

Australian Peacekeeper

WINTER 2017

MAGAZINE



UN International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2017
A Policeman's Tour of Duty in East Timor
Too Many Veterans Taking Their Own Lives



THE WESTERN FRONT

The Battles of Bullecourt and Passchendaele

These coins are made in tribute to those who fought on the battlefields of Bullecourt and Passchendaele on the Western Front in 1917.

eshop.ramint.gov.au

\$10 each



AWM/ED2010

1300 652 020



Australian Government
Royal Australian Mint

Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

Contributors: Australian Defence Force, The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Phil Pyke, Department of Defence, Paul Copeland, Rob Woods; LTCOL Matthew Nash; ADF Peace Operations Training Centre; Randall New; Allan Thomas; and Mark Horner Army News, Lucy Wong; Mike Romalis; Galina Romalis.

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

Vice President: Mick Quinn

Editor Enquiries:
Paul Copeland *chook660@gmail.com*

Treasurer: Rhonda Copeland
treasurer@peacekeepers.asn.au

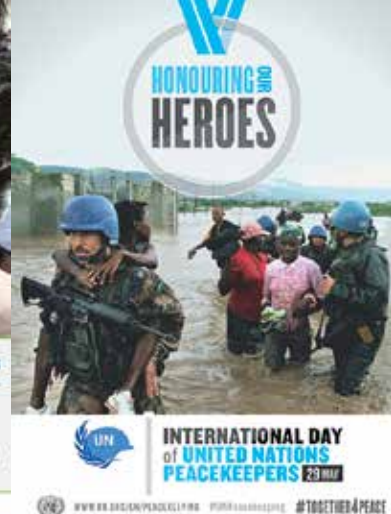
Advertising: Sharon Pace
peacekeeper@flightpublishing.com.au

Flight Publishing Pty Ltd: Kylie McQueen
02 9386 4213

Australian Peacekeepers Magazine is published quarterly by Flight Publishing Pty Ltd (ABN 70 953 274 004) for and on behalf of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (ABN 59 558 194 094) © 2015. All rights reserved.

www.peacekeepers.asn.au

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



contents

ARMY

- 14 ANZAC Day on Operations
- 15 Ready for the Flight

AIRFORCE

- 6 Coordinating Success in Afghanistan
- 19 Echoes of the Past Over Iraq

ADF

- 12 From Abide to Iraq
- 62 Delivering Peacekeeping Training to South Africans

UN

- 44 Air Operations Disperses African Republic Militia
- 46 Strengthening Bonds of Peace
- 47 South Sudan Experiences ethnic Cleansing

Feature

- 24 Too many Veterans Taking Their Own Lives
- 30 My Time as UNCIVPOL
- 36 From the Frontlines of Iraq & Afghanistan

NAVY

- 28 Navy's 'Skeletor' Retires
- 35 Developing Greater Leads on Deployment

DEPARTMENT FEATURES

- 2 From the Presidents Desk
- 3 International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- 70 ATDP Update
- 72 Peacekeeper Week 11-15 September 2017
- 75 Membership Form
- 76 Merchandise Form



Australian United Nations Observers Capt Luke Wessell (right) Captain James Coulthard (left) on Operation Paladin, contributing to the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic.

6 Coordinating Success in Afghanistan

From the President's Desk

Hope all went well nationally for the APPVA at this year's ANZAC Day Commemorations, I myself marched in Alstonville and laid a wreath on behalf of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association in NSW. The APPVA marched in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne I believe.

Supporting Younger Veterans – New Grant Program

Policy context

Younger veterans are generally considered to be those with service post-1999. This cohort differs from previous veteran cohorts in the way they wish to communicate and collaborate with each other, and services they seek to assist them to re-integrate into and navigate civilian life.

DVA is aware its existing grants programs are under prescribed by contemporary Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs). Consultations with contemporary ESOs on why DVA's existing programs are under prescribed by this cohort has identified that DVA's existing grant programs do not meet the needs of younger veterans. Contemporary ESOs, compared to more traditional ESOs, tend to have strong relationships with the private sector and are more easily able to obtain equipment and goods to support their programs.

Their primary funding needs and challenges relate to salary and administration costs in providing services. The funding of salary and administration costs through DVA's grants programs poses the risk of creating financial dependency on the Commonwealth. Therefore, the SYV program promotes partnerships and innovation so that contemporary ESOs can build sustainable operations and community capability for the future.

In 2016, the Aspen Institute mapped the number of ESOs in operation across Australia and identified 2,780 providing community based services to veterans and their families. Not dissimilar to the Australian charity and non-for-profit sector, the Veteran community has a large number of ESOs in operation competing for a limit pool of government funds. Services are often duplicated and remain localised and the community could benefit from greater collaboration in service delivery and knowledge sharing.

Purpose

The purpose of the SYV program is to support the needs of younger veterans as they transition out of the Australian Defence Force, establish themselves into civilian life, and manage the challenges that their ADF service presents through different stages of their civilian life.

Objectives

The objectives of the SYV grant opportunity are to:

- engage contemporary and traditional ESOs and other non-ESO organisations in building community capability

to support and service the unique needs of younger veterans in transitioning into civilian life and managing associated ongoing challenges;

- encourage and support these organisations to scope and develop services for younger veterans that: are innovative, can be delivered in a sustainable way, and complement services already provided by the Commonwealth;
- promote and encourage partnership arrangements between these organisations so there is a more national approach to services for younger veterans through either expanding existing, well established, services to new regions within Australia or in the development of new services that will be offered in more than one location; and
- support organisations in bringing about awareness of younger veteran issues and services, where doing so would greatly benefit the younger veteran cohort in civilian society.

Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the SYV grants program are to:

- develop capability within the Veteran community that services the unique needs of younger veterans;
- support the development of well researched and tailored services for younger veterans;
- fund organisations that can sustainably deliver services to younger veterans now and into the future;
- increase collaboration amongst organisations to expand services and harness existing expertise; and
- increase awareness of younger veteran issues and or services within the Australian and Veteran communities, where doing so would benefit younger veterans.

Timeframes and Funding

This grants opportunity commences in April 2017 and \$250,000 will be available for funding in the last months of the 2016/17 Financial Year (FY). Applications will be received from April and will close pm on 26 May 2017, with funding being issued in June of 2017.

Subsequent FYs will have \$1m in funding available until the commitment finishes in the 2020/21 FY. On 1 July of each FY, applicants will have two months to lodge their applications for this program. Applications will not be accepted after 1 September in each FY. Applications will be assessed, approved and paid in the following months.

There is no maximum or minimum amount that can be sought for this grants program; however, all applications will be assessed on their merit and subject to a cost benefit analysis.

Social Media Protocol – APPVA

I have compiled a paper on social media protocol which I am hoping that can be moved and seconded at our QGM on the 9 May 2017 by the National Executive and NATCOM. We haven't instigated anything in the past and I feel there is more of a need now to put a process in place that will enable the APPVA to monitor what can and can't be put on social media.

For those that aren't aware the APPVA National and the NSW APPVA have now gained Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) as well as our Not for Profit Status which is now

recorded with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), well done to those who were involved in the process.

That concludes my report for this QGM to be held on the 9 May 2017.

Regards

Allan Thomas JP
National President



International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

By Paul Copeland

29 May is the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

The day was established to:

- Honour the memory of the UN peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace;
- Pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN
- peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage.

Peacekeepers Day 2017

On 29 May, UN offices, alongside Member States and non-governmental organizations, hold events to honour fallen peacekeepers. Since the first UN peacekeeping mission was established in 1948 until April 2016, 3,400 military, police and civilian personnel have lost their lives in the service of peace as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease.

Investing in Peace

Peacekeeping is an investment in global peace, security, and prosperity. It is a flagship enterprise of the United Nations. Today, it deploys more than 113,000 military, police and civilian personnel in 16 peacekeeping operations on four continents. It is a flexible, evolving instrument that brings together political, security and technical tools to assist countries make the difficult transition from conflict to peace.

Over time, peacekeeping has grown from simply monitoring ceasefires to protecting civilians, disarming ex-combatants, protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law, supporting free and fair elections, minimizing the risk of land-mines and so much more. They have also served to ensure that women are fully represented in peace processes, political life, and in branches of government including in uniformed services. All of these efforts are fundamental investments in building lasting peace.

Peacekeepers Day offers allows us to pay tribute to the

Blue Helmets' invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization and to honour more than 3,500 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 117 last year.

Events around the world

While the official International Day of United Nations Peacekeeper's Day is on 29 May, UN Headquarters in New York will celebrate on 24 May.

The Secretary-General will preside over a wreath-laying ceremony in honour of all peacekeepers who have lost their lives while serving under the UN flag.

In addition, the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal will be awarded posthumously to the peacekeepers who have fallen while serving in the cause of peace, during the preceding year.

UN peacekeeping operations mark the Day by strengthening bonds with the local populations that they have been deployed to serve. For example, by holding sporting events, school and orphanage visits, art and essay competitions, photo exhibits, neighbourhood clean ups, tree plantings, concerts, and conferences and workshops on peace issues. Events around the world will be shared through the tag #InvestinginPeace.



Ethiopian Peacekeepers Killed In Action are Remembered by their helmets and Ballistic vests on display at a Memorial Service. The UN Peacekeepers were serving with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) Photo: Photo ONU/Marco Dormino (File photo).

Previous Peacekeepers Days

The UN General Assembly designated Peacekeepers Day in 2002 [A/RES/57/129]. In

recent years, we have encouraged the celebration of the Day under a common theme:

- 2016: Honouring our Heroes – the more than one million women and men who have served under the ‘blue flag’ with pride, distinction and courage ever since the first UN peacekeeping mission was deployed in 1948.
- 2015: Together for peace – reflecting on the past, present and future of UN Peacekeeping, reaffirming our commitment to working ‘Together for Peace’
- 2014: A force for the future – focusing on how UN Peacekeeping is evolving to meet new challenges
- 2013: Adapting to new challenges – exploring the changing needs of international peace and security
- 2012: Peacekeeping is a Global Partnership – highlighting the variety of partnerships we have at every stage of our work.
- 2011: Law. Order. Peace – focusing on our efforts to strengthen rule of law.
- 2010: Ayiti Kanpe (Haiti Standing) – remembering the earthquake in Haiti that resulted in the death of 102 UN personnel, including 97 peacekeepers;
- 2009: Women in peacekeeping – the important role of women peacekeepers;
- 2008: 60th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping.

Retrieved from: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/pkday.shtml> on 20 May 2017.

Editor: We remain optimistic that our Government will recognise the significant service, courage and sacrifice of Australian United Nations Peacekeepers who have served since 14th of September 1947 onward. That date saw Four Australian Defence Force Officers made International History with the first deployment of Peacekeeping troops into the field as a Monitoring Team under the auspices of the UN Good Offices Commission (UNGOC), in what was then known as the Dutch East Indies, now known as Indonesia.

Our UN Peacekeeper Troop Contribution has been estimated at 80,000, with 26 Deaths, countless wounded, injured and ill. The true collateral damage of casualties cannot be measured by the figures available, particularly with those who continue to suffer because of their service toward International Peace, Security and Stability.

The UN recognises the 29th of May 1948 as the first UN Peacekeeping Operation that deployed troops into the



field in the Middle East under the auspices of the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO). The conflict of Australian Military History and that of the UN is unknown, however it was first discovered that the 14th of September 1947 was the first UN Deployment, by Historians of the Australian War Memorial.

Australia continues to contribute troops to 4 UN Peacekeeping Operations, in addition to providing Military Advisors to the UN Headquarters in New York (UNNY). Whilst this is considered in comparison to International Troop Contributions, as a token contribution, the post status of Australian Troop Contribution (less the UN Military Observer Operations and very small Contingents of 2-4 people) to UN Peacekeeping Operations from 1975 to 2012, has demonstrated that Australia is capable of a sizeable Troop Contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations. Some of these operations that were large Contingents were:

from 1975-1979 (UNEF II – The Sinai); 1989-1995 (UNTAG (Namibia), MINURSO (Western Sahara), UNAMIC (Cambodia), UNTAC (Cambodia), UNOSOM I&II (Somalia), UNAMIR (Rwanda); and from 1999 – 2012 UNAMET, UNTAET, UNMISSET, UNOTIL, & UNMIT (All East Timor/Timor Leste).

Whilst Australia currently contributes Troops to the Greater Middle East Region (1,791), it could be argued that Australia needs to provide a much higher Troop Contributions toward

a number of UN Peacekeeping Operations. However, it would seem to be a difficult task, given the Operational Tempo experienced by the ADF from 1998 until 2014.

The longest Military Troop Contribution that has been provided by Australia are UN Military Observers (UNMO) to UNTSO, since 1956 to the current day, 61 years of continued ADF Contribution and one that doesn't look like being considered for withdrawal in the future.

The International Deployment Group (IDG) of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) experienced a similar operational Tempo from 1999 to 2013. They too have a long and proud history of contributing Police Officers (considered as Troop Contributions), to the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), since 1964 to the present day.

Albeit, it wouldn't be too difficult to provide a reasonable Troop Contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations, of which the UN's message for this Year is "Investing In Peace Around The World."

LEST WE FORGET the Australian and International Troops who served and died on UN Peacekeeping Operations, alongside each other in some of the most dangerous places on earth.

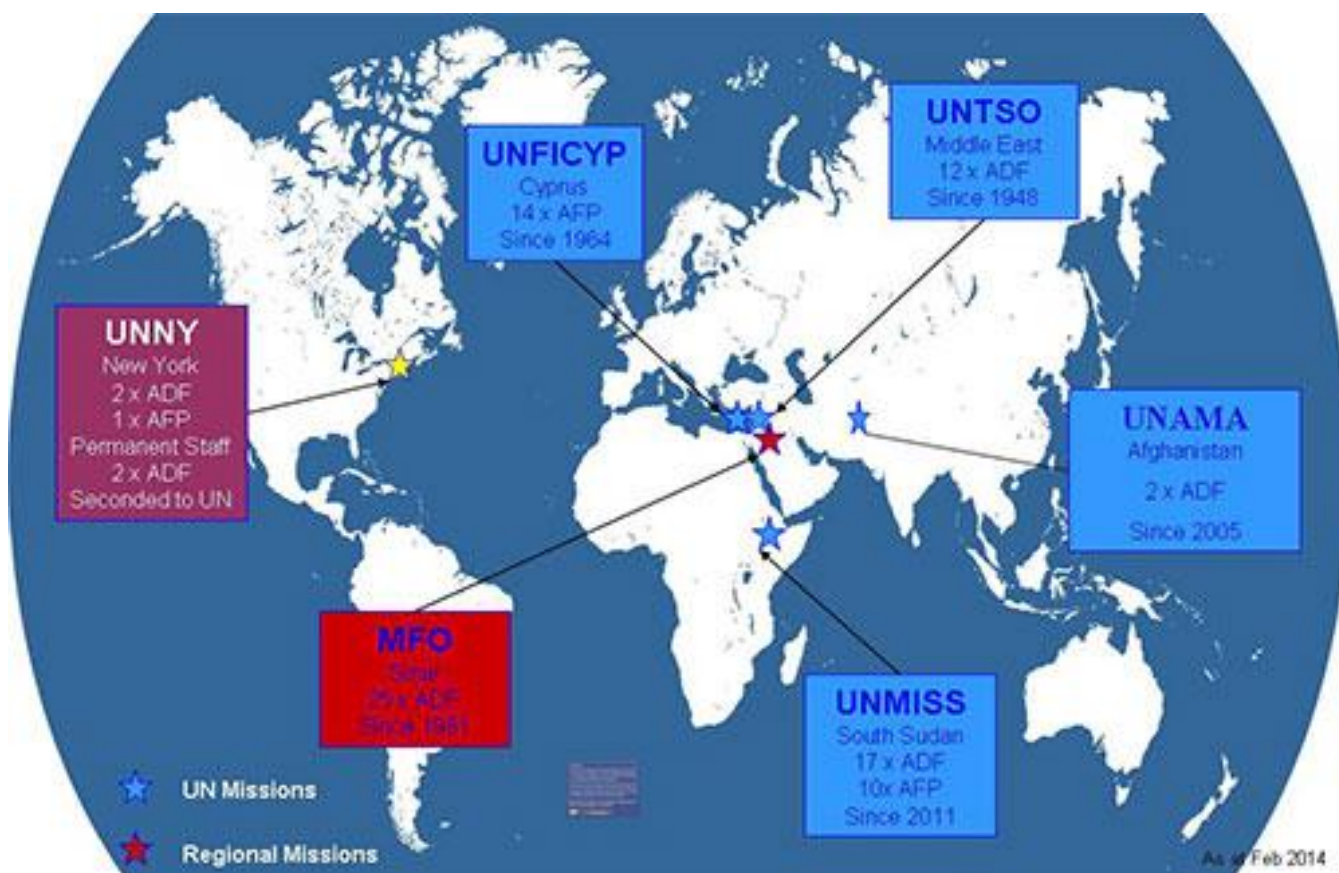
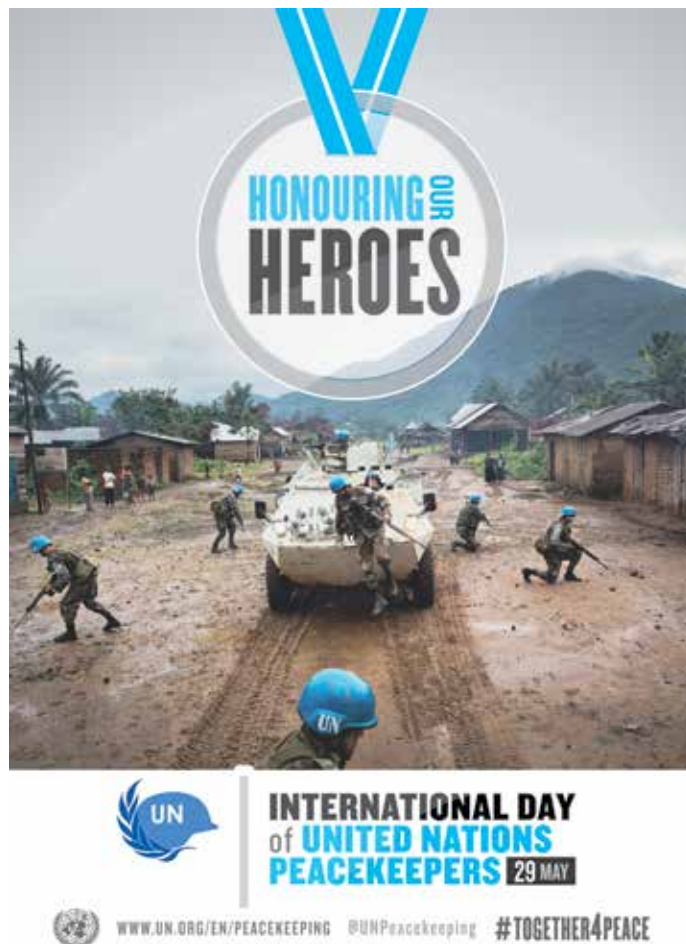


Image from the ADF Peacekeeping Operations Training Institute.

Coordinating Success in Afghanistan

By Captain Megan McDermott

On Hunter range, 36km south of Kabul, Afghanistan, three Afghan Air Force (AAF) officers prepare their calculations to call in the MD-530 attack helicopter – the final test before they become qualified Afghan Tactical Air Coordinators (ATACs), or known in Dari as "Hamahangee Tacticy Hawayee".

Observing is Royal Australian Air Force officer Flight Lieutenant David Jobson, who has helped over the past three weeks to develop their skills through his role as the air-to-ground integration (AGI) adviser to NATO's 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Train Advise Assist – Air (TAAC-Air) team.

The TAAC-Air ATAC course was established in 2016, largely enabled by the work of Flight Lieutenant Jobson's predecessors, Flight Lieutenants Michael Keene and Thomas Murdock.

"My predecessors played a key role in setting up the course and putting the policy in place to conduct live-fire training at Hunter Range," Flight Lieutenant Jobson says.

"Before then, the Afghan ATACs did not have a proper training curriculum and at some units, the role of an ATAC was largely considered a secondary duty."

The AAF previously did not have enough dedicated

qualified ATACs to integrate aerial fires with ground forces, now referred to as Air-Ground Integration, in support of ground troops fighting the enemy.

Now the coalition TAAC-Air team have graduated six courses including 26 AAF officers and 28 Afghan National Army officers.

The growth in the Afghan ATAC capability comes at a time when new Afghan counter-insurgency aircraft are entering service, and Flight Lieutenant Jobson says the five newly graduated ATACs will be deployed to conduct close air attack strikes in support of Afghan National Defense and Security Forces operations – ultimately strengthening the overall AAF offensive capability.

However, more ATACs are needed and Flight Lieutenant Jobson must now focus on improving the ATAC and Instructor curriculum.

"The course itself is challenging and the Afghan students are already at a disadvantage due to their lack of education," Flight Lieutenant Jobson explains.

"Currently the ATAC course has approximately a 60 per cent pass rate.

"The students are often senior officers who have been in for a long time but have had no prior ATAC training."

In just three weeks, they must learn how to calculate

Train Advise Assist Command – Air Advisor, Flight Lieutenant David Jobson (centre) provides advice to students on the Afghan Tactical Air Coordinators course in Kabul, Afghanistan.





Above: Train Advise Assist Command – Air Advisor, Flight Lieutenant David Jobson returns to Harmid Karzai International Airport with his coalition partners after a range practice in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Below: An Afghan Air Force MD-530 attack helicopter comes in for an air strike.

enemy position coordinates and how to communicate that information over radio telecommunications to the aircraft conducting the strike.

With a strong background in training and development, Flight Lieutenant Jobson will be looking at ways to graduate more ATACs.

“Here I’m using my instructional and training development background to enhance their training program and to develop an appropriate training curriculum for the ATAC course,” he says.

“From my observations and talking with students (through an interpreter) they would like to see more visual aids, either pictures or demonstrations, to overcome language barriers.”

Even with improvements made to the training material, the quality of the material is only as good as the quality of the instructor.

For this reason, Flight Lieutenant Jobson says that “teach the teacher” is a key part of his role.

“At TAAC-Air we also conduct the Instructors course to teach ATACs instructional techniques,” he says.

“This is important and advantageous as the course material can be instructed in Dari language without losing the intent and misinterpretation through an interpreter.”

Flight Lieutenant Jobson says that the course has had some fantastic results, recently graduating instructor

Captain Mohammad Anwar Umery who has just finished instructing his first ATAC course.

“Captain Anwar is a positive and encouraging success story of the TAAC-Air AGI ATAC program having graduated from both the ATAC and Instructors courses,” he says.

“He is one of the most effective and competent ATAC operators and instructors in the AAF and is soon to be promoted to Major due to his abilities.”

Flight Lieutenant Jobson is deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan alongside 270 Australian Defence Force personnel and Defence civilians deployed to Operation Highroad - Australia’s contribution to the NATO led Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan.



General Aviation Opportunity at Central Coast Airport (NSW)

There are only two weeks left to register your interest in establishing a general aviation operation at Central Coast Airport.

The airport, formerly called Warnervale Aerodrome, is owned by Central Coast Council and located 45 minutes' drive from the north of Sydney.

Central Coast Council is establishing a General Aviation Industry Hub at Central Coast Airport and is inviting Expressions of Interest from aviation and associated industries by 16 May 2017.

Council's Group Leader, Assets, Infrastructure and Business, Mr Mike Dowling said the timing was right for Council to determine the level of interest in a General Aviation Industry Hub from aviation and associated industries.

"Opportunities are available for lease of purpose built facilities as well as lease of airside land at reasonable rates," Mr Dowling said.

"General aviation can operate from Central Coast Airport with its current zoning," he said.

"General aviation is a significant industry and we are aware there is currently a high demand for airside general aviation leaseholds close to Sydney.

"This is due to general aviation being squeezed out of the Sydney basin because of macro conditions."

General aviation includes pilot training, corporate aviation, emergency services and search and rescue, charter, aerial work, survey and monitoring, private flying, commercial operators and tourism related charter operations.

"This is your chance to get in on the ground floor and be part of an exciting new Central Coast Airport Master Plan that brings together general aviation, education and training, logistics, technology, consulting and service industries," Mr Dowling said.

Applications close at 2:00pm on Tuesday 16 May 2017. Registration for the EOI is now open at www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/ccairport.



Bunzl Safety – A One Stop Safety Supplier to the ADF

Bunzl Safety (a business unit of Bunzl Brands & Operations) has recently been selected as a preferred supplier of PPE, work clothing and industrial footwear to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for non-combat clothing and material.

Following a competitive tendering process the ADF selected Bunzl Safety as one of its preferred Panel of Suppliers for 'General Maintenance Repair and Operations Related Spares & Consumables' under Category 5 Safety and Workwear, on a four year supply contract.

A division of Bunzl Australasia and part of the world renowned Bunzl group of companies, Bunzl Safety are a specialist manufacturer and supplier of a full range of safety products and services for protecting workers.



Bunzl Safety General Manager Jon Fleming explains that "together with the ADF, Bunzl Safety will assist non-combat areas to rationalise their range of safety products, while at the same time offering a broad range of the latest safety products from key suppliers such as Ninja Gloves, Mack Footwear, WS Workwear, Ansell, 3M, MSA, Frontier Safety, Uvex, and Dupont."

"Bunzl Safety is located in key locations nationally, and are admired for providing efficiencies and innovations in the supply of essential safety products and services. The business also has a formal Reconciliation Plan (RAP) whereby part of the supply of the workwear range is sourced from indigenous owned supplier, Cole Workwear," says Mr Fleming.

Just some of the safety products comprise the latest technical gloves – including the technologically advanced Ninja cut protection and specialised oil resistant ranges, as well as UV and fog resistant safety spectacles, high visibility vests, coveralls, specialised workwear, biomechanically designed Mack footwear, and workplace safety products from head, ear, face and respiratory protection, oil spill and first aid kits, through to safety signage.

"As is the case with all Bunzl businesses, by applying our resources and consolidating ranges of products into our extensive distribution infrastructure we are able to offer an efficient one-stop solution, thereby allowing the customer, to focus on their core business and leaving the business of workplace safety to Bunzl Safety - as the specialists!" says Mr Fleming.

Bunzl Safety can also supply height safety and fall prevention systems as well as an extensive range of lifting and materials handling equipment to national organisations across all industries.

BUNZL SAFETY

YOUR SPECIALIST
PROVIDER OF A FULL
RANGE OF SAFETY
PRODUCTS & SERVICES.

When you think safety from
head to toe & when lifting
hoisting and working from heights,
THINK BUNZL SAFETY!



As a preferred supplier of PPE,
workwear & safety footwear to
the Australian Defence Force,
we can cover all your site safety needs.



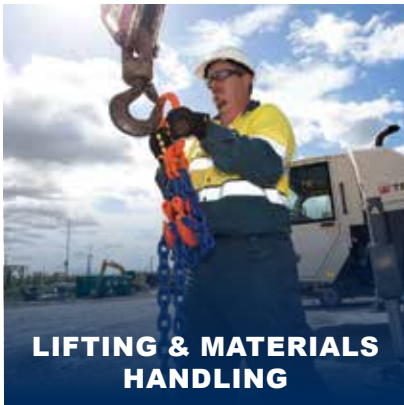
PPE



WORKWEAR



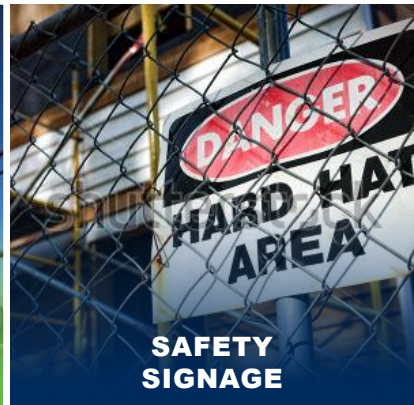
**INDUSTRIAL
FOOTWEAR**



**LIFTING & MATERIALS
HANDLING**



**HEIGHT
SAFETY**



**SAFETY
SIGNAGE**

FOR SAFE
WORKING LIVES

A division of Bunzl Brands & Operations Pty Ltd



CENTRAL COAST AIRPORT

GENERAL AVIATION

**Expressions of Interest now open,
closing 16 May**

Register your interest in locating your general / commercial aviation, aerospace and associated industry operations at Central Coast Airport's proposed new General Aviation Industry Hub.

Opportunities are available for short- and long-term lease of airside land or purpose built facilities at Central Coast Airport, near Sydney.

Expressions of Interest are open now and must be received by 2:00pm Tuesday 16 May 2017! To receive the EOI documentation, enter your details at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/coastairport .

Who should apply?

- Private aircraft operators
- Tourism related aircraft operators
- Helicopter operators
- Aviation manufacturing and support
- Flying training organisations
- Government & institutional aviation operators
- Aviation education & technology

Register to get the EOI documents at: centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/coastairport

Central
Coast
Council

Collateral Damage: Federal Government's Tax Raid on Disabled War Veterans

Noel Towell

Disabled military veterans say the federal government is about to launch a tax raid on their invalidity benefits with some injured diggers set to see their incomes hit for hundreds of dollars each week.

Veterans' activists say up to 5000 ex-soldiers, sailors and Air Force personnel around Australia, unable to work from injuries or illnesses suffered while serving in the military, are to set to become collateral damage as the government shuts down superannuation tax loopholes.



Disabled veteran Gareth Jones and thousands of his comrades around the country face massive tax bills on their invalidity benefits from July 1.
Photos: James Wiltshire

But the government says that fewer than 400 veterans, who only started using the loophole in the past 12 months, will be affected by the changes.

The veterans have been allowed to treat their regular invalidity benefits, paid from military superannuation savings, as lump sums for tax purposes, greatly reducing their tax bills.

But in the crackdown that takes effect on July 1, the benefits will be subject to normal tax treatment on super payments, hitting some injured ex-ADF personnel with tax bills of hundreds of dollars each fortnight.

Army veteran Gareth Jones, whose health was destroyed by his 17 years of ADF service, is expecting to be hit with a \$268 bill each fortnight on his \$1400 invalidity payments.

Among his 20 medical conditions, the former staff-sergeant has had one leg amputated below the knee, has a steel knee in other leg, a steel-lower back and two shoulders with artificial tendons.

Mr Jones, who was medically discharged from the Army in 1997, says he and fellow veterans are very unhappy with the service they receive from the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation but they are "stuck with" the government superannuation agency.

"We've just had ANZAC week and we've had all the politicians out there say 'yes, we'll do this and we'll do that,'" Mr Jones said.

"It's those bastards who send us overseas to war to do what they want and then they abandon us when we get home."

Fellow veteran Peter Burns won the private tax ruling last year, allowing veterans to claim the tax discount and is now fighting a legal challenge in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal against the change of rules.

He says the government's objections to the injured diggers claiming the tax discount is "typical government sleight of hand" and joined in the criticism of the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation.

Mr Burns says the CSC knew or should have known since 1997 that injured veterans could claim the tax exemption but said nothing before he won the ATO private ruling 20 years later.

"The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation is desperately failing in its fiduciary duty to veterans," he said.

Both the CSC and the ATO referred inquiries about the row to acting Financial Service Minister Mathias Cormann whose office issued a statement.

"Following the 2016-17 Budget announcement, approximately 360 military pensioners as at May 2017 applied to take their fortnightly superannuation income streams as fortnightly 'lump sums' thereby reducing their tax," the statement read.



"Affected' individuals were informed...April 7 that this would no longer permissible under the new rules.

"Importantly, the integrity measures apply to all recipients of superannuation streams.

"They do not target military invalidity pensioners.

"None of the military pensioners were taking their fortnightly pensions as lump sums before the 2016-17 Budget.

"All elected to take advantage of the loophole after the Government announced it was closing down the loophole."

Retrieved from: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/public-service/collateral-damage-federal-governments-tax-raid-on-disabled-war-veterans-20170505-gvyzf9.html> on 14 May 2017.

From Abide to Iraq

By Captain Sharon Mascall-Dare PhD, Task Group Taji IV, Iraq

In Turkey, they call it *Abide*. A remarkable stone memorial it stands proudly, peacefully overlooking the crumbling cliffs and dramatic ridges that resonate in summer to the relentless hum of cicadas. The surrounding landscape has become legendary, etched into the collective memories of the nations who fought here.

The size of *Abide* is subliminal. It dominates the southern reaches of Gelibolu and is best appreciated from the ocean. At night, it is a beacon of white angular stone cutting through the darkness where the land meets the dark waters of the Aegean.

To this day, the exact number of men who served during the Gallipoli campaign remains unknown. While allied casualties have been estimated with relative accuracy, the 'Turkish' number of casualties is more than a quarter of a million. In total, it's thought that more than half a million men fought at Gallipoli from across the Ottoman Empire.

Every March and April, and at other times through the year, the Turkish people arrive by the coachload to pay their respects to those men: the 18th March is their Martyrs' Day. The memorial park and cemetery that surrounds *Abide* is their hallowed ground.

Six years ago, in 2011, I had the opportunity to join them. I hired a car, caught the ferry from Canakkale to Eceabat, parked along the approach road and joined the crowd as it made its way to the memorial.

The cemetery was very different from those I had visited previously. The names of the fallen from Australia and New Zealand are carved in white stone; stark iron crosses mark the graves of the French.

At *Abide*, there is glass. Row upon row of glass surrounded by stone, creating a scene that is both transparent and

reflective. It is a place of unique contemplation, where the glass evokes both memory and the passage of time: your eye is drawn to each headstone, then looks beyond, to the horizon and the sea.

Here, the past meets the present. Visitors come to remember history, yet are reminded of now. While serving as a headstone, each block of glass is a window on the present. The glass cemetery at *Abide* is place to reconsider history and its relevance to today.

As I remember that day, and my visit to *Abide*, the past has taken on a new relevance. On one pane of glass, that was part of an interpretive display, I learnt that the 'Turkish side' included many nations. It included soldiers drawn from every corner of the Ottoman Empire from Bosnia, Egypt, Syria and Georgia as well as the geographic area we know as modern Turkey.

I was fascinated by a map engraved on that pane of glass that listed every country and nationality that fought for the 'Turks' in 1915. There were 18 of them. And today, there is one name on that list that means more to me than the others. That country is Iraq.

That is where I am, right now. As I write, I am sitting outside the Chapel at Camp Taji just north of Baghdad taking refuge from the dust, mud and rain. You can always get a 'brew' here supplied by well-wishers from coalition nations. They send packages of tea, coffee and hot chocolate, as do generous friends, family and community organisations who remember us back home in Australia and New Zealand.

I am here with Task Group Taji IV – a combined force of Australian and New Zealand Defence Force members. We're here on a training mission at the request of the Iraqi Government: they asked for help, our nations answered that call. We're here for six months to offer training, advice and assistance – our work makes a difference to the security of the Iraqis, and ours at home.

The historical significance of the mission is not lost on the men and women deployed with me here. We know we are in contested territory: a place where wars have been fought, and battles have been won and lost for centuries.

Yet our mission is very different from that of our forebears a century ago. We are not here to invade; we are here to build capacity. We are here at the invitation of our hosts who greet us with thanks, smiles and – in this age of smartphones – requests for 'selfies'. Every day they tell us they are grateful, saying we are teaching them the skills they need to liberate their homes and communities from the horrors of Daesh and their campaign of terror.

There's Abdul, who I met in February. At 24 years old, he has lost his home and many members of his family. They were murdered by Daesh when they seized Mosul. A former school teacher, Abdul has given up his career to become a policeman. "I want my community to be safe," he told me. "I just want to go back to Mosul and help the rest of my family."

Last week, I met Staff Sergeant Mohammed Faleh of the



Corporal Kyle Genner (left) and Captain Sharron Mascall-Dare, photographer and Public Affairs Officer from Task Group Taji 4, are seen at Taji Military Complex, Iraq.



14th Division of the Iraqi Army. A veteran of the Battle of Fallujah, he was shot and hit by shrapnel from a grenade explosion while clearing a building in April 2015.

"I will never forget that day," he said, showing me his scars. "I'm still injured with pins in my legs but I want to continue the fight against Daesh."

"I am very grateful to the Australians and New Zealanders who trained us from Task Group Taji IV. I'm really happy to work with them. They've given us the skills we need to help us survive and return to our families."

Thousands of Iraqis have similar stories to Abdul and Mohammed. Every day, our Task Group works with those Iraqis who are training with us out on the range, regardless of the wind and rain.

That includes ANZAC Day. After a commemorative service at dawn, the Task Group will be 'back on the tools' by early morning, working side-by-side with the Iraqis we have travelled from the other side of the world to train, in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect.

But before we return to the range, the Q-Store, the workshops, the HQ or the 'Role 2E' (as the ANZAC hospital is known) the men and women of our Task Group – Australians and New Zealanders - will take time to remember those who travelled to the Middle East Region before us and did not return home.

Some of us have personal connections to that history – a grandfather or great-uncle who fought at Gallipoli, or a relative who has served on war and peacekeeping operations since then.

On ANZAC Day, we'll also be reminded of the unwavering support of our families, friends, and communities at home. That support is precious to us – it reminds us of the lifestyle and the values we cherish and stand for.

This year I will also marvel at the friendships we have made in Iraq. Friendships with soldiers like Abdul and Mohammed. Friendships with the many other Iraqis, who we have had the good fortune to meet during our mission.

I am proud of the difference our Task Group is making in Iraq.

This ANZAC Day, I'll think of my new Iraqi friends in the same way that I think of my dear friends and academic colleagues based in Turkey. And I'll remind myself, as I remember the glass headstones of *Abide* and the former enemies who became our friends, how far we have come.

Captain Sharon Mascall-Dare is a serving member of the South Australian Government's Veterans Advisory Council and an award-winning journalist, author, scholar and broadcaster. In May 2013, she was commissioned as an Officer in the Australian Army Reserve, posted to Headquarters 9th Brigade at Keswick. This ANZAC Day, she will be deployed in Iraq as the Public Affairs Officer for Task Group Taji IV. The combined force of 300 Australian and 100 New Zealand Defence Force personnel is on a building partner capacity mission to train, advise and assist Iraqi Security Forces as part of Op OKRA - Australia's contribution to international coalition efforts to defeat Daesh and maintain security in Iraq. The article was originally written for Veterans SA and is used with permission.

ANZAC Day on Operations

– Captain Yikang Feng

By CAPT Sharon Mascall-Dare

In 2010, Yikang Feng gave up the lifestyle of stockbroker in Sydney to become an officer in the Australian Army.

Now, seven years later, he is serving in Iraq on Operation OKRA for his second deployment to the war-torn country in just two years.

This ANZAC Day, Captain Feng is deployed with Task Group Taji Rotation Four – a combined force of Australian and New Zealand Defence Force personnel that's training Iraqi Security Forces north of Baghdad.

He's the only member of the Task Group on his second 'tour' – he deployed to the same location in 2015 with Task Group Taji Rotation One.

"When I was here in 2015, we were training the Iraqi Army for the Battle of Ramadi," he said.

"It was a tremendously difficult time for the Iraqi Army and this time around, their morale has improved.

"I am genuinely impressed by the progress of the Iraqi Security Forces since 2015.

"There's a quiet confidence among their soldiers and the desire to grow as a professional Army."

For the next few months, Captain Feng will be deployed at the Taji Military Complex, where he's the Second-in-Command of one of the training companies.

His role is to lead a group of experienced trainers who are instructing Iraqi soldiers and policemen in a wide range of military skills from marksmanship to infantry tactics.

"I was the Platoon Commander of the Force Protection Platoon last time I was here," he said.

"This time around, my role has changed significantly but it's equally satisfying.

"My role as a liaison officer involves enabling and facilitating the training package we deliver, and, on top of that, ensuring the daily operation of the company runs smoothly."

One of his most memorable moments took place recently, when his training team finished an exhausting training task and returned to base after dark.

"It was the final assessment for a large group of policemen," he said.

"We started early in the morning and didn't stop all day.

"As I was giving the patrol debrief, the sunset glowing at the background. I looked at all my trainers, sunburnt, dirty and exhausted and I felt immensely proud knowing we had done our best.

"It is such an honour to serve with these guys."

After growing up in Shanghai, Captain Feng moved to



Australia at the age of 18 to pursue his education.

He went on to work as a stockbroker for major banks before joining the Army Reserve.

"I enlisted as an infantry soldier in the Army Reserve out of curiosity, I wanted to find out more about military life," he said.

"I made the decision to transfer to the regular army while I was deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia.

"What really attracted me was the military lifestyle - it's simple and noble, and its given me the opportunity to serve Australia.

"I am grateful that Australia has given me fantastic opportunities to grow as a person and I want to give back to Australian society."

After he was commissioned as an army officer at the Royal Military College - Duntroon in 2011, Captain Feng was posted to the 1st Battalion, then the 8th/9th Battalion followed by the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

"It was a very busy couple of years in the regiment, but I learnt a lot," he said.

"For me, battalion life will always be a fond memory."

While it is difficult to be away from family and loved ones for long periods of time, Captain Feng says he has settled well in Iraq.

"I brought my sketch book with me," he said.

"I bring my sketch book everywhere I go.

"I did couple of paintings last time I was at Taji, and I noticed how much it had changed when I returned.

"I also play cello as a hobby, but I haven't touch my cello for so long my fingers feel itchy.

"So I'm really looking forward to going home and playing some music."

Ready for the Fight

By Captain Sharon Mascall-Dare

The trainers of Task Group Taji-4 (TGT-4) waited in tense anticipation as the thud of rotor blades filled the sky.

For three months these personnel deployed to the Middle East on Operation OKRA had been training officers and soldiers from the Iraqi Army's Non-Commissioned Officers Academy. Today was the culminating exercise.

Two Iraqi Army helicopters turned left then right, drawn to the thick green cloud streaming from a smoke grenade in the Landing Zone (LZ).

One by one, Iraqi soldiers dismounted, taking up defensive positions circling the LZ as they had been taught.

With M16s held in the ready position, the Iraqis prepared to move forward with their TGT-4 trainers running alongside.

The red force was around 400 metres away, dug into a makeshift bunker close to two houses.

"They're about to test their room entry skills and combat drills," says TGT-4 trainer Sergeant Cameron Pegg, as he watched from a nearby berm.

"It's important they're aware of their arcs and individual responsibilities."

As the air crackled with live gunfire and simulated mortars landed close by, the Iraqis broke into the first building, breaching the door with explosives and clearing rooms as they had been shown.

"You can see that they've got it right – they're not rushing into the building without scanning it first," says Sergeant Pegg.

"They're using the skills we've taught them."

Within minutes, the Iraqis cleared the first building and moved onto the second, discovering a simulated casualty with catastrophic bleeding.

As one Iraqi soldier grasped a tourniquet from his webbing, another scanned for danger, seeking hard cover to treat the casualty while still under fire.

For many of the Iraqi trainees, working with TGT-4 is the first time they have received "care of the battle casualty" training, despite their exposure to life-threatening injuries.

Many are veterans of war who fought in the battles of Ramadi and Fallujah or, indeed, Mosul.

As the casualty was dragged and then stretchered to cover, two M1A1 tanks roared down the road.

The arrival of armour added a new component to the combined arms scenario.

TGT-4 Tank Commander, Sergeant Peter Papalia says tanks are being used in the battle for Mosul.

"It's important that the Iraqi troops know how to use tanks on the ground – this training is essential for the battle they're fighting right now to liberate their country," Sergeant Papalia said.

Back at the Casualty Collection Point (CCP) a smoke grenade signalled a chemical weapons attack.

Shouting 'Gas, Gas, Gas' in Arabic, the Iraqis donned their masks as taught and prepared to evacuate the casualty by air.

Arriving at the scene, Mi-17 pilot Sergeant Maj Yasir Samir, says the exercise is a rare opportunity for Iraqi Army personnel to practice combined arms training.

"Usually this level of combined arms training is reserved for Iraqi Special Forces – it is very helpful for us to conduct this training with the Australians and New Zealanders as we continue to fight against Daesh," Sergeant Samir says.

As the helicopter took off and the end of the exercise was called, the Iraqi trainees took stock of their progress.

Officer Commanding the exercise, Major Tim Fricker, says it has been many weeks of hard work to get to this point.

"This culminating exercise has been complex, requiring the synchronisation of Iraqi armour, aviation, infantry and combat engineers to build combined arms serials that have provided a rigorous test of objectives," he said.

"It's great to see what the Iraqis have achieved with our help.

"We all feel proud to know that we've made a difference to their combat effectiveness and their survivability as they continue to fight for their country."



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.

The AR-20 KT is the lightest 20-watt booster amplifier kit on the market. It's a complete manpack kit including cables, antenna and mounting pouches along with the AR-20 booster amp. The entire kit weighs just 2lbs., 15oz. The fully automatic band-switching RF booster amplifier works with multi-ban VHF/UHF Tactical Radio equipment employing legacy, proprietary, and emerging waveforms. The AR-20 produces 20 watts from a 1 to 2-watt PEP radio input and covers the frequency band of 30 – 512 MHz. The unit has multiple input DC voltage options including operation from a single battery (XX90 battery) or 12 and 28 VDC vehicle power source.

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.



Our Goal Was To Build The Lightest, Long Range Booster Amplifier.



Mission Accomplished.

The AR-20H Booster Amplifier weighs just 2.6 lbs., but it's no lightweight in terms of performance. It extends the range of your signal so important communications can be reliably transmitted and clearly heard.

This 30 – 512 MHz, 20-watt booster amp works with all modern signal modulation schemes and is certified to meet the toughest vibration standards on the ground, in the air, at sea... everywhere. And it has passed all real world tests under the harshest operating conditions. So, put it to the test and you won't be disappointed.

To learn more, visit us at www.arworld.us/tactical or call 425-485-9000.



modular rf

Other  divisions: rf/microwave instrumentation • sunar rf motion • receiver systems • ar europe

The Battle Tested logo is Reg. U.S. Pat. & TM. Off. # 3,821,099.

www.arworld.us
Download the AR RF/Microwave Mobile App: www.arworld.us/arApp

Copyright © 2017 AR.

The orange stripe on AR products is
Reg. U.S. Pat. & TM. Off.



Above: Royal Australian Air Force officer Flight Lieutenant James Shelton, deployed on Operation ACCORDION, is seen at Australia's main operating base in the Middle East region.

A No 2 Squadron RAAF E-7A Wedgetail airborne command and control aircraft takes off from Australia's main logistics base in the Middle East for operations over Iraq.



Echoes of the Past Over Iraq

By FLTLT Natalie Giles

Number 2 Squadron has commemorated the 50th anniversary for the commencement of Canberra Bomber operations in the Vietnam War during combat operations over Iraq and Syria.

The anniversary, marked on April 23rd, was made more significant by the presence of an officer serving with the E-7A task element who has a family link to 2 Squadron's Vietnam deployment fifty years ago.

FLTLT Shelton is currently deployed as part of Operation OKRA in the Middle East Region as an Air Battle Manager with the E-7A Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft.

The anniversary gave him an opportunity to reflect on the merging of history between that of the Squadron and that of his family.

John Raymond Shearer, FLTLT Shelton's grandfather, was posted to 2 Squadron as a Canberra Bomber engine fitter and deployed to Vietnam in 1967.

As a Leading Aircraftsman (LAC), he left behind a wife and five daughters, the youngest being FLTLT Shelton's mother, who was just two months old.

"He arrived in Vietnam on 19 April 1967 and stayed until 22 March 1968." FLTLT Shelton said.

Completing a total of 339 days in-theatre was much longer timespan than that experienced by many Australians deployed today.

"My grandad had previously left the Air Force to begin work as a farmer and start a family," FLTLT Shelton said.

"When he got news that the Vietnam War was declared, he re-enlisted and was posted to 2 Squadron in Amberley, Queensland."

During LAC Shearer's time in Vietnam he was known to everyone as 'Ray' or 'Grandad' as he was over 40 years old and an LAC.

"His deployment to Vietnam was very different to today's operations," FLTLT Shelton said.

"They had many more aircraft in-country and flew more sorties during the strike bombing days than we do now in the Air Battle Management chapter of 2 Squadron's history.

"The Squadron deployed to an operational USAF base at Phan Rang, however they had to begin construction of their own amenities including pathways, bunkers and messing.

"Fear of attack was constant and squadron personnel were required to contribute manpower to airfield defence as well as their primary role.

"I have heard stories and memories of frantically loading magazines inside the hangars, rocket attacks, catching saboteurs attempting to enter through the fences and minor skirmishes, and he was there during the enemy's Tet offensive."

While the Vietnam-era personnel worked hard there was still an opportunity to unwind on the Vietnamese beaches during R&R.

The social club provided boats and fishing rods for use, and the Bar was always a favourite to relax in..

FLTLT Shelton said it was an honour to be serving on operations in the same squadron 50 years on.

"It was 2 Squadron efforts during the Vietnam War that make it the most decorated Squadron in the Air Force today," FLTLT Shelton said.

"They were awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and United States Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat V Device."



Above: John Raymond Shearer, FLTLT Shelton's grandfather

Below: A No 2 Squadron RAAF Canberra jet bomber aircraft sits ready for a bombing mission on the tarmac at Phan Rang Airfield, South Vietnam. Australian War Memorial Photo P04797.006



Modernising Mobile Computing for the Dismounted Soldier

Jackson White, Business Development Manager and Defence specialist at Getac, examines the key requirements driving the modernisation of mobile devices for dismounted operations.

Modernisation of defence is firmly on the agenda with much focus on Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR).

It's an estimated \$83.4bn market worldwide, which is expected to grow at a CAGR of 2.85% between 2016 and 2026 (according to The global C4ISR market 2016-2026 by Absolute Reports).

The demand for C4ISR systems is being driven by the need to achieve modernisation, a rise in asymmetric warfare and the growing requirement for flexible interoperability and integration of systems and networks to support military and dismounted operations.

An important goal of C4ISR is for each soldier's capability to be enhanced and for technology to be a force multiplier. One of the most important technologies for the dismounted soldier is their End User Device (EUD), as it enables rapid access to - and manipulation of - data in real time, collaboration and integration of applications. Yet, traditionally specialist mobile devices have been power hungry, heavy and cumbersome.

Now devices have become smaller and more powerful in the consumer realm, and defence are eager to adopt this capability in the battlefield. Also, it's easy to see why when considering the benefits of consumer mobile devices; they are small, lightweight and fast, easy to use, intuitive, and have interoperable operating systems, loaded with apps. However consumer devices will quickly fail in military environments - especially in the deployed space. Robust standards have to be met before a device can be considered by the military. Security is the obvious one, but also reliability and resilience to withstand harsh or extreme environments, as well as interoperability with other necessary technology used by defence personnel.



There are other factors too, such as cost, usability, fitness for purpose and longevity.

So, how can defence procurement teams choose the right mobile device that meets standards and security requirements of the C4ISR environment?

Security

Equipping dismounted soldiers with the technology that allows them to securely access, manipulate sensitive and critical data is a necessity; it could mean the difference between a successful and failed missions, or even life and death. With the threats of cyber warfare, hacking systems, and infiltration, security of data continues to be the top consideration for any defence digitisation strategy.

To meet the highest military data classification standards, data needs to be encrypted and protected against attack, theft or intercept when it is at rest, in use or in transit. This means both hardware and software have to be encrypted, and extends to system hardening, peripheral control and centralised management, all of which significantly improves the ability to control devices, enforce security policies, and provide audit trails and reporting, while reducing support and maintenance overheads. Administrators can have complete control to create separate encrypted user accounts or personas, enforce strong authentication, and manage different application and device policies. To counter any limitations of software and hardware encryption, blister packs and bolt ons for specialist devices can be added that meet the hardware security required by government.

Procurement teams should ensure device meet the standards published by national security authorities such as the US Common Criteria ISO/IEC computer security certifications, the NSA's Commercial Solutions of Classified (CSfC) platform and file encryption data at rest guidelines, which enables commercial components to be used in layered solutions to protect classified national security systems information.





Interoperability and applications

Specialist connectors are needed to integrate with other systems - either legacy or modern soldier systems - that are only made by a handful of manufactures, and are not available on consumer-grade devices. In specialist military devices, the manufacturer can customise devices so that connections are mounted in the best location on the device depending on how and where it will be used by the soldier. Devices should be compatible with IEEE communication protocols, making them interoperable with a range of external hardware and software.

Specific third party applications and soldier systems Battle Management Systems (BMS) can be loaded directly onto devices that have compatible operating systems. This gives the dismounted soldier access to new 3D mapping for intelligence about buildings, tunnels, heat sensors, while GPS means soldiers are better informed and can make faster decisions based on real time information about other troops and enemies.

Environment and usability

Equipment is expected to stand the test of high-risk environments, drops, vibrations, spillages, extreme temperatures and even chemicals, but consumer devices will quickly fail in these situations. Dismounted soldiers are also often required to wear protective clothing and

technology needs to work within these conditions. For example, touch-screens need to operate with gloves, and be clearly visible in different light conditions, or be compatible with night vision goggles (NVGs).

A military modernisation strategy that considers consumer devices to achieve better communication and productivity in the dismounted space is fraught with pitfalls that will inevitably lead to more expenditure. There needs to be a balance; devices that are consumer grade will inevitably not be robust or reliable enough to meet the needs of dismounted soldiers, or survive the environments they operate in. On the other hand, some specific rugged devices may be too heavy and cumbersome.

To effectively meet military C4ISR operational and modernisation goals, defence procurement must look to harness new COTS hardware and software and even Internet of Things applications. Plus for mobile computing, a new breed of 'consumer rugged' COT devices can provide the right balance, of being lightweight, easy to use, powerful, as well as meeting the stringent data and security standards.

Reprinted with permission from Advance UK

<http://www.adsadvance.co.uk/modernising-mobile-computing-for-the-dismounted-soldier.html>



PUT ON A BRAVE FACE

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

POWERED BY





 **EURES**

HAVE A BETTER LOOK

Too Many Veterans Take Their Own Lives, People who Defended Australia Deserve Better

Van Badham

Australian politicians love to talk about 'ANZAC' and 'diggers' but the rhetoric for our war heroes is not matched by the support veterans receive today.

Wednesday 8 March 2017 15.17 AEDT Last modified on Wednesday 8 March 2017 22.14 AEDT

How many Australian soldiers would have to be murdered to spark national talk of a crisis? Five? Ten? If a single serving member of defence personnel was killed by a terrorist, do we really think it would escape the front-page news?

We'd know, because we're a caring nation, aren't we? We plant flowers by the roadsides of accidents, we mark national tragedies with legacy mountains of gifts, and more flowers, and cards.

But since the beginning of the year, 14 veterans of service in Australian armed forces are reported to have taken their own lives, a number most Australians may be shocked to learn. This figure's in addition to the 78 reported to have taken their lives just last year – "reported", because the morbid numbers are tallied by veterans groups from sources in person and from Facebook, counting lives lost among old colleagues, family members and friends. Suicide has killed more than four times as many soldiers than those lost in combat since 1999, yet it barely registers in the national consciousness of a country that had a royal commission to investigate four deaths resulting from the poor installation of pink batts.

There's presently a Senate inquiry into veteran suicide, and it's just had its submission dates expanded. It's received over 300 submissions, and they are harrowing reading. Numerous shared experiences inform the individual circumstances of the deaths. Post-service unemployment. Financial problems. Relationship breakdown. Injuries and medical issues. Extreme frustration with the institutional rigidity of Department of Veterans' Affairs processes, present and historical. They're problems, of course, that do not perish with the dead; they are the daily afflictions of the living.

Loretta Somerville is one: ex-navy, and the survivor of a suicide attempt. In 1991, she was serving when she was sexually assaulted off-base by a group that included two of her colleagues. Trauma, injuries and a historical process that obliged her to continue serving in the same community as the men who raped her drove her out of the navy – her career – with lifelong consequences. In 2015, she overdosed. "It's not so much about ending life," she said to me, "as it is about ending that pain."

Stuart McCarthy is another who lives in the consequences of his service. His career as an army engineer saw his active service in Bougainville, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq and two tours of Afghanistan in 2011. It also saw him given an experimental drug, tafenoquine, an early cousin



Suicide has killed more than four times as many soldiers than those lost in combat since 1999, yet it barely registers in the national consciousness.
Photograph: Paul Miller/EPA

of the infamous anti-malarial drug mefloquine. McCarthy's return to civilian life came with family and financial stresses amid the effects of what's since been diagnosed as a "chemically acquired brain injury". I encountered him for the first time on Facebook, offering to sell his service medals for help affording specialist treatment.

He's since withdrawn the medals from sale, but he can't retreat from his frustration with a post-service "veterans' affairs" system that speaks to good intentions but delivers a confusing array of obstacles and inadequate resourcing. "I'm an army officer of 28 years," he tells me of his problems negotiating the complexities of DVA support, "if this can happen to me, I can see how it happens to much more junior people. And it happens again and again and again. We're not getting the help that we need."

David Jamieson, the National President of the Defence Force Welfare Association, understands the concerns; his is one of 24 veterans Organisations who met in Canberra last week to collaborate more closely. "The government aren't trying to do the wrong thing," he tells me "but they're not flipping listening. We're spending a lot of money, but the rate of suicide is not reducing."

Jamieson's issue is one you hear across a range of Australian communities, from Indigenous groups to family violence advocates. "The government are spending \$150m for veterans' mental health issues," he tells me – but the money stays at the top, "while on the ground, we have small groups of people with no resources or backing trying to help each other, and often they're getting better results."

Jamieson's next remark sounds very familiar: "They listen far too much to their political advisers and departmental advisers – these people are professional and well-meaning but they're too removed from the coalface ... This sense of remoteness is keenly felt by people in the community. I don't know if the government realises its role in actually governing."

UNTAG Banners

ANZAC Days 2017

Mark Horner, APPVA Victorian President

The UNTAG Namibia deployment in 1989/90 was the beginning of many overseas deployments for Australian Defence personnel that has helped to shape many subsequent deployments and careers through to current operations.

Australia sent two contingents of over 300 engineers, including construction and field engineers, RAEME workshops and other support staff from different corps such as AACC. This was to assist in overseeing free and fair elections in what was then neighbouring called South West Africa (SWA), to emerge in March 1990 as Namibia. This was the largest deployment of Australian troops since the Vietnam War. 10 years earlier Australians deployed to neighbouring Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) with 150 Australia Service personnel in total.

Although a total of 19 UN personnel lost their lives in Namibia, the two Australian contingents achieved their mission without sustaining any fatalities – one of the few military units in UNTAG to do so.

Role of Australian contingent

The role of the Australian force was broad for an Army engineering unit, requiring the unit to "provide combat and logistic engineer support to UNTAG"; this included the UN civilian and military components. Its role included construction, field engineering and (initially) deployment as infantry. In addition Australian Federal Police and Electoral Commission staffer were deployed for the election.

Awards

Medals:

Medals awarded to all personnel that met the deployment criteria were initially the ASM clasp Namibia (90 Days service) upgraded to AASM clasp Namibia (1 day service), Returned from Active Service Badge RASB in 2001, as it was originally declared warlike under the Veteran Entitlements Act and the UN UNTAG Medal (90 Days service).

Group Commendations:

The Australian UNTAG contingents were awarded a Chief of the General Staff Commendation, along with

2ASC, 15th Field Troop (18th Field Squadron of 2nd/3rd Field Engineer Regiment), was awarded the Chief of the General Staff Commendation from LTGEN John Coates AC, MBE.

Governor General Honour Distinction:

In April 2012, Army Chief Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO approved a recommendation for the award of the first Honour Distinction to the 17th Construction Squadron. The award was presented to the unit by Governor-General Quentin Bryce on 11 May 2013.

It's a sense of remoteness is borne out when parliament does things like its decision to allow the government to release the personal information of veterans to the media – Centrelink-style – "should it wish to correct public statements". It's been vehemently opposed by veterans activists, and Labor, at least, is now publicly rethinking its position before it heads to the Senate. Yet not one member of the lower house – independent or in any party – resisted the passage of the original vote.

You can't help but conclude it's because veterans and defence personnel occupy a nearly invisible political space in Australia. Traditionally, the right takes its votes for granted and the left doesn't challenge it when it does. Those struggling to understand the electoral survival of Jacqui Lambie in the upper house should consider her genuine rarity among politicians, as someone willing to dedicate consistent activism, rather than platitudes, towards Australia's returned veteran community.

Retired colonel and veteran activist Ray Martin shares the frustration felt by so many, especially in the shadow of such slow progress on policy responses to urgent situations, like suicide: "The conservatives think we vote for them, so they take us for granted," says Martin. "Labor thinks we vote conservative, so to a degree they think it's not worth it."

But Martin insists that the service performed by the defence force demonstrates a diversity and complexity that goes unregarded. "A good defence force reflects its society – and our defence force is very good, with a lot of respect overseas," he explains. "They're good soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen, but they're also compassionate, and known for their empathy."

But their empathy doesn't appear returned to them by society at large. Australians, whether right or left, rarely challenge the notion of defence service beyond embracing or rejecting the simplistic wrapping of flags, slouch hats, symbols, pins and platitudes, jingoistic TV drama and the affected, uncomfortable use of words like "mateship", "Aussie", "digger", "ANZAC".

What's underneath the props and costumes, of course, are human beings – some who come home, prosper and thrive, and some with bad fortune, who return to suffering and pain. And, like any citizens who suffer, they deserve more from the structures supposed to support them. So much more.

Van Badham

Van Badham is a theatre-maker and novelist, occasional broadcaster, critic and feminist. She is vice-president of the MEAA, Victoria. She writes columns for the Guardian and lives in Melbourne. Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/08/too-many-veterans-take-their-own-lives-people-who-defended-australia-deserve-better> on 10 March 2017.

Editor's Comments: The number of Veteran Suicides has since increased from the date of this story to 28, twice the number quoted by the Author as of 6 May 2017. The number of FADT Senate Hearing into DVA and Veteran Suicide; submissions since this article was written has risen to 405 as of 6 May 2017.



The Citation reads:

17 Construction Squadron is awarded the Honour Distinction, Namibia 1989-1990, in recognition of its creditable performance in support of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group operation to manage the transition of Namibia to independence in 1990. Despite being deployed to provide engineering support, when the ceasefire broke down at the start of the mission, members of the Squadron helped establish Assembly Points, which enabled the mission to continue. This activity was conducted in the face of hostility from elements of the

Former colonial power and personal danger arising from the breakdown of the cease fire.

Later, 17 Construction Squadron became involved in the



election process itself, providing security, transport and logistic support to election officials, monitors, other UN personnel, voters and polling stations. Members of 17 Construction Squadron ensured that, as much as possible, the election was able to proceed without interruption or interference and ensured that all parties were free from intimidation or duress. With the selfless support of individuals from other units of the Australian Defence Force, 17 Construction Squadron

played a key role in the smooth and effective transition of Namibia from colonial rule to independence. The Squadron performed a role well beyond what was expected and brought great credit on itself, the Australian Army and Australia.

For the 2013 Honour Distinction award, a modified unit logo was designed to represent that the "little bear" was indeed very honourable which included an UNTAG design Bow tie to commemorate the award on a UN background.

Banners

In 2017 a GoFundme page was setup and an UNTAG banner designed for 17 Construction Sqn UNTAG Veterans to rally behind and raise public awareness of the UNTAG Namibia deployment.

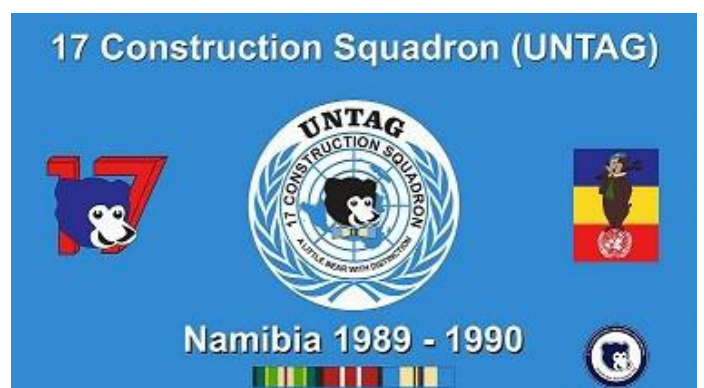
Initially 2 banners were being funded by the veterans for Melbourne and Sydney marches and a third was funded by the family of the late 184618 Gregory John "Cammo" Cameron who passed in 1999 as a result of service.

Three banners were unfurled for the first time in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney with UNTAG Veterans marching proudly behind them.

We hope to fund another two for 2018 marches in Adelaide and Perth and donations can still be made to the banner appeal via the Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/305711446895/> UNTAG Namibia - 17 Construction Squadron

Banners can be made to order by contacting Mick McCardle (UNTAG Veteran) 0423207755

- Price of Banner Supplied: \$220.00
- Price of Artwork: \$ POA
- Time Frame: 6 – 8 weeks
- Poles \$200 two piece with finale
- Carriers \$100 canvas x 2



THE BEST TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Respected by Defense forces of the ABCA/Five Eyes, as well as, by NATO countries



SUREFIRE®

The only complete signature management system that will utilise Australian made support components to meet contract requirements.

Compatible and proven world-leading performance on Steyr AUG, M4A1-AU, MAG58, & Minimi.

SureFire Suppressors reduce the risk of occupational noise-induced hearing loss.

aquaterro
advanced product supplies

WWW.SUREFIRE.COM

Navy's 'Skeletor' Retires

By CPL Bill Solomou

Royal Australian Navy Seahawk helicopter "Skeletor" has flown its last operational flight after a career logging 6200 airframe hours and spanning more than 28 years of service.

Navy took the opportunity to retire the anti-submarine helicopter S-70B-2, serial N24 -011 during HMAS Arunta's recent maintenance period in Bahrain while deployed on Operation MANITOU.

The helicopter's last flight from the ship was into Australia's main operating base in the Middle East region, where it was dismantled and prepared for transport back to Australia.

HMAS Arunta Flight Commander, Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Stewart Mathies, said the helicopter provided great service and rarely missed a beat.

"She has behaved brilliantly for us, we are hoping that its replacement does exactly the same," he said.

"She has been an amazing aircraft - just amazing."

Navy's fleet of S-70B-2 helicopters is being replaced by the newer and greatly developed Seahawk MH-60R helicopter, often referred to as the Romeo model, which is operated by 725 Squadron at HMAS Albatross in Nowra, NSW.

A Romeo model will soon arrive in-theatre so Arunta can maintain its extended surveillance and interception

capability as it patrols with the multinational Combined Maritime Forces in the Middle East.

LCDR Mathies said the Romeo model was Navy's next generation of submarine hunter and anti-surface warfare helicopter.

"The Romeo model has already proven itself on operations both with HMAS Perth here in the Middle East last year and on other navy activities," he said.

The MH-60R is equipped with highly sophisticated combat systems designed to employ Hellfire air-to-surface missiles and the Mark 54 anti-submarine torpedo.

Twenty four MH-60R Seahawk 'Romeo' naval combat helicopters have been purchased at a cost of about \$3 billion to replace the older S-70B-2 helicopters currently serving with 816 Squadron.



Above: Navy Seahawk Helicopter N24-011 takes off for one last flight at Australia's main operating base in the Middle East.

Below: Royal Australian Navy aircrew stand in front of the Seahawk S-70B-2 from HMAS Arunta at Australia's main operating base in the Middle East region.



Aircraft Airworthiness & Sustainment

CONFERENCE AUSTRALIA

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC)

19-21 July 2017

The AA&S (Australia) Conference is for the benefit of all those who operate and sustain our aerospace vehicles, military or civilian, large or small, old or new, manned or unmanned. Topics include Mechanical Systems, Structures and Corrosion, NDT, Avionics and Wiring Systems, Obsolescence, Propulsion, Logistics and Supply Chain, Cost of Ownership, Workforce Capability and Unmanned Aerial Systems.

With support from the Australian Defence Force and CASA, the event seeks to maximise interaction between the military and civilian aviation communities for mutual fleet benefit, and ensure that lessons learned in the past, together with technological advancements, translate to safer fleets for the future.



Campaigns run by AA&S (Australia):

- "Does Australia have a Counterfeit Problem?"
- "Promoting Aerospace Leadership"

Please see website for further details
www.ageingaircraft.com.au



My Time as a United Nations Civilian Police Officer (UNCIVPOL) Peacekeeper in East Timor

By Rob WOODS – APPVA National Police Liaison Officer

I started my Police career in 1986 after serving 6 years with the Australian Regular Army in an Artillery Regiment in Sydney, NSW. I joined the AFP in Sept 1986 and went through the normal training requirements to become a member of the AFP and was subsequently posted to the Sydney office.

I transitioned through the system and became a Detective and then to become a Team Member which had me working in areas of drug enforcement, organised crime and finished my career in a surveillance team.



Snr Sgt Rob WOODS standing on the main and only road between Gleno, Letefoho and Atsabe after a large tree fell across it, this taken in May 2001 and blocked larger vehicles from travelling on it

In early 2000, the AFP advertised for staff to take part in a UN peace keeping mission in East Timor (ET). At that time the AFP became involved during the 'consultation' period when ET made it clear they wanted to break away from Indonesia and West Timor to become an independent country.

As history records that process went less than smoothly with massive human and property losses due to 'militia' based elements destroying infrastructure and harming people in the an effort to have ET to remain a part of Indonesia.

I saw this as an opportunity to experience Policing from a different approach to that of National Police activities which was very different from that of our State and Territory colleagues.

I went through a rigorous selection process including psychological assessment, medical examinations and inoculations to become part of a one hundred person contingent of Police from the AFP and states and territories of Australia who would be deployed under the banner of 'Australian Police' and deployed to Darwin for a five day acclimatisation/training program run by the AFP.



Local ETPS graduates stationed in Dili, note the age of them most very young and unarmed at this stage in early 2001. The guy in plain clothes is an interpreter

We were given the rank of Senior Sergeant (three stripes with a crown above) as team members with team leaders being given the rank of Station (crown) Sergeant (crown with wreath around it)

We were the '5th Contingent' of Australian Police, to be deployed and were flown to Dili for 5 days of pre deployment training run by the UN in Dili. On arrival in Dili in late November we were confronted with some of the devastation caused during the 'consultation' period with many buildings being destroyed and others had been patched up to allow some form of occupation.

The weather was unforgivingly hot and humid and the local community appeared to be very divided in our presence, some welcomed us others were quite abrupt and non-engaging. It was very soon that we realised that our role would be quite challenging and this was without the obvious language barriers.

The UN was paying us a daily 'subsistence allowance' and with this we had to find our own accommodation, feed ourselves and look after our day to day requirements.



UNTAET Headquarters Dili, ET



A shop front with accommodation that was destroyed by fires set by the 'Militia' in late 1999 during the 'consultation' period for ET's attempts to gain independence from West Timor and Indonesia

Unlike our military comrades who were housed in a high security barrack arrangement with 24 hour power and armed machine guns towers we had to find accommodation within the community and arrange our food sources.

I was lucky enough to be posted to Emera District in ET which was located in the mountains and was somewhat 'cooler' than in Dili, as with city V country people here in Australia the same could be said in ET.

The Police station was in Gleno a small town that had been torn apart by the 'militia' with many private houses and businesses burnt to the ground, those houses and businesses that were spared were generally believed to be owned and/or occupied by sympathisers of the Indonesians.

Our role was to provide stability to the community, protect the community and instil law and order to the community. We also provided training to the local East Timor Police Service (ETPS) who were recruited by UN Police, and sent to Dili for training and returned to their villages where the UN Police where they were to be deployed. UN Police followed up with mentoring and support during the mission to try and establish their own Police Service that would one day take care and protect their community.

When I arrived in Gleno/Emera we had about 13 ETPS and when I left some 6 months later that number had grown to 48. Most of the recruits were young people who wanted to help their community, they were unarmed and relied on UN Police to provide that support. This was a very 'scary' concept to say the least, in some cases I had more faith in the ETPS than I had in some of the other UN Police from other countries that was a very big 'eye opener'.

Even some of the other military Peace Keeping Forces (PKF) including the local African unit that supported us in Gleno would not come out at night and were very reluctant to come out during the day, they preferred to stay behind the safety of the fortress barracks.

The opportunity to work alongside other Police from other countries was an amazing experience and made me realise that we really do have the best trained and resourced Police forces in the world.

When we arrived in a small village known as Gleno where we were lucky enough that Australian Police were deployed in Gleno and we were able to negotiate a changeover of occupation of the house they lived in. The house was previously a nice 3 bedroom stone house, but after it had been gutted by fire the owner built a corrugated iron garage off the side and he, his wife and 2 children moved in there and 3 police lived in the main house.

The ceiling was lined with hessian material and the walls had been 'white washed' and new wiring was installed, even though we only had power for 3 hours six days a week, the seventh day the power was switched off as the diesel generator could not supply to all of the other villages in the area.

There was no running water or constant electricity supply, a consequence of the 'militia' and their efforts to try and stop ET gaining its independence. The local water supply was undrinkable and we lived on bottled water for the entire time we were in the mission some 185 days.

The UN based its subsistence allowance payment on local cost of living but also the security level and threat to personal safety of UN staff. We had 100 rounds each of 9mm ammunition for a Glock side arms and a portable radio, these were our basic tools and we had to have them with us 24 hours a day seven days a week as the threat of another insurgence by the 'militia' was probable.

Our role had us travelling out from Gleno to other smaller villages and visiting schools and community areas such as market places and public gatherings to ensure that that the peace was kept and provide some form of law and order to the community. We dealt with murders, suicides, assaults sexual assaults and just about every other crime you could think of all without a law to work with, in particular traffic was a real problem with people sitting on top of mini buses, trucks overloaded with general freight then people sitting on top of that.

We would stop the vehicle and through our interpreter we would get everyone off the vehicle, they would start to walk and as soon as we got out of sight the vehicle would stop and they would all get back on again.



Me, Snr Sgt Steve Martin and Snr Sgt Mick Tainton standing next to a patrol vehicle outside the Gleno Police Station



A public school in Gleno that destroyed by the 'Militia' in late 1999

The emotions than ran through the community was extremely high and it was evident of the fears held that the 'militia' would return, the local community were reduced to almost nothing in with almost all of their infrastructure destroyed, yet every Sunday morning the mostly catholic religious community turned out in pristine white clothing to attend mass at the local church.

The DVA do not class our Police missions as 'operational' or 'war like' which is a motivator for me becoming a member of the APPVA, the Police service in ET and in many other peace keeping missions around the world is generally not very well known and was and is very dangerous.

I believe that in some instances the Police deployed on peace keeping duties is somewhat more dangerous than that of our military comrades in so far as we don't get to have the security of living in a secured compound, well that was the case in ET anyways.

Whilst we were operating in extreme conditions we were lucky and had no significant incidents in the mountains. However in Dili, it was not the same, Police there had barbed wire installed around their fences and paid for security to watch their homes whilst they were at work.

The threat of some form of violent attack by the 'militia' or violent community groups was real and in cases was



ET Police Service graduation parade at the Police Academy in Dili

expected at any time, we operated and conducted our roles with this always present in our minds,

We slept with our hand guns loaded under our pillows at night and it was a UN requirement that each house had at least one portable radio on, so if needed we could be warned or recalled to duty should something happen, not bad considering it wasn't 'war like' or 'operational service', sure felt very 'war like' to me.

With all of the pressures, the climate, the water, the food etc I thoroughly enjoyed my mission, even with some physical and psychological pressures it was I would say the best 6 months of my almost 20 year career as a Police in the AFP. Would I do it again, the answer is 'yes.... in a heartbeat'.

Personally, I did bring home some 'baggage' but with assistance of health professionals, my colleagues at APPVA and my family I am working through that 'baggage' and hope to one day sit back and reminisce with my family on the good and bad times spent in ET.

My greatest reward was watching this new nation grow towards becoming an independent country, learning from the local people on how they managed not only to survive the injustice but make the best of an extremely bad situation and continue to move forward with their plight to be independent.

I would love to go back to Gleno in Emera District to see how the district has grown over the years, and one day I will.



United Nations Peace Keeping Medal – East Timor

The Mission was established on 25 October 1999 by the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1272. The main goals of the Mission are to provide security and maintain law and order throughout the territory of East Timor, to establish an effective administration, to assist in the development of civil and social service and to support capacity-building for self-government.

UNAMET/UNTAET medal was established on 9 December 1999. Qualifying time of service for the reception of UNAMET/UNTAET medal is 90 days in the missions' area of operation. I served in East Timor as part of the civil Police operation from November 2000 to June 2001.

Police Overseas Service Medal – East Timor

Awarded to Police Officers for service with International Peace Keeping Operations. A silver clasp is worn showing the operation for which it is awarded. Served in East Timor from November 2000 to June 2001.



YOUR PERSONAL RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEM



The FLIR Black Hornet™ is the smallest operational unmanned system in the world and it has been used extensively in combat operations by NATO forces over the past few years. The system is described by its users as a “Game Changer” and a “Life Saver”, and has created a new standard and class for the smallest UAS.

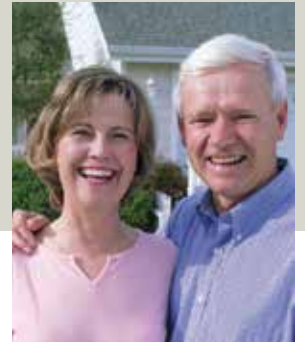
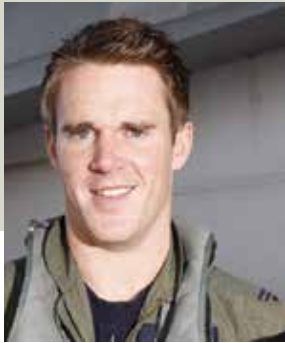
Learn More at www.flir.com/blackhornet



The World's **Sixth Sense**®

PERSONAL INSURANCE FOR VETERANS AND ADF MEMBERS

DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES INSURANCE SCHEME



**COVER
PLUS
THE
CARE**

WWW.DSH.GOV.AU

**TO COMPARE THE FEATURES CALL
1300 552 662**

(The Defence Service Homes Insurance Scheme underwrites the DSHI Home Building policy. All other policies are underwritten by QBE Insurance (Australia) Limited ABN 78 003 191 035. AFS Licence 239 545). Please consider the Product Disclosure Statement of the particular product before making any decisions about the product.

- Home
- Contents
- Landlords Liability
- Car
- Caravans
- Trailers
- Private pleasure craft
- Motorcycles
- Travel

Pay your premiums by
direct debit at no extra cost
(not applicable to travel and CTP)



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Developing Greater Leaders on Deployment

By CPOCIS Lennie Marshall

Four HMAS Arunta sailors deployed on Operation MANITOU have represented Australia at the second Enlisted Leadership Development Program at Naval Support Activity (NSA), Bahrain.

The program was hosted by the US Naval Forces Central Command and also included personnel from Australia's Maritime Operational Support Group and enlisted Coalition personnel within the Middle Eastern region (MER).

The program was designed to instil and improve upon six enlisted desired leader attributes: operate with commander's intent, make sound and ethical decisions, enable the force, anticipate, communicate and mitigate risk, operate jointly and think critically using the NCO/PO Handbook published by the US National Defense University.

Leading Seaman Electronic Warfare (LSEW) David Newton said the course showed the effectiveness of next generation navy initiatives as the RAN members stood out amongst their peers.

"Our sailors held the floor during discussions and were able to share with our foreign counterparts an insight into

how we empower our junior sailors to allow them to be better leaders of tomorrow," LSEW Newton said.

"The program provided additional leadership considerations, while building new friendships to improve international relations – it is always great to meet people from other navies as we all share common experiences and similar maritime philosophies."

The four Australian attendees were divided into four discussion groups to allow maximum interaction and exposure to Coalition counterparts, including Canadian and Saudi Arabian members as well as US personnel from different services.

"This allowed for topics to be discussed from different cultural points of view.

"The course also allowed for many new friendships and bonds to be developed, not just professionally but also personally."

HMAS Arunta is deployed to Operation MANITOU conducting counter terrorism and maritime security operations in the Middle East region as part of the Combined Maritime Forces.



Diggers from the Front Lines of Iraq and Afghanistan Take on New Roles Helping Natural Disaster Victims

Diggers from the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan take on new roles helping natural disaster victims

Bruce McDougall, The Daily Telegraph

May 6, 2017 12:00am

War veterans are giving themselves a new sense of purpose by volunteering to join rapid response teams helping communities battered by natural disasters.

Lukas Woolley is not yet 30 but he has packed in a lifetime of service to his country with the Australian Army in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.



On the frontline of war

The 28-year-old's story channels so many other Diggers sent to the world's most challenging trouble spots: medical discharge with a physical injury followed by inexplicable and unrelenting psychological problems. The vets call it "head pain".

The spectre of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) haunts a generation of soldiers but, as Woolley says, "thousands of vets just do not want to talk about it".

By the end of his tour of Afghanistan, the young vet reveals: "We had lost 10 blokes and an explosive detection dog.

Three of the blokes were mates I had toured with before, good mates. I have had bad dreams most nights for the last four or five years — I don't think I've had more than four hours' sleep."

Four years on from his discharge he is in a Department of Veterans' Affairs rehabilitation program and, typically, his "case" has yet to be finalised.

But Lukas Woolley is among a band of Diggers who have decided to change the narrative of the PTSD-stricken vet by signing on with a global program for which their military skills are perfectly suited.

They have joined Team Rubicon, turning around the lives of more than 3000 veterans who deploy to disaster zones such as Cyclone Debbie-hit north Queensland and help to rebuild communities.



Team Rubicon vets clean up North Queensland after Cyclone Debbie. Picture: Team Rubicon Vet's skills are well suited to helping out in disaster zones. Picture: Team Rubicon

The movement that began in the US and now has an Australian arm calls itself "a band of brothers and sisters that were lost once".

They are forging a new identity "built around the positive aspects of being a veteran".

Among their catchphrases: "There are no victims in Team Rubicon."

Team Rubicon has attracted genuine star power — from Prince Harry, who helped out in Nepal after its terrible earthquake, to US General David Petraeus (Rt'd) and Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston (Rt'd).

As the Australians field calls to respond across the world, Sir Angus says: "This is a wonderful concept that will gain traction in many disaster scenarios.



Vet's skills are well suited to helping out in disaster zones. Picture: Team Rubicon

"It is giving these men and women focus and unity of purpose — an opportunity for them to do things similar to what they did in uniform and the feeling of being back in the business of helping people."

"It requires teamwork and passion and determination and there is a sense of belonging."

The grey shirts they wear with the Team Rubicon insignia while working alongside civilian emergency services "fit the bill of giants among us", Sir Angus says.

In the Proserpine area smashed by Cyclone Debbie, Team Rubicon teams working on rotation assessed damage, provided first aid, cleared debris, carried out home repairs and made welfare checks. It was their first deployment in Australia.

Lukas Woolley says: "My passion in this is writing a new narrative for the veterans I served with and the ones that will come after us. Five months ago I had to stop work due to back pain but now I've got ahead of the system, which is really cool, and started my own recovery."

"We are finding purpose rather than relying on the government."

"Maintaining our agility is really important to us so when a disaster strikes we can fall back on our previous skills and rapidly deploy to disaster zones."



Team Rubicon in action cleaning up North Queensland after Cyclone Debbie. Picture: Team Rubicon

Woolley says the Team Rubicon vets got through a "phenomenal amount of work" helping out after Cyclone Debbie.

"We helped the farmers using our military skills and our first responder skills to go where we were needed most."



Keri Anderson

"With Team Rubicon what I saw was there were no victims in the organisation — people were finding purpose for themselves rather than relying on the government or anyone else."

Another Team Rubicon volunteer, Keri Anderson, 36, spent 15 years as a field engineering officer in the New Zealand Army serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and Egypt, reaching the rank of Major.

On her return from Iraq after seven months based at Basra in 2004 she was made a Member of the NZ Order of Merit.

"We built water purification plants, upgraded and worked on numerous hospitals and health clinics, maintained a floating Bailey pontoon bridge across the Shatt al-Arab River and built schools," she says.

A year on the Sinai Peninsula posed yet another challenge.

"Living in that was pretty tough and it took a toll — we were within kilometres from the Gaza Strip, close to some dangerous stuff that was going on," she says.

"The scary thing is that living in those conditions for a year it becomes normal."

"We would hear on a daily basis bombings and firefights, and when you come home and are walking down the street and you hear a car making a noise or a bang, you instantly react as you are still in high-stress fight-or-flight mode."

Looking for a new challenge post-army, Keri Anderson was immediately attracted by the concept and vision of Team Rubicon.

She spent two weeks in New Orleans in February this year helping the local community recover from a destructive tornado.

"We did house demolition, clean-up and debris removal, which allowed us to bring the knowledge of that work back to Australia," Anderson says.

"With Team Rubicon, we are helping in disaster spots, but we are also helping each other."

Retrieved from: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/diggers-from-the-front-lines-of-iraq-and-afghanistan-take-on-new-roles-helping-natural-disaster-victims/news-story/5e41c566587119dd60609e2587f5c90d> on 7 May 2017.

My Experience on Operation DUNLOP

By: Paul Copeland

I am a Veteran member of Team Rubicon Australia and was on the deployment with Lukas Woolley who is mentioned in the aforementioned article. The first ever Domestic Disaster Response Operation conducted by Team Rubicon Australia was aptly named Operation DUNLOP – after Colonel Sir Ernest Edward “Weary” Dunlop AC, CMG, OBE. It was a fantastic experience working with a great team of people in Disaster Response for those who were vulnerable and those who had lost everything.

For me, it was good to feel that sense of duty after so many years of being out of the Army. I was unbelievably the oldest out of the entire Operation! Not used to that, but working with young vets, First Responders and Civvies was like working with a well-oiled machine. Everyone pitched in. Team work, like I haven’t seen since my years in the Army. The civvies consisted of a QANTAS Long Haul Flight Attendant, Administrators, and an ED Nurse. First Responders mainly from NSW Fire Brigade with USAR specialists and they ran the Operation, as this is part of their bread and butter and I certainly learned a lot from them about Disaster Relief Operations.

Many of the Vets had served in Afghanistan, The Middle East and East Timor. We had a WRAN Communicator in my Rotation. She was awesome to watch in the field and got stuck into some very hard work.

It was terrible to see so much destruction, people lost everything, no power for almost 3 weeks (beat that S.A!), including no phone services to remote people. They were humble and resilient locals after experiencing around 36 hours of cyclone and fierce electrical storms and flooding thereafter.

I am glad I was a part of it. It was a positive experience for me, considering the number of medical conditions that I have. I was able to fit into the Team in a range of roles, whilst looking after my conditions. I had to “Change my socks” twice during my deployment, because I over did it, but the TRA TRibe are very accommodating with veterans who have a range of medical conditions.

I am comforted knowing that our work was gratefully appreciated by the people of Proserpine and in the Region of the Whitsundays.

TRA has a philosophy: “Disasters are our Business. Veterans are our Passion.” It doesn’t get better than that.

For those interested in Team Rubicon, I highly recommend you visit and lodge an Expression of Interest on the Team Rubicon Australia website: <http://teamrubiconaus.org/>

Team Rubicon Australia OP DUNLOP was accommodated in the Proserpine RSL Club. The gratitude of the people of Proserpine to Team Rubicon, is shown on the blue tarp attached to the fence.



On the blue tarp, the message reads to the TRA OP DUNLOP TRibe with the interpretation of the love hearts: ‘Heart FELT THANKS, LOVE PROSSIE’.



Support Australian Innovation
& Manufacturing

BAC Modular Workplace and Storage Systems

for updating your workshops and stores ask for our free catalogue and 3-D Modelling



BAC Systems Pty Limited

193-195 Power Street, Glendenning NSW 2761

Tel: (02) 9832 2777 Fax: (02) 9675 3645 Email: bacsales@bacsystems.com.au

www.bacsystems.com.au



HunterNet is a network of manufacturing, engineering and specialist services companies located in the Hunter and Central Coast regions of New South Wales. With over 200 members, we are widely recognised within Australian manufacturing and academia as the most successful industry 'cluster' of its type in Australia.

We provide our members with support programs such as:

- Business development
- Business systems and processes
- WHS and training
- Marketing and communications
- Innovation
- Business improvement
- Government advocacy



2017 HunterNet Defence Conference 22nd – 23rd August at Crowne Plaza Newcastle

The aim of the conference is to drive collaboration and engagement between Defence Primes, the region's SME's, academia and Defence. This will support the increased levels of cooperation directed in the Defence Industry Policy Statement. The conference will include an engaging line-up of quality presenters delivering topical presentations, along with many opportunities to network.

A highlight of the conference will be the gala dinner on Tuesday 22nd August. The dinner will feature a prominent Australian keynote speaker and will serve as one of the key networking events of the conference.

Once again, HunterNet will make a donation to SoldierOn and Legacy from the proceeds of the conference. These organisations do great work in supporting the serving members and veterans of the Australian Defence Force. We encourage all HunterNet members and conference attendees to give their support.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Website: www.hunternet.com.au

Email: info@hunternet.com.au

Phone: (02) 4925 4482

Lance Corporal Dylan Hart - from Swan Hill to Iraq

By Captain Sharon Mascall-Dare

Lance Corporal Dylan Hart will fulfil a childhood dream this ANZAC Day of becoming a soldier and serving his country on operations.

The 26-year-old infantry soldier is currently deployed with Task Group Taji IV – a combined force of Australian and New Zealand Defence Force personnel on a training mission in Iraq, near Baghdad.

For the next few months, he's based at the Taji Military Complex, serving on Operation OKRA – Australia's contribution to the international coalition effort to defeat the Daesh terrorist group.

As a Lance Corporal, (LCPL) he's commanding a force protection element and working as a trainer – instructing Iraqi soldiers and policemen in a wide range of military skills from marksmanship to infantry tactics.

"Training the Iraqis is a really rewarding job," he said.

"We're helping them to improve their military skills so they can defeat Daesh and get their country back.

"Every day I try to learn five new Arabic words and teach them five new words of English. It really helps to build that understanding – you can tell that we're making a big difference over here in Iraq."

Growing up, LCPL Hart attended Swan Hill College and was known locally for his achievements in boxing and clay target shooting.

He became interested in military life at the age of six, when his dad took him to see an army exhibition at Riverside Park.

"I remember my dad shot a Steyr – the Australian Army's service rifle. I now know he fired blanks but I thought it was real at the time.

"From that moment I wanted to join the army and become a soldier.

"I joined as soon as I could in 2009, when I was 18."

Since then, LCPL Hart has deployed on two operations overseas and has worked in

some of the world's toughest environments.

His army career has taken him to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates. He has also taken part in an ANZAC exchange to New Zealand.

"One of the reasons why I joined the army was to see the world," he said.

"That's happened, and it's been made easier because my family are very supportive of my job.

"Since I've been in Iraq, my mum has been sending me packages every week."

His mum, Rebecca Hart, is well known in Swan Hill as a local chef – she currently runs Boo's Place Café and Provedore.

Following in her footsteps, LCPL Hart says he also enjoys cooking and likes trying new recipes using army ration packs.

"If you put cream crackers in the beef and gravy ration pack it tastes a bit like a meat pie," he said.

"When I get home, I'm looking forward to visiting my mum's café and spending some time with my parents. It'll be great to see them again."

LCPL Dylan Hart is a member of Task Group Taji Four, a combined force of Australian and New Zealand Defence Force personnel training Iraqi Security Forces to defeat Daesh and maintain security in Iraq.



UN Air Operation Disperses Central African Republic Militia

By Reuters

Sunday, 26 February 2017 21:15 GMT

UN peacekeepers want to prevent a war between the rival FPRC and UPC groups which are made up of former members of the mainly Muslim Seleka rebel alliance.

DAKAR, Feb 26 (Reuters) - A U.N. operation with an attack helicopter dispersed heavily armed militiamen in the remote Central African Republic town of Bambari town on Sunday, the peacekeeping mission said in a statement.

About 40 fighters from the Popular Front for the Renaissance of Central African Republic (FPRC) armed with AK-47s and rocket propelled grenades had gathered in the town, but U.N. forces intervened to prevent them carrying out an attack, it said.

The action was in keeping with the peacekeeping forces' mandate to protect civilians and its aim to "prevent a war" between the militia and the rival Union for Peace in Central African Republic (UPC) rebels, it added.

"The toll of this air operation is not yet known," mission spokesman Vladimir Monteiro said. "MINUSCA (the U.N. mission) warns the coalition (FPRC) against any attempt to bring war to Bambari."

Monteiro told Reuters in an email that the operation had "engaged one helicopter," but gave no further details.

The FPRC and UPC are former members of the mainly Muslim Seleka rebel alliance that united to oust then-President Francois Bozize in 2013, sparking backlash from Christian "anti-balaka" militias and plunging the country into tit-for-tat ethnic and sectarian killing.

But they fell out over competition for territory and control of illicit tax revenues. The FPRC are now allied with the anti-balaka militias.

UPC rebels killed at least 32 people in clashes with the FPRC in December, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW).

(Reporting by Tim Cocks; Editing by Tom Heneghan)

Retrieved from: <http://news.trust.org/item/20170226212130-m6qkb/> on 28 February 2017.



Keeping the Peace



Commander Multinational Force and Observers MAJGEN Simon Stuart salutes during the change of command ceremony in Egypt. Photo Cpl Bill Solomou

New International force commander

Commander Multinational Force and Observers MAJGEN Simon Stuart salutes during the change of command ceremony in Egypt.

An Australian AN AUSTRALIAN officer has assumed command of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) for the second time in history. MAJGEN Simon Stuart assumed command during a change of command ceremony at the MFO's main camp in Sharm el Sheikh, Sinai, Egypt, on March 1.

He is the second Australian to command the MFO, with MAJGEN David Ferguson commanding the force from 1994 to 1997. MAJGEN Stuart said he was privileged to take command, especially from his predecessor – MAJGEN Denis Thompson, of the Canadian Armed Forces.

"I thank him for the great work he has done," MAJGEN Stuart said. The MFO is an independent organisation headquartered in Rome, which supervises implementation of the security arrangements to the 1979 Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel.

Twelve nations – Australia, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Fiji, France, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, UK, US and Uruguay – contribute troops towards the 1400 personnel who are part of the MFO.

Australia has been contributing to the MFO for more than 30 years, with 27 ADF personnel currently serving in key appointments. The ceremony was attended by Australia's MFO coalition partners and presided over by MFO Director-General David Satterfield.



Complex Times for Peace Operations



SGT Dave Morley

Participants from as far away as Egypt and Jordan attended a peace operations seminar at the ADF Peace Operations Training Centre at Weston Creek in Canberra from March 6-10.

Commandant Australian Command and Staff College AIRCDRE Matt Hegarty said in his opening address that the UN peacekeeping system was facing increasing challenges as the multidimensional aspects of contemporary peacekeeping operations became more complex.

“The scope and scale of UN peacekeeping is huge, with more than 117,000 military, police and civilian personnel deployed across more than a dozen peacekeeping missions,” he said.

“Increasingly, peacekeepers are being deployed to conflict areas in difficult operating environments, where often there is little peace to keep, host state capacity is weak and local stakeholders are openly hostile to the UN’s presence.”

AIRCDRE Hegarty said the nature of peacekeeping had changed.

“Originally developed as a means of dealing with interstate conflict, UN peacekeeping has been increasingly applied to intrastate conflicts and civil wars,” he said.

“Peacekeepers are increasingly required to protect civilians and noncombatants in mission areas rather than observe buffer zones. Peacekeeping personnel are mandated to protect civilians and safeguard the human rights of all those who they are called on to protect.”

Seminar coordinator MAJ Gopalakirshna Govindasamy said the seminar aimed to familiarise selected ADF personnel, as well as staff from other agencies and international Defence partners, with current and future factors influencing participation in peace operations.

“The seminar panel consisted of 28 Australians from the ADF, Department of Defence, DFAT, AFP and Australian CivilMilitary Centre,” he said.

“The 20 international participants were selected by International Policy Division from 10 countries across the South-East Asia, South Asia and Middle East region.

Keynote speakers and panel members were selected from a wide range of military, police, civilian and academic backgrounds in order to provide a balanced blend of inputs for each day of the seminar.”

How Resilience Grows in a Testing Environment



ADF peacekeepers at work in Rwanda in 1995.

SGT Dave Morley

Commander Joint Health and Surgeon General ADF AVM Tracy Smart’s first overseas deployment was one she’ll never forget.

After six years in the Air Force she found herself part of the 300-strong AUSMED contingent to the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR II) in 1995, as senior RAAF officer, AME coordinator and OC Clinical Services.

She said the AUSMED mission was to provide health support to UNAMIR II’s 5500 troops and to the local population on an opportunity basis.

“The conditions we dealt with were different from anything we’d faced in Australia and included infectious diseases, malnutrition, exotic tumours, old war injuries and trauma from grenades, mines, gunshot wounds and motor vehicle accidents,” she said.

“We faced the risk of HIV, we were fatigued from long shifts and being on call, we had limited resources and support, and we had patients dying on a scale not experienced in Australian hospitals.”

AVM Smart, who was a presenter at the peace operations seminar in Canberra, said there were occasions when they faced ethical dilemmas of “playing God” by prioritising patients.

“Western health providers are taught to save lives at any cost, to prioritise in accordance with medical, not mission, needs,” she said.

“The capabilities of clinical practitioners can exceed the planned logistic support to the mission.

“So we had to make decisions which were extremely stressful.

“These types of events had long-term effects on many of my colleagues.”

AVM Smart said there were positives to come out of the Rwanda experience.

“We did the job we were trained for – saving lives. Each child we saved or left a positive imprint on had the potential to grow up and make a positive difference in their country – a small victory,” she said.

“I also believe these experiences made many of us stronger and more resilient as individuals, a concept known as post-traumatic growth.”

Strengthening Bonds of Peace

By Avital Terkowski

Multinational contingent broadening their knowledge as part of cooperative peacekeeping exercise Pirap Jabiru in Thailand

International policy at its best.

It was rewarding to see that more countries in the region participated in the peacekeeping exercise Pirap Jabiru in Thailand in May 16, including participants from China and Myanmar who joined the exercise for the first time.

Policy officers across International Policy Division engaged with a range of countries and encouraged them to send participants to the exercise, where 100 students and instructors from 20 regional militaries and police forces gathered together for two weeks to consider the current issues and future challenges of peacekeeping.

As an assistant director on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (North) desk, I joined the ADF Peace Operations Training Centre on Pirap Jabiru, which Australia co-hosts with Thailand biennially.

I got to see how the work my colleagues and I do on a daily basis is implemented on the ground.

While the ADF and the Royal Thai Armed Forces provided a tangible peacekeeping exercise, Pirap Jabiru demonstrated how defence international engagement helps to generate active and effective security partnerships with regional partners. It presented an opportunity to meet and establish relationships with many of our regional neighbours and provided a better cultural understanding of the militaries and police forces in our region. I also have a better appreciation of the work our ADF partners and in particular the ADF Peace Operations Training Centre do in a large-scale exercise such as Pirap Jabiru.

The exercise incorporated theoretical and practical components, in both lectures and syndicate group settings. My group included military and police members from Thailand, Tonga, Malaysia, Philippines, Pakistan and Vietnam. It was challenging at times, simulating the realities of a multilateral UN peacekeeping mission, with varying levels of English and different processes of planning and briefing. We had frank discussions, completed our tasks successfully and learned about each other.

The exercise, themed “Current issues, future challenges”,

focused on understanding the structure and function of peace operations as well as the partnership roles of international government and non-government organisations. It enhanced my understanding of how to participate in complex and multi-dimensional peace operations. What really struck me about UN missions are the complexities of the operation and the dynamics of all the different mission components such as military, police and civilian agencies. The exercise gave me the opportunity to understand the critical issues and consider their impact on the planning and conduct of a peacekeeping mission, especially from a policy perspective.

Media often show UN missions with images of bare land, starving people and crying babies.

Presenters, instructors and students have been deployed on peacekeeping missions and shared their experiences and the atrocities they have seen. They believed they made a difference. I will not forget their desire and passion to contribute to a better world.

As the second Secretary-General for the UN, Dag Hammarskjöld says: “The UN was not created to take mankind to heaven, but to save humanity from hell.”

Times of Change



Outgoing Op MAZURKA RSM WO1 Paul Holstein and Commander Australian Contingent LTCOL Paul Duncan (left) hand over the pace stick to incoming RSM WO1 Craig Webb and new commander LTCOL Colin Morrison.

Egypt deployment a career highlight for outgoing Mazurka commander

A PARADE at the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) headquarters in Egypt last month formalised the change of command of the Australian contingent, as LTCOL Paul Duncan handed over to incoming commander LTCOL Colin Morrison.

The command position is a 12-month appointment and LTCOL Duncan’s tenure in 2016 coincided with a period of significant change within the MFO. LTCOL Duncan said

his deployment on Operation MAZURKA was a highlight of his military career.

"It was a humbling and rewarding experience to command so many disciplined and competent Australian troops on operations," he said. During his tenure, the MFO faced the most significant change in its 35-year history, with the majority of personnel from the 12 contributing nations relocating to South Camp in Sharm el Sheikh from the traditional base at North Camp.

"It also saw a renewed focus on technological methods of observation and reporting from the traditional manned observation posts," LTCOL Duncan said. During the change of command ceremony, rotation 46A was farewelled and members were presented with their service medals.

Six Australian troops were also recognised for their significant contribution to the MFO and were awarded certificates of appreciation from the Force Commander and Chief of Staff.

South Sudan Experiencing Ethnic Cleansing, UN Report says

By Justin Lynch, Associated Press

Kampala, Uganda — Mar 7, 2017, 10:28 AM ET

A new United Nations report describes South Sudan as teetering on the edge of genocide and experiencing ethnic cleansing, a stark portrayal of a nation whose crises now include famine.

The seven-month inquiry by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights into South Sudan is the most comprehensive report so far into ethnic cleansing and conditions that could lead to genocide in the nation deep in civil war, according to U.N. officials.

The report includes new details on deliberate starvation and bombardment of civilians. It describes the use of hate speech by top officials including President Salva Kiir.

"Violations have mainly been committed by government soldiers, members of the National Security Service, police officers and militias aligned with" government forces, the report says. Unless "perpetrators of serious violations are brought to account, the viability of South Sudan as a new nation state will be stymied, if it has not been already."

South Sudan fell into civil war in December 2013, just two years after it won its independence from Sudan. Tens of thousands have been killed, and more than 1.5 million people have fled the East African nation, becoming Africa's largest migrant crisis.

Now there is deadly hunger. Late last month, the U.N. and South Sudan's government declared a famine in two counties affecting about 100,000 people. Roughly 1 million people are at risk of starvation, according to the U.N.

The new report calls South Sudan's ongoing restrictions on humanitarian aid access "unlawful," and it warns that the

"scorched earth' policy may amount to starvation, which is prohibited by international law as a method of warfare."

On the subject of ethnic violence, the report describes how in January, intense fighting in the Upper Nile region meant "members of the Shilluk ethnic community were forced out of their homes," with the town of Wau Shilluk being repeatedly shelled and eventually deserted of more than 20,000 residents.

"My people are at risk of physical and cultural extinction," the leader of the Shilluk Kingdom, Kwongo Dak Padiet, said in a statement dated Saturday and issued separately from the U.N. report. He cited ongoing military operations and controversial laws that divided the traditional Shilluk homeland, signed by Kiir.

The new report also cites "numerous reports of SPLA soldiers targeting Nuer civilians and raping Nuer women, while accusing the women or their families of 'supporting the rebels.'"

Many of South Sudan's forces, like Kiir, are ethnic Dinka.

South Sudanese government officials have repeatedly denied that the country is experiencing genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Ethnic cleansing and the risk of genocide are "not an accurate report. There is nothing happening. The people of South Sudan are preparing for the national dialogue," government spokesman Michael Makuei told The Associated Press in an interview. Kiir proposed the dialogue last year.

The new U.N. human rights report also describes how rape has become part of war in South Sudan.

"Several women the commission met had not received essential medical assistance for the injuries that they had sustained as a result of rape, gang rape, beating, sexual assault or other violence," the report said. "Many had suffered significant damage to their reproductive organs,"

One survivor told the commission that she witnessed the rape of another woman who begged the perpetrators to kill her instead.

"After raping the woman, soldiers cut her genitalia and left her for dead as punishment for 'being stubborn,'" the report said.

Retrieved From: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/south-sudan-experiencing-ethnic-cleansing-report-45963377> on 9 March 2017.



Polisario Blames Morocco for UN W Sahara Envoy Leaving



Algiers - An official from the Polisario Front fighting for the independence of the Western Sahara on Tuesday blamed Morocco for the resignation of a UN envoy to the disputed territory.

Christopher Ross quitting last week was a result of "Morocco blocking negotiations since 2012" on the future of the former Spanish colony, M'hamed Kheddad said.

Morocco insists that the Western Sahara is an integral part of its kingdom, but the Algeria-based Polisario is demanding a referendum on self-determination.

The two sides fought for control of the territory from 1974 to 1991, with Rabat gaining control of it before a UN-brokered ceasefire took effect.

Ross submitted his resignation after spending eight years trying to resolve the dispute.

An American who served as US ambassador to Algeria and Syria, he had been harshly criticised by Morocco who accused him of being pro-Polisario.

Morocco has not officially reacted to the news of Ross's resignation.

After then UN chief Ban Ki-moon last year used the term "occupation" to describe the status of Western Sahara, Morocco reacted with fury and expelled dozens of staff from the world body's MINURSO mission in the territory.

Kheddad on Tuesday also blamed the resignation on "the indifference of the Security Council over the expulsion of (MINURSO) staff".

The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, declared by the Polisario in 1976, is a full member of the African Union.

Morocco left what was then the Organisation of African Unity in 1984 after the SADR was admitted, but was readmitted at an AU summit at the end of January.

Retrieved from: <http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/polisario-blames-morocco-for-un-w-sahara-envoy-leaving-20170307> on 9 March 2017.

UN Chief calls for Haiti Peacekeeping Mission to end Oct 15



FILE - In this March 26, 2006, file photo, U.N. troops from Uruguay march during a transitional ceremony at the UN Spain base in Forte-Liberte, Haiti. Uruguay's president Tabare Vazquez said Monday, March 20, 2017, that his country is pulling

By Edith M. Lederer- Associated Press - Monday, March 20, 2017

United Nations (AP) - Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is recommending that the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti wrap up with the departure of all 2,370 military personnel by Oct. 15.

The UN Chief said a successor smaller peacekeeping operation should be established to continue to support police training, political stability, good governance, electoral reform, the rule of law and human rights in the impoverished Caribbean nation.

He recommended in a report to the UN Security Council obtained Monday by The Associated Press that the new mission include about 1,275 police, down from the current 2,541. He also said it should have a new name, though he didn't propose one.

"Haiti reached a major milestone on the path to stabilization, with the peaceful conclusion of the electoral process and the return to constitutional order on Feb. 7, 2017" when Jovenel Moise was sworn in as president, Guterres said.

He said constitutional rule "and a continued period of political stability ahead will hopefully allow Haiti to move from economic fragility to sustainable growth, with the help of significant international assistance."

The secretary-general's long-awaited report confirms the UN's intention to wrap up a peacekeeping force that has been cycling through the country since a 2004 rebellion engulfed Haiti in violence.

Retrieved from: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/mar/20/un-chief-calls-for-haiti-peacekeeping-mission-to-e/> on 23 March 2017.



**Be Quick
Only 4 lots left !**



Curious about the Airpark lifestyle?

Residential living perfectly situated for aviators - Mary Valley, Qld

Cumulus Airpark has only 4 lots left - just 15 minutes from Gympie and 30 minutes north of Noosa. Appreciate the direct access from your freehold block onto the 1400m bitumen runway. Large blocks of 3000m² in this residential precinct allow room for the house, pool, your hanger - what ever you want. Features of the Gympie Aerodrome include: uncontrolled airspace, refuelling and aircraft maintenance facilities.

Just enjoy life and take the time to look at this unique development!

CUMULUSAIRPARK.COM.AU

CALL NOW - Ray Gresham
0428 835 451
cumulusairstpark@bigpond.com



A strategic partnership that delivers

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has a vast expanse of air and sea space to monitor, highlighting the critical importance of the acquisition and sustainment of the right surveillance solutions to meet the country's needs.

The military-off-the-shelf maritime patrol and response aircraft were being procured through a government-to-government co-operative program. The ADF needed to secure expert support from industry to help deliver the project, and was acutely aware of finding the right partner that could seamlessly work as part of this international collaborative effort.

Defence was looking for a trusted strategic partner with an excellent relationship across the ADF which could provide:

- Broad and deep expertise across all acquisition and sustainment activities
- Low risk transition and assured delivery
- A cooperative and collaborative relationship focused on outcomes
- Efficient, transparent and flexible Strategic Support Partnership Contract (SSPC) management

Team Trident, a RubiKon-led consortium with QinetiQ and Nova, was established in May 2016 to bring in partners to broaden its available skill sets, whilst retaining the customer focussed ethos already proven within the project office. The result was the creation of a single team with a single shared objective extending across both Team Trident and the ADF, with partnership working as the foundation.

The sense of being in this together and the importance of the relationship was even embodied in the contract as a core Key Performance Indicator.

To always ensure the ADF's objectives were met, Team Trident:

- Implemented a 'Right Athlete' approach to create a competitive environment within the existing contract construct to guarantee that the ADF always gets the very best resources and value for money possible

- Enables scalable strength and depth through the addition of specialist acquisition and technical subject matter experts which can be accessed by the ADF through the Team Trident tier 2 partnerships
- Demonstrated confidence in the performance commitment to the ADF by placing 100% of profit at risk, guaranteeing timeliness, quality and relationship

To date, this approach has ensured all deliverables have been successfully completed, with most achieved early and under budget.

The first Airworthiness Board in September 2016 was achieved only 6 months after the SSPC commenced, and was especially significant as it was concluded without any Corrective Action Requests being issued, preparing the way for the historic delivery of the airframe in November 2016, on schedule.

The SSPC approach has provided the ADF flexibility in the contract management of its tasks and for Team Trident to proactively work with the ADF to jointly identify the work and priorities necessary to deliver the program schedule, in contrast to a traditional piecemeal task-by-task tendering approach. It has also enhanced communication across the entire project. Team Trident has members embedded in a US Navy P-8A sub contractor, the ADF acquisition and sustainment Systems Project Offices, as well as the end user at RAAF 92WG, enabling better coordination and facilitating working across traditional boundaries.

In January 2017, QinetiQ acquired RubiKon Group.



QINETIQ



QinetiQ acquired RubiKon Group in January 2017 and is proud to provide the Australian Defence Force and Defence Industry with integrated logistics and project support.

Contact us to
find out more.

1800 038 081
info@QinetiQ.com.au
www.QinetiQ.com.au



HARDCORE
HARDWARE AUSTRALIA®

The Hardcore Hardware Australia® **ASOT-01** is a fast access, multi-purpose CQB tool.

The Full tang 6mm (0.236"), D2 steel construction has a live edge identifier and ergonomic G10 grip scales that enhance feel and performance. Its ambidextrous sheath comes with Pals/Molle and Belt/Strap mounting options.

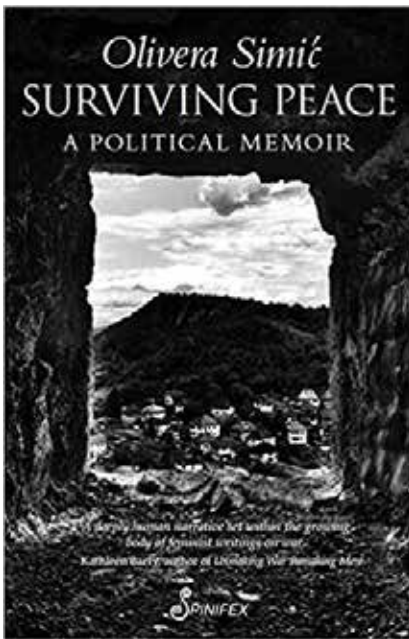
Available in three colours and an optional safe edge training model.

Designed and developed in Australia, the **ASOT-01** is a non-prohibited design; however please check your local State laws in relation to knife ownership and carry.

www.hardcorehardware.com.au



Reading Room: Surviving Peace



By reviewer **Joseph Power**

One of the many over-valued witticisms of Winston Churchill concerns the slice of Europe known as the Balkans: ‘The Balkans generates more history than it can locally consume’, he once remarked.

Churchill, like most of his contemporaries, considered the Balkans to be little more than a small part of the continent responsible for immense geopolitical annoyance. Ishaan Tharoor quotes the unparalleled practitioner of 19th century statecraft, Otto von Bismarck, when he spat that the Balkans was “not worth the bones of one Pomeranian grenadier”.

Surviving Peace takes the reader through the death of the former Yugoslavia: “I was born in a country that no longer exists”, the book begins. The dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was characterised by the balkanisation of civil society; a formerly multicultural country saw sharp divisions on the basis of ethnic identity between Serbs, Bosniaks and Croats.

For most, war is thought of in the abstract, usually only viewed in clean, bloodless, packaged segments featured in newsreels or the fictional excesses of film and television. Often lost within chaos are the lives and stories of ordinary people caught in the middle.

Simić was born to a Serbian family in Banja Luka, the second largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her experiences of war have driven her to focus on what she describes as “crimes committed in my name”. The most infamous of these crimes, the massacre at Srebrenica during which thousands of Muslim men and boys were slaughtered by the armed forces of Serbia over a few days, is a recurring point of interest in the book and a source of great difficulty between Simić and her father and indeed, between people like Simić and Serbs in general.

Simić describes how ethnic chauvinism dominates post-war discourse: Serbs concentrating on crimes committed by the other and vice versa, while simultaneously denying that atrocities carried out by Serbs even happened. In other words, truth carries no objective weight and becomes entirely relative. It’s the duty of ‘truth seekers’ to “demand justice and examine crimes committed by [their] clan”. Without acknowledgement of the crimes committed by all sides in the war, the chances of building a real, lasting peace and healing the deep societal divisions in Bosnia stands little chance.

Some of the stories stay with you: a boy who developed a speech impediment after being forced to watch the gang rape of his mother and sisters; the description of living through NATO’s Operation Merciful Angel and the resulting post-traumatic stress disorder; a friend’s dog killed to stop the spread of ‘anti-Serbian propaganda’ otherwise known as accurate reporting on war crimes.

Simić is an avowed pacifist, declaring that “the answer to violence can never be more violence”. My only real criticism of the book is that an alternative is never really elucidated. The prose has a ghost of the academic about it. Emotional events are often described in a passive manner, the exception being personal traumas.

Simić’s work is overall memorable and enthralling. The end of the book features a handsome bibliography with plenty of material for further reading if the reader so desires. My main takeaway from the book is that some wounds never really disappear, long after bombs have stopped falling.

Olivera Simić, *Surviving Peace: A Political Memoir*, North Melbourne: Spinifex Press, 2014.

Joseph Power is a former member of the AIIA QLD executive council and former editor-in-chief for ‘The Transnational Review’.

Published March 12, 2017

Retrieved from: http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australian_outlook/reading-room-surviving-peace-yugoslavia/ on 17 March 2017.



Ballina Mum United with Son's Mates



Lest We Forget: Lance Corporal Shannon McAliney died in Somalia in 1993. Contributed

It was a particularly special moment for Ballina's Liz Hanns when she attended the ANZAC Day parade in Forbes, western NSW.

She was joined by the platoon commander and section commander of the infantry unit in which her son, the late Lance Corporal Shannon McAliney served with in Somalia on Operation Solace.

"I was very honoured," Ms Hanns said.

LCPL McAliney died on the operation on April 2, 1993, following an accident.

He was aged 21, and is buried at Forbes.

LCPL McAliney joined the army in 1988 after attending Ballina High School.

He served in the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, under now General David Hurley, the current Governor of NSW.

Operation Solace was a peacekeeping deployment.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping and peacemaking operations.

It's a role that began on November 14, 1947, when four Australian military officers became the first UN peacekeepers when they deployed to the United Nations Good Offices Commission in Indonesia, which was then the Dutch East Indies.

President of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association, Allan Thomas from Alstonville, said Australia's role has since involved more than 66,000 veterans, who have participated in 73 operations to 64 different countries, including Iraq, Middle East, Afghanistan, Africa and the Solomon Islands.

Police also have been involved in some operations.

Ms Hanns donated Shannon's medals to the peacekeeping section of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

A replica of those medals also has been donated to the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch Museum which is closed due to the renovations in the Ballina RSL Club.

Retrieved from: <https://www.ballinaadvocate.com.au/news/ballina-mum-united-with-sons-mates/3170985/> on 27th April 2017.

Editor's Comment: LCPL McAliney was accidentally shot dead whilst on patrol in Baidoa.

A Digger's Kindness Towards a Young Boy in a Rwandan Refugee Camp has become a Story of Hope and Inspiration in Wagga

Ken Grimson

28 Apr 2017, 4:20 p.m.

He was once a quivering child in a dangerous Rwandan refugee camp separated from his parents and facing death every day.

At its very best, life was uncertain for five-year-old Theogene Ngamiji as bombs rained down in the notorious Kibeho camp one day in 1995.

But a simple act of kindness by an Australian soldier that day gave the terrified youngster hope of a future and inspired him to become an Aussie soldier himself.

Resettled in Australia with his uncle and other family members in 2011, Private Ngamiji on Friday marched out from the Army Recruit Training Centre as one of the newest soldiers in the Australian Army.

He was given the honour of leading 23 and 24 platoons as they shouted out their soldier contract in front of hundreds of onlookers, including his uncle and cousins.

"This morning I was getting dressed and thinking 'is this real or is it a dream?' he told the assembled media after marching out.

"It is real, but I still can't believe it."

Private Ngamiji told his startling story in a written statement he submitted to the Army when he applied to join the Australian Defence Force.

Referring to the bombing, he said he was lucky to survive.

"Later that day a tall Australian soldier took a knee and offered me a piece of biscuit and the ANF patch from his uniform, which I still have to this day," Private Ngamiji wrote.

"I will never forget that kindness and I shall forever be grateful."

Private Ngamiji said Australia gave him a home and he could not think of a better way to "pay back this great nation" than joining the Army.

"Now here I am, proudly an Australian soldier," he wrote.

"I am doing this for all Australians, especially the soldier that helped me.

"I hope he hears this and knows that I a his shoes to serve and do good."

Private Ngamiji's uncle, Theogene Ngabo, said he was very proud of his nephew.

"This is not just his action, but it's an action for Australia accepting us," Mr Ngabo said.

"Australia is now our land."

Private Ngamiji has never learnt the identify of the benevolent soldier, nor does he know the fate of his parents, but discovering those things some time in the future are part of life's journey for the proud Aussie soldier as he embarks on his budding military career.

"The Army is more than family to me; I have been here (just) three months, but I am so much connected," Private Ngamiji said before heading off to celebrate his now-bright future with his uncle and cousins

Retrieved from: <http://www.dailyadvertiser.com.au/story/4628083/how-a-kind-act-inspired-a-young-life-videos-photos/> on 29 April 2017.

Editor's Comment: The APPVA is looking for the Australian soldier described by PTE Ngamiji, at the Kibeho Massacre with UNAMIR II [OP TAMAR].

If you have any leads, please contact the Editor: natadvisor@peacekeepers.asn.au



Private Ngamiji said leading the soldier's contract was Private Theogene Ngamiji with his uncle Theogene Ngabo and cousins, from left: Denise Ngabo, Daniel Ngabo, David Ngabo, Dieudonne Ngabo and Providence Gwaneza. Not in the photo are Christine Ngabo and Darius Ngabo who also celebrated with Private Ngamiji. All pictures by Kieren L Tilly



Image courtesy of Department of Defence.

BE IN COMMAND OF YOUR CAREER

GAIN SKILL RECOGNITION WITH A QUALIFICATION IN LOGISTICS

Advance your career with a nationally accredited diploma or bachelor of logistics at CQUniversity Australia. As a member of the Australian Defence Force, you may be eligible to receive recognition of prior learning (RPL) at no charge for part of the Diploma of Logistics (TLI50415).

For more information or to apply, contact the CQUniversity Business Development team on **07 4940 3387**, email **ADF@cqu.edu.au** or visit **cqu.edu.au**.

ENJOY A WEALTH OF CHOICE

Whether you're thinking of changing careers or want to up skill, CQUniversity's comprehensive range of TAFE and university qualifications – as well as seamless pathways between the two – can help you get there.

At CQUniversity we make study all about you, with outstanding support services, flexibility and a reputation as one of Australia's most engaged and inclusive universities. Choose to study when and how you like on campus or online via our renowned and flexible distance education mode, with access to 20+ national locations. Plus, you'll enjoy the expertise of a uni ranked in the top 2% worldwide* with a full-time graduate employment ranking in the top four nationally^.

cqu.edu.au

*Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2017).

^Federal Government's Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching 2016 (Undergraduate employment).

BE WHAT YOU WANT TO BE

cqu.edu.au

Getting Your Degree While Deployed

Advancing in today's armed forces requires continuous development of your skills and knowledge. More enlisted personnel are choosing to continue their education while deployed in order to take advantage of opportunities during their military service, as well as to prepare for the eventual transition to civilian life.

Technology has made it increasingly possible and convenient to earn a degree online from the college of your choice, even during deployment. In fact, as long as you have internet access, you can attend classes, and interact with professors and students from anywhere on the globe.

Successfully completing a degree online requires planning and organization, so keep these tips front and center:

1. Gather Your Resources

Pursuing an online degree program requires some basic equipment:

- **Computer:** You'll need one with a current operating system, and word processing, spreadsheet and other software according to your program needs. A laptop will be most convenient.
- **Internet access:** Most military installations have internet access, but what about when you're in the field? A wireless internet device, or card, enables you to send and receive data no matter where you are provided you are conscious of correct protocols. You'll be ready to communicate with professors and submit assignments via email, download lectures and attend video-based classes.
- **Textbooks and e-books:** Ask your instructors whether digital texts and materials are available; that will save space and weight when packing for deployment. Some texts might be offered as downloadable e-books, CDs or DVDs.
- **Flash or thumb drive:** A USB drive is excellent for storing your work and transporting files between computers. Keep your work saved to your drive and you'll always be ready to send to your instructors via email.

2. Find a College that Fits Your Needs

Finding the right program starts with thinking about your career aspirations. Maybe you're interested in continuing on the path you've started in the service. Or, perhaps you're ready for something completely different. It's important to conduct some research.

3. Make a Plan and Get Organised

Earning a degree while deployed requires a major commitment, but good planning and organisation will go a long way to getting you through. It helps to choose a college that is experienced with defence students, since instructors and staff will understand the demands on your time and offer you greater flexibility.

Try to find time to study every day; even an hour or two can really pay off. Keep your study materials close by so you

can take advantage of any downtime. Be disciplined about studying, because it's easier to keep up than to catch up.

4. Be Flexible and Make Education a Priority

Of course, your defence duties will demand much of your time and energy. Inform your superior about your class schedule, and ask for some flexibility if possible on your duty schedule. Assess and prioritise your responsibilities, such as work, school and family. Keep education near the top. Remember, it's the key to meeting your career goals.

5. Get Support or Find a Study Buddy

The support of friends and family is crucial to your success as a student. Share your goals and inform your support network of the importance of your education.

A study buddy can be a big help, too. Find out who else in your unit is pursuing a degree or establish a connection with another student through message boards or email. It's great to have someone to talk to, share experiences, read your papers and study with – and it can make a real difference.

It's easier than ever to continue your education while deployed – and nothing is more important to your career than advancing your training and qualifications. In a competitive military or civilian environment, the right skills and knowledge can help you land promotions and meet your personal and professional goals.

Deployment & Time Apart

Defence Community Organisation (DSO)

Families can access a range of support during the ADF member's absence. DSO provides regular deployment support calls, 24-hour advice and referrals, social work, and assistance with emergency and crisis, as well as special assistance for children dealing with parental absence. The member's unit is also there to help and will run programs of support for you.

You can also read about maintaining your mental health and wellbeing during challenging times.

DCO provides a range of support services, practical assistance and products to support Defence families during times of deployment and family member absence.

Time apart from families due to deployments, training or other Service requirements is an integral feature of Defence life. Our services seek to inform and prepare you for these times and provide you with support to make these experiences manageable, positive and strengthening ones for your family.

By being informed, preparing and planning, and employing coping strategies, both children and adults can use the challenge of deployment as an opportunity to step up and face new responsibilities, mature and grow, and develop

Families can access a range of support during the ADF member's absence. DSO provides regular deployment support calls, 24-hour advice and referrals, social work, and assistance with emergency and crisis, as well as special assistance for children dealing with parental absence. The member's unit is also there to help and will run programs of support for you.

You can also read about maintaining your mental health and wellbeing during challenging times.

DCO provides a range of support services, practical assistance and products to support Defence families during times of deployment and family member absence.

Time apart from families due to deployments, training or other Service requirements is an integral feature of Defence life. Our services seek to inform and prepare you for these times and provide you with support to make these experiences manageable, positive and strengthening ones for your family.

By being informed, preparing and planning, and employing coping strategies, both children and adults can use the challenge of deployment as an opportunity to step up and face new responsibilities, mature and grow, and develop their self-reliance and self-confidence.

To access any of these deployment support services or products, contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au or 1800 624 608.

Planning for and guidance through deployment

Through DSO you can access a variety of information and resources available to familiarise yourself with what you might expect from each stage of deployment. Their resources will also give you practical guidance for each stage, such as outlining administration you should carry out pre-deployment, different ways of communicating with the deployed family member and hints and tips to readjust as a family when the member returns.

Before deployment

Although deployment and time apart can be challenging for families, timely preparation can help to make the experience more manageable and positive for all concerned.

Be informed. Find out about the member's operation, and what effect the time apart may have on your family so you can prepare emotionally as well as practically.

Plan ahead. There are practical things you can do to make sure the family is well cared for and things run smoothly in the member's absence, including making a family support plan. The ADF member will also have to perform some vital administration before they go.

Involve the whole family. Getting the whole family involved in preparations, including children, will make sure everyone feels heard, informed and that they have an important part to play.

During deployment

Defence's Global Operations website www.defence.gov.au/Operations/ outlines the ADF's operations within

Australia or overseas. There are factsheets, new stories and up-to-date information for each deployment currently in effect.

The ADF member's unit will often hold briefs or events for families during the deployment which may give you updates as well as an opportunity to connect with other Defence families. Contact the unit directly for more information.

The National Welfare Coordination Centre (NWCC) provides a 24-7 information and referral service for families of deployed ADF members. The NWCC is staffed by Service personnel who can help with deployment queries such as mailing addresses and postal regulations, give you current information about operations, and pass urgent information to the deployed member.

Call 1800 801 026 or email nwcc.australia@defence.gov.au. The NWCC website also has links to useful information for families of deployed members.

All deploying members are required to complete an Emergency Contact Notification Information form, which is lodged with NWCC to confirm the members' chosen emergency contact details. Be aware if you are listed as your ADF member's emergency contact, you will need to let NWCC know if your contact details change or you go away on holiday.

Staying in touch with the deployed member

Communication between the deployed member and the family at home is essential to help you to:

- keep your relationship fresh and strong,
- share important moments and feelings,
- remain involved in each others' lives despite the physical distance between you,
- ease anxieties, loneliness and any sense of loss,
- reassure each other of your continuing love and support, and
- make reunion a much easier process.

With this in mind, try to make your communications frequent and positive. Discuss the communication options before the deployment and stick to your agreed plan wherever you can. Be clear, open and honest about your experiences and feelings. Try to limit negative emotions and responses as they can be difficult to resolve when you are not face-to-face.

Restrictions

Be aware that direct modes of communication such as telephone and Skype may not be available in particular locations or may only be sporadically available. Email and electronic communications may also be restricted.

The conditions of the deployment will stipulate what sort of communication you can use and when, and you should be able to find out these details from the unit or the National

Trijicon Machine Gun Reflex Sight

For more than 25 years, U.S. and International Armed Forces have relied on Trijicon's brilliant aiming solutions in magnified and reflex optics. In life-and-death situations, soldiers know they can depend on their Trijicon optics to provide precision, durability and dependability. With the introduction of the Machine Gun Reflex Sight (MGRS), machine-gunners can rest easy with the knowledge that their optics will perform with traditional Trijicon superiority.

The inherent abuse from the jarring, rapid recoil produced by fixed and turret-mounted machine guns is tough on regular optics, making existing units less than reliable. But the new MGRS is created to withstand the constant, violent battering. Forged out of 7075-T6 aluminum, which is 80 percent stronger than more commonly used 6061 material, the MGRS allows machine-gunners to achieve first round hits on target and follow-up shots remain accurate, day or night. The MGRS features a large objective lens with a 3-inch-by-2 inch viewing area and a 35 MOA segmented circle reticle. Centered within the reticle is a 3 MOA dot for precise aiming. Segmented circle designs provide the ability to quickly acquire and maintain holds on targets from close combat to extended ranges. The unit is powered by a single CR123A battery mounted at the front of the housing to provide more than 1,000 hours of continuous operation, and an optional three-power magnifier is available for accuracy at longer ranges.

The MGRS offers seven brightness settings, two facilitating the use of night-vision optics and five providing amplification for current conditions, including a super-brilliant setting for bright daylight. Zeroing is easy with 1 MOA adjustment increments and 100 MOA total travel of adjustment. Trijicon provides two interchangeable range knobs at the rear of the housing that are ballistically calibrated for use on the M240 and M2 machine guns. When properly zeroed to the weapon platform, the range knob allows the user to dial the correct range as a mechanical Bullet Drop Compensation (BDC) for accurate engagements.

The MGRS offers seven brightness settings, two facilitating the use of night-vision optics and five providing amplification for current conditions, including a super-brilliant setting for bright daylight.

Zeroing is easy with 1 MOA adjustment increments and 100 MOA total travel of adjustment. Trijicon provides two interchangeable range knobs at the rear of the housing that are ballistically calibrated for use on the M240 and M2 machine guns. When properly zeroed to the weapon platform, the range knob allows the user to dial the correct range as a mechanical Bullet Drop Compensation (BDC) for accurate engagements.



Like all Trijicon products, the MGRS is built for battlefield use, waterproof up to 2 meters and dry-nitrogen filled to prevent fogging. It's easy to maintain and resistant to corrosion and chemicals. The MGRS is backed by a 5-year warranty from the manufacture date.

MGRS Quick Facts:

Magnification: 1x

Sight Window: 3.0 – 2.0 inches

Adjustment Range: 100 MOA Total Travel

Dimensions: 8.78 X 4.17 x 5.22 inches

Weight: 66.9 ounces

Illumination Source: LED Powered by CR123A (Lithium Battery)

Battery Life: More than 1,000 hours of continuous use (brightness setting 6 of 7 at 70-degrees Fahrenheit)

Brightness Settings: 7 Settings (2 Night Vision, 5 Day Settings)

Parallax: Parallax-Free

Corrosion: All materials and coatings are corrosion- and chemical-resistant

Waterproof: 6.6-feet (2 meters)

For more information on the Trijicon MGRS and the complete array of Brilliant Aiming Solutions™ for the military and law enforcement markets, contact Trijicon, Inc. at (248) 960-7700 or visit www.trijicon.com.



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. 1 6, 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.



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>

March	8 - 9	Sydney
	14 - 15	Brisbane
	28 - 29	Townsville
	5 - 6	Adelaide
April	11 - 12	Canberra
	10 - 11	Melbourne
May	24 - 25	Darwin
	7 - 8	Newcastle
June	14 - 15	Perth
	20 - 21	Bandiana
	11 - 12	Brisbane
July	19 - 20	Sydney
	25 - 26	Cairns
	2 - 3	Shoalhaven
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

CQ University Launches New Online Logistics Course for ADF

CQUniversity has launched a new Diploma of Logistics and Bachelor of Logistics that is being offered exclusively to Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, reservists and those transitioning out of the services.

The new courses will provide Defence personnel with the opportunity to upskill their knowledge-base by undertaking higher education.

CQUniversity Vice-Chancellor Professor Scott Bowman said the two new courses were developed by Australian industry, meaning graduates would complete their degree with industry-relevant skills and knowledge.

“Members of the ADF wishing to study CQUniversity’s Diploma or Bachelor of Logistics may be eligible to receive recognition for prior learning for all, or part of, the diploma,” Professor Bowman said.

Professor Bowman says that both courses will be offered via distance education meaning that the possibility that defence personnel may face of being posted, wouldn’t need to be of concern.

“Students can complete the courses in whichever community they end up being posted to - which is the beauty of studying with Australia’s only university with a physical presence in every mainland state.”

CQUniversity is one of Australia’s largest regional universities and has a physical presence across Australia with campuses and study hubs in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

CQUniversity is also renowned as a leader in delivery of distance education with almost half of its total student cohort studying online.

Completing a Diploma of Logistics will provide graduates with the opportunity to develop the advanced skills required for integrated management of logistics. They will acquire underpinning knowledge and gain essential skills needed to autonomously plan and select appropriate equipment and apply services and techniques for themselves and others. On completion, students will be well-prepared to participate in the development of strategic initiatives and complex technical operations.

Graduates of the Bachelor of Logistics will be prepared to manage business challenges arising from the globalisation in operations, logistics management and supply chain professions. The course’s well-grounded approach will develop student’s skills and provide them with new knowledge in dealing with specialised logistics and supply chain matters. Graduates will be prepared to solve high-level business operation problems in contemporary global and regional markets.

“CQUniversity has more than 35 000 students studying courses from certificate to PhD level right across Australia,”

Professor Bowman said.

Students studying online at CQUniversity are well-supported in training and have the ability to tap into all student services, as if they were campus-based.

CQUniversity is ranked among the world’s top two percent of universities and has recently been recognised as one of the world’s top 100 universities under 50 years of age by the *QS World University Rankings* and the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*.

CQUniversity also has one of the highest graduate employment rates out of any other university in Australia, with a graduate employment rate that is more than 10 percent higher than the national average, with more than 80 percent of domestic undergraduate students find employment within three months of graduating from CQUniversity.

To enrol in CQUniversity’s Logistics course, email ADF@cqu.edu.au. Applicants will be assessed for RPL and entered into the online Diploma of Logistics (which is equivalent to the first year of the Bachelor degree). Once the Diploma is completed, students have the option to continue onto the Bachelor of Logistics for a further two years. The next intakes for the diploma will occur in July, August, September and November while intakes for the bachelor will take place in July and November.

- Exclusive training and study courses for ADF professionals.
- Upskill and develop specialist skills.
- Easy enrolment and RPL options.
- Flexible online study options.
- Course design based on industry collaboration.
- Study with one of Australia’s largest regional universities.
- Study with a university ranked among the top 2% in the world.



Australian Defence Force Delivering Peacekeeping Training for Africans in Africa

By Ms S. Hitchens and LTCOL M.Nash

Members of the ADF Peace Operations Training Centre provided valuable training to members of the East African Stand-by Force, in Kenya for almost four weeks. The ADF sponsored course lead by instructors from the Peace Operations Training Centre delivered a United Nations training course to military officers from across East Africa, the instructors were assisted by international instructors from Finland and New Zealand.

Conducted at the Humanitarian Peace and Support School (HPSS) in Embakasi, Kenya, the instructors and visiting lecturers delivered presentations, group discussions, and practical field exercises. The course prepares the students for deployment as Military Experts on UN Missions and covers material as diverse as mine awareness, negotiation and interview techniques, dealing with stress, protection of civilians, and hostage survival. The instructors drew on their collective experiences of deployment on over a dozen UN and multi-national missions to contextualise the material in their presentations, while the group discussions provided an opportunity for the students to raise questions and share their own diverse experiences of operations in Africa.

At the end of each week, the students put their knowledge to the test in a range of practical exercises designed to bring to life the course material in the specially designed training village at HPSS. The first day was spent doing practical skills developing observation post procedures, navigation by foot and vehicle, and negotiating with various stakeholders including militia, government forces and local villagers, all played by highly dedicated role-players. In the second and third practical exercises, the students put these skills to use in the context of a UN military liaison / observer team site where they alternated leadership duties, gave orders, carried out patrols, and briefed senior officers.

The training, accredited by the United Nations Department of Peace Keeping Operations (UN DPKO), provides the officers attending the skills and attitudes to be a successful peacekeeper. On completion of the course, students were immediately deployed on UN and African Union missions, with the majority heading off to Somalia to join the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia or UNSOM.

Activities like this form a significant part of the work of the ADF Peace Operations training Centre. Over the last 3 years, Australia has delivered training in Africa, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia while supporting training in over twelve countries including China, Chile and Canada. Activities and courses like these are examples of how the ADF and Australia continue to support Global Peace

Keeping. In the last 18 months, the Peace Operations training Centre has trained approximately 600 international officers to be UN Military Experts and Staff Officers.

The ADF Peace Operations Training Centre is a recognised UN training provider and has the primary responsibility of delivering force preparation training for all Defence members deploying on UN peacekeeping missions. In addition it manages eLearning platforms providing free education and training to all Government agencies as well as the wider Asia Pacific region.

If you would like to find out more about the ADF Peace Operations Training Centre and the courses offered, visit <http://www.defence.gov.au/adf/acsc/peacekeeping/>.



Kabul Garrison Command Capability Upgrade

By Captain Megan McDermott

Afghanistan's Kabul Garrison General Command (KGGC) has received a major capability upgrade thanks to Australian Defence Force advisors and NATO Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Trust Fund.

KGGC was set up in 2015 as the country's first joint command for Kabul Province security, uniting Afghanistan's three security pillars: the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police and National Directorate of Security.

Australian Army officer and ADF KGGC Advisor Team (KGGC-AT) project manager, Major (MAJ) Conrad Walsh, said the \$340,000 capability upgrade was funded by Georgia through the NATO ANA Trust Fund.

The KGGC-AT secured the funding in July 2016 after identifying significant equipment shortfalls at the newly established joint headquarters.

"When stood up in 2015, KGGC moved into the disbanded Ground Forces Command (GFC) headquarters— a single service organisation whose facilities were not set up for joint operations," MAJ Walsh said.

"The three pillars coming together necessitated a requirement to share intelligence.

"For this, we needed resources and technology to accommodate KGGC's new joint footprint."

Commander KGGC-AT, Colonel (COL) Michael Murdoch, said the funding was put towards a new Joint Operations Centre, Intelligence Fusion Centre and media centre to synergise security operations across Kabul Province.

"The intelligence fusion centre will fuse all three pillars by creating a common operating picture, allowing intelligence to be shared, analysed and disseminated to conduct targeted military and policing operations," COL Murdoch said.

Establishing a joint organisation to oversee Afghanistan's 25,000 security forces was not an easy task, especially for a country combating insurgent and criminal threats on a daily basis.

Commander of the Kabul Garrison General Command, Lieutenant General (LTGEN) Ahmadzai said the completion of the project on 20 April, 2017 marked a significant milestone for the organisation.

"The unveiling of the enhancement project was a significant step for all of KGGC today," LTGEN Ahmadzai said.

"The enemy will continually try to destroy our country, but with better coordination and improved planning, we will have success."

LTGEN Ahmadzai thanked the coalition forces and Australian advisors for their efforts in helping build a stronger and more resilient Afghanistan.

"The Australian advisor team here is the bridge between the international community and the Afghan Government," LTGEN Ahmadzai said.

"They are working shoulder-to-shoulder with my security forces to ensure operations are conducted successfully."

"I want to thank the Australian Defence Force for being present in Afghanistan and for showing their sympathy to the Afghan people."

About 270 personnel from the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army, the Royal Australian Air Force and Defence civilians are deployed on Operation Highroad as part of Australia's commitment to the NATO led Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan.

Kabul Garrison General Command (KGGC) adviser, COL Michael Murdoch (centre) assists to officially open the new KGGC facility upgrades in Kabul, Afghanistan.



A Muddled Medal: Our Volunteers Deserve More



By Lucy Kippist (1st Feb 2012)

In Grantham and beyond, they searched for bodies in battered houses and hot, swampy fields. Clearing debris from footpaths, roads and yards. Eighteen months before, they'd fought the inferno in southern and central Victoria, fighting fires, saving lives, and making endless cups of tea.

They're Australian volunteers - thousands of them - who left jobs and families to lend a hand to the natural disaster recovery efforts that swept across our eastern states in the past three years.

Their work saved lives and homes. Comforted hearts, and made towns livable again. Actions fit for a reward of huge proportions. But here's what they got instead. A muddled up medal with serious eligibility issues and a confusing criteria that ignored the efforts of thousands of others. And a bungled up awards ceremony. Seem unfair to you? Well, here's how it happened.

As we all know by now, despite what occurred at The Lobby on Australia Day, the ceremony had a very clear objective: to honour 26 Australians recognised by the government for their civic efforts during both natural disasters with the new National Emergency Medal. That is admirable. Each one of those 26 Australians deserved recognition for their efforts.

What we didn't know, however, was the confusing, disorganised and grossly unfair way the National Emergency Medal was put together in the first place. Thousands of volunteers across the country also expected to be on that list.

As one Punch reader informed us this week, after the PM was seen at several disaster sites by a number of volunteers during the Queensland floods spreading the word about a new national medal, volunteers were left with the distinct impression they were eligible for the award.

In this regard, the PM was right. The National Emergency Medal fills an important gap. While organisations like the SES, and rural fire services have their own system and a number of awards for recognising the efforts of their volunteers, there has never been a national award. In fact, New South Wales volunteer Kendall Thompson received

the American Benjamin Franklin award last year for his efforts during the Queensland floods. And even went to the US to receive it.

But what the PM neglected to mention was that most of the volunteers who served in those regions were completely ineligible for the award. Although rumoured to be as a result of a three hour commitment "on the ground", the National Emergency Medal award recipients needed to have spent quite a bit longer. At least we think, because the government website isn't so clear.

Here's what it says:

The minimum duration of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify is:

- paid service on 14 days, including at least two days in the period beginning on 7 February and ending on 14 February 2009
- unpaid service on 7 days, including at least one day in the period beginning on 7 February and ending on 14 February 2009

Problem is, volunteers are only permitted to spend up to 72 hours in a disaster site – for their own safety.

Inspector Ben Shepherd of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service, told The Punch that in that amount of time volunteers in both Victoria and Queensland disaster sites had been exposed to the most severe conditions they'd ever experienced.

For this reason, they were rotated on a very regular basis and usually given directions to return home to families and paid jobs, after a maximum of three to five days on site.

As another Punch reader told us, some volunteers in the Queensland/Yasi disasters, chose to spend several days on each site. Clocking up five days here and five days there. Yet they still remained ineligible for the National Emergency Medal. Why?

According to Inspector Shepherd volunteering organisations were overwhelmed by the energy and motivation in all three disaster sites. Commitment he describes as nothing less than selfless, given the situations they found themselves in:

"It's not just the sheer loss of human life. There were hundreds and hundreds of cattle and the broken, desolate towns. They all had an effect," he said.

As Milanda Rout explored in a very powerful recent piece for the Weekend Australian, that can have devastating long term impacts on the volunteers and their families. Even though all voluntary organisations we spoke to offer their volunteers extensive counseling and support programs.

Bottom line is this: these volunteers deserve more. Starting with a national medal with clear and fair criteria, one that reflects not only the situations in which they found



CFA Volunteers prepare for night shift 12 February, 2009, at Healesville, Victoria. *Lucas Dawson/Getty Images*

themselves, but also the capacity in which they worked and the time, that as volunteers, they could have realistically given to an incredibly important cause.

The link for the petition to change this criterion for Volunteers is: https://www.change.org/p/the-prime-minister-the-national-emergency-medal-a-muddled-medal-volunteers-deserve-more?recruiter=133855200&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=autopublish&utm_term=des-md-share_petition-no_msg

Retrieved from: https://www.change.org/p/the-prime-minister-the-national-emergency-medal-a-muddled-medal-volunteers-deserve-more?recruiter=133855200&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=autopublish&utm_term=des-md-share_petition-no_msg on 16 May 2017.

Editor Comment: The intention of the National Emergency Medal (NEM), was to recognise the hard work of Emergency Services personnel, particularly those who work tirelessly in such a concentrated amount of time, providing much needed Emergency Response to the General Public in times of National Disasters. Whilst it is acknowledged that there are paid people who work within various strategic roles who earn the medal for 14 days service (depending upon the criterion of the NEM for that particular Operation); it appears that the NEM for volunteers is very difficult to achieve, despite the 7 day service.

Unfortunately, many volunteers missed out with this recognition. It is not as though they are looking for such recognition, however if an award has been created to recognise those who will work in dangerous conditions,

including experiencing Potential Traumatic Events [PTE], one would like to think that the Government would consider the imbalance that has been caused with this medal, due to limited time in the Disaster area by volunteers, due to WHS or even availability for time off work to help others in a time of need. Yet, no such consideration has been forthcoming.

Another moot point is that ADF members served as Disaster Response during the Victorian Bushfire (2009) Response, who miss out by some days to qualify for the 14 day mark for paid work criteria of the NEM, were actually locating burnt and charred bodies, conducting Damage Assessments and assisting in searching for people, including the clean up. It would appear that a discrepancy exists from those who serve in the strategic role to that of the volunteer to be qualified for the NEM.

The NEM should also be considered for retrospectivity, for some of the more notorious disasters that this country has faced Tropical Cyclones (TC) such as [TC] TRACEY (Darwin) December 1974, ALTHEA (Townsville) in December 1971 and 14 other TCs to hit Northern Australia; along with The Ash Wednesday Fires in S.A. and Victoria in February 1983.

The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM) also needs to be more flexible in its criterion to retrospectively recognise the Disasters of 1998-1999 in PNG and Irian Jaya, during Tsunami and Drought respectively. Retrospectivity for a number of Overseas Disasters that Australians have served for the past 3-4 decades onward, also needs to be given due recognition, perhaps at the minimum of 7 days.

Mobile Training Teams Making a Difference

Mobile Training Teams are making a significant contribution to mission success in Iraq for Operation Okra, as Task Group Taji Four prepares for transfer of authority to Rotation Five.

Task Group Taji is a combined force of around 100 New Zealand and 300 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel based north of Baghdad, and the transfer between Rotation Four and Rotation Five is now well in hand.

Since May 2015, the combined Anzac task group has trained more than 22,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces, delivered training in weapons handling, marksmanship, explosive hazard awareness, combat first aid, urban operations, obstacle breaching techniques, vehicle check points, Law of Armed Conflict and combined arms operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Gardiner, the Commanding of the Training Task Unit, Task Group Taji Four said more than 1200 Iraqis have been trained by Mobile Training Teams, who deliver instruction at secure locations outside of the Taji Military Complex.

“The Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) have made a significant contribution to mission success by bringing training to Iraqi Security Forces who are unable to travel to Baghdad due to operational requirements in their home location,” he said.

“In the Anbar region, for example, they are supporting Iraqi Security Forces as they continue their fight against Daesh and maintain security in Ramadi, Fallujah and the Euphrates River valley.”

The MTTs include force protection elements and trainers, who deliver instruction to small groups (eight soldiers) through to company-level formations (120 soldiers).

The senior New Zealand Defence Force officer to Rotation Four said the New Zealand and Australian trainers are valued by their international coalition partners.

“They have a reputation for high standards of professionalism,” he said.

“They are also highly respected by the Iraqi trainees who are using the skills they have been taught in their fight against the Daesh terrorist group.

“It remains evident every day that the combined Anzac Task Group is making a difference in Iraq.”

Australian Army soldier Corporal Chris Green from Task Group Taji 4 demonstrates weapon handling skills to an Iraqi Army training audience at Al Taqaddum, Iraq.



Legacy and ADF Partner in Kokoda Initiative

Twenty-six Junior Legatees and their Australian Defence Force mentors have begun a tough training program to prepare them physically and mentally to trek the Kokoda Track.

The group attended a training camp at the Outward Bound outdoor education centre in northern New South Wales, which was designed to help them develop the physical and mental resilience and mateship they will need to push through the most gruelling parts of the 96-kilometre trek through the Papua New Guinean jungle at the end of August.

The training camp, known as Exercise POPONDETTA PRELUDE, involved team-work challenges, mental resilience training and a four-hour, 8.8 kilometre trek of Mount Warning, which started at in pitch-black darkness at 4am and saw the group summit just in time to watch the sunrise.

Legacy Australia Chairman Mr Tony Ralph said the special relationships formed between the Junior Legatees and their Australian Defence Force mentors during the training camp would be a great asset during the Kokoda trek, and beyond.

“Our Junior Legatees have already gone through some very tough times in their young lives because one of their parents has been killed or incapacitated as a result of their ADF service,” Mr Ralph said.

“These young people are very special members of our Legacy family, and Legacy exists to support them and their families through their toughest times.

“We also provide opportunities such as this Kokoda trek, to help them grow as people and strengthen their resilience so that they may flourish in life, despite their adversity.”

Mr Ralph said it was particularly meaningful that the camp included a group of current serving members.

“They recognise how special these young people are, and are devoting their time to mentoring them through this very challenging activity,” Mr Ralph said.

“This shows our Legacy families that the ADF still very much cares about them, long after their loved one – once a serving member - is gone.”



Commander of the Coordinating Headquarters for Operation LEGACY AUSTRALIA KOKODA CHALLENGE 17, Colonel Chris Austin, said the Australian Defence Force felt privileged to have been asked to support the Legacy youth initiative.

“This is an extension of the wonderful association that Legacy and the Australian Defence Force have had over many years,” Colonel Austin said.

“It is vital that we keep it going, because any one of our Defence families might need the support of Legacy one day.

“This group is going to face mud, rain, pain, discomfort, sleep deprivation, and perhaps even homesickness on the Kokoda Track, and they are all going to be challenged - probably more than any of them have ever been challenged before in their lives.”

Colonel Austin said the Junior Legatees have been paired with an ADF mentor in their home town.

“They will train with them over the coming months, help them prepare for the mission ahead, and eventually do the trek with them in August,” Colonel Austin said.

“These supportive relationships they have started to build will ensure the Junior Legatees have someone by their side when the going gets tough, not just on the Kokoda Track, but also into the future.”

RAAF Flight Lieutenant Dee Cherry, an ADF mentor, said she was enjoying the opportunity to get to know her Junior Legatee, Ivy Tugado, whose Army-veteran Father died after suffering post-traumatic stress disorder.

“We’re both based in Melbourne and have started training for Kokoda in our local area,” Flight Lieutenant Cherry said.

“I see my role as mentor as being somebody Ivy can turn to if she has any questions or if she has any doubts when she’s doing the trek.

“I’m here to motivate her when she is facing challenges, and really just be that person who is there for her when she needs it.”

Junior Legatee Thomas Kaye, whose father suffered a heart-attack and lost his life while he was serving at the Navy base HMAS Cerberus, said the Kokoda challenge had given him something to really look forward to.

“It’s good to have something so significant to work towards - to have a goal and at the end of it all to have proof that you can really persevere through something as tough as this,” he said.

The group will set off on its Kokoda Trek from Popondetta in the Oro Province of Papua New Guinea on 28 August, 2017, which falls in Legacy Week. This year marks 75 years since the Kokoda campaign of the Second World War ended.

Deployed in Iraq on World Health Day - Corporal Levi Stripp

(By Kathryn Rooney and Sharon Mascall-Dare)

Australian Army medic Levi Stripp is deployed on Operation Okra in Iraq to deliver life-saving medical training to Iraqi Security Forces.

The 27-year old corporal is currently deployed with Task Group Taji Rotation Four—a combined force of Australian and New Zealand Defence Force personnel, based at the Taji Military Complex just north of Baghdad.

The former infantryman said the training he delivers helps the Iraqis as they continue their fight against the Daesh terrorist group.

“We are teaching them medical based skills: tactical care of the battle casualty, wound care, bleeding control, and airway interventions,” he said.

“We teach them simple skills that are easy to remember.

“Some of the Iraqis have seen a lot of combat.

“Their lack of prior training meant using t-shirts or neck scarfs as makeshift tourniquets, so they really appreciate all of the training and equipment we are providing them.”

Corporal Stripp said they are being taught how to use a tourniquet so they can keep their mates alive on the battlefield as they continue the Battle for Mosul.

Growing up, Corporal Stripp attended Ryde Secondary College in Sydney’s northern suburbs and got his first taste of the military through the Air Force Cadets.

He joined the army in 2008 as an infantry rifleman and deployed on operations to Timor Leste in 2010.

He developed an interest in medical training while completing a Combat First Aider course and made the decision to transfer to the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.

“I spent 18 months at the Army School of Health training to be a medic and I have been working in the job for two years,” he said.

“Now I’m here in Iraq, as a medic, delivering medical training to the Iraqi army.”

With only a few months left before he returns to Australia, Corporal Stripp plans to get the most out of his deployment experience before being reuniting with his family.

“Being deployed is a great opportunity to do my job and to help make a difference in Iraq.

“I have a strong support base with my mum and dad, and my beautiful girlfriend Farren waiting for me back home. I’m looking forward to seeing them.”

Corporal Levi Stripp is a member of Task Group Taji Four, a combined force of New Zealand and Australian Defence Force personnel on a non-combat mission to train Iraqi Security Forces to defeat Daesh and maintain security in Iraq.

There are about 100 New Zealanders and 300 Australians in the Task Group.



Headquarters Resolute Support Flag Ceremony

By Captain Megan McDermott

Australian Army Chaplain, Captain Troy Urlichs has been given the rare honour of leading the Headquarters Resolute Support (HQRS) flag ceremony in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Each Friday, Afghan and coalition forces working as part of the NATO-led train, advise and assist mission, gather under the flags to commemorate those killed in Afghanistan's war.

A casualty list is read for those injured or killed in the past week, mostly Afghan National Defence and Security Forces personnel, followed by prayer and the Last Post.

For Chaplain Urlichs it was a particularly special occasion as this week's service coincided with Good Friday.

"It was a great privilege for me to lead the service based on self sacrifice, particularly on the holy day of Good Friday," Chaplain Urlichs said.

The brief but moving ceremony was speckled with a mixture of coalition uniforms: a symbol of solidarity and a reminder that Afghanistan is not fighting the war alone.

Australian Army Colonel Bronwyn Wheeler, who is embedded at HQRS as the Senior Gender Advisor, said

that it was poignant to see an Australian chaplain lead the ceremony.

"It was good to see the Australian Chaplain lead the ceremony today, as it reaffirms Australia's support for Afghanistan and the Resolute Support mission," Colonel Wheeler said.

Colonel Wheeler said the flag ceremony has been held every Friday at HQRS for years, beginning at the height of the war before combat operations were handed over to the Government of Afghanistan in 2014.

About 13,000 personnel from both NATO and partner nations are deployed under the Resolute Support mission, which focuses on developing the Afghan National Security Forces and Afghan security institutions.

Chaplain Urlichs is one of 270 Australian Defence Force personnel contributing to the NATO led mission under Operation Highroad.

Of those 270 personnel, 39 are embedded at the Resolute Support Headquarters, advising and assisting at the operational, institutional and ministerial levels.

Australian Army Chaplain, Captain Troy Urlichs receives thanks from a coalition member following the Headquarters Resolute Support flag ceremony in Kabul, Afghanistan.



Death toll in attack on South Sudan aid workers rises to 7

By Sam Mednick, associated press

Juba, South Sudan — Mar 27, 2017, 11:36 AM ET

The death toll of an attack on aid workers in South Sudan has risen to seven, with the news that the driver also died.

David Kim Choop was driving the vehicle when he and six aid workers were ambushed and killed on Saturday, March 25th.

The four South Sudanese and three Kenyans worked for a local non-governmental organization called GREDO (Grass Roots Empowerment for Development Organisation) and were attacked while on a routine food convoy from Juba, the capital, to Pibor.

The ambush caused the highest number of aid workers killed in a single incident since South Sudan's civil war began in 2013. At least 12 aid workers have been killed so far this year and at least 79 killed since 2013, according to the U.N.

"We are extremely saddened by this undeserved event," said Pius Ojara, director of the NGO Forum in South Sudan. "These are people who were here to serve the population." Ojara said police are investigating to find out who killed the aid workers.

Grieving families gathered Monday outside the morgue in Juba to collect and bury their dead.

"This is very painful for all of us," said Levis Kori. Kori's 30-year-old brother John Riti, was killed in the attack.

"We're not enemies," said Kori. "They were humanitarians there to do good. They're not soldiers they have no guns."

Retrieved from: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/death-toll-attack-south-sudan-aid-workers-rises-46398380> on 28 March 2017.

Secretary's Remarks: Australian and New Zealand Army Corps Day

04/24/2017 11:04 AM EDT

Press Statement
Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
Washington, DC
April 24, 2017

On behalf of the people of the United States of America, I am honored to send my thoughts, prayers, and best wishes to the people of Australia and New Zealand on Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day this April 25.

While this year marks the 100th anniversary of U.S. participation in the Great War, we will not forget that by the

time the American Expeditionary Forces were organized in 1917, the ANZAC had already been fighting for over two years, from the shores of Gallipoli to the Western Front. Your courage against all odds inspired news stories that spread across the United States, exposing the American people to your steadfastness and deeply-held sense of mateship. The tenacity and sacrifice of your brave service men and women represent to this day the determination of the people of Australia and New Zealand to defend democracy and freedom.

Australia and New Zealand continue their dedication to these ideals by working side by side with the United States in global humanitarian and disaster relief efforts and in peacekeeping missions worldwide.

This ANZAC Day we are honored to stand with New Zealand and Australia to remember the past, reflect on the present, and, most solemnly, honor your fallen.

The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department.

External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.

Changes to reporting for ADF operations in Iraq and Syria

The Australian Defence Force (ADF), as part of the Coalition, is committed to degrading and ultimately defeating the threat posed by Daesh in Iraq and Syria.

The Coalition is operating in a dynamic and complex environment and Daesh is a ruthless enemy. Streets and buildings are booby trapped, and Daesh fighters capture civilians, holding them hostage and using them as human shields.

On 4 March, Combined Joint Task Force – Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (CJTF-OIR) announced a review of air strike reporting. Concurrently, Defence has also reviewed its air strike reporting procedures.

From next week, the ADF will independently publish a fortnightly report on Australian strikes, summarising the targets and locations in Iraq and Syria struck by Australian aircraft. The first unclassified report will be available at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Operations/OKRA/ATG.asp>

This decision comes after weighing the importance of reporting ADF air strikes in Iraq and Syria against the potential propaganda advantages it might provide Daesh and any risk to the safety of ADF personnel on operations.

Defence will also report credible claims of civilian casualties against the ADF on occurrence. This will occur in addition to CJTF-OIR's monthly civilian casualty report.

To date, Australian strike aircraft have been involved in a small number of incidents resulting in credible claims of civilian casualties.

10 October 2014 – RAAF air strike on a Daesh checkpoint west of Ramadi. It was reported a truck may have entered the target area after the weapon was released. A review of full motion video assessed that no civilian casualties occurred as a result of this strike.

12 December 2014 – Multi-national air strike on a Daesh weapons factory in Fallujah. Two people were observed in the target area following the strike; however, there were no reports of civilian casualties arising from the incident.

As previously reported, neither of these incidents resulted in substantiated civilian casualties.

From August 2014 – March 2017, the Coalition has conducted 20,205 air strikes; of these, 0.24% resulted in credible reports of civilian casualties.

Defence takes all allegations of civilian casualties seriously. All ADF personnel operate under strict rules of engagement designed to minimise the dangers to civilians and comply with Australia's obligations under international law.

Prior to an air strike, Australia's Air Task Group undertakes meticulous and comprehensive mission planning including national and international approvals. Once a mission is complete, ADF staff thoroughly review every weapon strike to ensure the strikes are consistent with pre-strike approvals.

Letter from Jose Ramos-Horta Tour de Timor

Dear Major General Ian Gordon,

As founding patron of the Tour de Timor, I would like to extend an official invitation for a squad of Australian Peacekeepers cyclists to participate in Tour de Timar 2017. The Tour de Timar is now in its ninth edition and this year promises to be the best so far. The theme of our race this year is "Timor-Leste - ASEAN: Peace Bridge". It is my hope that every ASEAN nation will send a team of elite cyclists to compete in the spirit of peace and sporting excellence.

It is also a wonderful opportunity for veterans or current serving Australian Defence Force members who may have been deployed to Timor-Leste as part of the peacekeeping troops to return to enjoy the true beauty and peace of our newly independent nation. This incredibly challenging race will bring our nations closer together through the shared experiences of our riders, race support staff and of course the people of Timor-Leste.

The Tour de Timor will be held in Timor-Leste between 19th and 23rd September. This year the five-day course will stretch over 500kms and riders will be tested with over 10,000 meters of cumulative vertical climbing. We expect around 400 cyclists to take place of which around 10-20% will be elite male and female riders. Additionally there will be teams from the Timorese army FFD-TL and National Police.

I hope that this offer is of interest to you, my team and the Cycling Federation of Timor-Leste is ready to assist you with any enquiries you might have regarding this event. You can contact our Event Director, Mr. Sean Borrell, at

info@tourdetimor.com - in addition I invite you to also visit our official race web portal: www.tourdetimor.com or find us on Facebook.

I thoroughly look forward to welcoming you and your nation's elite riders to Timor-Leste and I wish you all of the best in your preparations for the 2017 Tour de Timar.

Jose Ramos-Horta

Nobel Peace Laureate (10996)

former President of Timor-Leste, Patron of Tour de Timor

Veteran Mum with PTSD Attempted Suicide Five Times

March 18, 2017

- Andrea Josephs, 43, enlisted in 1991 and served during East Timorese Crisis
- Was medically discharged in 2004 following a sexual assault and court hearing
- Took doctors 10 years to diagnose PTSD; mistook for postnatal depression
- Andrea's final suicide attempt came in 2015 as she struggled with symptoms
- Her daughter then made a tribute video to show she was proud of mum's service
- Inspired idea behind Matilda Poppy, which will raise awareness for veterans

It was after her fifth suicide attempt that Andrea Josephs decided to choose life.

The Australian Army veteran had been battling PTSD, a diagnosis doctors failed to make for 10 years, when a film made by her daughter proved to be a turning point.

It was a tribute video that honoured not only the mother-of-four, but the soldiers, sailors and airmen and women who had put their life on the line for Australia.

The gesture was pivotal for Andrea, who had felt like she lost her identity ever since she was medically discharged from service in 2004.



Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) Update

New entrants to advocacy training

As of the 1st July 2016, Advocacy training is being conducted by the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP). ESO personnel wanting to begin training after that date must apply through the ADTP website.

The Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) provides training for members of Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) which offer advocacy services to serving and ex-serving members of the armed forces. The program is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The training program is a Competency Based Training (CBT) program and places a heavy reliance on experiences gained in a working environment. ATDP offers a single course in Veteran Advocacy. The course contains six elective Units of Competency; some units have prerequisite Units of Competency. The units are nationally accredited. Completing one or more Units of Competency leads to a Statement of Attainment.

Trainees are to be selected by their ESO using the Guidelines for the Selection of Advocacy Trainees. Ideally new entrants will have been exposed to the role in the workplace prior to enrolment to ensure their ability and willingness to carry out the role. The ESO must then nominate the person using the online nomination form. Once that has been done, the nominee must then complete an online application form to finalise the enrolment.

Preference to training places is based on the best possible return to the ex-service community, so workload of an ESO, Veteran Centre or Community of Practice is taken into account.

Training is conducted primarily in the workplace and guided by a mentor appointed by the ESO. The workplace experiences are supplemented by formal training which included online study units and face-to-face consolidation training.

If a trainee has started under the Training & Information Program (TIP) and wishes to undertake higher level or enhancement courses, these are available from the TIP website. All TIP courses will cease on 30th June 2017.

Pension and welfare officers trained under the TIP system will be able to undertake a process of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in order to transition to the ATDP system.

The RPL process will only recognise existing practitioners to level 2. When RPL for level 3 & 4 in the compensation stream becomes available, this will only be offered to those advocates who have met ATDP level 2 standard.

Courses and RPL are scheduled as the following:

RPL programs for attendance by invitation

07/06/2017 - Brisbane

13/06/2017 - Ballina NSW



From L-R: Ian Thompson (Vice Regional Manager - Region 2); Trevor Plymid (Trainer); and Allan Thomas, JP (Regional Manager - Region 2). Courtesy: Allan Thomas

27/06/2017 - Central Coast NSW

28/06/2017 - Brisbane

Note, the Applicant must register online with the ATDP and obtain a Unique Student Identifier [USI] on: <http://www.atdp.org.au/atdpMain.php>

For Assistance, please contact: <http://www.atdp.org.au/contact/contactForm.php> and complete the online query form.

Breaking news

ATDP course and Units of Competency have now been accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), as nationally accredited training.

For APPVA Practitioners, there will be policy being placed for consideration at the next APPVA QGM on 8th of August 2017, or potentially prior with an EGM. However, Practitioners are encouraged to get the RPL and Mentoring qualifications ASAP, so that the Association is able to prepare our practitioners for the ATDP System.

There will be some leeway given to non-ATDP trained or RPL'd members, however the APPVA Practitioner must lodge an Expression of Interest [EOI] on the ATDP Site to be considered for courses. Members that want to be Mentors, must have registered by completing an EOI or have attended an RPL and Mentoring Course

The State Branches are responsible for the selection of members for ATDP courses and the APPVA National Project Officer, Kevin Ryan, will issue APPVA Endorsement Certificates to Practice under the ATDP System, only to those who have undertaken ATDP RPL and Mentoring qualifications as of 1st July 2017 onward.

Forgotten Frontline Soldiers

70th Anniversary - UN Peacekeepers March and Service

United Nations Association of Queensland is putting out the call for Australians to recognise the critical contribution of peacekeepers.

UN personnel put their lives at risk providing vital security and stability in missions around the world, helping host countries make the difficult transition from conditions of conflict to lasting peace.

Australia has a proud peacekeeping record with multinational operations spanning over a 70-year period. Australia was part of the very first United Nations military group in 1947, when four Australians were first on the field in Indonesia.

Since then, Australia has been involved in nearly 100 separate missions in countries including Haiti, Mozambique, Cambodia and Timor.

Over 60,000 Australians have been involved in peacekeeping and security operations, providing leadership training, demining, weapon destruction, assisting in disaster relief while promoting human rights and restoring the rule of law.

United Nations Association of Australia Queensland Past President, Clem Campbell says the work of peacekeepers deserves to receive further recognition.

"In partnership with the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association, we are recognising our peacekeepers with a March and Service in Brisbane on Saturday 27th May to celebrate the United Nations international Day for UN peacekeepers"

"Last year students and Brisbane community representatives of 15 countries in which Australian Peacekeepers have served participated in the March and service" he said.

All are welcome to attend and participate in the Peacekeepers March and Service on Saturday, 27th May. The March assembles in King George Square at 9.15am, with the Service at ANZAC Square at 10 a.m.

Bravery and sacrifice of all frontline soldiers deserves to be acknowledged with pride by their country.



Students work on their solution to a problem at the Tri-Legislation Course held at the Australian National University in Canberra. *Courtesy: Allan Thomas*

Practicing Level 3 and 4 Advocates may continue to practice as such, until further RPL and EOI information is provided by ATDP.

Kapyong Day

Kapyong Day is the commemoration of the Battle of Kapyong by the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), on 24 April 1951. The Australians fought a significant battle with Canadian, New Zealanders and US Force Elements. Further information of this Battle is located: <https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/kapyong/doc/>



Left is the President of the South East Asian and Korean Veterans' Association

Right QLD President Randall New, JP, President of the APPVA QLD Branch lays a wreath in respect of those who fell during the Battle of Kapyong Service in Brisbane.

Win a Brand New VF Holden SSV Redline

We are happy to announce the first raffle of our new fundraising efforts.

This will help us raise the much needed funds to continue the advocacy and welfare for Veterans and their families and enable us to roll out new and exciting programs.

This raffle is only available for Victorian residents but please keep an eye out as we will be rolling them out right across the country soon.

Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans Association Vic Branch Fundraising Raffle

Grab your piece of Australian History now. Up for grabs is the last ever Holden SS ever to be made.

www.rafflelink.com.au/appva



2017 APPVA Commemorative Dinner

Celebrating 20 years of APPVA (24 October 1997) & Commemorating 70 years of Australian Peacekeeping Operations (14 September 1947)
Update – February 2017

2017 presents a highly demanding year for APPVA and in preparation for the upcoming commemorations to be held in the month of September 2017. Details provided relevant to the events is correct at the time made available for this publication.

Accommodation – please be aware that accommodation will be peak season and limited due to its various activities held in Canberra – Floriade, Parliamentary sitting, and other conferences. It is recommended that you book as soon as you able in order to avoid any disappointment. Group booking negotiations should be finalised very soon and will only be applicable to APPVA financial members only.

Dinner booking and payments – members will be notified when this is made available. Timeframe for booking will apply for confirmation to external providers associated with the event.

Donations and sponsorship – should opportunities arises

to assist APPVA's commemorative event, please contact the National Event Manager in the first instance.

Items of interest – to be included in our commemoration, photos and or contacts (Past Committee members and/ or members), and forwarding them to the emails below at your earliest is greatly appreciated. nat.events@peacekeepers.asn.au

Online Ticketing

By Lucy Wong, APPVA Events Manager

Online Ticketing for the APPVA 20th Anniversary Dinner and also in honour of the 70th Commemoration of Australian Peacekeeping Service on Friday 15th September 2017, at the Old Australian Parliament House, is now operational. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible, so that the Commemoration organising committee are able to finalise arrangements.

We look forward to seeing you for what will be a memorable evening in Canberra.

The event name is 2017 APPVA COMMEMORATIVE DINNER.

CHOOSE 1 of the link below & CLICK THE LINK to go straight to the homepage.

The booking URLs for this event are:

<https://www.trybooking.com/QDVX> or

<https://www.trybooking.com/283813>

Once you are in the home page, just click on " BOOK NOW "and continue the process until it is complete.

Confirmation - notified via your nominated email address.

Tickets - access via your email, print, and bring on the night for identification & check in at registration desk.

TICKETS

Due to the delay, Ticket/s bookings will be extended to Wed 2 Aug 17 11:59pm.

Once ticket sales have reached booking capacity numbers & the deadline date is closed, I will not be accommodating any late requests.

The only time it will be processed & issued if there are remaining tickets to be sold, if not sold prior to deadline date.

STATE SECRETARIES:

May you send an email to advise our members of the above info & ALBEIT the notes for NATCOM & State Execs.

POC (Point of Contact) - Lucy Wong, for ticketing enquiries.

nat.events@peacekeepers.asn.au or 0407 893 078 (office hours).

NATCOM & STATE EXECS - notes

Once ticket sales have reached booking capacity numbers & the deadline date is closed, I will not be accommodating any late requests.

The only time it will be processed & issued if there are

remaining tickets to be sold, if not sold prior to deadline date.

will need to be contacted in the first instance, and National Treasurer notified thereafter.

Cancellations and/or Refunds of tickets - Events Manager

2017 - 20th Anniversary Commemorative Celebration

Please assist in completing the questionnaire to confirm your attendance in the following events to be held in September 2017, and returning by the due date is greatly appreciated – see below for details.

MEMBER'S NAME: (in full):		
	Please circle	Numbers in attendance
1. Monday 11 September 2017 Attending the National Conference	YES / NO	No:
2. Tuesday 12 September 2017 Attending the National Annual General Meeting (AGM)	YES / NO	No:
3. Thursday 14 September 2017 Attending the Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary & the Dedication of the National Peacekeeping Memorial Country(ies) Served (insert country names)	YES / NO	No:
	YES / NO	No:
4. Friday 15 September 2017 Attending UNAA – United Nations Association of Australia Conference	YES / NO	No:
5. Friday 15 September 2017 Attending 20th Anniversary Commemoration Dinner	YES / NO	No:
6. ACCOMMODATION Do you require accommodation Numbers in attendance (eg 2 Adults, 1 Child)	YES / NO	No:
7. VOLUNTEERS Sunday 10 September 2017 APPVA Commemoration Dinner BUMP IN - setting up prior to conference	YES / NO	Please submit names 1. 2. 3.
8. Friday 15 September 2017 BUMP IN - setting up prior to event	YES / NO	Please submit names 1. 2. 3.
Friday 15 September 2017 BUMP OUT – pack up post event	YES / NO	Please submit names 1. 2. 3.
<i>Please return your completed questionnaire to the returning officer</i>		
APPVA - National Event Manager		
Email: nat.events@peacekeepers.asn.au Subject 2017 APPVA Commemoration Dinner		
Due date - Saturday 9th June 2017		

APPVA QLD Branch

ANZAC Day was a busy and early day as usual. Myself and Rob (Blue) Sumpton attended the Dawn Service at Pine Rivers RSL Sub Branch then went into the Brisbane City March, then as usual on to the Embassy Hotel for a chat and a few drinks drink together. (Photo's attached).

I accepted an invitation and laid a wreath for the Vietnam Day of Mourning which is commemorating the fall of Saigon on 30th Apr 1975.

Our UN Peacekeepers Day is approaching being the 27th May, a flyer will be sent to our SE Qld on the database. This event is set up and ran by United Nations QLD and I have attended a meeting some weeks ago with their key people and made some suggestions.

An invitation has been accepted from me to attend a Returned Veterans Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Day on 20th May and the flyer will go on the Data Base for this event. An acceptance has also been sent for me to attend the Boer War Commemoration Service in ANZAC Square on 28th May.

APPVA National Notice

The APPVA encourages all readers to consider donating to the APPVA. The money is used to support, lobby and advocate on behalf of veterans and their families. By donating to the APPVA, you will be helping us to help others.

https://www.paypal.com/webapps/shoppingcart?flowlogging_id=5f589bfbaead&mfid=1495140313619_5f589bfbaead#/checkout/openButton

Timor Battalion Surrender Remembered

By Phil Pyke APPVA Tas

The presence at Hobart ANZAC Day commemorations of a Timor Leste veterans' group coincided with the anniversary of capture of a WWII Tasmanian battalion in Timor

Commanding Officer 12th/40th Royal Tasmania Regiment read Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) Alex Thomson and Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 Stephen Logan met with Colonel Aluk (camouflage uniform) of the Timor Leste Defence Force and Timor veterans delegation at ANZAC Day Commemorations in Hobart.

LTCOL Alex Thomson said the presence of the delegation was made more important with the 75th anniversary of the surrender of the 2nd/40th Battalion at Koepang in West Timor in 1942.

"A number of Tasmanian soldiers and officers made their way to East Timor – now Timor Leste – to join with the Independent Companies who continued to fight the Japanese forces for a protracted period with the assistance of the Timorese."

"Sadly many other members of the Battalion died in the prison camps."

Colonel Aluk said he was pleased to be in Tasmania with the delegation and saw the relationship between Timor Leste and Australia continuing to be strong.

"This relationship has gone on since 1999 when Australia came to assist us with Independence," Colonel Aluk said.

The delegation also met with Tasmanian peacekeepers who served in Timor – two being present when President Jose Ramos Horta was shot in 2008.

This is the third Timorese delegation to have a presence in Tasmanian ANZAC Day commemorations.



APPVA Perth Contingent

Led by Mike Romalis, marching in the Perth CBD ANZAC Day 2017. *Photograph courtesy of Galina Romalis.*



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)



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

Contact Details

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

Date of Birth / / Country

Name of Parent/Partner/Child Email

(Complete only for Affiliate Membership)

Phone Mobile

Service Details

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

Service Regt Number Dates deployed to

Current / Former Rank Operation name Country

Post Nominal Date deployed to

Missions *(Attach separate sheet if necessary)*

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

Signed Dated

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

Credit Card

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

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

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

Name Signature

Cheque of Money Order

Send application in mail with cheque or money order payable to APPVA

Direct Credit - Internet Transfer *For Def Credit account holders:*

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

Lodgement Reference Field: include your name and or membership number (if known)

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

Enter Member No: 153601 (if required)

For All other Financial Institutions:

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

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

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

Membership Type - Please select criteria

Full Member

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

Associate Member

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

Affiliate Member

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

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

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

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

For Def Credit account holders:

Account: APPVA (AUS) BSB: 803-205 Account: 20638827 Member No: 153601

Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form.

Enter Member No 153601 (if required)

For All other Financial Institutions:

Account: APPVA BSB: 803-205 Account: 20638827 Member No: 153601

Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form.

Enter Member No 153601 (if required)

DELIVERY DETAILS

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

Email..... Country

Mobile

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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

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



DEFENCECOMMUNITYHUB

An online resource for ADF members and their families to find information on their posting location.

www.defencecommunityhub.org.au

A joint initiative of Defence Community Organisation,
Defence Families of Australia and Defence Housing Australia.



THE NEXT BRILLIANT THING.

Introducing the Trijicon® **MGRS™** (Machine Gun Reflex Sight)

IMPROVES FIRST ROUND HIT ACCURACY

the large objective lens, adjustable brightness settings and interchangeable ranging dials provide increased ability to acquire and engage target

FORGED 7075 ALUMINUM HOUSING

virtually indestructible aircraft grade aluminum

INTERCHANGEABLE RANGE KNOBS

dial in target distances for M2 or M240 weapons

OPTIONAL 3X MAGNIFIER

ensures target identification and acquisition at extended distances



THE SCIENCE of BRILLIANT.™

Find out more at trijicon.com

Trijicon®

Brilliant Aiming Solutions™