

Australian Peacekeeper

AUTUMN 2017

MAGAZINE

**Growlers
at Avalon**

**29 May 2017
UN International Day of
UN Peacekeepers**

**Military
Betrayal,
Civilian
Isolation**



**Somalia Famine Fears | Digger Routs DVA
APPVA Gets Charitable Accreditation
FPE- 6 to FPE -7 Transfer of Authority**



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Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

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

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



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A pair of Royal Australian Air Force EA-18G Growler's enroute to the Australian Air Show in Avalon.



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From the President's Desk

First of all, I would like to welcome back all our Executives both National and State as well as our members. This year is proving to be a very hectic year for the Association as we move a step closer to the opening of the National Peacekeepers Memorial in Canberra which is due to be opened on the 14 September 2017.

We have quite a workload on our hands at present and I am asking our membership and those who are reading my report to help donate funds towards the completion of the Peacekeepers Memorial in Canberra, this can be done by simply clicking on the donate button on our website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au and follow the prompts and make your donation.

Peacekeeping has played a significant role within the Australian Defence Force [including Australian Police] and will continue to play a significant role as operational aspects change from serving on Warlike to Non-warlike Conditions of Service around the world that requires countries such as Australia to maintain peace, security and stability when needed globally. So please support our veterans and donate by visiting our website.

Since my last National Presidents report I attended the last Ex-Service Organisation Round Table meeting in Canberra for 2016, I have provided the outcomes from that meeting to give you a better idea of what discussions took place and what new information came out that may have an impact of the day to day living of those currently serving and those who have transitioned out of service life.

The Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) met for the 35th time in Canberra on 10 November 2016. The Chair welcomed Mr Peter Fitzpatrick AM JP as the newly-elected National Chairman of the Australian Special Air Service Association (ASASA).

The Chair and members also thanked and acknowledged Mr Russell Pettis FAIM, who was attending his final meeting after six years on the ESORT representing the Naval Association of Australia (NAA).

Transformation

Members were updated on the Department's Transformation initiatives, including the work on the client journey and the Client Satisfaction Survey. Transformation updates will become a standing agenda item for future ESORT meetings as the Department's work in this area progresses.

DVA Reconnects

The ESORT was updated on the progress of the DVA Reconnects Project. The project aims to reconnect with clients through the provisions of a complex and multiple needs assessment.

Members were advised of the three phases of implementation, with feedback received from clients contacted during the process being overwhelmingly positive. A full report will be provided to the ESORT once the project is finalised.

Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) National Leaders Strategy Meeting

Members also discussed the outcomes from the ESO National Leaders Strategy Meeting on 31 October 2016. This meeting arose from both the most recent ESORT and Defence ESO Briefing Day. ESORT members, and other prominent figures in the ex-service community, met to discuss how all ESOs could collaboratively work together more effectively.

The ESORT was advised a 'Compact' will be drafted from the outcomes of this meeting, and circulated to the ESOs for all to consider for adoption.

Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Legislation Amendment (Defence Force) Bill 2016 – DRCA Bill

The Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Legislation Amendment (Defence Force) Bill 2016 (DRCA Bill) was discussed with members. This Bill has been tabled in Parliament, will be debated in the Autumn 2017 sitting and, if passed, will come into effect on 1 July 2017.

The ESORT was advised that, should the new Act be passed by Parliament, eligibility and benefits under the new Act will be the same as those currently available to serving and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members under the existing Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA). If passed, the new Act will be the same as the current SRCA, of which DVA advise that there will be no change to existing entitlements or access to benefits.

Non-Liability Health Care

The 2016-17 budget measure to expand eligibility for Non-Liability Health Care was another point of discussion. The measure is now in effect, and means that all those who have served in the ADF permanent forces, are now eligible for health care for a range of mental health conditions without needing to prove that the condition has arisen from, or is linked to, their service.

The conditions covered under this arrangement are:

- post-traumatic stress disorder;
- depressive disorder;
- anxiety disorder;
- alcohol use disorder; and
- substance use disorder.

Transition

Members were addressed by Mr Paul Way, Director General, Defence Community Organisation, on the Department of Defence's work on transition for discharging members of the ADF.

Aged Care Update

An update was provided on aged care, particularly in regards to the two stages of increasing choice in home care and the implementation of the Short-Term Restorative Care Program.

The first stage in increasing choice in home care involves funding for a home care package following the consumer from February 2017, with the scope and timing of stage two yet to be determined.

Updates on ESORT Working Groups

The ESORT was provided with updates from two of its working groups:

- Hearing Services Working Group; and
- Permanent Impairment Working Party.

Member Submission: Returned and Services League of Australia

Members heard a presentation from the Returned and Services League of Australia regarding its transformation narrative.

I will be attending the next meeting of the ESORT which will be held on 3 March 2017 in Canberra where I will be able to keep you posted with the outcomes of that meeting in our next Winter edition of the Peacekeepers Magazine.

Allan Thomas

National President

Correction – amendment

For all those that made comment on the article I submitted in the Summer 2016 edition Pages 60 - 63, thank you very much but I cannot take the credit. Whilst I did submit the article and photos I was not the author. The articles were compiled by Glen Azar from Adventure Professionals who was our team leader when I did the trek. They are part of Glen's presentations at Missionary Ridge and at Brigade Hill. I had asked and received Glen's permission to print and distribute the articles to various ex-service groups and to spread the word about Kokoda. In my haste to get the articles retyped and sent to the Editor in time for printing, I omitted Glen's details and to acknowledge that they were compiled by him. I wish I could put my hand on my heart and say yes I created the articles but my literary skills are not that good.

Geoff "Lofty" Evans OAM.

Glen's details are glenn@adventureprofessionals.com.au



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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, led by RubiKon, 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 that every milestone has been achieved on time and on 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 RubiKon 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.

This unique partnering arrangement is proving to be a highly productive and value focused contracting solution.



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Military Betrayal, Civilian Isolation

By Steve Rose

Many people think PTSD is the root of all mental health problems among veterans. This oversimplification is often reinforced by behaviors considered abnormal. One veteran I spoke with claimed to have stopped a dangerous driver, thrown him out of the car, and “gave him a life lesson.” Most people would accuse the veteran of needing anger management classes or therapy to control his PTSD, but if you’re a veteran, you might be able to empathize with his reaction.

Many veterans experience anger, cynicism, or a heightened concern for justice during or after their service. These are not necessarily reactions to trauma or the result of PTSD, rather, they are the result of characteristics instilled in the military, but are no-longer adaptive in a civilian context.

A fellow Canadian colleague, Dr. John Whelan, has recently explored this particular issue in his book, *Ghost in the Ranks: Forgotten Voices & Military Mental Health*. Both a veteran and a clinical psychologist, he is a rare blend of both worlds. His work challenges the dominant psychological paradigm concerning PTSD among service-members and first-responders. The following sections highlight the major insights in his book.

Transition issues are a cultural problem

Rather than focusing on ‘fixing the brains’ of individual veterans, we need to recognize the social/relational causes of distress experienced during the transition to civilian life. This requires understanding the military-civilian cultural gap. A highly collective military culture instills a strong sense of social identity among its members. Dr. Whelan writes:

I understand the legacy of military identity—all we had was each other, and once the identity change from civilian to military member is complete, it is often the only place where we can truly ever fit again. It can be a profound and fundamental shift in character and outlook that few people can ever understand unless they have experienced it.

Dr. Whelan describes coming out of this environment in the following way:

The experience is like thawing out after experiencing frostbite. Sure, coming inside to the warmth feels great, but it is also incredibly painful as blood circulation returns to the damaged area.

Another distinct aspect of military culture that makes it difficult to transition includes black-and-white thinking and the need to compartmentalize one’s emotions in order to maintain operational effectiveness. These characteristics are learned in the military, but are easily seen as mental

health issues in civilian life. Dr. Whelan gives the following example:

...take the issue of depression, a longstanding concern for the military. This so-called disease is characterized by behaviours like black-and-white thinking, perfectionistic standards and mental rigidity, an over-developed sense of responsibility and self-blame, a generally negative focus, emotional avoidance, and intolerance for ambiguity. What is notable about this is that it describes routine life within military culture almost perfectly. Therefore, it is probably not by accident that the rates of depression within the military are estimated to be twice the rates for civilians.

Traits that keep service-members alive in combat are not functional in civilian life, potentially causing veterans to emotionally disengage from family and loved ones. Dr. Whelan draws a connection between this learned trait and alcohol/substance use:

...we learn to switch off emotionally. This emotional vacuum may also explain the value of alcohol and other substances among military personnel—it quiets the vigilant thinking brain, allowing people to move to a more emotional version of themselves, at least temporarily.

Veterans are highly trained upon entry into the military, but are let go with minimal retraining upon entering back into civilian life. As a result, veterans may experience a profound culture shock upon entering back into an individualistic civilian context, in addition to being left with highly developed compartmentalization skills, causing them to feel detached from civilians, emotionally isolated from loved ones, and perhaps frustrated by a diagnosis that does not fully explain their experience.

Injured veterans may feel betrayed by the military

The military is an institutional contradiction. Embodying characteristics of both a traditional family and a modern bureaucracy, it idealizes loyalty and brotherhood while also functioning within an impersonal system of operationally effective rules and regulations. Dr. Whelan describes the experience of injured veterans in the following words:

Many of these men and women have come to see themselves as a consumable resource... if they recover, they can be accepted back into the family. If they do not recover, however, they are replaced and, more often than not, they are forgotten by the larger family, which has to move on... Within the notions of brotherhood and family, injured people expect to be drawn closer, but within a bureaucratic system they are often distanced and processed.

From my own research, many veterans emphasized this point. Often, the injury itself was not as difficult as the

experience of separation from one's communal unit and subsequently dealing with an impersonal bureaucracy. As Dr. Whelan states:

A mental health diagnosis turns soldiers into individuals once again, and in the military, there is no room for individuals.

Veterans feel betrayed and isolated upon witnessing corruption.

Having invested so much in the group, service-members experience a heightened sense of betrayal upon witnessing an act of corruption. This 'institutional betrayal' is one aspect of moral injury, a concept I highlighted in the past three articles. Dr. Whelan describes this phenomenon in the following words:

From basic training, onward, soldiers are steeped in high-minded codes of conduct, discipline, ethical imperatives, and a view of the military as an organization larger than life. The reality is often very different, however, for many people. The same organization can be coldly logical and arbitrary. Rules can be bent to benefit people who are liked, and these same rules can be used strategically to root out suspected problems.

He describes the story of a woman who was sexually harassed by a senior officer. Upon reporting the incident to her Regimental Sargent Major, she was told, "Are you out of your mind bringing this to me? Don't you get it? Hell, I could rape you right here in my office right now and nobody would do a god-damned thing about it." She was considered a 'problem' for the officers involved, and when eventually going to the Chief of Defense Staff, she was considered a 'problem' for the image of the institution. She was offered a secret deal to drop her grievance and there was no talk of consequences for those involved.

Corruption or organizational image-management can lead to a profound sense of institutional betrayal. Dr. Whelan emphasizes this point:

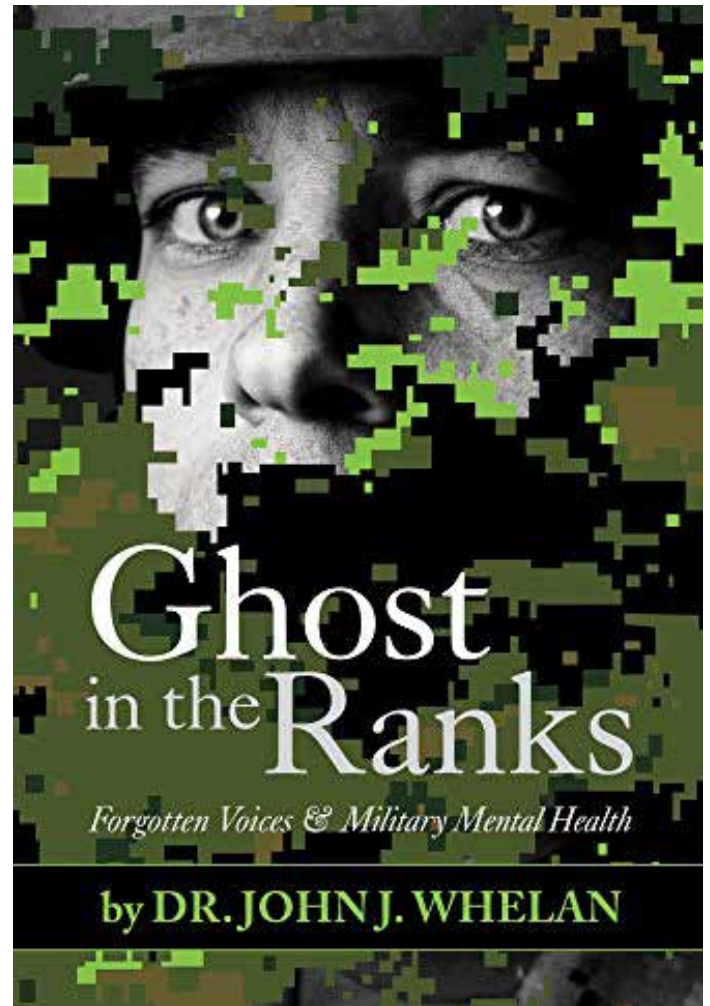
The real threat to the health of the institution is cynicism—when members stop believing. Cynicism tells members that it is a charade, that nobody really cares, and that they are essentially on their own. It fuels reactions of betrayal and perceptions of neglect. Its tentacles reach across the institution; it is in the ranks, and it festers quietly like an unseen cancer.

Upon being injured or upon witnessing corruption, service-members may experience a profound sense of betrayal, leaving them isolated. This sense of isolation is then amplified upon transition to a civilian context where their highly developed compartmentalization skills further isolate them from loved ones and other civilians. This is the dangerous compounded effect of military betrayal and civilian isolation.

We need to rethink treatment and prevention

Dr. Whelan emphasizes the need to think beyond preexisting diagnostic categories:

...a PTSD diagnosis can miss the particular struggle for



veterans—some people believe they have lost parts of themselves that they want to have back while others have taken on things from the military that they need to unload.

Drawing on therapeutic experience, he describes recovery in the following words:

An example of what veterans tell me: "I am trapped behind the mask, but I am something entirely different inside. I am alone, cut-off, and just tired of having to be ready for anything." When men and women can find a place, often with their peers—the people who matter—they can learn to trust again and to lower their guards, and the real miracle I often get to witness is that they start to come back to life.

As many veterans have told him, "they have to learn how to regain some of their humanity."

When veterans are no-longer able to serve due to injury or institutional betrayal, we cannot simply expect them to adjust to civilian life by undergoing civilian treatments based on civilian diagnoses. We need to look at military culture and its impact on social/relational issues that may lead to a sense of isolation and despair. Dr. Whelan concludes with the following insight:

Military veterans and other first responders who struggle with mental health concerns could be telling us about a fundamental emptiness of an everyday life they no longer want to be a part of.

Retrieved from: <https://steveroseblog.com/2016/08/16/military-betrayal-civilian-isolation/> on 28 February 2017.

New U.N. Chief Urges Security Council to do More to Prevent War

By Reuters

Tuesday, 10 January 2017 19:26 GMT

“Too many opportunities to prevent conflicts had been lost due to mistrust among states and concerns over national sovereignty.”

By Michelle Nichols

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 10 (Reuters) - New United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged the Security Council on Tuesday to take more action to prevent conflicts instead of just responding to them as he pledged to strengthen the world body's mediation capacity.

“The United Nations was established to prevent war by binding us in a rules-based international order. Today, that order is under grave threat,” Guterres said in his first address to the 15-member council since taking office on 1st January 2017.

Guterres, a former prime minister of Portugal and former U.N. refugee chief, said too many opportunities to prevent conflicts had been lost due to mistrust among states and concerns over national sovereignty.

“Such concerns are understandable, in a world where power is unequal and principles have sometimes been applied selectively. Indeed, prevention should never be used to serve other political goals,” he told the council.

“On the contrary, prevention is best served by strong sovereign states, acting for the good of their people,” he said.

The council has been largely deadlocked on the six-year war in Syria, with Russia and China pitted against the United States, Britain and France. The body has also been split on its approach to other conflicts and crises such as South Sudan and Burundi, with some members citing sovereignty concerns.

“Russia has suggested ... that failure to respect state sovereignty is the main driver of conflict,” U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, said.

“Even as Russia has used its veto to insulate itself from consequences in this council for trampling on Ukraine's sovereignty,” she said, referring to Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea.

Russian U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin shot back at Power.

“It is a violation of sovereignty by the United States that led to the very dire situation in a number regions of the world, which we now have to tackle,” he said, citing countries including Iraq and Libya.

Guterres asked the council to make greater use of Chapter 6 of the U.N. Charter, which allows the body to investigate



and recommend procedures to resolve disputes that could eventually endanger international peace and security.

He outlined steps he was taking to bolster the United Nations' prevention capabilities, which he described as “fragmented.” He has created an executive committee to integrate all U.N. arms and appointed a senior official to merge U.N. prevention capacities for better action.

“We will launch an initiative to enhance our mediation capacity,” he said. “We spend far more time and resources responding to crises rather than preventing them ... We need a whole new approach.”

(Reporting by Michelle Nichols; Editing by Tom Brown), Thomson Reuters Foundation

News, retrieved from: <http://news.trust.org/item/20170110193215-q1me5/> on 13 January 2017.

Editor Comment: *Whilst we farewell Ban Ki Moon and thank him for his dedicated service as the UN Secretary General (UNSG), it is always refreshing when there is a change of UNSG's. However, the use of Chapter VI of the UN Charter is suggested to be futile in many PKO and not strong enough to monitor ceasefires in hostile countries in a passive approach. There must be a more robust approach by the UN to engage in Peace Enforcement under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and Enforce Peace before looking to more passive means in order provide stability and security. Such intervention may have changed the Political and war-fatigued Syria and Iraq. The UN needs to rid itself of the “toothless tiger” label that has been dogging it since the early 90's and begin to be a force to be reckoned with.*

New UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Takes Office

By Andy Hazel Reprint

United Nations, Jan 3 2017 (IPS) - Antonio Guterres of Portugal officially took up his position as ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations Tuesday morning, beginning his duties by addressing UN staff in New York.

Guterres emphasised the urgency of addressing the plight of refugees and displaced populations, calling out richer nations for their negligence in addressing their global responsibilities, an issue many expect him to target upon taking office.

“We live in a world in which conflicts multiply and are interlinked with this new phenomenon of global terrorism,” said Guterres. “Conflicts in which international humanitarian law is not respected, situations in which we see massive human rights violations, even refugee law is no longer as respected as it was few years ago. I remember the times when mostly borders would be open and now we see borders closed, now people do not even have the right to be a refugee in many parts of the world.”

“We live in a world where problems became global and there is no way they can be solved on a country by country basis” -- Antonio Guterres

In his speech Guterres also emphasised the importance of multilateralism to address global problems.

“When one looks at the global mega-trends of population growth, climate change, and other aspects that are interlinked, we see that we live in a world where problems became global and there is no way they can be solved on a country by country basis.”

Prior to becoming Secretary-General – a role he will initially hold for five years – Guterres was the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from 2005 to 2015.

He oversaw the UNHCR during a time when the number of displaced persons worldwide grew to its highest number since World War II, exceeding 65 million. He is recognised for having managed the UNHCR’s response to the refugee crisis in the Middle East and Africa while also cutting staff and administrative costs and instituting wide-ranging reform of the organisation. He has pledged to bring a similar approach to the UN.

A number of key positions appointed by Guterres embraces diverse representation in the upper echelons of the organisation, and address the lack of gender parity to which previous Secretaries General had pledged to reform.

Nigeria’s Minister for the Environment Amina J. Mohammed was appointed Deputy Secretary-General. Under-Secretary for Asia and the Pacific at the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti becomes Chef de Cabinet. Guterres created the role of Special Adviser on Policy, Kyunga-wha Kang of South Korea who has previously served as Assistant Secretary-General



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (centre) arrives at UN headquarters.
Credit: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe.

and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator. The role of Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office will be filled by Fabrizio Hochschild, former Deputy Special Representative for the UN Mission in the Central African Republic.

Spokesman for the Secretary General Stéphane Dujarric told a press conference that Guterres’ biggest challenge was to work with member states on achieving peace. “Many people are suffering from war and man-made disasters. He will focus on trying to meet the expectations that people have of this organisation (the UN).”

Dujarric also hinted that Guterres would be an open Secretary General. “As you’ll have seen if you’ve observed his career for the last ten years, he does hold press conferences frequently.”

Guterres was also quick to recognise the scale of the problems and the need for unity among the UN’s 193 member states to address them.

“I think it is useful to say that there are no miracles, and I am sure I am not a miracle-maker. And the only way for us to be able to achieve our goals is to really work together as a team, and to be able to deserve to serve the noble values enshrined in the Charter, that are the values of the UN, that are the values that unite mankind.”

The outgoing Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon described Guterres as a “wonderful choice” to lead the United Nations. “He is perhaps best known where it counts most: on the frontlines of armed conflict and humanitarian suffering.” Guterres inherits a complicated Syrian peace process; the highest number of migrant populations since the 1940s; increased tension between Israel and Palestinian; and a renewed push to admonish countries projected to fail to reach agreed climate change targets.

Retrieved from: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/01/new-un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres-takes-office/> on 6 January 2017.



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The sky's the limit for Lloyd with an MBA

When Lloyd Sellick wanted something more from his career he quite literally looked to the skies. At age 24 and newly graduated mechanical engineer, Lloyd turned to the Royal Australian Air Force for his next move and it has been a career that has sustained him for 20 years.

Then, it was on the ground years later at Melbourne Business School where Lloyd embarked on an MBA in the Senior Executive MBA program, graduating in 2014.

Lloyd described the learning opportunities and experiences he's had over these two decades as "incredible" and fundamental to his most recent career move to specialist consulting firm.

"I was young and somewhat idealistic when I joined the Royal Australian Air Force," Lloyd said.

"I liked the idea there was a whole lifestyle that went along with military service."

Highlights of his time in the Air Force include an 18-month stint as a Deputy Chief Instructor at the RAAF Officers Training School in Victoria and Manager of the Classic Hornet Improvement Program, based out of Newcastle.

This program involved Lloyd working with a small dedicated team to develop a program to improve maintenance performance for the F/A-18 Hornet, as well as improving the fleet's supply chain.

Other highlights included his time at Number 3 Squadron Hornet Workshops as the Senior Maintenance Engineer and his final role as Chief Engineer at the Aerospace Materiel System Program Office.

Lloyd said that throughout his career it was a privilege to have worked with the outstanding people in the Australian Department of Defence and that he will always cherish those memories and relationships.

He has particular fondness for his seven years at RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland, where he spent much of that time working with the F-111 fleet and the great team that supported it.

"I've reached the milestone that I can say I've worked on a retired aircraft platform, a museum piece," Lloyd said.

"It was a great aircraft, especially for an armaments engineer because it had a wide range of weaponry and external stores that could be fitted to it and a very complex ejectable crew module. Our team was responsible for performing operational maintenance on the crew module ejection system. It's quite a complicated explosive system to allow it to separate."

Lloyd, whose rank is Wing Commander, said moving on from the military life was never going to be easy but with two school-age children, he knew there was going to be a time he would need to switch to civilian life.

With this in mind, Lloyd enrolled in the Senior Executive MBA at Melbourne Business School.

Melbourne Business School's Senior Executive MBA (SEMBA) program specifically addresses the challenges



of studying for experienced executives. It comprises 10 x 9-day residential modules over an 18-month period, but requires only five weeks away from work in each of two calendar years.

The SEMBA program is a global experience, with seven modules delivered in Melbourne and three overseas in Asia, Europe and North America.

Lloyd said there were several reasons he chose Melbourne Business School, namely the location, the quality of the faculty and the way the Senior Executive MBA was structured.

"The course content was great," Lloyd said.

"It really did stimulate me to think about how I was approaching problems that I faced and the content was broad and deep."

"I had glaring areas of development required, like understanding financial management and accounting. I'd dealt with budgets in the Defence Force and done what I'd consider some bookkeeping, but learning finance and accounting was definitely my steepest learning curve."

"I was able to apply a lot of the learnings in my Defence job, but the MBA really aided my transition."

And after many years of deployments for weeks at a time, Lloyd now works primarily from his Melbourne home.

"It's different for me after working for more than 20 years for large organisations and now I am in this small, agile company that is connected though technology," he said.

Lloyd said his new role was a fantastic opportunity that has allowed him to leverage all the defence experience he's gained over the past two decades but also to the chance to experience other industry sectors like mining, utilities and energy.

"The MBA gave me the confidence to transition from the Air Force," Lloyd said.

He advised any military personnel considering making a change not to undersell themselves or undervalue their experience but that they should be prepared to have to translate that experience to a broader audience.

"There's a lot that translates from your Defence experience, but doing the MBA opened my eyes, not just to new methodologies and ways of thinking and approaching business problems but it also challenged my thinking in the way I needed to broaden myself."

Lloyd said he intended to maintain his connections to the Air Force and would stay on as a Reserve officer.

"I still have a feeling of connection with the Air Force, even though I've changed career. It is a family."

2017 Domestic and Overseas Commemorations

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

4 February 2017

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said 2017 would feature a number of significant military commemorations to recognise the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have fought to defend our country.

Registration to attend overseas commemorations is now open and passes are provided at no cost. Details on how to register are available on DVA's website at www.dva.gov.au. Passes are not required to attend domestic commemorations.

In Australia, commemorations will be held for 75th anniversaries of Second World War events, the Fall of Singapore, the Battle of the Coral Sea, Bomber Command operations, the Battle of Milne Bay, the Battle of El Alamein and the culmination of the North Africa campaigns, and Kokoda and the Beachheads. A commemoration will also be held to recognise the 70th anniversary of the contribution made by Australian peacekeepers and peacemakers around the world.

Overseas, Australia will commemorate the 100th anniversaries of the Battle of Bullecourt in France, the Battle of Polygon Wood in Belgium and the Battle of Beersheba in Israel from the First World War.

The Australian Government will support ANZAC Day Dawn Services in France, Turkey, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Borneo in 2017.

On 25 April, the commemoration of the Centenary of the Battle of Bullecourt will be recognised in a service at the 'Digger Memorial' in the Australian Memorial Park in Bullecourt. More than 1,100 Australians were taken prisoner during the Battle of Bullecourt — the largest number captured in a single engagement during the First World War.

A commemoration to mark the Centenary of the Battle of Polygon Wood will be held at Buttes New British Cemetery

in Zonnebeke, Belgium on 26 September 2017. Polygon Wood was one of five battles in which Australians were involved as part of the larger British and dominion offensive known as the Third Battle of Passchendaele. In eight weeks of fighting there were 38,000 Australian casualties.

On 31 October 2017, in Israel, a commemoration will recognise the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba, and the famous charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade. At sunset on 31 October 1917, the light horsemen charged the Turkish lines using their bayonets as swords; the momentum of the surprise attack carried them through the Turkish defences and more than 1,000 prisoners were taken.

In 2017 Australia will also mark its other days of national commemoration including Battle for Australia Day, Merchant Navy Day and Remembrance Day.

"As a nation we continue to honour the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served in defence of our nation," Mr Tehan said.

"It is incredibly moving to stand on a foreign field where Australians have fought and died for our values and reflect on the enormous debt we owe to the men and women who serve in our military.

"Many Australians will be planning overseas trips this year to attend a commemoration service and pay their respects and I encourage them to register early."

Date	Commemoration	Location
15 Feb 17	75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore	Ballarat, Victoria
25 Apr 17	ANZAC Day Canberra ANZAC Day Turkey ANZAC Day France ANZAC Day PNG ANZAC Day Thailand ANZAC Day Borneo ANZAC Day Belgium Centenary of the Battle of Bullecourt	Australian War Memorial Gallipoli, Turkey Villers-Bretonneux, France Isurava, PNG Hellfire Pass, Thailand Sandakan, Borneo Ypres, Belgium Bullecourt, France
4 May 17	Battle of Coral Sea Day	Australian War Memorial
4 June 17	75th anniversary of Bomber Command Operations	Australian War Memorial
25 Aug 17	75th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay	Australian War Memorial
14 Sept 17	70th anniversary Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers	ANZAC Parade, Canberra
26 Sept 17	Centenary of the Battle of Polygon Wood, Passchendaele	Zonnebeke, Belgium
23 Oct 17	75th anniversary of the start of El Alamein	Australian War Memorial
31 Oct 17	Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba, Sinai Palestine Campaign	Be'er Sheva, Israel
2 Nov 17	75th anniversary of Kokoda and the beachheads	Australian War Memorial

STEM Gets You Places

By SQNLDR Bruce Chalmers and FLTLT Natalie Giles

For most, high school quickly becomes a distant memory once your career starts in earnest, not so for Royal Australian Air Force Squadron Leader Aleisha Broadhead, who claims time spent studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) at Parklands High School and Hellyer College in Tasmania has directly impacted her life in an extremely positive way.

The Aerospace Engineer is currently deployed to the Middle East region, as part of Operation OKRA,

“I really enjoyed my STEM subjects at school, though they were not considered to be the “in” subjects and I always had an idea that a career in the Australian Defence Force was for me.

“The Australian Defence Force Academy was the perfect pathway for me to become an Aerospace Engineer, a role that I learnt about from Defence Force recruiters who visited my High School.

“Since joining the Air Force I have gained two degrees, qualifications in various engineering courses and have travelled all around Australia and overseas. It has been so much more than I expected from growing up in Burnie and Ulverstone.

“I grew up enjoying summers on the beaches of the North West Coast of Tasmania surrounded by great people.

“Air Force life hasn’t been too much different from this in that every day I get the opportunity to work with the most amazing people and I never know where I will end up next.

“Nowadays I spend most of my spare time with my husband and children and when I return from the Middle East we look forward to exploring the Northern Territory and the Top End while I am based there” she said.

SQNLDR Broadhead is the Senior Engineering Officer with the Air Task Group and presently is posted to number 75 Squadron which is deployed to the Middle East region flying the F/A-18A Hornet aircraft.

Her role is to ensure her team of about 90 maintenance personnel provide airworthy aircraft to meet a busy flying program undertaken by Number 75 Squadron on Operation OKRA.

“The challenges and problem solving involved in studying STEM related subjects at school really set me up to be able to consider a Defence Force career and particularly a career in engineering,” SQNLDR Broadhead said.

“I would encourage all students, girls and boys, to look at doing these subjects so they too can work on state of the art equipment, the latest technologies and best aircraft in aviation today,” she said.

The Air Task Group (ATG) of Operation OKRA is operating at the request of the Iraqi Government within a US-led international coalition assembled to disrupt and degrade Daesh operations in the Middle East Region (MER).

The ATG comprises six RAAF F/A-18A Hornet fighter aircraft, an E-7A Wedgetail airborne command and control aircraft, and a KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport air-to-air refuelling aircraft.

Additionally, the ATG has personnel working in the Combined Air and Space Operations Centre, and embedded with the ‘Kingpin’ US tactical Command and Control Unit.



Integrated Command & Control

From Joint Headquarters to the Tactical Edge



UN Envoy says IS Group will be Routed soon in Iraq

By Edith M. Lederer *Associated Press*

United Nations - Military operations to liberate Iraq from the Islamic State extremist group will be coming to an end "in the rather short foreseeable future," the U.N. envoy for Iraq said Thursday.

Jan Kubis told the U.N. Security Council that "the days of the so-called ISIL are counted," using one of the acronyms for the militant group.

Iraqi forces have pushed IS out of nearly all the cities and towns the group once held in Iraq. Mosul is the last major urban center it holds in that country, and government forces have retaken the eastern half of the city since the operation was officially launched in October.

Kubis said the government's steady progress and successful campaign to retake the eastern part of Mosul "should not conceal that fighting has been and will be a massive challenge, in particular inside the old city in western Mosul."

There have been "many casualties on both military and civilian sides," he said.

The U.N. envoy accused the Islamic State group of deliberately targeting civilians attempting to flee areas it controls, indiscriminately shelling civilians in liberated areas, using civilians as human shields and placing its fighters in and near hospitals and schools.

He said the contingency plan for Mosul developed by the government and humanitarian agencies warned that up to 1 million civilians could be affected in the worst-case scenario. But so far, the impact has been far less than humanitarian agencies feared.

During the campaign in eastern Mosul, nearly 190,000 people were displaced and already 30,000 have returned home, Kubis said, while an estimated 885,000 civilians had remained in areas retaken by the Iraqi military.

When fighting starts in western Mosul, he said, "civilians will be at extreme risk" and humanitarian groups are bracing for possible scenarios including "a possible mass exodus, prolonged siege-like conditions, or a sequenced and managed evacuation by the Iraqi security forces."

Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Mohamed Alhakim said his country's forces are completing

preparations for taking over western Mosul.

The government will be launching reconstruction projects in liberated neighborhoods and undertaking de-mining, which will allow displaced people to return home, he said.

Alhakim reiterated Iraq's deep regret at U.S. President Donald Trump's travel ban on seven countries including Iraq, saying it "is not fully in line with our strategic partnership" and comes at a time of "major progress" against IS by Iraqi forces.

"We therefore call upon the U.S. government to review its position," he said. "And in this regard, we assert our determination to enhance the strategic partnership between our two countries and to broaden the possibility for cooperation, particularly in combatting terrorism."

The Security Council expressed support for Iraqi forces, urged all efforts to minimize civilian casualties, and stressed the "urgent need" for the government to promote national reconciliation.

Members strongly condemned abuses by IS and called on Iraq to investigate all rights violations and bring perpetrators to justice. The council also reiterated the need to prevent the movement of IS fighters from Mosul to neighboring Syria.

Kubis stressed to the council that after IS militants are routed, Iraq will need "substantial and sustainable" international support and assistance.

"Any abrupt scaling-down of engagement or support would mean repeating mistakes of the past — mistakes that have had grave consequences for stability and security, well beyond the borders of Iraq, even globally," he warned



U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the U.N. Michele Sison arrives for the Security Council meeting of the United Nations, Feb. 2, 2017.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres: “My Vision for Revitalising the United Nations.”

When I was growing up reading history books as a young student, it seemed all wars had a winner. Yet in today's wars, it is increasingly clear that no one wins. Everyone loses.

Look no further than the horrifying bloodshed in Syria. A conflict in one country is creating instability on a global scale. Years of brutal fighting have brought chaos to an entire region, with tremors felt around the world. Decades of economic development have been reversed. Millions more children and young people are vulnerable to the cycle of dispossession, underdevelopment, radicalization and conflict.

Around the world, conflicts have become more complex and interlinked—producing gross violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses. People are fleeing their homes on a scale not seen for decades. Global terrorism threatens every region. Meanwhile, climate change, population growth, rapid urbanization, food insecurity and water scarcity are adding to the tensions and instability.

The greatest shortcoming of the international community today is its failure to prevent conflict and maintain global security. As secretary-general of the United Nations, I have called for a surge in diplomacy for peace and appealed for 2017 to be a year for peace.

The United Nations was born from war. Today, we must be here for peace.

Preventing conflict means going back to basics—strengthening institutions and building resilient societies. Since so many conflicts emerge from disenfranchisement and marginalization, it means putting respect for human rights at the center of national and international policy. It means protecting and empowering women and girls, one of the most important steps in sustainable development.

Where wars are already raging, we need mediation, arbitration and creative diplomacy backed by all countries with influence. Members of the U.N. Security Council must live up to their responsibilities. The United Nations—and I, personally—will be ready to engage in conflict resolution wherever and whenever we can add value.

Looking forward, we must make sure countries do not even set off on the path of instability and conflict, but settle their differences peacefully, benefiting people and the planet.

The U.N. has taken important strides to achieve this in recent years. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders two years ago, is a blueprint for making our world more equitable, sustainable and liveable.

To implement this plan—and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals—we need to broaden the circle of action to include governments, bilateral and international organizations, and international financial institutions.

Partnerships with civil society, the business community and others are critical to success.

I am also committed to make sure the U.N. system is reformed and united to provide the development support to member states needed to achieve these goals.

For the U.N. to achieve its full purpose and potential, it too must change. It is time for us to recognize shortcomings and reform the way we work.

First, we must bring greater coherence and consistency to our efforts to build and maintain peace. Too often, U.N. peacekeepers face an impossible task in countries that are still at war and where there is no real peace to keep. Greater conceptual clarity and a shared understanding of the scope of peacekeeping must pave the way for urgent reforms that create a continuum from conflict prevention and resolution to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development.

Second, we need to reform the U.N.'s internal management through simplification, decentralization and flexibility. The United Nations must focus on delivery rather than process; and on people rather than bureaucracy. I am committed to building a culture of accountability, strong performance management and effective protection for whistle-blowers.

Gender parity is also pivotal. I intend to make sure women take their rightful place at senior levels in the U.N., and to create a clear roadmap with benchmarks and time frames to recruit more women at all levels of the organization.

But these vital reforms will depend on trust between leaders, people and institutions—both national and international. We must move beyond the mutual fear that is driving decisions and attitudes around the world. It is time for leaders to listen and show that they care about their own people, and about the global stability and solidarity on which we all depend.

It is time for all of us to remember the values of our common humanity, the values that are fundamental to all religions and that form the basis of the U.N. Charter: peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance and solidarity.

All those with power and influence have a particular responsibility to recommit to these ideals. We face enormous global challenges. They can be solved only if we work together.

António Guterres is secretary-general of the United Nations.

Retrieved from: <http://europe.newsweek.com/davos-2017-un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres-opinion-540326?rm=eu> “Newsweek” 9 January 2017.

Gaining business insight through an MBA

For growing numbers of Defence Force personnel, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) has become the key to a long career – both within the Defence Force and civilian life.

The benefits are manifold: high-level business and leadership skills, networking opportunities across multiple industries, and often the opportunity to specialise within a more focused area.

At The University of Western Australia (UWA), for example, MBA students can choose to focus on finance, social impact, leadership, or entrepreneurship. Alongside this, students have access to a dedicated Career Services Manager.

UWA students can either complete a 12-month full-time MBA (with generous scholarships available), or study part-time in a combination of intensive, evening and online modes.

When John Pope* joined the Army, he had just finished high school. The boy from Geraldton—424km north of Perth—packed his bags, moved over East and worked his way through the Defence Force. After earning a degree in Engineering, John became a workshop manager in Toowoomba then operations officer in Townsville, before leaving the Army to become an auditor at an international accreditation body.

In August 2015, John enrolled in an MBA at The University of Western Australia. Having just finished his time in the Army, he was ready to build a new career.

“I joined the Army straight out of high school and deciding to leave was a significant decision. To give myself the best chance of success in civilian life, I wanted a qualification that would prove my ability to work outside of a Defence environment,” John explains.

“The MBA is an internationally recognised qualification that covers a broad range of business skills and knowledge and I wanted it to assist with my transition out of Defence.”

Choosing to complete his MBA in 18 months (while also working full-time) was tough. But, says John, the hard work was worthwhile.

“The highlight of the MBA was absolutely the people I got to meet and the networking opportunities,” John said.

“Defence is very insular and much of my career was spent around people with very similar backgrounds. The people I’ve met, and the experiences and knowledge I’ve gained over the last year opened my eyes to the ‘real’ world.

“At the same time, I’ve made friends and connections that would never have been possible if I had simply sought a job immediately after leaving the Army.”

Now working as a Management Systems Consultant, John encourages other Defence members to consider studying an MBA.

“Discharging or not, I would still recommend an MBA to Defence members,” John says.

“Having an MBA gave me so much more insight into how the business and commercial world operates, which can be useful inside Defence, doing government contracting or for solely private sector work.

“Now that I’ve finished my MBA and left the Army, I will be seeking work that continues to help Australia and society. I want to use my skills from Defence with my newfound business knowledge to help solve problems and improve the world we live in.”

Learn more at mba.uwa.edu.au

**Name changed*



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Pursue impossible



Somalia famine fears prompt UN call for 'immediate and massive' reaction

Agencies and humanitarian groups voice fears that drought and rising prices could jeopardise the lives of more than 6 million people without swift action

Somali refugees gather to collect water at the Kobe refugee camp, near the Ethiopia-Somalia border, during the 2011 famine. Photograph: Thomas Mukoya/Reuters

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GATES foundation

Friday 3 February 2017 22.26 AEDT Last modified on Friday 3 February 2017 22.27 AEDT

Somalia is facing a “very real risk” of famine, with more than 6 million people, half its population, facing acute food insecurity in the country, three UN agencies have warned.

Humanitarian groups in Somalia cautioned there was a “small window” to stop a repeat of the 2011 famine, when an estimated 260,000 people starved to death in the country after a slow response from donors.

The projected speed of deterioration in a country gripped by severe drought, rising prices and forecasts of poor rains, together with the number of people at risk and the difficulties involved in reaching those affected, have led to a stark warning that an “immediate and massive” response is needed to avert catastrophe.

In Somalia, western donors made famine more, not less likely

According to the latest findings, by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Somalia, almost 3 million people face crisis and emergency food insecurity, more than double the number six months ago. Crisis and emergency, a classification of the severity of food insecurity, is one step away from famine. About 363,000 acutely malnourished children need urgent treatment and nutrition support, including about 71,000 who are severely malnourished, according to FSNAU.

Dick Trenchard, the Food and Agriculture Organisation representative in Somalia, said: “The latest report tells us that we risk famine in several areas of Somalia in the coming months. The warning could not be clearer and it could not be more stark. What worries most is the projected speed of deterioration, the scale – in terms of number of people at risk, the geography and the very real risk of a significant worsening.”

Trenchard, who was speaking on behalf of the FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN children’s agency UNICEF, said the response must span prevention – particularly in rural areas where farmers can be given



Somali refugees gather to collect water at the Kobe refugee camp, near the Ethiopia-Somalia border, during the 2011 famine. Photograph: Thomas Mukoya/Reuters

cash to keep their animals alive – mitigation measures such as nutrition, and health support.

He urged international partners, Somali civil society and government to work together to “avert catastrophe”.

We have a small window to stop what happened in 2011 from happening again – but that window is quickly shutting

Hassan Saadi Noor, Somalia country director, Save the Children

Global hunger levels are at their highest for decades, with four countries – Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen and Somalia – facing the risk of famine and 70 million people in need of food aid, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, a US-based agency. Failed rains across parts of the Horn of Africa, following one of the strongest El Niño events on record, has led to a drought affecting Somalia, south-eastern Ethiopia and northern and eastern Kenya.

Two seasons of failed rains in Somalia have resulted in severe water shortages, tripling the price of a barrel of water (200 litres) to \$15. Three-quarters of the country’s livestock has died and cereal production is down 75%, sending food prices through the roof. All of these are famine indicators, according to the WFP.

Save the Children warned that millions of children in the country risked starvation or even death.

Hassan Saadi Noor, director of Save the Children in Somalia, said: “With the spring rains expected to be much lower than average, we have a small window to stop what



Food distribution to village Sahmandeera, Somalia. Images Dept of Defence CPL Gary Ramage

happened in 2011 from happening again – but that window is quickly shutting.

“Five years ago, more than a quarter of a million lives were needlessly lost, 130,000 of them children. We simply cannot have a repeat of that tragedy. The only way to prevent this devastating loss of life is for donors and international leaders to act now.”

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is calling on the international community to provide \$300m by April, while Save the Children said it requires \$60m to reach 1.2 million Somalis affected by the crisis.

Global Development - The Guardian African women form a united front in the battle for equality – podcast

Kary Stewart looks at how feminists are championing women’s rights across the continent and beyond.

Preliminary forecasts for poor “deyr” or rains in Somalia in March-May, follows the failure of the last two rains, which may lead to a further deterioration in food security.

Abdurahman Sharif, the director of Somalia NGO Consortium said: “Food security is very bad in certain areas and we also have access limitations. A lot of people are concerned about the famine that happened in 2011. That hit southern central Somalia. Here we have a situation that has hit the whole of Somalia. One of the big failures of 2011 is we didn’t act in time and we do not want to repeat those mistakes.

“The very sad fact is that we have competing priorities.

The situation in Yemen is very bad, Syria is bad. But we are asking NGOs, the UN, the donor agencies, to scale up their response.”

There are fears that, if the forecasts are accurate, more people could be affected than in 2011. Food insecurity is more widespread than in 2011, when the southern and central part of the country were worst hit.

Arif Husain, chief economist and head of the World Food Programme’s vulnerability assessment mapping unit, said: “The difference is, before we had the drought of 2010, we had a good season, so people had some coping strategies. This time around, the previous rains have been bad, so people are at a lower level of coping.

“The last famine was declared in July 2011, but the excessive mortality had started to happen in April and May. We are starting in February, so that people can see the urgency of the situation.”

The death toll in the 2011 famine was exacerbated by extremist militants from al-Shabaab, an Islamist group allied to al-Qaida, which banned food aid deliveries to the areas of south-central Somalia it then controlled. In 2011 the group, which has been fighting an insurgency in Somalia for a decade and once controlled much of the country, was forced out of the capital, Mogadishu, and many other towns and cities, but it still dominates in rural areas.

Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/feb/03/somalia-famine-fears-un-call-immediate-massive-reaction> on 6 Feb 2017

Keeping it in the Family

By FLTLT Natalie Giles

For the second time since Operation OKRA commenced, Warrant Officer Rick Field, WOE at 75SQN has handed over Transfer of Authority to his cousin, Warrant Officer Kevin Jago, WOE at 77SQN from the base where Australia's air operations against Daesh in Iraq are centred.

The role of Warrant Officer Engineering in the Air Task Group on Operation OKRA involves ensuring that enough airframes are available for the busy flying program as well as managing the welfare and morale of the technical maintenance personnel deployed to the Air Task Group.

WOFF Kevin 'Jags' Jago says due to the currently demanding operational tempo of both squadrons, both members have had little time for catching up with extended family throughout the year.

"The handover times are the only times we get to catch up, as even when we have travelled up to Tindal for exercises, Rick has been deployed," WOFF Jago said.

"It does make the handover a bit easier, knowing you're handing over to someone you know well and we get in a bit of family banter at the same time."

This is the second time WOFF Jago has deployed with 77SQN and he said the second time has been a smoother transition.

"Knowing what to expect has made deploying a second time a lot easier," WOFF Jago said.

"My first rotation was just under 7 months but this time I'm here for four and a half months.

WOFF Jago said missing family is the biggest challenge of his deployment.

"They're back at home doing the hard yards and being here there's not much you can do about it.

"The families back home definitely deserve the credit for holding the fort while we're over here."

The Air Task Group (ATG) of Operation OKRA, is operating at the request of the Iraqi Government within a US-led international coalition assembled to disrupt and degrade Daesh operations in the Middle East Region (MER).

The ATG comprises six RAAF F/A-18A Hornet fighter aircraft, an E-7A Wedgetail airborne command and control aircraft, and a KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport air-to-air refuelling aircraft.

Additionally, the ATG has personnel working in the Combined Air and Space Operations Centre, and embedded with the 'Kingpin' US tactical Command and Control Unit.



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Air Force's New Growlers Roar into Avalon

The International Air Show at Avalon welcomed the first EA-18G Growler electronic attack aircraft to the Royal Australian Air Force.

Flying into the Australian International Airshow at Avalon from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in the United States, the Growlers are a potent and technologically advanced new capability for the Australian Defence Force.

The Growler can disrupt military electronic systems, such as radars, to protect personnel and improve situational awareness.

"Australia is the only country outside the United States flying the EA-18G Growler and its arrival is a significant leap forward in Australia's joint electronic warfare capability and introduces a dedicated electronic attack option," Defence Minister Marise Payne said.

Minister Payne today also announced that Australia will partner with the United States to develop a next-generation radar and radio jammer for the Growler.

"This is a \$250m investment by the Turnbull Government that will future proof the Growler's capability," Minister Payne said.

"As this is a rapidly evolving area we will work in partnership with the United States Navy to develop the next generation jamming capability, which will ensure that these aircraft remain at the technological forefront throughout their service life."

The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies, said the Growler was a vital part of Air Force's evolution to a future fifth-generation Air Force.

"The EA-18G Growler will operate as part of our networked and integrated force, capable of sharing electronic intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data with other aircraft, as well as with the Army and Navy.

"The Growler is powerful and flexible. It can undertake a range of non-kinetic tasks, ranging from jamming, to blocking radar displays, and suppressing an adversary's air defence system," Air Marshal Davies said.

Australia has purchased 12 EA-18G Growlers, which will be delivered to RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland by the middle of 2017.



Two EA-18G Growler aircraft arrive at Avalon for the 2017 Australian International Airshow.

No Home Cooking Here

By SQNLDR Bruce Chalmers and FLTLT Natalie Giles

Home cooking and the Bendigo Easter Parade are two of Naomi Holmes favourite things and if you throw in summers at Lake Eppalock, growing up in Huntly is an experience to be treasured for life.

Presently deployed on Operation OKRA with the Royal Australian Air Force, Flight Lieutenant Naomi Holmes is in the Middle East Region providing mission support to aircrew and coordinating flying activities for the range of aircraft deployed by the Air Force to the theatre.

"I joined the Air Force through the Australian Defence Force Academy straight from High School at Catholic College Bendigo, after becoming interested in Defence from my Naval Cadets experience at TS Bendigo Naval Reserve Cadets," FLTLT Holmes said.

"This is my second overseas deployment and having an exciting job where I don't just sit at a desk all day has confirmed my opinion that joining the Air Force was a route to travel and enjoyment of the adventures of seeing the world in the process of doing that job.

"There aren't many opportunities for home cooking on base here in the Middle East, nor is there paddle-boarding but I

am contributing as part of a team, and I am able to apply my training, including two degrees that I have finished since joining, making deployment something that I really enjoy.

"Celebrating Christmas with my deployed family made up for not being at home, but I am looking forward to joining the family for a home cooked meal, some time at the beach and catching up with my friends after the deployment."

In addition to her two degrees FLTLT Holmes is a qualified Air Traffic Controller and has a Diploma of Advanced Aviation.

The Air Task Group (ATG) of Operation OKRA is operating at the request of the Iraqi Government within a US-led international coalition assembled to disrupt and degrade Daesh operations in the Middle East Region (MER).

The ATG comprises six RAAF F/A-18A Hornet fighter aircraft, an E-7A Wedgetail airborne command and control aircraft, and a KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport air-to-air refuelling aircraft.

The ATG also has personnel working in the Combined Air and Space Operations Centre, and embedded with the 'Kingpin' US tactical Command and Control Unit.



On 11 November 2016, members of Air Task Group 630 and the accompanying Combat Support Unit conducted a Remembrance Day ceremony with Coalition partners at Australia's main air operating base in the Middle East Region. The service included a number of readings from Chaplains, laying of wreathes, recital of The Ode, and two minutes silence.

Operation OKRA Read Back Program Launches in Middle East



By FLTLT Natalie Giles

A new program involving deployed personnel reading books to children back home to assist them cope with the separation has been launched at Air Task Group (ATG).

Developed from an existing United States Military welfare program called United Through Reading, the Australian "Read Back" initiative is designed to help ease the stress of separation by having service members read children's books aloud on video for the child to watch at home.

Based in the Middle East Region where Australian air operations against Daesh are centred, ATG members deployed on Operation OKRA use a reading room where video equipment is set up to record a reading to the children.

The DVD and the book they have read, is then provided to the member to post back to Australia through the existing mail system to enable the children to follow along with the book at home.

Squadron Leader Wayne Taylor was instrumental in bringing this program to deployed Australians.

"I saw what the Americans were doing with their United Through Reading program and thought to myself what a great idea," SqnLDR Taylor said.

"I initially approached the RAAF Welfare Trust Fund for funding and they generously provided \$5000 for us to purchase a range of Australian themed children's books to get the program started.

"We're hoping that once the program gets underway, we can find perpetual funding for this initiative so that personnel in other deployed locations can also make use of the program" he said.

Corporal Meagan Murray is deployed to the Air Task Group orderly room and is one of the first members to use the program. She has a two year old son back at home in Australia.

"Leaving Korbin at home while I deploy for six months is a very difficult thing, especially as he is still so young. It is one of the sacrifices we make when we volunteer for active service," Corporal Murray said.

"My biggest fear is that because he is so young, he won't remember me when I get home. This reading program allows him to see me reading him stories every night so I hope that it will combat that fear.

"The reading program also helps my husband Callum who is at home looking after our son. Whenever Korbin is upset and missing me, Callum can put on the video and Korbin can watch mummy reading to him."

The popular Australian children's books purchased cover an age bracket of six months to twelve years and have a uniquely Australian geographic and flora/fauna content with some specifically selected for their Indigenous content.

The Chaplain deployed to the Air Task Group is the custodian of the program and any enquiries can be directed to mark.kleemann@y22.defence.gov.au

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Above: Private Sarah Stevens, “Guardian Angel”, Force Protection Element 6, Task Group Afghanistan

Opposite: Private Sarah Stevens, “Guardan Angel,” from Force Protection Element 6, Task Group Afghanistan, meets an officer cadet from the Female Tolay of the Afghan National Army in Qargha, Afghanistan.

Below: Australian Army soldiers of Force Protection Element 6 conducted some hands-on emergency extraction training with unserviceable up-armoured sports utility vehicles in Kabul, Afghanistan.



FPE- 6 to FPE-7 Transfer of Authority

By CPL Bill Solomou

Completing a successful seven month deployment to Kabul, Force Protection Element (FPE-6) transitioned its operational role to FPE-7 on 25 January 2017.

FPE-6 provided critical protection for Australian mentors working throughout Kabul - including at Headquarters Resolute Support, the Afghan National Army Officer Academy, Kabul Garrison General Command and the Afghan Air Force.

More than 115 members from 7 RAR have returned home to Adelaide for a well-earned rest.

FPE-6 Operations Officer Captain Luke Murphy said force protection played a critical role in achieving the ADF's mission in Afghanistan.

"As part of our role we were able to securely transport and protect the mentors travelling and working at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA), west of Kabul," Capt Murphy said.

"This meant they were able to conduct their training with the host nation mentees - in turn they passed the lessons learnt to the local Afghan Cadets."

FPE-6 included a number of female guardian angels.

Maintaining local nation requirements, female guardian

angels were assigned to female mentors.

ADF female mentor Sgt Jo Rootham said mentoring required a mentor's full attention.

"It was great knowing the force protection members were there, providing security and any quick reaction force if any incidents occurred," Sgt Rootham said.

PMV driver Pte Adrian Baena said he enjoyed his first deployment to the Middle East.

"It was a great experience; working with the coalition forces was fantastic," Pte Baena said.

"We worked alongside several nations, the Irish detachment were really good blokes."

FPE-7 Section Commander Cpl Chad Whitehead is looking forward to the time ahead as they work closely with the mentors to achieve the Operation HIGHROAD mission.

"We've been training hard for this deployment, so it's exciting to finally be here doing the job," Cpl Whitehead said.

Around 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.



Secure BLOS and COTM for Command and Control of Tactical Units



SlingShot delivers robust Comms on The Move (COTM) for man-portable, land, water and air transport.

Not having the ability to communicate over distance using radios is unthinkable yet, as modern operations change in nature and small, fleet, units are active far forward of strategic command, it often seems that one of the biggest tactical hurdles is to maintain command and control over distance.

A tactical radio has a range of about 30 miles, which is further limited by some terrain features and buildings. Hilltop sites have had to be used for repeaters to extend the signal, with such sites having to be protected from enemy attack. This is costly in terms of manpower and equipment with additional vulnerability during resupply.

For communications from theatre to a rear HQ, to other forward-operating units, or back to a home country, BLOS (Beyond Line of Sight) communications are needed and satellites are the obvious and only solution. But satellites are expensive to build and launch and those that are military-owned are in high demand.

TACSAT, using military UHF satellites, delivers BLOS voice comms but is limited to high-priority users such as special forces. While it was widely used in Afghanistan there are still only a limited number of tactical satellite channels available.

The challenge is to provide more TACSAT channels for secure voice and to allow COTM (Comms on the Move), so that there is no need to pause to communicate.

Spectra Group (UK) teamed-up with Inmarsat, the largest commercial satellite network, in order to provide the solution, named SlingShot®.

SlingShot enables in-service tactical radios to use Inmarsat L-TAC™ service, a global network that provides

a significant number of non-contended channels for BLOS comms.

Crucially, SlingShot can be bolted onto existing tactical radios without compromising their in-built encryption systems and requires no configuration to the tactical radio; simply plugin into its antenna socket converting the VHF or UHF frequencies into L-Band for the Inmarsat network.

It also means that an existing VHF or UHF radio can be turned into a TACSAT, whereas previously, personnel who needed this capability would have had to carry two radios, one for conventional LOS comms and another for BLOS.

Spectra Group CEO, Simon Davies, points out another real game-changer, saying,

"The beauty of what we have designed, and a differentiator which changes the way people using TACSAT operate, is that the SlingShot antenna is omnidirectional. With the tactical communication satellites they had, they had to stop, pause and point it at the satellite. With our antennas you can be going down the road at 80mph and still have communications. That works on a vehicle, on a man or on a boat."

SlingShot is supported in the AsiaPac region by Satcom Direct. They are well known for providing world-class support from integration and configuration, to everyday use. The Satcom Direct technical support team is strategically located around the globe, including in Melbourne, Malaysia, and Hong Kong and are available 24/7/365, with the ability to go onsite for any urgent needs within hours.



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Cyprus

Reunification talks: rivals reject proposed new borders



Abandoned buildings in the UN controlled buffer zone, separating the divided capital Nicosia. Photograph: Iakovos Hatzistavrou/AFP/Getty Images

Delegations from Greek and Turkish sides fail to agree on new map for divided island state, saying proposals are 'unacceptable'

Agence France-Presse

Sunday 15 January 2017 04.52 AEDT Last modified on Sunday 15 January 2017 05.00 AEDT

Rival Cypriot delegations have failed to agree on maps for new borders on the divided island state, each slamming the other's proposals as "unacceptable", Turkey's foreign minister said on Saturday after peace talks stalled.

Turkish troops will remain on island, vows Erdogan

Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot delegation had delivered letters to the UN secretary-general, António Guterres, "saying they would not accept the maps they had seen".

A week of UN-brokered talks in Geneva between Greek Cypriot president Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akıncı had sparked optimism that an agreement to reunify the island could be at hand.

Each side unveiled their vision on Wednesday of how they saw the borders of a reunified Cyprus. But hopes stalled on Friday, with the rival sides in the decades-old dispute at loggerheads over the future of Turkish troops on the divided island – and its boundaries.

Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akıncı "strongly stressed that the Greek offer could not be taken seriously, (and) that no Turkish Cypriot would accept this map", Çavuşoğlu told reporters in Ankara. "The same goes for us," he added.

The thorny issue centres on how the boundaries are redrawn, including around the once Greek Cypriot town of Morphou on the northern coast. Anastasiades has warned that there can be no deal without a full return of Morphou,

while some in the Turkish Cypriot camp have declared its return a non-starter.

The maps swapped on Wednesday will not be disclosed publicly, with the UN hoping that both sides eventually agree on a compromise version. But Turkey has cast a shadow over the peace talks, with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan saying Friday that Greek Cypriots still have "different expectations".

Cyprus reunification talks stall over question of security



"These maps are not open for discussion," Çavuşoğlu said. "This is neither the time nor the place." He added that more pressing issues would have to be resolved first.

One such issue is troop deployment. Cyprus's so-called guarantor powers – Britain, Greece and Turkey – were at the UN on Thursday to talk about security, a bedrock issue in the peace process aimed at creating a two-zone federation.

Turkish Cypriot leaders have agreed in principle to return some of the land controlled by Greek Cypriots before the 1974 invasion by Turkish troops, which came in response to an Athens-inspired coup seeking union with Greece.

Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/14/cyprus-reunification-talks-rivals-reject-proposed-new-borders> on 22 January 2017.

Negotiators to brief Cyprus leaders on pending issues in the talks

Negotiators of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot side, Andreas Mavroyiannis and Ozdil Nami, will present on Thursday to Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akıncı the pending issues of the chapters discussed at the talks on the Cyprus problem, and the two leaders will decide on how to proceed with the discussion of these issues.

The two negotiators met on Tuesday to look into the pending issues which they will present to the leaders during their meeting on Thursday, in the framework of their UN-led talks negotiations aiming to solve the problem of Cyprus, and then Anastasiades and Akıncı will decide on

how they will proceed with their discussion, a well-informed source has told CNA. It added that the aim is to minimize the differences and achieve co-understanding.

As regards the discussion of the issue of security and guarantees, it noted that a brainstorming is expected to take place between the leaders during their talks in Nicosia and in view of the continuation of the Conference on Cyprus at the political level, expected to take place in March.

Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias said on Monday that "we will probably have in the second half of March a meeting of the guarantor powers' Foreign Ministers, the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the representative of the Turkish Cypriot community."

Anastasiades and Akinci, who had a meeting on February 1, in the framework of UN-led talks on the Cyprus problem, requested the United Nations to prepare, in consultation with the guarantor powers, for the continuation of the Conference on Cyprus at political level in early March.

They also decided that they will meet weekly through the month of February to address outstanding issues and that their negotiators will also continue their regular meetings.

The Conference on Cyprus convened, on January 12, in Geneva, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, with the participation of Anastasiades and Akinci, the Foreign Ministers of Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom as guarantor powers, and in the presence of the European Union as an observer, to address the issue of security and guarantees, a crucial chapter in discussions for a Cyprus settlement.

The Conference decided to establish a working group at the level of deputies to identify specific questions and the instruments needed to address them, and that the Conference will continue at political level immediately thereafter to review the outcome of the working group's discussions.

In parallel, according to the decision, the negotiations on outstanding issues in the other chapters will continue between the two sides in Cyprus.

The working group of deputies met in Mont-Pelerin, Switzerland, on January 18-19, and according to the UNSG's Special Adviser on Cyprus Espen Barth Eide "successfully completed the mandate entrusted to it by the Conference."

Retrieved from: <http://famagusta-gazette.com/negotiators-to-brief-cyprus-leaders-on-pending-issues-in-the-talks-p38482-69.htm> 10/2/17

Update on Australian Peacekeeping Week and 70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping Commemorations and Dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial:

Planning for Australian Peacekeeping Week is underway. A range of events are currently being planned:

- 11 Sep APPVA National Conference
- 12 Sep APPVA National AGM and Elections
- 3 Sep Governor General Reception for the 70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping (to be confirmed with more details to be advised). APPVA will work with

the APMPC to confirm guests for this activity. Anyone not attending the reception should consider attending the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial although it is not known who will be remembered at this service.

- 14 September 70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping Commemoration and Dedication of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial (details outlined below), Reception for Australian Peacekeepers, and the Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremony dedicated to a fallen peacekeeper
- 15 September UNAA Conference and Seminar and AAPVA 20th Anniversary Dinner
- 16 September UNAA Conference

The Australian War Memorial will have Peacekeeping banners hanging from the ramparts throughout Australian Peacekeeping Week and will have a display of Peacekeeping images available for viewing along with the normal Peacekeeping display. APPVA members are encouraged to visit during the week.

The APPVA activities are being organised by APPVA to compliment the commemorative and dedication events on 14 September 2017.

The 14 September 2017 will be an important day for reflection and commemoration for Australian Peacekeepers and their families. The APMPC, on behalf of stakeholder organisations including APPVA, is working closely with DVA and the Australian War Memorial, to plan the activities on 14 September 2017. Planning is still in concept so details may change and adjustments to the initial thinking have already been made based on the nature of the Memorial site and safety. The proposed outline plan for 14 September 2017 are:

- commemoration and dedication ceremony will be held at the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial in Anzac Parade in Canberra and is likely to commence at 1000. The commemorations may commence with a symbolic display of Peacekeeping banners, each carried by a peacekeeper, to show the 64 peacekeeping missions Australia has participated in over 70 years. APPVA, along with Police organisations and Defence will be asked to provide Peacekeepers to carry the banners and be part of the commemorations so we will be looking for volunteers to assist.
- a reception (likely to be between 1200 - 1330) will be conducted after the commemorations near the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial (location still to be confirmed). The reception will be a relaxed event to allow Peacekeepers to gather and reflect on the commemorations.
- at 1700 the Australian War Memorial will conduct its Last Post Ceremony and a peacekeeper will be recognised. We are encouraged to attend this service and the APPVA will lay a wreath to remember the peacekeeper.

The APPVA will continue to be involved in planning for Australian Peacekeeping Week and the special commemorations on 14 September 2017. We will keep you up to date with all the activities. Be prepared for some changes to details but Australian Peacekeeping Week is shaping up to be an important and special week in 2017 - 'don't miss it!

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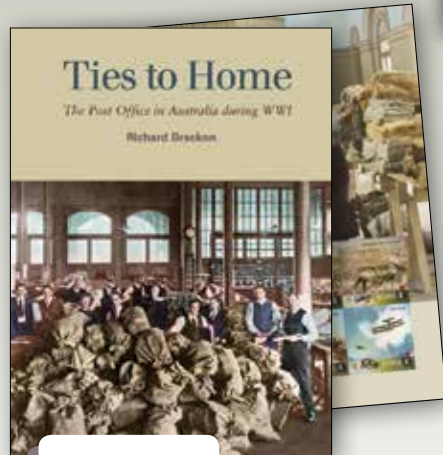
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Australian Command Change in the Middle East Region

On 22 January 2017 Air Vice-Marshal (AVM) Tim Innes, CSC transferred the command of Australia's Joint Task Force (JTF) 633 in the Middle East region to Major General (MAJGEN) John Frewen, AM.

AVM Innes' 12 month command has continued Australia's material contribution to the security and stability of the Middle East.

"Through the excellent work of our Task Group Taji in Iraq over the past 12 months as part of Operation Okra, which is part of the international Coalition's Building Partner Capacity (BPC) mission - we've trained around 13,000 Iraqi Security Force (ISF) personnel. That brings the number to more than 17,000 Iraqi personnel trained since the Iraqi and United States governments requested Australia's support in 2014," AVM Innes said.

"Additionally and significantly our Special Operations Task Group's contribution to the Coalition's advice and assistance to the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) has been instrumental in the ongoing success of taking back territory from Daesh in Iraq.

"With the retaking of Ramadi in December 2015 the CTS has continued at the forefront of the Iraqi led fight, which has seen them go from success to success – firstly with the retaking of Fallujah in June 2016 and now with the conscientious and methodical ongoing clearance of Mosul."

"Continuing to directly contribute to those gains is the first class efforts of our Air Task Group – who in 12 months have flown more than 1400 combat missions."

AVM Innes regularly visited with and recognised the efforts of all Defence personnel throughout the Middle East region.

"Since January last year Australian naval operations as part of Operation Manitou seized around one tonne of narcotics worth an estimated \$850 million and seized more than 2100 illicit weapons," AVM Innes said.

"In that time too we've also seen around 1000 Afghan National Army (ANA) officers graduated from the ANA Officer Academy where Australia through her Operation Highroad continues to provide a critical mentoring role which contributes to Afghanistan's future security and stability."

"Australia's interests and the welfare of the dedicated men and women of Defence serving in the Middle East are in more than capable hands with the vastly experienced MAJGEN Frewen. I wish him all the best," AVM Innes said.

Around 1700 ADF members are deployed on Operations ACCORDION, OKRA, HIGHROAD and MANITOU in the Middle East region.

Air Vice-Marshal Innes returns to Australia for a short break before commencing his role as the Commander of

Headquarters Integrated Area Defence System (HQIADS) in Malaysia.

Incoming Commander JTF 633, MAJGEN Frewen brings a wealth of command experience to the role, having previously served as Director Military Strategic Commitments and Commander 1st Brigade.

"I am honoured by the opportunity to lead the men and women of the ADF and Australian Public Service in the Middle East. I look forward to building on the inspirational efforts of those under my command and of our predecessors in Task Force 633," MAJGEN Frewen said.



Commander Headquarters Joint Task Force 633, Air Vice - Marshal Tim Innes, CSC, visited ADF personnel deployed on Operation Highroad in Kabul, Afghanistan during December 2016.

New Australian Force Commander for Multinational Force & Observers - Sinai

Jerusalem Post, 6 December 2016.

Australian Maj.-Gen. Simon Stuart will lead the multinational peacekeeping force on the Sinai Peninsula starting on March 1, 2017, taking over from Maj.-Gen. Denis Thompson from Canada.

“Australia is pleased to be assuming command of MFO-Sinai [Multinational Force and Observers],” Australian Ambassador to Israel Dave Sharma told The Jerusalem Post, adding that with this role, Stuart will be leading Australia’s largest command mission.

“MFO-Sinai plays a critical role in underpinning the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel which is, in turn, a major contributor to regional stability,” Sharma said. “The Australian military has played a constructive and longstanding role in the Middle East, going back over a century.”

The 1,600-strong peacekeeping force has since 1981 been charged with maintaining a decades-old buffer zone between Israel and Egypt under the direction of the MFO, which supervises the implementation of the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace signed in 1979.

“The MFO’s selection of an Australian to lead its force is testimony to the high regard in which our contribution is held by the international community,” Australian Defence Minister and Senator the Honourable Marise Payne said in a statement, adding that this is the second time in history that an Australian would lead the peacekeeping force after Maj.- Gen. David Ferguson commanded the Force from 1994 to 1997.

An Islamist insurgency, which includes Islamic State terrorists, in the desolate, thinly populated Sinai Peninsula has increased its activities since the Egyptian military toppled former president Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2013.

In 2012 the Force’s al-Joura base, located just 10 km. south of the Israeli border was overrun by protesters who managed to overtake easily its security barriers. Once inside, they seized control of radio equipment and ammunition depots, leaving four MFO officers wounded in an exchange of gunfire.

Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi has waged an extensive military operation against Islamic State terrorists in Sinai. Despite being few in number, they are considered by many to be one of the most effective ISIS branches outside Syria and Iraq and have carried out numerous deadly attacks on Egyptian security forces.

According to the Force’s most recent annual report in 2014, its members “continue to face the risk of being caught in a crossfire – ‘wrong place, wrong time’ – or of becoming an intentional target of militants,” and “since January 2014, when armed gunmen shot down an Egyptian military helicopter, the force has conducted its reconnaissance missions in the northeast Sinai only on the ground.”

Last September six international peacekeepers, including four Americans, were wounded by two bombs planted on a road close to their base. Egyptian security officials said Islamic State terrorists had placed bombs there, intending to target passing Egyptian troops.

Following that report US State Department spokesman Mark Toner said that “the US is concerned over deteriorating security conditions in an area of north eastern Sinai where Egyptian security forces as well as civilian and military elements of the MFO, including the US military forces stationed at the MFO North Camp, are exposed to potential risk.”

And while the threat of ISIS has caused some countries taking part in the peacekeeping force to remove their contingent from the peninsula, such as Fiji in May, the US has said it would not end its mission, but is examining the possibility of replacing its peacekeepers with an electronic monitoring system.

But according to Israeli security officials quoted by Reuters following the September incident, Islamic State is “not interested in attacking the MFO. If they were interested, they could be killing them every day.” Dismantling any MFO positions, they said, would only strengthening the resolve of terrorists groups. “They would look and see that the ‘Crusaders’ there are afraid,” one senior Israeli official told Reuters, adding that “this would be powerful for the terrorists. [It] can encourage them to be more jihadist.”

Retrieved from: <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Australia-to-take-over-UN-peacekeepers-in-Sinai-between-Israel-Egypt-474492> on 6 December 2016.

Australian Officer appointed to command international peacekeeping force

2 December 2016 | Media Release

Major General Simon Stuart has been appointed to lead a multinational peacekeeping force on the Sinai Peninsula.

The Multinational Force and Observers, known as the

MFO, is an independent organisation headquartered in Rome that supervises implementation of the security arrangements to the 1979 Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel.

The Director General of the MFO, Ambassador David Satterfield, announced today that Major General Stuart would become Force Commander MFO from 1 March 2017.

Australia has been a long-standing contributor to the MFO of more than 30 years and has an ongoing contribution of up to 25 Australian Defence Force members serving in key appointments.

The Minister for Defence, Senator the Honourable Marise Payne congratulated the Major General on his appointment and said this would be the second time in its history that an Australian has been appointed to this role.

“Australia has a long and proud history of contributing to international peacekeeping and peace building efforts,” Minister Payne said.

“The MFO’s selection of an Australian to lead their force is testimony to the high regard in which our contribution is held by the international community.”

The only other Australian to hold this post was Major General David Ferguson who commanded the Force from 1994 to 1997.

Retrieved from: <http://news.defence.gov.au/2016/12/02/australian-officer-appointed-to-command-international-peacekeeping-force/> on 6 December 2016.

On 1 March 2017, Major General (MG) Simon Stuart DSC, AM, of Australia will assume command of the Multinational Force and Observers at a ceremony presided over by MFO Director General David M. Satterfield to be held at the MFO’s main camp in Sharm el Sheikh, Sinai, Egypt.

MG Stuart is an Australian Army infantry officer with nearly thirty years’ experience across a range of leadership, training and program management appointments in Australia and overseas.

Some of the highlights of his career include: command of an Infantry combat team in Timor Leste in 1999 and in 2001; service as Deputy Director of the Joint Amphibious Capability Implementation Team in Navy Headquarters and as the Program Manager for the Department of Defence’s Enhanced Land Force Programme; command of the 8th/9th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment from 2008 – 2010; service as Deputy Chief of Staff in Army HQ; and command of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in Timor Leste in 2010 and of a combined Australian and US brigade level formation in Southern Afghanistan in 2012-13.

MG Stuart is a graduate of the Royal Military College – Duntroon (1990), the United Kingdom’s Joint Services Command and Staff College (2003) and the US Army War College (2015). He received a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of New England, a Master’s Degree in Project Management (New South Wales), a Master of Arts in Defence Studies (Kings College, London) and a Master of Strategy (US Army War College).



New MFO Sinai Force Commander. Source: MFO News

He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2011 Queen’s Birthday Honours List for service as the Commander of the ISF in Timor Leste and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for his efforts in command of Combined Team - Uruzgan in 2012-13.

He is married to Katy. They have two children, Evelyn and Charlie.

Retrieved from: <http://mfo.org/en/news/article/mfo-force-commander-designate-major-general-simon-andrew-stuart-dsc-am> on 6 December 2016.



Trijicon TA44

The Trijicon ACOG (Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight) is a fixed magnification riflescope with an illuminated reticle pattern for use in bright to low/no light situations. It is designed to be extremely durable, constructed with 7075-T6 aircraft aluminum. Combining traditional, precise distance marksmanship with COB speed, every feature was chosen for a single purpose – to provide increased hit potential in all lighting and fighting conditions.

The Trijicon 1.5 x 16S ACOG (TA44) is the one we call the “Shorty” because it is the shortest of all ACOG variations at 101.6mm in length, and weighs 144.5 grams without mount. It features a 16mm objective lens, 10.7mm of exit pupil and a 7.4-degree field of view (field of view is 11.9m at 100 yards). Bright, consistent and hassle-free illumination comes from a tritium lamp combined with fiber optics. This battery-free illumination automatically adjusts to variable light conditions.

The TA44 provides a both eyes open design utilizing the Bindon Aiming Concept, which gives shooters a better field of view, improved situational awareness and less eye strain – all important advantages in combat situations. Multi-coated lenses provide superior clarity and light-gathering capabilities with zero distortion.

Because the TA44 features fixed magnification, there are fewer moving parts, resulting in more reliability and durability. The reticle is a dual-illuminated circle dot for super-quick target acquisition in close combat and accuracy at longer ranges.

No other magnified optic has been used more in combat than the ACOG, which has been proven to withstand recoil from everything from a .22LR to a .50BMG. The ACOG easily passes the stringent U.S. Military drop test requirements. It’s also dry-nitrogen filled to eliminate fogging, and is five-times more waterproof than military standard requirements. The tritium lamp is warranted to illuminate for 15 years.

There are eleven variants of the Trijicon ACOG, including fiber/tritium-illuminated choices (1.5x, 2x, 3x, 3.5x, 4x, 5.5x and 6x) and LED-illuminated options (4x32 LED and 3.5x35 LED). Several feature bullet drop compensating and ranging reticles.

The Trijicon TA44 ACOG is built to be the toughest optic for serious use in military, combat and law enforcement situations. Dependable with a small footprint but bright reticle that provides instant visible acquisition, it’s the top choice in combat optics.



35 Years of Mental Health Support for Veterans



The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) celebrated its 35th birthday on 29 January 2017.

VVCS, known originally as the Vietnam Veterans’ Counselling Service, provides free mental health counselling and support to those who have served our nation. It has provided more than 1.6 million counselling sessions to more than 300,000 veterans and family members since the first office opened in Adelaide on 29 January 1982.

The program is the legacy of our Vietnam veterans, who recognised a need for mental health services specifically for those who had served in the military.

VVCS now provides services to more than 27,000 clients a year, with centres throughout Australia and a strong network of outreach counsellors in regional and rural areas.

Support for service-related issues such as anger, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and sleep disturbance is provided by the program.

VVCS clinicians work with couples and families on relationship issues that arise from the unique demands of military life, and run a range of group programs including free suicide prevention workshops for members of the veteran community.

Our commitment to providing support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families remains as strong as ever.

For more information about the program visit the VVCS website or follow us on Facebook.

35 YEARS OF SUPPORT		
	1982	2017
CLIENTS	3,000	27,000
SESSIONS	15,000	98,000
COUNSELLORS	21	1,200
CENTRES	7	26

VETERANS & VETERANS FAMILIES COUNSELLING SERVICE (VVCS)
CALL 1800 011 046 (24/7)

VVCS



Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service

A service founded by Vietnam veterans

VVCS provides free and confidential, nationwide counselling and support for war and service-related mental health and wellbeing conditions.

CALL 24 HOURS

1800 011 046

VETERANS | FAMILIES | ELIGIBLE ADF MEMBERS



Australian Government
Veterans and Veterans Families
Counselling Service

www.vvcs.gov.au 

Digger Routs DVA

Commando wins sick-pay war

By Ruth Lamperd

An injured former commando has won the most gruelling fight of his life against the government organisation that is supposed to be looking after him.

The elite Digger won the right to keep his “danger money” allowance — to total about \$800,000 over 20 years — after the Department of Veterans’ Affairs failed to have it removed from his entitlements.

The former commando was left with debilitating spinal injuries from a helicopter incident while on a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

During the six-day Administrative Appeals Tribunal fight, which stretched over three years, the excommando, who is known as “WFLT” because his name has been suppressed, was given psychiatric help twice because of suicidal thoughts.

He suffers post-traumatic stress disorder from an earlier deployment to Bougainville when two babies died as he attempted to resuscitate them.

If WFLT had lost his case, it is believed the DVA would have tried to strip away the danger money allowance from other commandos injured in the line of duty.

In her decision, AAT member Elizabeth Shanahan said the former commando was a “witness of credit, highly intelligent and who in no way exaggerated any of his ongoing serious physical and mental disabilities”.

The AAT decision follows an investigation by the Sunday Herald Sun last year that revealed more veterans had taken their own lives in the first half of the year than servicemen killed in action in the entire 11 years of war in Afghanistan.

That investigation revealed an archaic and adversarial DVA system which high-profile veterans believed contributed to the devastating toll.

A Senate inquiry into the DVA and veteran suicides winds up public hearings tomorrow in Canberra.

Senator Jacqui Lambie, who pushed for the Senate inquiry on behalf of two advocates, said they would finally have a long-awaited chance to “drop a bombshell” on the DVA.

“We’re running out of advocates.

Most lawyers out there don’t want to touch veteran cases because there’s no money in it,” Senator Lambie said.

“What the DVA are doing to outspoken advocates is suffocation at its best.”

She said at least three DVA staff had contacted her confidentially, disaffected by the bullying of veterans, the poor IT and communications in the department and a high turnover of staff.

But she said they would only give evidence at a royal

commission, which would afford them full whistleblower protection.

“We need a royal commission into this urgently,” she said.

“While the government stuffs around, veterans are being treated like second-class citizens.”

She criticised Veterans Affairs Minister Dan Tehan for trying to rush through new veteran entitlement laws without waiting for the Senate inquiry to report its findings at the end of March.

The DVA declined to comment.

Snow falls as Commando “WFLT” climbs on board a US Black Hawk helicopter in Afghanistan. It is the start of the longest, saddest trip home.

When he went to war in 2008, his ill father back in Tasmania still had 12 months to live. The tour was only for five months. He thought he’d have returned well in time to say his goodbyes.

But cancer is a cheat. The flight, the last one before Christmas, is overfull. WFLT is loaded with his pack and combat rig and can’t strap in.

Halfway through the flight to Kandahar, the chopper veers sharply. Four or five times. There is a crack of enemy gunfire. Unsecured, WFLT jolts sickeningly. His head snaps back and hits the fuselage.

The chopper isn’t damaged, but WFLT is. Pain shoots through his neck and back. Tingling and numbness soon accompanies it. Spinal injuries are debilitating.

WFLT is two days late for his dad’s funeral. It’s distressing, but it’s the lot of a soldier.

Doctors return him to Afghanistan, but within weeks he’s medically evacuated back to Australia. For the next three years he tries in vain to return to his commando role — to complete his unfinished business back in Afghanistan.

But WFLT’s spinal problems worsen and in 2014 he leaves the army, unable to work and facing a life of rehabilitation.

Special forces commandos are among the best of the besttrained soldiers in the world. They are drilled to withstand interrogation and torture.

They sneak behind enemy lines. They fight fights we don’t even know about. They kill so we don’t have to. And they are more likely to be killed or wounded in action than soldiers in any other unit.

Commandos are paid what the rest of us might refer to as “danger money”. For WFLT, this was about \$30,000 on top of his \$90,000 base salary.

When commandos can’t work because of injuries in their service, they are given SFDA — the Special Forces Disability Allowance, which in each case is based on the



money they were receiving when they were injured.

It is a cost the Department of Veterans Affairs — the organisation charged to care for our wounded, returned soldiers — must wear. It comes from an uncapped DVA budget. As veterans contend, if you're going to prepare and send people to war, you have to be willing to fund them when they come back broken.

For WFLT, that “danger money” in his allowance would total about \$800,000 over the next 20 years.

The veteran community — including other those in other military trades such as paratroopers who also had an allowance — saw the DVA's attack on WFLT's portion of his salary allowance as the first attempt to deny it to the rest of them should they also come to grief at work.

The Sunday Herald Sun is aware of at least one case where a lawyers' report to the DVA found in favour of a serviceman's pre-injury allowance being upheld in later calculations on his entitlements after becoming incapacitated.

Regardless, the DVA continues to fight having to pay. WFLT's battle made it to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Mick Quinn, an incapacitated veteran himself, fought and won WFLT's case against a costly DVA team — a barrister, a solicitor, and Stuart Marris, senior partner of DVA contracted legal firm Sparke Helmore. This commando couldn't be named after the DVA successfully gained a suppression order to prevent identification of witnesses in WFLT's case.

The hearing was stretched over three years — two days each year. In between there was mediation and unsuccessful attempts to resolve it.

And Mr Quinn now feels like he's also being persecuted because of his success with WFLT and 2000 other veterans he stood up for over the years. His house was

raided by police early in January, over allegations he'd made a 76-minute call to a veteran helpline threatening to kill a DVA lawyer involved in the case he'd just won.

He says Victoria Police found nothing, and there were no phone records that he'd made any calls to the helpline.

He says police were warned he had incendiary devices at his house. They found nothing. When they opened a safe, they saw only his war medals laid neatly on the top shelf. They let him go after three hours of interrogation.

No charges have been laid. It is believed the matter hasn't been closed only because a report was made to the Australian Federal Police.

At the end of that, Mr Quinn — a Cambodian veteran who was held for three months under house arrest by the Khmer Rouge — was to a psychiatric hospital for two days of treatment.

The DVA has sent him a letter telling him he can have no further contact with the department — meaning he cannot represent veterans — until the investigations into claims of “serious and specific threats to kill” are put to rest.

“I have my theories about this,” Mr Quinn says. “The DVA is trying to get rid of all the people who stand up strongly for veterans like WFLT. I'm not the only one who's been stopped from doing the work veterans desperately need me to do.”

The AAT hearing was torture for WFLT. At the end of the second day, when his credibility had been intensely questioned by the DVA lawyer, he collapsed outside the Southbank tribunal hearing room.

He was suicidal.

“Someone picked me up and asked me if I was OK.

They sat me at a nearby bar and I made a few calls, trying

to find a mate who could help me. I don't even remember how I got to the psych hospital," he says. "But I was definitely really struggling. It was very hard to go through. It almost got me."

There was more than the chopper incident and the tribunal that injured him.

It is a difficult subject.

When he was 26 years old, WFLT was a soldier on a UN mission in Bougainville. In one village, for two days in a row, he performed CPR on two infants who it's believed had cerebral malaria.

WFLT gestures how it looked as he worked on the babies. Two of his fingers enough to compress their tiny chests in heart massage. Half puffs into their little mouths to fill their lungs.

Nobody blames him. He knows he did his best. But both times they were gone. Yet, 19 years later, he still feels it.

It has affected his life.

He was married for a while, but wondered at the time why the idea of having kids of his own was so painful.

He says he's OK to talk about it now. The interview with the Sunday Herald Sun knocked him around so he slept most of the following day.

Revisiting his story was distressing. Injured ex-commando 'WFLT' reveals his disgust over legal fight with DVA most of the following day.

Revisiting his story was distressing.

At first the DVA's legal team argued in the tribunal that he wasn't even in Afghanistan. It was laughable.

Within a short time their argument was shot down, but it still wobbled him.

The next year, when the tribunal resumed, he was accused of being "dead wood", which went against the evidence produced.

In fact, according to the written decision by AAT senior member Elizabeth Shanahan, a report from the Regimental Sergeant-Major two years after his injury says he was up for promotion and would be well suited to be an instructor at the Royal Military College of Defence.

He wasn't dead wood. WFLT knows he should feel proud of his service as a commando. But accusations, however false, in a tribunal hearing can play games in the mind of an injured soldier.

"I am disgusted at how this was handled. The way the DVA treated me means I can't wear my medals proudly. The mismanagement of my injury and case from start to finish is terrible," WFLT says.

"I should be proud of what I did for my country, but instead the DVA trashed my service.

"So I sent my beret back."

First appeared in the Herald Sun 5 February 2017. Reprinted with permission from the Herald Sun ruth.lamperd@news.com.au

Vets Suicide Fury

Senate inquiry witnesses cry foul over department actions

By Ruth Lamperd

Two witnesses before a Senate inquiry into suicides by military veterans have been grilled about who is paying for their trip to today's committee hearing in Canberra.

Veterans' advocates Mick Quinn, of Melbourne, and Rod Thompson, of Brisbane, have been pushing for a royal commission into the role of the Department of Veterans' Affairs in the high veteran suicide rate, which last year hit 78.

Both have had run-ins with the DVA over their efforts to represent injured soldiers.

Mr Thompson's access to the DVA in representing exservice personnel with their claims has been severely restricted after the DVA last year told him he had been disrespectful to its staff and had behaved threateningly.

And Mr Quinn was raided by police this month after a veterans' counselling service reported that a person claiming to be him had made a 76-minute call threatening to kill a DVA lawyer.

No charges have been laid, and Mr Quinn said police had told him there was no record of his making a call to the veterans' help line.

He said that in contacting the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veteran Association, to which he belongs, in this way, the DVA could be seen to be trying to interfere with "us giving evidence".



"For anyone who actually cares, we (Mick and I) are selffunding the trip," he said.

"I am only able to confirm that the organisation was not funding Mick and Rod's travel to Canberra, and that they were paying for it themselves.

"Why they should have to pay for it themselves is a surprise, considering the Senate committee wants them there," Mr Thomas said.

The DVA did not respond to the Herald Sun's requests for comment. The Senate committee is due to report late next month.

Article first appeared in the Herald Sun 6 February 2017, reprinted with permission.

Edited Version

Whistleblower Fear over Vets Inquiry

By Ruth Lamperd

Government staff were warned off making submissions to the Senate inquiry into veteran suicides because they would not have full whistleblower protection, the inquiry heard yesterday.

A Department of Veterans Affairs chief told a committee hearing yesterday that management wrote to staff explaining the limitations on any submission they might want to make about the department.

Independent senator Jacqui Lambie has previously told the Herald Sun several DVA staff had indicated to her they would give evidence only if they had full royal commission whistleblower protection.

Australian Peacekeeping and Peacemaking Veterans' Association advocates Mick Quinn and Rod Thompson said the devastating suicide toll in the veteran community was partly because of the litigious, drawn-out and archaic DVA processes.

DVA management told the inquiry it was deeply committed to the prevention of veteran suicide and self-harm.

The DVA secretary Simon Lewis conceded clients had gone through difficult processes with the DVA and they had been frustrated and disheartened.

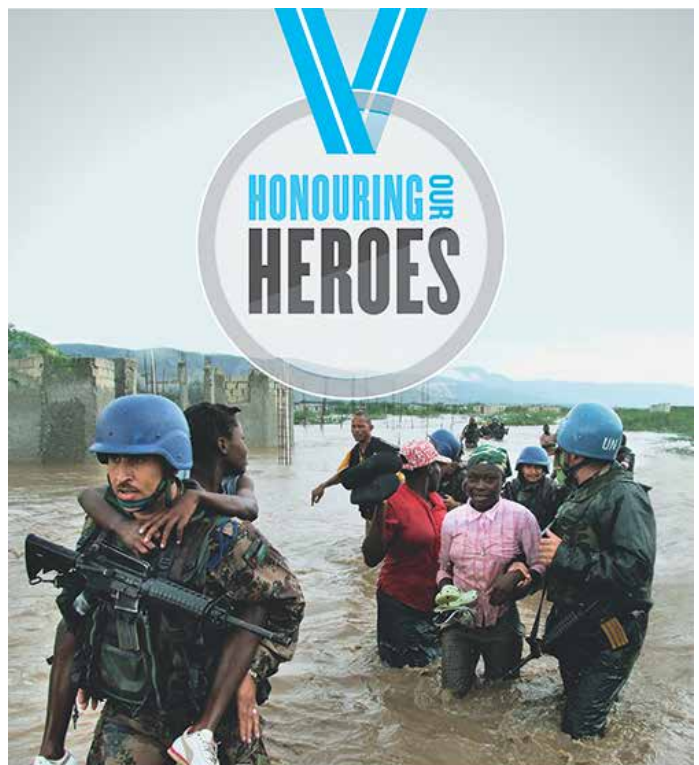
Article first appeared in the Herald Sun 7 February 2017, reprinted with permission.

Editors Comment: The Senate Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Inquiry into DVA and Veteran Suicide is continuing to receive Submissions from Veterans, concerned individuals and the ESO Community. We strongly encourage everyone to read the Terms of Reference (TOR), and if the TOR is relevant to you, lodge your submission to the Inquiry Secretariat. This is so that your voice will be for the public record. Visit the link: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/VeteranSuicide/Terms_of_Reference.

UN International Day of UN Peacekeepers 29 May 2017

"On this International Day of International Day of UN Peacekeepers, we honour our heroes – more than one million men and women who have served under the UN flag with pride, distinction and courage since the first deployment in 1948. And we pay our highest tribute to the more than 3,400 peacekeepers who have lost their lives while in service during that period." — UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

The 29th of May 2017 is the UN International Day of UN Peacekeeping and is an International reminder for Troop Contributing Nations to provide recognition toward over 1.4 million UN Peacekeeping Veterans world-wide, of which Australia makes up over 66,000 of these veterans. The sacrifice of these UN Peacekeepers has been over 3,400 killed, died or died of illness or wounds. Australia has unfortunately 25 of these statistics of with 21 Australian Defence Force members; 4 are Police Officers. Of note of the ADF deaths is Major Susan Felsche, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, killed in an aircraft accident whilst serving with the Australian Army Contingent in Western Sahara on 21st of June 1993. Major Felsche remains the first and only ADF female Killed on Operations since World War 2.



INTERNATIONAL DAY
of **UNITED NATIONS**
PEACEKEEPERS 29 MAY



WWW.UN.ORG/EN/PEACEKEEPING @UNPeacekeeping #TOGETHER4PEACE



SV TENACIOUS helps Veterans Sail out of Troubled Waters

By Adam Pritchard

I first became aware of the Jubilee Sailing Trust (JST) in August 2016, when I received a call from the project manager of Australia, Peter Mitchell. He told me a little about the ship and the Trust, and asked me if I would be interested in coming onboard for a training voyage, as they were looking for Australian volunteers to help fill three volunteer positions whilst Tenacious is in Australia, that being Watch Leader, Boatswain Mate and Cooks Assistant.

Tenacious is the worlds largest operating wooden-hulled vessel, and along with sister ship Lord Nelson (operating from the UK), are the only two tall ships in the world that have been purpose-built to enable people of all physical, mental and sensory abilities to take an active role in sailing. Accessibility features on board include:

- Signs in Braille
- Braille books in the library
- Lifts between decks for wheel chair users or those with limited mobility
- Vibrator pads fitted to the bunks to alert people who are deaf or hearing impaired in the event of an emergency
- Power assisted steering or joystick assisted steering to enable those with limited mobility to easily manoeuvre the ship
- An induction loop in the mess room to assist those with hearing aids during briefing sessions
- Wide aisles below decks
- Low level fittings
- Guidance track on deck to help blind and visually impaired crew to navigate their way around
- Speaking compass at the helm to enable blind or visually impaired to steer the ship
- 'Unwin' fixing points throughout for wheelchairs in rough weather
- Bathrooms include full facilities for all physical abilities

Anyone over the age of 16 can sail with Tenacious (12-15yr olds can sail on day sails accompanied by a known adult). Tenacious sails with up to 40 voyage crew – 20 abled bodied and up to 20 with a disability (including up to 8 in wheelchairs). A buddy system operates onboard, which pairs an able-bodied person to a person with a disability. This is not for the able-bodied to do everything for the person living with disability, but for the development of a mutual understanding of each others circumstances, abilities and needs. Every person on board has a vital role to play irrespective of their age, gender, or level of ability – be it hauling ropes, steering the ship, cleaning, cooking or even climbing the rigging. The JST culture, much like

that of the ADF, encourages teamwork and working to the best of individuals' strengths, not weaknesses. The aim is for all participants to see 'capability' rather than focusing on disability

When I first heard the JST slogan 'Changing Lives', I wondered to what extent this could be true, but from my own experience, I'm totally convinced. Being on the ship as part of the volunteer crew has given me a real passion for helping people again. Seeing people of such varying abilities build trust, exceed their own expectations, push their boundaries and overcome their obstacles – be they mental, physical or both – and in doing so regain their confidence, has been truly inspirational not only for me, but also for others on board.

Just a small sample of the amazing things I've seen – and have been instrumental in – have included a totally blind young women climb the mast and go out on the yard arm unassisted, and another who has MS go up the mast in her wheel chair. I completed my own ascent to the very top of the mast (42 meters) with a fellow army veteran who





Adam on the Deck of the SV TENACIOUS

also suffers from severe PTSD, drawing on each other for support and motivation. Seeing these people do something they never thought possible, experiencing the joy and sense of overwhelming achievement they gain from it, and connecting with them in the process is an opportunity I'll never forget. It is also an experience that makes me feel empowered, inspired and has taken me on a journey of reflection.

JST and Tenacious, with its highly professional and supportive crew, along with its accessibility features, gives me the chance to once again experience what I love – being back at sea – having been medically discharged from the Navy due to service-related injuries. My own limitations are recognized and taken into account, ensuring a safe voyage for myself and the other crew.

The voyages have given me the chance to mentor my watch team members, impart my naval knowledge and experience with them, and be a part of the crucial teamwork required to sail such a large ship safely at sea. Sharing my experiences and hearing others' stories of life at sea has allowed me to once again experience the camaraderie that I loved so much from my naval days.

I passionately believe – and have seen first-hand – that JST and Tenacious can be of great service to injured or recovering ex-ADF personnel on a variety of levels. I encourage anyone with an interest in sailing with JST to get involved, join a voyage, fund raise, raise community awareness of such an extraordinary opportunity or test yourself & Tenacious with a day sail, simply visit www.jst.org.au to learn more.

Adam Pritchard served in the Permanent Royal Australian Navy between 1994 to 2006 (12 years). Adam began his service in the Navy as a Boatswain's Mate and transferred Ratings to Naval Police. He served in Movements Control Unit on OPERATION TANAGER, within the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), from 2001-2002. Adam is unable to work full-time due to service related chronic conditions; and volunteers, when he is able, at the APPVA "Aussie Veteran's Opportunity Shop" in Boronia, Melbourne. When he is able, he also does short-term volunteer work on the SV TENACIOUS. Adam finds volunteering as therapeutic to his conditions.



Adam and Helen, who suffers from MS.

Veterans Forced to FOI their own Medical Reports

Veterans making claims for compensation or rehabilitation through the Department of Veterans' Affairs are being forced to FOI their own medical reports, the Senate Inquiry into Suicide by Veterans and Defence Personnel has heard in Brisbane today.

During questioning by Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore, witnesses including the Defence Force Welfare Association and Slater and Gordon who act as veterans' advocates, said they do not just have to submit FOI requests to access medical reports but also to simply establish the status of a claim due to poor communication between DVA and advocates.

Senator Kakoschke-Moore said "there is no excuse for this practice – it is shameful and a disgrace which is why I have written to Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today, asking for his urgent intervention". (See letter below.)

"Veterans are being kept in the dark about their own health and wellbeing, their claims and ultimately their futures," she said. "If a decision about their claim is being made based upon a report, they are entitled to see that report in full as a matter of course and not after jumping through additional unnecessary hoops."

Senator Kakoschke-Moore said the witnesses acknowledged that not every DVA case manager forced them to apply under FOI, however it "happens all the time".

"DVA protocols must be consistent throughout, it shouldn't be a lottery depending on what case manager you get," she said.

"Unnecessary DVA practices such as this are further exacerbating mental health issues for veterans.

"Lengthy delays in processing claims, inconsistent legislation applying to different aspects of claims and support, duplication by DVA staff of requests for information, and lost and unreliable data, are just some of the other practices said to be adding to veterans' stress and leading to the high rate of suicide."

Senator Kakoschke-Moore said it's also an additional difficulty and burden for advocates who are already under extreme pressure and often suffering from vicarious traumatising.

"Time and again we are hearing that veterans are giving up on claims because it is simply too hard," she said. "These are people who have served our country and yet rather than seeking to assist them and their advocates (often volunteers), it seems DVA are trying to make it

as hard as possible to get medical and financial help. I'm calling on the Government to put a stop to these reckless and harmful practices immediately."

Senator Kakoschke-Moore has foreshadowed changing legislation if the Government fails to change the protocols within the next 30 days.

Retrieved from: <https://skye.nxtmps.org.au/media/releases/veterans-forced-to-foi-their-own-medical-reports/> on 6 February 2017.



SKYE KAKOSCHKE-MOORE

Nick Xenophon Team
Senator for South Australia

REF: GOV-DT/KN

The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email

URGENT

Dear Minister,

Re: Evidence given at Inquiry into Suicide by Veterans of forced FOI requests to access medical reports

I write to request your urgent intervention with Department of Veterans Affairs protocols after evidence of outrageous practices was given at today's Senate Inquiry into Suicide by Veterans and Defence Personnel.

The Committee heard from several witnesses, including Defence Force Welfare Association and Brian Briggs from Slater and Gordon, that veteran's advocates are having to submit FOI requests to DVA in order to access medical reports for veterans they are assisting. FOI applications are also being used to establish the status of claims due to poor communication between DVA and advocates.

The Committee heard that not all case managers require an FOI request but that it does happen 'all the time' and depended upon the particular case manager. This applies to both medical reports about physical injuries as well as psychological. The need to take extra care regarding the distribution of psychological reports was noted and the content of these reports is usually disclosed by a veteran's medical practitioner – in the event it can be obtained from DVA at all.

This practice is keeping vulnerable veterans in the dark about their own health and wellbeing, their claims and ultimately their futures. Medical reports relied upon to make a decision should be provided as a matter of course. Advocates who are already under extreme pressure are also being negatively impacted by this unnecessary process.

I therefore request that you urgently change the protocols and ensure the practice of FOI requests is no longer required or permitted and consistency throughout DVA is ensured. I wish to meet with you urgently to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely

SKYE KAKOSCHKE-MOORE
2 / 2 / 2017

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Fax: (02) 6277 5804

IAN MADE PAPER

Matilda Poppy a Celebration of Life, Pride, Respect and Service

By Andrea Josephs

The Red Poppy Flower's Message is...to remember those who have passed away, to Honour those we have lost and protect the memories of all that we love. It Remembers the Fallen and encourages the development of our own sense of inner peace.

The Matilda (Orange) Poppy is to be held in Honour, Acknowledgement and Respect for all our Living ADF and its Veterans...Past, Present..Future....it is the cultivation of the belief for a richer life in which to be Proud.

The "Matilda Poppy" is to be a gift of thanks to those who have sacrificed selflessly in service of their Country and its people and also for those they love. It is a repayment of understanding and can be given as a gesture of heartfelt sincerity.

A Matilda Poppy will represent all that we as Australian's believe in, Mateship, Camaraderie, Respect, and Strength, it is to show your Acknowledgment and Gratitude to all those who Serve..

The Orange of the "Matilda Poppy" is the closest match to the shade of the sun, so it is symbolic of Australian Military Service and illuminates expansion, friendship and community. If one could capture and concentrate the sun, the result would be bright, luminous orange flowers. Orange in flowers offer happiness and joy and to look upon an orange flower is to immediately feel the warmth of love.

There's nothing bashful about the colour ORANGE –its message is clear and blatantly "Proud" symbolising energy, enthusiasm, and warmth, this vibrant colour conveys confidence, satisfaction and a passion for life.

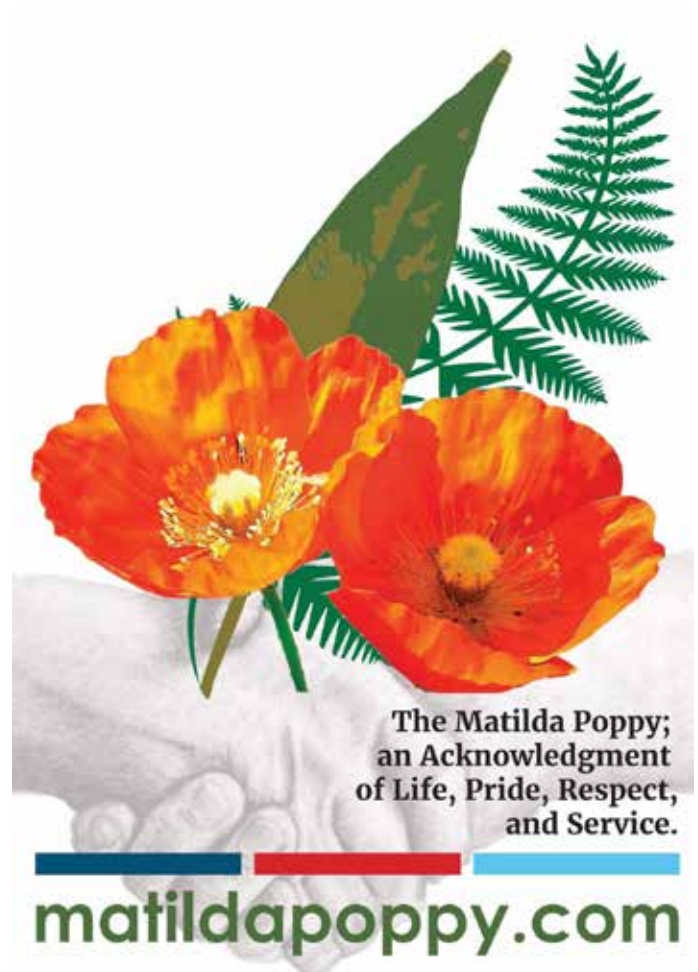
Orange also sends the message of adventure. The possibilities are endless in life and the offer of adventure and spontaneity is included with each radiant orange poppy which is the key to "living a life with passion."

The Yellow in the Poppy is associated with friendship, trust, compassion, and respect along with Gratitude and Thanks.

For these reasons, yellow shows appreciation for a job well done. Yellow is considered a symbol of purity, clarity tRuth Lamperd's and retention of memories and reason. It also communicate sympathy and empathy and evokes feelings of joy and lightheartedness. Yet again another symbol of friendship and sends a message of new beginnings and happiness.

These gentle flowers that are the Poppy show the warmth and compassion that exists between mates and it renews ties of friendship, even during difficult times.

So please be apart of Encapsulating the Spirit of the "Matilda Poppy" by supporting the idea of Acknowledging our Living ADF and its Veterans and the Respect that their



Service deserves.

Showing Gratitude with Matilda Poppy -The Gum Leaf

The significance of the Gum Leaf with Matilda Poppy..

The Gum Leaf/Eucalyptus Leaf is used for Healing, Protection. It is seen as a protecting and nurturing tree.

The leaves and bark have been used for its spiritual properties throughout, from modern times to the indigenous populations. For spiritual cleansing and smudging with very similar properties to white sage, it purifies cleanses and promotes good health.

It is said that returning soldiers from the wars could smell the distinctively homely scent of the gum tree before hitting land.

Sister Elizabeth (Pearl) Corkhill(1887-1985)

Was Posted to the 1st Australian General Hospital, Corkhill arrived in Egypt in July 1915.

From August to January 1916 she was at the Choubra Military Infectious Hospital, where she tended sick troops from the Gallipoli campaign. Reaching France in April, she

served at the 2nd British General Hospital, Le Havre.

A notable occasion for her was the AIF's first celebration of ANZAC Day. To mark the event she and two other Australian nurses wore green gum leaves with the inscription 'Dardanelles 1915'.

Respect Every Veterans Service...Past, Present & Future...The Fern Leaf

The significance of the Fern Leaf with Matilda Poppy.

The tightly curled fronds of young ferns are deceptive and it would be impossible to guess what a full grown fern would look like at this stage of development.

Human kind is the same. Our consciousness must be awakened through life experience, learning, and awareness.

Like the fern, we grow and flourish if we unfurl toward light or truth. The more we unfurl, the more the tendrils of our true nature begin to show as we loosen, surrender and soften, releasing and opening as we let go of old stories and rigidly constructed belief systems which contribute to negative patterns of behaviour.

Mental and emotional rigidity leads to reactivity which inevitably results in physical illness. The example of a slow, but steady opening toward light is the miracle of Mother Nature's creation and is exemplified in the model of the fern.

Ferns symbolise sincerity towards others. It can also be a symbol of magic, fascination, confidence, shelter, discretion, reverie and a secret bond of love.

The fern is known as the koru to the indigenous peoples of New Zealand, the Maori. The koru is often represented as a spiral in Maori artwork, symbolising opening to new life and bringing purity to the world. It represents peace, tranquility and spirituality along with new growth or new beginnings. The Koru is also associated with nurturing and when it contains more than one frond, it represents the strength and healing of a loving relationship within family or community.

The individual who wears this symbol suggests that he or she has endured many adversities and outlasted much difficulty. Who among us can say we have not all endured adversity?

The ancients believed ferns brought rain, protection, luck, prosperity, eternal youth, health, exorcism, confidence and safe shelter.

Māori hunters and warriors used the silver underside of the fern leaves to find their way home. When bent over, the fronds would catch the moonlight and illuminate a path through the forest.

Finally, ferns are very often used in contemporary floral arrangements to amplify the faith in the magic of love. After all, love and light are all that are needed for humans to heal!



www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Advocacy

Welcome to the **second issue** of Advocacy News. This newsletter will keep you up-to-date with what's happening in the transition from TIP (Training and Information Program) to the ATDP – the Advocacy Training and Development Program.

This edition focuses on recognition of prior learning and mentoring.

What is RPL and when is it happening?

The ATDP recognises that there are many well-trained and experienced advocates supporting veterans and their families. The process by which advocates have these skills and knowledge assessed to enable ATDP accreditation is 'recognition of prior learning' (RPL). The ATDP is making the RPL process as simple as possible.

RPL at Level 2 (Compensation and Welfare) involves attending a one-day program where you bring along information and records of your advocacy work and TIP training. You will be invited to discuss your experience with the assessors, and you will complete an 'open book' quiz. You can bring any reference material you normally use and you will have access to the internet if you wish to use it to help you answer the questions.

RPL for Levels 1, 3 and 4 will be available in 2017. Level 3 and 4 Compensation Advocates should apply for Level 2 RPL now as it is a prerequisite for applying for RPL at Level 3 or 4.

How do I apply for an RPL program?

To apply for Level 2 RPL, please fill out the online form here: www.atdp.org.au/applications/eois.php This will help us to plan programs for each location.

RPL for Levels 1, 3 and 4 will be available towards the middle of 2017, and you will be notified as soon as registrations open.

What's involved in being a mentor?

Mentors are experienced Welfare or Compensation Advocates. Their role is to guide a trainee advocate through their Level 1 and/or Level 2 training, and record their progress. How the guidance is delivered is worked out between the mentor and their 'mentee'. The ESO may provide the on-the-job learning and the mentor may just be available to answer questions, or the mentor may guide their mentee through all aspects of their training.

To assist mentors with their important work there is a one-day mentoring program. This covers what mentoring is and why it is a key part of the ATDP. This includes the mentor's role and responsibilities; how to develop and support your mentee; and how to record their progress. This mentor training is not an accredited program but it is being initially offered in conjunction with a one-day Level 2 RPL session. This means mentors will be accredited as an ATDP Level 2 Compensation or Welfare Advocate at the same time as doing their mentoring training.



How do I apply for a mentoring program?

To apply for a mentoring program, please fill out the online form here: www.atdp.org.au/applications/eois.php

There are some programs being held this year and there will be more in the new year. Priority is being given to people who are currently mentoring trainees. Filling out the form helps us to plan sessions for each location. So far more than 150 advocates have applied to do a mentoring program.

Do I need to be in the same location as my mentee?

No, you do not need to be in the same location as your mentee. Mentoring can be done by phone, email or any other method that suits both parties. Even so, observation of some activities outlined in the workbooks is easiest done face-to-face. It is expected that at some point during the training the ESO would arrange for the mentor to visit the mentee or vice versa. As the Regional Management Groups are established, local arrangements can be worked out in each region.

Update

Regional Management Groups (RMGs): Applications for RMG manager, member and administrative service officer positions have been received. All applicants will be notified of the outcome. A selection panel for the Regional Manager positions has been established, which will make recommendations to the ATDP Strategic Governance Board shortly. We expect to have these manager positions finalised by the end of the year.

Roadmap

See where we're up to on our ATDP journey on the next page.

Welcome to the third issue of Advocacy News. This newsletter will keep you up-to-date with what's happening in the transition from TIP (Training and Information Program) to the ATDP – the Advocacy Training and Development Program.



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



Advocacy Training and
Development Program

OUR ATDP JOURNEY



In this edition we announce the new ATDP Regional Managers and Administration Support Officers, review progress over the last year and answer your Frequently Asked Questions.

Regional Management Groups

ATDP is very pleased to announce the appointment of the three new Regional Managers and Administration Support Officers (ASOs):

Region 1 – Queensland & Northern Territory

Manager: Peter McNamara
ASO: Dianne Callaghan

Region 2 – New South Wales, Western Australia & Australian Capital Territory

Manager: Allan Thomas
ASO: Brian Morelli

Region 3 – Victoria, Tasmania & South Australia

Manager: John Printz
ASO: Phil Boys

ATDP also warmly thanks the interim regional managers for their passion and dedication in steering the implementation of the new program and for the progress made to date.

Attached is a diagram to show you how the regions fit in with the other parts of the ATDP structure. Please continue to use the ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au mailbox while each region is setting up its new administrative arrangements and contact details.

The year in review

One hundred trainees have started the online and on-the-job aspects of the ATDP Compensation and/or Welfare Level 1 training courses with the support of their ex-service organisation and an experienced advocate as their mentor.

The face-to-face component of this training, called 'consolidation', will be available in early 2017.

Another 107 people have successfully completed a mentor workshop and their ATDP Level 2 'recognition of prior learning' assessment – 72 in Compensation and 35 in Welfare.

Forty of these have also had Assessor Skill Set training, which means they are on the path for being qualified to run ATDP consolidation courses and assess trainees for ATDP accreditation.



Helena Smith (VVA Sunshine Coast) reviewing John Methven's case portfolio as part of his recognition of prior learning.

John is with the Phillip Island RSL and is a VVA advocate.

How do I apply to do an ATDP training course?

Currently, your ex-service organisation can nominate you for ATDP Compensation Advocate Level 1 and Welfare Advocate Level 1 courses through the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au ATDP Level 2, 3 and 4 courses will be available in the second half of 2017. When nominations are open you will be notified by information in this newsletter.

If you are already an experienced practitioner, compensation or welfare officer or advocate, you can apply for 'recognition

of prior learning' (RPL) and/or the mentoring course by filling out the form on the ATDP website: <http://www.atdp.org.au/applications/eois.php> Once your nomination for a course or RPL is received, you will be sent an email with instructions about what to do next.

How do I know if I need ATDP accreditation to continue providing services to veterans and their families?

ATDP accreditation is required for members of ex-service organisations who provide information, options and/or advice about accessing entitlements, benefits and services. Any activities that do not involve providing information, options and/or advice—such as driving, hospital and home visits, social activities, domestic assistance and home maintenance—do not require ATDP accreditation.

Attached is a checklist of the typical services that ex-service organisations provide, showing which ones do and don't require ATDP accreditation.

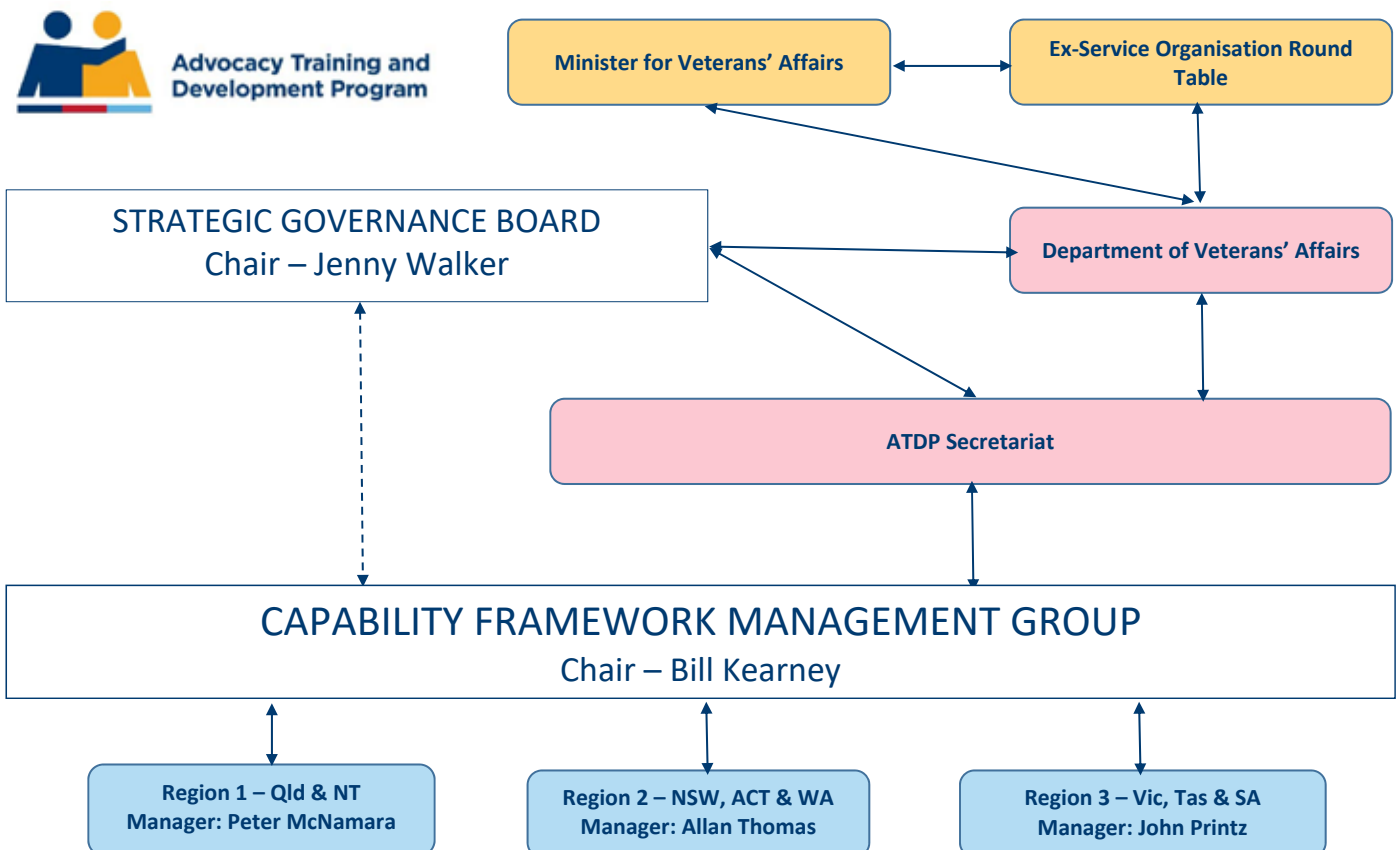
Contact us

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about ATDP, please send me an email at ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au

Please share this newsletter with anyone you know who may be interested, and let me know if you would like to be added or removed from this email list by contacting me at ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au

For more information about ATDP, visit the DVA website (www.dva.gov.au) and search for 'advocacy training'.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



ATDP Accreditation

ATDP accreditation is required for members of ex-service organisations who provide information, options and/or advice about accessing entitlements, benefits and services.

Any activities that do not involve providing information, options and/or advice—such as driving, hospital and home visits, social activities, domestic assistance and home maintenance—do not require ATDP accreditation.

Which activities require ATDP accreditation?

Activity	YES	NO
Prepare and/or lodge liability, compensation and income support claims	✓	
Prepare requests for review of DVA decisions	✓	
Prepare appeals for review by the Veterans' Review Board or the Administrative Appeals Tribunal	✓	
Provide information and/or advice about health, housing, transport, household assistance, education schemes, and other government or community services and benefits	✓	
Provide advice and information about government services for transitioning from the military to civilian life	✓	
Provide information and referrals for medical, financial, legal and police matters	✓	
Provide information and referrals for funeral arrangements and bereavement assistance	✓	
Visits to home, hospital and aged care facilities that do not include the provision of information or advice		✓
Services such as driving, shopping trips, domestic assistance, child care and home maintenance		✓
Administration, such as for ESO clubs, offices and day clubs		✓
Organising and conducting social, family and sporting activities		✓
Providing professional services on behalf of an ESO that require non-ATDP qualifications, such as counselling and sports coaching		✓
Providing or administering services and support on behalf of the ESO, such as financial support, scholarships, accommodation, welfare checks and mentoring children		✓
Training or instruction on behalf of the ESO, such as cooking, craft, gardening, and home and car maintenance		✓

Before the Sun

As the early morning greets me well before the sun is up,
And I lace these boots by feel and not by sight.
I'm reminded of the country that's another world away,
And the home that still awaits me day and night.

I would ride the stockman's run upon a lathered chestnut
Waler,

I would run the beach for Coolangatta gold.
I would profit from apostles nine and cry for London Bridge,
I would set these sails on tall ships new and old.

There'd be mud upon these boots and there'd be dust fair
in my eyes,

For the Melbourne seasons turn up in one day.
There'd be beer in this cold glass, perhaps a meat pie in
my hands,
As I watch Cazaly's wingmen join the fray.

There'd be salt upon these shoulders, there'd be zinc
across my face,
As the Harbour Town drives Ferries to the docks.
There's a vampire in the water and chair upon the shore,
And just maybe I'll hear opera from the Rocks.

I would trip to Roper Bar, and I would race the Birdsville
Track

I would cross the very Simpson in a flash.

I would swim at Mataranka with a very watchful eye,
And I would leave the crown casino with no cash.

There'd be bull-dust in my pockets, there'd be beach sand
in my shoes,
There'd be board-shorts in the back seat of the car.
There'd be longboards on the roof rack and a pair of fluffy
dice,
As three hundred kays to surf is not that far.

There'd be hot white toast and vegemite, to feed the
weetbix kids,
And a weekend full of bacon, eggs and snags.
There'd be chalk across the pavement, there'd be suntan
in the air,
There'd be Longreach Utes aplenty with their swags.

I would paint the whole town red with just a single Darwin
Stubby,
And a hint of dust from the big red rock itself.
I would stamp my feet at Tamworth, and I'd play guitars of
gold,
And I would have a beer with Duncan, for his health.

I would surf the very waters off the mighty river Margaret
As the doctor of Fremantle blows a kiss.
I would overtake a road train and I'd make Kalgoorlie mine,
And I'd hear the black swans peep and squawk and hiss.

I would stand atop the Telstra Tower and survey the pollie's

patch,
And I would join the noise with those at question time.
I would kneel at the tomb of the unknown soldier, and the
wall of poppies red,
And I would read from rolls of honour, deeds sublime.

And as the early morning greets me well before the sun is
up,
And I lace these boots by feel and not by sight.
I'm reminded of a country that's another world away,
And the memories that stay with me day and night.

© Barham J.R. Ferguson, 6 February 2015, (exclusive
permission to publish in the "Australian Peacekeeper"
Magazine on 26 January 2017.

Rockets hit U.N. Yemen Ceasefire Office in Saudi Arabia

A building in southern Saudi Arabia used by United Nations
staff to monitor ceasefire violations in Yemen was damaged
by rocket fire on Monday.

Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV reported that the entrance
of the building in Dhahran al-Janoub province, near the
Yemeni border, had been hit by Katyusha rockets launched
by the Iranian-allied Houthi group who control Yemen's
capital, Sanaa.

United Nations special envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed
did not attribute blame but said it was "especially tragic
that this attack took place at a point in time where we are
calling for a restoration of the Cessation of Hostilities".

Neither Ould Cheikh Ahmed nor Al-Arabiya made any
mention of casualties.

Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Arab allies have carried out
thousands of bombing raids in Yemen since March 2015
in a campaign to try to restore the ousted internationally
recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour
Hadi.

A 48-hour truce declared by Saudi Arabia in November
failed to halt fighting, and a plan to end the war put forward
by Ould Cheikh Ahmed was rejected by Hadi's exiled
administration.

In his statement, Ould Cheikh Ahmed urged both parties in
the conflict to commit to resuming a ceasefire that he said
would open space for renewed dialogue.

(Reporting by Katie Paul, Tom Finn and Ned Parker;
Editing by Kevin Liffey)

Retrieved from: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-security-yemen-idUSKBN15E1LZ> on 9 Feb 2017.

Funding sought for centrepiece of Australian peacekeeping memorial on ANZAC Parade

Funding sought for centrepiece of Australian peacekeeping
memorial on ANZAC Parade

Claudia Long



Workers have begun installing the first part of the
memorial on ANZAC Parade.

While work is underway on the first stage of the new
peacekeeping memorial on ANZAC Parade, organisers
are still seeking funding for the centrepiece - two large
black monoliths.

Cranes have installed an inclined plane for wreaths and
mementoes as well as a commemorative beam that will list
every peacekeeping mission in which Australia Australia
has been involved.

Organisers from the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial
Project expect construction of stage one to be finished
within two to three months after recent rain caused delays.

"The weather has made things a bit tricky," the project's
vice chairman Alison Creagh said.

The federal government has contributed \$2 million to the
first stage of construction. The second stage will include
two black monoliths installed on the site divided by a
warmly lit golden corridor.

But the group is yet to raise enough money for it.

Advertisement

"We're still raising funds for and would welcome any
donations," Ms Creagh said.

"The monoliths are a very important design feature because
they represent the two warring factions ... the light that
shines between the two monoliths is the peacekeepers
bringing the two parties together."

Seventy-eight people and companies have become
"mates" of the memorial having donated more than \$500
to the project or by donating on a monthly basis. Among
them are television personality David Koch and former
parliamentary speaker Bronwyn Bishop.

When completed the memorial will be the first of its kind in
Australia and one of three in the world with other memorials
in Ottawa and New York.

Unlike other memorials on ANZAC Parade, it will recognise
not only military and UN peacekeepers but also police and
civilians.

Ms Creagh hoped the group could unveil the memorial
by Australian Peacekeepers Day on September 14, with
2017 marking 70 years since Australia's first peacekeeping
mission.

"We're looking forward to the opportunity to dedicate the

memorial on that day and are currently working with the department of veterans affairs on ways to commemorate the 70th anniversary," she said.

"We're very much hoping if construction of the peacekeeping memorial remains on track that we can commemorate the memorial on that day."

Retrieved from: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/funding-sought-for-centrepiece-of-australian-peacekeeping-memorial-on-ANZAC-parade-20170209-gu9fnr.html> on 18 February, 2017.

Editor's Note: This Memorial remains a Key Action Item for the APPVA and has done since 2001. We are pleased to see the Construction of Stage One to this Memorial that remembers our Peacekeepers. This year is the 70th Anniversary of ADF Peacekeeping Operations. Donations to this Memorial Project of \$2AUD or more are Tax-Deductible. Visit the Peacekeeping Memorial Project site to look at how you and your friends can contribute to see this Project built on time for Dedication (14th of September 2017). Link: <http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/donations.php>

Legacy Peacekeeping Coins

By Kevin Ryan JP National Secretary

Recently I received approx 200 Peacekeeper Commemorative 20 cent coins from Legacy VIC, which was then sent out to the Victorian members and a number of Tasmanian members.



Shortly after the distribution of the Summer magazine I received a further 120 Commemorative coins highlighting Peacekeepers, Special Forces and Afghanistan from Legacy WA.

These coins will be sent out to members in the Autumn edition of the Peacekeeper magazine.

On behalf of the members of the APPVA, I would like to thank Legacy VIC and Legacy WA for their kind donation of the coins for our members."

Editor's Comment: "Unfortunately, the Coins commemorate 60 Years of Peacekeeping, when in fact 2017 is the 70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping Operations (14 September 1947)."

APPVA Gains Charity Status

The APPVA National Committee of Management (NATCOM) and the APPVA NSW Branch has now gained Accreditation with the Australian Charity and Not-For-Profit Commission (ACNC). The Accreditation allows the APPVA NATCOM to receive donations, of which donors will be able to receive Tax Deductible Concessions for donations of \$2AUD or more. The APPVA NATCOM is recognised by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). The APPVA State Branches will need to apply for DGR through the ATO. This is a significant milestone that has been achieved thanks mainly to Allan Thomas. The ACNC Logo will be displayed on all Letterheads, our Magazine, Website and other Published articles. The ACNC Accreditation also allows the APPVA NATCOM and NSW Branch to embark in seeking specialised Volunteers with Volunteer Australia. This has significant potential for obtaining volunteers with skill-sets in Business Management, Fund-Raising, Advocacy and much more.

The ACNC Logo will begin to appear on APPVA NATCOM and NSW Branch Correspondence shortly.



Memorial Construction continues on track

Construction of Stage 1 of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on ANZAC Parade continues on programme. Two major milestones have been achieved with the completion of the concrete platform (foundations, slab, walls, seats) and the lifting into place of the prefabricated incline planes and, above them, the 22m long memorial beam that will record all the Australian Peacekeeping missions. The steps, cobblestones and ground inscriptions (the courtyard) will be completed next. Planning to commence Stage 2 and the construction of the 6m high monoliths is underway.



Mail

Peacekeeping Service – an interpretation from a World War 2 Veteran. This was sent to the then Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson in December 2012. It was in response to the APPVA's quest to better recognise Peacekeeping Service with proposed medallic recognition.

"Dear Senator (Ronaldson),

I receive your "Roundup" and felt you would be disposed to consider and support the following plea for recognition of peacekeepers which I received, as a WW2 Veteran, recently. I believe the argument is irrefutable. Bullets know no identity.

I know that most, if not all Australian Defence Force (ADF) service personnel would acknowledge that personnel sent to a war or peacekeeping zone face similar situations and

should be treated equally. After all, aren't these people serving Australia's interests?

And, when the bullets start flying, nobody stops to ask 'is this war or peacekeeping?'

Kind Regards,

*Stanton Mellick,
LTCOL (Retired) JSD Mellick OAM ED MID."*

APPVA Victoria Branch's "Aussie Veteran's Opportunity Shop"

By Paul Copeland OAM JP APPVA Editor

All Images by Adam Pritchard.

The "Aussie Veteran's Opportunity Shop" was initially established by the Royal Australian Army Service Corps (RAASC) Viet Nam Veterans in 2001 and located in Erica Avenue, Boronia in Melbourne. The RAASC Veterans established a highly sustainable fund-raiser with the Aussie Veterans Opportunity Shop; which assisted that group of veterans to deliver Advocacy in Welfare and Compensation, mainly for Vietnam Veterans.

The RAASC Association in Victoria, realising that they were getting older, sought a like minded organisation to approach in order to takeover the business and keep the spirit of the Aussie Veteran's Opportunity Shop alive for the future of younger Veterans that were emerging in larger numbers. These veterans were Peacekeepers from the rise in operational tempo in 1989 through to 1996 (Namibia, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, Western Sahara, The Sinai), including Gulf War 1991 Veterans, to the next noted spike in Younger Veterans, which began with Bougainville, East Timor through to Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was realised that these veterans needed such support from a like minded Ex-Service Organisation (ESO). Mr Paul Curran (RIP), approached the APPVA Victorian Branch Michael Quinn to see if the APPVA Victoria Branch were interested in taking on such a legacy. Michael and his wife Fiona jumped at the chance and negotiated the handover/takeover of the Aussie Veteran's Opportunity Shop. In 2012, the Shop was officially handed over from the RAASC Viet Nam Association (Victoria), to the APPVA Victorian Branch.

Fiona Quinn is the Manager of the Shop and also manages the business and bookkeeping. Michael and other Advocates operate out of the Shop to provide much needed Advocacy services in both welfare and compensation. There is also a large number of Volunteers that assist in staffing the Shop.

In late 2016 to January 2017, the Shop moved premises from Erica Avenue a couple of blocks away to the Boronia Mall. The facilities in the Boronia Mall are much better than the old premises and it has given a fresh look and large space to trade anything from baby clothes, books, games to large items of furniture. There is also a couple of Certified Electrical Testers within the Shop, who test and



"The Sorting Area". From Left to Right: Volunteers Di and Malou, with Shop Manager Fiona Quinn.



The Aussie Veteran's Opportunity Shop has something for anyone, in their new premises at Boronia Shopping Mall.

tag all merchandise that comes into the shop for re-sale.

The 5 years of operating the shop has seen over \$300,000 provided to assist needy veterans and their families in a range of welfare matters, ranging from short term accommodation to food vouchers. The Shop also generously donated \$5,000 toward the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project Committee for the National Peacekeeper Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. The Compensation Advocacy has seen highly successful case turnover and in particular the successful resolution in favour of the veteran in some highly complex cases that would have been otherwise lost to the detriment of the veteran concerned. This area is Managed by Michael Quinn, with John McNiell and other volunteer Advocates.

Perhaps the most significant case handled by Michael is the matter of having Special Forces Disability Allowance (SFDA), to be back-paid and paid within the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) Incapacity Payments. The case is known as WFLT v The Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Commission (MRCC), which took over 2 years to find acceptable resolution in favour the Afghanistan Commando Veteran. The case, if some readers are interested has set a case precedent in terms of case law for such allowances of ADF Veterans. The Case Reference is: WFLT and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (Compensation) [2016] AATA 1072 (22 December 2016).

The Shop has seen an increase in clientele over the years since it has been managed by Fiona Quinn, along with better trading opportunities and increased numbers of volunteers to help with the large work load within the Shop. The Shop operates within the auspices of the Patriotic Funds Act, and within the Victorian Veteran Act. However, the APPVA Victorian Branch operates autonomously by trading as "The Aussie Veteran's Opportunity Shop".

"We are looking toward the future with the Shop and we are looking at further expansion in business and a number of Projects to assist Younger Veterans", said Michael Quinn. An interesting feature of the shop is the Change Rooms. One is "The Tardis" and the other is an old Gaol, which was built by Phil Quinn. The change rooms are an amusing attraction to the Shop.

The Shop is a credit to the unrelenting dedication of both Fiona and Michael Quinn, along with the much appreciated help from the Shop's Volunteers.

There is an impressive array of items that come into the Shop. The stock is normally donated by the General Public, of which the Shop has a 1 tonne Ute to pickup large items from generous donors. So, if you are in Melbourne, do yourself a favour and visit The Aussie Veterans' Opportunity Shop at the Boronia Shopping Mall. There is something in the Shop that is for everyone. If you would like to volunteer or to donate old and unused items to the Shop, please contact the friendly Staff on (03) 9761 0468 during Trading Hours from 10 AM to 4 PM during week days (Closed Public Holidays and Sundays); and on Saturdays from 10 AM - 2 PM.



External view of the Aussie Veteran's Shop at Boronia Mall.



The Tardis and Gaol Cell, created by Phil Quinn.

Letters to the Editor

Letter 1:

Dear Paul,

What a fantastic magazine with interesting stories and an insight to what happened at the AGM plus statements in regards to what politicians are or aren't saying about us. Gordon Traill story kept me enthralled all the way through and so did other stories. Sorry I haven't factored all the activities planned for 70th anniversary of peacekeeping – however, if something happens to my plans, I'll be sure I'm in Canberra mid Sep. Congrats once again on producing a great magazine.

David Buckland
Wodonga, Victoria.
12 January 2017.

Letter 2:

Hi Paul,

Thank you for the information and the two web sites - I have been reading in the press about the mental health issues connected with the ADF and the push to help veterans find work. I think I mentioned to you that we have a Men's Health Shop in our local shopping centre and this is run by volunteer ex servicemen and women under the umbrella of the DVA. I promote their work wherever I can and will invite them to be part of our display on ANZAC Day. They offer a service to veterans and assist them in finding the help they need – emotional, medical, financial etc. Many just drop in for a 'cuppa' and chat.

The stats you mentioned are terrible and must be of great concern to you. I will read your article in the 2015 spring edition properly when I have some more time. I won't take out membership as since I have been doing these ANZAC displays, I have been in contact with associations I didn't know existed and if I joined them all, I would spend most of my days reading! I can't tell you how appreciative I am of all the help I have received over the last two years from the various groups – The Korean Vets, the Vietnam Vets, the Aussie Trackers and War dogs etc. and just recently, a package of books written for children about ANZAC, war dogs and trackers, Feathered soldiers, Simpson and his donkey, Kokoda etc. arrived on my doorstep donated by the ANZAC Day Commemoration Committee (Queensland) – once I have extracted the information I need, these books will be donated to our local library. I am hoping to get the librarians to set up a special display in April using these books and at the same time, promoting our service and display.

I would very much like to feature the Peacekeepers next year. I notice it will be your 70th anniversary and I am wondering if you have an Association profile I could use – when you first formed, conflict areas in which you were involved, medals that you are awarded etc. Space is a big problem for us but if I could do something on your

association and talk about the proposed memorial it could only inform people of the enormous contribution you have and are having in bringing peace to this troubled world of ours. Possibly much of this information can be found on your web site which I have yet to carefully explore. If so, do I have your permission to use this information?

From what I have seen to date, your magazine is beautifully done – I can only imagine the time it takes to put it all together. Once I have read it right through, I will be able to give you a more informed opinion.

Thank you for your support and interest, it is appreciated.

Barbara Brown.
Maida Vale, Western Australia
8 December 2016

2017 APPVA

Commemorative Dinner

Celebrating 20yrs 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 are 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 arise 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.

Previous Email address for this event – previous email shown in the Spring 2016 magazine (nswsec@peacekeepers.asn.au) is not to be used and replaced by the current email address indicated below.

Email: Nat.events@peacekeepers.asn.au
Subject: 2017 APPVA Commemoration Dinner

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.
<p><i>Please return your completed questionnaire to the returning officer</i></p> <p>APPVA - National Event Manager</p> <p>nat.events@peacekeepers.asn.au</p> <p>Due date - Saturday 18th March 2017</p>		

Notice to all members - Annual National Conference:

The APPVA National Committee of Management (NATCOM) is conducting its National Conference in Canberra on 11th of September, 2017. The National Conference will have presentations provided by a range of Invited Politicians and other dignitaries. The venue is to be advised.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS - 20th Annual General Meeting:

The APPVA National Committee of Management (NATCOM) is conducting its 20th National Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Canberra on 12th of September 2017, starting at 0900. The Venue is to be advised.

Notice to All Members - Biennial Elections.

The APPVA NATCOM is to conduct its Biennial Elections on 12th of September 2017, Immediately after the AGM. Positions will be declared vacant for the following:

National President; National Vice President;
National Vice President; National Secretary; and
National Treasurer.

It has been advised that the positions of National Secretary held by Kevin Ryan JP; The National Editor and National Liaison Officer held by Paul Copeland OAM JP; The National Treasurer held by Rhonda Copeland: will not be contended at these Elections. Members are sought to Nominate for these Positions.

All nominations must be made in accordance with the APPVA National Executive Constitution, Clause 4. An Agenda and Venue will be advised. IAW Clause 6 of the APPVA National Constitution; an APPVA Member is entitled to attend and vote is entitled to send a postal vote by both standard and electronic mail (E-mail), and a Committee Member who is not in Australia, is not entitled to a notice of a meeting of the Committee.

Clauses 5, 6 & 7 provide the Rules of the Conduct of the Meeting.

Votes of Members:

6.1 Voting rights. At a general meeting each (Currently financial) person present as a Member, or attorney of a Member, has one vote on a show of hands. On a poll each person present or attorney of a Member has one vote for each Member that the person represents, in addition to any vote they can exercise as a Member in their own right. This rule also applies to Postal Votes.

6.2 Postal Votes may be made using the electronic email system, as a method to provide a vote to a given matter or General Business Item. However, Postal Votes are not to be used for Special Business.

6.3 Proxy Votes. Proxy votes may be used in the case where a Committee of Management (COM) member, for example a Branch President, is unable to attend a General Meeting, however he/she may appoint a proxy, which would be normally a member of that Branch's Executive. This is to ensure that the representation of the Branch is

made at General Meetings and the opportunity exists for that Branch to exercise its power to vote.

6.4 Proxy Votes only provide one (1) vote per Branch or an Office Bearer who is a member of the National Executive. Other Appointed members of the NATCOM are not able to provide Proxies for their vote at a General Meeting.

6.5 The Proxy Vote form is to be obtained from the National Secretary.

b) The full name of the person acting in the capacity as a proxy on behalf of the aforementioned person, with signature and date.

6.6 Proxy Vote forms may be sent via electronic means, or accompanies a person at a given General Meeting and handed to the National Secretary.

6.7 Right to appoint attorney. A Member may by power of attorney, appoint an attorney to act on the Member's behalf at all or any meetings of APPVA.

a) To be effective, an instrument appointing an attorney under this article, together with any evidence of non-revocation that the Committee requires must be received by APPVA at least 48 hours before the meeting.

QLD Branch

As of January 2017, the APPVA QLD Committee and Pension/Welfare Officer have relocated from Remembrance House to Pine Rivers RSL Sub Branch, Kallangur. We are working together with the RSL team to ensure the veteran community, as a whole, has access to the experience and support of both organisations. It is also a fitting location the APPVA was originally established there, of which a Peacekeeper Arch

If you need any assistance or support, I am available on Mondays and Wednesdays, however, there are volunteers available Monday to Friday. The best contact number is 07 3285 8022.

Our Kenmore/Moggill Office is still working hard from Monday to Friday. To make an appointment or talk to someone on that side of town, the best contact number is 07 3878 8810.

Nth Qld Members - Zac's Place, 715 Ross River Rd, Kirwan - This office is open from 8am to 11.30am, Monday to Friday. If you need to make an appointment the best number is 0400032786.

If you are interested in getting involved with QLD Welfare and/or Advocacy, please let us know. We need more people helping other people so if you want to find out more, please contact anyone within Qld APPVA Branch.

ANZAC Day in Brisbane City:

APPVA & UNPOL Mbrs form-up @ 09:30 for in George St just past Jupiters Casino going towards Parliament House. March commences at 10:00 although we don't usually step off until 11:00 being around number 90 in the march order.

After the march we meet at the Embassy hotel for a couple of ales. All Mbrs, family and friends welcome.

Cheers, Randall New JP, Qld State President, APPVA
0409757234

AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



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

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)

Contact Details

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

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

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

Phone Mobile

Service Details

Missions (Attach separate sheet if necessary)

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

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.

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