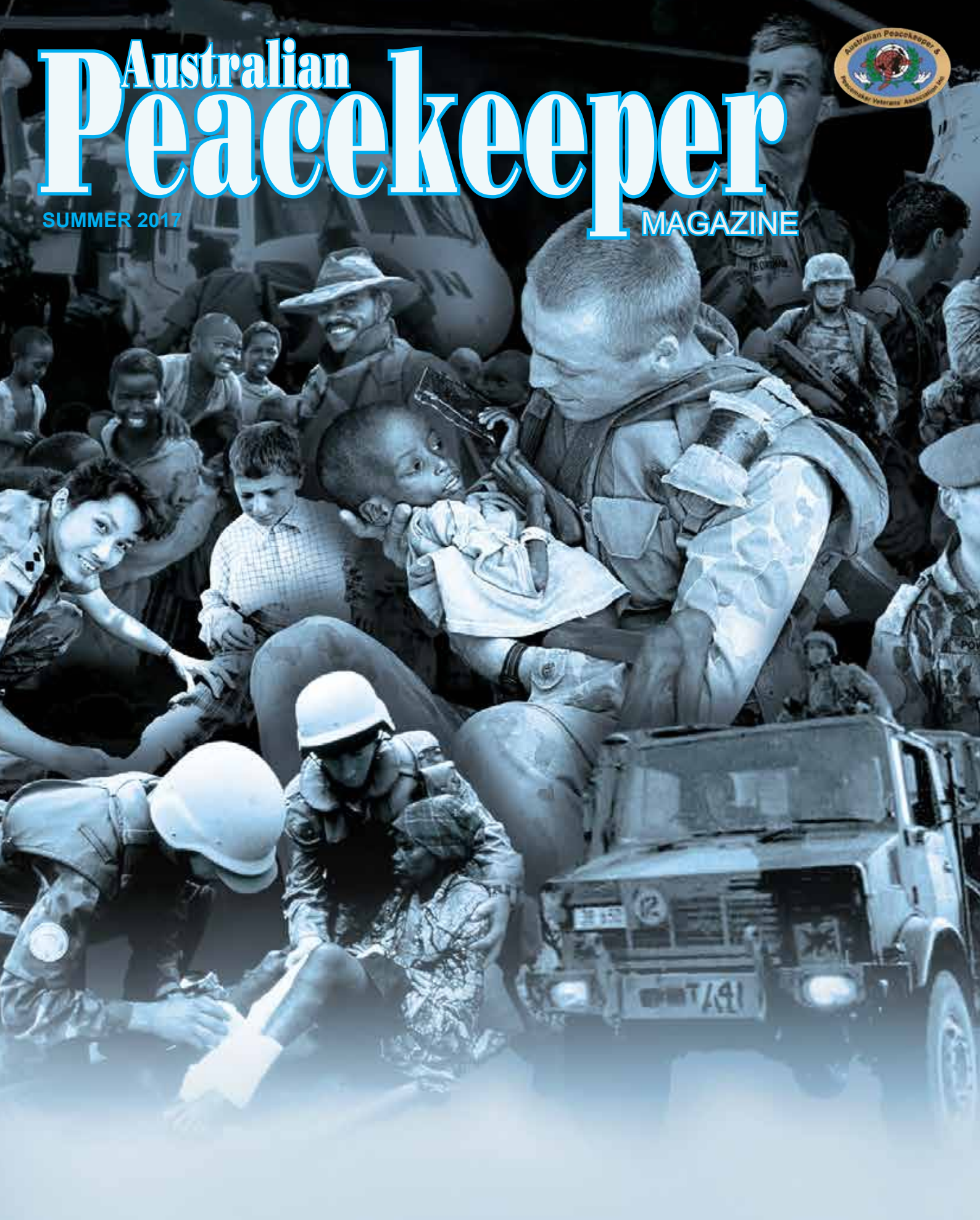


Australian Peacekeeper

SUMMER 2017

MAGAZINE



Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Dedication
Australia & UN Peacekeeping Proud 70 Year History
Remembrance Day | Price of Keeping the Peace



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Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

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Australian Peacekeepers Magazine is published quarterly by Flight Publishing Pty Ltd (ABN 70 953 274 004) for and on behalf of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (ABN 59 558 194 094) © 2015. All rights reserved.
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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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Australia & UN Peacekeeping Proud 70 Year History
Remembrance Day | Price of Keeping the Peace

Remembrance Day,
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From the President's Desk

The APPVA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the Australian Capital this year, it was significant that we held it in Canberra to commemorate the Dedication of the National Peacekeepers Memorial on the 14 September 2017, the venue itself was well attended by members of the Association, Defence, Police and the wider veteran's community.

The AGM coincided with the APPVA Elections and QGM, I am pleased to say that I was Elected back in as the National President of the APPVA for a further term. I thank the National Executives, National Committee members and members of the association in their support of my re-election.

I would like to acknowledge the following people who also have been elected, Michael Quinn was re-elected the National Vice President, Rhonda Copeland the National Treasurer, Kevin Ryan the National Secretary/ National Membership Officer.

I would also like to acknowledge some who will not be running for appointments, Mr Paul Copeland OAM JP the Past President, National Advisor and National Editor of the Peacekeepers Magazine for his contribution over past two decades. Paul is one of the founding members of the APPVA who has worked tirelessly on National and State forums to ensure that the association continued to address veteran's issues at the highest levels in government.

We are looking for a National Editor for the Peacekeepers Magazine until such time a likely successor can be identified. The association would like to acknowledge and thank Paul for his contributions over the two decades of the existence of the APPVA; and wish him well in his endeavours with the Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA), as their International Vice President - Oceania.

There are other candidates within the association that need to be acknowledged who were awarded Life Membership Awards for service to the APPVA. This award is bestowed to individuals who have fulfilled APPVA Executive and/or Positions within the National or State Executives or Committee of Management over a period of ten years, this year's recipients were, Michael Quinn for his contributions as a National and State Executive, Rhonda Copeland as the National Treasurer, Mick Phelan as the National Web Manager of APPVA; and David Vinen who has fulfilled numerous roles including the National IT Manager and National Research/Assistant Research Officer – all of whom have contributed at either or both National and State levels on behalf of the APPVA.

As the re-elected National President and from all the National/State Executives and members of the APPVA we acknowledge your dedication and support over the years in ensuring the APPVA were still a recognised bonafide Ex-Service Organisation consulting at all levels of government in ensuring that veterans needs were and are continually being addressed.

This year we have seen the emergence of some new

representation on National and State Forums from the APPVA, I would like to acknowledge the fine work that individuals are doing by announcing our representatives on the various forums for the remainder of the year and into 2018:

National Forums

Ex-Service Organisation Round Table Representative:
Allan Thomas JP (NSW)

Younger Veterans' Forum: Coralee Goedhart JP (Qld)

Operational Working Party: Trevor Plymin (NSW)

Female Veterans' Forum: Coralee Goedhart (Qld)
Lucy Wong (NSW)

State Forum

Qld Deputy Commissioner Forum: Randall New

Qld VVCS: Randall New, Coralee Goedhart

Northern Territory Deputy Commissioner Forum: No Representation

Northern Territory VVCS Forum No Representation

NSW/ACT Deputy Commissioner Forum: Bruce Relph

NSW/ACT Deputy Commissioner Forum: Lucy Masson

Victorian Deputy Commissioner Forum: Mark Horner

Victorian VVCS: David Menz

Tasmania Deputy Commissioner Forum: Graeme Barnett

Tasmania VVCS: Graeme Barnett

South Australia Deputy Commissioner Forum: No Representation

South Australia VVCS Forum: No Representation

Perth Deputy Commissioner Forum: No Representation

Perth VVCS Forum: No Representation

On the 14 September 2017, the APPVA commemorated the opening of the National Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra, the event highlighted the contribution of Australian servicemen/women, the Australian Federal Police and Non-Government Organisations services to Peacekeeping around the world. Australia's involvement has been significant over 75 years.

The APPVA was well represented in terms of the structure of the memorial a special thank you to Paul Copeland (APPVA National Advisor), Matt Burke, David Vinen and Mattina Jewell for their involvement on the National Peacekeeping Memorial Committee over many years.

There was over 1,500 in attendance, the National Peacekeeping Memorial was officially opened by the Governor General of Australia, His Excellency, General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Retired) who was Force Commander of the International Force in East

Timor (INTERFET). After the opening of the National Peacekeeping Memorial the APPVA held a dinner on Friday 15 September, at The Old Government House in Canberra to celebrate this memorable occasion.

I would like to thank the committee who organised the event, Ms Lucy Wong (National Events Coordinator), Michael Quinn, Rod Thompson, Rob Woods, Natalie Woods, Paul Copeland and Rhonda Copeland and Kevin Ryan. The Committee were presented with a plaque by our Immediate Past Patron, Major General (Professor) John Pearn, AO, RFD [Retired]; it was great to see our National Patron Major General Ian Gordon AO, (Retired), who opened the Commemoration Dinner on the Friday night.

The deserving recipient of the National President's Award for 2017 was Kevin Ryan, the National Secretary of APPVA. Kevin was presented with the award because of his dedication on taking on numerous roles that could not be filled by others within the Association, his dedication and high work ethics warranted this award.

The National Committee of Management (NATCOM) Certificate of Appreciation Award went to Coralee Goedhart who continues to excel in her role as the Queensland Secretary, this has led to her Representation of the APPVA, on National and State Forums, it is for these reasons alone that the APPVA acknowledges Coralee's work achievements in 2017.

2018 will see some significant changes within the Association, some of our key priorities, will be our continued representation at National and State levels, ensure ongoing audits are being conducted annually by our Appointed Corporate Governance Inspector; to ensure we are maintaining compliance with the ATO and the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission (ACNC); Succession Planning at National and State levels, to ensure that the Association is continually represented at national and state forums.

I am encouraging members and those wishing to join the association to become more involved and help likeminded people in ensuring that our current and past members and families of the ADF needs are being met well into the future.

I would like to conclude, as this is will be our last edition of the Peacekeepers Magazine for 2017, I would like to wish all our members and the families and readers a Merry Xmas and a safe and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2018.

Allan Thomas
National President



www.peacekeepers.asn.au

National Peacekeeping Memorial, 12 years in the making, opens on ANZAC Parade



The peacekeepers memorial is the latest to join the collection on ANZAC Parade in Canberra.

By Adrienne Francis
Updated Thu at 2:20pm

A new memorial honouring Australia's international peacekeeping operations has been officially opened in Canberra this morning.

Volunteers, veterans and supporters began work to create the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on ANZAC Parade 12 years ago.

The memorial features two large black polished concrete monoliths separated by a passageway, as well as a courtyard of reflection.

"As you move through the memorial monoliths through a passageway of light, the idea is the peacekeepers are keeping apart the warring forces and providing the hope," planning committee chairman Major General Tim Ford

The courtyard contains statements in bronze listing Australia's peacekeeping missions, as well as bronze descriptions of the characteristics of peacekeepers.



Ian Hardy was among the first contingent of Australian peacekeepers to be deployed to Cyprus in 1964.

The memorial honours the service and sacrifice of more than 80,000 military, police and civilian peacekeepers who served in 62 missions over the past 70 years.

"Many have been injured and traumatised by what they have had to put up with ... in very difficult and dangerous situations," Major General Ford said.

"We are very much wanting to recognise, not just the peacekeepers, but the families and their supporters."

Major General Ford said securing \$4 million to complete the major sculpture proved the greatest challenge.

"The Australian community really didn't recognise and understand the great work that was being done by peacekeepers around the world," he said.

"We have actually been in many more conflicts as peacekeepers than we have actually as combatants.

"It is an important message for the Australian community to understand that international peace and security is not just about fighting the last minute and then having to decide whether you are going to commit armed forces."

In the service of peace

In his dedication of the new Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, Governor-General Peter Cosgrove praised peacekeepers' sacrifice, humanity and compassion in protecting the vulnerable and the dispossessed.

"It seems part of the human condition to want it with every fibre of our being, but never to attain perfect peace," he said.

"In their blue berets, peacekeepers are a symbol of hope. They save lives and change lives, they restore order and bring security and stability.



Governor-General Peter Cosgrove spoke to a crowd of Peacekeepers during the ceremony.

"Peacekeepers do all this not in the name of conquest or self aggrandisement, nor in the name of parochial national self-interest. They do it, in the name of compassion and humanity. In the name of what is right."



Lieutenant Colonel Deborah Warren-Smith said the recognition of peacekeepers was well overdue.

'Thin blue line between two belligerent parties'

Lieutenant Colonel Deborah Warren-Smith said while today's recognition for peacekeepers was long overdue, the greatest reward and satisfaction came from contributing to operations.

"As a peacekeeper you are there to be the thin blue line sometimes between the two belligerent parties," she said.

"You may be there to enact and observe and report on.

"It may be a truce agreement or a disengagement agreement, which is what I was doing when I was deployed with the United Nations."

Lieutenant Colonel Warren-Smith served un-armed as a military observer in Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

"It is a recognition by Australia for 70 years of continuous peacekeeping, which is a really big contribution to the humanitarian side of what we are trying to achieve as peacekeepers," she said.

Retrieved from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-14/peacekeeping-memorial-opens-on-ANZAC-parade-in-canberra/8945020> on 18 September 2017.



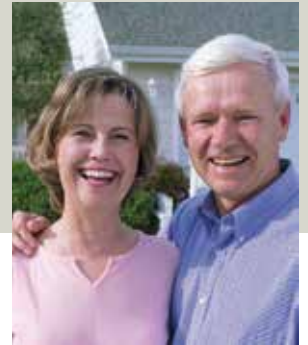
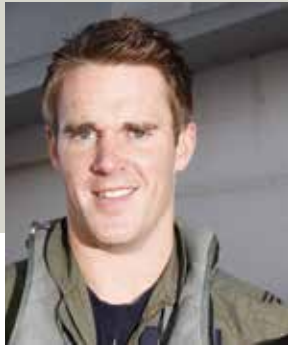
At the front of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, 15 September 2017. L-R: Paul Copeland (APPVA Past National President); Allan Thomas (APPVA National President); Major General (Professor) John Pearn (APPVA Immediate Past National Patron); Michael Quinn (APPVA National Vice President); and John McNeill (APPVA National Second Vice President).



The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, after Dedication, 14th September 2017, Marking 70 Years of Australian Peacekeeping Operations. All photos courtesy: Adam Pritchard.

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Australia and UN peacekeeping at 70: proud history, uncertain future

14 Sep 2017 | Lisa Sharland | www.aspistrategist.org.au

Earlier today, the Australian peacekeeping memorial on ANZAC parade in Canberra was formally dedicated by the Governor-General, in a ceremony commemorating 70 years of Australian engagement in peacekeeping. The memorial is long overdue: Australian military, police and civilian personnel have served in dozens of peacekeeping missions since military observers first deployed to the Dutch East Indies in 1947. Australia has a long and proud history of supporting peacekeeping, so it's a welcome move to see that recognised with a dedicated memorial. But it also prompts some questions about the future direction of Australia's engagement, particularly in UN peacekeeping operations.

As part of the activities taking place during peacekeeping week here in Australia, the UN Association of Australia will be hosting a national conference examining what's next for Australia's UN peacekeeping engagement. It's a critical question. Australia was frequently ranked among the top ten military and police contributors in the early 2000's during the height of our engagement in Timor-Leste.

Today those historic levels of engagement are a distant memory for Australian government officials and politicians. At present, Australia falls outside the top 80 countries contributing troops and police to UN peacekeeping, with around 32 personnel deployed to missions in the Middle East and South Sudan. Only three G20 countries currently deploy fewer UN peacekeepers than Australia—Japan, Mexico and Saudi Arabia (which makes no contribution).

Despite the commitment to the rules-based global order in the 2016 Defence White Paper, there's no concerted effort underway within government to consider Australia's future in UN peacekeeping operations. As I've previously noted (here, here and here), Australia's ability to influence, understand and retain institutional knowledge about UN peacekeeping is diminishing. That's a worrying development, considering that Australia may need to support or lead the standing-up of a UN mission in our region again in the near future.

Take the example of senior leadership positions. Australians have previously held a range of command positions in UN missions, including as force commander of the mission in Cambodia, as well as senior posts such as the UN Military Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Yet there are no currently-deployed personnel above the rank of colonel in senior leadership positions in UN peacekeeping missions or at headquarters in New York. That's a reflection, in part, of Australia's current low levels of engagement across UN peacekeeping missions. The lower down a country is on the list of major troop and police contributors, the less political sway it has in securing senior leadership posts (unless, of course, it's a P5 member of the Security Council).

However, even in cases when Australia is asked to nominate for senior leadership posts, there's often limited interest in doing so. It can also be a challenge to identify candidates with the requisite experience serving in UN peacekeeping operations, as the pool of ADF personnel who have served in UN missions has declined significantly in the past decade. That means Australia is at a disadvantage compared with other countries when it comes to nominating for and securing the senior leadership posts that provide valuable command experience and insight into the limitations of UN peacekeeping, as well as prestige and influence.

There's also a disconnect between Australia's policy engagement ('what we say') and our deployments ('what we do'). On one hand, Australia's commitment to deploy a military gender adviser to UNMISS reflects the government's high-level engagement on women, peace and security. That's a welcome move, but it's a vastly different story when it comes to the role of police in peacekeeping. The withdrawal of AFP officers from the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in June this year means that, for the first time in 50 years, Australia has no police peacekeepers deployed on UN missions. That's despite Australia's role in championing policing when on the UN Security Council in 2014, which resulted in the adoption of resolution 2185—the first ever resolution focused on policing issues. Regardless, Australia is no longer represented among the nearly 12,000 police peacekeepers deployed on current UN missions.

The Canadian Government will host the next annual peacekeeping ministerial meeting in Vancouver on 14-15 November. Countries have been invited to consider making 'smart pledges' that address new or emerging capability requirements in UN peacekeeping, in partnership with other countries. Partnerships provide Australia with an opportunity to enhance our engagement in peacekeeping, without the overheads of deploying a raft of capabilities. They can also provide a vehicle to enhance and strengthen bilateral relationships. That might include identifying opportunities for ADF personnel to serve as part of larger contingents with key partner countries.

The growing security relationship with France offers enormous potential in this regard. Similarly, partnerships—such as the one that Australia recently had with Japan in South Sudan—can further cooperation and develop operational experience with regional partners. UN peacekeeping therefore not only serves Australia's interests in supporting the rules-based global order, but can also serve to strengthen Australia's evolving defence relationships.

It's important that we reflect and commemorate the important sacrifices that have been made by Australians serving on UN peacekeeping operations in the past 70 years. But we should also take the time to consider how we build on that vital legacy.

Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, September 2017



APPVA Members in front of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, 15 September 2017.



The front of the Australian War Memorial, with large Peacekeeper Posters to Commemorate National Peacekeeper Week 10-16 September 2017.



The Back Wall of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, with Wreaths.



The current APPVA National Patron MAJGEN Ian Gordon AO (Retired); and the Immediate Past APPVA National Patron MAJGEN John Pearn AO, RFD (Retired) in discussion at the APPVA Commemorative Dinner, 15 September 2017.



L-R Paul Copeland, Michelle "Mitchie" Stevens and LTGEN John Sanderson get together for a photo



The Governor General's Peacekeeper Reception, Wednesday 13 September 2017. Rhonda Copeland; The Governor General of Australia, His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Retired); Paul Copeland OAM, JP; and daughter Jasmine Copeland.



LTCOL Rick Maher; MAJ David Williams; and Randall New (APPVA QLD Branch President) - enjoying the APPVA Commemorative Dinner, 15 September 2017.



The APPVA Group at the Governor General's Peacekeeper Reception, at Government House, Yarralumla, Canberra, Wednesday, 13th September 2017.

Rear: Rob Woods (AFP UNTAET [East Timor]); Mark Horner (RAE UNTAG [Namibia]); Adam Pritchard (RAN UNTAET); Rod Thompson (RAN Gulf War 1991); Dale Potter, OAM, (AFP UNFICYP [Cyprus]; and RAMSI [Solomon Islands]);

Centre: Allan Thomas JP (ASC 5 MFO Sinai [Egyptian and Israeli International Border]); Lucy Wong (RAAF AUSMEDFOR UNAMIR [Rwanda]); Mitchie Stevens (RAAF FCU UNTAC [Cambodia]); William "Bill" Sheen (RASIGS FCU MINURSO [Western Sahara]); Paul Copeland OAM,JP (OP ASPEN [Vanuatu]; FCU UNTAC [Cambodia]; ASC 5 MFO Sinai); Mrs Jacqui Vinen; David Vinen (UNOSOM I & II [Somalia]);

Front: Mrs Rhonda Copeland (APPVA National Treasurer); Kevin Ryan JP (RASIGS UNTAG [Namibia]); and Miss Jasmine Copeland (Guest of APMPC).

Missing: LTCOL Deb Warren-Smith (UNTSO [Middle East]; and Multiple tours).



The Operational names at the rear of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial.



Jaz Copeland – Miss Jasmine Copeland reads a speech as the daughter of a Peacekeeping Veteran and the effects it has had on her. Jasmine is the daughter of former Warrant Officer Paul Copeland who served on a range of Operations in the 1990's.



Dave and Rob Photo Bomb – Centre is His Excellency, General Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC (Retired), Left is the APPVA National Police Liaison Officer – Rob Woods; to the Right Dave Vinen (Former APPVA National IT Manager and Research Officer) enjoy a laugh with the GG; whilst Paul Copeland photo bombs the shot, with an additional photo bomb from William "Bill" Sheen.



APPVA Members together after exploring the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Friday 15 September.



Wreaths are presented to the Official Wreath Layers by uniformed members of the Australian Federation Guard. APPVA National President, Allan Thomas is to the far right.



Peacekeepers and APPVA Members attend the Morning Service of Remembrance of Peacekeepers at the Australian War Memorial, Wednesday 13 September. Pictured Left is Graeme Barnett (President, APPVA Tasmanian Branch); unknown; Mike Romalis (Coordinator APPVA West Australia); Coralee Goedhardt (Secretary, APPVA Queensland Branch); and Randall New (President, APPVA Queensland Branch).



Mike Romalis places a poppy at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Behind him is Cambodia RAAF Veteran Mitchie Stevens.



Uniformed members of the ADF and Veterans march in the 2000's Group.



Image of the crowd at the Dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial (Courtesy Michael Phelan)



Randall New stands in front of the Roll of Honour dedicated to those who died on non-war service (Operational Service), which was dedicated in 2013.



The Governor General of Australia, His Excellency, General Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC (Retired), speaks at the Dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial. To his left is the Master of Ceremonies, Major General Mark Kelly AO, DSC, The Repatriation Commissioner.



The March of Peacekeeping Veterans commences, with the Australian War Memorial in the background.



Members of the Australian Federation Guard and a Federal Police Officer at the Flag Stations of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, during the Dedication Service, Thursday 14 September 2017.



Veterans at the Morning Remembrance Service, Australian War Memorial, Wednesday 13 September 2017.

Photos Galina Ronalis Photography

It's not Glamorous, but Australia should Celebrate its Peacekeepers



Over the last 70 years, 80,000 Australians have taken part in 62 Peacekeeping Missions. (Getty Images: Jewel Samad)

Analysis RN

By Geraldine Doogue

Do people really understand what the complex craft of peacekeeping means?

Do they know it's not some sort of military-lite affair, but intelligent, imaginative work that often demands more nous than a straight war? And do we Australians grasp that we are pretty good at it?

The English novelist Thomas Hardy put it bluntly: "War makes rattling good history but peace is poor reading."

These questions exercised me during a moving ceremony last week in Canberra. After a decade-long quest, a memorial to Australia's 70 years of peacekeeping was finally unveiled on ANZAC Avenue.

The man doing the honours, Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, entered our imagination due to his peacekeeping work in East Timor, where he was head of the United Nations' INTERFET (you can't escape acronyms in this arena).

I was the civilian patron of a committee set up in 2006 [2005], under the stewardship of Major General Tim Ford (retired),

who wore the blue beret proudly during peacekeeping work in the Middle East in the 1980s [1998-2000 as Chief of Staff UNTSO and 2000-2002 as Senior Military Adviser to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UN HQ New York] Ed.

Our goal was to raise money for a memorial to accompany all the others acknowledging Australian forces' service, to ensure that the Australian men and women who have devoted themselves to the task of peacekeeping over the decades were not taken for granted.

The memorial venture's military patron was General John Sanderson, who restored hope to the stricken Cambodian people post Khmer Rouge. Former AFP commissioner Mick Keilty represented police who'd served, while I represented all the public servants, engineers, teachers, election monitors and others who contributed vitally.

When I accepted the invitation to be patron, I thought that a combination of government money, philanthropy, defence industry donations and personal giving would see the booty collected quick-smart.

Ed: Liz Hanns, mother of LCPL Shannon McAliney 1RAR (OP SOLACE), who was killed on patrol in Somalia on 2



Liz Hanns' son Lance Corporal Shannon McAliney died in Somalia in 1993.

April 1993, touches the Somalia Operation name, where her son lost his life, at the rear retaining wall of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial. Liz laid a wreath in honour of her fallen son at the Dedication Ceremony.

But it took years longer than I'd imagined to raise the amount of money needed to design and construct the memorial.

Peacekeeping, we discovered, is not seen as sufficiently notable to raise the sort of emotions that open pockets.

Gradually, I realised that the military itself — collectively, rather the individuals who served — was not sure the whole project was necessary either.

I suspect many saw peacekeeping as second class, in comparison to orthodox military work. The warrior myth holds enormous sway over our deepest feelings and is reinforced by literature, film and television.

There have been documentaries about Rwanda, but I have only ever seen one TV feature — Answered by Fire, starring David Wenham — devoted to the dramas of Timor in 1999.

Yet peacekeeping is full of drama: it means convincing communities wracked by years of conflict to even dream of peace once more. There is often no formal script for action or hierarchy, as in a usual war. Soldiers, civilians and policemen frequently have to make decisions all by themselves.

"You come back changed," said former peacekeeper Peter Matthey, who served in Rwanda, in the booklet accompanying the ceremony.

John Turner, a colleague of Mr Matthey, was haunted by what he had seen in Rwanda for years after coming home, but found people reacted by telling him to get over it, "it was only peacekeeping".

Another former peacekeeper, Justin Quinn, said that in Cambodia "every man and his dog had a bloody weapon ... it was pretty common to see a lot of tracer flying through the sky at night".

Vietnam veteran Gary Hunter remembered Uganda, where "tracer bullets every night were going over the roof of the building where we were stationed.

"We didn't hear gunfire every night back at base at Nui Dat, [during the Vietnam war] not as much as Kampala ... that's how bad it was. It was very scary," he said.

In the slog of raising the ANZAC Avenue memorial, I developed such respect for those who remained relentlessly committed to lionising the complex cause of creating peace, and to their mates who'd contributed selflessly.

This humble civilian journalist learned a lot about sheer grit and not giving up.

The big anniversary, my committee colleagues insisted, was September 2017, 70 years after Australia sent its first four referendum monitors to Indonesia, which at the time was emerging from Dutch colonialism.

Donors finally agreed, and the last cogs were set in motion. The memorial was unveiled last week (though lights symbolising the liberty of peace weren't quite ready).

Now, of course, it all seems so obvious. Eighty thousand Australians have taken part in 62 peacekeeping missions. We are the fourth-biggest donor to the UN peacekeeping funds. And the need is growing, not diminishing. This work matters.

Looking at the range of men and women last week in Canberra, proudly displaying their medals and blue berets, I found myself wishing that more of them were writers, or poets: people who had written about their courage, generosity and independent decision-making so that we might better understand what's been carried out in our name.

I dream of seeing an Australian version of Homeland or the Israeli Netflix sleeper sensation Fauda, about behind-the-lines Mossad work.

There was barely a dry eye in the crowd last week when a young Rwandan-Australian man, who had been helped years ago by an Australian peacekeeper, led the parade dressed in the slouch hat of the Australian Army — the institution to which he's now committed his life.

But we could know and revel in this noble work so much more. It might not display the derring-do of the warrior myth, but peacekeeping represents the same epic commitment, and those 62 missions deserve a place among Australia's finest hours.

Retrieved from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news>



Living with a Peacekeeper Veteran - A Daughter's Perspective

Hello everyone. First of all, I would like to say how thankful and blessed I feel to be here in front of you all celebrating such a momentous occasion, and one that means so much to myself and my family as well as all of you and your families I'm sure.

Today I would like to share with you my personal experiences with living with a peacekeeper veteran as a dad, and the impact it has had on me. Being the daughter of a veteran has shaped me as a person in ways I can't fully articulate. I'm going to be honest, it hasn't always been easy for my family and I, but as I've grown older, I've been able to see things much more clearly and understand a bit more about what my dad has done and has to live with. I know that sometimes it's difficult because I can't fully comprehend what my dad's been through and the scars, physically and mentally, that he bears from his service every single day.

It's taken me some time to realize the unique role that my father has to play in my life and how this has, in itself, been shaped by his time as a peacekeeper and an advocate. My dad has showed me to never stop fighting for what I believe in, no matter the challenges or adversity I face. My dad has showed me resilience that inspires me everyday. No matter how much pain he endures, he keeps getting back up and continues fighting, which I think speaks volumes of the strength of character that he has developed from his time in the peacekeeping force. Sometimes I honestly don't know how he gets through the day, and he still manages to

put all his energy into helping others and dedicating himself to veteran services. Witnessing this constant dedication to others has inspired me to dedicate my life to helping those who are disadvantaged or marginalized.

For me, I think it's easy to sometimes focus on the more challenging aspects of what living with a veteran can entail, but it is important to have moments of grace when the caliber of sacrifice, courage and love that my dad, and many men and women here, have shown by putting their lives on the line to protect not only our country, but to ensure the peace and security of those in countries half way across the world who are unable to protect themselves.

I think that today is so important because the people that this day is dedicated to have done things that a lot of us can't imagine, they live with memories, good and bad, from their time as peacekeepers, and it is important that, as a nation, we never forget their importance.

Not every day is going to be easy, not every day is going to seem worth it, but in the end, it is the impact that you have had on this world that people remember, and to all the veterans out there, never forget that what you have done for others is remarkable, and that you have the power to inspire the next generation to stand up for those who are unable to.

Jasmine Copeland, daughter of peacekeeping veteran Paul Copeland



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His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Australian Peacekeeping Memorial

Thursday, 14 September 2017, 3-4 minutes

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Ngunnawal People and pay my respects to their elders, past and present, and to elders from other communities who may be with us today.

- Major General Tim Ford (Chair, Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project) Mrs Christine Ford and members of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Committee
- His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley (Governor of NSW; Chief Patron, Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project) and Mrs Linda Hurley
- The Honourable Dan Tehan (Representing the Prime Minister; Minister for Veterans' Affairs; Minister for Defence Personnel)
- Mr Gordon Ramsay (Representing the Chief Minister of the ACT)
- His Excellency Mr Abel Guterres (Dean of Diplomatic Corps; Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste) and other Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- The Honourable Amanda Rishworth
- (Representing the Leader of the Opposition;
- Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs; Shadow Minister for Defence Personnel)
- Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin
- (Chief of the Defence Force) and Other Senior Defence Leaders
- Mr Simon Lewis (Secretary, Department of Veterans' Affairs; President, Repatriation Commission)
- Deputy Commissioner Leanne Close (Representing the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police)
- Representatives from Veterans' associations
- Peacekeepers
- Current and former members of the Australian Defence Force
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is easy to talk about peace—about the absolute importance of humanity and compassion.

It is much harder of course to achieve peace—to actually protect the vulnerable and the dispossessed.

For 70 years Australian peacekeepers have served and sacrificed in the name of peace—and this continues to this day.

In missions right across the world, from the Middle East to Africa, from Asia to the Pacific, our peacekeepers are distinguished by their dedication and courage:

- Protecting children from abuse and exploitation.



- Freeing others from a life as child soldiers.
- Supporting democratic elections that are free and fair.
- Stepping in in times of crises and conflict

In their blue beret's, peacekeepers are a symbol of hope:

- They save lives and change lives.
- Restore order and bring security and stability.

They do all this—not in the name of conquest or self-aggrandizement, nor in the name of parochial national self-interest.

They do it, quite simply, in the name of compassion and humanity.

In the name of what is right.

They do it because peace is not achieved by sitting on the sidelines.

But none of this is easy

As noble as peacekeeping is, it comes at a cost.

Australian peacekeepers have died in service.

And the number of lives lost could have been so much higher given the hazards of our work across the decades.

Today we dedicate this memorial to our peacekeepers.

This is their memorial and our nation's tribute to them.

And it is a living memorial—because the peacekeeper's work will continue as long as there is conflict in the world.

There will be a shaft of light between two opposing walls, a light of optimism and faith—a constant beacon of hope for all those in the shadow of conflict.

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Australia, Solomon Islands and RAMSI

23 Oct 2017|Graeme Dobell

Australia spent years saying no to a central role in the mounting crisis in Solomon Islands. Then, in 2003, Canberra did a huge U-turn and led the intervention that ran for 14 years and ended in June this year.

Here are two interpretations of Australia's 2003 decision:

Oz academic orthodoxy—Australia was driven by the US alliance and the 'war on terror'. Australia's 'new interventionism' was a mix of neo-liberal dreaming about fixing weak states and security fears about the South Pacific 'arc of instability'.

Canberra official story—The Solomons was a failing/failed state pleading for help. As regional leader, Australia responded. The Pacific Islands Forum embraced 'cooperative intervention'.

The interpretations cover the same ground, but clash. In seeing how Australia thinks about the South Pacific, the regional assistance mission RAMSI is a rich study.

The official story tells some truth while glossing over much. The academic orthodoxy is a bleak understanding, seeing Australia's South Pacific policy as not actually derived from the South Pacific.

The academic logic is that if 9/11 hadn't happened to the US, Canberra would have stood back, watching the

Solomons slide into hell; no push from Washington, no Pacific action from Oz.

Two examples from academic journals:

- Dan Halvorson argues that the central driver for Canberra was Australia's international reputation: 'A primary concern for the Howard government was to bolster Australia's reputation in the "War on Terror" vis-à-vis the USA and the international community more broadly by being seen to maintain order in its regional sphere of responsibility'.
- Matthew Allen and Sinclair Dinnen: 'We see RAMSI as having been conceived in the global "state-building moment", as accentuated by the events of 9-11, 2001, when there were palpable concerns about the security threats posed by "weak" and "failing" states ... The intervention had all the hallmarks of a classic liberal peace intervention...'

A superb account of RAMSI (with less orthodoxy) is the review done for Honiara and the Pacific Islands Forum by academics from New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. It offers tough judgements about Australia's performance, but the analysis is grounded in the realities of Solomon Islands that drove Australia and the region. One of the authors, Jon Fraenkel, offers this short account, dryly noting that RAMSI's 14 years of ups, downs, evolutions and episodes meant that 'only a few could recall precisely



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what the mission was initially intended to accomplish, or assess how it might be judged’.

Canberra’s official story glibly skips Australia’s hesitations in the five years before intervention, and the trial and error of RAMSI’s long life. The gloss obscures the truth of policy creation: ad hoc responses to cascading events, and indecision masquerading as flexibility while panic rises.

Glibness glides over Australia’s failed policy until 2003: namely, to ‘intelligently manage trouble’ by not getting close to the trouble (a description I got from DFAT secretary Ashton Calvert). As John Howard recalls: ‘From the late 1990s onwards, my government received numerous requests for assistance of various kinds from the Solomon Islands government. Each time we firmly but politely declined. The response was always that Australia did not wish to become embroiled in Solomon Islands’ internal affairs.’

Each refusal forced Canberra to stare again at the Solomons, which was stumbling fast from failing to failed. Solomon Islands is a classic weak state atop a strong(ish) society—the five years of unrest to 2003 tore society and shook the state.

Life in the villages went on, while in Honiara the prime minister was taken hostage at gunpoint in a coup; cabinet couldn’t convene for fear of armed men barging in demanding money; the new (British) police commissioner couldn’t arrest one of his senior officers who walked into the Treasury demanding money; Honiara had a police force by day that turned into a militia force at night.

Events, not ideology or the international vibe, forced the Howard government to act.

One reason Australia acted: it could. This circular statement points to the regional dimension.

After winning office in 1996, the Howard government learned about Australia’s power in the arc: extended police and military deployments in Bougainville and Timor; Canberra applying maximum pressure on the Chan government that fell in Papua New Guinea’s 1997 Sandline crisis, acting decisively that year to get food to half a million Papua New Guineans hit by drought; imposing the boat-people camps—the ‘Pacific solution’—on the broke nation of Nauru; helping to rebuild Fiji’s police after the coup crisis of Suva’s parliamentary siege in 2000.

Despite those experiences, Canberra agonised over intervention in the Solomons. Australia couldn’t recolonise the South Pacific, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer argued in January, 2003: ‘Sending in Australian troops to occupy Solomon Islands would be folly in the extreme. It would be widely resented in the Pacific region. It would be very difficult to justify to Australian taxpayers. And for how many years would such an occupation have to continue? And what would be the exit strategy?’

My response to the ‘exit’ question was one of the more useful lines I’ve injected into the Canberra milieu: You can’t have an exit strategy from your own region. I hammered the exit mentality in a paper to the Menzies Research Centre in February 2003 with this concluding line: ‘There is no exit strategy for us in the South Pacific. After all, this is where we live.’

RAMSI began on 24 July 2003, after Australia had exhausted its alternatives. The dramatic language John Howard used was cover for ditching failed policy. If you have to U-turn, deploy noise and smoke, then zoom on the new course with fresh flags flying.

AUTHOR Graeme Dobell is the ASPI journalism fellow. Image courtesy of the Department of Defence. Retrieved from: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au>



The Kurdish struggle in Northern Syria

OXFORD, 15 September 2017

Carl Drott - Freelance writer focusing on northern Syria and northern Iraq

Author Note

Part of an in-depth IRIN series exploring the challenges facing Kurdish people throughout the Middle East as Iraqi Kurds vote on independence

While Iraq's Kurds may vote to become independent in 10 day's time, officials in the neighbouring Kurdish-run Democratic Federation of Northern Syria promise they have no intention to secede, even if they could.

Change is nonetheless afoot. The expanding Kurdish enclave, controlled mainly by the Democratic Union Party (PYD), has been operating for some time as an autonomous quasi-state in the middle of a country at war.

The PYD is inspired by the writings of Abdullah "Apo" Öcalan, the imprisoned leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which has been fighting for greater autonomy and/or a Kurdish state in Turkey for almost four decades.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the PYD's multi-ethnic military umbrella organisation – which includes the mainly Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) – are moving deeper into Arab-majority areas of Syria, not to mention launching an assault on so-called Islamic State-controlled Raqqa with US support.

But Kurds in northern Syria are not only at odds with Turkey, the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, and much of the Syrian opposition: They themselves are divided.

The Roots of Division

Northern Syria (known as "Rojava" by Kurdish nationalists) declared a federal system in 2016 in three cantons – Afrin and Kobani in northern Aleppo province, and Jazira in Hassakeh.

Decision-making is largely in the hands of the PYD leadership, which enjoys huge grassroots following. Many anti-PYD dissidents have been arrested or forced to leave the country – particularly members of the Kurdish National Council (ENKS), a collection of Kurdish political parties that oppose the PYD.

"PYD is imprisoning politicians, burning offices of opposition parties, assaulting journalists, and preventing civil society organisations from working freely," Şiyar İsa, a political scientist working in the area, told IRIN.

Parliamentarians have been appointed, not elected, while local elections were announced at such short notice that any serious contestation of PYD rule would have been impossible, especially given an ENKS boycott. A new round of elections for both local councils and seats in the highest

law-making bodies are scheduled for the next few months.

The enmity between the two rivals has deepened over time, partly because of PYD conflicts with ENKS's main allies, namely the Syrian opposition, KRG President Masoud Barzani, and his Kurdistan Democratic Party.

Brain Drain

Rather than striving for utopia in the economic sphere as PYD ideology dictates, the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria has a struggle on its hand just to survive.

The lack of jobs, as well as forced conscription into local self-defence forces, has prompted many Kurds to flee the country, particularly young men and those with a higher education.

"Most of the young people, including myself, left Rojava for several reasons. One of these reasons was to avoid belonging to any military faction fighting on Syrian soil," Xandî Cengo, a university graduate in his mid-twenties from Qamishli near Syria's northern border with Turkey, told IRIN.

Cengo made his way to the KRG last year, but has since followed the refugee trail to Europe.

Christians are also leaving en masse, in part because Muslims have been purchasing property from anyone leaving, turning previously all-Christian neighbourhoods into mixed ones.

There has also been an influx of people from other parts of Syria, and even Iraq. While some have come by choice, the majority are rural poor displaced by conflict who add to the region's economic burden.

The UN estimates that more than 301,000 people have left their homes in the province of Raqqa alone, with many fleeing to Kurdish-controlled areas. Some 8,000 people have taken shelter at Ain Issa Camp, some 40 kilometres north of Raqqa in SDF-controlled territory.

Médecins Sans Frontières said earlier this week that in Ain Issa, "there are new arrivals every day".

While the UN and other humanitarian organisations are active in these areas, the PYD says it's not enough.

"Until now, the support we get from the side of the humanitarian organisations is very, very weak," Sinam Mohamad, the PYD's foreign representative for the federation, told IRIN. "We have thousands of people now in the camps and we are not able to give them what they need."

Economic Isolation

Before the war, northern Syria was a major producer of wheat and cotton, and a significant extractor of oil and gas.



Families and fighters gather in Kobani to honour Syrian Arabs and Kurds who died fighting IS
Andrea DiCenzo/IRIN

These industries are plodding on, but getting both spare parts for the oil industry and enough water for irrigation has become problematic.

Finding routes to import goods, since north Syria produces very little, is a real challenge. The situation in the Afrin enclave is different, since some industries moved there from Aleppo city to escape fighting and looting.

Turkey keeps its border completely shut, while the KRG border is more or less closed as well, with some exceptions. Compounding this, both IS and Syrian rebels have long blocked PYD-controlled areas, although land links to areas controlled by the government of Bashar al-Assad have been established fairly recently with his army's advances in the Aleppo countryside.

That said, northern Syria has never been hermetically sealed off from the rest of the country or its neighbours. Even before a proper land route existed, you could still find Afrin's famous cold-pressed olive oil in the KRG capital of Erbil.

But the prices of non-local goods traded between warring parts of the country have skyrocketed in northern Syria, at the same time as salaries shrink and jobs vanish.

"When they buy something from our people, it will be at very low prices, and when they sell it in another place, the prices will be very high," Mohamad explained. "They will be crossing a lot of checkpoints for different groups, and each group will get their taxes from them, until they reach

the final destination."

The PYD now faces a dilemma: Although the federation relies on US military protection for its continued existence, this relationship could at the same time prevent the development of a stable trade link with the Syrian government and its allies.

Relations with Iraqi Kurdistan

A seemingly clear outlet for trade would be via the borders with Iraqi Kurdistan. But Barzani's KDP and the PYD have differences that stretch back decades, fueled by both power rivalry and ideological divergences.

Iraqi Kurdistan has largely kept its border crossing with northern Syria at Semalka shut in past years. The PYD's refusal to share power with ENKS is certainly one reason, but another is Barzani's desire to remain on good terms with Turkey.

"(The Turkish authorities) are doing their best to put pressure on Mr Masoud Barzani of the KDP, to make them close the border and create obstacles for us," said Mohamad. "It has been going on for many years."

Weapons for the PYD did arrive directly from the KDP during a thaw in relations in 2014. And northern Syria has in the past exported crude oil to Iraqi Kurdistan – in turn importing refined oil products – but this trade appears, at least for now, to have been halted.



Above: Syrians displaced from the fight against IS in Ain Issa camp, north of Raqqa *Andrea DiCenzo/IRIN*

Opposite: YPG fighters on the western front of the battle for Raqqa *Andrea DiCenzo/IRIN*

It's not unthinkable that the two parties might work together again. Currently, the KRG economy relies on exporting oil via Turkey, from where it in turn imports pretty much everything. But Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has spoken out strongly against the upcoming independence referendum. An end to the KRG-Turkey alliance, however unlikely, would be a game changer.

The Future of Raqqa

Despite historically troubled relations and land disputes among all the communities residing in the area, the PYD has managed to prevent large-scale communal conflict in the federation: no minor achievement in the midst of a civil war.

Federation officials rarely miss an opportunity to state that their project is not only for Kurds, but for all ethnicities, although human rights groups, including Amnesty International, have accused the PYD of forced displacement and home demolitions targeted at mostly Arab and Turkmen residents accused of supporting IS. While the targeting does not appear to have been ethnically motivated, collective punishment has sometimes been utilised.*

"The system we are depending on, which is based on the co-existence of all the people living there, it is a very successful one," insisted Mohamad.

Until now, there have been enough local PYD supporters to establish and maintain control of Kurdish-majority areas, but as the territory under its control expands this may not always be the case – among the challenges the PYD will face is rebuilding cities, towns, and villages nearly demolished by war.

So, what is the plan for Raqqa after it is liberated? "Just the same as what happened in Manbij," replied Mohamad, referring to another Arab-majority town liberated by the SDF a year ago. "Now, the civilian council of Manbij is administrating their city by themselves, without interference from anybody else," she said. "Raqqa also will be the same."

One unexpected twist is that the PYD's democratic ideals might stand a better chance of successful implementation in places where Kurds form a minority of the population.

"Because of the sensitivity of those mixed areas, civilians have more room to participate in government," İsa believes.

In Raqqa, which unlike Manbij is not needed for Kurdish territorial contiguity with Afrin, the real worry might not be the imposition of PYD rule, but rather the opposite: PYD disengagement.

After the battles end (whenever that is), local political conflicts and a power vacuum could leave a real danger of fresh violence spiralling out of control.

The Case of Afrin

The most vulnerable part of northern Syria is undoubtedly the Afrin enclave, located in the far northwestern corner of the country.

Having survived most of the war without major fighting, the SDF then expanded from Afrin into IS- and rebel-held areas to the east in an attempt to link up with Kobani via Manbij. This bid was eventually thwarted by Turkey and allied Syrian rebels, who have recently stepped up attacks on the enclave – with frequent reports of cross-border shelling.

In contrast to other parts of northern Syria, there's no US military present in Afrin, and the enclave has instead relied on Russia for support.

For a long time, federation officials pleaded with Russia to stop the Turkish attacks, and eventually Russian troops did move in to create a buffer zone. The immediate danger may have subsided, but Afrin remains one of the pieces that can be traded in the geopolitical chess game, and has little power to decide its own destiny in the longer term.

A handy guide to Kurdish acronyms

<p>KDP Kurdistan Democratic Party Ruling party in Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), opposed to PYD</p>	<p>PKK Kurdistan Workers' Party Main Kurdish party in Turkey, aims for independence or autonomy</p>	<p>SDF Syrian Democratic Forces An umbrella group of mainly Syrian Kurdish and Arab forces, commanded by the PYD</p>
<p>ENKS Kurdish National Council A coalition of Syrian Kurdish parties who oppose the PYD</p>	<p>PYD Democratic Union Party Dominant Syrian Kurdish party, related to the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Turkey</p>	<p>YPG People's Protection Units Majority Kurdish militia in Syria, part of the SDF</p>



The US has so far not been keen to get involved, and Afrin may at some point have to accept some level of Syrian government control – or lose its Russian protection.

But Afrin is just one (albeit high-profile) part of the Kurdish, and Syrian puzzle. Whether, or for how long, the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria can outlast the tumultuous end to the Syrian conflict remains to be seen.

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In the Line of Fire

Jan Egeland and Stephen O'Brien

* Any views expressed in this article are those of the author and not of Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Wars have rules. It is time to enforce these rules, rather than have brave aid workers needlessly risk their lives, and too many of the most vulnerable to be left alone in the crossfire and lose theirs

Late last year, a bunker buster bomb shot through an underground shelter in Syria's Hama province. A group of aid workers were taking shelter inside at the time. Nine of them, all Syrian, were killed instantly.

In February 2017, six Red Cross workers were shot dead in an ambush in northern Afghanistan while travelling through the desert to deliver livestock supplies to people in need. Their vehicles were clearly marked as humanitarian. The International Committee of the Red Cross described the incident as the worst attack against them in 20 years.

Then just last week, another six Red Cross volunteers were killed in the Central African Republic while they held a meeting at a health facility in Mbomou.

In the last two months alone, relief workers have been shelled, shot at, kidnapped and killed in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria.

In 2016, 158 major planned attacks targeting aid operations killed 101 aid workers, wounded 98 and kidnapped 89.

The clear majority of those killed and injured - 85 per cent - were national staff of humanitarian organizations.

One thing is clear, respect for the rules of war has collapsed in too many places. Aid workers assist the world's most vulnerable people. This means they work in active war zones, knowing the risks they face. But unlike combatants, aid workers are not party to any conflict, they are there to deliver life-saving assistance to people faced with the worst scenario one can imagine - war.

On 19 August, every year, aid workers around the globe pause to mark World Humanitarian Day. On this day, we take the opportunity to honour and remember our colleagues, friends and family members who have been killed on the frontlines of crises, and to salute them for their sacrifice and service. We also come together in solidarity with the millions of civilians caught in conflict, to demand that world leaders exert all the diplomatic, political and economic influence they can to ensure parties to conflict protect civilians.

Wars without limits

Attacks are becoming increasingly brutal in nature where international humanitarian law continues to be eroded.

In one of the most heinous attacks against humanitarians in South Sudan's war, on 11 July 2016 dozens of government soldiers entered the Terrain residential compound

VIOLENCE AGAINST AID WORKERS IN 2016



Every day, aid workers save lives in conflicts and disasters, braving tremendous dangers and difficulties to deliver assistance to people who need it the most. On World Humanitarian Day (19 August), we remember and pay tribute to those heroic colleagues who lost their lives in humanitarian service.

288

AID WORKER VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE



158

SECURITY INCIDENTS AGAINST AID WORKERS



35%

OF VICTIMS WERE KILLED



85%

OF VICTIMS WERE NATIONAL STAFF



Figures from Humanitarian Outcomes' Aid Worker Security Database

sheltering aid workers in Juba. They gang-raped several of the female aid workers, and executed a journalist while forcing the others to watch. No one should ever endure this senseless barbarity. By such acts, the soldiers sent a message to the humanitarian community - that our neutrality is not respected and that we are not shielded as humanitarians.

In other conflicts, the delivery of aid is hampered by fighting parties, as a tactic to prevent life-saving relief reaching communities living on the 'wrong' side of the frontlines, leaving communities deprived for years on end.

Medical staff in particular are often singled out for attack, with profound long-term consequences for healthcare to communities in desperate need. In 2016, 979 medical staff were killed or injured in attacks against medical workers and facilities.

Two Médecins sans Frontières-supported hospitals in Yemen were targeted by airstrikes in 2016, even though the organisation shared the GPS coordinates with the conflict parties, and clearly marked the building roofs. Between them the hospitals served over 270,000 people.

Many incidents have never been investigated, and in the rare instances when investigations have been carried out, they have often failed to meet international standards.

This sends a direct message to the perpetrators; that violence against humanitarians is permissible, and that fighting parties can flout their obligations to respect international humanitarian law with virtually no consequence. So, few people have been held to account that no official recorded number exists.

While some attacks are committed by non-state armed groups, when measured by body count alone, it is states

that are responsible for the highest number of aid worker fatalities. Fifty-four humanitarians were killed by state actors in 2015 and 2016.

Source: Humanitarian Outcomes report

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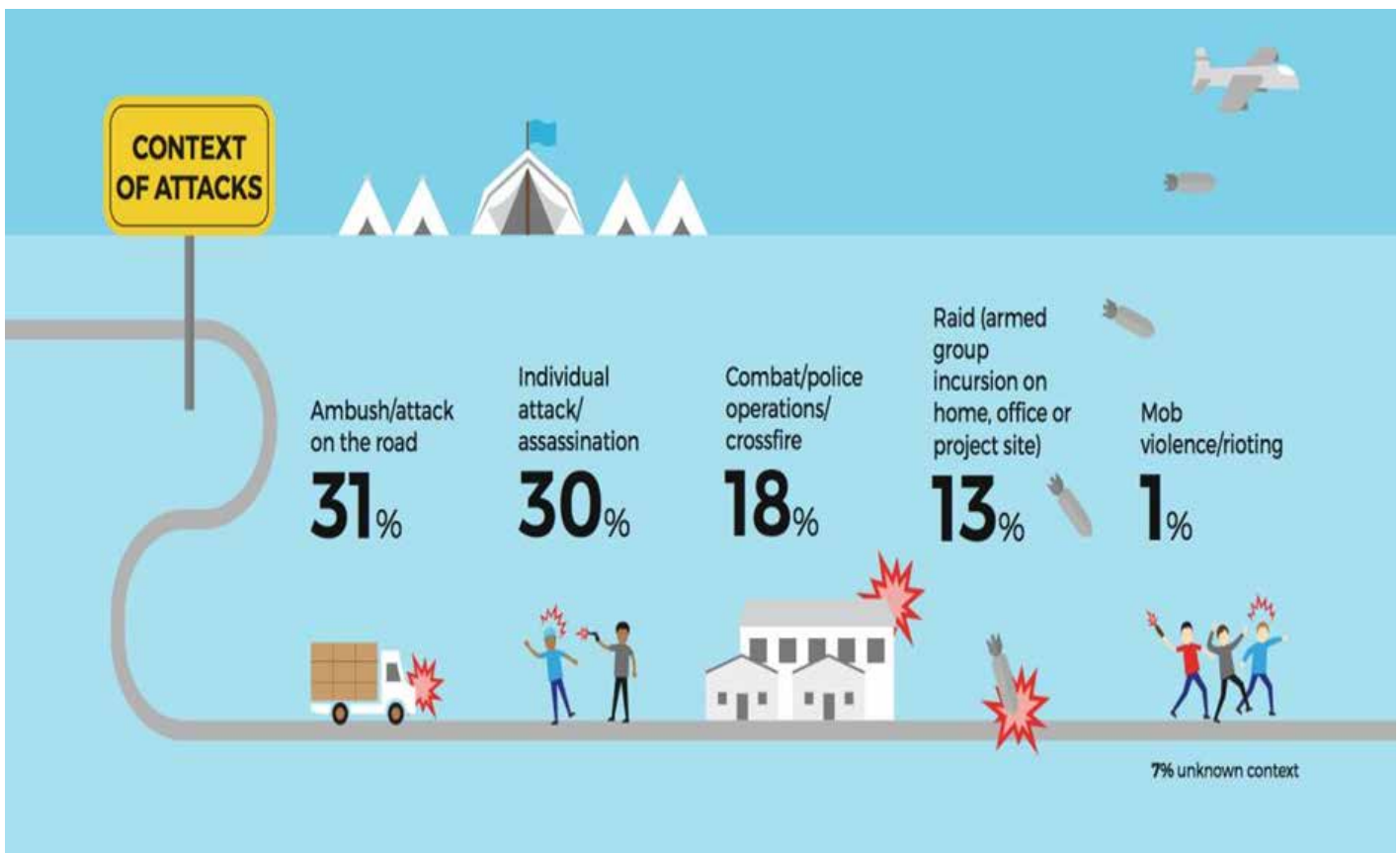
The repercussions of attacks on aid workers go far beyond the staff themselves – these attacks deny conflict-affected people the aid they so critically need. They deprive children of life-saving treatment, obstruct families from receiving food, and rob communities from accessing shelter.

We cannot tolerate our colleagues being targeted deliberately or harmed indiscriminately. The system must change. Three concrete things can be done to better protect aid workers.

Firstly, states must investigate and prosecute serious violations. States, particularly the most influential ones, must demand that warring parties, including their own forces, respect international law and hold perpetrators to account.

In South Sudan, intense international pressure led to a small number of the soldiers accused of the Terrain compound attack being brought to trial. If this trial brings some measure of justice, it will show what is possible. But diplomatic pressure must be consistent. Few, if any, of the dozens of subsequent attacks against humanitarians in South Sudan since then have brought those responsible to account.

Secondly, aid organizations must always demonstrate their neutrality. We must denounce those who use aid or access as bargaining chips, holding the most vulnerable hostage. We must push against those who want to make aid a tool



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to reach other political objectives. If we are to help people most in need, aid must be impartial and neutral. If not, we risk becoming partisan and politicized, and targets of attacks.

Finally, we must provide better duty-of-care to all staff on the frontlines, particularly national staff. International aid agencies are increasingly providing aid remotely in highly insecure environments. This means they are delivering relief through local partners and transferring the risk to them. Local and national partner organizations face an inadequate level of security and support from their international partners. We must provide better security training to equip them in the field, as recommended by the recent Presence and Proximity report on aid workers. Donors and international partners should ensure that national partners' security needs are factored into proposals and budgets, so they have the resources needed to protect their staff.

Making these changes is urgent and vital for the survival of many lives and lifelines. Today, over 141 million people desperately need humanitarian assistance, the vast majority of them affected by conflict – the highest number since records began. We cannot afford to let them down.

Wars have rules. It is time to enforce these rules, rather than have brave aid workers needlessly risk their lives, and too many of the most vulnerable to be left alone in the crossfire and lose theirs.

Jan Egeland is Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council and a former Emergency Relief Coordinator. Stephen O'Brien is UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Retrieved From: <http://news.trust.org/item/20170817131831-7fu4h> on 19 August 2017.

Editor: The Responsibility to Protect (R2P or RtoP) is a global political commitment which was endorsed by all member states of the United Nations at the 2005 World Summit to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. However, this has not been put into robust practice by UN Peacekeeping Forces. The 2005 World Summit announced the R2P to stem the increasing violence against NGO's and other vulnerable civilians. The R2P segue is obviously not working, in the current schema of Operations. Peacekeeping Forces [PKF] are often looked upon for protection against violence, of which unfortunately, the particular Mission Mandate, UN Chapter (VI or VII), the Law of Armed Conflict [LOAC] and the defined Rules of Engagement [ROE], often place confusion with UN Soldiers, of which many may choose not to intervene, rather than protect. The R2P must be reinforced by the UN and included into the Mandate of a given UN Mission. To enforce R2P, the UN PKF must also have the lethality and weaponry to be able to intervene, without compromising the Mission Mandate.

**THE HON AMANDA RISHWORTH MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR VETERANS'
AFFAIRS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
PERSONNEL
MEMBER FOR KINGSTON
ADDRESS TO THE AUSTRALIAN
PEACEKEEPERS AND
PEACEMAKERS VETERANS'
ASSOCIATION NATIONAL
CONFERENCE**



Thank you for the invitation to speak today at your national conference; it is an absolute pleasure to be here.

I would like to begin today by acknowledging the traditional owners on whose land we meet and pay my respect to their elders both past and present.

I'd also like to acknowledge the following:

- Minister for Veterans Affairs, Hon Dan Tehan MP
- APPVA National

President, Mr Allan Thomas

- APPVA Patron, Major General Ian Gordon AO (retired)
- Vietnam Veterans Federation Australia National President, Mr Jim Wain
- All delegates and representatives of APPVA here today

Today I have been asked to speak on the issue of veterans' suicide.

But first I would like to acknowledge the 70 year anniversary of Australia's involvement peace keeping operations and in particular those men and women of the ADF, Police and civilians that have made a contribution. Also I would like to recognise the Australian peace keepers and peace makers veterans association for 20 years of representation and service to your members.

Addressing the issue of veteran's suicide I know is of critical importance to you as it is me.

This topic is particularly timely given the recent release of the Senate inquiry into suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel which was initiated by Senator Lambie and supported by Labor.

Suicide is often the tragic consequence of poor mental health and difficult life events so it is therefore critical that we do all we do all we can to support the mental health of our veterans.

Having previously worked as a psychologist before I was a member of parliament, I know that talking openly about mental illness and suicide is vital to overcoming stigma.

Stigma compounds the impact of mental illness. Not only does the individual suffering from poor mental health have to manage their symptoms, the stigma can be isolating causing them to withdraw further for fear of being rejected or misunderstood. It can also prevent individuals from disclosing their struggles and ask for help so they can continue living a full and productive life.

And the consequence of this stigma and this reluctance to get help can be disastrous.

Earlier this year the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare completed a study into the Incidence of Suicide Among Service and Ex-serving Australian Defence Personnel and found that while serving members have a lower than average suicide rate but when they finish their service, the risk of suicide is 13% higher than the general population.

Of particular concern, the report identified that men who were no longer serving and were aged 18-24 were twice as likely to die by suicide than men of the same age in the general population.

In addition men who were discharged involuntarily from the ADF were 2.4 times more likely to die than those who discharged voluntarily.

And those who were discharged for medical reasons were 3.6 times more like to die by suicide than those who discharged voluntarily.

In addition to suicide, it is worth looking the impact of self-harm in our veteran community.

The National Mental Health Commission's review found that it is hard to quantify those inflicting self-harm in the current and ex-serving defence community as there is very little information available about the prevalence in this group. But we know that this is a sign of poor mental health function and can lead to accidental death.

This is an area we need to better understand.

In Australia DVA claims data indicate there were a total of 986 hospitalisations for intentional self-harm from 2000 to 2016.

This is a deeply concerning number.

While not the scope of the Australian study, it is important that we consider the prevalence of suicidal ideation as well as suicide itself.

The 2010 Australian Defence Force Mental Health Prevalence and Wellbeing study found that, when compared to the general Australian community, ADF personnel reported a higher prevalence of suicidal ideation, 3.9% compared with 1.7% and suicide plans, 1.1% compared with 0.4%.

All the data presented has been across the whole ADF population however it is important to recognise the unique experiences of peacekeepers and mental health as well.

Peacekeeping missions present a wide variety of stresses that have short and long term effects on mental health. Missions may involve experiences not unlike combat deployments, with personnel encountering numerous stressful and potential traumatic events such as delivering

humanitarian aid amidst volatile environments, coming under fire and witnessing atrocities.

Peacekeepers can also be exposed to a wider range of stressors than they would in combat suffering from isolation, feelings of frustration, rage and helplessness, all of which increase the stress of our personnel in these roles.

Published in 2016, a study of 1025 Australian Peacekeepers titled 'The Long-Term Mental Health Impact of Peacekeeping: Prevalence and Predictors of Psychiatric Disorder' found that for 1014 participants reported high levels of exposure to Potentially Traumatic Events with most being exposed to multiple events.

They also found that pre-deployment, the prevalence of mental health disorders was low, however post deployment, the 12 month prevalence for suicidal ideation, suicide plan and suicide attempts was high, with 10.7% reporting suicidal ideation, 5.8% had a plan and 1% a suicide attempt.

This is particularly concerning and recognises the specific impact of peacekeeping on our personnel.

It is clear from numerous reports that we must support the mental health of our veterans and make suicide prevention a priority.

So what could we do to better support our ex-serving defence personnel?

This was one of the elements which formed the terms of reference for the recent senate inquiry into suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel.

This inquiry received over 400 submissions which highlighted a range of different factors which have contributed to a feeling of hopelessness in some veterans.

The Australian Institute for Suicide Research and Prevention, as a part of Griffith University, said the "reasons are multidimensional and include a range of veteran specific risk factors including difficulty returning to civilian life, relationship problems, mental illness, alcohol and drug use, employment programs, bereavement and loss of routine and structure that characterises military life and veterans reluctance to seek help".

While the Government's introduction of Non-Liability Health Care has a part to play in this process, good mental health is about more than just the provision of clinical services.

In order to fully address these issues and prevent our veterans from feeling as though they have no other option, we need to take a holistic view of the veteran and their family.

We need to recognise the importance of financial security, strong social support and connectedness, secure housing, family support, good physical health and fulfilling employment.

Perhaps one of the areas where effective support and engagement could have the biggest impact is during transition.

This is an issue which your organisation has been discussing for some time, raising issues around the culture shock of

transition and the lack of awareness about the role of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. But also that Defence has a critical responsibility in the transition process.

How to prepare for discharge is different for each person. The needs of someone who leaves voluntarily is vastly different to those who are medically discharged or leave involuntarily. However while their needs are different our obligation remains the same.

As the National Mental Health Commission's report stated "transition should enable all departing personnel to leave with dignity, hope, and some certainty about their future, regardless of the circumstances of their discharge"

A key element of transition is assisting veterans to find fulfilling employment

Supporting veterans into employment, providing them with the tools they need and ensuring industry understands the value they bring has the potential to produce better outcomes for our veterans and their families.

And for those who would like to go onto further study, we should be proactive in helping them to achieve their goals. I know this is an issue which is important to the APPVA, forming part of your submission to the 2015 senate inquiry into Mental Health of ADF Serving Personnel.

Of course, circumstances are different for those who are medically discharged, as there may be no immediate path to employment as a result of service wounds or injuries. These individuals are at the mercy of the DVA claims process and the timeframes taken to process needs assessments and incapacity payments.

In addition, their condition can be exacerbated by gaps in their rehabilitation through the lack of continuity in clinical care while moving from defence to civilian rehabilitation programs

I know I am not telling you anything new, the APPVA plays an important role in advocacy for individuals going through this process and are well versed in these experiences.

In order to address these systemic issues within the department, at the last election Labor proposed a First Principles Review of DVA. This is a principle based end to end review of the department and its processes. I continue to discuss this policy with the ex-service community and my party as a way to address these issues and restore trust in the department.

Addressing the issues in the claims process will assist those requiring additional assistance to gain financial security and continue any necessary care, without gaps. These are important protective factors to prevent poor mental health and complex social problems.

In addition, it is important that those transitioning are able to maintain their social connectedness. When they leave the regulated and highly structured environment of Defence, surrounded by colleagues and supports, the transition to civilian life can be jarring.

Maintaining this connectedness is something the APPVA does so well. Providing an opportunity for those who served to meet and spend time together, to give that deeper understanding that can only come from someone

who has been there. This peer to peer support can bring down barriers and assist people to ask for help.

I believe we need to seriously consider how government can better support organisations, such as the APPVA, to provide peer to peer support.

While the focus of the senate inquiry was to identify gaps and areas where we could be doing more to support our ex-serving defence personnel, it also highlighted the impact service has on families.

This critical role of family members in supporting our current and ex-serving defence personnel is often not acknowledged or appreciated by government as much as it should.

Peacekeeping presents unique stressors for individuals and unique experiences for their loved ones, in part due to their different deployment structures. We need to consider how best to acknowledge and support those who play such a critical role in assisting our current and ex-serving defence community.

It is for this reason Labor has recently committed if elected to develop a Family Engagement and Support Strategy for Defence Personnel and Veterans; a key recommendation of the National Mental Health Commissions review.

This strategy would provide a national blueprint to include engagement of DVA and Defence with military families. It would also ensure the best practice support for families of serving personnel and ex-ADF members was consistently available across the country. After all greater support for military families is greater support for our current and ex-serving defence personnel.

A Family Engagement and Support Strategy for Defence Personnel and Veterans seeks to address the lack of engagement and, importantly acknowledge of the critical role these family members play.

Veteran suicide is a complex issue with no quick fixes and while clinical services play a role, it is also important we acknowledge the broader picture of what good mental health looks like.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the role organisations such as yours is playing with regards to this important and complicated issue.

Suffering from mental illness can be all encompassing. Depression tells you that you are alone and a burden to those you love. For those who have served the feeling of

isolation and of misunderstanding is compounded. Having people to talk to and a network of peers who understand what it is like to serve helps to bring walls down and provide that safe space to talk.

The work the APPVA does is vital and in a very real sense saves people's lives. This does not go unacknowledged.

Finally, thank you for giving me the opportunity to discuss this important issue. Addressing veterans' suicide requires a coordinated approach and I am happy to see it form part of the broader discussions being held here today.



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Australian Police End Cyprus Mission



The final three Australian Federal Police stationed in Cyprus have officially withdrawn. (AAP)

The final three Australian Federal Police stationed in Cyprus have officially withdrawn, drawing to a close a 53-year peacekeeping mission.

The last federal police officers engaged in Australia's first and longest-running peacekeeping mission have withdrawn from Cyprus.

A flag-lowering ceremony at the Cypriot capital's defunct airport that serves as the UN force's headquarters overnight drew the curtains on Australia's 53 year mission, with the three officers officially pulling out.

"While the AFP is leaving Cyprus, the mark of its officers will remain enduring," Justice Minister Michael Keenan told AAP.

"Over the past five decades the AFP has provided security and stability to a community facing challenging circumstances."

AFP commissioner Andrew Colvin described the withdrawal from Cyprus as a sad but proud day.

More than 1600 Australian officers have contributed to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus since 1964.

It was the first time the UN deployed civilian police in a peacekeeping mission to bring an end to hostilities in a troubled nation.

The first Australian contingent of 40 police officers

arrived in Cyprus in May 1964. Since then, 111 Australian contingents have served with the peacekeeping force.

Three Australian officers died while serving in Cyprus.

Officers worked in the UN-established buffer zone to maintain peace and stability, delivering humanitarian assistance to isolated residents and performing a liaison role between authorities from the north and south.

"The AFP not only earned the trust of the community, but their respect and gratitude," Mr Keenan said.

"For the AFP, the experience gained from its first peacekeeping mission has been invaluable, and will continue to be drawn upon for ongoing missions across the world."

Retrieved from: <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/06/17/australian-police-end-cyprus-mission> on 16 September 2017.



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

PTSD the Price of Keeping the Peace

Kate Mani | 11 September 2017

Rodney MacCormack remembers pushing a supermarket trolley towards the check-out. He stopped when he saw the queue snaking its way around the counter. Abandoning the trolley, he left as quickly as he could.



'Where's the shopping?' his wife Lesley asked when he returned empty-handed. 'What's wrong with you?' 'The crowds,' he said. 'I couldn't handle it.'

For former navy peacekeeper MacCormack, social avoidance was symptomatic of his post traumatic stress disorder diagnosis, along with hypertension, sweating, isolation, substance abuse and horrendous nightmares.

After joining the Royal Australian Navy in 1968, MacCormack's active service brought him into close contact with death and violence. He remembers hauling dead bodies from the shipwrecked *MV Noongah* off the New South Wales coast in 1969. On Christmas Eve 1974, Cyclone Tracey pelted sandstone bricks around him and ripped the uniform from his body while he manned the Darwin naval telephone exchange.

Along with other peacekeepers, MacCormack has faced a lack of recognition of the traumatising situations peacekeepers can experience and their susceptibility to PTSD. He believes the role of peacekeepers often becomes lost in Australia's commemorative calendar.

In the shadow of Canberra's Australian War Memorial, Australia's first peacekeeping memorial has been completed on ANZAC Parade to address this lack of recognition. This Thursday 14 September will mark 70 years of Australian peacekeeping with a commemorative service and dedication of the memorial by Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

Australian peacekeepers are defence force personnel and police deployed by the United Nations to provide security, political and human rights assistance to conflict-ravaged countries transitioning to peace. Up to 60,000 service personnel since 1947 have served throughout the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Missions include Rwanda, Timor-Leste, Persian Gulf and the former Yugoslavia, and non-

UN deployments such as the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands.

Dr Rosalind Hearder (pictured) worked with the Official History of Australian Peacekeeping and post-Cold War Operations project and has researched and written about PTSD. She believes stereotypical perceptions of war and peace can leave Australians with a misguided understanding of peacekeeping.

"I was picking glass out of my skin for a year. The vehicle was travelling at 125km an hour when it crashed. That's the equivalent impact speed of an explosion causing traumatic brain injury." — Paul Copeland

'It's not the same experience as combat. Instead of fighting an enemy, peacekeepers' role may be to stop former warring groups from fighting each other,' she says. 'That doesn't mean that peacekeeping is easier — the demands may be different but the long-term effects can still be damaging psychologically.'

Paul Copeland is past president of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association and has suffered from PTSD. He served as a peacekeeper in Sinai, Tonga, Vanuatu and Israel. In 1993 he was deployed in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. This mission organised elections, military security and civil administration, and maintained law and order and human rights. He explains how peacekeeping can escalate from a benign situation to the language of war. 'It's like a powder keg, if someone lights up a match it will explode. It can change to a war zone at the drop of a hat.'

In one of many life-threatening situations, Copeland was nearly killed when a military vehicle he was travelling in crashed. He was the first person to be aero-medically evacuated while on active service since the Vietnam War. Copeland spent six months in hospital and convalescence after shattering his femur in three places and sustaining facial injuries and mental trauma. 'I was picking glass out of my skin for a year,' he says. 'The vehicle was travelling at 125km an hour when it crashed. That's the equivalent impact speed of an explosion causing traumatic brain injury.'

Copeland was shocked when he did not qualify for a RSL-conducted wounded servicemen convalescence scheme as his injuries were not deemed to be 'serious enough', nor to be of a 'military nature' as this was a vehicle accident and he had not been shot.

Since then, as a peacekeeper advocate, Copeland says he has faced discrimination in having peacekeepers recognised as veterans with the same physical and mental health needs as those who have served in combat. As past president of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association, he has struggled to attain equal access for members to medical services for the mental trauma that can result from peacekeeping missions. 'We've had to battle for everything,' Copeland says.

"Peacekeepers are as susceptible to PTSD as service personnel deployed to war zones. Feelings of demoralisation and helplessness and a lack of pre and post-deployment support have been shown to be key contributors."

Header says extensive international literature demonstrates that peacekeepers are as susceptible to PTSD as service personnel deployed to war zones. PTSD 'presents itself in the same way ... there's a strict criteria. People may have different experiences but it's the same diagnosis,' she says. Feelings of demoralisation and helplessness and a lack of pre and post-deployment support have been shown to be key contributors of PTSD for peacekeepers. 'Peacekeepers have constant contact with local people during missions and build strong relationships. If they go home and feel their service may have been for nothing once the mission personnel leave, it can lead to feelings of demoralisation,' Header says.

Copeland explains how stereotypes about peacekeeping service can compound this demoralisation. 'I've heard World War II veterans say, 'Peacekeepers? All you did is stand on street corners in blue berets and hand out lollies to kids.' It upsets a lot of us that we're viewed in that light,' he says.

Former Victorian State President Major General David McLachlan has said peacekeepers do not face exclusion by the RSL. 'If you've served in the Australian Defence Force you're entitled and welcomed into the RSL,' he says.

'There is no difference between someone who has served in Afghanistan and someone who's served in Cambodia as far as the RSL is concerned. They have both served our nation and are welcomed accordingly.'

This week's 70th anniversary memorial dedication takes place during 'Peacekeepers Week'. Commemorations will include Australian War Memorial activities to promote peacekeeping, Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association conferences and the annual conference of the United Nations Association of Australia.

While views differ on the current position of peacekeepers in Australian commemoration, it is clear that rightful respect for peacekeepers as part of the veteran community remains an emotional as well as practical issue. The memorial on ANZAC Parade must be more than a ceremonial symbol. It needs to represent a commitment to ongoing medical, practical and community support for those who keep the peace.

For MacCormack and Copeland, this recognition and the new memorial will signify official inclusion at a national level. 'This is a memorial I can go to and look at and think yes I was part of this,' MacCormack says. 'I'll be very proud.' Copeland sees it as recognition that 'keeping the peace is fraught with danger'. 'There will always be peacekeepers,' he says. 'This is a living memorial, it's past, present and future.'

Kate Mani is a freelance writer with published pieces in The Age, The Australian, Mojo News, Lot's Wife and Viewpoint literary journal. Retrieved from: www.eurekastreet.com.au



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From the battlefield to business: how to make the transition



When he left the Australian Army after ten years as an infantry officer, Jonathan Sullivan had no experience of business. After completing a 12-month Master of Business Administration (MBA) at UQ Business School, he is now a consultant with the global advisory firm McKinsey. Here he gives some advice on how to make the transition.

Explore the options

Don't worry too much if you don't know what you want to do, but do take time to find out more about the type of opportunities available. Talk to as many people as you can – you don't know what's out there until you ask! There is a vast network of ex-military people and you will find that everyone is willing to give up time to speak to you.

When I left the Army, I had no idea what career I might have. I had previously done a degree in International Relations and History but went to military school straight after university so I had no experience of business, and I had no strong technical skills on which to build. I found it really helpful speaking to other veterans – I would invite them for a coffee and was never once turned down.

Understand the qualities you bring

Don't underestimate the experience you have gained. While we may lack commercial experience, veterans bring a lot of good qualities to the business world including adaptability, people skills and the ability to operate in uncertain situations.

I work with a lot of successful business leaders but the ability to take decisions in ambiguous environments with incomplete data is something I rarely see. In the current climate, this skill is becoming increasingly important and is something that military people have to do all the time.

The ability to learn quickly and adapt is another strength - in the military you never stop learning. We are also used to leading teams. In my first leadership role, I was in charge of 50 people and by the time I left it was over 160. This gives you a huge advantage in business.

The ability to influence and motivate teams to operate at optimum levels, even in difficult environments, is what drives business performance, and is the key to transforming underperforming companies. Not surprisingly, this is a particular interest of mine.

Invest in skills

Once you have a better idea of your direction, consider what skills or qualifications you will need. The MBA at The University of Queensland was key to my transition, as it filled the gap in my knowledge and business experience and allowed me to translate the skills I already had into a new context.

An MBA is ideal for those coming from the military as it provides a good grounding in general business and management and teaches you some of the more technical skills such as finance and accounting. An MBA carries a lot of weight in the business world, and a good MBA will provide opportunities to gain practical experience, build contacts and open a whole bunch of doors.

The UQ Business School MBA is ranked number one in Australia. I found the experience particularly helpful due to the high calibre of students – my greatest learnings came from my classmates!

Go for it!

When you have made the decision, jump in feet first! In the private sector, as in the military, for the best chance of success, you have to be in it completely. Best of luck!



Charlie Echo Oscar.

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On 31 October 1917, Australian troops from the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments charged the Ottoman positions under artillery and rifle fire. The light horse regiments, largely made up of men from small towns across rural Australia, succeeded in overrunning the Ottoman defences and captured the town, incurring relatively few losses.

The capture of Beersheba resulted in outflanking the Ottoman bastion at Gaza, allowing the British to continue the advance into Palestine.

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Image: AM/M/POB370.001



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‘Hurt Locker’ Soldiers Andrew Street, Anthony Gilchrist not just ‘doing their job’



Former Sergeant Andy Street is one of two Australian Diggers who risked life and limb on 180 missions in Iraq in a top secret US-led unit — known as The Hurt Locker. Picture: Ross Swanborough

If this wasn't so serious it would be laughable. How could a military tribunal rule that two soldiers, who risk their lives every day, not be given gallantry medals because they are just doing their job?

Now Governor-General Peter Cosgrove, a decorated soldier, has been called on to define what it means to be brave.

The two Australian soldiers, attached to a secret military unit, inspired the Hollywood movie *The Hurt Locker*.

They are Sydney's Sergeant Andrew Street, and Captain Anthony Gilchrist from Townsville.

They did a combined 180-documented missions in Iraq in 2005, believed to be an Australian military record.

The rejection of the gallantry award came despite written and oral appeals from their direct Australian and American superiors — and even the FBI — that their bravery be recognised for their covert operations.

The Department of Defence's Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal ruled that while the men were undoubtedly brave, courageous and, "notwithstanding the horror of their employment, the threat and the inherent risk", they did what they were expected to do.

So does that mean a Victoria Cross recipient should be stripped of their valour medal or a fireman his courage medal for saving a child because they were just doing their job? This is ridiculous.

Mr Cosgrove should award them gallantry medals and host the men in Government House for the ceremony. Pen-pushing bureaucrats have no place in making these types of decisions.

Retrieved from: <http://www.couriermail.com.au>.

The Editor, The Sunday Mail (Qld) September 23, 201

Editor: The APPVA has observed that veterans post 1975 to the present appear to be harshly treated under the DHAAT, as opposed to veterans who served from 1939 to 1975. On 26 May 2014, the APPVA Lodged a Submission into the DHAAT Inquiry into "Refused, Withheld and Forfeited Defence Honours & Awards from 1939 to the present." [aka RWF Inquiry]. Unfortunately it would appear that out of the 162 Submissions received by the Inquiry, only 33 were relevant to the Terms of Reference [TOR]. Therefore, 129 submissions were rejected by the DHAAT Inquiry, because they believed that the submissions were attempting all manner of retrospective honours and award issues that were not directly related to the TOR.

The APPVA disputes this position, particularly after a meeting in early August 2014, by an APPVA Delegation with the then Chair Professor Ian Rose and the Secretariat Ms Mary Bermingham; of which Professor Rose stated that the DHAAT is "on all fours with the AAT", which was a rebuttal to Part A of the APPVA Submission stating that the Structure of Review and Appeal within the DHAAT is not consistent with the Australian Administrative Law (AAL), which is overseen by the Federal Attorney General's Department and the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC).

Professor Rose conceded that the APPVA did meet the TOR in some Parts of the Submission and they would be taken into consideration. Notwithstanding and not long after the departure of Professor Rose as the Chair, the APPVA was advised by the DHAAT Secretariat that the Submission lodged on 26 May 2014 did not satisfy the TOR.

It was rigorously argued by the APPVA National Research Officer, David Vinen, that the Submission was relevant and reminded the Secretariat of the APPVA Delegation meeting in August 2014.

There was no adequate response from DHAAT, along with the Minister at the time Darren Chester, MP, responding to a written protest by the APPVA about the conduct of the RWF Inquiry. The response from Mr Chester, who was the Assistant Minister for Defence under the Turnbull Government at the time refused to meet with a Delegation to discuss the APPVA's position.

This poor outcome for these deserving veterans comes as no surprise to the APPVA, particularly when technicalities have been used by the DHAAT, to deny these men with much higher and deserving awards within the Defence Honours System for warlike service.

Unfortunately, Defence continues to under-recognise individuals for service above and beyond that expected by individuals who have placed themselves at great peril, along with that of normal Peacetime service in Australia.

Life After Military Service

Veterans feel at home volunteering with Houston hurricane relief

ABC Radio Sydney | By Amanda Hoh



Ms Fenton and her team spent eight days repairing houses in Houston. (All pictures supplied: Deborah Fenton)

Twenty-six years after leaving the Royal Australian Navy, Deborah Fenton has finally found a job she loves.

The 50-year-old veteran has just returned from Houston where she assisted families recovering from Hurricane Harvey, which left towns devastated and homes under metres of floodwater.

She was part of a group of 26 Australian veterans deployed with Team Rubicon, a global disaster relief service led by volunteer ex-military personnel.

Ms Fenton, who lives in Wollongong, has been part of the team for six months and says the initiative has "changed her life".

"They're like-minded. Most are ex-military so they know the way it works," she said.

"As they say, 'they get shit done' — I love that saying."

In Houston, Ms Fenton helped families rebuild their homes



Ms Fenton joined the Navy in 1984.



Deborah Fenton was among other veterans deployed to help with disaster relief in Houston.

and clear debris following the tropical storm.

Remembering one particular family brought tears to her eyes.

"The family was at their kitchen table, there's water everywhere, snakes, the sewage had come up through the toilet and it was all through the house," Ms Fenton said.

"I've never seen that level of devastation before, even in Queensland [after Cyclone Debbie]."

Finding friendship and discipline

Ms Fenton first joined the Navy in 1984, straight out of school: first as a medic, than as an on-ground radio operator.

She left in 1991 to have children and since then has worked in hospitality and as a fitness instructor.

One of the hardest aspects of civilian life for Ms Fenton has been forging the type of friendships she developed while in the defence force.

"You feel isolated because it's more than a job ... and when you get out, no-one understands that," she said.

"That's what you miss; you miss that feeling of belonging."

Team Rubicon, which started in the US in 2010, is focused

on helping veterans transition from the military to civilian life.

According to their mission statement, they provide personnel with the three things they lose after leaving the military: "a purpose, gained through disaster relief; community, built by serving others; and self-worth, from recognising the impact one individual can make".

How to get a job after the Army



Veterans who leave the Defence Force without formal qualifications find it the hardest to transition to the civilian workplace.

Ms Fenton said the discipline and procedures were just like being back in the military, with set wake-up times, debriefs and job allocations.

While in Houston, the Australian team slept in a gym with 90 other disaster relief volunteers.

"All of my skills I acquired in the Navy; all of the discipline, the team work, the getting things done, the camaraderie, the morale," Ms Fenton said.

"I do get in and do things and I'm lucky I'm very healthy. Even though I'm 50 I can still lift a heavy wheelbarrow."

More help for veterans

Tom Larter, general manager of veteran recruitment firm WithYouWithMe, told ABC Radio Sydney that many veterans who don't find civilian employment develop mental health issues.

"If a veteran decides to leave service and they struggle to find work, then they head into a downward spiral," Mr Larter said.

"They start to have issues around anxiety because they can't find a good job, they can't get money coming in and they can't look after their family.

"If we can limit that, that will have amazing benefits for the economy, for the country and for these veterans transitioning."

Ms Fenton encouraged other veterans who "are in a bad place" to join volunteer organisations like Team Rubicon.

"No matter what your skills, you have that one common denominator, that is, you are a veteran," she said.

"You can connect with other people that know your story ... they can empathise and understand what you're going through.

"I just don't think we look after our veterans enough."

Retrieved from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-19/veterans-feel-at-home-volunteering-houston-hurricane-relief/9065028> on 21 October 2017. Ed: Veterans interested in Team Rubicon, visit the <http://teamrubiconaus.org/>



Team Rubicon is a global disaster relief organisation led by veterans.



Above: New Zealand and Australian troops disembark a RAAF C-27J Spartan aircraft at Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Woodbourne, as part of Exercise Southern Katipo 2017.

Below: Timor Leste troops disembark a RAAF C-27J Spartan aircraft at Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Woodbourne during Exercise Southern Katipo 2017.

Opposite: Timor Leste soldier Sergeant Leonel Gaio Ximenes waits to takeoff from Christchurch in a RAAF C-27J



Spartan Rides into First Major International Exercise

By Lieutenant Sarah West

The RAAF's No. 35 Squadron has achieved a significant milestone this month, having deployed a C-27J Spartan Battlefield Air Lifter to participate in a major international exercise for the first time since the aircraft was brought into service by the Australian Defence Force.

The Spartan is in New Zealand to provide an air mobility capability for Exercise Southern Katipo 2017 – the New Zealand Defence Force's largest combined and joint exercise.

The exercise features a variety of air, land and sea scenarios including intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, the evacuation of civilians, delivery of humanitarian aid, maritime patrols, peacekeeping operations and conventional warfighting.

Thirteen countries are participating in Southern Katipo, with 17 fixed-wing aircraft, six helicopters, five ships and more than three-thousand ground force personnel, as well as civilian agencies including Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The RAAF Spartan has transported more than 200 troops with their equipment and 11000 pounds of cargo into the exercise area since Southern Katipo started on 18 October, including soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines from Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Timor Leste, the United States, New Zealand and Australia.

No. 35 Squadron C-27J Detachment Commander, Flight Lieutenant Jason Meyers said deploying to New Zealand for the exercise demonstrated the progress made by the squadron over the past two years to get the new aircraft fully operational.

"Our participation in Exercise Southern Katipo 2017 represents a massive leap forward for 35 Squadron, demonstrating our ability to operate the C-27J Spartan in support of military operations, not just in Australia but also abroad," Flight Lieutenant Meyers said.

Flight Lieutenant Meyers, who is also the aircraft captain of the deployed Spartan, said the C-27J was contributing a unique capability to the exercise.

"We are one of the smallest fixed-wing aircraft operating in the fleet for this exercise, which also has C-17s and Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) and United States Air Force C-130s," he said.

"The Spartan can operate more freely in environments where the C-17 is impacted by restrictions, making us a valuable capability for getting troops and cargo where they need to go, even in challenging situations."

Flight Lieutenant Meyers said Southern Katipo was providing his crew with some great training opportunities,

which would be difficult to replicate in Australia.

"I'm operating with two co-pilots and three loadmasters who are building their experience in this aircraft type," Flight Lieutenant Meyers said.

"One of my co-pilots is here straight out of his initial qualification for the C-27J, so for him this is an excellent opportunity to enhance his experience and improve his knowledge and operating abilities on this aircraft.

"Additionally, the weather here in New Zealand is temperamental and challenging – with frequent low cloud, rain and constant windy conditions around most of the airfields and drop zones we are operating into.

"If you combine that with the mountainous terrain in the South Island, it provides my co-pilots, the loadmasters and I with a unique and valuable training experience that we can't really get back home."

As well as transporting personnel and equipment to RNZAF bases all over New Zealand, the C-27J Spartan crew is conducting air drops to help re-supply troops in the field as the exercise develops into its peacekeeping and war fighting phases.

The Australian Defence Force has also deployed a KA350 King Air and Air Load Teams to support the Exercise Southern Katipo 2017 Air Task Group, with a RAAF C-130 Hercules supporting the deployment of personnel from Australia to New Zealand.





An education that will liberate hearts and minds

St Joseph's Nudgee College holds a special place within Catholic education both within the state of Queensland, across the nation and beyond our shores. The College has a grand reputation that has been built by successive generations of students, Christian Brothers, staff, parents, Old Boys and community members over the past 126 years. Not only is this rich history celebrated, the current generation of students, staff and families seeks to build upon it.

This is achieved on a daily basis by students who are taught, cared for and challenged by teachers who want the best for each student. The holistic education, personal development and wellbeing of each student remains the key focus of the College. At Nudgee College, a rich diversity of educational opportunities is offered - in the classroom, in sport, in cultural pursuits and activities - as well as in faith development and social justice initiatives.

The College is positioned on a 136 hectare campus with a range of facilities that provide an engaging environment to learn, to grow, and to be challenged.

As a leading Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition, Nudgee College strives to develop young men of big hearts and good character.

Over 1,550 boys and young men call St Joseph's Nudgee College their school. For over 250 of these students it is also their home as boarders. Nudgee College Boarding is committed to providing our boys and young men with a unique educational experience that will shape the rest of their lives.

Our recently completed Bathersby Boarding Village is a contemporary and inviting home away from home for our boarders, and has become the heart and soul of the College. The high quality of this residential facility complements the high quality of care provided by our professional staff.

"We knew that Nudgee College Boarding could provide so many more opportunities. Not just in normal everyday education, but in a way that would expose Tom to new challenges, that could help him to grow into a young man who will leave an indelible footprint on his surrounding world." - Nudgee College boarding parent, 2017

St Joseph's Nudgee College

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Blast kills UN Peacekeepers from Chad in northern Mali



© Sébastien Rieussec, AFP | An armoured personnel carrier of The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) is parked in Timbuktu on September 19, 2016.

Text by NEWS WIRES

Three United Nations soldiers from Chad were killed and two others wounded by an explosive device as they were escorting a convoy in northern Mali on Thursday, the peacekeeping mission in the West African nation said.

More than 80 members of the UN mission, known as MINUSMA, have been killed since 2013 in attacks by militant groups active in the country's north and centre, making it the world's deadliest peacekeeping operation.

The mission said in a statement that the peacekeepers' vehicle struck the explosive device between the northern towns of Tessalit and Aguelhok around 2:30 p.m. (1430 GMT).

MINUSMA spokesman Olivier Salgado later told Radio France Internationale that the soldiers involved were from Chad, which has one of the region's most effective armies.

"I condemn with the greatest energy such abject acts, whose only objective is to destabilise the country and harm the peace process under way in Mali," said interim mission chief Koen Davidse.

The rise of jihadist groups - some linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State - in the arid Sahel has alarmed Western powers like France, which has deployed thousands of troops to the region in response.

Four U.S. Special Forces troops were killed earlier this

month in neighbouring Niger by fighters believed to belong to a local Islamic State affiliate operating out of Mali.

Militants have exploited porous borders - particularly between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso - to step up attacks on military and civilian targets, including tourist sites in regional capitals.

The G5 Sahel, an anti-terrorism taskforce of soldiers from those three countries, as well as Chad and Mauritania, plans to launch its first joint operations in the coming days.

(REUTERS)

Retrieved from: France24.com on 31 October 2017.



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RAAF's New Maritime Aircraft Drop in on IPE17

By Lieutenant Commander Jason O'Gorman

Indo-Pacific Endeavour 17 Task Group ships HMA Ships *Darwin* and *Adelaide* were recently joined in by the Royal Australian Air Force's newest capability, the P8-A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft.

The Poseidon represents the latest in Anti-Submarine Warfare and Maritime Patrol capability, and the leading-edge aircraft joined *Adelaide* and *Darwin* for a Combined Anti-Submarine Exercise.

The P8-A flew ahead of the force and dropped a remotely operated vehicle known as an Expendable Mobile Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Target (EMATT) into the water.

The EMATT travels under the water and mimics the movement and acoustic characteristics of a submarine allowing Naval and Air units to practice their submarine tracking skills.

On completion of the exercise the P8-A conducted a fly past to allow the task group's crews on both ships a chance to see this impressive new capability up close.

Lieutenant Nicholas Foster, a Royal New Zealand Navy exchange officer, fills the role of Torpedo and Sonar Officer onboard *Darwin*.

"It's good to know that such an impressive aircraft will be watching over our shoulder while we conduct operations in the future," Lieutenant Foster said.

"The quantum leap in capability offered by the P8-A will ensure greater situational awareness for the surface fleet and the ability to identify, locate and deal with any surface or sub-surface threats we may face in the future".



A RAAF P-8A Poseidon passes between HMAS *Adelaide* and HMAS *Darwin* in the South East Asia, during Indo Pacific Endeavour 2017



Indo-Pacific Endeavour Sails to Success in the Philippines

By Lieutenant Colonel Phil Pyke

The recent visit to the Philippines, by two ships of the Indo-Pacific Task Group has significantly reinforced the strong defence relationship between Australia and the Philippines.

Led by HMAS Adelaide in company with HMAS Darwin, both ships were welcomed to the Port of Manila by the Philippines Navy for a full day of engagements including the visit by the Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and Chief of Defence, Air Chief Marshall Mark Binskin.

The Task Group later sailed to Subic Bay for a four-day visit, where both ships received over several hundred visitors eager to view the new capabilities the Australian Defence Force had on offer.

To demonstrate the capability of the Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) to support regional responses to Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) events, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) conducted a combined HADR training exercise in Subic Bay.

The HADR training activity involved over 80 PMC personnel plus their vehicles that embarked HMAS Adelaide in Subic Bay and were deployed ashore by ADF Landing Craft and PMC Riverine Craft.

Despite demanding weather continues due to the Typhoon Khanun to the east of the Philippines, the combined ADF and PMC HADR response force was able to rapidly deploy ashore.

Commander of Joint Task Group 661.1, Captain Jonathan Earley RAN, said the exercise was an important activity for both countries who share common interests and threats from natural disasters.

“This is the first time the Philippines Defence Forces have had the opportunity to work with the Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD),” Captain Earley said.

“This training and exposure to our respective capabilities is a sound investment for the future, in that should either country be called upon to respond to a natural disaster in our region, we will be able to come together quickly and seamlessly to provide the necessary support to those who need it most.”

In addition to the HADR exercise, Adelaide hosted a visit by participants from the Exercise LUMBAS, which is an annual bi-lateral exercise between the Royal Australian Navy, Philippine Navy and other Philippine Government Agencies to enhance and develop procedures for the conduct of maritime support and maritime interdiction operations throughout the Philippines.

President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Roa Duterte (right) speaks with Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, AC (centre), and Commander Joint Task Group 661.1, Captain Jonathan Earley, CSC, RAN, during a visit to HMAS Adelaide while the ship is in Manila



Parramatta Pauses to Celebrate a Special Birthday

By Lieutenant Commander Jason Parsons

HMAS *Parramatta* recently celebrated her birthday while deployed on Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2017, marking 14 years since her commissioning.

Commanding Officer HMAS *Parramatta*, Commander Simon Howard, gave a short history of the proud name Parramatta, being the oldest ship name in the fleet and the fourth ship in the Royal Australian Navy to bear the name.

“The original motto ‘First Born’ dates back to Parramatta (I) which was the first ship to be built for the Commonwealth Naval Forces,” Commander Howard said.

“We are the current custodians of a very proud heritage and name.”

Midshipman Tiffany McCormack, the youngest member of Parramatta’s crew, joined the Commanding Officer for the traditional cutting of the birthday cake.

The Chef’s onboard provided a spectacular chocolate cake to mark the occasion and the crew all enjoyed a slice, albeit rather quickly as the chocolate began to melt in the tropical sun.

The major award of the day, Sailor of the Quarter, was awarded to Leading Seaman Communication and Information Systems Matthew Kinsella.

Leading Seaman Kinsella received the award for his professionalism and service as the Local Area Network administrator, and also for his work within the Cyber Security realm.

“He has been paramount in establishing procedures and audits onboard to reduce Parramatta’s vulnerability to external Cyber attacks,” Commander Howard said.

Parramatta is currently deployed as part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2017, an Australian Defence Force Joint Task Group deployment to the Indo-Pacific region.

Commanding Officer HMAS Parramatta, Commander Simon Howard RAN (left), presents Leading Seaman Communications and Information Systems Matthew Kinsella with Sailor of the Quarter during a clear lower deck, held on-board HMAS Parramatta



St James College



Small School Big Heart

Located on the CBD fringe and edge of Spring Hill, St James College has been educating the youth of Brisbane since 1868. St James is a place of welcome, a vibrant multicultural secondary school inclusive of all. Nurtured through the House system; challenged, supported and inspired by a wonderful team of highly professional educators with offerings that cover a wide range of academic and vocational education subjects; co-curricular and ministry activities abound. The College is within easy walking distance to all major public transport hubs.

Contact Mrs Maria Young on 3230 8600 or at maria.young@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au to enquire about a place for your child at St James. The College Office will be closed from 9.12.17 up to and including 7.01.18.

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Est. 1868. A Co-educational Catholic Secondary Day School in the Edmund Rice Tradition



St James College, Brisbane

St James College is a school that values its privilege of being part of the journey of each one of our students through life. It meets them where they are and opens up pathways to where they would like to be.

For most, this journey has been about finding a school where welcoming and inclusion are part of its everyday language and habits, a school that does not see 'difference' in people, but understands that each young person, whatever their background, needs an educational environment where they can grow in hope towards a fulfilling future.

So St James College, situated in Brisbane's city-fringe suburb of Spring Hill, is not your average high school. It is small in comparison with many Catholic secondary schools around Brisbane metropolitan area, numbering only 420 students in total – both boys and girls.

It is an Edmund Rice School, part of a network of over 50 Catholic schools and colleges in this tradition across Australia where values, ethos, practices and programs are defined by an authentic Gospel spirituality, reflected through compassion, respect, social inclusion and understanding.

The curriculum is tailored to meet the specific needs of students and is characterised by a full range of academic courses as well as vocational education studies leading to the Queensland Certificate of Education. The College also has the status of a Registered Training Organisation, providing a pathway to TAFE as well as school-based apprenticeships or traineeships.

In addition, St James is also extremely well known for the quality of educational support it offers to students who have particular learning differences.

Even though we are 'hemmed in' as an inner-city school, co-curricular sporting programs and other co-curricular activities abound. Foremost among these activities in sport is the College's renowned Basketball program that has seen the College rise to the top among Queensland schools across the State.

Other sporting activities include Rugby League, Futsal, Soccer, Netball, Women's AFL and Rock-Climbing. The College regularly participates in interschool Debating, Gifted and Talented programs as well as dance and various multicultural events.

As an Edmund Rice school, activities that highlight one of the College's fundamental touchstones – Justice and Solidarity – provide avenues for the students for social outreach. Such things include our Brekkie Van which takes breakfast twice a week to the homeless on the streets of Brisbane, support and advocacy programs for refugees and asylum-seekers, the annual Walk for Justice, fundraising to support mission activities overseas and an immersion program to Cambodia.

If you seriously believe that education is all about a journey towards discovery of one's world and oneself, St James College might just be the place for your son or daughter.

The APPVA National AGM, Elections and QGM, Tuesday 12 September 2017, The Canberra Services Club, Barton, ACT.



Pictured here are the APPVA National Committee of Management, including other APPVA members.



Allan Thomas present Michael Quinn with the Life Member Award for his service of 10 years as a Committee Member, particularly as President of the APPVA Victorian Branch and as the National Vice President. *Photo courtesy: Paul Copeland*



National President Allan Thomas presents Coralee Goedhart with the National Committee of Management [NATCOM] Award for 2017, for her work toward veteran advocacy and as Secretary of the APPVA QLD Branch. *Photo courtesy: Paul Copeland.*

Right: Mrs Rhonda Copeland, APPVA National Treasurer, receives her Life Membership, after serving 10 years as the Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, by Allan Thomas.



The APPVA National Patron, Major General Ian Gordon, AO (Retired); and the APPVA National President Allan Thomas JP at the APPVA National Elections, Tuesday 12 September 2017. *Photo courtesy: Paul Copeland*



St Ursula's College

Imagine a boarding school where your daughter is just as special to us as she is to you and where fun and friendship is just as important as STEM and academic results. We invite you to imagine no longer, and take some time to visit us at St Ursula's College Toowoomba, where we not only provide an environment for your daughter which contributes to academic results, but a space where she can grow into a young woman prepared for an incredible future.

Rich in leadership and strong in our Ursuline traditions, the College provides subjects and learning experiences in specialist facilities equipped with the latest technology, catering for the individual needs and interests of all girls. Offering state-of-the-art media, creative and dramatic arts facilities (including professional dance areas), high tech science laboratories, a vast range of sport choices as well as VET and hospitality options, you can be assured that your daughter will be encouraged to achieve in all areas of her education. Learning enrichment support and teacher tutoring is also on-hand should your daughter be in need of some extra assistance.

At St Ursula's College, ***we understand the emotional and financial commitment of being away from family and friends is a difficult one*** and as such, we provide a safe, close-knit boarding community staffed by a team of committed, experienced boarding house supervisors, who impart the love and support your daughter needs, especially if this is her first time away from home. We can assure you though, that being an 'Ursie Boarder' is not all hard work, because we take the time to get to know your



daughter's interests outside of school, engaging her in fun activities including regular supervised shopping trips and expeditions to the beach and theme parks during our closed boarder weekends.

There is no need to worry about her nutritional wellbeing either, as along with her academic and emotional wellbeing, our team of in-house chefs provide healthy, delicious home-style meals to keep her nutritionally sustained. You can be assured your daughter is in good hands at St Ursula's.

Contact our Enrolments Officer, Mrs Kathy Sperling on 07 4632 7611 or via email at enrolments@st-ursula.qld.edu.au today, to find out how St Ursula's College can enrich your daughter's schooling experience. Additional information regarding our curriculum, fee structure and Macbook Air computer program is also available on our website www.st-ursula.qld.edu.au.

Philippines Homecoming for Australian Navy Officer

By Lieutenant Commander Helen Ward

One member onboard HMAS *Adelaide* was keener than most to get ashore when the ship recently visited Manila, Philippines, because it was the first chance to see his mother and brother in more than five years.

Lieutenant Commander Lucito Irlandez was born in Manila before migrating to Australia in 1990.

"It was my love of travel and sense of adventure that inspired me to leave my family and seek new opportunities in Australia," Lieutenant Commander Irlandez said.

"One of my jobs in Manila was as a college instructor teaching engineering so in Australia I soon found a civilian job at HMAS *Nirimba*, in Western Sydney, teaching electronics to Royal Australian Navy apprentices and sailors."

When HMAS *Nirimba* closed in 1994, Lieutenant Commander Irlandez moved to HMAS *Cerberus* in Victoria and continued teaching sailors in the Radio Building and then in the Technical Training Faculty.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Lieutenant Commander Irlandez decided to join the Navy as a Training Specialist Officer and pursue further opportunities.

"I really enjoy teaching and one of the highlights of my career has been teaching Filipino students under the Defence Cooperation Program," Lieutenant Commander Irlandez said.

"On day one when I first walk in the classroom you can see the Filipino students are so scared, but once I talk to them in their native language they instantly relax and feel like I am an old friend.

"The Filipino culture is famous for hospitality, everyone knows their neighbours by first name.

"You can knock on their door any time and be served a meal; it is the thing I miss most."

Lieutenant Commander Irlandez is the Training Officer onboard HMAS *Adelaide* responsible for managing the training for the entire crew of about 400 people.

"I need to ensure everyone attains the right skills and knowledge to successfully do their jobs, which means they have the right training at the right time to fight and win at sea," he said.





St Ursula's College

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We Understand...

the emotional and financial commitment of being away from family and friends is a difficult one...

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Rich in tradition and strong in leadership, we understand the challenges facing boarder families and we are here to help wherever we can, and our smaller boarding community means your daughter is just as special to us as she is to you.

Contact us today to see how we can enrich your daughter's schooling experience.

Discover Your Agribusiness Potential

“We Mean Business” is what resonates strongly through the agribusiness programs offered at Marcus Oldham College. Our postgraduate program has been designed for people wanting to enhance their career prospects in the agricultural industry. With an emphasis on business management and critical thinking, the program is designed to build on professional experience, develop high-level business skills and to broaden an understanding of Australia’s agribusiness sector in a national and global marketplace.

Australian agriculture employs approximately 270,000 people which produce enough food to feed about 61 million people. Australian farmers export about 60% of what they grow and produce, which is valued at more than \$48 billion per annum. The Agribusiness sector has a rapidly increasing requirement for professionals who are not only capable of generating success within their industries, but are also equipped with the creativity, expertise and thought leadership to drive agribusiness growth into the future.

Marcus Oldham is industry-renowned for advancing the careers and networks of agribusiness professionals. Being Australia’s only private, agriculture-focused tertiary institution, the postgraduate agribusiness program sets itself apart from other agribusiness courses through its dedicated agricultural focus, entrepreneurial content and advanced business knowledge. Being independent allows our courses to be developed in close consultation with the relevant industries and to incorporate new trends and technology into the teaching programs.

To ensure students are at the forefront of the ideas and opportunities facing agribusiness leaders, our postgraduate lecturers hold extensive knowledge of ‘real-world’ situations within their curriculum area, as well as having industry connections and practical experience. Many of the lecturers manage their own agribusiness enterprise or are

consultants for agribusiness companies, both domestically and internationally. This allows students to be exposed to a range of practical and theoretical learning across a vast array of agricultural related industries.

Our postgraduate agribusiness program offers the Graduate Certificate of Agribusiness, Graduate Diploma of Agribusiness and the Master of Agribusiness that are delivered online with part-time and full-time options. We have built the Master of Agribusiness for those who want to lead in agriculture-related industries and government/corporate roles. This course is less about developing practical skills and instead emphasises business development and management decision making, entrepreneurship, innovation, critical thinking and leadership. Our student cohort includes professionals who are managers in superannuation, global accounting, banking, commodities trading, pastoral companies, real estate and valuations, among other sectors.

Our emphasis on business management provides outcomes that are readily transferable across a wide range of careers, resulting in highly employable graduates who are at the leading edge of their chosen fields.

For more information, visit www.marcusoldham.vic.edu.au

QUOTE: Ashlee Hammond (Acting United Dairyfarmers of Victoria Manager, Victorian Farmers Federation) *“My Marcus Oldham postgraduate agribusiness qualification definitely boosted my career opportunities by giving me the business skills and confidence to work in a management role. It has allowed me to find a new level of understanding when it comes to the business needs of my clients. I am continually amazed by the amount of agricultural professionals that know and respect the Marcus Oldham name.”*

Postgraduate student Ashlee Hammond



“Discover your
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For your 12 page brochure 1800 622 768 grandpacific.com

*Conditions apply. Price based on 13 Day Warbirds North & South Island Tour valid ex SYD, MEL, BNE & OOL and includes pre paid taxes (subject to change). **Saving is per couple (\$100 per person) and is reflected in the advertised price. Also receive a NZ Travel Guide is per household. No other special offers or discounts apply. ^Hat is per person. Special offer applies to new bookings only until 31 January 2018 unless sold out.



Warbirds Over Wanaka: Experience a New Zealand aviation extravaganza!

Now is your chance to experience all the excitement and entertainment of the internationally renowned Warbirds Over Wanaka Airshow combined with the scenic beauty of New Zealand on a choice of four unique holidays.

Grand Pacific Tours, the New Zealand Coach Holiday Specialist, is offering a selection of exciting itineraries to take you to this amazing event – choose from either the 8 or 13 Day South Island Tours, the 13 Day Fully Escorted North & South Island Tour or NEW for 2018 is an 11 Day Ultimate Small Group Tour travelling aboard the deluxe Ultimate Coach.

All options include a 3 Day Gold Pass to Warbirds Over Wanaka giving you the best seats at the Airshow, exclusive marquee access with CCTV, a souvenir Gold Cap and Badge, airshow programme, an opportunity to walk the flight line, entry to the Warbirds & Wheels Museum plus much more!

Wanaka is the most spectacular venue in the world to host New Zealand's biggest aviation event. Nestled on the shores of an azure blue lake amongst the mighty peaks of the Southern Alps, the natural amphitheatre created by these mountains provides a backdrop of stunning scenery. For 3 days over Easter, Wanaka will become centre stage for an extravaganza of aerial action never seen before in New Zealand.

The tastes and flavours of Central Otago are also on show. Visit the Taste of Otago food-hall for gourmet options featuring the best of the region or perhaps sample 'street style' flavours from one of the live cooking stations. The

special sunlight and cooler nights produce great pinot noirs which are now internationally recognised and available for sampling.

As well as the three days of Airshow action, enjoy some of New Zealand's most popular attractions and locations. With each itinerary including unique differences you could enjoy highlights such as the world renowned TranzAlpine Rail Journey, Majestic Milford Sound, New Zealand's oldest Castle or wine tasting in Marlborough depending on your tour choice.

For those wanting to take more time exploring New Zealand, the 13 Day North & South Island Tour Getaway takes you to even more popular attractions in the cultural North Island featuring must-see inclusions such as Hobbiton Movie Set, Waitangi Treaty Grounds and a visit to a Maori Village for an interactive and educational experience which culminates with a cultural performance and traditional hangi feast.

Prices start from \$3874 with each tour including a 3 Day Gold Pass to Warbirds Over Wanaka, airfares, taxes, coach travel, hotel accommodation, most meals, sightseeing & attractions.

Don't miss Warbirds Over Wanaka and your opportunity to see beautiful New Zealand. 2018 marks the 30th Anniversary of this iconic event and now is your chance to enjoy a recreation of some of the most popular acts of the past three decades.

For a 12 page brochure visit www.grandpacific.com or call 1800 622 768

El Alamein and Kokoda anniversaries

The next two weeks represent an important time in the ANZAC Centenary program with the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein on 23 October, followed by the 75th anniversary of Kokoda Track and the Beachheads on 2 November.

Three major battles occurred around El Alamein in Egypt between July and November 1942, and the Australian Imperial Force figured prominently in two of them. Over the five months, Australia suffered almost 6,000 casualties.

The battle was a decisive victory for the Allies, halting the Axis advance on Cairo and enhancing the already formidable reputation of the Australian 9th Division.

Twenty-six veterans of the Battle of El Alamein will attend a Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on 23 October to mark the anniversary.

Between July and November 1942, Australians were also fighting along the Kokoda Track in some of the most iconic battles in Australia's history.

On 2 November 1942, Australia retook the village of Kokoda and, joined by American troops, went on to win the final battles of the campaign at the Buna, Gona and Sanananda Beachheads.

Dislodging the Japanese from Papua came at an enormous cost, with the entire Kokoda campaign resulting in more than 1,800 Australian lives lost and more than 3,600 wounded or struck down with illness.

Eleven Kokoda veterans will attend a Last Post Ceremony at the AWM on 2 November to commemorate the anniversary of the campaign.

The public is encouraged to attend both Last Post Ceremonies and to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice of the Australians who fought in both campaigns.

THE HON DAN TEHAN MP | MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR CYBER SECURITY
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC

New compensation Act for veterans

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said veterans would benefit after Parliament yesterday passed measures to simplify veterans' legislation.

Parliament yesterday passed the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA), which will replace for Australian Defence Force (ADF) members the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA). There will be no change to eligibility or the coverage of entitlements or benefits available to current and former members of the ADF.

The purpose of this change was to move all military compensation legislation under the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. Mr Tehan said the legislation gave the Minister

for Veterans' Affairs policy responsibility for all veterans' compensation legislation.

"This new legislation will allow for more consistent for veterans' entitlements subject to consultation with the defence and ex-service community. This will allow the Department of Veterans' Affairs to improve the services it offers," Mr Tehan said.

DRCA will commence 28 days after Royal Assent when all veterans and ADF members with existing claims under the SRCA will automatically become claims under the DRCA.

Mr Tehan assured the Parliament that there would be no change to coverage in this move but that the Government had put in place a safety net for any unforeseen situations.

Any new claims for injuries and illnesses due to service prior to 1 July 2004 which are lodged on or after the commencement date will now also be DRCA claims.

Further information on the DRCA, and on making a claim for rehabilitation and/or compensation due to a service related injury or illness under any of the military compensation Acts, can be found at www.dva.gov.au.

THE HON DAN TEHAN MP | MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR CYBER SECURITY
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC

70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today joined current and former peacekeepers and their families for the national service of commemoration marking 70 years of Australia's involvement in international peacekeeping.

The national service also included the dedication of the new Australian Peacekeeping memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra.

Mr Tehan said Australian peacekeepers had been serving somewhere in the world since 1947.

"Australia has made a significant contribution to worldwide peace operations, and today we recognise the peacekeepers who have served, and those who continue to serve, in countries around the world," Mr Tehan said.

"The new Peacekeeping memorial in Canberra commemorates the courage, sacrifice and service of Australian peacekeepers and it honours Australia's contribution to international peacekeeping missions since the first UN deployment in 1947.

"The Peacekeepers' memorial takes its rightful place alongside the memorials honouring Australia's contribution in wars.

"In doing their duty, Australian peacekeepers have put their lives on the line and, sadly, 16 have paid the ultimate price.

"As a nation we honour the service and sacrifice of every Australian who defends our values and freedoms and today we pay special tribute to our peacekeepers."

Advocacy News

1. A message from the Chair

Since August 2016, nearly 400 Training and Information Program (TIP) officers and advocates have attended a Recognition of Prior Learning session, and are now receiving their Statements of Attainment for meeting the competency standards for ATDP Military Advocate Level 2 in either Compensation, Welfare or both.

I'm very proud that we've reached this major milestone in the rollout of the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP). It's a tangible sign that hundreds of compensation and welfare officers from all parts of Australia have found the Recognition of Prior Learning process straightforward and have embraced the move from the Training and Information Program (TIP) to the new system.

I'd like to thank each and every one of these advocates for coming on the journey with us, so that all ex-servicemen and women can be assured of receiving high quality and consistent advocacy services no matter where they live in Australia and when they served their country.

I urge all members and officials of ex-service organisations and veterans' centres who are still hesitant about nominating for recognition of prior learning (RPL) to contact their regional manager for a chat. Peter, Allan and Dave are very happy to hear your concerns and to answer any questions. And, as you can see from their photos on the last page of this newsletter, they are all very friendly!

There are some Level 2 RPL sessions and Mentoring Workshops scheduled between now and the end of the year. Another round of Information Sessions is also being

planned. For details, see the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au

RPL for Level 1 practitioners will be available soon, with RPL for Level 3 to follow in December and RPL for Level 4 in early 2018. There is more information about the rollout of ATDP training programs on pages 4 and 5.

This issue of Advocacy News is full of useful information about military advocacy: the different roles in the ATDP, mentoring and the Continuing Professional Development Program; an explanation of the ATDP training pathway and RPL; the ATDP training schedule; and a list of online resources for advocates.

I hope you enjoy this issue our newsletter, and I'd like to hear what you think. Please send your feedback and suggestions to ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au.

Jenny Walker

Chair, Strategic Governance Board

2. Job descriptions – who does what?

In the ATDP there is a range of roles to suit people with different interests and skills, and different capacities to help their fellow veterans. Listed below are the main roles in the ATDP, with information about what they do and the qualifications required.

(NB. Your ex-service organisation or veterans' centre also has plenty of work for willing volunteers that require absolutely no qualifications whatsoever!)

ATDP Role Descriptions

Role	Description	Qualifications required*
Military Welfare Advocate Level 1	Under supervision, advise and assist members of the ex-serving community and their families to access entitlements, benefits and support available from DVA, other government agencies and community-based service providers.	Meets the requirements for the MILADW001 Unit of Competency
Military Welfare Advocate Level 2	Advise and assist members of the ex-serving community and their families to access entitlements, benefits and support available from DVA, other government agencies and community-based service providers.	Meets the requirements for the MILADW002 Unit of Competency
Military Compensation Advocate Level 1	Under supervision, advise and assist members of the ex-serving community and their families with compensation and rehabilitation claims.	Meets the requirements for the MILADC001 Unit of Competency
Military Compensation Advocate Level 2	Advise and assist members of the ex-serving community and their families with compensation and rehabilitation claims.	Meets the requirements for the MILADC002 Unit of Competency
Military Compensation Advocate Level 3	Advocate on behalf of members of the ex-serving community before the Veterans' Review Board	Meets the requirements for the MILADC003 Unit of Competency
Military Compensation Advocate Level 4	Advocate on behalf of members of the ex-serving community before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal	Meets the requirements for the MILADC004 Unit of Competency

Mentor	Guide their mentees (trainee advocates) through their Level 1 and/or Level 2 training and record their progress.	Accredited at the level the mentee is undertaking, and has completed the ATDP Mentoring Workshop
Regional Mentor	Monitor and report on the progress of trainees in their region, and provide access to and help with online learning.	Accredited Military Advocate Level 2, and has completed the ATDP Mentoring Workshop
Facilitator	Conduct training in accordance with the accredited ATDP curriculum.	Accredited Military Advocate at level of training program, and meets the requirements for the TAESS00014 Enterprise Trainer – Presenting Skill Set
Assessor	Assess whether ATDP candidates meet the requirements for accreditation.	Accredited Military Advocate at level of training program, and meets the requirements for the TAESS00011 – Assessor Skill Set
Welfare Support Officer	Provide companionship to veterans, make home and hospital visits, and other non-advisory support tasks.	No formal training is currently available, but a non-accredited ATDP course is being planned.

* Information about the MILAD units is available from the ATDP website. Details of the TAE skills are on the <https://training.gov.au> website.

3. ATDP learning pathways

ATDP training programs are designed to combine the best of TIP training with contemporary learning practices and meet the standards set out in the Australian Qualifications Framework.

There are two pathways to gaining an ATDP qualification as a Military Advocate:

1. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), and
 2. ATDP Training Programs
- RPL is for qualified TIP practitioners who wish to gain ATDP accreditation at their TIP level.
 - ATDP Training Programs are for new advocates, or for experienced practitioners who wish to gain accreditation at the next level.

These are the steps involved:

Over 400 candidates are working through or have completed their on-the-job and online training activities for Military Compensation Level 1 and/or the Military Welfare

Level 1. Consolidation Training for these candidates will begin in early 2018.

If you have reached this stage of your training, you will be invited to attend a consolidation session. If you have any questions, please contact the Administration Officer for your region. Their details are at the end of this newsletter.

4. ATDP training schedule

The ATDP Training Team is currently preparing Consolidation Training for Military Compensation Level 1 and Military Welfare Level 1.

They are also working on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Level 1 (Compensation and Welfare) programs, and the ATDP Military Welfare Level 2 and ATDP Military Compensation Level 2 training programs.

That means when Level 1 candidates have completed their Consolidation Training and have been assessed as meeting the competency standards, they will soon be able to start their Level 2 training if they wish to do so.

This is the schedule for the rollout of all the core ATDP training programs:

Training Program	For people with no TIP training		For people who have completed TIP training at the equivalent level
	Workplace and Online Training	Consolidation Training	RPL
Military Welfare Level 1	Available now	Early 2018	October 2017
Military Welfare Level 2	December 2017	Mid-2018	Available now
Military Compensation Level 1	Available now	Early 2018	October 2017
Military Compensation Level 2	December 2017	Mid-2018	Available now
Military Compensation Level 3	Late 2018	Late 2018	December 2017
Military Compensation Level 4	Early 2019	Early 2019	Early 2018

This rollout schedule is for the additional ATDP training programs:

For practitioners at Levels 2, 3 & 4	
Mentoring Workshop	Available now
Continuing Professional Development Program	First half of 2018
For experienced trainers	
Enterprise Trainer Skill Set	Available now
Assessor Skill Set	Available now

NB. These dates are approximate – delivery is dependent on many variables, including the availability of the volunteers who are developing the programs.

5. Mentoring

The role of the ATDP Mentor is to facilitate their mentee/s' learning and development. Often mentors belong to the same sub branch, branch or veteran centre as their mentee, but this is not always the case.

The purpose of the ATDP is to work nationally to train and develop advocates. One of the ways it does this is by linking advocates in various veterans' organisations into location-based 'Communities of Practice' (CoPs). CoP members engage in collective learning and support one another through mentoring, knowledge-sharing and networking.

The ATDP recognises that:

- senior advocates with large caseloads may not have time to take on a mentoring role
- mentors should not have so many mentees that they cannot give each one the individual attention they require, and
- smaller organisations may not have advocates who are sufficiently senior to be a mentor.

If you would like to be put in touch with a mentor in your area, please contact your friendly ATDP Regional Manager. Their contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.

Each ATDP region also has a number of Regional Mentors. These are experienced advocates whose role is to assist and support the mentors in their area. If you are a mentor and have questions about your role, ask your ATDP Admin officer to put you in touch with one in your area. Their contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.

6. Continuing Professional Development Program – the new 'refresher'

Welfare and compensation officers and advocates have always kept their knowledge up-to-date by attending refresher training – usually face-to-face foundation or add-on courses at the advocate's current level.

The ATDP is introducing a new system to ensure military advocates have the latest skills and knowledge: Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Like all ATDP training, CPD is a contemporary learning practice. It is designed to ensure that advocates continue to provide the high-quality service that current and former ADF members and their families expect and deserve.

CPD is a points-based system – just like those used by engineers, accountants and many other professions.

Points are earned through a range of activities, such as online quizzes, attending special courses and watching video tutorials. All options are designed to reinforce and grow knowledge and skills.

The program will give advocates the greatest flexibility in what they do, and how and when they do it – online at home, or at a conference or seminar. It is tailored to suit practitioners at each level in either welfare or compensation.

Advocates will discover that acquiring points won't take more time out of their schedule than the old system, and they will be able to say with confidence to their insurer, to their authorising organisation and to their clients that their knowledge is 'current'.

The CPD program is expected to be rolled out in the first half of 2018. There will be a comprehensive program of information sessions and training programs before the system comes online. There'll be more information about CPD in the next issue of Advocacy News.

Brian Warren

ATDP CPD Program Coordinator

7. Online resources for advocates

There are a number of ways that Military Advocates can stay up-to-date with changes that may affect their clients.

CLIK

The Consolidated Library of Information and Knowledge (CLIK) contains legislative, policy and reference material used by DVA staff in providing service to clients of the Department of Veterans' Affairs: <http://clik.dva.gov.au/>

Recent changes are listed on the Updates page: <http://clik.dva.gov.au/updates>

DVA updates

DVA news and media releases are posted on the DVA website:

www.dva.gov.au/about-dva/news-and-updates

At Ease

DVA's At Ease website provides a wide range of mental health resources, information and assistance for the veteran and defence communities, as well as for health professionals:

<http://at-ease.dva.gov.au>

VVCS

The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) provides free, confidential, nation-wide counselling and support for war and service-related mental health conditions, relationship and family counselling, and group programs: www.vvcs.gov.au

NB. These dates are approximate – delivery is dependent on many variables, including the availability of the volunteers who are developing the programs.

The latest news and decisions from the Repatriation Medical Authority, including about Statements of Principles, can be found here: www.rma.gov.au/what-s-new

The Orderly Room

The Orderly Room is the ATDP information source. It brings together news from a range of sources, including DVA, Defence, VITA, the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS), the Repatriation

Medical Authority, and other relevant government agencies: www.theorderlyroom.blogspot.com.au

8. ATDP contact details

ATDP Regional Managers and

Administration Support Officers (ASOs)

Region 1 Qld & NT:

Peter McNamara Manager | rm1@atdp.org.au

Tamsin McGuin ASO aso1@atdp.org.au | 07 3358 5845

Region 2 NSW, ACT & WA

Allan Thomas Manager | rm2@atdp.org.au

Brian Morelli ASO | aso2@atdp.org.au | 02 9488 7667

Region 3 Vic, Tas & SA

David Rye Manager | rm3@atdp.org.au

Philip Boys | ASO aso3@atdp.org.au | 08 8290 0449

General enquiries:

ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au

Websites:

Advocacy Training and Development Program – www.atdp.org.au

Department of Veterans' Affairs – www.dva.gov.au

Subscribe: Please share this newsletter with anyone you know who may be interested.

Let us know if you would like to be added or removed from the distribution list by sending an email to ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au

Attached is a copy of the newsletter suitable for printing.

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The Clayfield Way

Clayfield College is a place where all individuals are valued for their unique qualities and talents. Our academic, pastoral and co-curricular programs, supported by our exceptional teaching staff, are essential in providing opportunities for our students to grow and develop in a Christian learning environment. Our students are encouraged, nurtured and inspired to achieve personal excellence, that's our way, The Clayfield Way.

The College is located in the beautiful inner-northern Brisbane suburb of Clayfield, only six and a half kilometres from the central business district and served well by public transport. The Citytrain network is situated close by and the College is centrally located to Brisbane City Council and private bus lines. The College is only five kilometres from the Domestic and International airports as well as the Gateway arterial road that links the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.

We welcome students from all over Australia and the world, catering for girls from Pre-Prep to Year 12 and boys from Pre-Prep to Year 6. The College is also a Boarding School for girls, caring for students from Years 5 - 12, on a daily, casual, weekly or term basis.

Clayfield College is justifiably proud of our academic record and achievements. The College is recognised within the wider community as a school that inspires students to strive for academic success. We offer a stimulating and engaging curriculum, that incorporates innovative learning experiences, and is personalised to challenge the learning needs of every student.

Our students are encouraged to broaden their interests by extending themselves in the arts, sport and community service through our extensive co-curricular program.

Through our comprehensive Creative and Performing Arts program, we offer our students a variety of opportunities to pursue and enjoy the wonderful world of Music, Visual Art and Drama.



We also believe that maintaining a healthy body is pivotal for our students' development. Participation in sporting activities is encouraged for all students from Pre-Prep to Year 12. Clayfield College offers excellent sporting facilities, including a multi-purpose Physical Education Centre and gymnasium, a heated swimming pool complex, playing fields, tennis and netball courts, and access to external sporting fields. Our sporting program encourages all students to achieve their full potential and to contribute to the success of their teams.

Our Service program offers opportunities for our students to participate in local and global community service groups and projects to develop their sense of individual responsibility – not only to College life and the community within which they live, but to society as a whole.

Our Pastoral Care Program focuses on a holistic approach which encourages our students to develop commitment, self-discipline, self-motivation and a sense of social responsibility. We encourage our students to be happy, laugh often, work hard and give back to the community.

Ultimately, what Clayfield College offers is an opportunity for your child to explore their full potential. Our highly experienced staff have the passion, drive and ability to inspire and guide, him or her, to be the very best they can be. This is our way, the Clayfield Way.





Their dreams for tomorrow are our focus today

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HMAS Adelaide Strengthens Interoperability with Singapore Armed Forces

By Lieutenant Colonel Phil Pyke

HMAS *Adelaide* has visited Singapore to strengthen humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) interoperability with the Singaporean Armed Forces (SAF) as part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2017.

Australia and Singapore have a strong and long history on defence engagement and cooperation, founded on shared interests in security and stability in the region.

Commander Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2017, Captain Jonathan Earley said he was pleased the ship could work with the Singaporeans again.

“This visit allows us to build on aviation and landing craft training conducted last month between Adelaide and RSS Resolution while operating off the east coast of Australia,” he said.

During the visit to the RSS Singapura, members from Adelaide worked together with SAF counterparts to

conduct HADR training, involving the embarkation of SAF personnel and vehicles via Landing Craft.

Concurrently, both forces conducted medical and aviation interoperability planning exercises.

Members of the Singapore Navy transited on Adelaide as the ship moved from RSS Singapura to Sembawang Naval Base.

HMA Ships *Adelaide* and *Darwin* visited Singapore as part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2017, a joint task group deployment to the region demonstrating the ADF’s humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities and commitment to regional engagement.

Prior to visiting Singapore, HMA Ships *Adelaide* and *Darwin* have visited Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Timor-Leste as part of Australia’s focus on strengthening military cooperation with regional partners.

Vehicles are loaded onto LHD Landing Craft from HMAS Adelaide (background) during Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response training with the Singapore Armed Forces in Changi Bay, Singapore, for Indo Pacific Endeavour 2017



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)



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

Contact Details

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

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

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Service Regt Number Dates deployed to

Current / Former Rank Operation name Country

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

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Membership Payment Options (due 1st of July annually) \$30 Renewal \$40 New

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Send application with completed details to: APPVA PO Box 480, Boronia Vic 3155

Please charge my credit card for the amount of: \$30 (renewal) \$40 (new) Visa Mastercard

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

The Defence Bank Account has been replaced by Bendigo Bank Account effective Aug 2017.

For Defence Bank users with automatic Debits, the account will be in transition for 12 months ceasing July 2018.

Please ensure you change your banking details to avoid mis-payments.

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AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)



APPVA Merchandise, PO Box 24
Kallangur Qld 4503, Main Office -
Pine Rivers RSL Sub Branch,
1347 ANZAC Ave Kallangur.
E: president@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

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Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Size: 10 12 14 16 WOMENS	\$45	
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Book - SOLDIERS' Tales			\$19	
Book - Aussie SOLDIER			\$29	
Stubby Holder black with gold logo			\$8	
Postage and handling costs for all items as below: 500gm bag \$8.25 Less than 3kg \$13.40 Less than 5kg \$17.10 Any other larger posted items will be notified of costs as necessary with purchaser.			TOTAL	

CREDIT CARD

Send order form with completed details to Merchandise - APPVA Veterans Advocacy Centre PO Box 24 Kallangur Qld 4503

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

Credit Card No _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

Name..... Signature.....

CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER - Post cheque or money order payable to APPVA Veterans Advocacy Centre PO Box 943 Alstonville NSW 2477

DIRECT CREDIT - Internet Transfer - Bendigo Bank

Account: APPVA (AUS) BSB: 633-000 Account: 160753471 Member No:

Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form. Enter Member No:

For All other Financial Institutions:

Account: APPVA BSB: 633-000 Account: 160753471 Member No:

Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form. Enter Member No:

The Defence Bank Account has been replaced by Bendigo Bank Account effective Aug 2017.

For Defence Bank users with automatic Debits, the account will be in transition for 12 months ceasing July 2018.

Please ensure you change your banking details to avoid mis-payments.

DELIVERY DETAILS

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

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

Mobile.....

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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

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

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