

Australian Peacekeeper

SPRING 2017

MAGAZINE



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Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

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

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The world's first Peacekeepers to deploy into the field, Monitoring a Ceasefire in Indonesia, on the 14th of September 1947. They are from



L-R: Commander H.S. Chesterman; Group Captain Charles Eaton (Retired), who was then Acting Australian Consul-General in Batavia; Brigadier L.G.H. Dyke; and Major D.L. Campbell. It is believed that the person taking the image is Squadron Leader D.T. Spence, DFC, who was later Killed in Action in Korea."



PUT ON A BRAVE FACE

(No matter what kind of ugly situation you get in to)

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 **EURES**

HAVE A BETTER LOOK

From the President's Desk

A warm welcome to all our members and onlookers, this year for far has been very productive for the Association with key personnel within the Association attending Commemoration Meetings in Canberra to ensure that the activities for "Australian Peacekeeper Week" to be held in Canberra during 10-16 September 2017, will coincide with the opening of the National Peacekeeper's Memorial (Thursday 14 September 2017). Throughout Peacekeeper Week the Association will be conducting its APPVA National Conference on the Monday the 11 September 2017; National AGM/QGM & Election on Tuesday 12 September 17; followed by our Annual Compensation Advocacy Seminar on Wednesday, 13 September 2017. There are also several other activities planned for Association Members and friends, so please, keep updated on our website. All this information is available on our website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au go to "UP-COMING EVENTS" on the Left-Hand Navigation Pane to view the Programme and any updates.

I attended the Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) Round Table [ESORT] meeting in Canberra on 3 March 2017, and then I attended the Budget Brief in Canberra in May 2017 which outlined what changes to Veteran's Entitlements would occur out of the new budget by the elected Government. The information provided below is summary of the discussions that took place.

The Association would like to acknowledge and congratulate MAJGEN Mark Kelly AO DSC on his reappointment as the Repatriation Commissioner for further 2 years.

ESO Round Table - summary of meeting 3 March 2017

The Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) met for the 36th time in Canberra on 3 March 2017.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Dan Tehan MP. The Minister thanked members for the work they have been doing including advice provided to his Office. Discussion ensued on the extension of eligibility for Long Tan Bursaries and departmental powers under the Digital Readiness Bill. The Chair welcomed Mr Terry Makings, the new President of the Naval Association of Australia.

Policy

ESORT Members were provided with an update on:

- the dates for Long Tan Bursary presentations that are being finalised and provisions that are covered under current legislation;
- DVA's communication strategy around policy and procedural changes introduced for claims relating to sexual and physical abuse;
- potential changes to the Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) grant calculation formula for Round 20; and
- the progress of the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program and noted the Australian Public

Service Commission website is being updated to provide information for veterans seeking Government employment.

National Collaboration

Mr Andrew Condon provided members with an update on work undertaken to further enhance ESO National Collaboration.

Transformation

Members were updated on the Department's Transformation initiatives, including a tour of the Lighthouse Project facilities and demonstration of a new online claim form under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA). AIRCDRE Steve Martin provided a demonstration of the ADF's new Engage Website – Common Access Portal that will link ADF members with organisations who provide support and services. Members were addressed by Mr Paul Way, Director General, Defence Community Organisation, on the Department of Defence's work on transition for discharging members of the ADF.

Health Delivery

Members were updated on new contracting arrangements with all Private Hospitals and on the Booked Car with Driver (BCWD) scheme. Members noted that new items have been added to the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) in addition to the Review of Dental and Allied Health Arrangements, which will be completed by the end of 2017.

Government Enquiries/Commitments

Members were updated on activities focused on suicide prevention and support for those at risk.

Member Submission: DVA Health Treatment Card on discharge

Members heard a presentation from the Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARC) regarding the issue of DVA Health Treatment Cards on discharge from the ADF.

Member Submission: Centrelink, Medical, Pharmaceutical and Medical Providers Services to Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) clients

Members heard a presentation from TPI Federation Australia regarding recent issues concerning treatment for TPI Gold Card holders.

Member Submission: Determination of Policies, Practices and Guidance covering exhumation for the purposes of identifying Australian Armed Forces personnel Missing-in-Action

Members heard a joint presentation from the Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAFA), Royal Australian

Regiment Corporation (RARC) and Naval Association of Australia (NAA) regarding the possible exhumation for the purposes of identifying Australian Armed Forces personnel that are missing-in-action (MIA) from the Korean War.

Commemorations

Members were informed that certain Navy and Air Force members who served in the War in Viet Nam; will be permitted to wear the Government of the Republic of Vietnam (GRVN) Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation. Members were also informed of the upcoming Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience exhibition program being held in Sydney in April 2017.

National Consultation Framework Fora (NCF) Update

Members were updated on the NCF Review. Information and Meeting Summaries of ESORT are at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/consultation-and-grants/consultation-ex-service-community/eso-round-table-esort>

Yours Sincerely,
Allan Thomas, JP,
National President.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr Allan Thomas,

I, Tara Young, am writing to you to pass on my sincerest gratitude regarding the support that the APPVA has

generously offered towards the ongoing legal action against the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation. Both Bradley Campbell and Shane Walker have, in a purely voluntary capacity, worked diligently and tirelessly to ensure the CSC and other relevant Government Departments adhere to Veterans' legal rights.

The support that has been pledged by the APPVA will ensure that they are able to concentrate on the legal process without the added burden of legal costs. This financial assistance is invaluable as the ultimate goal is the legal and correct taxation of invalidated military superannuation payments, which will most definitely have a positive impact on many struggling veterans and/or their families. As an Administrator on the 'ADF Invalidity Payments - Taxation Treatment' Facebook Group page I have assisted members with their taxation treatment and been privy to their personal situations and can unreservedly attest that these taxation issues are having an extremely detrimental effect on the veteran community.

To have such a respected Organisation such as the APPVA take the time to not only understand these issues, but to provide guaranteed support, is monumental and genuinely appreciated. It would be greatly appreciated if you could pass on just how grateful we and all invalidated military veterans are for your magnanimous support.

Kindest regards,
Tara Young

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70 YEARS PEACEKEEPING



14 September 2017 marks 70 years of Australia's involvement in international peacekeeping.

Commemorate our proud history and learn about the service and sacrifice of Australian peacekeepers at the Australian War Memorial.

awm.gov.au



Programme

Australian Peacekeeper Week 10-16 September 2017, Canberra, ACT, The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association

All Members participating in the Dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Thursday 14th September 2017, to Register EOI on link:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/commemorationsand-anniversaries/domestic-commemorations-1>

1. Sunday, 10 September 2017 - Arrivals. Check into Accommodation.

Please note that Travel, Accommodation and Meals costs are borne and sourced from the participants attending. The only exception is for those catered for on the National Committee of Management [NATCOM].

Comment: individuals may wish to catch-up with each other over drinks and/or dinner.

2. Monday, 11 September 2017 - The APPVA National Conference.

The Canberra Club, 51 Blackall Street, BARTON, ACT

0830: Registration of Participants.

0900: As per Itinerary by APPVA National Secretary Kevin Ryan JP.

1630: Closure/Camaraderie at the Canberra Club Bar.

3. Tuesday 12 September 2017 - APPVA National AGM & Elections.

The Canberra Club, 51 Blackall Street, BARTON, ACT

0900: Check of Financial Members.

0915: Agenda as per National Secretary Kevin Ryan, JP.

1430: Proposed closure.

4. Wednesday 13 September 2017 - Early Service of Commemorating Peacekeepers.

Australian War Memorial [AWM] Forecourt, within the Balustrades.

0715: Participants arrive at AWM in the vicinity of the Pool of Reflection.

0730: Service as per Organisers (AWM & Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee [APMPC]). Poppies to be laid by APPVA National President - Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

0830: Visit Peacekeeper Photographic Display.

0845: Departure of Advocates to Advocate Workshop. Partners and Families welcome to remain in AWM to explore the Exhibits.

5. Wednesday 13 September 2017 – APPVA Advocate's Workshop.

Location: The Canberra Club, 51 Blackall Street, BARTON, ACT

0930: Arrival and Registration.

0945: Agenda as per Allan Thomas JP.

1530: Closure.

N.B. Paul Copeland to attend Memorial Dedication Rehearsal 0950.

6. Thursday 14 September 2017 - Dedication of the National Peacekeeping Memorial.

www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/

Location: East side of ANZAC Parade, site before New Zealand Memorial, vicinity the corner of Constitution Avenue and ANZAC Parade, REID, ACT.

0915: Arrival of participants.

0930: VIPs begin to arrive.

1000: Commencement of Ceremony.

1130: Walk to Hassett Park area behind the Peacekeeping Memorial, for a Post-Commemoration Gathering of Peacekeeping Veterans, Families and friends. Coffee, BBQ and some food vendors will be available, with some music by Fred Smith. APMPC Lead. APPVA set up Stall with Memorabilia.

1300: Departure of Park - Gathering and Reunion (Drinks), at the Mercure Hotel in Canberra, near the AWM, cnr Limestone and Ainslie Avenues Reid. That way people will be able to walk to the AWM for the Last Post and reading of a Peacekeeper killed whilst serving on a Peacekeeping Operation.

1630: Depart Mercure Hotel for AWM Service.

7. Thursday 14 September 2017 - Last Post Dedication to Peacekeepers.

Location: AWM.

1645: Assemble on steps at entrance of AWM.

1700: Last Post of a Fallen Peacekeeper.

8. Friday, 15 September - UN Association of Australia (UNAA) Conference.

As per UNAA Programme.

9. Friday 15 September - 2017 APPVA COMMEMORATIVE DINNER.

Location: Old Parliament House.

Cost: \$250

Timings: 6.30pm - 11.30pm

10. Saturday, 16 September – UNAA Conference.

11. Saturday, 16 September – Departure of APPVA Members.

12. Wall to Wall Motorcycle Ride (Various State and Territory Police Associations) at the Police National Memorial.

Timings: 1000 at Form up Place.

Visit the website: <http://walltowallride.com/>

The Dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial will be a Highlight of the 70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping

The Dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial will be a Highlight of the 70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping

On the 14th September 2017, the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, will be officially opened on its site on ANZAC Parade, Canberra in a combined dedication and commemorative service at which the Principal Guest will be His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. This service will mark the completion of a decade long project to construct this national peacekeeping memorial and will be the highlight of a wide range of activities and events being undertaken during Australian Peacekeeping Week which runs from 11-16 September 2017 to commemorate Australia's involvement in international peace operations for the last 70 years.

Australia has a proud record of service in international peacekeeping missions and peace operations commanded by the United Nations and regional arrangements. Australia deployed the first civilian and military observers to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Indonesia in September 1947. In the seventy years since, Australian governments have deployed a wide range of contingents all around the world, comprising both armed and unarmed military, police and civilian experts, as part of over 60 international peacekeeping missions. Some 80,000 Australians have deployed on these missions during which a number have died, and a considerable number have been wounded or suffered trauma.

In 2004 a group of Australian peacekeeping veterans and organisations who believed it was important that a national memorial should be built which would appropriately acknowledge and commemorate this contribution of Australian Peacekeeping - past, present and future came together to initiate the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project (APMP). Established as a volunteer not for profit

organisation, the project has been coordinated by an APMP Committee comprised mainly of Peacekeeping veterans and representatives from a wide range of national organisations. This has included appointed representatives of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), the Federal and State Police forces, the Returned and Services League (RSL), the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association (APPVA) and the United Nations and Overseas Police Association of Australia (UNOPAA).

In November 2007, the Canberra National Memorials Committee approved the allocation of a national memorial site on ANZAC Parade for an Australian Peacekeeping Memorial.

Subsequently in 2007 and 2008, the APMP Committee, with support from the National Capital Authority (NCA), conducted a national two-stage design competition resulting in the selection of a winning concept design which was announced by the then Minister of Veterans Affairs at Parliament House on 19th December 2008. From that concept design, the winning architect, now Bennet and Trimble, worked with the Committee and a range of engineers and consultants to produce the final, fully detailed design and documentation package to achieve works approval by the National Capital Authority.

The approved design, shown above, features two large monoliths that depict the warring parties separated by a glowing passage of golden light that represents the peacekeepers. This passage leads to a commemorative courtyard featuring messages about the service of Australia's military, civilian and police Peacekeepers and then through to a commemorative beam that lists all the missions in which Australians have served. As new peacekeeping missions are launched by Australia, their details will be added to the commemorative beam that has been designed with space to include future missions. Flags, symbols and explanatory plaques within the design



explain and identify the contributors and characteristics of Australian peacekeeping - past, present and future.

Over the life of the project, the Committee has been working to raise the funds necessary to construct the memorial. This fundraising for the Memorial has been the biggest challenge.

After an initial grant from DVA to commence the project, the APMP Committee approached a wide range of Australian and international companies for financial support

with some success. A few companies plus a wide range of veteran organisations and individuals provided sufficient finding to keep the project alive. This allowed the appointment of a construction contractor, prototype testing of the design and purchase of some long lead-time materials to continue. During this period the APMP conducted an annual Commemorative Service on the Memorial site on to mark Australian Peacekeeping Day on the 14th September.

These were well attended by the Government and Shadow Ministers, Patrons, supporting organisations and peacekeepers.

Now, thanks to recent Federal Government grants and other donations, construction of the Memorial has commenced and all is proceeding well for substantial completion prior to dedication on 14th September this year, the 70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping.



Activities to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping Planning is well underway for a wide range of events and activities to occur in Canberra during the period Australian Peacekeeping Week, from 11-16 September 2017, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping. These will

buttress the main event of the week, which will be the dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial at a commemorative service to mark 70 years of Australian Peacekeeping on Thursday 14th September.

Details of the dedication and commemorative service are still being finalised but it is expected to be a morning event attended not only by the Governor-General but also high representatives and Ambassadors of nations where Australian Peacekeepers have been active, as well as senior



Construction site June 2017

representatives and Ministers of the Federal Government, senior Australian military and police commanders, Patrons, donors and a wide range of peacekeeping serving and retired veterans and their supporters. The Dedication and Commemorative Service will be followed by a reception for Peacekeepers located nearby and then the daily "Last Post Ceremony" at the Australian War Memorial dedicated to a fallen Australian peacekeeper.

Throughout this week commemorating Australian peacekeeping, the Australian War Memorial will have Peacekeeping banners hanging from the ramparts and will arrange tours and other special peacekeeping events to supplement their normal Peacekeeping display.

A number of associated supporter activities are also planned for this week including a national conference and seminar on peacekeeping to be run by the United Nations Association of Australia at the Australian War memorial on 15/16 September, the national conference and AGM of the APPVA on 11/12 September and the Annual Police "Wall to Wall Ride" on 16 September. Other peacekeeping associations may conduct gatherings during this period. In all, it will be a memorable week for anyone associated with Australian peacekeeping and operations.

In the future, the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial will become a focal point for national parades and remembrance ceremonies in recognition of Australian peacekeeping on appropriate occasions such as UN International Day of Peacekeepers (29th May), Australian Peacekeepers' and Peacemakers' Day (14th September), and United Nations Day (24th October). Importantly it will be a place for Peacekeepers and their families to visit, remember and reflect and the Memorial will always be available for individual and group commemoration and reflection.

Tim Ford

Chairman@peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

Brief Overview of Peacekeeping Operations

Note on terminology:

Peace support operations are often divided into "peacekeeping" (lightly armed) and "peace enforcement" (heavily armed), and sometimes into other categories as well. In this section, "peacekeeping" and "peacekeeping operation" are used as blanket terms to cover all impartial, multinational, military-based interventions into areas of conflict.

Editor: *Colloquially, we term Peace Enforcement as "Peacemaking". Although the UN defines Peacemaking as the Diplomatic Mission prior to the agreement of belligerents to allow a UN Peacekeeping Force (PKF) into the host nation.*

A proud record

Australia has had peacekeepers in the field with the United Nations (UN) continuously for over 50 years. In Indonesia in 1947, Australians were part of the very first group of UN Military Observers (UNMO) anywhere in the world, and were, in fact, the first into the field.

Military observers

In the early years, Australia's Peacekeepers were generally unarmed military observers, promoting peace indirectly by ensuring that neither side in a conflict could violate a ceasefire or commit atrocities without the United Nations and the world community knowing about it. Today the media can fill a similar role, but military observers with a peacekeeping operation are more impartial and can use their military training to assess a situation more accurately.

In Indonesia, information from UN military observers ultimately helped the Indonesian republicans win their independence from the Dutch. In Korea in 1950, the UN's judgement that North Korea had invaded the south was based, in part, on a report by Australian military observers serving with the UN Commission on Korea.

Observer missions help create stability, but do not necessarily help end the conflicts which they are observing. Australian observers took part in a UN operation in Kashmir from 1950 to 1985. The operation continues today, without a resolution of the conflict in sight. Similarly, Australian observers have served with UN operations in the Middle East since 1956.

More recently, when the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988, Australian observers took part in a UN operation monitoring the ceasefire.

Police in peacekeeping

Peacekeeping has not only been the preserve of the Australian Defence Force. Since 1964, Australian police have served in Cyprus, an island wracked by conflict between its Greek and Turkish communities. Here, too, there is no sign of an end to the conflict, but the police help minimise its effects and build bridges between the

communities. More recently, police officers from Australia have also served in places as widely separated as Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique, Bougainville and Timor.

Larger operations

Since the 1970s, Australia's contributions to peacekeeping operations have increased in size and scope. In that decade, and again in the 1980s, RAAF helicopters operated in the Sinai, as Egypt and Israel ended three decades of hostilities. At the end of the 1970s, an Australian infantry force of 150 soldiers took part in a British Commonwealth operation as Zimbabwe won its independence. A decade later, an even larger contingent, composed largely of engineers, assisted a UN operation with a similar role in Namibia.

Peacekeeping in the 1990s

With the end of the Cold War, the 1990s proved to be the busiest decade in the history of multinational peacekeeping. For the first time, RAN ships took part in a peacekeeping operation, enforcing UN-imposed sanctions against Iraq both before and after the Gulf War.

For a period in 1993, Australia had over 2,000 peacekeepers in the field, with large contingents in Cambodia and Somalia. In Cambodia, Australia had taken a leading diplomatic role in the search for a settlement to factional strife in a country still suffering the effects of the genocidal Pol Pot regime of the 1970s. The Australian contribution to the resulting UN operation included the force commander and the operation's communications component. In Somalia, where the international effort resulted largely in failure, a battalion-level Australian contingent was nevertheless successful in allowing the delivery of humanitarian aid in the Baidoa area.

A year later, Australians were in Rwanda, another country to fall victim to genocidal civil violence. This time, the Australian contingent centred on medical staff who were able to treat many of the local people, in addition to members of the UN force.

After this there was a lull in Australian peacekeeping, though long-running operations continued in the Middle East and Cyprus and Australians were still involved with Iraq, inspecting weapons-manufacturing facilities and policing sanctions.

Since 1997, however, Australians have also served on Bougainville, where a settlement at last appears possible in the long-running conflict between the Papua New Guinea government and the separatist Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

Then in 1999, Australia led a peace enforcement operation which dwarfed all its previous peacekeeping efforts, as East Timor achieved independence from Indonesia.

East Timor

The Portuguese colony of East Timor was invaded by

Australians in Peace Operations

Indonesia in 1975. After almost a quarter-century of bloodshed in the territory, a new Indonesian government under President Habibie agreed to allow the East Timorese to vote on their future. A UN operation - the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) - was established to organise and conduct the vote, which was held at the end of August 1999 and resulted in an overwhelming vote in favour of independence.

Tragically, once the result had been announced, pro-Indonesian militias, sometimes with the support of elements of the Indonesian security forces, launched a campaign of violence, looting and arson throughout the entire territory. Many East Timorese were killed, and as many as 500,000 were displaced from their homes, about half leaving the territory, in some cases under threat of violence.

Eventually, as the violence remained uncontrolled, Indonesia agreed to the deployment of a multinational peacekeeping force. Australia, which had contributed police to UNAMET, organised and led the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET), a non-UN force operating in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions. INTERFET, with the role of restoring peace and security, protecting and supporting UNAMET, and facilitating humanitarian assistance operations, began arriving on 12 September 1999. Australia contributed over 5,500 personnel and the force commander, Major General Peter Cosgrove.

With the withdrawal of the Indonesian armed forces, police and administrative officials from East Timor, UNAMET re-established its headquarters in Dili on 28 September. On 19 October 1999, Indonesia formally recognised the result of the referendum. Shortly thereafter, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) was established as an integrated, multi-dimensional peacekeeping operation, fully responsible for the administration of East Timor during its transition to independence. The hand-over of command of military operations from INTERFET to UNTAET was completed on 28 February 2000. Australia has continued to support the UN peacekeeping operation with between 1,500 and 2,000 personnel, as well as landing craft and Blackhawk helicopters. Australia remains the largest contributor of personnel to the peacekeeping mission.

Retrieved from: <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/peacekeeping> on 19 August 2017 (AWM Peacekeeping History Website).

Editor: *It can be argued that the "Cold War" never really ended with the dismantling of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the break-up of the USSR in the early 1990's. Evidence suggests that the "Cold War" was perhaps in a hiatus for some years, however there is debate over this matter as never ending. Particularly with the annexation by Russia of former USSR states; Cyber-attacks that have been blamed on both Russia and China; along with the continued detection and presence of Electronic Warfare Intelligence Collection Elements from both Russia and China shadowing Coalition military exercises, shipping and aircraft.*

On 31 July 1947, Australia was the first UN member state to invoke Chapter VII of the UN Charter as the basis for the referral of a situation to, and action by, the UN Security Council. That situation was the conflict in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). Australia's decision was groundbreaking – at Indonesia's request, Australia represented against the Netherlands (the colonial power), and urged the Security Council to intercede in the conflict. The resolution adopted was the Council's first exercise of its authority under Chapter VII of the Charter to respond to a threat to international peace and security. The UN Good Offices Mission subsequently deployed to Indonesia to monitor the ceasefire and oversee mediation efforts was the first of its kind. The Australian personnel in that mission were deployed on 14 September 1947 and Australia considers them to have been the first ever UN Peacekeepers (though the UN does not consider this the first 'peacekeeping' mission). Their efforts made a crucial contribution to ending the conflict in Indonesia and securing international recognition for its independence.

In Australia, 14 September has become known as Peacekeeping Day. The UN, however, commemorates the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on 29 May marking the establishment of what it considers its first peacekeeping mission, UNTSO in 1948, for which Australia also provided, and still does provide, Peacekeepers.

Since that time, Australia has provided military and police personnel to more than 60 United Nations and other multilateral peace and security operations around the globe. In our own neighbourhood, Australia played a leading role in successful regional missions in the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Bougainville. Australia was instrumental in the diplomacy that led to the Cambodian Peace Settlement, and made a major contribution to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, including sending the first military contingent and providing the Commander of the military component. Australia has also contributed to Commonwealth missions in Zimbabwe and Uganda and continues to deploy personnel to the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai (Egypt/Israel) and to International Stabilisation Force efforts in Afghanistan.

Australians are currently serving in UN peacekeeping missions in South Sudan (UNMISS), the Middle East (UNTSO) and Liberia (UNMIL). Australia continues to be one of the largest financial contributors to the UN peacekeeping budget.

Peace Operations Commanders

Eight multinational operations have been commanded by Australians:

- Lieutenant General Robert Nimmo was Chief Military Observer in Kashmir with the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, from 1950 to 1966.
- Lieutenant General John Sanderson was Force

- Commander with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, 1992 to 1993.
- Major General David Ferguson - Force Commander of the Multinational Force and Observers (in the Sinai) from 1994 to 1997.
- Mr Richard Butler led the UN Special Commission (in Iraq) from 1997 to 1999.
- Major General Timothy Ford was Head of Mission, UN Truce Supervision Organisation from 1998 to 2000, and Chief Military Advisor to UN DPKO 2001-2003.
- Major General Peter Cosgrove commanded the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) from 1999 to 2000.

- Major General Ian Gordon – Head of Mission, UN Truce Supervision Organisation from 2006 to 2008.
- Major General Simon Stuart – Force Commander of the Multinational Force and Observers (in the Sinai) 2017 - Current

Retrieved from: <http://www.defence.gov.au/adsc/acsc/peacekeeping/aipo.asp> on 19 August 2017.

Editor: This information was retrieved from the ADF Peace Operations Training Centre [POTC] website. It only includes ADF Peacekeeping Operations.

List of Peacekeeping Operations since 1947 to the present.

The Start / End years listed are those of Australian participation, even though the listed Mission or Operation may have started earlier or finished later than those listed.

The agreed list is as follows. This list has been cleared with the team appointed by the Australian Government to write the Official History of Australian Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations.

Name of Mission / Operation	Theatre / Country	Start / End
UN Consular Commission	Dutch East Indies (Now Indonesia)	1947
UN Committee of Good Offices (UNGOC)	Dutch East Indies (Now Indonesia)	1947–1949
UN Special Committee on the Balkans (UNSCOB)	Greece	1947–1951
UN Commission for Indonesia (UNCI)	Indonesia	1949–1951
UN Commission on Korea (UNCOK)	Korea	1950
UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)	Kashmir	1948–1985
UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK)	Korea	1951–1973
UN Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC)	Korea	1953–
UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)	Middle East	1956–
UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC)	Congo	1960–1961
UN Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA)	West New Guinea	1962–1963
UN Yemen Observation Mission (UNYOM)	Yemen	1963–1964
UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	Cyprus	1964–2017
UN India–Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM)	India, Pakistan	1965–1966
UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	Israel, Syria	1974
Second UN Emergency Force (UNEF II)	Sinai	1973–1979
UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	Lebanon	1978
Commonwealth Monitoring Force (CMF)	Zimbabwe	1979–1980
Commonwealth Military Training Team – Uganda (CMTTU)	Uganda	1982–1984
Multinational Force and Observers (MFO)	Sinai	1982–1986 1993–
UN Iran–Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG)	Iran, Iraq	1988–1990
UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG)	Namibia	1989–1990
UN Border Relief Operation (UNBRO)	Thai–Cambodian border	1989–1993
UN Mine Clearance Training Team (UNMCTT)	Afghanistan, Pakistan	1989–1993
First Maritime Interception Force (MIF I)	Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea	1990–1991
Second Maritime Interception Force (MIF II)	Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea	1991–2001
UN Special Commission (UNSCOM)	Iraq	1991–1999
Operation Provide Comfort	Iraq	1991

UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	Western Sahara	1991–1994
UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC)	Cambodia	1991–1992
UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)	Cambodia	1992–1993
First UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM I)	Somalia	1992–1993
Unified Task Force (UNITAF)	Somalia	1992–1993
UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	Former Yugoslavia	1992
Second UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II)	Somalia	1993–1995
Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)	Cambodia	1994–1999
UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)	Rwanda	1994–1995
UN Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ)	Mozambique	1994
South Pacific Peace-Keeping Force (SPPKF)	Bougainville	1994
Multinational Force (MNF)	Haiti	1994–1995
Accelerated Demining Program (ADP)	Mozambique	1994–2002
UN Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA)	Guatemala	1997
Implementation Force / Stabilisation Force / Kosovo Force (IFOR / SFOR / KFOR)	Former Yugoslavia	1995–2004
Truce Monitoring Group (TMG)	Bougainville	1997–1998
Peace Monitoring Group (PMG)	Bougainville	1998–2003
UN Mission in East Timor (UNAMET)	East Timor	1999
International Force East Timor (INTERFET)	East Timor	1999–2000
UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)	East Timor	2000–2002
International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT)	Solomon Islands	2000–2002
UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)	Ethiopia, Eritrea	2001–2005
International Military Advisory and Training Team (IMATT)	Sierra Leone	2001–2003
UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET)	East Timor	2002–2005
UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission for Iraq (UNMOVIC)	Iraq	2002–2003
UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)	Afghanistan	2003–2004 2005–
Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)	Solomon Islands	2003–2017
UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)	Sudan	2005–2011
UN Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL)	Timor-Leste	2005–2006
International Stabilisation Force (ISF)	Timor-Leste	2006–2013
UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)	Timor-Leste	2006–2012
African Union–UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)	Darfur	2008–2011
UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)	Iraq	2009–2013
UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)	South Sudan	2011–



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Note: Two spans of dates are provided for the MFO and UNAMA because Australia's contribution to these missions was not continuous, and included two ADF operations.

Retrieved from: <http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/missions.php> on 19 August 2017 (Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee [APMPC] Website).

Editor: *The Official number of Australia's Contribution to International Peacekeeping remains non-defined. Sources from the AWM suggest that it is around 14,500 (ADF). However, research by the APPVA suggest a significantly higher number of approximately 80,000 +. This figure does not include the Gulf War 1991 (approximately 2,000); The Invasion of Afghanistan (2001-2002); The War in Iraq (March 2003 – Present); and The War in Afghanistan (2003-Present). We consider that the Greater Middle East Region, which mainly focusses on ADF Operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Syria and Dubai, where ADF Force Elements and Joint Task Forces Operate; are in a continuum of operations since the first Deployment of RAN Ships to OP DAMASK I deployed on 1 August 1990, which was then known as "OP DESERT SHIELD." This was the Coalition Military build-up of Forces to the commencement of the Second Gulf War of January 1991 and all ADF Force Element Groups deployed to the region since that time.*

Australians were involved in what is technically the "First Gulf War", when Iraq invaded Iran on the 22nd of September 1980. This was through various Navy (Royal Australian War Ships) accompanying the US Fleet in the Region and again as Peacekeepers fulfilling the role as United Nations Military Observers (UNMO) to monitor the Ceasefire between Iraq and Iran in 1988 to 1990 under the auspices of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

The Australian Army Contingents of UNMO ceased in August 1990, when "the Coalition of the willing" began to mass in the region to repel the Iraqi invaders from Kuwait. At the end of the Gulf War on 29 February 1991 and after President Bush Sr urged the Kurds in the North and the Shia in the South to rise against the Hussain regime, further International intervention again occurred with the deployment of 75 Australians under the command of the 3rd Brigade, Royal Marine Commando commenced Operation Haven (aka Operation Provide Comfort), on 14 May 1991, until withdrawal on 30 June 1991.

Third Country Deployments [TCD] of ADF Aircrew continued with UK and US Combat Aircraft to patrol the designated No-Fly-Zones [NFZ] in the North and the South of Iraq in order to prevent the Hussain forces taking retribution toward the Kurds in the North and the Shi'ite Muslims in the South.

These TCD NFZ Operations ceased when Coalition Forces Invaded Iraq under the belief that Hussein had Weapons of Mass Destruction [WMD]. Commentators on the Invasion in 2003 will say it was Regime Change rather than the threat of WMD as the true reason for the invasion of Iraq.

Therefore, with a mixture of Hazardous Service, Peacekeeping UNMO Operations, War, Humanitarian Intervention for the Kurds; TCD NFZ Operations and continued warlike operations in Iraq it would be reasonable to state that Australia has been involved in the Middle East Region conducting various Operations since 1980 to the present day. Perhaps our longest ever Military engagement.

Afghanistan would arguably be the second longest military engagement, which began in 1989 with the deployment of Australian Army Engineers to the UN Mine Clearance Training Team (UNMCTT) in Peshawar (Pakistan) withdrawing in 1993.

However, in the above discussion, ADF Peacekeeping Operations would arguably be Australia's longest, continuing, un-abated and non-stop military commitment for 70 years, which continues today and will continue well into the future.

On top of the significant military commitments toward International Peace, Security and Stability; Australia, the ADF holds a long term Military commitment by assisting those Countries in need after Natural or Man-made disasters throughout our region of S.E. Asia and Pacific; including Haiti and in Iran. Since 1918 to 2006, it has been recorded that the ADF and Federal Police have served on 68 Humanitarian Aid and/or Disaster Relief/Response [HADR] Operations. This has seen well over 11,230 personnel deployed for almost 100 years to assist countries hit with disaster. Of particular note is the increased Cyclone Responses that the ADF has assisted both Overseas and within homeland Australia. The ADF is activated to HADR Operations at the request of countries who need such assistance, because the ADF has assets that are unavailable or utilised by civilian Emergency Management agencies or NGOs. One day we hope to see this highly effective service recognised with the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal [HOSM], without having to arm-wrestle bureaucracy."

Australian Federal Police (AFP) International Deployment Group (IDG) Peace Operations since 1964 onward.



Senator David Feeney provides a presentation to the APPVA National Conference in Geelong, September 2015.

List of Deaths – Peacekeeping (Warlike & Non-warlike Service) and Humanitarian Service

As at 25 July 2017.

42 Peacekeeper Deaths since 30 July 1953 to 24 February 2012.

Sergeant BRETT KINLOCH Australian Federal Police, 24 February 2012, UN Mission in Timor Leste [UNMIT], heart attack.

Craftsman BEAU PRIDUE Army (RAEME) 8 CSSB 15 September 2011 Operation ASTUTE Timor Leste Motor vehicle accident

Private ASHLEY ARTHUR BAKER 7 November 2007 Operation ASTUTE Timor Leste Small arms fire

Leading Seaman SCOTT BENNET RAN 2 April 2005 Operation SUMATRA ASSIST II Nias Island, Indonesia Helicopter crash

Sergeant WENDY ELIZABETH JONES RAAF 2 April 2005 Operation SUMATRA ASSIST II Nias Island, Indonesia Helicopter crash

Petty Officer STEPHEN SLATTERY RAN 2 April 2005 Operation SUMATRA ASSIST II Nias Island, Indonesia Helicopter crash

Lieutenant MATTHEW DAVEY RAN 2 April 2005 Operation SUMATRA ASSIST II Nias Island, Indonesia Helicopter crash

Lieutenant MATTHEW GOODALL RAN 2 April 2005 Operation SUMATRA ASSIST II Nias Island, Indonesia Helicopter crash

Lieutenant PAUL KIMLIN RAN 2 April 2005 Operation SUMATRA ASSIST II Nias Island, Indonesia Helicopter crash

Lieutenant JONATHON KING RAN 2 April 2005 Operation SUMATRA ASSIST II Nias Island, Indonesia Helicopter crash

Flight Lieutenant LYNNE ELIZABETH ROWBOTTOM RAAF 2 April 2005 Operation SUMATRA ASSIST II Nias Island, Indonesia Helicopter crash

Squadron Leader PAUL STUART MCCARTHY RAAF 2 April 2005 Operation SUMATRA ASSIST II Nias Island, Indonesia Helicopter crash

Private JAMIE CLARKE Army (RAINF) 3 RAR (Para) 10 March 2005 RAMSI Solomon Islands Fell into sinkhole and died during Foot Patrol

Protective Service Officer ADAM DUNNING Australian Federal Police 22 December 2004 RAMSI Solomon Islands Gunshot wound

***Corporal STUART JONES** Army (RAAC) 2 Cav Regt (Recon) 9 August 2000 UNTAET East Timor Accidental Discharge of weapon during A Vehicle transit

Lance Corporal SHAWN LEWIS Army (RAEME) 145 Sig Sqn 20 May 2000 OP BEL ISI (II) Bougainville, PNG Diving accident

***Lance Corporal RUSSELL EISENHUTH** Army (RACT) 26 Tpt Sqn 17 January 2000 INTERFET East Timor Died of illness

Major SUSAN FELSCHE Army (RAAMC) 21 June 1993 Operation CEDILLA (MINURSO) Western Sahara Medical Unit aircraft crash

***Lance Corporal SHANNON MCALINEY** Army (RAINF) 1 RAR 2 April 1993 Operation SOLACE (UNITAF) Somalia Accidental Discharge of weapon on Patrol

Captain PETER JAMES MCCARTHY Army (RACT) 12 Jan 1988 UNTSO Lebanon Jeep blown up by a landmine

Sergeant IAN WARD Australian Federal Police 12 November 1974 UNFICYP AUCSIVPOL Cyprus Landmine

Inspector PATRICK HACKETT Australian Federal Police 29 August 1971 UNFICYP AUCSIVPOL Cyprus Motor vehicle accident

Sergeant LLEWELYN THOMAS Australian Federal Police 26 July 1969 UNFICYP AUCSIVPOL Cyprus Motor vehicle accident

Lieutenant General R.H. NIMMO, CBE Army 4 Jan 1966 UNMOGIP & UNIPOM Kashmir (India/Pakistan) Heart attack

Sergeant JOHN NOWELL Army (RASIGS) 24 Nov 1956 UNKMAC Japan Died of disease

Signalman CLIVE JOSEPH MCARTHUR Army (RASIGS) 30 Jan 1956 UNKMAC Japan Accidental

Private IAN PERCY BEVIS Army (RAINF) 1 RAR 2 Jan 1956 UNKMAC Korea Motor vehicle accident

Captain JOHN EDWARD KOLLIAS Army (RAAC) 16 Sep 1954 UNKMAC Japan Accidental

Private JOHN RODEN KANE Army (RAINF) 3 RAR 20 Aug 1954 UNKMAC Japan Illness

Private JAMES EDGAR COATSWORTH Army (RAINF) RAR 18 Aug 1954 UNKMAC Japan Illness

Captain GARTH GEORGE JARMAN Army (RAINF) 3 RAR 27 Jul 1954 UNKMAC Korea Illness

Private BRIAN CHARLES WALLER Army (RAINF) 1 RAR 25 Jul 1954 UNKMAC Japan Accidental

Pilot Officer HENRY DUDLEY ANDREWS RAAF 31 May 1954 UNKMAC Korea Flying accident

Private GEORGE JAMES STANLEY INNES Army (RAINF) RAR 5 May 1954 UNKMAC Japan Illness

Chief Petty Officer ALAN SPENCER HAWKIN RAN HMAS Sydney 8 Mar 1954 UNKMAC Japan Accidental

Leading Electrical Mechanic KENNETH WILLIAM NELSON RAN HMAS Sydney 6 Mar 1954 UNKMAC Japan

Private JAMES ARTHUR CARTER Army (RAINF) RAR 22 Feb 1954 UNKMAC Japan Died of disease

Lance Corporal ALBERT WILLIAM HAYMES Army (RAINF) 2 RAR 6 Feb 1954 UNKMAC Korea Died in sleep

Private RONALD JAMES LEIGH Army (RAINF) 2 RAR 2 Feb 1954 UNKMAC Japan

Telegrapher WILLIAM JOHN DAVIS RAN HMAS Murchison 10 Jan 1954 UNKMAC Japan Illness

Private NEVILLE CHARLES SHEPHERD Army (RAINF) 3 RAR 16 Sep 1953 UNKMAC Japan Accidentally killed

Private WILLIAM WILSON Army (RAINF) 3 RAR 30 Jul 1953 UNKMAC Korea Accidentally killed

* Denotes Warlike (Active Service).



The Australian Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association (APPA)

The First Six Years

The Concept of a Peacekeeper's Association 1996

On 24th October 1996, which was United Nations Day, SSGT Paul Copeland, then based in Cabarlah (near Toowoomba) QLD, organised with the Pine Rivers RSL Sub-Branch President, a UN Day service for Returned Peacekeepers. This was because the Pine Rivers RSL had what is believed at that time, to be the first dedicated memorial to Australian Peacekeepers in Australia. This event was well attended by current and ex-serving Peacekeeping Veterans.

Previous to this Commemoration, Paul had been actively involved in trying to form a Peacekeeper's Association since his return from Cambodia in May 1993. This became known to many serving ADF members at the time, as Paul produced a number of newsletters from 1994 to 1996 to veterans he knew, who had served on Peacekeeping Operations and were still serving in the ADF.

Paul utilised the ADF Communications Network to attract ADF members to attend the 1996 and 1997 UN Day Commemorations. Immediately after the UN Day 1996 Service, a group of 7 Peacekeeper Veterans met at the table inside the Pine Rivers RSL, including the CO of 2/3 Field Engineer Regiment (2/3 FER), who was invited to comment on the proposal of a Peacekeeper Association. The CO 2/3 FER, who was very supportive toward this concept, then spoke to the Commemoration Participants to announce the idea, which was well received at the time.

From recollection, out of the seven people who initially met to discuss the establishment of a Peacekeeper's Association was Wayne Lyons, Thomas Travers, John Burgess, Paul Copeland, Gavin Rogers, the former CO 2/3 FER and one other that can't be recalled. ?Chaplain Bob Rogers?

Earliest Days 1997

On ANZAC Day 1997, after the march, a small number of Peacekeeping Veterans met to discuss the formation of a Peacekeeping Association. A draft Constitution was presented and after a couple of changes the constitution was voted on and was only to be changed at an AGM.

A Steering Committee was formed consisting of the following:

John Burgess;
Ted Haines; Ross Pilia'Smith and
Gavin Rogers

The main focus initially was UN day 1997 where we were to gain as much exposure as possible. To let veterans know we were setting up an Assoc and were looking for as many Peacekeeping Veterans as possible to join.



Windaroo Peacekeeping Memorial Luncheon L to R David Williams (Military Workshop) , Wayne Lyons (National President), MajGen John Pearn (Patron), Lt Gen Frank Hickling (Chief of the Army), Chaplain Bob Rogers (Committee).

The first committee meeting was held at the Goodna RSL on 25 July 1997. At this meeting the goals of the Association were to be discussed.

Birth

Our first AGM was held at Pine Rivers RSL on 24 Oct 1997. Our main aim at this meeting was to elect an Executive Committee to take over all aspects of the Association from the Steering committee. Those elected were;

Pres/Sec	Gavin Rogers
V/President	Wayne Lyons
Treasurer	Ross Pilia'Smith
Committee	John Burgess
Committee	Nick Hannay
Committee	Bob Rogers

Paul Copeland was the Darling Downs Representative of the newly formed Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Association (APPA), in 1997.

A copy of the constitution and minutes of the meeting was sent out to all members (20) for the perusal and comments. One of the Associations foremost aims was to get our Welfare section up and running. This was to assist any of our members with DVA issues and to educate them of their entitlements.

In the early years of the Association I assisted non-members as well who were usually young confused soldiers who carried on regardless no matter what the physical or mental issues were. I found in my 20 odd years in the service [Regular Army], that the orderly room staff had no idea about DVA and thus could not assist the soldiers. This

was not the orderly rooms fault, as they were never given the skills by their service to assist.

Due to Personal reasons Gavin Rogers resigned in December 97. As the Vice President, I took the reigns until the next AGM in 1998.

1998

The Committee approached the President of the Gaythorne RSL, Mr Alan Thorpe to seek permission to allow us to use their committee room to hold our meetings. After we put our request in writing permission was given.

The personnel who had served on UN Peacekeeping Operations were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 1988 for peacekeeping duties up to and on 10th of December, 1988. This was a matter that was sought by the APPA at that time, for recognition by the Government toward this prestigious award for Australia's UN Peacekeepers.

August 98 Membership : 67

By August 98 we had our first AFP members in Mike Hawthorn and Allan Perry who both served with Australian Police Contingent of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), 1997 and 1995 respectively. At this time, Paul Copeland came on as our State Co-ordinator for NSW and ACT.

Office Bearers and Committee 98/99

National President Wayne Lyons



L to R Capt Caroline Bathgate, Unknown, Unknown, Wayne Lyons (President APPA), Colonel Vlas Efthasis (Medical), Tom Travers (APPA Treasurer) , Major General John Pearn (APPA Patron)



Windaroo PK Memorial Dedication 2000. L to R Bob Rogers, Myself, Gen Frank Hickling, Gen John Pearn

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Vice President QLD | Warren Hind |
| Vice President NSW | Paul Copeland |
| Secretary | Tom Travers |
| Committee Member | John Burgess |
| | Bob Rogers |
| | Mike Hawthorn (AFP) |
| | Bronwyn Walters (Oakey) |
| Co-Ordinator ACT | Graham Hayes |
| Co-Ordinator Tas, Vic | Nick Hannay |

SA & Riverina

At this point in time, as APPA were working towards a National Membership the members voted to implement a National President, State VP's and Co-Ordinators for all other States and territories until their membership grew.

The committee contacted the Vietnam Veteran's Counselling Service (VVCS) who agreed to take on our veterans as clients for Counselling purposes and referral for Pension assistance, once we developed our Advocates to be online and trained. At this point in time I was the only qualified Advocate. The VVCS had offices Australia wide which would be beneficial to our far flung vets.

A copy of an updated constitution was sent to all members for comment and perusal.

October 98 Membership : 82

Our first Association dinner is to be arranged for UN Day 1999 at the Gaythorne RSL Club. We were hoping for as many members and possible members and their partners would attend. This Dinner was a great success for the APPA.

As our membership has now reached 90, the monthly newsletter will now become a quarterly newsletter.

1999

It was about this time that the Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) for the Force Communications Unit (FCU) as part of the Peacekeeping Force to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was brought to the fore once again, to seek that the nomination of August 1993, be



First APPA Dinner 1999 pictured in front of APPA Banner Leanne & Wayne Lyons

successful. The Land Commander Australia had previously mentioned the dedication and tireless efforts of the FCU to the Peacekeeping Force of UNTAC.

NSW is now contributing to the newsletter from VP NSW. The information supplied is relevant to our NSW members and keeps them abreast of activities being arranged such as ANZAC Day, UN Day and other relevant events.

The AFP has also started to supply articles for for the newsletter which would be not only of interest to our AFP members but all in general

The Inaugural APPA Patron: Major General John Pearn AM, RFD, Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force (SGADF)

One thing that we were certainly lacking at this point in time was a Patron. To this end I approached Major General John Pearn to propose to him to be our Patron. After some discussion with him he gladly accepted and another chapter of the Association began. Major General Pearn will also be our guest speaker at our inaugural dinner. He is an accomplished and entertaining speaker.

We also had on our books some NZ members and thus we now had a segment that was directed to our Kiwi brothers.

September 99 Membership : 118

Issues tackled this last quarter were:

- The Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) for UNTAC and confusion generated by the Staff Officers Medals (Army) ??
- MUC UNTAC – having trouble getting any info or assistance in this regard.
- Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB) for Peacekeepers.

December 99 Membership : 150

Elected Committee from the AGM are:

National President Wayne Lyons
 Committee Bob Rogers
 John Burgess

QLD & Ex Pats

Vice President Mike Hawthorn
 Committee Bob Rogers

John Burgess

NSW

Vice President

Peter Matthey
 Paul Copeland until Nov 1999
 Graham Hayes (Singleton)

Committee

ACT

Vice President

Rod Russell
 Tony Heinrich

Committee

Victoria/ Tasmania

Vice President

Peter Bruce
 Paul Copeland
 Bron Walters (Bandiana)
 Nick Hannay (Riverina, SA, WA)
 Geoff Baker (NT)
 Doug Agnew (NZ)

Secretary

Co-Ordinators

Issues tackled this last quarter were:

- Our Assoc Dinner was a great success with more to come;
- AASM for UNTAC to commence going out to recipients in November 1999.

2000

The Peacekeeping Memorial at Windaroo Qld is under way. Bob Wylie, a member of the TPI Association was active in its push and approached me for assistance, which we were happy to do. The Gold Coast Council will maintain it with ongoing funding being supplied by the Royal Memorial Project.

Paul Copeland is pursuing eligibility on the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM). A letter was sent to Directorate of Honours and Awards requesting information on eligibility in regards to Defence Members who served in Humanitarian Operations both at home and overseas. DHA forwarded the submission to the CA for approval, who then referred it to LHQ, wanting it resubmitted for the



UN Day 1999 L to R The Governor of Queensland, Major General Peter Arnison, Mrs Arnison (Partly Obscured), Leanne Lyons (back to camera), Wayne Lyons (APPA President) , Major General John Pearn (APPA Patron).



L to R Capt Caroline Bathgate, Unknown, Unknown, Wayne Lyons (President APPA), Colonel Vlas Efthasis (Medical), Tom Travers (APPA Treasurer), Major General John Pearn (APPA Patron)

Australian Service Medal (ASM 1975-), as he did not want to undermine the integrity of the civilian award (HOSM). However, the matter of recognising Humanitarian service with an ASM was rejected by the Chief of Staff Committee (COSC).

The MUC UNTAC has Paul Copeland busy the last 12 to 15 months contacting many government agencies as well as Lieutenant General Frank Hickling (Chief of the Army), to have the decision with the MUC overturned in our favour.

Victoria held their inaugural State Conference dinner on Sat 21st October 2000. The Qld dinner will be held on Friday 27th October with guest speaker being Major General Ferguson AM, CSC, the former Force Commander of the Multinational Force & Observers (MFO) Sinai from 1994 through to 1997. At this stage we have almost 100 attending.

Issues tackled this last year were:

- Windaroo Memorial • HOSM • MUC UNTAC

2001 Onward

March 01 Membership : 278

Issues tackled this 2001, 2002 were:

- The Clark Report • MUC Ongoing • Canberra Memorial

By 2002 I was growing a bit stale and decided to step down as National President. In doing so I believe I left the Association in the very capable hands of Paul Copeland.

I was at the helm of APPA National for roughly 5 years and I am very proud of the achievements of myself and all those people who involved in setting up APPA (soon to be renamed as the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA)). Paul Copeland rates special mention as his dedication and ferocity in chasing down issues relevant to Peacekeepers. His great assistance was instrumental in moving APPA forward.

First five years in a nutshell:

- Welfare for members;
- Trained Welfare officers;

- MUC;
- RASB;
- Growth and expansion to have all States and territories covered;
- State Committees;
- Clark Report;
- Windaroo Memorial;
- Canberra Memorial;
- Dinners & Reunions;
- Patron;
- Peacekeeping Banners;
- Interfacing with other important Associations such as RSL, The Viet Nam Veteran's Association of Australia (VVAA);
- Peacekeepers Day 14th September annually.

These are just some of the issues we have tackled in our first 5 years. In the past 15 years, there have been many more. For our existing members, I am sure that they have found that having their own Association to fall back on when needed is of some comfort.

The one thing I haven't mention thus far is our humble newsletter. It has certainly improved from our early editions made up of relevant issues photocopied on A4, stapled and sent out in Military envelopes. It has now evolved to what we have today, a glossy and well-presented Magazine.

In closing I am sure that APPVA is in safe strong hands will prosper well into the future.

I am very proud and humbled at being offered the opportunity to lead APPA. I am unable to attend our 20th year celebrations due to ill health, however I wish one and all a fantastic time and a great time with your mates.

Wayne Lyons
Past National President
1998 - 2002



Peacekeeper Day in Townsville, NQLD, 14 September 2007.
L-R Darren Jones; and Geoff "Lofty" Evans (APPVA NQLD Branch President)

20 Years of the APPVA

2002 to 2010 as National President



by Paul Copeland

Background

I had served in the Australian Regular Army for over 20 years (1981-2001). Getting out of the Army was not a choice of mine. I was Medically Discharged as a result of my service in Cambodia with the Force Communications Unit (FCU) in May 1993. The incident was a very bad Military Vehicle Accident, whilst returning from Phnom Penh to my Troop HQ in Sihanoukville (Kampong Som), during a Resupply task. We were carrying 2,500 rounds of 5.56mm link ammo for the 2 F-89 (Minimi) Machine Guns, as we were preparing for the threat of attack by belligerents at our UN Base as the Elections in Cambodia drew closer, as did the violence and attacks increase across the country.

I was Repatriated back to Australia by RAAF Aeromedical Evacuation (AME) in an RAAF C-130 with a wide AME Litter. I had suffered significant femoral breaks (open – the lower shaft of the femur had shot out of the back of my Right leg) along with a range of other injuries. I had no idea what to expect after my operation at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

In fact, I was worried that I would be kicked out of the Army because I was so badly injured. I recall when I was at my 3 month stay at 6 RAAF Hospital at RAAF Base Laverton in Victoria, that I wanted to see the 3MD Medical Staff to see what my prospects were of continuing my service. The bad news was that my Special Forces career path was gone. The LTCOL, MAJ and WO2 could not tell me what was to become of me. This worried me to no end.

My OC and SSM of 126 Signal Squadron (1st Commando Regiment) came to visit. The OC was Mike Howard who simply said to me, "...you may be served well to see a lawyer about your injuries..." I took that on board.

Another FCU soldier, a young Trooper from 1 Armoured Regiment, whose name escapes me, was also Repatriated to Australia a month or so after me, his injury was a fractured skull after bouncing out of the back of one of the UN Utes. He asked me "Sarge, when will the bloke with the briefcase from DVA turn up?" I replied to him "Good luck with that one young fella, there is no such thing. Trust me, I have tried to find out for myself..."

There was so much that I didn't know about our Repatriation system. Once I had completed convalescence leave and was posted to a Strategic Communications Unit in Melbourne (6th Signal Regiment), I was very fortunate that the WO2 Chief Clerk "Blue" McClatchy, discussed the DVA Claims system with me and got me to fill out the forms.

I was also referred to an RSL Advocate at the Watsonia RSL to have a look at my case. After 18 months, my claim came back with Temporary Incapacity Allowance [TIA] back-pay for being hospitalised from the accepted conditions, along with 90% of the General Rate. This was a great outcome

and I was still able to soldier on, despite being classified as Below Medical Standard [BMS]. The added positive point that I learnt from this experience, was that there was a system available to ADF personnel to access when they injure themselves in the line of duty.

Around 2 years after my Repatriation, I was contacted by my Career Manager who asked if I could be FE (Fit Everywhere) in a short period of time, as they were considering sending me to the Multinational Force & Observers (MFO) Sinai. I had the steel rod removed from my femur and the screws removed. Completed a Basic Fitness Assessment (the first time I had actually run since the accident), and did the worst time of 23 mins 48 secs. I disgusted in myself!

Whilst on K95, I received a Posting Order to the MFO Sinai. I was very excited about deploying again. It was in the Sinai, that I met SGT Allan Thomas (the incumbent National President). We were both Shift Duty Operations Sergeants (there were four of us from arms Corps), at the MFO Force Duty Centre [FDC]. Allan and I were later to be involved in a suicide bombing attack at Dizengoff Centre on 4 March 1996. The blast killed 13 people and wounded 130. It was the fourth suicide bombing attack by Palestinian Militants in a nine-day period. So, the MFO Sinai, wasn't exactly the safest posting, particularly when I had to regularly go into Tel Aviv (escorted by another AUSTCON Member) for picking up the Contingent Mail at the Australian Embassy.

Suffice to say Allan and I became good friends and I was extremely happy to see Allan come on board the APPVA Team. Firstly, as an Advocate, then later as the APPVA NSW Branch President then the National President in 2011.

You are probably wondering why I have just spent nearly 2 pages of my story. It has a lot to do with my motivation and why I have been involved in the APPVA since its inception.

When I returned from Cambodia, there were many former members of the FCU posted to 6 Signal Regiment. This also included the odd Western Sahara and an MFO Sinai Veteran. The camaraderie between us was fantastic, however it didn't particularly impress those who hadn't deployed and remained in Australia while we, the lucky ones deployed to what has become to many a life-changing experience.

I had the vision of setting up an Association in 1994 and include the Kiwis, as we had over 45 of them serving with us in the FCU Cambodia. They were great people to get along with and we also had a great rapport with the NZ UN Military Observers (UNMO) and the UN Naval Observers (UNNO), where I was located in Sector 6, Cambodia. I have made some life-long friends, by serving alongside Kiwis in both Cambodia and The Sinai.



L-R Gordon Traill (National Vice President); Graham Castles (National Secretary); Paul Copeland (National President); and Mick Quinn (Advocate).

I wanted to call this concept "The Australian & New Zealand Peacekeeper's Association" or ANZPA for short. I did up newsletters and posted them to every person I knew that was serving in the ADF to encourage such membership. Unfortunately, whilst my enthusiasm was optimistic, I barely received any replies. This did not deter me.

After returning from the MFO Sinai and posted to Cabarlah (near Toowoomba in S.E. QLD), I again started to reignite the interest for an association. For some reason the President of the Pine Rivers RSL Sub-Branch (Kallangur, north of Brisbane), who was a Malaysian and Borneo Veteran was quite interested in my concept.

One of main motivators to be involved in this Association was to ensure that no-body would be in the same situation that I was placed. That is not knowing what my Veteran Entitlements were and assisting veterans and their families in receiving their eligible entitlements.

The Humble Beginning – 1996

He rang me several times, of which he had advised me that the Pine Rivers RSL SB had built what was potentially the first dedicated memorial to ADF Peacekeepers in Australia. He invited me and my colleagues to commemorate United Nations Day on the 24th October 1997. Using my position as a Staff Sergeant Supervisor Communications (SC), which I had a Communications Centre under my responsibility I drafted a message and tasked the Night Shift NCO to send it out to all Addressees in the S.E. QLD Region.

The response was impressive, with almost 130 ADF members in attendance. It was at this time that I met with Wayne Lyons, Thomas Travers (both served with me in FCU Cambodia); John Burgess (Kashmir Peacekeeper Veteran); and some others, which was 7 of us in total. We discussed the concept of a Peacekeeper Association. This was well received by the ADF Personnel in attendance and it realistically developed from that point onward.

Wayne Lyons was to take over from Gavin Rogers, who began a membership drive on ANZAC Day in Brisbane in 1997, however he retired some months after. Wayne grabbed the bull by the horns and organised another Pine Rivers RSL SB UN Day Commemoration, this time with what I would estimate at almost 180 people. So, a great turn-out.

Being the Darling Downs Representative I organised a Coaster from the unit and took nearly all of the returned Peacekeeper veterans from my unit down to Brisbane. It was a memorable trip, particularly after the RSM of 2/3 FER, WO1 Johnny Raddatz OAM, invited us to the Engineer's SGT's Mess after the Pine Rivers function. We had a great night.

Wayne and Tom Travers were the engine room of the Australian Peacekeeper's & Peacemaker's Association (APPA). We all agreed with that name at the time (1997), as it covered Peacekeepers in the general sense, including Police, with ADF members on non-warlike Peacekeeping Service under Chapter VI of the UN Charter; and the Peacemakers was colloquially the Peace Enforcement Operations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, in other words warlike service Peacekeeping Operations.

Steve Dudley in Toowoomba began work on our website and he did the hard yards to get our website up and going.

APPA NSW is Established 1998

The name had a good fit and we worked well as a team. I was posted to Sydney in late 1997 and Appointed as the APPA Vice President NSW. I began the establishment of the APPA in Sydney in 1998. I had a work colleague Graham Hayes assist me and I met some RAAF veterans from Rwanda and Somalia who marched with us in Sydney on ANZAC Day 1998. It was then that I met Peter Matthey, a RAAF Flight Sergeant at the time, who had served in Rwanda. Peter was to take over from me as the APPA NSW President, when I was posted to Melbourne in late 1999.

APPA Victoria is Established 2000

Having spent time as APPA Vice President NSW, I was happy to see some enthusiastic former RAAF Squadron Leaders (Peter Bruce, CSC [UNSCOM] & Robert Turner [UNEFII & MFO Sinai), who were more than happy to take on the role as the inaugural APPA Victorian Branch President and Vice President respectively. I ended up as the inaugural APPA Victorian Branch Secretary.

So, in 2000-2002 APPA Victorian Branch was established with the following appointments:

President (YVVCC Rep) – Peter Bruce, CSC.
 Vice President (KO&UAC Rep) – Robert Turner.
 Secretary (Pensions Officer) – Paul Copeland.
 Treasurer – Gary Mansfield.
 Assistant Secretary (Welfare & Liaison Officer) – Robert Kennard.
 AVADSC Rep – Gavin Lee.
 Committee Member – Michelle Stevens.
 Committee Member – Deema Johnston.

N.B.: YVVCC = Younger Veteran's Victorian Consultative Committee.

KO&UAC = Kindred Organisations & Unit Associations Committee.

AVADSC = Australian Veterans and Defence Service Council.

In 2001, after liaising with Mr Rob Winther, the Veteran Liaison Officer [VLO] at the Heidelberg Repatriation



West Australian APPVA Contingent for the Perth ANZAC Day March, 2008.

Hospital, A Peacekeeper Memorial was erected in the “Memorial Gardens” of the Hospital. I had the honour of seeing this project through and speak of Peacekeeping service and some of the difficulties our veterans were beginning to experience with PTSD.

Thus began the APPA in Victoria. The key vision was to connect with the various Veteran Committees that were in Victoria. At our AGM, we would invite all ESO in Victoria, including DVA to present pension and welfare entitlements; the then Viet Nam Veteran’s Counselling Service (VVCS); and the RSL State HQ. The networking proved to work well and we were promoting the awareness to these agencies that there was an ESO that existed for returned Peacekeepers and Peacemakers.

I was volunteering out of the Geelong Private Hospital Veteran Centre, after attending a Training Information Program (TIP) Basic Pension Officer Course in Ballarat in 2001. I had heard about the ESO Working Group into the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Bill (MRCB); of which I sought that the APPA should be involved with this ESO Working Group, as the Legislation will affect Peacekeepers/Peacemakers in the future, along with Younger Veterans.

When I contacted a DVA Staffer in Canberra about membership of the ESO WG for the MRCB, the man laughed at me and stated that Peacekeepers are not veterans. This of course raised my ire and I then contacted Brian McKenzie, the National President of the Viet Nam Veterans’ Association of Australia (VVAA) to seek his advice. He was quite livid at the response by the DVA Staffer and contacted the Minister’s Office immediately.

Within 2 hours I was on the ESOWG for the MRCB. I was very thankful to Brian. The VVAA went out of their way

to assist us during my tenure as Victorian Secretary to National President (2000-2010). They viewed us as having similar dynamics to them and it was in their Constitution to never treat veterans the way that they were treated when they returned.

As time went on we became aware of a similar group in Albury/Wodonga called the Albury Wodonga UN Veterans Association (AWUNA). This was led by former RSM Matt Burke OAM. Matt was the Force RSM to MINURSO (Western Sahara) and had retired in Wodonga and started AWUNA, much to his credit. After some discussion, and by some reluctance, AWUNA became a part of the APPA Victorian Branch.

National President 2002

In 2002, The APPA began to become a National ESO. Wayne Lyons became the National President APPA, Tom Travers the National Treasurer and Secretary, Peter Matthey NSW Branch President; Peter Bruce Victorian Branch President; and Martin Carr as the QLD Branch President. The Constitution was being drafted to consider the increased membership and increase the autonomy of the APPA State Branches.

At the 2002 National Conference, of which I attended on behalf of Peter Bruce, it was decided that Peacekeeper Day would be more defined with Peacekeeper service, rather than the establishment of the UN on 24 October [1945], as UN Day didn’t particularly cover Peacekeeping. Peacekeeping at that time was also inclusive of the South Pacific Peacekeeping Force (SPPKF) in October 1994; The MFO Sinai (1981-1986 & 1992-present); The Truce Monitoring Group Bougainville (TMG), which then turned into the Peace Monitoring Group Bougainville (PMG); The International Force in East Timor (INTERFET); and the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Rhodesia (CMF-R). We discovered that Australia was the first country in the world to deploy Peacekeepers [UNMO] into the field in Batavia (Indonesia) on the 14th of September 1947. So, we voted that the 14th of September every year will become known as “Australian Peacekeeper Day.”

I was to also become the APPA National Projects Officer, of which I penned the first submission by the APPA for the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade [DFAT] Hearing into the Offsetting Provisions between the Veteran Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA) and the Safety Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA). I presented this Submission in the Senate Hearing Rooms at the Australian Parliament House [APH] in 2001.

I was to later author a vast number of Submissions to Government, including the Clarke Review (Veteran Entitlement Review Committee); The Hidden Wounded – PROJECT AKESA which was an initiative of LTGEN Peter Leahy; the ESO Working Group for the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Bill (later known as the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004 [MRCA]); The Senate FADT Inquiry into Australian Peacekeeping Operations 2006; The Review of ESO Grants 2008; The Review of Veteran Advocacy Services 2008; The Review into Veteran Compensation Entitlements 2009; Retrospective Reclassifications of Service and Medallion Recognition.

A number of these submissions are available on our website under "For Veterans". For some reason this title has stuck to me, albeit un-officially so from 2001 until now I continue to write submissions on behalf of the APPVA. There is much work still to finish to ensure that our veterans are not only getting looked after by the Government of the day, but also to get Peacekeeper Veterans better recognised, rather than viewed as a second-class warrior. The ADF needs to understand that Peacekeeping Operations whether warlike or non-warlike service, is indeed noble service to the International Community and Australian Troops do it well.

As the APPA began to be known throughout the Veteran community, we were getting contacted by the Media for comments on a range of issues ranging from the War in Afghanistan to Iraq. As the National President, I was always called upon to comment or provide material for a range of media. To this day I continue to field such calls. This places the APPVA as a credible organisation that the Media is able to approach to have a comment or interview that places our issues into the public arena.

Some of the key issues that we had raised as APPA, prior to our name change to the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) were the following:

- The names of Peacekeepers who had died whilst serving on Peacekeeping Operations to be placed onto the Australian War Memorial (AWM) Roll of Honour;
- Better recognition of Australian Peacekeepers. The striking of campaign medals for Peacekeepers who served on the then termed "Operational Service" [Schedule 2 of the VEA, which was Allotted for Duty], which is today known as warlike service.;
- A better Exhibit at the AWM to properly articulate the service of ADF and Police Peacekeepers. (The one at the time was just a glass cabinet and lacked informative narratives to the General Public);
- AASM for Namibia (we were successful in the AASM Clasp CAMBODIA);
- The processing of the Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) for the Force Communications Unit (FCU) to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which was approved by the CDF, Admiral Chris Barrie in October 2001;
- Change the name of the Viet Nam Veteran's Counselling Service (VVCS) to the Veterans' Counselling Service [VCS];
- In some Capital Cities our Committees had to arm-wrestle with ANZAC Day March Committees to be placed directly behind the Viet Nam Veterans, as we were logically the next Returned Group of Veterans;
- A better quality Periodical publication for the Association (now the quarterly Editions of "The Australian Peacekeeper";
- Establish a network of Pension/Welfare and Advocate Officers;
- Continued networking with the ESO Community;
- War Service Pension [WSP] to include non-warlike returned Peacekeepers.

On 19 December 2003, I conducted the first APPA AGM, in order to have my status as National President elected by

the members, of which I was successfully voted in by the attending members. I had been holding the position as a vacancy since Wayne Lyons retired in 2002.

My intentions were to spread the APPA into a National ESO into Tasmania, South Australia, Northern Territory, Western Australia, and the ACT. This would prove to be a very time consuming task, as it required me to contact several individuals and address a group of them in each of the states, to convince them that being members of the APPA and raising State Branches is the future. This initiative on top of the points previously raised became challenges, but eventually and over time achieved to some degree.

APPA in 2003

In 2003 the APPA Committee consisted of:

National President – Paul Copeland;
 National Vice President – John Coyne;
 National Treasurer – Dave Menz;
 National Secretary – Robert Kennard;
 Assistant National Treasurer – Deema Johnston;
 National Membership Secretary – Deema Johnston; and
 Assistant National Secretary – Peter Duncombe.

The APPA AGM of 19 December 2003, also decided to change the name of the Australian Peacekeeper's and Peacemaker's Association (APPA) to a more Veteran oriented name as: "The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA). The vote was For the Name change: 28. Against: 4. The APPVA was then born.

In 2004, The APPVA logo design had three versions of which members were given a choice to vote on their preferred version. The result is the version that we use today.

The priorities were to Amend and complete the APPA Constitution and Registering our National Branch in Victoria. Seek Grant funding to support our advocacy. Membership Drive. Development of the State Branches.

One of the key issues that we raised and continued to raise in 2003 was the establishment of a Peacekeeper's National Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. The ALP [Simon Crean] was prepared to support this Memorial, however it was up to the incumbent Minister, which was Dana Vale, MP.

I became increasingly invited to Represent the APPVA on a number of National and State Fora. This was a great experience for me, as I was able to network with ESO Leaders, and get the problems and issues of our membership on the table. The APPVA was growing and we had a great deal of interest from DVA and the ADF. Suffice to say that the we were making ground-breaking history as the first and unique ESO of its kind, since the Viet Nam Veterans ESO for some decades. We becoming the Subject Matter Experts in Post 1975 Operations, particularly with Peacekeeping Operations of various service types.

Therefore, Peacekeepers were being placed on the Government, DVA, ADF and ESO Community Map. We were becoming a credible ESO that was able to appropriately represent our veterans' needs. The problems

with achieving many of these issues unfortunately has taken a number of years, which is disappointing, considering that the matters are what I would term as “no-brainers”.

Development of the APPA as a National ESO 2004

In terms of Managing the APPVA as a National ESO, this was a significant challenge, however we were able to secure S.A.(Andrew Ormsby); W.A (Philip Steele); Tasmania (Mike Gallagher); NT (Bob Burgess); NQLD (Lofty Evans) and ACT (John Coyne). I also focussed on Corporate Governance to ensure that our Association was transparent to the members, and acceptable to the Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV), along with the other State based Offices of Fair Trading.

As we developed, so too did our technology needs. We needed a person with very good Information Technology Skills to maintain the APPVA Website and provide advice on IT, as we began procuring IT equipment for our practitioners in Welfare and Compensation Advocacy, along with the National and State Branch Committees needing IT equipment. So, we searched for an IT Manager. We found David Vinen, who was a former Intelligence Corps Senior NCO and had a great knowledge of IT Management.

The APPVA organised a Delegation (Lofty Evans, Rob Kennard and I), in 2004 to visit the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dana Vale, MP, to discuss Peacekeeper Recognition. This is where we found that getting a Memorial on ANZAC Parade in the Nation's capital was not going to be as easy as first thought. We were offered to have a small monument in the grounds of the AWM, with funding for \$200,000.

We rejected the proposal of the small monument in the grounds of the AWM, and persuaded the Minister to place us in the most appropriate position, which was alongside those who went before us in War and Service to Australia. We had a huge task ahead of us to organise the Memorial and I called for a meeting at the National RSL HQ in Canberra to discuss the matter.

I noted that we had a Major General Tim Ford as a member of the APPVA, and encouraged him to attend the meeting. He attended and I requested that he chair the meeting. Since then, with all the set-backs and lack of support from a number of agencies and ESO, we have been finally able to get the Memorial built. If it had not been for Tim Ford, we would not have got to this level and I will always be forever in his debt for his tenacity in getting Australian Peacekeepers recognised with this Memorial on ANZAC Parade.

Strategic Planning in 2005

After a tumultuous year in 2004, of which the APPVA achieved many things, including securing the funding for the National Peacekeeper's Memorial; the National Vice President John Coyne, put together a Strategic Business Plan on 11 February 2005.

The Vision Statement was:

“By the 10th of January 2008, the APPVA will be recognised by the Australian Defence Force, Department

of Veterans' Affairs, Australia's Ex-Servicemen and Women's Organisations and Younger Veterans as the peak organisation to younger veterans.”

The Conclusion was:

“The APPVA is a flourishing young organisation, which has achieved a number of significant milestones during the last twelve months. To achieve further success, it must concentrate efforts towards achieving more growth whilst maintaining its sustainability. The organisation has been reliant upon a core team for its success but must now secure additional support to ensure that it remains a viable organisation.”

After reading this document, which is 12 years old, I reflect just how much of an impact we have made on Younger Veteran representation from 2005 until the end of my tenure in February 2010. Even past my tenure as National President, I have seen the changes that we have been able to influence, to better represent our veterans and to have better recognition for our Peacekeepers/Peacemakers.

In 2005, the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee [APMPC] started the business of development, under the leadership of Tim Ford. There was a lot of work by many individuals during this period to get the APMPC as a Deductible Gift Recipient [DGR], commence its Corporate Governance, become registered as an Incorporated Association etc. The APPVA was represented by me, of which I have maintained this representation since the inception of the APMPC. It has been quite a journey.

The Respective Branches began to evolve, however there were difficulties in continuity of Committee Members. However, during my tenure as the National President and as previously mentioned, it was important for the APPVA to have credibility as an ESO operating within the respective State or Territory. Corporate Governance was essential to ensure that the APPVA was being viable as an organisation and responsible toward the respective State or Territory Branches. The following Branches were raised:

- a) The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (National Executive), (Incorporated in Victoria 27 January 2004) established 24 October 1997;
- b) Victorian Branch (Incorporated in Victoria 30 July 2006);
- c) New South Wales Branch (Incorporated in New South Wales);
- d) South Australian/Northern Territory Branch (Incorporated in South Australia) established 25 November 2006;
- e) North Queensland Branch (Incorporated in Queensland 26 March 2007); established 15 December 2006;
- f) Australian Capital Territory Branch (Incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory) established 14th September 2007;
- g) South Queensland Branch (Incorporated in Queensland), established 5 November 2007; and
- h) Tasmania Branch, established 6th December, 2008.

I also devised an “APPVA National Outreach Program”, which was to provide advocacy and welfare support services from the APPVA to our many veterans who were scattered throughout the country. This would mean employing paid Compensation Advocates, with Administrative support. It

was also devised to dissolve the borders between States and Territories, as the BEST Grant Scheme was based on.

In other words, we would handle any veteran in any State or Territory that was not necessarily in the same State or Territory as our Practitioners. This is where we would be able to deliver a quality service, particularly toward younger veterans who lived in rural and remote localities who needed assistance. Technology was the main tool to be used, including a Voice over Internet Protocol [VOIP] Phone network between Committee Members in order to have low cost voice communications.

The Elections of November 2005 had the following results:

National President – Paul Copeland
 National Vice President – Gordon Traill
 National Secretary – Dave Menz
 National Treasurer – Deema Johnston.
 IT Manager – David Vinen.

Consultation and Change in 2006

During 2006, I made a conscious decision to begin relinquishing my positions on the Federal Veteran Forums. These Forums are Federal Minister Appointed Positions, so there is a great deal of responsibility that goes with being a member of the various Forums that I had attended on behalf of the APPVA and Younger Veterans.

I was beginning to identify individuals within the APPVA, that would benefit from further development, particularly with being members of the range of National Forums. I was also feeling tired due to the intensity of being the National President and had to give some time to myself and my family. It is a matter that I still with today. It has been very hard for me to say “NO” to having the opportunity to further the issues of our members and younger veterans.

The Forums that I had served on for a number of years were:

Project Life aka “OPERATION LIFE”;
 The Integrated People Support Strategy (IPSS);
 The National Younger Veteran Consultative Forum;
 A number of ESO meetings with Defence;
 A number of Transition Meetings and Consultations with DVA and Defence;
 Participation in a Military and Veteran Health and Wellbeing Workshops facilitated by the Centre of Military & Veteran Health (CMVH) an arm of the University of Queensland;
 Regional Consultative Forum (RCF) Victoria to the VVCS;
 The Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum;
 The National Treatment and Monitoring Committee for Veterans and War Widows;
 The Operational Working Party for VEA Legislation;
 Chair of the Surf Coast Veteran Centre;
 Advocate to the Surf Coast Veteran Centre;
 Advocate to the Heidelberg Repatriation Veteran Centre;
 The Repatriation Medical Authority updates and workshops;
 The Federal Budget Briefings;
 Consultative Member on the Intergenerational Study into the Children of Viet Nam Veterans;
 Consultative Member (after lobbying) the Peacekeeper Mental Health Study;
 Committee Member [APPVA Representative] to the APMP; DVA and COMSUPER Working Group;



Peacekeeper Memorial at Pine Rivers RSL Sub-Branch, Kallangur, QLD

Parliamentary Delegations 2-3 times per annum (visiting the Minister for Veterans' Affairs for face-to-face consultation and various Politicians of various political persuasions); and

Representing the APPVA at various FADT Senate Inquiries and Hearings.

I am sure to have missed some activities in this list, however it provides an awareness of how busy the APPVA was in 2006 onward. These commitments on top of Leading the APPVA as National President was quite a challenge, but a challenge that I enjoyed. I had to maintain my wellbeing and health, hence delegating some of the responsibilities.

It was also a year that saw the change of the name of the Viet Nam Veterans' Counselling Service [VVCS] to the Veterans' & Veterans' Families Counselling Service [VVCS]. I was most honoured to be invited by the National Advisory Committee (NAC) to attend the official name change where VVCS originated – in Adelaide 1981.

The originals of the VVCS “Gifted” the name of the Veterans' and Veterans' Families Counselling Service [VVCS], to me as a representative of the Younger Veteran Community. I was most humbled with this gesture. 2 weeks later I was asked to attend the VVCS in Melbourne, where Bob Elworthy, Victorian President of the VVAA gifted to me as a “trustee and carrying the legacy of Viet Nam Veterans who established this service to the next generation of veterans...”

In 2006, we employed our first paid Pensions Officer/ Advocate at the Heidelberg Repatriation Veteran Centre. Michael Quinn joined the APPVA team, albeit in what I would describe as a highly toxic environment. This was affirmed later by a Business Analyst. Mick did a fantastic job for the APPVA in Victoria. He was quick to pick up the Legislation, having being exposed to it with his Wife Fiona; and began a significant clientele.

Accompanying Mick the APPVA was also able to employ a part time Administrative Assistant being Lorelle Skinner.

The demand for APPVA assistance in advocacy work was well beyond my own personal abilities, hence the employment of Mick Quinn. Later Grants that were supported by the Minister (Bruce Billson), after a comprehensive Business Plan to him about APPVA expansion with this service in the major capitals including Townsville saw another Advocate later employed and a Project Officer.



APPVA National Conference 2007, Torquay Victoria. Paul Copeland with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bruce Billson, MP.

At our AGM in Melbourne in 2006, the newly appointed Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Bruce Billson, MP (Member for Dunkley) attended, along with the Opposition Spokesman for Veterans' Affairs, Allan Griffin, MP. It was at this AGM, where the matter of the Reclassification of Rwanda from non-warlike service to warlike service was raised.

After listening to Allan Griffin's challenge that the ALP would reclassify Rwanda to warlike service, Bruce Billson was immediately inquisitive. We had a number of Rwanda veterans in attendance at this AGM who later spoke with the Minister.

Nine days later, I received a phone call from the Minister, informing me that the retrospective reclassification for Rwanda to warlike service had just been passed in Parliament. I was absolutely pleased. It was perhaps one of the best successes that the APPVA has experienced and more importantly the warlike service benefits toward the Rwanda Veterans is now able to be eligible to 659 ADF personnel.

A further success of the retrospective Reclassification of the Australian Training Support Team – East Timor [ATSTEM] Ministerial Submission lodged in 2006, was also accepted in 2008.

2007, the Year of more changes.

The excellent working relationship that we had with Bruce Billson developed further and the APPVA was viewed as a highly relevant and dynamic ESO. We were called upon for counsel to the Minister over a number of issues, that could have otherwise been adversarial against our veterans.

Unfortunately, the 2007 Elections saw the end of the Howard era, as well as Bruce Billson as the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. Kevin Rudd won the Election that year and Allan Griffin was the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. He addressed our National Conference at RAAF Base Richmond in January 2008, the first ESO to be addressed by him as the newly appointed Minister. It was with this presentation by Allan Griffin that it was apparent that

there was going to be a number of reviews into a range of Veteran related matters.

Elections held for 2007 were the following results:

- National President – Paul Copeland
- National Vice President – Gordon Traill
- National Secretary – Dave Menz
- National Treasurer – Deema Johnston.
- Assistant Secretary – Rhonda Copeland.
- IT Manager – David Vinen.
- National Entitlements – Mick Quinn.

2008 – The year of Reviews

The APPVA answered these Reviews and submitted high quality papers. However, it didn't appear that our submissions were being thoroughly read or there was an underlying agenda. The latter was to freeze Building Excellence in Support and Training [BEST], along with some austere measures that began to appear in the Veteran realm.

The APPVA remained in demand as an ESO that was more than capable of handling primary level, Review and Appeal (AAT) of a range of difficult cases, multiple eligibility, harsh offsetting provisions as MRCA began being used by returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

It was around this time that we had some very talented Advocates operating in the APPVA, Allan Thomas; Mick Quinn; Graham Castles; John Wyatt; and Rod Thompson in Brisbane. Our network was expanding as we had hoped it would.

One other matter was enacted by the ALP Government was the Defence Honours, Awards and Appeals Tribunal [DHAAT]. This Tribunal has more or less been used as the decision-maker toward veteran medal eligibility. Unfortunately, in the previous years, ESO were able to lobby Government for medallic recognition and in a large number of cases were successful.

However, the DHAAT has, in our view been used to shut down such lobbying, which the APPVA believes is a fundamental right. However, the DHAAT, if not in agreement or does not recommend the various proposal put to it, holds a binding power. Therefore, it will be very difficult to contest or to continue lobbying for retrospective recognition.

We have found that more favourable decisions and recommendations have been made in terms of Medal Inquiries to those who have served from 1939 to 14 February 1975. Those who served Post 1975 have not been afforded the same degree of fairness. The only Post 1975 changes that were made by the DHAAT Inquiries was some aspects toward service for the Australian Defence Medal; the recommendation to strike the Australian Service Medal (75-) Clasp CT/SR (Counter Terrorism and Special Recovery Operations Duties); the dual eligibility for the AASM Clasp KUWAIT and ASM Clasp KUWAIT for members of HMAS CANBERRA (13-19 Jan 1993); the AASM Clasp SOMALIA to those RAN personnel aboard HMAS TOBRUK & JERVIS BAY (Maritime Support to the 1 RAR Battalion Group in Somalia); along with some individuals who have been given a fair hearing.

I was in attendance at the VVAA National Conference in Adelaide in 2008, of which I was pleased to sign a Memorandum of Agreement [MOA] with the VVAA National President, Ron Coxon, OAM. This MOA was intended to strengthen the ties with the VVAA not only at the National level but also down to the State and the VVAA Sub-Branch Levels.

The MOA was also a significant event, as it also allowed for the APPVA and VVAA to not only work together in a like-minded manner, but to also develop the delivery of Advocacy Services to all Veterans.

The APPVA not only began extensive Veteran and ESO networking during my time as the National President, but we took the next step to involve ourselves in the International Peacekeeper Veteran arena. In mid-May 2008, in a very late invitation, I was invited to attend the 60th Anniversary of the UN International Day of UN Peacekeepers, at the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG) on the 29th of May 2008. I had less than a week to organise my flights etc. However, I was determined to represent Australia in this very special International Peacekeeper Veteran occasion. The invitation came from the International President of the Association Internationale des Soldats de la Paix French Acronym (AISP), or the Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA), Laurent Attar-Bayrou. I landed in Geneva on the 29th of May and was perhaps a couple of hours late. However, Laurent was absolutely in disbelief that I had flown half-way around the world to join in with the Commemoration. I was welcomed with open arms by the French Peacekeeping Veterans.

In June 2008, I signed an MOU, on behalf of the APPVA, with the SPIA, affiliating the APPVA with the SPIA. The SPIA is a Category 1 NGO, Accredited by the UN Economic and Social Council [ECOSOC]. The SPIA is also affiliated with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). There are many other Peacekeeper Veteran Organisations from various countries that SPIA is affiliated. This provides the APPVA the opportunity to be involved in future International development and cooperative working agreements with our international colleagues.

By our Affiliation with SPIA, we have opportunities to lobby the UN Department of Peacekeeping Organisation



[DPKO]; along with Mine and Munitions representation and place the UN Peacekeeper Veterans' perspective into the UN Organisation. Being an NGO, the SPIA has undertaken Mine Clearing contracts in the Former Yugoslavia and Cambodia. The SPIA also provides Humanitarian Aid where it can to war torn countries. However, the most important aspect of our affiliation with SPIA is the goodwill that we have among each country's representatives, the camaraderie, friendship and building International Relations. I have made many good friends through my visits to UNOG and France as a result of these Commemorations.

Every year, I make the effort to attend the UN International Day of UN Peacekeeping Commemorations in UNOG. However, this has been intermittent depending upon health, however each visit, I do place a representative presentation to the International Panel at UNOG, that relates to Peacekeeper matters. In 2014 I was Appointed by the SPIA Governance Board as one of four International SPIA Vice Presidents, along with my role as the Oceania Representative and Australian President (SPIA). The link to the SPIA Website is: <http://www.aisp.fr/?lang=en>

My Last Year as the APPVA National President - 2009

2009 was my last year as the National President. I had purposefully placed into our National Constitution that the National President can only be in Office for three x 2-year terms. My time was coming to an end as the National President, however there was much work to be done for our membership and veterans.

The National Younger Veteran Outreach Program was working well with the paid Advocates and support staff. The APPVA was handling more than its lion's share of Primary Level Claims, Veteran Review Boards, and SRCA Reconsiderations. The Program was being achieved by several hard working APPVA members, who changed veteran's lives for the better. So, I believe that it was highly successful and it achieved its desired outcome.

I had to find a successor, of which Gordon Traill reluctantly resigned as my Vice President, due to his family commitments. A new National Vice President was Appointed, that being David Penson, CSM. Dave was an Army Engineer and Explosives and Mine Clearance expert; of which he had served with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) under OP BANNER; and also as a Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM) with the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET). He was groomed for the



APPVA AGM 2008. VVAA National President Ron Coxon, OAM and APPVA National President Paul Copeland, both hold the signed Memorandum of Understanding Certificates.



The Royal Australian Mint Launch of the 60th Anniversary Commemorative Coin, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 14 September 2007. L-R Brigadier Steve Ayling AM (Retired); Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC (Retired); Gavin Lee; Paul Copeland; and Lieutenant Colonel Darrin Glen. All Veterans served in Cambodia.

position of National President at the next AGM/Elections, which were scheduled for early February 2010.

Graham Castles also took on the role as the APPVA National Secretary.

The Calendar Year of 2009 has been an extremely challenging year for the National Committee of Management (COM). We had lodged up to four submissions to the Defence Honours & Awards Tribunal (DHAT); Veteran Advocacy Review; Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Review; The Clarke Review; six Reclassifications for Conditions of

Service Operations and a number of communications between the APPVA and the highest levels in Government.

In terms of the National Younger Veteran Outreach Program, much work has been achieved with this team over the past 12 months with at least 2,000 cases being undertaken by the paid and volunteer practitioners, with a large volume of inquiries (From 21,320 emails (In and Out), and 4,919 phone calls all relating to veteran matters in the Administration and National President's Office alone).

In 2009, we had the following resignations:

David Vinen – National IT Manager (10 Dec 09);
 Mark Elm – ACT Branch President (Aug 09);
 Shona Traill – Membership Secretary (Apr 09);
 Andrew Reggett – QLD Branch President (Jun 09);
 Donna Reggett – QLD Branch Secretary (23 Aug 09) and National Merchandise Officer (Nov 08);
 Marcus Bruty – QLD Branch Treasurer (July 09); and
 Gordon Traill – National Vice President (Feb 09).

They were replaced by the following Elected Members and Appointees:

Margi Phelan – Acting ACT Branch President;
 Fiona Quinn – Membership Secretary;
 John Burgess – QLD Branch President;
 Robert Sumpton – QLD Branch Secretary;
 Mitch Edwick – QLD Branch Treasurer;
 Dave Penson – National Vice President (President Elect this AGM); and
 Graham Castles – National Secretary.

The last Chaired Meeting – 2010

At the end of my final tenure, I chaired my final APPVA National AGM at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart, Tasmania. There were a number of matters that required resolution by the Government. Of these that hold importance in priority were:

- a. Our Veteran Health and Well-Being;
- b. Non-Erosion of Veteran Entitlements or Compensation; and
- c. Ongoing Recognition of the service, courage and sacrifice of our constituents.

There were some matters that I felt that required further resolution. These were:

Younger Veterans in Residential Care.

Improved Pathways to Care for Younger Veterans.

Veteran and Veteran Families Counselling Service (VVCS) to allow services to be extended to Peacetime Ex-Service members, including Police.

Ensure that ADF members are given the best opportunities for Rehabilitation, Retraining and Retention over a two-year period.

The severely eroded Defence Service Home Loan of \$25,000 (not changed since 1973), to be commensurate with the Australian Median Home Price Index, to allow our Young Veterans the opportunity to have discounted interest home loans as was the case in 1918.

COMSUPER (DFRDB & MSBS) Indexation issues. Currently at CPI, which really needs to be appropriately adjusted to the Public Beneficiary Cost of Living Index (PBLCI).

Police Compensation Legislation for those who serve on Operations and to retain the Beneficial Approach as was previously available under the VEA.

Commemorations – further Government funding toward the National Peacekeeping Memorial on ANZAC Avenue in Canberra.

Conclusion

My time with the APPVA has been active involvement for over 20 years. From when we first came together to discuss the concept of a Peacekeeper Association, to the present time, and aside from my 8-year tenure as the APPVA National President, I have been involved in many other NATCOM Appointments. In fact, I have been on an APPA/APPVA Committee since October 1997 to the present.

It has been an enjoyable time in my life, however I reflect at how we started and where we are today. We have had some great people with us who have done some exceptional work for the veteran community.

I would like to finish by saying that the best Minister of Veterans' Affairs that I had the pleasure of consulting was undoubtedly Bruce Billson. He had a vigour about him and listened to the APPVA in a large range of matters that affected our veterans.

The best Repatriation Commissioner was Rear Admiral Simon Harrington AM (Retired). Simon had an empathy toward veterans and was interested in what the issues were with young veterans. When he was replaced by Brigadier Bill Rolfe, AO (Retired), the approach taken by Simon didn't wane. When invited to the APPVA National Conference, AGM, Elections and QGM; both Simon and Bill would be in attendance from arrival day to departure.

Both Simon and Bill had a very good rapport with the APPVA by their attendance to our National Conferences. After hours socialising was particularly pleasing that both of these men were very approachable and had an open-door policy. They took on board what we communicated during our National Conferences and took a plethora of notes back with them. Our relationship with the Department of Veterans' Affairs was at its best with these 2 men.

I believe that if the incumbent Repatriation Commissioner

had the same modus operandi as Simon and Bill, there would not exist a communications gap between the Minister and Senior Staff within the Department. For reasons that are unknown to the APPVA, the approaches taken by Simon and Bill are no longer practised.

I would also like to finish with some comments made by Politicians during my time as National President. From Bruce Billson, MP:

"...the APPVA is an ESO that punches well above its weight..."

From Senator Michael Ronaldson: *"...The APPVA is one of the very few ESO that holds relevance in today's veteran community..."*

Yours in the Service of Peace,

Paul Copeland

20 Years of the APPVA

by Allan Thomas

As the current National President of the APPVA, I have enjoyed the challenges which has led me to where I am today. I would like to share my journey by advising you how I came to be appointed as the National President of an Association that strongly advocates on behalf of former and current serving members and their families of the ADF and Police Peacekeeping Veterans.

My Story

I enlisted in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) on 3 October 1984 and requested discharge at own request on the 28 November 1998. On completion of my service I had a lot of debilitating injuries that I believed were service caused but had no idea as to how it would affect my remunerative employment once I got out of the ADF.

When I left the ADF I lived in the northern end of Brisbane for a period of 3 years, running my own polystyrene business. I then sold the business and moved to the Central Coast of NSW where I worked as the General Manager as Asplundh Tree Services for a period of 3 years. It was during this period that I realised I could not function appropriately. I then turned to the local RSL Sub Branch to assist me with claims so I could find out what was affecting me badly and the steps I could take to resolve some of the issues I was encountering.

During that time that I was mostly affected by my injuries and diseases, I moved up to Alstonville which is located on the Far North Coast of NSW and joined the Alstonville RSL Sub Branch where I have continued to provide advocacy and advice to members and the wider veterans community requesting Compensation and Rehabilitation help.

It wasn't until I went through my own process that I wanted to help other veterans deal with the service related issues, I then contacted the APPVA who were only too happy to assist me with gaining knowledge about advocacy work. Once I joined the Association in April 2009, I was appointed on the State Committee for a period of 12 months before

taking on the role of State President of the APPVA.

As I progressed through my training I was asked to become involved with the Training Information Program (TIP) which was a program within the Department of Veterans' Affairs that provided compensation and welfare training to Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs).

During the next 12 months in training with TIP, I was appointed the NSW-ACT Compensation Coordinator, a further 2 years down the path, I was appointed as the State Training Manager of NSW-ACT TIP; and then some 2 years after my appointment I was then appointed as the NSW-ACT TIP Chair where I was involved in implementing Legislative Training Programs to present to the ESOs.

In 2011, still maintaining my affiliation as the NSW-ACT State President of APPVA, I was appointed the National President of the APPVA which I accepted graciously with the approval of the then National Committee of Management (NATCOM).

During my time as the National President of the APPVA I was happy to be involved with implementing and seeing the Peacekeepers names appear on the Wall of Remembrance in the Australian War Memorial, which was a major feat conducted by some instrumental Committee Members who had been part of the NATCOM who advocated to high levels of Government for the inclusion of Peacekeepers names on a Roll of Honour. Before the APPVA was successful in this matter, the names of our non-warlike service Peacekeepers and other ADF Personnel who had died on Non-Warlike Overseas Operations; were in a book, locked away in a rarely accessed area of the AWM.

One of the significant activities which is due to be commemorated in Australia that I am more than happy to be part of is the Dedication of the National Peacekeepers Memorial in Canberra, which will coincide with Peacekeepers Day in Australia. The Dedication of the National Peacekeepers Memorial will take place in Canberra on the 14 September 2017.



Then Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, addresses the APPVA National Conference in Sydney, 2014. To the far right leaning against the wall is Allan Thomas the current National President of the APPVA.

Since my Appointment and subsequent ongoing Election as The National President of the APPVA the association has advocated strongly and passionately on behalf of our membership and families of those who have given their lives on operational duties. This is a significant highlight as to why I have remained and will continue to remain as the National President of the APPVA until such time a suitable successor is identified, or I am not Elected in place of someone else.

I reassure our Membership base or those who are contemplating joining the Association, that the most pleasing aspects of my job is addressing veterans needs and issues and ensuring that future entitlements and welfare needs are always being addressed at all levels of Government. My passion lays with the Veteran's Community, I know I use the term Veterans' generically but this also includes Veteran's Families.

To sum it up my journey within the association, it has been and will continue to be very rewarding. If I am again Elected to serve another 2-year tenure as the National President of the APPVA, I will accept the appointment with pleasure and honour.

My status as it stands within the Ex-Service Community are:

- National President of the APPVA
- Member of the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) Forum
- Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP). I hold the following functions:
 - Member, of the Consultative Framework Management Group (CFMG) under the ATDP,
 - Manager, Regional Management Group 2 under the ATDP (area of responsibilities are within NSW, ACT and WA),
 - Assessor or Subject Matter Expert (SME) under the ATDP, and
 - I am one of the Facility Managers at the Veterans' Outreach Centre, Alstonville, NSW.
- Level 4 Advocate Trained under the Training Information Program (TIP);
- Level 2 Advocate Trained under the ATDP;
- Chair the Pension and Welfare Officer Network Meetings in Lismore VAN Office; and

- Mentor for Level 3 Advocates on the Far North Coast of NSW.

I find that in each of my roles I am continually learning from new initiatives put out by newly trained Advocates who have developed a far superior way of providing the type of service required to some unique individuals with complex Veteran Compensation cases.

The job in its self is very rewarding as we see Veterans and their Families walking away after our service to them, feeling that their needs have been met.

Without the support of my colleagues throughout my journey as the APPVA National President I can honestly say I would not have achieved what I have to date. I thank those particular members (you know who you are), for their un-wavering support to me as the National President and their significant commitment and dedication toward the APPVA, helping the wider Ex-Service Community across Australia.

It is fitting for me to see the 20th Anniversary of the APPVA, from its humble beginnings at the Pine Rivers RSL, and how it has grown

Yours Sincerely,

**Allan Thomas JP
National President
APPVA**



The APPVA National Conference held in Geelong, Victoria, in September, 2015.

Front Row (Seated) L-R: WA Coord Glenn Firth; Victorian President Mick Quinn; National Treasurer Rhonda Copeland; National President Allan Thomas, JP; and National Secretary Kevin Ryan, JP.

Back Row (Standing) L-R: NSW Welfare Officer Sandra Vidler; Victorian Pension Officer John McNeil; Victorian Secretary Mark Moles (obscured); Victorian Treasurer Fiona Quinn; David Buckland; NSW Pensions Officer Pauline Maczkowiack; NSW Welfare Officer Liz Hill; Victorian Vice President Mark Horner; National Entitlements Officer Roderic Thompson; Tasmanian Vice President Graeme Barnett; NSW President Bruce Relph, JP; Terry New; National Advisor Paul Copeland OAM, JP; QLD President Chris "Smokey" Dawson; and QLD Branch Secretary Lorraine Dawson.

20 Years of the APPVA

A message of appreciation from the Veteran Members of the Australian Army Training and Support Team East Timor (Atst-Em), on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the APPVA and the 70th Year of Peacekeeping Operations

As the APPVA prepare to celebrate their 20th anniversary and also the 70th year of Peacekeeping operation with the dedication of the National Peacekeepers Memorial on Anzac Avenue Canberra ACT on Thursday the 14th September 2017.

ATST-EM Veterans take this opportunity of thanking the APPVA and in particular Mr Paul Copeland, OAM, JP as the past President of the APPVA and also as the Australian President of the Soldiers of Peace International Association, Oceania Representative, for providing outstanding and tireless dedication by supporting us in our ongoing quest, in order to eventually have our service reclassified to War Like on the 17th October 2007 by Prime Minister the Honourable John Howard AC.

The Ministerial placed with the Government was engineered by Paul Copeland, OAM, JP as the APPVA President and Wayne McInnes (APPVA and ATST-EM Detachment Commander and SPIA Nat Sec) on behalf of ATST-EM veterans, parts of the Ministerial is included with this article.

Also included is a copy of PM John Howard's Letter to Defence Minister Dr Brendan Nelson MP and also a copy of the ADHQ Signal 2nd April 2009, notifying of Reclassification of service to War Like service for ATST-EM. You will notice the Defence signal is dated nineteen months after PM John Howard approved War like reclassification, this is a clear indication of "care factor nil" from those in defence that should know better than to further antagonise

And already highly frustrating and disgraceful drawn out process.

On the 20th May 2011 the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, His Excellency, Dr Jose Ramos Horta, bestowed the honour of the Medal of Merit to the Veteran of ATST-EM who served from 1st March 2001 to 25 July 2005. President Jose Ramos Horta said; I



Captain (Retired) Wayne McInnes, former Detachment Commander to the 1st Infantry Battalion of the East Timor Defence Force Training Team (ATSTEM) and The Prime Minister of Timor Leste Jose Ramos-Horta.

understand the feeling of disappointment over the differentiated treatment applied over those men and woman that have served in my country alongside with soldiers from other countries. I have taken in to consideration the service provided by the members of the ATST-EM in building of our national defence institution and I have decided to award the Timor Leste Medal



Paul Copeland receives the Timor Leste Medal of Merit on behalf of the Australian Training Support Team - East Timor (ATSTEM).

of Merit to the Veteran of the ATST-EM, as Timor Leste recognition for the dedication of the men and woman that served in Timor Leste under the ATST-EM during the critical period of our Nation building. I sincerely hope that this humble act of my country will contribute to enhance their spirit of service and honour their contribution to the people of the state of Timor Leste, signed Jose Ramos Horta, President of The Republic of Timor Leste.

This award of the Medal of Merit from the President of the Republic of Timor Leste was presented to Paul Copeland, OAM, JP as the President

of SPIA Oceania Representative and was accepted on behalf of the Veterans of ASTS-EM at the 2011 9th Year of Independence Celebrations in Dili on the 20th May 2011 where I was also in attendance at the invitation of the President. A copy of the Medal of Merit Certificate is included with this article.

Over the course of the past fifteen years that I have been a member of the APPVA there have been numerous approaches to Government and Defence to right the wrong inflicted upon the veterans of ATST-EM. Clearly there is some way to go to achieve the entitlements approved by PM John Howard, AC of which he has sanctioned in two letters, one 17 October 2007 and again on the 19th April 2011. It is interesting to note that the ATST-EM DCP continue to provide training and other defence development to the Timor Leste Defence Force today, that is almost seventeen years of unbroken service, making ATST-EM the longest running Training Team in Army history.

Also, I reflect back to not so long ago when the veterans community had the confidence of the Minister for Veteran Affairs in the likes of Bruce Billson and Allan Griffin, both men were outstanding ministers and were very approachable and attended ESO meeting on a regular basis. I'm not sure that the same could be said of today's situation, which is a major concern to the ESO and veterans community. There are a lot of very good people working under a difficult situation in DVA, and I like many others hope the department can improve the relationship with current day ESO's.

In closing on behalf of all Veteran members of the ATST-EM we extend to the APPVA our deep and sincere appreciation for the outstanding representation APPVA provide to the whole veteran community and also for the ongoing lobbying of Government for veteran entitlements and wider veteran concerns, "Well Done Team."

**Duty First
Wayne McInnes APPVA Member**

AR Booster Amplifiers Lighten the Load and Increase the Power

AR makes a number of booster amplifiers that are extremely effective at boosting power to make communications clearer and more dependable even at long ranges and in extreme environments. These amplifier systems are very lightweight and easy to use. They're designed for troops on the go that have to move quickly and easily, but also need to have dependable communications.

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The AR-20 is designed for use with the latest modern networking formats like ANW2, WNW and SRW. It also includes Voltage Spike Suppression, Over Temperature Protection, RF sensing, T/R Switching, Automatic Level Control (ALC), Harmonic Filters, Co-Site filters and protection against antenna mismatch. It also has a built-in internal LNA that can be switched on or off by the front panel switch to improve SATCOM receive performance. The amplifier is comprised of rugged 3-piece aluminum case. Optional interface coaxial cables, DC battery cables, and kits are available.

The JITC-Certified AR-50 Booster Amplifier delivers 50 watts of power across the entire 30 – 512 MHz band. It's a portable, lightweight, fully automatic band-switching RF booster amp for multi-band, VHF/UHF Tactical Radio equipment. It works with legacy, proprietary, and emerging waveforms. The AR-50 is SINCGARS, HAVEQUICK, and ECCM compatible. The amplifier includes power supply Voltage Spike Suppression, a DC/DC convertor for wide DC input range, RF sensing, T/R switching, Automatic Level Control (ALC), six automatically switched harmonic filter bands (DAMA capable), and protection against antenna

mismatch and over-temperature. Protection against accidental polarity reversal is provided. The amplifier comprises a rugged 2-piece aluminum case.

For more information about AR Booster Amplifiers, visit us at www.arworld.us/tactical or call 425-485-9000.



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Australia's Humanitarian Peacekeepers

Launch by Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC of Steven Bullard, *In Their Time of Need: Australia's Overseas Emergency Relief Operations 1918-2006*, Vol VI, Official History of Australian Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations, (Cambridge UP, 2017), Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 9 August 2017

This is an admirably comprehensive and lucidly written work of history, reference and tribute, in the finest tradition of all the War Memorial's official histories, and taking its place proudly as Volume VI of the Official History of Australian Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations.

It focuses wholly on humanitarian relief operations not related to conflict – the offshore emergency relief operations which began with a medical response to the impact of Spanish flu in the South Pacific in 1918, were followed by responses to volcano eruptions in Papua New Guinea in 1937 and 1951, but only really took off on any regular basis after 1960, with dozens of significant interventions around the Pacific and South East Asia, and occasionally further afield, since then.

In doing so, the book gives overdue recognition to a hitherto insufficiently-noticed and very much under-appreciated dimension of the role of Australian Defence Force personnel and the civilians who sometimes accompanied them.

It is as comprehensive a work as one could possibly wish for:

Comprehensive in its description of the policy background and framework within which relief has been delivered, both internationally – mainly through the United Nations – and domestically, as those contexts have evolved over the years.

Comprehensive in its meticulous description of each relief operation – the initiating event; the planning of the response; the detailed way in which the response was delivered, with all the hazards and hardships encountered along the way; the way each withdrawal was managed, which often involved navigating a whole new set of local sensitivities; and the overall impact of the operation.

And comprehensive also in capturing superbly not just the letter but the spirit and flavor of these operations: how they impacted not only physically but emotionally on the individuals involved. No one could remain unmoved reading how the death of nine ADF personnel in the crash of the Navy Sea King helicopter Shark Zero Two in the Nias Island operation in 2005 – beautifully commemorated in the book's cover painting – affected so profoundly everyone involved.

While these have been the only such fatalities in the long history of Australian humanitarian relief operations, conditions experienced by the emergency teams were sometimes almost indescribably grueling and harrowing, as one immediately appreciates reading Steven Bullard's incredibly graphic and moving Prologue, describing the aftermath of the Banda Aceh tsunami in 2004. Some extracts:

The morning triage round was often the hardest...Here lies a young woman, her breathing laboring through lungs filled with contaminated water and pus, a vacant stare and the foul odour of infected flesh betraying her slim prospects for survival. Nearby on a makeshift stretcher a man grimaces in pain, his body taut and rigid with tetanus. Further on a young boy barely clings to life, his gasps for air increasingly shallow as his body succumbs to aspiration pneumonia, the result of breathing in water contaminated with sewage, filth and dead bodies ... his prognosis was poor – he would die within the hour.

...The operating room was cramped and hot, with hordes of flies attracted to the pile of rotting flesh cut from limbs and the pools of blood on the floor. Rows of body bags and medical waste thrown into the courtyard were visible through the open doorway, a constant reminder, if one was necessary of the primitive conditions at the hospital...Layers of plastic sheeting were draped over the two operating tables in the room to keep them free of bodily fluids, and were then used to scoop up patients and their mess after surgery ready for the next case.

As Steven records, and I'll quote him again in full because this passage tells us so much about these operations:

For survivors of the 2004 tsunami, their lives would never be the same. So, it was for those who left their comfortable lives in Australia to help. Many would suffer for their generosity of spirit with signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, manifest in changes of behavior, attitudes and relations with family, friends and colleagues. Although the experience of the [Aceh surgical team] was perhaps at the one end of the scale of horror faced by Australians who contributed to disaster responses overseas, they are representative of an attitude that manifest throughout this book, from the first operation in the South Pacific down to the present.

It is an attitude summed up by David Scott, one of the [Aceh] anaesthetists. In answering the question posed by an Indonesian patient, 'Why are you here', Scott replied it was because 'we are neighbours, and neighbours help each other'.

One of the themes running through all the narratives, which makes one pretty proud to be an Australian, is just how often, in how many different environments, the Australian relief teams distinguished themselves from so many others – and were so often recognized for doing so – for just plunging in, rolling up their sleeves and getting on with the job, however demanding, difficult, dirty or outright disgusting, if that job cried out to be done. Cutting through in the process whatever bureaucratic or procedural obstacles that were piled in the way. And doing so in a way that endeared them, if not always to the officials, certainly to the locals they were there to help.

This is consistent with my own observations, as Foreign Minister and then later as head of the International Crisis Group, not so much of disaster relief operations but peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been

involved. One of the things that has constantly delighted me is the extent to which, as I have moved around, I have found that Australian peacekeepers are the toast of just about every local community in which they have ever served, and win us the plaudits of professionals around the world. There just does seem to be something instinctively egalitarian about Australians, whatever their background, education or life experience. There is an absolute willingness to take others as they find them, neither sucking up nor kicking down, responding to the way others behave, not the way they look, or dress or talk, and whatever their station in life. Of course, there will always be exceptions, but this culture does seem to overwhelmingly prevail when Australians are serving in community situations abroad, and it makes me for one feel very proud.

One of the things I found interesting in the book was how often those responsible for mounting these operations nevertheless seemed to struggle to find a policy rationale for them. Clearly not everyone in high Defence places has always been persuaded that disaster relief is a mainstream ADF role. Providing a real-world training opportunity maybe. But defence and foreign affairs policymakers have often strained to find a hard security rationale, particularly for expensive operations conducted in areas far away from perceived defence priority zones, where no obvious threat to traditional Australian interests was involved.

My own answer to this problem has always been that virtue is not only its own reward, but brings other national rewards. Acting to respond to the crying needs of our fellow human beings, like the pursuit of other global goods that may not involve any immediately visible or direct security or economic return, is itself in the national interest. We should think of our national interests as involving not just the familiar and traditional duo of physical security and economic prosperity, but as having a third dimension – our national interest in being, and being seen to be, a good international citizen.

The clincher for me is that good international citizenship doesn't just mean boy -scout good deeds, behaving selflessly because that's the morally right thing to do. In my experience, it also has a hard-headed practical dimension – behaving like a good international citizen reaps real rewards in the diplomatic marketplace, partly because of the reciprocal support it tends to generate for our issues from those we help with theirs, but also because of the real reputational rewards that are then there to be cashed in. Think of those squeaky clean Swedes, who just happen to be one of the world's biggest arms suppliers, because nobody anywhere has any hesitation in dealing with them...

There's no doubt that, as low profile as many of these operations have been to many Australians – something that this excellent book will now help to remedy – they have added immensely to our national reputation for generosity and decency, and we should all be very proud of, and grateful to, those who have contributed to them, not least those who contributed, tragically, their own lives.

I offer my warmest congratulations to the author Steven Bullard for his obviously heroic labours – this is a very big book, involving an immense amount of research; to the series editor, David Horner, for his fine orchestration of the

whole enterprise; and to Cambridge University Press and the Australian War Memorial for their joint publication of this impeccably produced final product, which I am happy to now declare duly launched.

GE9viii17rev

Editor:

I attended [by invitation] the book launch of "The Official History of Australian Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations; In Their Time of Need; Australia's overseas emergency relief operations, 1918-2006, Volume VI" by Dr Steven Bullard, at the Australian War Memorial [AWM] on 9 August 2017. It was pleasing to hear the positive and respectful narratives of Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Service from the AWM Director Dr Brendan Nelson AC; Prof the Hon Gareth Evans AC; and the author Dr Steven Bullard.

The book has been comprehensively crafted together with significant referencing, which enriches the book. The sheer volume of ADF Humanitarian Operations since 1918 up to the present day is an impressive and proud record for the ADF. It is absolutely pleasing to see such dedication from the Author to get the facts correct. It is also a tribute to the many thousands of ADF personnel who have served on these Operations in very hazardous circumstances.

Biography of Professor the Hon Gareth Evans, AC.



Source: <http://www.gevans.org/images.html> Gareth Evans website.

Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA FAIIA has been Chancellor of the Australian National University since January 2010. He was a Cabinet Minister in the Hawke and Keating Labor Governments from 1983-96, in the posts of Attorney General, Minister for Resources and Energy, Minister for Transport and Communications and - from 1988-96 - Foreign Minister. During his 21 years in Australian politics he was Leader of the Government in the Senate (1993-96) and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives (1996-98). From 2000 to 2009 he was President and CEO of the Brussels-based International Crisis Group, the independent global conflict prevention and resolution organisation.

He has written or edited 13 books - including *Incorrigible Optimist: A Political Memoir* (forthcoming, October 2017), *Nuclear Weapons: The State of Play 2015* (co-author), *Inside the Hawke-Keating Government: A Cabinet Diary* (2014), and *The Responsibility to Protect: Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes Once and for All* (2008); has published many newspaper articles and over 100 journal articles and chapters on foreign relations, human rights and legal and constitutional reform; has honorary doctorates from Melbourne, Sydney, Carleton and Queen's Universities;

and has lectured at many universities around the world, including Oxford, Cambridge, Princeton, Yale, Stanford and the Central European University.

He has co-chaired two major International Commissions, on Intervention and State Sovereignty (2000-01), and Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (2008-10), and has been a member of a number of others. He currently Co-Chairs the International Advisory Board of the New-York based Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, and is Patron and Emeritus Convener of the Asia Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

Gareth Evans was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2012 for his "eminent service to international relations, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, as an adviser to governments on global policy matters, to conflict prevention and resolution, and to arms control and disarmament", and in the same year was elected an honorary Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia (FASSA). In 2016 he was awarded by the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Asialink Medal "for long-term commitment to improving Australia-Asia relations". In December 2015, he was made a Companion of the Order of O.R. Tambo by South Africa for his contributions to the anti-apartheid movement. *Foreign Policy* magazine cited him as one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers for 2011 "for making 'the responsibility to protect' more than academic".

In 2010 he was awarded the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute Four Freedoms Award for Freedom from Fear, for his pioneering work on the Responsibility to Protect concept and his contributions to conflict prevention and resolution, arms control and disarmament.

(July 2017)

Volume VI of the Official History of Peacekeeping launched

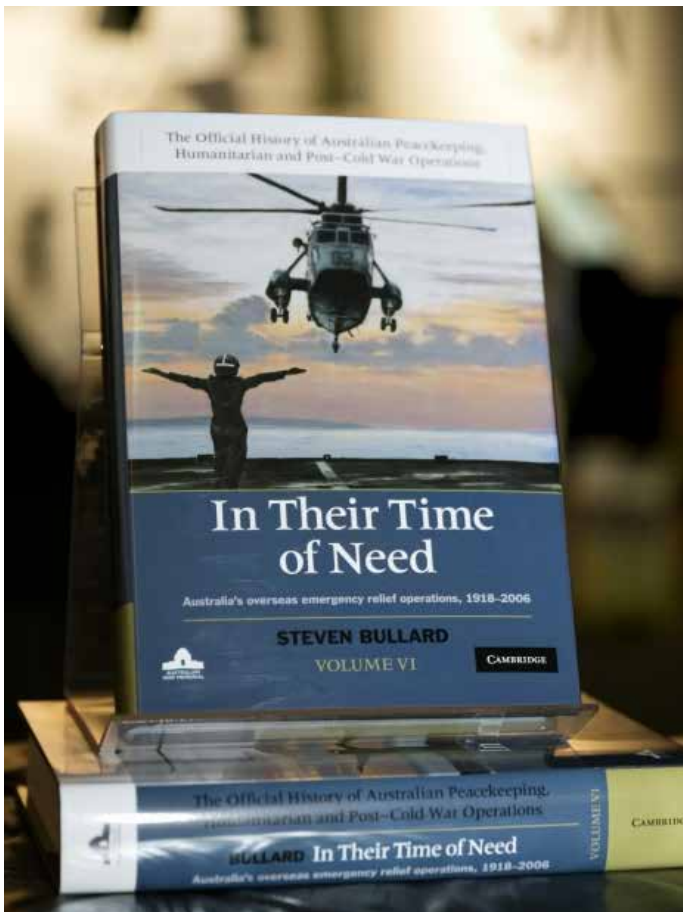
The sixth volume in the Official History of Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations was officially launched today at the Australian War Memorial by Professor the Hon Gareth Evans, Chancellor of the Australian National University.

Written by Dr Steven Bullard, *In their time of need: Australia's overseas emergency relief operations, 1918–2006* speaks to Australia's proud record of providing relief and assistance to its strategic partners, allies, and closest neighbours.

The role and capacity of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has changed significantly in the last few decades. While the defence of Australia and its interests remains primary, ADF personnel are increasingly deployed on international operations such as peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief.



Aussie 484” positions itself to take an under-slung load to deliver much needed supplies to the people on this remote Northern Island of the Republic of Vanuatu in January 1992. The Vanuatu Police Boat RVS TUKORO, which delivered the supplies to the shore is in the background. Source: (C) Paul Copeland



The Official History of Australian peacekeeping, humanitarian and post-Cold War operations - Volume 6.

Australia was one of the first countries to respond to requests for help after the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. *In their time of need* documents this and other emergency relief operations. It explores the decisions taken at various levels to deploy Australia's military on these operations, the changing nature of the ADF's emergency response, and the personal experiences of those who completed these missions.

Dr Bullard has been working on Volume VI since 2007, and said that while it has been a monumental task he is honoured to have had the opportunity to place on the national record the experiences of so many Australians on these missions.

"Writing this book has been a tremendously rewarding experience. Reading about disasters in our region and the personal and official accounts of the subsequent relief operations, often in some of the world's most underdeveloped countries, has given me a new appreciation of the strength and resilience of the human spirit," Dr Bullard said. "I am proud to have been able to document the experiences of men and women who have responded to overseas disasters in Australia's name. My hope is that the public takes this opportunity to recognise the significance of this work of our Defence Force and police services during peace time."

Australia has a long history of providing humanitarian assistance. The earliest relief operation occurred in 1918, when HMAS *Encounter* transported medical supplies and

personnel to Samoa, Fiji, and Tonga after an outbreak of influenza. In more recent times emergency food and medical supplies were transported and army engineers deployed for reconstruction to Port Vila in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) following a devastating cyclone in December 1959.

Director Dr Brendan Nelson said the Memorial plays a vital role in ensuring the continued publication of official military histories, a tradition which began with Australia's first official war correspondent, Charles Bean.

"This work tells the important but perhaps lesser-known story of our defence force's involvement in humanitarian operations since the First World War. It highlights another side of the Australian military experience, one of goodwill and development that continues to change and adapt as the twenty-first century progresses," Dr Nelson said.

This volume recounts the activities of Australia's military forces in response to overseas natural disasters.

The military's involvement in overseas emergency management has focused primarily on the period immediately after disaster strikes: transporting relief supplies, providing medical assistance, restoring basic services and communications and other logistics support. Each chapter centres on a different operation, providing broad context of both the disaster and Australia's political relationship with the affected country and tells the story of the relief operation. Beginning with the 1918–19 influenza epidemic that ravaged the Pacific and culminating with the 2005 Pakistan earthquake, this book covers Australia's response to some of the most catastrophic natural events of the past century.

In their time of need is richly detailed, as Steven Bullard weaves together official government records and archival images with the personal narratives and photographs of those who served. This volume is an authoritative and compelling history of Australia's efforts to help its neighbours.

Hard cover, photographs, maps, 577 pages.

ISBN 978-1-107-02634-6 Hardback.

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A Selfless Act of Caring

How sacrificing personal time – and hair – is improving the lives of orphans in South Sudan



Above: A South Sudanese child who lives at the Juba Orphanage in South Sudan with FLTLT Kelly Francis. Left: FLTLT Francis is an UNMISS Plans Staff Officer at Operation Aslan. Photo: FLTLT Daniel Morris

CPL Sebastian Beurich reports

Mid famine and conflict in South Sudan, an Air Force member on deployment for Operation Aslan is devoting her down time to help change the lives of orphans. Operation Aslan is Australia's support to the United Nations Mission (UNMISS) to help restore peace in Africa's youngest country, with 20 Australians currently deployed in the region. Although their roles as military liaison officers, including aviation and logistics support, keep them busy, they are also making good use of their down time as well. Members of the Australian contingent said they had experienced a culture shock compared to life back home. UNMISS Plans Staff Officer FLTLT Kelly Francis said the country has been engaged in a civil war since 2013 and "Juba (the capital) experienced a violent crisis in July last year". "Because of the ongoing security situation, the country is quite poor and many facilities aren't in the best shape," FLTLT Francis said. "It was a shock to see how the locals live when I first arrived. "However, despite these disadvantages, the South Sudanese people are quite friendly, very welcoming and are wonderful to work with." Unfortunately, the lack of government resources has impacted the Juba Orphanage, whose children sleep

on old and stained mattresses in unhygienic conditions. Members visit the Juba Orphanage Home weekly to deliver fresh fruit, vegetables and, most importantly, joy to the 45 children who live there. It was during one of the visits that a joke quickly turned into a plan to raise money for the orphanage. FLTLT Francis said she had never cut her hair above shoulder length, but was willing to change that. "One of my co-workers came up with the idea originally. He jokingly asked how much it would cost for me to shave my head to raise funds for the orphanage," she said. "Because of the ongoing conflict in South Sudan, the government is stretched for resources, but we don't think children should be disadvantaged because of the fighting. "After some consideration on what could make a difference to the lives of the kids at the orphanage – I settled on \$5000." FLTLT Francis' fund-raiser aims to replace mattresses the children were using and purchase mattress protectors – any money left over would then go towards buying more fresh fruit and vegetables for the orphanage. She will also donate her hair to A charity so it can be used to make wigs for cancer patients. "The kids of the orphanage have so little, but they're always so full of energy," she said. "The orphanage gives them a safe place to sleep and sends them to school, which keeps them from begging on the streets. "They may not have much but if we can give them somewhere comfortable to sleep at night, I think that will make a real difference to their lives." Although the country has had a tumultuous time since declaring independence in 2011, FLTLT Francis said the people were "committed to repairing the hurt caused by the civil war". "Working for the UN is a fantastic experience, but sometimes my role in planning can make me feel far removed from actually making a difference to the mission," she said. "Working with the orphanage helps me feel like we are having a positive impact on the people we are here to help and protect. "By giving the kids a better chance, hopefully one day they will be part of the leadership of South Sudan and take part in the peace building process." If you wish to donate visit FLTLT Francis' GoFundMe page: <https://www.gofundme.com/aussie-juba-orphanage-fund>

Quick thinking saves motorbike rider's life

CPL Max Bree

Six soldiers living Army's core values receive Jonathan Church Ethical Soldier awards, Cpl Max Bree reports. SOLDIERS who came to the aid of mates, accident victims and charities were among those recognised in this year's Jonathan Church Ethical Soldier awards, presented in Canberra on May 17. The award is named in honour of Tpr Jonathan Church, an SASR combat medic who helped save children of parents massacred in Rwanda in 1995. It recognises soldiers who constantly demonstrate Army's core values, who take the initiative, work for the team and display compassion for others. CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell served with Tpr Church in the SASR. "In many circumstances he stepped between the person and the



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danger,” Lt-Gen Campbell said. “I’m delighted we are remembering him and reflecting on what it means to be an Australian soldier in the modern era, the difference one man can make and how it ripples through history, time and society.” Of the six soldiers awarded, Lt Steph Costa and Cpl Steele Thompson were nominated as the award’s ambassadors for the next 12 months. All award recipients are sent on a study tour of overseas battlefields where Australians fought. This year’s recipients travelled to France and Belgium at the end of May. Tpr Church was one of the 18 soldiers killed when two Black Hawk helicopters crashed at High Range near Townsville in 1996.

AS 6RAR’s Cpl Steele Thompson drove his section’s Bushmaster on the winding roads near Canungra, Queensland, a motorbike rider locked eyes on the vehicle while they both rounded a corner. “I’m a motorbike rider and I know that where you look is where your bike goes,” Cpl Thompson said. “I was on the outside of the corner, he was on the inside, and because he was staring at me he reefed his brakes on, started to fishtail and slammed into the side of the PMV.” An embankment to the left meant Cpl Thompson couldn’t swerve to avoid the out of control rider. “I was peaking; I thought he was dead,” Cpl Thompson said. “It was probably the most scared I’ve been. Against a 13-tonne vehicle, a motorbike is not going to come off very well. “I was straight out the top hatch, straight to him to see if he was alright. Then I remembered we were still in the middle of the road and it was a blind corner, so I needed to control the situation.” Cpl Thompson sent soldiers to either side of the corner and, despite having a combat first aider on scene, they didn’t want to move the injured rider, fearing a spinal injury. “An ambulance arrived, cleared him of spinal injuries and later we found out he’d recovered completely,” he said. “The lads with me were excellent, I couldn’t have asked for a better section to be there at the time.” Cpl Thompson received his award for exceptional leadership and judgment in responding to the crash and his later help during a fellow soldier’s personal crisis. He was credited with fostering high morale and devotion to duty while providing exemplary leadership.



Chief of Army LtGen Angus Campbell presents Cpl Steele Thompson, of 6RAR, with a trophy after being named a Jonathon Church Ethical Soldier ambassador.



End of an era on UNMISS

Aussie troops deployed to South Sudan farewell Japanese comrades. THE Japanese government’s recent decision to withdraw its engineer unit from the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) marks the end of a significant association between the ADF and the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Forces. An Australian liaison team comprising a lieutenant colonel and linguist has been attached to the Japanese engineers working in South Sudan since 2012. The team assisted the Japanese with their coordination and communication within UNMISS and other agencies. Lt-Col Karl Hamlyn was the last liaison officer and says despite the obvious cultural and language differences, working with his Japanese counterparts was a rewarding experience. “Following the closure of the Australian accommodation house in January, the liaison team lived permanently in the Japanese camp,” he says. “It was an arrangement the linguist, Capt Stephen Clements, and I found enjoyable thanks to the hospitality of the Japanese soldiers. “The Australian contingent in South Sudan also appreciated the regular Friday afternoon touch football game and a barbecue with their Japanese colleagues. “The attachment was valuable for the ADF Japanese language speakers as it immersed them into a challenging environment and significantly developed their language skills.” The primary role of the Japanese engineers was road maintenance, which was a difficult and essential task in a country with less than 300km of sealed roads. Wherever possible, they also engaged in community work. Most recently the Japanese trained the local South Sudanese UN employees to operate the plant equipment gifted to the UN mission when the engineers departed. While the liaison team’s mission in South Sudan ended on May 25, the job goes on for the rest of the Australians in the Operation Aslan contingent. Lt-Col Hamlyn says there are 20 ADF personnel based in Juba working in various positions with UNMISS Force Headquarters during their six-to-nine month deployment. “This isn’t the end of the ADF’s engagement with our Japanese counterparts,” he says. “Japanese soldiers regularly participate in the annual Exercise Southern Jackaroo, a combined activity involving Australian, US and Japanese infantry units.”

What has RAMSI Achieved?



By Roderick Brazier

After 14 years the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands has drawn to a close. The initiative has been widely praised. So, what has been the outcome?

In the wake of five years of ethnic tensions and a coup in 2000, the problems facing Solomon Islands were many and serious. Law and order had broken down, officials and private citizens were subject to intimidation and violence, and corruption was unfettered. The Government and its institutions had ceased to function effectively. Corruption was widespread. Public finances were in ruin and many of the most basic services such as health and education were not being delivered to the people.

The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) was formed to help lay the foundations for long-term stability and prosperity in Solomon Islands.

When disaster strikes, the world's focus can lock into a region for a short period and then as quickly as it trended on the world's headlines it is forgotten. This can lead to the risk that donors will fatigue or the political will is insufficient to stay the course until the job is done.

This was not the case of Solomon Islands.

Our region, under the auspices of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), has worked together through good times and bad for 14 years to ensure that the job that was started in July 2003 was finished.

So what did RAMSI achieve?

On a recent visit to the Weathercoast, one of the most affected areas, I was told about the commitment Nick Warner, RAMSI's first Special Coordinator, made to the people of Solomon Islands. He said to the terrorised villagers of the Weathercoast that RAMSI would leave behind a transparent, disciplined and professional Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF). It gives me great pleasure to say that this has been achieved.

Solomon Islanders should be proud to say that their Police service is one of the best in the Pacific. It is providing training to other countries in the region and it is sending its officers to support United Nations Peacekeeping

deployments. After 14 years the RSIPF has turned itself around and is now contributing back to the region and the international community that helped it in its time of need.

Australia will continue to support this impressive story through the ongoing deployment of over 40 Australian Federal Police who will continue to mentor and support the RSIPF to ensure its positive path continues.

What occurred in Solomon Islands is certainly one of the saddest periods in our region's history. People are still affected – still scarred – from these events. It will take a long time to rebuild trust in Solomon Islands institutions and in each other but Australia will be here to support every step of the way.

Australia will never shirk from its responsibilities in the Pacific, and the departure of RAMSI is certainly not the departure of Australia. We are here to stay and we will continue to support this country's positive trajectory. Our aid program is close to one billion Solomon dollars a year to provide support for economic growth, infrastructure and essential services. Last year we announced the replacement of Solomon Islands' patrol boats 'Auki' and 'Lata'. We are also close to finalising a security treaty that will permit Australia to support the Solomon Islands in an emergency.

As Solomon Islands says thank you to RAMSI, I feel a big tagiu tumas is also needed for all of the Solomon Islanders who welcomed RAMSI. Several thousand servicemen and women from across the Pacific have fond memories of their time on these islands – many I'm sure are watching this week's celebrations with warm hearts and enduring interest.

His Excellency Roderick Brazier is Australia's High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands. He was previously Deputy Director-General of the Office of National Assessments.

This piece was original published on 30 June on the DFAT Blog. It is republished with permission.

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Solomon Islands after RAMSI

By James Batley

On 30 June this year the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) will come to an end. Established in July 2003, RAMSI has been a feature of life in Solomon Islands for more than a third of its history as an independent country.

While much of what follows is anecdotal, recent visits to Honiara have provided some insight into the mood among Solomon Islanders as the end of RAMSI approaches. The operation has been in a gradual wind-down since 2013 and is now much less visible than it was in earlier years. Even so, RAMSI still looms large in the minds of Solomon Islanders.

RAMSI will be leaving Solomon Islands in an atmosphere of general goodwill. The Solomon Islands government is planning a series of events to mark the end of RAMSI in late June. These will be the occasion for sincere and heartfelt expressions of gratitude for RAMSI's role in restoring the rule of law and the functioning of government in Solomon Islands. Much stress will—rightly—be placed on the regional nature of RAMSI's composition.

Although RAMSI couldn't have been mounted or sustained without Australian funding and personnel, it was the participation of all of Solomon Islands' Pacific neighbours in RAMSI that gave it its particular character, and lent it genuine legitimacy in the eyes of Solomon Islanders. RAMSI's positive reputation has, among other things, been underpinned by a record of good behaviour and conduct on the part of its personnel.

Alongside those warm feelings, though, it isn't hard to detect a level of anxiety among ordinary Solomon Islanders as to what might come next. The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was disarmed at the very outset of RAMSI and it was only on 8 May this year that elements of the force were rearmed, in anticipation of RAMSI's departure and following extensive training and preparation. Solomon Islands police were seen to play an aggressively partisan role during the euphemistically-described 'Tensions' that preceded RAMSI's deployment. Despite extensive leadership and generational turnover since then, the RSIPF has struggled to regain the trust of the general population. For many Solomon Islanders the jury remains out on the competence and impartiality of their own police.

Some Solomon Islanders say they fear that once RAMSI is off the scene, weapons that were hidden throughout the RAMSI period will once again play into local politics. Recent crimes, in particular the horrific double-murder of a Solomon Islands couple of Chinese ethnicity at Easter, have done nothing to settle nerves about a post-RAMSI future. Earlier this month, clashes between long-term squatters and local land developers on Honiara's crowded and only semi-regulated periphery were well-handled by the local police, but they've nevertheless served as a reminder of unresolved and intractable issues that continue to generate social stresses in Solomon Islands.

Popular faith in Solomon Islands' state institutions more broadly is yet to recover from the Tensions period. Complaints about corruption remain commonplace. Cynicism about politicians and the political process appears alarmingly widespread. This is despite (or perhaps because of) the fact that Solomon Islanders are increasingly dependent on the goodwill of their individual MPs through the distribution of 'Constituency Development Funds' which have risen to record levels (only matched, on a global scale, by Solomon Islands' neighbour Papua New Guinea).

New life has also been breathed into a longstanding constitutional debate with calls for a radical redistribution of resources via a shift to a federal system of government, which would see most revenues going to proposed new 'states'. Given the interest of national politicians in retaining control over national resources (and their control over any changes to the Constitution), that's unlikely to happen but it illustrates a sense in which Solomon Islands itself remains a work in progress, 39 years after independence and 14 years after the arrival of RAMSI.

That isn't to suggest that RAMSI is leaving Solomon Islands in a national funk. After all, some level of nervousness is only natural after such a long intervention. There's no doubt that RAMSI is leaving Solomon Islands better equipped to manage the many challenges it continues to face. The arrest in April this year of a government minister on corruption charges must go at least some way to countering perceptions of impunity among Solomon Islands political class. At the same time, it isn't hard to meet impressive young and emerging leaders in many walks of life. Beyond government, we shouldn't forget the critical role played by local institutions, and in particular the churches, in providing structure to people's lives and indeed in delivering services that the state can't provide.

After RAMSI departs, Australia will still provide extensive advisory and training assistance to the RSIPF, although Australian police advisers will no longer enjoy direct policing power. In a significant move, Australia is negotiating a treaty with Solomon Islands which would allow Australia to provide assistance 'in the case of a major security crisis in the future'.

As RAMSI draws to a close, Solomon Islanders will hope that such assistance is never again required. But they can be assured that it will be available.

Author: James Batley is a Distinguished Policy Fellow at the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program at the ANU. He served as Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands from 1997-1999 and as Special Coordinator of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands from 2004-2006.

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Pacific Aerospace in New Zealand are the new manufacturers of the E-350 Expedition. This aircraft is a real complement to the P-750 XSTOL operating out in the bush off semi-prepared air strips and carrying a good payload over a long distance. The E-350 evolved from the Bush Hawk manufactured by an old aircraft company called Found Aircraft in Canada and was built specially for rugged bush flying but lent itself to be pushed into other markets.

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This makes the Expedition very appealing for use out of ranches, farms and other underdeveloped areas. Adding to its versatility is its ability to be equipped with floats. Every Expedition comes standard with float attachment

brackets on its steel frame, Y-brace and lifting hard points.

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The E350 is by far the most versatile aircraft on the market today. A STOL aircraft, a family cruiser, a heavy hauler, a utility aircraft, an amphibious aircraft, a backcountry aircraft all wrapped into one.



Australian Army officer Awarded Afghan Military Medal

MAJ Conrad Walsh, deployed to Afghanistan with Australian Defence Force (ADF) Kabul Garrison General Command Advisor Team 2 (KGGC AT-2) has been awarded the Afghan Ministry of Interior Medal of Honour.

MAJ Walsh was presented the medal for his outstanding mentoring and commitment to the development of KGGC Public Affairs and Information Operations capability.

The award came as a surprise to MAJ Walsh, who has spent the past eight months on Operation HIGHROAD embedded with the three star headquarters as part of the ADF KGGC AT-2.

"I'm very humbled, it was a bit of a surprise given the fact that I've not heard of any Australian receiving the award, it's certainly not something I was expecting," MAJ Walsh said.

"I'm very appreciative of them having valued my contribution and glad I could have done it."

MAJ Walsh hopes the inroads made during his time as Public Affairs, Information Operations and Cultural and Religious Affairs Advisor is carried on by his mentee.

"I'd like to wish my mentee well for the future and hope he perseveres with all the work we have achieved together

in establishing the media centre and Intelligence Fusion Centre at KGGC," MAJ Walsh said.



Commander Kabul Garrison General Command, Lieutenant General Ahmadzai (right) presents Australian Army Officer MAJ Conrad Walsh with the Afghan Ministry of Interior Medal of Honour on 2/6/17



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Resolution 2272:

Holding UN Peacekeepers Accountable

It is a little over a year since the UN Security Council took action to combat sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers. Resolution 2272 offered the first disciplinary mechanism for addressing sexual misconduct, but did it go far enough?

By Dr Sarah Smith

In March 2016, the United Nations Security Council adopted its first resolution—Resolution 2272—aimed at preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by those under UN mandate. The development and eventual adoption of this resolution was in response to focused media attention on several allegations made against Peacekeepers in the UN's peace operation in the Central African Republic, as well as evidence that those accused largely enjoy immunity, facing little if any punitive action.

While it is not yet possible to evaluate the implementation of Resolution 2272, given its recent adoption, it is possible critically to evaluate both the resolution's text and the mechanism for prevention it established. The text of Resolution 2272 characterises SEA as a problem for the legitimacy of the UN, atomising and seeking to remove SEA from a broader institutional culture—one that prioritises militarised and patriarchal forms of security. It does not challenge the status quo that sustains a lack of accountability for SEA.

While addressing SEA through technical measures such as adding more women to missions as peacekeepers, repatriating Peacekeepers or trying to enforce zero tolerance may reduce the frequency of occurrences in some instances, ultimately what is essential is to increase the value of gender equality among all peacekeepers. Technical responses to SEA conform to institutional norms rather than challenge them, yet it is these norms that contribute to the problem of SEA and the ongoing lack of accountability.

UN responses to sexual exploitation and abuse

The UN's response to cases of SEA by Peacekeepers coalesces around three pillars: prevention, enforcement and remedial action. In 2003, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan released a report, known as 'the Bulletin', which instituted a "zero-tolerance" mandate for SEA in peace operations, and which continues to frame responses to SEA. Although it is continually emphasised, zero tolerance has neither improved accountability nor reduced the number of allegations of SEA, judged in terms of reported numbers of allegations and punitive measures meted out by either the UN or troop-contributing countries.

The lack of accountability that exists for the perpetration of SEA at all levels within the UN has been linked to gendered security ideals that see (masculine) militarised security



dominate over critical and feminist readings of insecurity in post-conflict settings.

Since the release of the Bulletin in 2003, the UN secretary-general has been obliged to report to the General Assembly on the number of allegations of SEA for each mission in the previous year and the status of investigations into those allegations. In 2015, there were 99 allegations in total, 69 of which were made against staff attached to peace operations; the remaining 30 allegations came from across UN agencies, funds and programs.

Adoption of Resolution 2272

The opening paragraphs of Resolution 2272 "express deep concern about the serious and continuous allegations and under-reporting" of SEA in missions by UN and non-UN personnel. The text of the resolution notes the negative impact that "serious and continuous" allegations of SEA have on the credibility of the UN and its ability to implement peacekeeping mandates. The resolution reaffirms zero tolerance but also mandates a new mechanism as a response to SEA: the repatriation of entire military contingents and police units that contain individuals who have allegations made against them. The secretary-general can then replace those repatriated units with another from a contributing country that "has upheld standards of conduct and discipline and appropriately addressed allegations against or confirmed acts, if any... by its personnel".

The resolution not only confirms the responsibility of the secretary-general to enforce accountability measures and commit to the prevention of SEA by removing perpetrators from peace operations, but also reaffirms the role of member states and national jurisdictions in prosecuting perpetrators and enforcing accountability. It is the secretary-general's role to assess whether contributing countries have taken the appropriate steps and, if not, then to trigger the repatriation of units. Troop-contributing countries are tasked with strengthening pre-deployment training to prevent SEA, conducting investigations into allegations and, in turn and where necessary, ensuring that individuals are held accountable.

The resolution thus represents a change in the UN's response to SEA, as well as the expectations placed on troop-contributing countries, beyond a lackadaisical implementation of zero tolerance.

While the adoption and text of resolution 2272 sets an important mechanism to enhance accountability for SEA in peace operations, it nonetheless embodies some important limitations. One limitation is simply in understanding and defining the exact parameters of the text. The language of 'credible' differs from how allegations and investigations are generally reported on within the UN, with reference to 'substantiation' (or unsubstantiated allegations) more common. Moreover, the resolution fails to account for civilian personnel both within and outside peace operations. Given that less than half the allegations in 2015 were made against 'uniformed' personnel the mechanism to repatriate only uniformed contingents from peace operations is demonstrably insufficient. To prevent SEA fully and protect populations from perpetrators necessitates response mechanisms that, at the least, capture both uniformed and civilian staff.

The resolution does not represent marked progress in terms of formal justice for survivors, even when and if repatriation does occur. Removal or repatriation on its own represents neither prevention nor accountability. Certainly, there is an immediate effect of removing perpetrators from the environment in which they are committing abuses. Yet how it ensures accountability, feeds into punitive responses or improves the investigative capacities available is unclear, even if the opaqueness of the terms of the resolution is set aside.

In the past, when individual perpetrators of SEA have been repatriated this can contribute to the silence surrounding the issue, as the perpetrator is no longer accessible to their accuser or to investigating units (both local and UN), and information on what happens after repatriation is not provided to communities at mission sites. Where an investigation is conducted, it rests with the troop-contributing country to act on it, and to provide and communicate outcomes to those who report allegations. Accountability to local populations is absent in the resolution's text, and the legitimacy and image of the UN as an institution are emphasised.

Beyond rhetoric

The adoption of Resolution 2272 in 2016 is noteworthy in that it is the first time that the UN Security Council has devoted an entire resolution to SEA by peacekeepers. Inherent in the sending home of whole contingents is a preparedness to name and shame countries whose Peacekeepers abuse. Given how such processes have been politicised, it is important that the implementation of Resolution 2272 does not succumb to the same political machinations that have seen a deep reluctance to enforce accountability for SEA by peacekeepers, especially for those in senior positions, in the past.

However, there are also limitations in terms of its depth and the forms of accountability it offers. It pertains only to uniformed units, which are only a portion of those that have allegations made against them throughout the UN



system, and sets ill-defined thresholds, such as "systemic and widespread", which are not self-evident.

The perspective of those at mission sites is also noticeably absent in the text of the resolution, reflecting the fact that the resolution was drafted and adopted only in the face of widespread international condemnation of SEA that caused 'embarrassment' for the organisation, even though the prevalence of SEA in peace operations was known previously.

Moreover, Resolution 2272 does not address the gendered nature of insecurity in post-conflict zones or the fact that peace operations themselves produce hierarchical gender relations. It is in this context that consistent reports of SEA have been ignored, and the reluctance to name and shame contributing countries is seen to have become a rational exercise in ensuring the continuance of the status quo of peace operations.

At the very least, the adoption of Resolution 2272 represents a rhetorical commitment: some evidence of institutional steps towards improved transparency and accountability. The practice of Resolution 2272 will need to move beyond rhetoric, however, if prevention, the stated aim of the resolution, is to be achieved.

Dr Sarah Smith is a lecturer on gender and international relations at Monash University. Her research is focussed on peace, conflict and gender.

This article is an edited extract from a paper published in the Australian Journal of International Affairs on 10 April 2017. It may be accessed in its unabridged form here.

Published July 10, 2017 Retrieved from: http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australian_outlook/resolution-2272-holding-un-peacekeepers-accountable/ on 15 July 2017.



UN Chief Guterres: Talks on Cyprus Reunification have Failed



A U.N. police peacekeeper stands guards at a main Ladras or Lokmaci crossing point that connect the Greek Cypriot south and the Turkish Cypriots breakaway north, during a peace protest inside the U.N. buffer zone in... (AP Photo/Petros Karadjias)

Nicosia, Cyprus (AP) — High-level talks aiming at reunifying Cyprus have failed to reach an agreement, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared Friday, again dashing hopes that the island's 43-year ethnic split could be healed.

Guterres made the announcement after marathon, U.N.-sponsored talks concluded at a Swiss resort in the early hours of Friday.

"Unfortunately...an agreement was not possible and the conference was closed without the possibility to bring a solution to this dramatically long-lasting problem," Guterres told reporters.

"I want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the leaders of the two communities and to wish the best to all Cypriots north and south."

But Guterres didn't entirely shut the door on any renewed, U.N.-assisted attempt to get the island's Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and the leader of the breakaway Turkish Cypriots Mustafa Akinci back to the negotiating table again.

"The conference is closed," said Guterres. "That doesn't mean that other initiatives cannot be developed to address the Cyprus problem."

Echoing Guterres, Cyprus government spokesman Nicos Christodoulides said the failed result wasn't "the end of the road" for peace efforts.

"The existing, unacceptable situation can't be Cyprus' future and the president will redouble his efforts," Christodoulides said.

Also participating in the talks were Cyprus' three 'guarantors' — Greece, Turkey and former colonial ruler Britain.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the talks' collapse was owed to a Greek and Greek Cypriot insistence for Ankara to pull out all of its troops from the island and for military intervention rights to be abolished.

"For Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot side it is not acceptable for troops to be withdrawn," he told reporters.

Security arrangements for an envisioned federal Cyprus were the linchpin to a reunification deal.

The issue revolves around the more than 35,000 troops that Turkey has kept in the island's breakaway Turkish Cypriot north since 1974, when it invaded following a coup mounted by supporters of uniting Cyprus with Greece.

Greek Cypriots in the island's internationally recognized south perceive the Turkish soldiers as a threat and want them to leave. The island's minority Turkish Cypriots want them to stay as their protectors.

Christodoulides faulted Turkey's "obsession" with having a troop presence in Cyprus and the right to militarily intervene. He said Turkish positions on other key issues deviated from a U.N. framework and "were such that they could not be accepted under any circumstances."

Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias posted on his personal Twitter account that it wasn't possible to accept Turkey's right to militarily intervene on the whole of Cyprus.

"The dream and the plan for solving the Cyprus problem remain alive," said Kotzias.

Other key disagreements were on how much territory would make up the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot federal zones.

Greek Cypriots sought for the town of Morphou to be returned to Greek Cypriot administrative control so a large number of displaced people could swiftly reclaim lost homes and property. Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots offered only part of the town.

Another key difference was Turkey's insistence that a peace accord grant Turkish nationals the right to relocate and transfer money, services and goods to a reunified Cyprus. Greek Cypriots were reluctant to cede unregulated access to Turkish nationals over concerns that the small island of 1.1 million people would be overwhelmed economically and demographically.

Menelaos Hadjicostis

Retrieved from: <http://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/official-cyprus-peace-talks-fail-to-reach-agreement/> on 8 July 2017.



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Final Farewell to Private Jesse Bird

Afghanistan Veteran – Fighter for Peace and Fighter for his Veteran Entitlements.

FOR months Karen and John Bird have campaigned for justice for their son, a post-traumatic stress-affected war veteran they say took his own life after being turned down for compensation.

But yesterday, the two grieving parents took a moment with Jesse Bird's closest mates to reflect on the good times and properly say goodbye to their son.

The TSS graduate and accomplished swimmer and surf life saver's friends paddled out from Northcliffe Surf Life Saving Club at Surfers Paradise to scatter the 32-year-old's ashes in the surf.

Mr Bird said the day was a fitting tribute for a hero, whose death was avoidable.

"If you had to have something like that it was a great send-off," he said. "A perfect day, the water was really clear and just a lot of good family and friends there.

"It added a bit of closure from the physical side ... he'll always be with us."

Private Jesse Bird was under severe financial stress after leaving the Army because he was unable to work due to war-related injuries.

Those injuries included post-traumatic stress disorder, major depressive disorder, alcohol abuse and a shoulder condition.

The 32-year-old's family was paying the rent for his Melbourne apartment while he lobbied DVA for financial support.

Despite repeated requests, dating back to August 2016, Jesse wasn't receiving any incapacity payments.

Combat veteran Jesse Bird pleaded with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to urgently help him, warning he was suicidal just days before his death, according to official records.

But the Department did not budge and in June, after losing his 18-month battle for compensation for war-related injuries, Jesse took his own life.

Disturbingly, money from Veterans' Affairs finally came through after his death and his parents have asked the department for an explanation.

His devastated family is campaigning for an urgent overhaul to how DVA handles compensation claims to prevent more veteran suicides.

His mother, Karen Bird, told 7.30 her son's file shows his concerns were not taken seriously.

"It triggers a really emotional response, to realise my boy was in so much pain," Ms Bird said.

"He obviously felt that he couldn't contact us for more money and he was really just pushed into the corner and

he didn't see any other way out."

DVA records obtained exclusively by 7.30 show the Afghan war veteran made an official complaint about his poor treatment.

A few weeks before the complaint, Bird's claim for permanent impairment was rejected because his condition wasn't deemed severe and he was asked to wait to be reviewed again in six months.

But Jesse couldn't wait.

On June 22, he told the DVA in his complaint:

"I need real help, I have submitted all required paperwork to receive incapacity payments.

"The person who has been assigned to my case just doesn't care and cannot wait to get off the phone to me.

"I have come close to becoming another suicide statistic.

"I've done my time and now I need your help, please."

The Department's records say a staff member called Jesse the next day to explain the delay and they then lodged an internal request to have his request for financial support treated as a high priority.

But DVA wasn't treating it as a priority. It had already received urgent emails in March and again in June by Reece Ordner from Geelong RSL, who had been assisting Jesse.

"Since ceasing employment on 23 March, 2016, resulting from suffering chronic psychiatric conditions, his parents have been supporting him financially ... could you please evaluate this claim urgently," Mr Ordner wrote.

Jesse's step-father, John Bird, said his official file confirmed the family's worst fears.

"We just couldn't believe that he had pleaded for help like he did because, you know, for Jesse to plead for help, and he mentioned the suicide aspect, Jesse didn't do that," Mr Bird said.

"Basically, they [DVA] didn't do anything about it."

Just four days after a DVA staff member called Jesse, he



Family and friends at Surfers Paradise beach.
Picture: Mike Batterham



**Karen and John Bird talking about their son.
Picture: Jerad Williams**

dressed in his army jumper, displayed his Veterans' Affairs paperwork prominently around his apartment and ended his life.

He had only \$5.20 in his bank account.

Incredibly, after Jesse's death, DVA drafted a letter stating he was entitled to incapacity payments, repeatedly tried to call him and even made an initial payment to the deceased soldier's bank account.

His official complaint form also said his issue was successfully resolved.

This was all done even after the family claims the department was notified of his death.

"All of the family's reaction was, 'This was a cover up, they've done this to cover themselves'," Mr Bird said.

"I think if someone has done that [after his death] they should be disciplined and, let's face it, they shouldn't be dealing with affected veterans, if that's their modus operandi."

In a meeting with Veterans' Affairs Minister Dan Tehan and his department last week, the Bird family pushed for answers about what had gone wrong.

"It appeared to us that they couldn't believe that we'd caught on so quickly to the anomalies in their file," Mr Bird said.

"They weren't sure of the dates and they weren't even sure of the amount that they'd transferred [to Jesse]."

Ms Bird said: "Mr Tehan had a very troubled look on his face and he said it seems that Jesse has been poorly handled by DVA."

Mr Tehan has ordered an official review of Jesse's case, which is currently underway.

In a statement, the Minister told 7.30:

"I have met with Mr and Mrs Bird and given them an assurance I would deal directly with them and not provide commentary through the media. I have instructed Defence and DVA to conduct an urgent review of their handling of this case and I have arranged to meet with the Bird family at the end of the month to discuss the outcomes of the review. I will not be commenting further until that meeting takes place."

Family and friends say Jesse spent the best part of seven

years dealing with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to recognise his post-traumatic stress disorder and to put him on a pension so he could move on with his life and become a teacher after deployment to Afghanistan in 2009 and '10.

Since Jesse took his life on June 27, his parents have campaigned hard for significant changes to the Department of Veterans' Affairs claims procedures.

They have requested a reversal of the rejection of Jesse's claim for compensation, a commitment to treating and financially supporting all veterans suffering from PTSD and a promise that all military personnel would be assessed on discharge for mental and emotional scars.

"Jesse structured his suicide as a protest about his treatment from the DVA and that was obvious from everyone at the time," Mr Bird said.

"It's our duty as parents to continue that. We couldn't just let it go.

"We don't want any other veterans to be pushed into the same corner."

The Birds met with Minister for Veterans Affairs Dan Tehan last month and are expecting a response regarding an inquiry into the handling of Jesse Bird's claim by the end of August.

A Department of Veterans' Affairs spokeswoman said the Government had already improved services offered to veterans suffering from conditions like PTSD.

"The Government is now providing access to free and immediate treatment for all mental health conditions for veterans who have served full-time for one day in the Australian Defence Force," she said.

Several more veterans have taken their lives since Jesse's death.

The ABC 7:30 Report that covered the story on Jesse's situation. Link: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-18/jesse-bird-warned-he-was-suicidal-days-before-his-death/8816978>

If you or someone you know of a veteran or a former Australian Defence Force [ADF] member, who is in need of crisis or suicide prevention support, please call VVCS on 1800 011 046. www.vvcs.gov.au

Sources: ABC 7:30 Report, 18 August 2017, retrieved: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-18/jesse-bird-warned-he-was-suicidal-days-before-his-death/8816978> on 18 August 2017.

"Gold Coast soldier Jesse Bird's last goodbye after lengthy struggle with post-traumatic stress" by Jack Harbour, Gold Coast Bulletin, August 7, 2017 12:00am.

Editor: *The Senate Inquiry into DVA and Veterans' Suicide officially closed on 15 August 2017. A Report with recommendations from the Senate Inquiry was released on the same day. The Link for this Report is: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/VeteranSuicide/Report*

The link for the Senate FADT Inquiry into DVA and Veteran Suicides Submissions is: http://www.aph.gov.au/sitecore/content/Home/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/VeteranSuicide/Submissions

Note particularly submissions numbered: 317; 441; 445; 448 (Mother of SPR Jason Grant); 449; and 455.

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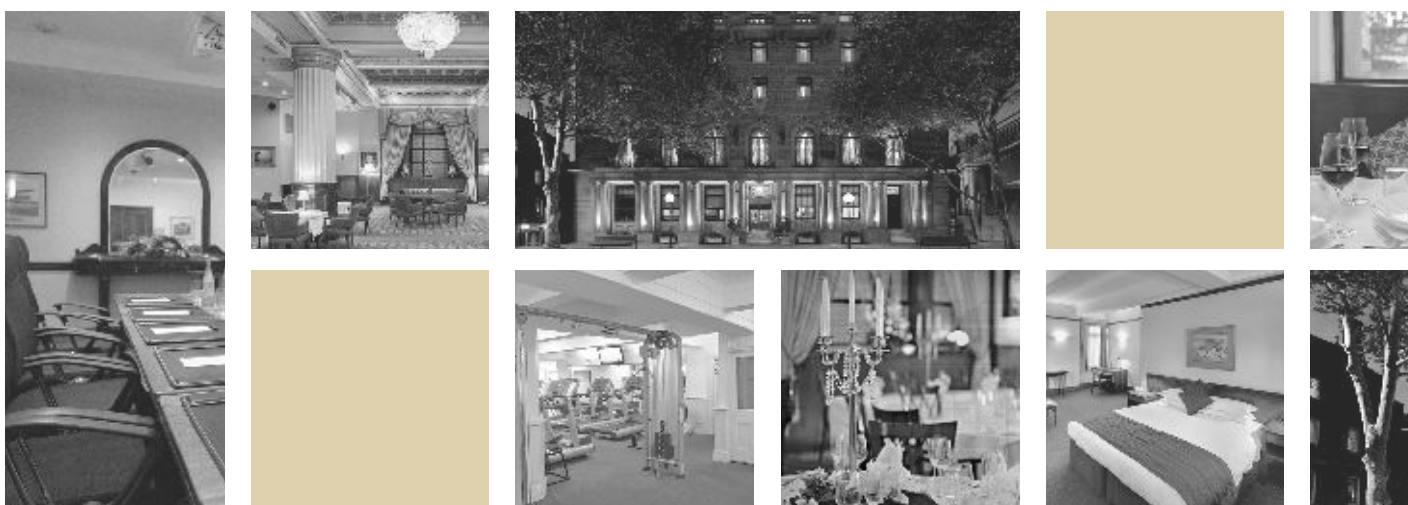
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Task Group Taji

Iraqi Army 53rd Brigade Reboots with Task Group Taji

By Captain Michael Trainor

The scorching Iraqi summer could not stop the Iraqi Army's 53rd Brigade who endured a roasting 48 degrees to train at the Taji Military Complex near Baghdad.

Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 53rd Brigade are conducting reset training – rebooting their military skills during a brief period of reorganisation.



Australian Army officer Captain Jordan Den Dulk conducts a Laws of Armed Conflict lesson.

Their current lessons include the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) and Combat Basic Life Saving First Aid training with Australian and New Zealand instructors from Task Group Taji rotation 5 (TGT-5).

Task Group Taji is a combined force of 300 Australian and 100 New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Okra.

TGT-5 Legal Officer, Captain Jordan den Dulk, said the LOAC training was very well received by the trainees.

"I am sobered by the stories of the Iraqi Security Forces, many of these Iraqi soldiers I have trained have personally witnessed the brutality of Da'esh," CAPT den Dulk Said.

"They are aware of what constitutes appropriate and legitimate use of force against Da'esh.

"These briefs are an opportunity to reinforce those key principles."

As part of the Brigade's reset training, the trainees have also undertaken basic life saving first aid training which is designed to enhance soldier survivability on the battlefield.

Task Group Taji Medic, SGT Matthew Baker said the Iraqi Soldiers were appreciative of the techniques and new equipment they were trained on.

"It was fantastic to see how quickly the Iraqi Soldiers were able to apply the techniques," SGT Baker said.

"It has been a hard-won fight for the Iraqi Army in places



Iraqi Army soldiers from the Officer and Junior Leadership Course combat load their tourniquets during a Basic Life Saving Course.

like Mosul, but they recognise that combat medical training has given them a combat edge over Da'esh.

"They have seen first hand the benefits of effective live saving medical training."

As part of the basic life-saving medical training, soldiers were introduced to the new combat tourniquets and field wound dressings which have already saved countless lives in combat operations.

Commander of Task Group Taji, Colonel Steve D'arcy, said providing combat support training such as LOAC and basic life saving medical training is critical to the ongoing successes of the Iraqi Security Forces.

"The Iraqi Army has proven itself to be a legitimate and capable fighting force," COL D'arcy said.

"Continued training in these areas reinforces those aspects and supports their force sustainment into the future."

The 53rd Iraqi Army Brigade will continue to train with Task Group Taji at the Taji Military Complex until August when the Brigade will move out to continue security operations against Da'esh.



An Australian Army soldier watches as Iraqi Army soldiers apply a tourniquet during the Basic Life Saving Course.

Hasting Nurse Lands in Iraq



It's not every day a nurse wears combat body armour to work, but for Hasting local and Army Reserve Nursing Officer Lieutenant Peter Thompson, it's now an everyday event.

LT Thompson is currently serving with the Taji Military Hospital as a Nursing Officer with Task Group Taji rotation 5 (TGT-5), a combined force of 300 Australian and 100 New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Okra.

Back home he lives in Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula and works as a Nurse Practitioner with his wife Natasha who is a GP.

He said he is excited about working as an Army Nursing Officer in Iraq with a highly-trained team of Australian and New Zealand medical staff at the Taji Military Complex near Baghdad.

"I am very proud to be taking part in this type of a mission," LT Thompson said.

"It gives me the opportunity to utilise my civilian nursing skills in the military environment and do something for my country."

As a Nurse at the Taji Military Hospital, he is responsible for maintenance of equipment and the general and emergency medical care of patients admitted to the hospital.

"All Nursing Officers have additional roles in the event of large scale emergencies and trauma cases which requires life support skills," he said.

"There is an expectation in the Army that we can perform clinical tasks independently.

"It's such an honour and a privilege to be here doing what we've been trained to do."

He said that while he is enjoying the deployment, he is looking forward to getting back home.

"I am really looking forward to getting home and spending time with the family, catching up with friends and getting back on the bike."

Iraqi Army Takes Aim with Mortars



Photos: Iraqi army soldiers assemble a mortar at Camp Taji, Iraq, July 2, 2017.

It may not be the biggest weapon in the Iraqi Army's inventory but for these new Iraqi mortar men it will certainly deliver a punch on the battlefield.

Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 53rd Brigade are currently in training at the Taji Military Camp, located 20km northwest of Baghdad, undertaking collective and specialist skills training under the guidance of Australian and New Zealand trainers from Task Group Taji 5.

The challenging course is designed to qualify Iraqi Army soldiers to employ the 120mm Mortar weapon system to conduct lethal fire missions in support of front line combat operations.



Officer Commanding Task Group Taji Rotation 5, Colonel Steve D'arcy said the Iraqi Army is becoming increasingly sophisticated and capable at using coordinated firepower to defeat Da'esh.

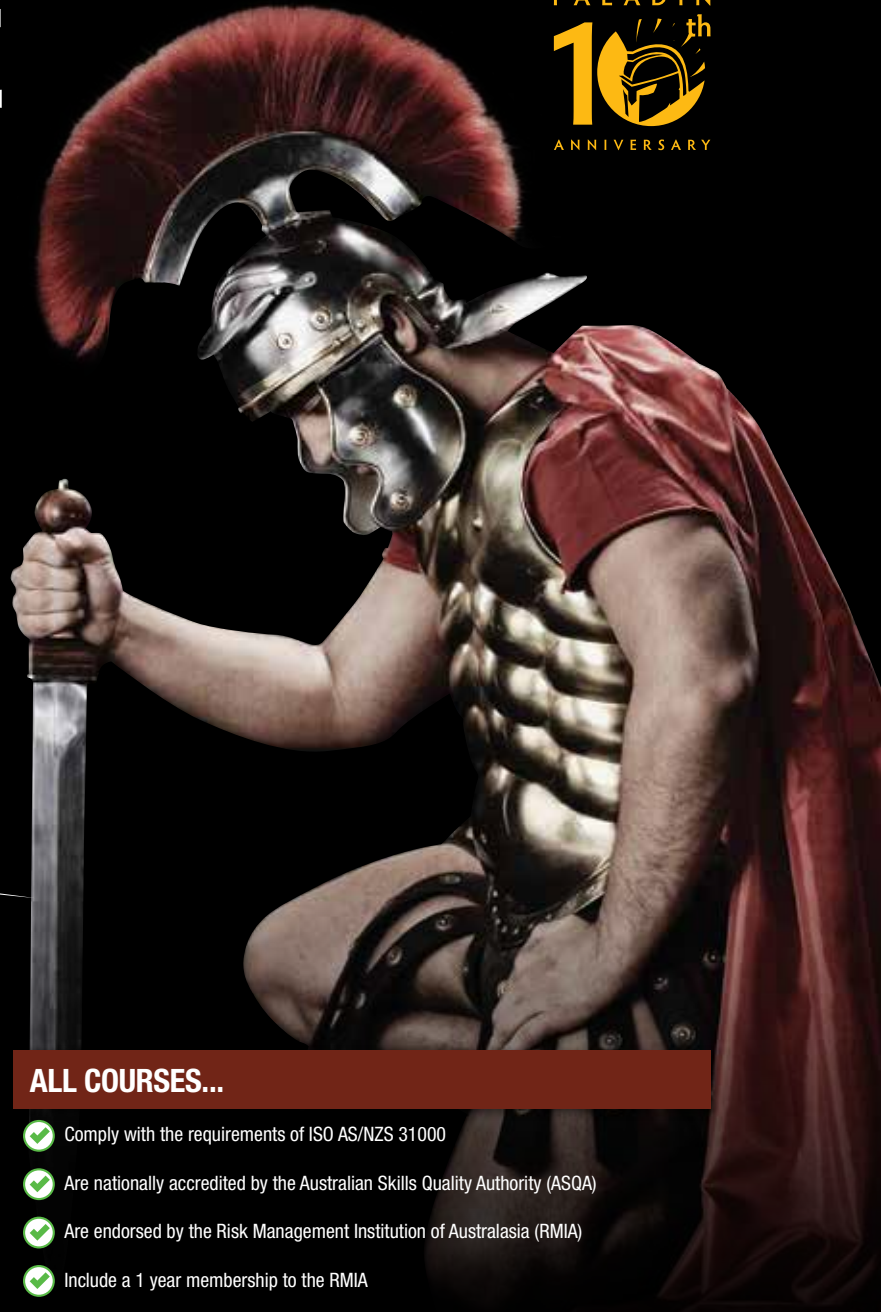
"We are seeing the Iraqi Army leverage its recent war fighting experiences to evolve into a force capable of coordinating their firepower assets such as mortars, artillery and air support to great effect," COL D'arcy said.

"We are in a prime position to assist with speciality skills such as the use of longer range support weapons to enhance the Iraqi Army's capability."

Throughout the course students are trained how to use

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the weapon in support of infantry and other ground units to disrupt and neutralise enemy targets.

This involves operating the weapon as part of close knit team.

Mortar Course chief instructor Captain Mark Hynes said the Iraqi Army students have taken to the course with enthusiasm.

“The Iraqi Army is keen to up-skill their people in the use of their weapons and they are very appreciative to learn from us,” CAPT Hynes said.

“At our level we are focused on teaching the students how to enhance their accuracy and how to better engage Da’esh targets.”

Task Group Taji rotation 5 is combined force of more than 300 Australian and 100 New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Okra.

MASCAS Exercise Delivers Realistic Scenarios to Taji Medicos

AT first glance you would think the Mass Casualty exercise for Task Group Taji personnel was the “real thing”.

While the injuries are fake, the soldiers taking part are Australian and New Zealand medical staff from Task Group Taji’s Health Company deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Okra.

The exercise was designed to test the response time and emergency care procedures in the unlikely event of the Task Group incurring casualty numbers that overwhelmed usual resources.

Officer Commanding the Task Group Taji Health Company, Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Flindt, said while the exercise scenario is highly unlikely, the Task Group maintains an emergency care capability that is well-prepared, well-equipped and well-staffed to manage any scenarios that may be encountered.



“We are prepared for any emergency or eventuality that may arise during our deployment to Iraq and we ensure this by regularly testing our capability,” LTCOL Flindt said.

“The Task Group has some of the best medical professionals in Australia and New Zealand at our disposal.”

Director of Clinical Services at the Taji Military Hospital, Lieutenant Colonel Ben Buston said the hospital is well-drilled and well-prepared for a range of medical emergencies and is supported by additional facilities in the theatre of operations.

“We have in support the US military hospital in Baghdad which is able to provide more complex emergency care if needed,” LTCOL Buston.

“A key priority for us in the event of a large scale medical emergency is the safe transfer of selected patients to the US hospital in Baghdad via Aero-Medical Evacuation (AME).”

“At our level we are focussed on initial stabilisation, damage control surgery and preparation for transfer of patients by rotary wing AME.”

Task Group Taji rotation 5 is combined force of more than 300 Australian and 100 New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Okra.

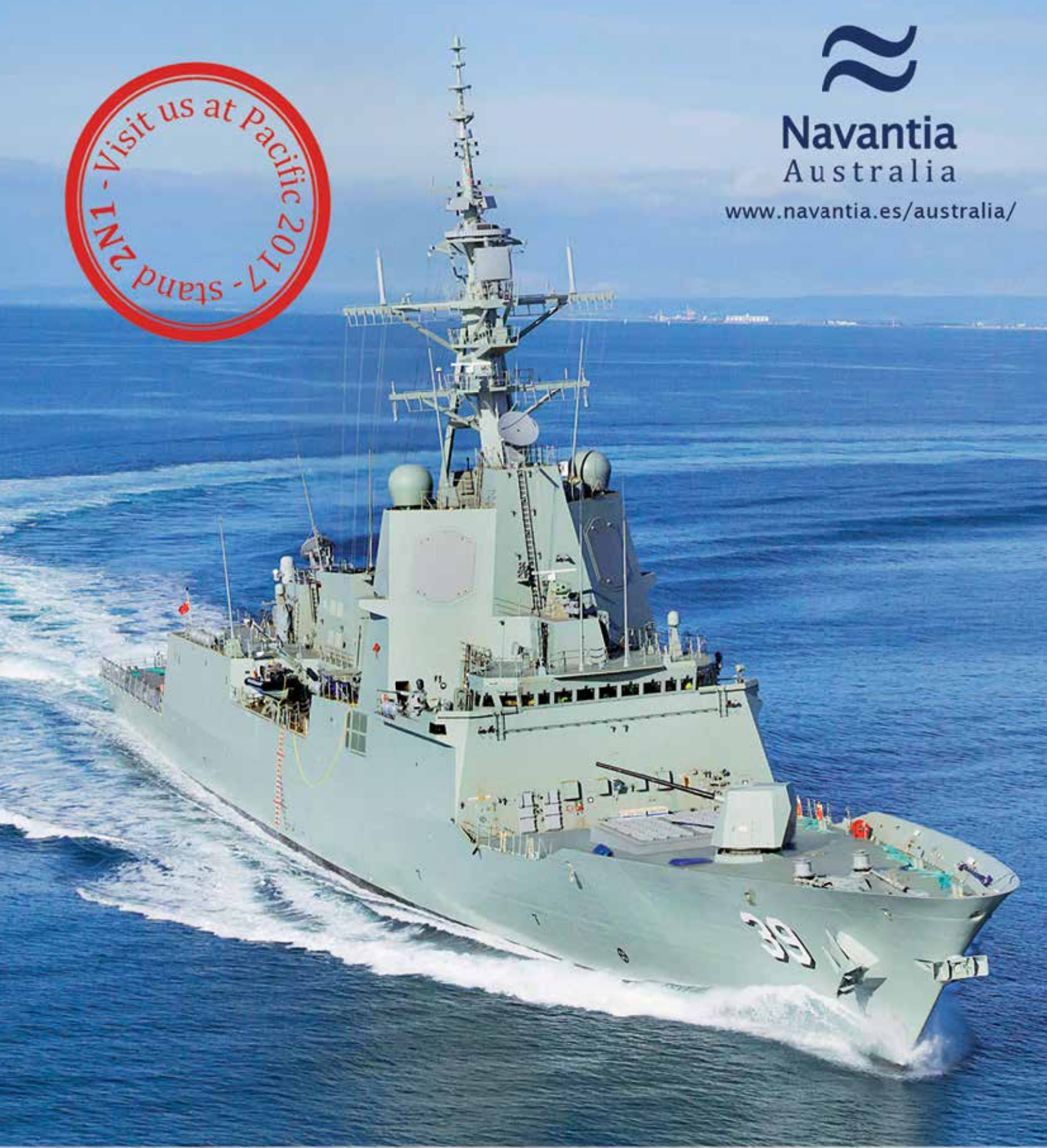


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HMAS Newcastle Visits India

By Lieutenant Holly Murphy

HMAS *Newcastle*, currently deployed on Operation *Manitou*, saw her first international port visit to Cochin, India, from Tuesday July 4 until Friday July 7 2017.

As a continuation from AUSINDEX, the visit allowed for the strengthening of international relations between Australia and India, and gave the crew the opportunity to experience the wonderful culture India has to offer.

There were many notable interactions between *Newcastle* and the Indian Navy which allowed each Navy to get an appreciation for how the other operated.

Newcastle's arrival into Cochin saw several members of the crew depart for a friendly match of Volleyball against the Indian Navy.

The energy in the room was high, with some two hundred spectators in attendance to cheer on their respective teams.

LSCIS Patrick Palmer said the first minutes of the game seemed to fly by like a blur.

"I barely remember my first touch of the ball, a dive onto the wooden floor to return a heat-seeking serve from the opposition's team captain," he said.

The games were played in good spirits, with a final match incorporating members of both the Indian Navy and RAN combining forces and having mixed teams of players competing against each other.

Wednesday saw another noteworthy event in which Rear Admiral Ravindra Jayanti Nadkarni, Chief of Staff of the Southern Naval Command, hosted Officer's from *Newcastle* at a luncheon which allowed for interaction between Officers from each Navy.

The Australian Officers were able to sample a wide variety of traditional Indian cuisines and experience Indian culture at its finest.

LEUT Aaron Schurink remarked that 'the food was sensational, but the company was even better.'

Several lucky members of *Newcastle's* crew were also fortunate to get a guided tour of the Southern Naval Command training units such as the Gunnery, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Navigation and Direction schools.

Likewise, Indian Naval personnel were able to see firsthand life on board *Newcastle* with a tour of the ship.

After a visit of many new experiences, and the tasting of new culinary delights, *Newcastle* departed Cochin in company with INS Sunayna.

The two ships conducted a very successful Passage Exercise including Replenishment at Sea approaches, the exchange of gifts via light line messenger, and the conduct of Officer of the Watch Manoeuvres and boat drills.

On parting, a hearty Formation Foxtrot Cheer ship from both ships fittingly ended the relationship building interaction between the two navies.

Newcastle departed Friday July 7 to continue towards her operational deployment on *Manitou*, supporting international efforts to promote maritime stability and security in the Middle East Region.



HMAS Newcastle transits through Kochi Harbour in India

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Time in Services Saluted

Western Australian Veteran Mr. James Crosby recently received a Saluting Their Services Certificate of Appreciation from Brand MHR Madeleine King.

The certificate was to recognize his service in contributing in Australian Defence Force efforts in overseas peace keeping operations. James served as an Army Nursing Officer in East Timor with the 2nd Health Support Battalion, QLD. He was also deployed with the Navy to Solomon Islands in 2003 under Operation Helpem Fren, and later to Operation Sumatra Assist in Banda Aceh.

Mrs. King said the certificates of appreciation were available to those who served in conflicts and peacekeeping missions as well as to families of deceased eligible veterans and civilians.

"It is important that we as a community recognize the contribution of our local veterans, whether it be on overseas service or at home. I encourage people to apply for a certificate under this program.

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Directions from the South - On the northern side of the Burdekin River is the United Service Station turn at the United onto Ayr Dalbeg Road. Proceed approx. 27KM to the second turn off to Clare here you cross a tramline on the Road proceed a further 17.5KM and the Deep Creek Retreat is on your left, **BEWARE crossing the tramline at our gate and please DO NOT PARK ON THE LINE.**

By Myles Hardy

Achieve Exercise Physiologists have been a major provider of clinical rehabilitation in Brisbane and Townsville since 2012. We have been providing the Corporate Health Management's (CHM) Healthy Heart Program to Veterans since 2014 in Townsville. The Healthy Heart program is run over 12 months and aims to increase the client's physical health and wellbeing through a variety of structured exercise programs, while providing, nutritional and lifestyle management support.

A routine of physical activity plays a vital role in mental health and quality of life. Veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) significantly benefit from

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relationships made between our clients and our staff to assist in education and provide our clients with individualised programs to assist them with their goals.

Russ - aged 70- participated in our very first Healthy Heart program in Townsville and has been attending regular sessions with Achieve ever since. Russ has significantly improved his fitness, muscular strength and shoulder range of motion after suffering from a frozen shoulder. Not to mention, he has acquired new friendships and rekindled old friendships. We at Achieve are very proud of Russ and his achievements.

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Two Weeks at Da Nang General

Exhausted, dirty and dripping with sweat, two Royal Australian Navy Nursing Officers piled into a small van and weaved through a sea of mopeds and motorbikes towards their accommodation.

It was day one of the Vietnam leg of Exercise Pacific Partnership 2017 and it had already been unforgettable.

Working at the Da Nang General Hospital, Lieutenant Commander Alison Zilko - a Reserve Nursing Officer with more than 31 years of experience in civilian and military hospital settings - had spent the day in the busy Emergency Reception (Emergency Department).

Communicating via interpreters and hand signals, she collaborated with the local Doctors and Nurses to care for roughly three-hundred patients who poured through the doors with serious illnesses and injuries.

She also spent at least an hour conducting CPR.

"This one man was brought into the ER after drowning," LCDR Zilko said.

"His wife, and around thirty other people, watched through the glass windows of the critical care room while we worked tirelessly to try and save his life.

"Sadly, we couldn't save him."

That wasn't the only patient LCDR Zilko tried to resuscitate on her first day at Da Nang General, fortunately, she was able to help save the next one.

She spent the next ten days in the Emergency Reception, sharing knowledge and experience, exchanging ideas, teaching Student Doctors and Nurses, learning the Vietnamese way of practicing emergency medicine and rolling up her sleeves to help save patients.

"There is no question this experience has made me a better nurse, more aware of my patient's cultural and economic differences and how those aspects might affect a person's experiences within our own health care systems," LCDR Zilko said.

"I hope that I have also made a difference here, particularly through the time I have spent with the Student Doctors and Nurses who will one day run this hospital."

LEUT Angela French, from HMAS Albatross, was assigned to Da Nang General's Intensive Care Unit for the week.

"While much of what we do and what we are trying to achieve is the same, it has been really interesting to see the subtle differences in how we treat patients," she said.

LEUT French hopes the Exercise Pacific Partnership work placement was as valuable to the local hospital staff as it was to the international Pacific Partnership team.

"We worked with Medical and Nursing Officers from the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan," Lieutenant French said.

"Our primary mission was to gain a mutual understanding of each other's practices, and the practices of the host nation, so that we can effectively respond together as

partners when there's a natural disaster in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

"I hope that we have imparted some of our knowledge and experience to the local hospital and emergency service practitioners.

"I gave a talk to some local hospital staff on infectious disease control measures, and found them so eager to learn how we do things."

"There were language barriers, and it's not always easy to communicate medical terminology through an interpreter, but I found that where there's a mutual goal, there's a way.

"Caring for people has its own sort of global, non-verbal language."

Having completed their assignment at Da Nang General Hospital, LCDR Zilko and LEUT French will now travel south with the rest of the Exercise Pacific Partnership team to Nha Trang, the final port visit of the exercise for 2017.

Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, and aims to enhance regional coordination in areas such as medical readiness and preparedness for man-made and natural disasters.

Australia has been involved in every iteration of Pacific Partnership since it was first started more than twelve years ago after the multinational Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief response to the 2004 tsunami event in Banda Aceh.



Royal Australian Navy Nursing Officer, LCDR Alison Zilko (2nd from right) discusses the injured foot of a Vietnamese patient with Student Doctors at the Emergency Reception of Da Nang General Hospital during Exercise Pacific Partnership 2017.

Exercise Talisman Saber 2017

NORFORCE integrates with AUS, US Special Forces

By CPL Mark Doran

Vigilance was the key for North-West Mobile Force (NORFORCE) during Field Training Exercise – North, the Northern Territory component of Exercise Talisman Saber 17.

Regional Force Surveillance Unit (RFSU) soldiers from four NORFORCE squadrons joined with Australian and United States Special Forces to be the eyes and ears of the bilateral combined exercise at Mount Bunday Training Area.

They supported Australian Army's 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and the Marine Rotational Force – Darwin as they conducted airborne insertions and patrolled to contact in the mid-intensity high-end war fighting activity.

Officer Commanding Kimberley Squadron Major Chris McGlashan said the RFSU soldiers played the role of an unconventional Indigenous partnering force.

“The RFSU soldiers, who normally have a surveillance and reconnaissance role in remote areas, were trained in more foundation war-fighting skills, or infantry minor tactics, for the exercise,” he said.

“They took to the challenge with enthusiasm and were responsive to the training.

“The trainers found the integrated unit of Indigenous and non-indigenous reservists and full-time soldiers easy to work with and they had a high level of trainability.”

NORFORCE is a unique capability in the Australian Army because it employs soldiers from its own area of operations to draw on their local knowledge.

RFSU are also unique because, along with Special Forces, they are one of the only units to regularly conduct operations on Australian soil.

MAJ McGlashan said the NORFORCE soldiers on Field Training Exercise - North were drawn from the Centre, Darwin, Arnhem and Kimberley squadrons.

“We deployed many of our junior members to give them this training experience,” he said.

Private Corben Clyden of North-West Mobile Force, Kimberley Squadron, rehearses patrolling techniques at Mount Bunday Training Area, Northern Territory, during Exercise Talisman Saber 17 Field Training Exercise - North.



“Apart from doing their normal role as sensors within the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability, they were up-skilled to participate on the periphery of Special Forces raids and direct actions.

“NORFORCE was born out of Special Forces and originally conceived in the late 1970s by Special Air Service Regiment before being raised in 1981.

“It is interesting because during Field Training Exercise - North they were operating with the same forces from which they were conceived, in a unique and unconventional role.”

Aboriginal soldiers form 60 per cent of NORFORCE personnel, which has resulted in trust for the regiment among Aboriginal communities of the Top End and Kimberley region.

Private Corben Clyden of Kimberley Squadron is from the West Kimberley region and a NORFORCE scout.

PTE Clyden said he enjoyed the Army lifestyle and the opportunities to learn new skills.

“The training on Field Training Exercise - North was different to our normal NORFORCE role and we learnt new ways to conduct surveillance and report on enemy activities,” he said.

“I have especially enjoyed the night patrols and looking for the enemy locations.”

PTE Clyden said it was important to him to be a member of NORFORCE as an Indigenous Australian.

“It is an opportunity for me to be a role model for the younger generation and show them the experiences Army can offer as a soldier with an RFSU,” he said.

“I also get to use my traditional skills to track people or find water and food.

“When I am working in my local communities I can also use my contacts – from Aborigine to Aborigine – to find out more information for NORFORCE.”

Private Shane Darling of Darwin Squadron has been with the RFSU for almost 10 years.

PTE Darling said Field Training Exercise - North was an eye-opening experience with excellent training opportunities.

“I would like to do more of this as we learnt skills we don't normally learn with RFSU,” he said.

“It is always good to rehearse the NORFORCE roles. We are always learning from each other and teaching each other bush survival skills.

PTE Darling said he worked closely with the patrol commander to help with navigation and was also responsible for the administration of the team.

“I enjoy the culture of NORFORCE and the integration we have with other units,” he said.

“As an Indigenous Australian soldier, I am proud to be a role model to my friends, family and the next generation of RFSU soldiers.”



(L-R) Australian Army soldiers Private Shane Darling and Private Lachlan Elliot of North-West Mobile Force prepare for a patrol at Mount Bunday Training Area.

Darwin Exercises get Maritime Component of TS17 Underway

By FLGOFF Deanna Ellick

The Royal Australian and United States navies have proven a potent and agile force when operating together during Field Training Exercise – North (FTX-N), the Northern Territory component of Exercise Talisman Saber 17.

HMA Ships Ballarat, Melbourne, Broome and Bathurst conducted four days of mid intensity high end warfare exercises in mid-July with USS John S. McCain off the coast of Darwin.

The warships conducted a number of exercises, including surface and anti-submarine warfare serials that tested their ability to detect, track and engage targets.

Advanced air warfare serials were supported by the Royal Australian Air Force's F/A-18 Classic and Super Hornets and the US Marine Corps' F/A-18s.

The warships conducted navigation training exercises such as Officer of the Watch Manoeuvres and Replenishment at Sea Approaches and task unit fire protection training

What is Exercise Talisman Sabre?

The Talisman Sabre series of exercises is a major Australian and United States military training exercise focused on the planning and conduct of mid-intensity “high end” warfighting. The 2017 Exercise is the seventh time this has been conducted, involving over 30,000 Australian and US defence personnel. Also present were members of New Zealand Defence Force and Japan Self Defense Force.

TS17 incorporated force preparation activities, Special Forces activities, amphibious landings, parachuting, land force manoeuvre, urban operations, air operations, maritime operations and the coordinated firing of live ammunition and explosive ordnance from small arms, artillery, naval vessels and aircraft.

The majority of TS17 field training exercise activities took place in Shoalwater Bay Training Area, near Rockhampton in Central Queensland. Field activities also were held in Mount Bundy Training Area, south of Darwin.

Personnel and assets operate from Australia in Darwin, Townsville, Brisbane and Canberra; and from the United States in Hawaii, Indiana, Virginia, Colorado and Washington.

TS17 took place from late June through to late July 2017. Exercise activities in Shoalwater Bay Training Area commenced from early July.



Defence personnel from the Australian Army, United States Army, Royal New Zealand Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force at their deployed home away from home, ‘Camp Rocky’, in Rockhampton, Queensland, during Exercise Talisman Saber 2017.

Standing from left: Japan Ground Self-Defence Force 2nd Lieutenant Ikeda, U.S. Navy Petty Officers Toutountzoglou and Adamczyk, New Zealand Army Sergeant Dowman, and Japan Ground Self-Defence Force 1st Lieutenant Nagaoka.

Seated from left: Australian Army Captain Anderson, New Zealand Army Lieutenant Houpapa and Australian Army Corporal Gilbert



(Front to Back) HMA Ships Bathurst and Ballarat conduct Officer of the Watch manoeuvres with USS John S. McCain during Exercise Talisman Saber 17 Field Training Exercise - North.

against smaller Navy vessels in the approaches to Darwin Harbour.

Ballarat Operations Officer Lieutenant Mitchell Tavener said FTX-N had gone extremely well.

“We are very familiar with working with the US and their ships,” LEUT Tavener said.

“HMAS Ballarat’s performance on FTX-N was as expected – always to a high standard and always looking forward to meeting command aims.

“USS John S. McCain also showed herself to be a very professional and highly capable ship.”

LEUT Tavener said the Armidale-class patrol boats Broome and Bathurst had been a valuable addition to the exercise.

“The purpose of having the patrol boats operate with the Australian frigates and US destroyer is they bring a level of capability that we don’t have. Having them able to operate as our red force, as a simulated enemy, brings a certain level of complexity to our planning and our execution,” he said.

The four days of FTX-N began the maritime component of Exercise Talisman Saber 17, the largest combined military exercise undertaken by the Australian Defence Force.

The ships later moved to the Queensland coast to take part in the main effort of Talisman Saber. Field Training Exercise – East which included 15 warships including the Landing Helicopter Dock HMAS Canberra, numerous aircraft and clearance diving teams, including an Expeditionary Warfare Strike Group.



Australian Army soldiers of 5th Battalion, prepare to clear a building during a dawn battalion attack on the urban operations training facility at Mount Bunday



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Transition

A Defence career provides many strengths, skills and achievements relevant to non-Defence workplace. After basic and trade training, you accrue skills transferable to a civilian workplace, such as Adaptability, Attention to detail, Cooperation, Cultural awareness and sensitivity, Professional ethics, Reliability, Situational awareness, Stress management and teamwork.

After managing teams, you also accumulate skills such as Coaching, Facilitating group discussion, Managing a team to meet deadlines, Mentoring, Personnel management, Supervisory/management skills and Team building and leading.

It is typical to think that your military role equates only to military work. However with broader thinking you will be able to see beyond 'pigeon-holing' yourself into the roles you had in your military career. Take the time to explore career options and seek guidance on aligning your transferable skills to other industries and jobs.

Consider your new career direction well before you leave Defence. What you decide to do is not final or absolute. In today's job market, the average time spent with any one employer is now approximately five years and 'Y Generation' employees are changing jobs every two years. This means long-term careers are becoming less likely. Statistics show that young job seekers who leave school today will change careers (not just jobs) nine times before they retire. Therefore, whatever decision you make today, won't necessarily lock you in until retirement.

These steps should be completed before you leave Defence – know what you have to offer and know the job you're going to apply them to.

Your written application is the "first impression" employers see of you. This includes:

- o CV/Résumé
- o Cover Letter
- o Selection Criteria/Suitability Statement
- o Linked-In profile
- o Social Media presence

Your written application should include more than what's on your Duty Statement. They should include your demilitarised transferable skills that are targeted toward the industry/job you wish to attract and your workplace achievements. Achievements tell an employer about you from a cultural perspective - for example, your work ethic, initiative, team work, management performance, customer service and desire to improve your professional skillsets.

The most effective written application is one that highlights to the employer how your skills match the required skills for their job vacancy. The same applies to the best way you promote yourself as a job interview.

In everything you do, remove or replace military terms with every-day language. Avoid language like *"I have commanded teams of various sizes on many deployments*

in different situations", or *"I managed a team to achieve the Commander's intent at sea and at shore"*. While these examples aren't using military-specific terms, they make statements that only you know the context of. If you wish to use statements like these, then add examples of what you refer to. For example *"on my last overseas deployment to Iraq, I managed a team of 10 staff for nine months to provide close protection and surveillance at airports, compounds and small villages."* Or *"I managed a team of four highly skilled technicians over six months to operate the ship's combat radar systems whilst under pressure on high-intensity operations"*.

Bottom line - The effectiveness of your application is determined by the ratio of your applications to interviews. How well you promote yourself at a job interview is assessed by the number of job offers you get. If either of these ratios aren't what you'd like, seek help. There are a number of funding sources available if finances are an issue.

Defence invest significant time and money in training you to think and perform your military role to achieve the military mandate. We all know this 'regimented way' of operating is different to most non-Defence workplaces. However, little (to nothing) is offered to help you know how it is different, and how to adjust when engaging with civilian employers and with new team mates when entering a non-Defence workplace.

Typically, the following traits are much stronger in Defence - Focus on safety, Teamwork, Work rate and work ethic, Professionalism and Attitude to task completion.

The greatest transition challenge is relating to civilian employers the value you bring to their organisation. You know you can work hard, but just saying that isn't enough. Most ex-Defence members can get a civilian job in either Operations, Security, Work Health & Safety or Teaching. If you think you have little to offer a commercial organisation, think again.

Your new supervisor may have never managed ex-Defence staff before and they may be unaware of how you are used to thinking and operating. They may have expectations of you that current team members follow easily, but you may not understand because certain things 'go without saying'.

Who is best placed to help you with your transition and find a job on a good salary? Only someone who personally understands how challenging it is to relate military experiences to civilians and who has also worked in commercial workplaces can understand you, your current situation and help you through the next few months of your transition.

Its your choice to either find your feet through trial and error (which will take time), or seek assistance from those who have gone before you. How much time do you have to learn through trial and error on how to compete with other job seekers for commercial opportunities?

Seeking transition assistance can be challenging, given

there are so many organisations out there offering help. But think of it as learning a new language, because talking in military terms to a civilian employer won't work in such a competitive environment. Would you prefer to learn Chinese from the Aussie bloke down the road who has only ever taught from a book, or would you prefer to learn from someone who grew up in China and now lives in Australia? In both circumstances, you will be taught Chinese, but you will be able to speak Chinese much better from someone who knows both languages and can help with the Aussie dialogue. Choose wisely who you seek help from.

For help in making a smooth transition, either Google "Defence transition", or contact Trans-Civ (Transition to Civilian).

2017 ADF Transition Seminar Calendar

At some point in their career, all military members will transition out of the military and back into civilian life. It's a process that involves the whole family, and planning early will make your transition as smooth and successful as possible.

ADF members planning to leave Defence can attend an ADF Transition Centre to obtain practical guidance and information to help them transition seamlessly into civilian life.

ADF Transition Centres are located across Australia and can link members and their families into Defence and Australian Government support services. They can also help with the administrative aspects of separation.

Additionally, Defence holds Transition Seminars nationally to help ADF members and their families prepare for separation from Defence.

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

The following topics are addressed during the seminars:

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

To find out more about the ADF Transition Seminars contact your nearest ADF Transition Centre: <http://www.defence.gov.au/DCO/Transition/Default.asp>

August	9 - 10	Hobart
	6 - 7	Adelaide
September	20 - 21	Darwin
	27 - 28	Canberra
	11 - 12	Melbourne
October	17 - 18	Brisbane
	24 - 25	Townsville
	1 - 2	Liverpool
November	15 - 16	Perth

Online Course to Enhance Leadership Lessons

CPL Sebastian Beurich

OIC RANSSSS LCDR Col Painter said providing the Advanced Combat Survivability course online would allow more time to be spent on developing leadership skill sets during the residential phase. 16, 2017 www.defence.gov.au/news/NAVYNEWS_TRAINING_21_Sh

Keeping sailors and officers qualified is the name of the game for the RAN School of Survivability and Ship Safety (RANSSSS), and a recent training review will help to achieve that goal.

In response to the Training Force Plan 2018, RANSSSS has looked at ways of improving training delivery and developing individual training using technology.

The first course to be reviewed was the Advanced Combat Survivability (CS) course, focusing on training officers and sailors in damage control scenarios. One of the key outcomes of the restructure was to deliver parts of the course online, as a lead-in to the residential component.

OIC RANSSSS LCDR Col Painter said the restructure was a natural progression for the course, and would shift the responsibility to be prepared onto the member.

"The aim of this program is to provide individuals with the confidence in their own ability to lead their teams in a variety of damage control scenarios at sea," he said.

"We recognised that some of our courses could be restructured to provide opportunities to enhance the leadership lessons.

"Adopting this approach to training means more high value and challenging activities can be integrated into CS courses in the future.

"It will mean that our officers and sailors will be better equipped to meet their responsibilities in what could be quite challenging circumstances."

The Australian Defence Electronic Learning Environment (ADELE) has been adopted as the platform to deliver the online training.

"Access to the module will allow members to familiarise themselves with the fundamentals of damage control, which will allow more time to be spent on developing leadership skill sets during the residential phase," LCDR Painter said.



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Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)



APPVA Veterans Advocacy Centre
PO Box 943
Alstonville NSW 2477
E: president@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

MERCHANDISE	QUANTITY	OPTIONS – Please Circle	COST (incl gst)	SUB TOTAL
Navy Blue Polo Shirt		S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL MENS/WOMENS	\$30	
Pink Polo Shirt		WOMENS size 10-16	\$30	
Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Size: M XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL MENS	\$45	
Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Size: 10 12 14 16 WOMENS	\$45	
APPVA Cap Navy Blue		One Size	\$20	
APPVA Cap Pink		One Size	\$20	
APPVA Stickers			\$6	
Book - COMBAT MEDIC			\$29	
Book - SOLDIERS' Tales			\$19	
Book - Aussie SOLDIER			\$29	
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 943 Alstonville NSW 2477

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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