046km/h, an unrefuelled range of more than 10,000 miles and a maximum takeoff weight of 219,000kg.

The bomber will be in the NT for the remainder of the week as part of a training exercise.

Last August two US B-52s flew 44-hour simulated a bombing mission from Louisiana to the Delamere weapons range near Katherine and back. The training mission was designed to assure US allies and deter their foes.

At the time, Commander of the US 2nd Operations Support Squadron, air force Lieutenant Colonel John Varilek, told The Washington Times the B-52 Stratofortress exercises were an important training mission.

"The purpose of these exercises is to assure our allies and deter our foes, letting them know we'll be there in a moment's notice, anytime, anywhere," Lt Colonel Varilek said.

Beside Them

Beside Them was an idea which evolved after our family was lucky enough to accompany my husband on a posting to the USA. I loved the pieces I collected during our time there and wanted some Australian pieces to finish off our family story. When I approached a major jewellery chain asking if they knew of any pieces or if they might consider making some I was informed they did not think there would be enough interest to justify creating any pieces. This was a red flag to a bull. I was going to find a way to make these pieces and nothing was going to stop this mere Army wife. Over time I researched the process involved. I found a company willing to help me with the more complex parts of the process. I was then off to the jeweller suppliers to buy the necessary equipment, set up strange machinery in my garage and learnt how to make jewellery. At this time letters were sent to each of the respective service chiefs requesting permission to create these pieces. Over the last 4 years my systems have refined, I have spent hours at the tool store finding new implements to work with and I can now create many more pieces during the day than when I first began my journey.

Creating new pieces is an expensive and lengthy process. It is at this point I rely heavily on others to create a computer design that is then formed into a 3D print and mould. Due to this requests for new pieces are advertised and only begun when a reasonable number of people are interested. I currently have pieces covering the three services, WRAAC and WRAN as well as some posting localities and army corps pieces.

The business works mainly on word of mouth. Not a lot of money is spent on advertising but hope the pieces that I create are testimonial and referral within the defence community, both past and present, can allow me to continue making these for years to come. Over the months I have worked with some of the defence based charities to try and help them raise much needed funds. It isn't a fortune but every dollar back into the defence charities can help make a difference to someone's life.

Fundraising for groups is also a possibility. Cadet groups and defence charities can contact me to organise their own fundraiser event with the charms. Please contact myself for further details.

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**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

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)

Contact Details

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

Date of Birth...../...../..... Country.....

Name of Parent/Partner/Child Email.....
(Complete only for Affiliate Membership)

Phone Mobile

Service Details

Service (Navy, Army, Air Force, AFP etc) Operation name..... Country.....

Service Regt Number Dates deployed to

Current / Former Rank..... Operation name..... Country

Post Nominal Date deployed to

Missions (Attach separate sheet if necessary)

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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Surname: Enter AUS (1st 3 letters of acc name), then enter amount required

Enter Member No: 153601 (if required)

For All other Financial Institutions:

Account: APPVA **BSB:** 803 205 **Acc:** 20638827 **APPVA Membership No:**

Reference field: Include your name and or membership number (if known)

If unsure of APPVA Membership No. – Contact secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au

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Open to any member or ex member of the Australian or New Zealand Armed Forces, Police Forces, Government Organisations or Defence Civilians who have Served on Warlike Operations; Peacekeeping or Peacemaking Operations; or Non-Warlike Service. In addition, Peacetime serving and ex Serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Full voting rights

Associate Member

Open to members of other National Armed Forces or Police Forces who have served in War, Peacekeeping or Peacemaking Operations. Persons who have served with Non-Government Organisations. No voting rights.

Affiliate Member

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

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

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM



(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)
ABN 59 558 194 094
APPVA
2603 Moggill Rd, Pinjarra Hills QLD 4069
E: andrea.appva.advocacyq4@gmail.com
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)

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Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Size: 10 12 14 16 WOMENS	\$45	
APPVA Cap Navy Blue		One Size	\$20	
APPVA Cap Pink		One Size	\$20	
APPVA Stickers			\$6	
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Book - SOLDIERS' Tales			\$19	
Book - Aussie SOLDIER			\$29	
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For All other Financial Institutions:

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Given Name(s) State Post Code

Email..... Country

Mobile.....

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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

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