

Australian Peacekeeper

SUMMER 2018

MAGAZINE



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WHATS INSIDE

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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.

Cover

Royal Australian Air Force pilots and maintenance personnel are embedded within United States Air Force units and partnering with Lockheed Martin to prepare for the introduction of Australia's first fifth-generation air combat capability. They will bring home

Australia's first two F-35As in December 2018. Department of Defence image.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has now been over 12 months since celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping Operations in Canberra, on ANZAC Parade at the New Australian Peacekeeping Memorial which is located directly across from the Boer War Memorial. Can I say the turn out for the Dedication of the Memorial in 2017, was a spectacular Event with Peacekeeper Veterans attending from afar. This year the 71st Commemoration of Australian Peacekeepers' Day was not that well attended due to some administrative problems within the Association which has now been resolved, however with similarities of many Primary Ex-Service Organisations (ESO), there will always be some negative matters that we now look forward to resolving. Can I say that the Association is well on its way to rebuilding the relationship and rapport that we have previously enjoyed with The Federal Government, including the ADF and AFP; and other Primary Ex-Service Organisations (ESO).

The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) Inc, has gone through a significant re-shuffle of new Committee Members being appointed to the National Committee of Management (NATCOM). I happy to announce the new National Office Bearers within the APPVA for 2018/19 and I would like to congratulate the following people who have now undertaken these National Executive positions: The new National Vice President of APPVA is Mr Rob Woods, the New National Treasurer is Mr Brendan Hill and the New National Secretary is Mr Mark Horner. The Association as it stands is well represented in most States. If you have any questions that require answers, please don't hesitate in contacting your APPVA Representative via email as they will very happy to assist you with your queries.

These APPVA Representatives are:

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The APPVA State Presidents/ Coordinator will only be too happy to provide you with current information pertaining to the APPVA and who the relevant APPVA State Executive Members are. The APPVA has also **changed its mailing address**, please be advised that any mail that is sent or has been sent to PO Box 480, Boronia VIC **cannot be retrieved, the APPVA new Postal address is:**

The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.,
PO Box 943,
ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477

As the National President of the APPVA I do apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused people, however in order to move forward as we have since the last edition of the Peacekeepers Magazine; I need **all** correspondence to be forwarded directly to the new Postal Address as mentioned aforehand.

Some important news for our veterans and families from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink):

ADVOCACY TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

The rollout of ATDP training is on track and progressing well. The following training programs are now available:

Consolidation Training for Military Compensation Level 1 and Military Welfare Level 1. When you've completed your workplace and online training, and your mentor has indicated this in your online Workplace Experience Log, you will be notified of when you can attend the final component of your training – a face-to-face Consolidation session. If you have any questions, ask your mentor

or contact the Admin Officer for your region. Their details are at the end of this newsletter.

Workplace and Online Training for Military Compensation Level 2 and Military Welfare Level 2. When you've successfully completed Consolidation Training for Level 1 (compensation or welfare), you will be invited to start your Level 2 training. If you have any questions, ask your mentor or contact the Admin Officer for your region. Their details are at the end of this newsletter.

Recognition of Prior Learning for Military Compensation Level 3 Following a successful pilot of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for Military Compensation Level 3 late last year, the program is now being rolled out nationally. If you are a TIP Level 3 Advocate and would like ATDP accreditation, go to the ATDP website www.atdp.org.au and complete the online self-assessment. If this shows you're ready for RPL at Level 3, then you'll be directed to an online Expression of Interest form to complete. This will notify the Training Team that you're ready to be allocated to an RPL session.

Development of the ATDP Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program continues apace. In the coming months, information sessions will be held across the country to give advocates and ESO management a firsthand update about what's ahead.

There are two areas of focus for the CPD team right now. The first is developing the online CPD portal through which advocates will engage with the program and earn points. The software is being written from the ground up – it will be unique to ATDP. The second focus is development of the CPD options. A dedicated group of volunteers is busy writing multiple choice questions and case studies for the CPD library.

But CPD is more than doing exercises and accumulating points. The program will give advocates at all levels a broad range of options in how they maintain and grow their knowledge and skills. There will be seminars arranged by ESOs and other advocacy networks, and you'll be able to have your non-ATDP qualifications count for CPD. Reference material will help keep Compensation Advocates

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

| Training Program | For people with no TIP training | | For people who have completed TIP training at the equivalent level |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Workplace and Online Training | Workplace and Online Training | Recognition of Prior Learning |
| Military Welfare Level 1 | Available now | Available now | Available now |
| Military Welfare Level 2 | Available now | Available now | Available now |
| Military Compensation Level 1 | Available now | Available now | Available now |
| Military Compensation Level 2 | 1st half 2018 | 2nd half 2018 | Available now |
| Military Compensation Level 3 | 1st half 2018 | 2nd half 2018 | Available now |
| Military Compensation Level 4 | Early 2019 | Early 2019 | 1st half 2018 |

This rollout schedule is for the additional ATDP training programs:

| For practitioners at Levels 2, 3 & 4 | |
|---|---------------|
| Mentoring Workshop | Available now |
| Continuing Professional Development Program | 2nd half 2018 |

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

Continuing Professional Development – the new ‘refresher’

up-to-date with case law and changes introduced by determinations made under the legislation. Given today’s technology, the potential of CPD is almost limitless.

CPD will also help you adapt to the changing needs of your clients. In the first year of CPD, all advocates (welfare and compensation) who have been ‘RPL’d’ at Level 2 will be required to complete four ‘gap’ modules covering mental health, first aid, ADF to civilian transition procedures, and re-engaging with community after leaving the military. Completing these modules will fulfil your first year’s CPD obligation.

Undertaking CPD is a mark of professionalism in practice. Choices will grow as the program matures, and we will welcome suggestions from advocates working in the field.

For the latest ATDP News for November 2018, visit the site: <https://www.atdp.org.au/ATDPnews9.pdf> For further information, visit the ATDP Website: <https://www.atdp.org.au/atdpMain.php> The back issues of ATDP News is located on the bottom right hand side in the numbers 1 through to 9.

Changing the Peacekeeper Narrative.

In the coming year, The APPVA will be concentrating on a Project for the “*Reconciliation of Peacekeeper Veterans.*” This Project is aimed to increase the awareness of the service,

courage and sacrifice of Peacekeepers, both Military and Police; in some of the most dangerous places on the planet.

The Project will work with other ESO, including Returned Police Peacekeeper Veterans, to ensure that the Narrative of Peacekeeping Service is not subsumed into the Humanitarian space, but rather the application of Military and Police skills, training, tactics, techniques, procedures, and the Law of Armed Conflict; that equips Australian Peacekeepers to serve in malevolent environments, in order to achieve Peace to troubled nations.

Suffice to say, the APPVA is concerned with the language that has been used in the past to describe the service of our 80,000 Military and Police Peacekeepers in various Histories, Exhibitions, Displays and Museums. The service of these Peacekeepers is Special, Unique and should be afforded better recognition.

In addition is the continual mis-understanding of what Military and Police Peacekeepers do, when serving on Peacekeeping Operations (PKO). Indeed, it is noted that with many approaches in the Primary Level Claims, Peacekeepers are often overlooked or mis-understood in terms of the contribution of Peacekeeping Service has had on the person, particularly if they are suffering a mental illness.

The Peacekeeper Mental Health Study (PK MHS), that was released

on 28 October 2014, found some shocking results of the cohort of Peacekeeper Veterans, that eclipsed Viet Nam Veterans in terms of the incidence of chronic mental illness. There is much more that needs to be done for this Veteran Dynamic. More on this in 2019.

That is all from the President’s desk, until our next edition of “*The Australian Peacekeeper*” Magazine, from the APPVA National we wish you and your families a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing many of you in 2019; continuing our core business – Veterans and their Families.

**“Looking After Our Own”
Allan Thomas OAM, JP,
National President.**

UN chief appoints new commander for UN Peacekeeping in Cyprus

First Australian Defence Force Female Commander to a United Nations Peacekeeping Force, is Appointed.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday announced the appointment of Major General Cheryl Pearce of Australia as Force Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), his spokespersons' office said in a statement.

Pearce succeeds Mohammad Humayun Kabir of Bangladesh, who completed his assignment on Oct. 6, 2018. The Secretary-General is grateful to Kabir for his dedication and leadership during his two years of service in UNFICYP, the statement said.

Pearce has had a distinguished career in the Australian Defence Force, most recently as Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy (since 2017), which provides undergraduate and postgraduate education as well as military training and education for future leaders of the Navy, Army and Air Force.

In 2016, Pearce was the Commander of the Australian Joint Task Force Group in Afghanistan providing training, advice and assistance to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces as part of the Resolute Support Mission of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. From 2013 to 2016, she served as the Australian Army Headquarters chief of staff and, and from 2010 to 2012, as director of Special Operations Support.

Pearce was also the Australian Army's Provost-Marshal and a military observer with the UN Mission of Support in East Timor in 2002.

Pearce holds a Bachelor of Arts in Asian studies from the University of New England in Armidale, a Master's in Policing, Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism from the Macquarie University in Sydney, and a Master's of Arts in Defence Studies from the Deakin University in Melbourne.

Pearce was born in South Australia. She has a partner and two daughters.

Retrieved from: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-11/09/c_137593025.htm

BRIEF NOTE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN CYPRUS (UNFICYP)

Established in 1964 to prevent a recurrence of fighting between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus monitors the ceasefire and provides a buffer zone between the two groups. The force consists of over 1000 personnel from 10 contributing nations, including the United Kingdom, Argentina and Slovakia. Australia provided police officers to this mission for 53 years, until withdrawn on 16 June 2017, ending Australia's Police Peacekeeping Service in UNFICYP with 111 Contingents since the initial deployment in 1964. Major General Pearce will be the first Female Australian Officer to lead a United Nations Peacekeeping Force.

BIO OF MAJOR GENERAL CHERYL PEARCE, AM



Major General Cheryl Pearce was born in Loxton South Australia and graduated from the Officer Cadet School Portsea in December 1985, commissioning

into the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police. Major General Pearce's Regimental service includes command appointments within both the operational and domestic environment. During the period 2003 to 2006 Brigadier Pearce commanded the Defence Police Training Centre (2003) and 1st Military Police Battalion (2004-2006) and was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for exceptional Service during her four year command tenure.

Staff appointments include experience within Headquarters 1st Brigade, G3 Branch Land Headquarters, Staff Officer Commandant Australian Defence Force Academy, Provost Marshal-Army, Directing Staff Australian Command and Staff College, Director Network Centric Warfare Capability Development Group, Director Special Operation Support and Chief of Staff Army Headquarters. Major General Pearce also holds the Military Police Head of Corps appointment.

Major General Pearce attended the Australian Command and Staff College in 2001 and Higher Defence College in 2013. Her post-graduate qualifications include a Graduate Diploma of Management in Defence Studies from the University of Canberra, Masters of Intelligence, Policing and Counter Terrorism from Macquarie University and a Masters of Arts (Defence Studies) from Deakin University. Major General Pearce has also participated in a number of short courses including the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, Harvard Leadership Program, and the Commander Joint Task Force Seminar.

Major General Pearce's operational experience includes serving with the United Nations in East Timor (2002) where she was awarded a Chief of Defence Force Commendation for bravery and her most recent appointment as Commander Task Group Afghanistan (2016). Major General Pearce was the Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), in Canberra and is promoted on posting to UNFICYP to Major General.

Major General Pearce has a partner Paul and two daughters Michallie and Maddison who are currently studying at university.



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Army, Navy and Air Force veterans face a fight against unemployment post-military life



Army veteran Cheri and Navy veteran Paul Dickson have both found adapting to post-military life a challenge

Cheri had a successful 24-year career in the Army before deciding to return to civilian life. Her tours in the Middle East and various deployments at home earned her a set of skills that would be the envy of most workers.

Now, as well as an admirable record of service, she has 30 job rejection letters to her name.

Finding the right job outside of the Army, after she voluntarily discharged in 2010, has proven far more difficult than signing on the dotted line to enlist.

"I think unfortunately in recent times, we've all been tarred with the same brush — that a lot of employers and even just members of the public ... think that all Defence Force people suffer from PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder]," said Cheri, who did not want her surname published.

"We're all 'broken down old crocks'. We're 'has-beens', we've 'got a lot of baggage'. Therefore we're unemployable ... they don't want to touch us.

"It's unfortunate, because not everyone has those issues. Certainly I don't."

Her experience mirrors that of former combat systems operator Leading Seaman Paul Dickson, who has applied for more than 50 jobs

since retiring from the Navy in January with no success.

"After receiving rejection letter after rejection letter, you start thinking, 'What's wrong with my CV?'" Mr Dickson said.

"Then after a month of rejection letters you start thinking, is something wrong with me?"

"Recently I have written [on my resume] that I was in a government department rather than say I was in the Navy, because I was less likely to be stereotyped as an ex-service personnel.

"It's very difficult to sell yourself as someone outside of that (military) stereotype."

THE END OF A WAY OF LIFE

Cheri was 18 when she joined the Australian Army in search of adventure outside the small South Australian country town where she was born and bred.

But it quickly became more than that.

"It's not just a job. It's a career. It's your life. It becomes you," she said.

That's why I am finding it difficult now because it meant a lot to me. It was everything.

"Her rapid rise through Army ranks was acknowledged and celebrated.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself to succeed and to keep striving just to reach those goals," she said.

But after nearly a quarter of a century, she was burnt out and tired of living out of a suitcase.

"I pride myself in sticking it out for as long as I did, serving Queen and country," Cheri said.

"[But] there was a lot of responsibility ... I just thought, 'I've done my bit, I've made my sacrifices, there has to be life after the Army now and it's time to move on.'"

Her first job in the public sector was not the right fit and she found little satisfaction during a brief stint sorting mail at her local post office.

"[I want a job] that I can be passionate about again, like I was when I was in the Army," she said.

Now aged 50, Cheri has been applying, mainly within the public sector, for that elusive job for two years.

There are about 30 positions for which she has applied, and she has been knocked back from all of them.

'THE DOMINOES START FALLING DOWN'



Cheri served in the army for 24 years before returning to civilian life.

Jabz Photography



Navy veteran Paul Dickson served both at sea and on land.
Jabz Photography

At 27, Mr Dickson left his career as a travel consultant and freelance web designer for the challenge, adventure and financial stability of the Navy.

He signed up for six years and, in 2011, was deployed to the Middle East for six months.

During that deployment two of his colleagues took their lives, an experience which sent shockwaves through his shipmates.

"It definitely did have an impact on me," he said.

"Even though I didn't know them personally I just thought, 'What have I signed up for?'"

"Thankfully my next sea posting the following year was within Australian waters and we had a really supported crew."

Mr Dickson was transferred to shore after two-and-a-half years at sea. He was promoted twice and enjoyed being closer to home while forming strong relationships with his colleagues.

"I was given a lot of opportunities in the Defence Force and I would always go above and beyond what was expected of me," Mr Dickson said.

But when it was time to commit to another three-, six- or nine-month deployment at sea last year, he decided he'd had enough.

"I needed to start focusing on being there in the future for my friends and family, and I couldn't do that if I had to go away all the time," he said.

But the 10-month search for his first civilian job in eight years has been tough.

"The hardest part about when you transition is you're really built up to be special," Mr Dickson said.

"But then when we're taken out of it, I can see where all the dominoes start falling down."

THE REALITY OF REJECTION

Mr Dickson has made some money as a freelance web designer this year, but it was never his long-term goal to work in that industry.

Instead he's been searching for a 9-to-5 administrative or IT position based in an office and has to date applied for more than 50 jobs, most within other government departments and private enterprise.

Apart from one unsuccessful interview and an offer of a temporary contract at a hospital switchboard, it has been knockback after knockback.

Financially, he said his situation was getting tough. He has been forced to cancel his insurance policies, gym membership and has put off setting a date for his wedding.

"Even if you're trying to get something basic, it's hard to get an interview," he said.

"Life is about being around people and community, just being in some sort of structured work environment where you feel needed."

Mr Dickson said he now felt as though he had exhausted every avenue trying to find a full-time job.

"Excitement leads to disappointment, which leads to frustration, which leads to feelings that things are totally out of your control," he said.

"I have many transferable and valuable skills from my time in and out of Defence.

"I've just got to find that company that's willing to listen or bring me in for an interview and I can say, 'Well these are the skills I've got, what are you looking for? How I can I be of value to your organisation?'"

Both Cheri and Mr Dickson acknowledged the WA employment landscape was tough for everyone as the state slowly recovers from an economic downturn brought on by the end of the mining construction boom.

Key points:

Many veterans struggle with employment in their transition to civilian life

Veteran unemployment rates are far higher than those for civilians

Many veterans have valuable skills and are viewed as an untapped resource

But the stream of rejection letters and very little feedback from employers was taking its toll.

"They have to be ruthless when it comes to sorting the sheep from the goats, but for me not to be shortlisted, or even get to the interview stage, that's very disappointing and quite demoralising," Cheri said.

"It does eat away at your self-confidence and your self-esteem."

Cheri could list the skills she could offer an employer with military precision. It's a list she has had to repeat many times over the past two years.

"I have a high work ethic," she said.

"I am very dedicated. I am reliable. If you want me to do something by a certain time, I will have it done. I'm big on punctuality."

But these are skills that can often be overlooked by employers.

'UNDER-UTILISED AND MISUNDERSTOOD'

A recent report commissioned by WA Opposition Veterans Issues spokesman Tjorn Sibma found veterans can be under-utilised and misunderstood in the workforce.

The report found the rate of WA veteran unemployment was more than 30 per cent — five times the general WA unemployment rate — and the rate of under-employment was 19 per cent.

But Defence disputes those figures and says just 8 per cent of ex-serving personnel are unemployed 13 months after transitioning from the ADF.

"There are about 500 veterans in

Western Australia that transition out every year," Mr Sibma said.

"Of that group around 250 are either unemployed or under-employed, and I think that's a massive shame and a waste of human talent."

"Concerns regarding employing veterans are primarily regarding mental health issues," the report found.

The report by employment and workplace research firm Conrad Liveris found there was almost no consideration given to veterans when assessing workplace diversity and there were "many negative assumptions made about them".

Mr Sibma said businesses needed to start thinking about veterans like an "untapped resource".

"This is not about charity," he said.

"They are a phenomenal resource, a phenomenally highly trained, competent, team-based people who just want to achieve results."

VETERANS STUMBLE AT THE SALES PITCH

Karyn Hinder, an Army and Air Force veteran herself, has tried to help WA's workforce connect with this untapped resource.

She noticed some of her colleagues were struggling to find employment when they left the military and founded an organisation called Working Spirit in 2016 to help veterans find a job.

"Veterans can be misunderstood

or undervalued," Ms Hinder said.

"With Working Spirit, my goal is to stop that gap and really showcase the employment talent that a veteran can bring to a company or business."

She compared the first job out of the military to the first job a person gets out of high school.

Veterans were not always good at "selling" themselves, having been out of practice with job interviews and not used to translating their skill sets to civilian jobs.

"They apply for job after job and get nothing," she said.

"They don't know how to network or meet company representatives."

But she said if their abilities were considered properly, veterans were an asset to many areas of the workforce.

"[They exhibit] teamwork, leadership, loyalty, management training," she said.

"They can think on their feet. They are all-rounders. They get on well with people and they like to achieve the end goal."

UNTANGLING THE RED TAPE

Ms Hinder's goal was to find 25 veterans work this year. She has already passed that and is aiming for 40 by Christmas.

One of the key employers that helped her meet that goal was WA's MACA Mining.

The company's area manager,



There is plenty of untapped talent in veterans from the armed services.

ABC News: Hugh Sando

Leon Taylor, reached out to Working Spirit five months ago and the company has already employed eight veterans.

Mr Taylor said that from an employer's point of view, there was a lot of red tape involved in trying to connect and hire veterans.

"I've tried for months and months and months to find out how I can recruit ex-service men and women through government agencies, programs, and it was so difficult to navigate," he said.

"[Karyn] showed me and helped me deliver on what we're doing now."

MACA Mining held a Working Spirit "meet and greet" session with veterans last week and hopes to soon hire another handful.

"We don't question whether they're capable to go and look after us, but we question whether they're good enough to work for us, which is wrong," Mr Taylor said.

"They have sacrificed so much to make us feel safe so we can sleep at night, the least we can do is to help them sleep at night by having secure employment."

While neither Cheri nor Mr Dickson wanted to commit themselves to a fly-in, fly-out lifestyle similar to their old military lives, they did want to find employers who would give them the same chance.

"The Government has spent big dollars training us and equipping us with these skills and it would be such a shame to waste the talent out there," Cheri said.

By Eliza Laschon

www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-19/army-navy-air-force-veterans-face-unemployment-fight/10392422



Army veteran Karen Hinder founded an organisation to help veterans find a job.

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TOUGHBOOK



Systematic and the Australian Army partner in pioneering VMF demonstrator

Coalition operations are the norm rather than the exception, and few militaries conduct missions independently. As such, effective interoperability is a must and can provide a step-change in capability. Systematic – a world leader in command-and-control software – is at the forefront of efforts to ensure that militaries can operate alongside one another, no matter what protocols they employ.

One such example is the work undertaken by Systematic in partnership with the Australian Army, where the company has teamed with the experts at the Land Network Integration Centre (LNIC) to develop an interface for the Variable Message Format (VMF) protocol that enables it to interoperate with a range of formats.

The Australian Defence Force is in a unique position. It possesses advanced tri-service capabilities and has a wide range of operational demands - from providing regional security and disaster relief, to UN peacekeeping missions and coalition operations in an asymmetric warfare environment - yet, unlike many of the countries it regularly partners with,

Australia is not a NATO member and is geographically isolated. The country is also a member of the so-called 'Five Eyes' intelligence alliance and is committed to upholding the responsibilities that this entails.

The team established a VMF Capability Technology Demonstrator at LNIC, and drew on the unique functionality of Systematic's SitaWare suite to develop an interface that enabled VMF track data to work across a number of formats. "We looked at how we could move information between SitaWare Headquarters and some of our exemplar systems," explains Colonel Shaun Love, the Australian Army's Director of Land Network Integration, "Within a very short period of time of engaging with the Systematic team, we had scoped the task, completed the demonstration, and performed it at load and at scale."

Initial tests supported 15,000 entities and subsequently grew to 25,000. That scale is representative of a coalition and multinational environment.

A similar setup to that of the VMF CTD was established for the



The SitaWare software suite can operate on COTS computers.

Joint Warfighter Assessment 18 in Germany. There, 'Five Eyes' members were able to observe the full common operational picture from across the event. The demonstrator fed into SitaWare Headquarters and other C2 and SA systems used by coalition partners.

The VMF interface capability has now been brought into SitaWare Headquarters and is available as an add-on option to the software.

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Iraqi forward observers test skills in live air strike exercise

During a live fire training exercise at the Besmayah Range Complex in Iraq, Iraqi Army Forward Observers crunched their numbers and coordinates, and called in Iraqi helicopters and jets to strike their targets.

The week-long live fire component of the Advanced Forward Observer course was the culmination of a four-month training effort by personnel forming Australia and New Zealand's Task Group Taji.

After initially running a 'train the trainer' course for previous top Iraqi Army performers, Australian and New Zealand trainers worked with new assistant instructors to provide training to other Iraqi Army personnel, including dry fire training with Iraqi Army helicopters.

Royal Australian Air Force Air Liaison Officer and Joint Terminal Attack Controller Flight Lieutenant James Bevin said the live fire component was an important step in the process.

"It provides that element of realism that you don't get from dry training," he said.

"When you see the real life effects of the weapon on target, it completes the whole training process and forms a crucial part of understanding the application of close air support."

He said the Iraqi trainees and instructors grew and improved throughout the training continuum.

"The flow and ability to produce the information required in a quick timeframe increased significantly which ultimately leads to weapons on target quicker.

"It was also good to see the Iraqi instructors encouraging the students to take ownership of the processes which they can now use in the future."

Under the supervision of Task Group Taji and Iraqi instructors, the Iraqi Army trainees determined their own position, plotted enemy grids, requested air strikes and observed the attacks by Iraqi Eurocopter EC635s and F16 Fighter Jets as well as Coalition F15 Eagle Fighter jets.

Iraqi Army assistant instructor 'Lieutenant A' said the training was critical for an important new role in the Iraqi Army.

"When the jet or helicopter arrives

on the field, (the pilot) needs someone to talk to him, [as an accurate guide to] where the target is and where the enemy is," he said.

Lieutenant A completed the initial training course seven months ago and enjoyed becoming an assistant instructor to help build Iraq's forward observer capability.

"It was an amazing opportunity to work with the Australian Army, get the knowledge from them and transfer this knowledge to the Iraqi Army officers and privates," he said.

This was the last time Task Group Taji will run an advanced forward observer course, with other members of the Coalition to now take over the training.

It is hoped with further training, the Iraqi Army will eventually be able to run its own advanced forward observer courses.

"We've created considerable exposure to the Iraqi Security Forces about the benefits of air-land integration and have provided a solid start for them to grow this capability into something much greater," Flight Lieutenant Bevin said.



Royal Australian Air Force officer Flight Lieutenant James Bevin, of Task Group Taji-7, controls the airspace for the advanced forward observers course at Besmayah, Iraq.

Training Baghdad Fighting School Instructors

Iraqi Army instructors from the Baghdad Fighting School have taken a positive step towards independent training after running live fire range practices on their own, with Task Group Taji trainers supervising in a mentoring role.

Australian and New Zealand trainers supervised the Baghdad Fighting School instructors as they led the training of Iraqi soldiers from 41st Brigade in M16 rifle zeroing and marksmanship.

Task Group Taji trainer Corporal Eamon Baldwin said they provided pre-mission instructor development, observed the training and provided feedback afterwards.

“We were there to provide assistance, but never stood on their toes, we just let them continue the practice and by the end of the week they were performing to an excellent standard, providing really good training and feedback to the Iraqi soldiers,” Corporal Baldwin said.

The Iraqi soldiers improved their marksmanship because of the training.

“It shows that their method of teaching is delivering results and with more practice and more time doing that role they’ll keep developing better results.”

‘Sergeant K’ was one of the Baghdad Fighting School instructors who delivered the training and said they enjoyed taking the lead.

“We are so proud that we trained Iraqi soldiers ourselves with the Australians and New Zealanders just supervising us,” he said.

Having Baghdad Fighting School instructors take more responsibility and ownership of their training is one of Task Group Taji-7’s main goals with much of the focus being on mentoring the instructors as they train Iraqi soldiers.

The instructors are mentored on how to plan, organise, deliver and assess a wide range of training packages, focussing primarily on core infantry skills such as shooting, marksmanship, field craft and first-aid.

As each Iraqi Army Brigade rolls through the Baghdad Fighting School, Task Group Taji instructors take more of a back seat and let their Iraqi counterparts take the lead.

“By focusing on the Baghdad Fighting School, it allows the Iraqi Army to effectively train their own soldiers by their own means and will eventually require less and less assistance from the Coalition,” Corporal Baldwin said.

“There has been a marked improvement in a short time – it’s really been with this Brigade where they’ve taken more of a lead and taken on every role more as trainers than observers.

“It’s really good to see because the things we teach them are what they then teach the soldiers and will create a much more effective force.”

Task Group Taji-7, together with the Baghdad Fighting School, have so far trained around 1800 soldiers from the 59th Iraqi Army Brigade and are currently training around 1400 infantry from the Iraqi Army 41st Brigade.

“The training team does a good job with training and logistics, they show us new techniques, thoughts and improved approaches,” Sergeant K said.

Task Group Taji-7 consists of around 300 Australians and 100 New Zealanders and will be deployed to train Iraqi Security Forces until December 2018.

Since first beginning the mission in 2015, Task Group Taji has trained around 38,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces and law enforcement agency personnel.

Australian Army soldier, Lance Corporal Lawrence Odlin, checks the accuracy of Iraqi Army soldiers from 41st Brigade during a live fire range practice at Taji Military Complex, Iraq.



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Flight Lieutenant Christopher Goode

A Royal Australian Air Force Operations Officer embedded with Train Advise Assist Command - South has helped maximise the efforts of Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces counter-insurgency operations in southern Afghanistan.

Flight Lieutenant Christopher Goode, worked in the Combined Joint Operations Centre at Kandahar Airfield while deployed on Operation Highroad.

The Command covers the provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul and Daykundi and consists of troops from Bulgaria, Romania and the USA, with a small team of Australians integrated.

Forces train, advise assist and enable the Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces to develop long-term sustainability and posture.

Flight Lieutenant Goode's role included planning and coordinating rotary wing effects for operations within the area of responsibility.

"This included the Expeditionary Advising Packages, where a group of advisors 'fly to advise' the four brigades in the region, and sometimes kandaks [battalions], for train, advise, assist and enable missions," he said.

"I planned the amount of lift required to move the troops, including the advisors, their force protection and their equipment, from Kandahar to the locations where they conduct their missions.

"Because I worked in the Operations Centre, I then dealt with the execution of the aviation missions and watched them in action by real-time monitoring.

"When kinetic effects needed to be delivered from the helicopters, I was also the subject matter expert who advised on how best to employ the air weapons teams in time and space."

Task Force Panther helicopters based at Kandahar Airfield include AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, CH-47 Chinooks, providing lift, and UH-60 Black Hawks providing lift and medical evacuation.

The Apaches are used to assist the Afghan National Army manoeuvre with area reconnaissance and occasionally provide a kinetic effect



forward of the Afghan troops

They also provide overwatch for resupply missions by Afghan Air Force Mi-17 helicopters.

Flight Lieutenant Goode said the highlight of his work was to see the Afghans conducting independent missions.

"I watched the Afghan Air Force greatly improve their aviation manoeuvre capabilities," he said.

"They now have the expertise to use laser-guided bombs with the A-29 Super Tucano attack aircraft thanks to the train, advise, assist efforts.

"Being a part of the headquarters and assisting the local forces to take control of the security of Afghanistan was a fulfilling experience which also helped me broaden my general aviation skills."

Flight Lieutenant Goode said it was easy to integrate with the coalition team.

"I needed to quickly learn the key capabilities of the different aviation platforms I advised on, but as an Air Force Operations Officer – air is air," he said.

"Whether it be dealing with fixed-wing or helicopters, the concepts I needed to understand have comparable planning considerations.

"The Australians and the US have similar ways of working as we have common roots in our doctrine, which shows in how we plan and think.

"I also worked closely with the

operations staff of Task Force Panther and the Australian Army embedded Future Plans Officer, Captain Patrick Walton.

Operation Highroad is Australia's commitment to the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

About 300 Australian personnel join more than 16,000 personnel from 41 NATO member states and partner countries deployed in support of Resolute Support.

The Resolute Support mission is the NATO-led non-combat, train, advise and assist mission in support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, in particular the Afghan National Defense Security Forces and relevant Afghan institutions, to develop their capacity to defend Afghanistan and protect its citizens in a sustainable manner.



UN reports sharp deterioration in Mali as Canadian Peacekeepers begin mission

Ottawa -- In a sobering new report, the head of the United Nations says the security situation in Mali has sharply deteriorated over the past three months even as demand for more food aid and other humanitarian assistance has skyrocketed.

The assessment by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres coincides with the presence of Canadian peacekeepers in Mali, and suggests the country is in many ways worse off now than when they first arrived in June.

Not that there haven't been some hopeful signs, including successful presidential elections in July and August and a marked decline in the number of peacekeepers killed or wounded despite continuing attacks by armed groups.

That is reflected in the fact that while the Canadian military's primary task in Mali is to evacuate injured UN peacekeepers by helicopter, they have so far only conducted two such missions, both on Sept. 11.

Guterres nonetheless painted a picture of a country at war with itself as various ethnic and extremist groups targeted each other as well as the Malian military, international forces and even civilians.

The result was the largest number of civilians killed -- 287 -- in one three-month period since UN peacekeepers first arrived in the country in 2013, while thousands more have been forced to flee their homes to escape the violence.

Much of the fighting was between members of two different ethnic communities in the centre of the country, while groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State were also responsible for a great deal of violence.

"Intercommunal conflict, exacerbated by violent extremist groups, is fraying an already fragile social fabric and is deeply concerning,"

Guterres wrote. "Too high a human toll has accrued as a result of the ongoing spiral of violence."

The number of human-rights violations in Mali, which was already troublingly high, was similarly worse because of hundreds of new extrajudicial killings, disappearances, tortures and rapes across different parts of the country.

While most of those atrocities were perpetrated by the Islamic groups and competing ethnic communities, the Malian military itself was implicated in 18 violations -- including one mass killing that is being criminally investigated.

"The human rights situation is alarming," Guterres wrote. "It is absolutely imperative that the government prevent human rights violations and abuses, including those committed by the Malian armed forces."

Further adding to Malians' woes were severe floods in some areas and drought in others that, when combined with the fighting, had doubled the number of internally displaced people and left one in four needing humanitarian aid.

"The level of needs of is higher than at any point since the beginning of the crisis in 2012," Guterres wrote.

The country was plunged into turmoil after a rebellion in the north at the same time as the Malian military was staging a coup in the capital, Bamako.

Canadian peacekeepers recently helped the World Food Programme deliver more than two tonnes of food, water and medicine by helicopter to a village in central Mali.

Yet despite the growing need for more emergency aid, Guterres reported that only one-third of the



Members of the CH-47 Chinook medical team practice exiting the helicopter in support of Operation PRESENCE in Mali, Africa. Image MCpl Jennifer Kusche

roughly \$400 million needed to help Malians had been provided to the UN by the beginning of September.

"While needs continue to increase, humanitarian funding has decreased, preventing a timely at-scale and appropriate response," he wrote.

Canada has provided funding for various development projects and agencies in Mali, but Bruno Charbonneau, an expert on Mali at Laurentian University, said the \$60 million in emergency aid given since 2012 is relatively small.

Most of that money was also pledged immediately after the rebellion in the north and the coup.

As for the bigger picture, Charbonneau said what is needed is more international focus on the centre of Mali and greater emphasis on development to tackle the root causes of the conflict.

"As long as the focus is on countering terrorism in the Sahel, everything else is secondary," he said. "And I think it's a bad reading of the situation based on assumptions about the dynamics of the conflict and its causes."

Lee Berthiaume, The Canadian Press

Retrieved from: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/un-reports-sharp-deterioration-in-mali-as-canadian-peacekeepers-begin-mission-1.4128667> on 15 October 2018.

UN Chief voices concern over the situation in Kashmir as he heads to India

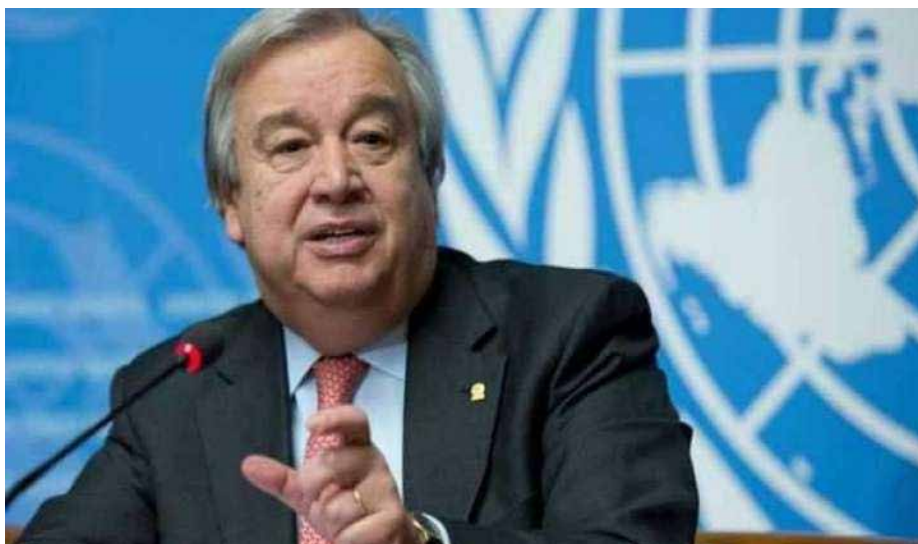
"I remain concerned by the situation in Jammu and Kashmir I encourage positive dialogue for disagreements to be resolved peacefully," the secretary-general said in an interview with an Indian journalist in New York.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj were set to meet in New York on Sept. 27 to discuss issues between the neighbours, but India suddenly called off the dialogue, a day after agreeing to a dialogue.

Dialogue between India and Pakistan has been suspended since 2015.

Addressing the 73rd session of the 193-member Assembly, Foreign Minister Qureshi pointed out that the unresolved Kashmir issue poses a great threat to peace and stability in the South Asian region, and he called for a settlement based in UN resolutions. He also said that India must stop human rights violations in the disputed Kashmiri state and also stop ceasefire violations across the Line of Control.

The UN chief will be in India from October 1 to 3 during which he will meet with President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra



United Nations (UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News, app - 1st Oct, 2018) :UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who begins a three-day official visit to India today, has expressed concern over the situation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and he encouraged "positive dialogue" for the peaceful settlement of the ongoing dispute.

Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. His visit coincides with the beginning of events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi on October 2, 2019.

The UN chief will be in India October 1 to 3 during when he will meet with President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj. His visit

coincides with the beginning of events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2019.

On October 3, the UN chief will visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Deputy spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General Farhan Haq said Guterres' visit to the Golden temple will be a personal one.

Last week, when asked if the UN chief comment on the 1984 Sikh riots, Farhan Haq said it was a bit "premature" to outline the topics Guterres will bring up.

Guterres will return to New York on October 4.

Retrieved from: <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/world/un-chief-voices-concern-over-the-situation-in-444880.html> on 4 October 2018.



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The Changing Nature and Characteristics of Post WW2 conflicts in which Australians served as Peacekeepers.

In consultation with Concerned Peacekeeper Veterans.

INTRODUCTION

This article is a tribute acknowledging the 80,000 men and women of the ADF and Australian Police who were deployed overseas, in the national and International Security and Stability interests post WW2, in an attempt to help them and other Australians 'to make some sense' of what those who deployed experienced whilst serving as Australian Peacekeepers and to promote discussion about those experiences.

With Peacekeeping the idea using Military to solve conflicts evolved beyond physical intervention to using dialogue and intermediaries to resolve the problems that threatened or ended open warfare. Governments and Historians need to adjust to this positive and successful development and begin to see Peacekeeping as the best solution and use of our armed forces to achieve a more stable and secure environment.

Unfortunately, perceptions of what an army should be and what its forces should do have remained stalled in the past. If the productive successes of Peacekeepers were put on a scale with the results of our involvement in interventionist conflicts like Iraq and Afghanistan they would tip the balance significantly towards Peacekeeping.

Consequently, those of our military who have served in Peacekeeping deserve the same respect as those who have served in combat deployments. For me, when personnel, be they Military or Police, who have passed a barrier test to enlist, are screened and selected on merit, undergo rigorous training, are subject to a disciplinary code, and committed to an overseas deployment by the Australian Government in our nation's national interest, into an uncertain environment with the prospect that they may be killed, wounded or injured during their deployment – should all be treated and referred to as veterans

and be regarded equally before relevant legislation and regulations. It is pedantic and petulant to describe one deployment as a war, another as warlike or non-warlike, operational or non-operational or peacekeeping or peacemaking. In some circles Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) are incorrectly labelled as Humanitarian in nature. The level of actual risk remains constant for all deployments, the only dynamic that differs is the intensity and frequency of incidents. All personnel who deploy have to leave home knowing they may pay the supreme sacrifice and not return to their families.

TERMINOLOGY

Historically, the conventional concept of 'war' – was understood as an armed conflict between two States or belligerents. If such conflict occurred, the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) automatically applied. The second type of war was 'civil war', which was a condition of armed conflict between a State and an internally-located insurgent movement that had taken up arms against their sovereign nation. This was traditionally considered as a domestic concern, and did not usually involve any international legal regulation at all. Only if the 'host' State or a third State recognised the insurgents as belligerents did the laws of war come into effect between the parties.¹

International armed conflicts are by far the most highly regulated, with a raft of treaties and comprehensive customary international law regulating permissible State conduct. By comparison, non-international armed conflicts have few laws regulating their conduct. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Additional Protocols have over 550 articles combined, but only 29 of those regulate non-international armed conflict; The Hague Regulations of

1907 do not contain any provisions regarding non-international armed conflict.²

In short, this means, Australian peacekeepers play by the rules, the bad guys do not.

For example, Rwanda. In April 1995, elements of the Rwandan People's Army, while closing a large internally displaced person's camp at Kibeho in south-west Rwanda, opened fire on its inhabitants with automatic rifles, Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG), mortars and crew served heavy to light machine guns. Thousands were killed. Australia had deployed a Casualty Clearing Post (CCP) with protection of a Platoon of Australian Infantry from B Coy 2RAR; who were elements of the Australian Medical Support Force (MSF) to the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR); including a Kenyan Infantry Battalion Group provided security to the Kibeho Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp; and UN Military Helicopters that supported a number of Medical Evacuation sorties.

The UN Rules of Engagement (ROE) prevented the Australian Infantry Platoon from protecting the IDPs who were being slaughtered in Kibeho. However, the Australian CCP and Infantry Platoon did their best and through incredible restraint, initiative and exemplary gallantry, collected and tended to the wounded as best they could under the most horrific circumstances. The Australian CCP feared that they would be killed, as had happened in the past to UN personnel in Rwanda, who had been witnesses to such heinous war crimes, however the UNAMIR Peacekeeping Force (PKF) were restrained by inadequate ROE and failed to conduct the modern UN ethos of "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) non-combatant civilians. So 'what was the response of the international community in the face of this war crime witnessed by

1 NSW State Library, International Humanitarian Law, Part 4.

2 *ibid*

its own personnel on the ground?' It was met with - "impotence and a hypocritical denial that anything much had happened."³

BACKGROUND

The majority of ADF and Australian Police (AP) deployments post WW2 have been on PKO. These international deployments have been brought about as a result of the breakdown of traditional methods of internal and International conflict resolution by the protagonists, who may be directly or indirectly involved in trying to mediate a solution, within or without a particular State. The significant difference between these post world war conflicts and the two world wars is that the world wars were two dimensional in nature (i.e. symmetrical, where two professional armies that are about the same size, of similar experience, resources, and technologies face off against each other) and therefore easier for the politicians and historians on the winning side, to record and administer the end result/aftermath, especially in processing recognition and repatriation of those members of their community who were actively engaged in the conflict. Whereas, the recording of, recognition and repatriation of those personnel engaged in post-world war 2 conflicts, I believe, have been let down, due to a number of factors which will be explored in this article.

THE CHANGING FACE OF WAR/CONFLICTS

For the Allies, with the conclusion of the 'Europe First' phase of WW2, attention moved to the SW Pacific and Asian mainland. However even before the war with Japan was addressed American military leaders in Europe were warning of the rise of Soviet Russia and saw 'a new menace' emerging.⁴ Whist the Allies turned their attention to Asia, the Soviet Union got busy entrenching its position (power and influence) by creating 'satellite States' in the wake of the collapse of the traditional nation States within Europe.

The UN was founded in 1945



Trooper John Thurgar,
1 SAS Squadron, 1970

by 51 countries⁵ committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.⁶

The colonial European nations were 'war weary' and had no stomach for further conflict, especially with the rise of nationalism within their former colonies when they sought (and fought) for their independence. In many (or perhaps most) cases, hasty and/or ill-conceived withdrawal plans implemented by the colonising powers resulted in dissatisfaction and instability.

The first commitment of Australians to UN peacekeeping missions was in 1947 brought on by the Dutch withdrawing from Indonesia, followed by Kashmir in 1950 after the British left India, and soon after the Middle-East in 1956.

The growing power of the soviet bloc had resulted in the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in 1949⁷ by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. Doctrinally it trained to deter and defend against an attack on Western European countries by Warsaw Pact countries headed by Russia. NATO was the first peacetime military

alliance the United States entered into outside of the Western Hemisphere.

Australian and Western nation politicians and military commanders post WW2 had grown up with and were conceptionally experienced with two dimensional/symmetrical warfare. So, when the United Nations (UN) intervened on the Korean peninsula in 1950, that conflict was also dealt with in the same manner. And the two-dimensional approach failed as evidenced by no resolution having been reached even after 65 years post Armistice. It appears that existing doctrine never quite meets the requirement for winning the next war. The Chinese and North Korean political leaders at the time (and since) understood perfectly well what Karl von Clausewitz meant when he wrote in his book 'On War', that *War is the continuation of politics by other means*. Western leaders had failed to come to terms with the changing face of war in Korea and that challenge for them continued throughout the Cold War⁸ and is still relevant to this very day.

The failure by Western politicians in Korea to not adequately 'define the type of war' correctly into which they had committed our service personnel led to this parlous situation. Did the politicians accept the reality and consequences? No. They and ipso-facto historians, simply 'redefined' the Korean War to be relegated to being that of a lower standard of conflict (if there is ever such a thing) resulting in it being called a 'police action'. The Chinese and North Korean strategy will become evident later on. It took nearly half a century for the Australian veterans of that war to receive proper and appropriate recognition.

It seems to me that as Australia entered each new conflict our pre-deployment training was based on the doctrine of the previous conflict. However, this approach was not appropriate for the reality of the emerging new 'battlefields' during and after the Cold War, especially after the collapse of the soviet regime and the

3 George Prunier 2009

4 Especially General George S Paton

5 Australia took a lead role in this enterprise

6 Source - UN

7 The History of NATO -source Google

8 1945-1991 It was fought on political, propaganda and economic fronts and only had limited recourse to weapons. The Cold War also saw significant Human and Special Intelligence, covert information collection and coercion, Spy Networks, defections of spies, and the employment of subversive Electronic Warfare techniques.

resultant 'power vacuums' that were created in the wake of the collapse of the bi-polar power arrangement.

The UN and in our case, Australia and other Western nations, (our traditional Allies) were not prepared for the challenge of paradigm change. They had not switched from the conceptual two-dimensional awareness of time and space to a multidimensional understanding of how the new theatres of war would be shaped. What has evolved since the 1950's through to today's adversaries, is that they work within a complex, inter-connected operational environment, and they have a very dynamic and flexible set of choices. Today's belligerents use all available means, such as: changing political objectives; economics; employ deception; and they always seem to be one-step ahead of our doctrine and tactical response by not being restrained by having to 'play by the rules'. It is within this atmosphere of seemingly uncontrolled, to Australian peacekeepers at least, senseless use of brutal violence, kidnapping and rape, witnessing acts of genocide or dealing with its terrible aftermath, extortion, child soldiers on the battlefield, Un-exploded Ordnance (UXO), Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), booby-traps, mines, uncertainty, threats and blackmail, where emotions are intensified and the senses heightened that Australian peacekeepers have had to operate and switch from Peacekeeping to being engaged (wittingly or unwittingly) in warfighting, direct intervention and negotiation roles of some description without warning.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS POST WW2

Generally speaking, many of the post WW2 conflicts/wars that Australia has become involved in could be described as 'asymmetrical unconventional' type of warfare because it is characterized by a mixing of regular (conventional) and irregular forces fighting in territory defined by clear lines of battlefields and within a political context that is shaped usually by the collapse of the State. Such wars generally produce a high level of violence, social upheaval, population dislocation and eventually

require international intervention.

Almost 200 years ago, the Prussian military philosopher Karl von Clausewitz wrote, "War is more than a true chameleon that slightly adapts its characteristics to the given case." He goes on to state that "war is a remarkable trinity composed of violence and hatred, chance and probability, and political considerations – elements that play out through the interaction of people, military forces, and governments. These factors have been a part of war since the dawn of recorded history." Nevertheless, as war in the twenty-first century changes into seemingly unfamiliar forms that combine regular and irregular forces on the same battlefields, some defence analysts have labelled the emergence of a new type of war—hybrid war. That particular word has become fashionable among both civilian and military leaders in the US and elsewhere. However, as Clausewitz stated nearly two centuries ago, although war changes its characteristics in various circumstances, in whatever way it manifests itself, "war is still war".

The inherent challenge in classifying wars as conventional or irregular led to this name change to - 'hybrid war.' 'Hybrid wars embody a wide range of different methods of warfare, including conventional capabilities, irregular tactics and formations, terrorist acts involving non-discriminatory violence and coercion, and criminal outrages.

Another interesting consideration about modern war came from two Chinese military officers.⁹ They coined the term 'unrestricted warfare.' Their definition addressed the complexity, interdisciplinary and multi-dimensionality of modern warfare. Modern war, therefore, imposes requirements and skills that most warriors are inadequately prepared to accomplish. War is actually won away from traditional battlefields. Noting the unique features associated with the new age wars, some authors introduced a new category of 'New Wars.' These are wars accompanied

9 In February 1999, the PLA Literature and Arts Publishing House issued *Unrestricted Warfare*, a book written by two PLA air force political officers, Senior Col Qiao Liang and Senior Col Wang Xiang-sui.

by ethnic cleansing, widespread waves of refugees, extensive sexual violence and transnational criminal aspects.

It was not till the 1990's that the Australian Army paid emphasis to the growing complexity of the nature of the operational environment, especially the presence of a large number of civilians, densely populated urban areas, and complex information activities. They based their basic concept of 'Complex Warfare'¹⁰ on a trilogy of 'the field.' These three fields included physical terrain, human terrain and the information terrain. This concept also includes diffusion or blurring of the types of conflict, combatants and non-combatants, and war and peace conditions. Some of the more recent deployments fall into this concept of warfare.

Underlying new theories of the Russian thinking on hybrid warfare were summed up by General Valery Gerasimov,¹¹ who simply stated that 'the future wars have a tendency toward blurring the lines between the states of war and peace.' The Russian new doctrine accuses the US/NATO of practicing all the instruments of power (diplomacy, information, military, and economic) and see that the military instrument per se plays only a limited role in this concept. Therefore, hybrid warfare employs military/non-military assets and methods in order to achieve political and strategic success. Such activities may include, but are not limited to: protecting target populations, encouraging local disturbances, using irregular forces, exploiting humanitarian measures, performing criminal acts, carrying out overt and covert operations, spreading narrative and propaganda, undertaking conventional attacks..., all of this in a highly integrated and combined plan.

THE CATEGORISATION OF WAR

Civil war is different from other forms of irregular warfare in that that it

10 Australian Army. *Complex Warfighting*. Future Land Warfare Branch (2004). In 2005, this work was adopted as an official operational concept for Future Land Operational Concept of the Australian Army. Former Lieutenant Colonel David Kilcullen the led the way.

11 General Valery Gerasimov, Chief of Staff Russian Federation 2014.

often crosses the threshold between conventional and irregular warfare. What makes it unconventional is the fact that the conflict occurs within a defined national territory (intra-state) with the participation of two or more factions.

Nicholas Sambanis¹² used an expanded definition of civil war that enabled him to draw further conclusions. He based his definition of a civil war on 'six criteria:

1. The war has caused more than 1,000 deaths in connection with the fight;

2. The sovereignty of internationally recognized states has been called into question;

3. It takes place within the recognized boundaries of that State;

4. It includes the State as one of the main parties in the struggle;

5. It includes the rebels with ability to run the organized resistance; and

6. It includes parties who were not satisfied with the proposal of co-existence in the same political unit after the war.'

Sambanas further stated that Civil wars may be categorized as 'internationalised' when one or more countries intervene in the war. It should be noted that the current typology of wars is a result of change to the previous traditional typology that stressed two types of war – international and civil wars.

Because of the periodic systematisation of all wars to new criteria, some of the wars/conflicts clearly shifted from one category to the other.

The primary classification of wars will certainly continue to change.

CONCLUSION

A definitive critical analysis of each of the 60 plus conflicts/wars that over 80,000 Australians have served within PKO, in post WW2 in one capacity or another, regardless of the terminology and expressions used, should not remain unreported in a frank and fearless way. The current reporting of our history of Peacekeeping is fragmentary, subjective and incomplete.

Historical events surrounding the



Suai, East Timor, 16 November 1999. Gunner (Gnr) Alan Paul (left) of the 108th Battery, Field Regiment, part of the International Force for East Timor (Interfet), talking to a fellow soldier as they begin a patrol of an area between Suai and Matai. *AWM*

deployments ought not be changed but they ought to be viewed in a wider and proper perspective, and that perspective should acknowledge the role of the initiators of the conflict/war and define the reasons which led the Australian Government to make the political decision to deploy Australians to that conflict. Most, if not all, of the belligerents faced by Australian Peacekeepers were not 'quiet observers' in the democratic processes that led up to war and international intervention. Rather, they all chose to intervene and to play a major role in trying to shape the future of their nation and inevitably that has led to destabilising the region in which they live.

The withdrawal of the colonial powers from their colonies around the world and the collapse of communist regimes in Europe were certainly two great victories for the 'rights of the individual' in a democratic world, but they failed to adequately address the bigger problem that they created which was that of leaving behind a 'power vacuum'.

The very existence of these 'power vacuums' and by not ensuring that the will of the majority of people was adequately addressed and listened to and taken into account, meant that the system that was abandoned was doomed (or designed) to fail. A working infrastructure ought to have been left behind and a realistic timeframe for handover with effective security arrangements put in place,

within these countries is the minimum that a 'reasonable man' would expect. By not rigorously trying to ensure this took place meant that it was 'a defeat'. With such failings conflict and war in these countries became inevitable.

It is important to establish a more holistic framework in order to understand modern warfare better. Politicians, Historians and International Relations specialists should refer to any conflict/war by its real name and be able to define its true character. The international community has become highly bureaucratic and seemingly ineffective regarding the crises following the power vacuums in the countries where international intervention of some description is required for the sake of humanity.

If military professional and political leaders are to be successful in resolving conflict, they must adhere to Clausewitz's famous dictum that one must first know what kind of war they are fighting and call it for what it is.

I do not think the Australian Government and the international community at large has fully understood the character of the emerging and ever-changing conflicts/wars post WW2 that we have become embroiled in, for if they did, perhaps our politicians and bureaucrats would allow our Historians to better record and try to capture in words the actual role, activities and real level of: uncertainty; horror; and danger (implied or implicit), faced by the 80,000 plus Australian Peacekeeper

12 Sambanis, Nicholas (2001) Do Ethnic and Non-ethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes? *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 45(3): 259-282

Managing Your Home Front

Immobilised at 7000 feet by -37° wind chill in North Western Afghanistan, my biggest concern wasn't surviving the night – it was how my family was faring back in Australia.

Like many service people deployed to far off lands, the serious missions and alien environments don't fully distract us from the more mundane needs of our loved ones at home. Often, it's the opposite. How they are coping with the routine of day-to-day living – school pickups, mowing the lawn, juggling work with the many stresses of managing a household – becomes a preoccupation that weighs on us.

It was with this in mind that my mate and I, both veterans, created HomeFront Australia. We knew that if families needed something done around the house - a plumber to fix a leaky tap, a plasterer to repair a hole in the wall, a cleaner to help a busy mum stay on top of the housework, or a gardener to keep the lawns in shape - that having a reliable professional on hand ready to deliver was essential.



We weren't comfortable with our own young families or elderly parents playing "search engine roulette" and just hoping for the best, or using "request-a-quote" sites to select a faceless bidder. Even online review sites (where everyone seems to get 5 stars or close to it) are filled with fake and inflated reviews, so they're just pot luck too.

Initially we built HomeFront to provide instant access to a range of professional household services to the Brisbane Defence community at fair market rates, delivered by vetted professionals. Quickly it grew to hundreds of service providers directly supporting the Brisbane Defence community via our company.

What we weren't prepared for was the demand from the non-Defence

community. Apparently, everyone – teachers, accountants, nurses, mechanics, whoever - wanted a simple, fair, straightforward way to get jobs done around the house.

So we've just released HomeFront 2.0 to the whole Brisbane community for the first time. It's a deceptively simple platform driven by powerful technology and underwritten by the best and most reliable businesses in town.

I encourage everyone to have a look and let us know what you think – we reckon it might be the next big thing. And if you're in Brisbane, give it a go and let us get your to-do list done!

David Ballantyne is CEO of HomeFront Australia and a former Infantry Officer www.homefrontaustralia.com.au

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Veterans better and the long lasting impact it has had on their lives and that of their family members.

While the level of risk in terms of individual harm will differ within the major deployment categories (e.g. combat, peace enforcement and Peacekeeping), the consequences of those killed, wounded, injured or suffering from physical or mental illness remains the same for individuals and their families despite the nature of the deployment

And although the degree of probability of physical harm may be interpreted as being 'of a lower standard' for those involved in Peace enforcement (A Colloquial term referring to Chapter VII of the UN Charter [To restore Peace by all means necessary]), and Peacekeeping (Normally within Chapter VI, using pacified means to maintain peace), the incidence of PTSD remains at similar levels to those deployed

in combat operations. Stressors generated by the latter are readily acknowledged, but researchers point out that the inability to protect vulnerable population groups can also be considered as a major stressor in peace keeping operations

In any event, Australian governments should consider their responsibility for the continued health and well-being of veterans (and their families) exposed to potential harm during training and deployment through this prism rather than past approaches

This paper aims to start conversation about our categorisation of conflicts and the effects this choice of words has on the support, emotional, financial and physical, available to our veterans and recognition of their contribution to Australia. Their job was done, in spite of the words chosen to describe the conflict and in spite of the risks which remain present

across the spectrum of conflict. It is the responsibility of politicians and our military leaders to ensure that our involvement is accurately recorded for the good of those who serve, not to serve a political purpose.

While popular culture, movies and books find it more entertaining to depict traditional warfare with good guys winning against bad guys policy makers should be aware that this black and white clarity belongs to another age and we need to move forward in our thinking to solutions where every attempt is made for intelligent and humane solutions without massive loss of life and that is where Peacekeeping comes in and that is something which Australia has made a proud contribution to and that contribution deserves 'fair and just' recognition.

LANDFORCES 2018

Randall New JP, QLD President and Wayne Alexander manned the APPVA stand at the Land Forces 2018 Expo.

The Land Forces 2018 Exposition broke attendance records, exhibitor and delegation records, organisers say.

The three-day event, held at the Adelaide Convention Centre over September 4-6, combined a defence industry trade show featuring 624 exhibitors alongside Defence and Army conferences, and technical and scientific seminars and symposia.

It attracted a record total combined attendance of 15,331 visitors over the period of the event, up from 13,450 for Land Forces 2016, event organisers Industry Defence and Security Australia Limited said on Wednesday.

"Land Forces 2018 is unique in the region as a platform for engagement and exchange of ideas between Army, Defence, government, academia and industry, in the national interest," Land Forces 2018 chief executive officer Ian Honnery said.

"All indications are that Land Forces 2018 excelled in its main goals of enabling that engagement and of promoting Australian industry

to the world, by bringing the world to Australia."

The event saw a 30 per cent increase in total exhibition space over the 2016 event, with 624 participating exhibitor companies (including 328 Australian SMEs) up from 501 exhibitor companies in 2016, while the 21 conferences, seminars and symposia, including the Chief of Army Land Seminar, compared to 11 similar events in 2016.

There were also 74 defence, trade and industry delegations from 36 countries (up from 66 in 2016), including 31 foreign military delegations and 19 Australian military delegations.

Randall said he "Couldn't believe the crowds that came in, especially on the Tuesday."

"We also had some surprising visitors as well, meaning people, both civilian and military who had not heard of our Association."

"A few new member's forms were handed out and merchandise items were also sold. Overall it was a great event and great exposure for the Association".



Randall New and Wayne Alexander OAM, JP, with Service Dog 'Hendry'. He is named after the founder of the Royal Society for the Blind.



An education that will liberate hearts and minds

St Joseph's Nudgee College holds a special place within Catholic education in the state of Queensland, across the nation, and beyond our shores. The College has an outstanding reputation that has been built by successive generations of students, Christian Brothers, staff, parents, Old Boys, and community members over the past 128 years. Not only is this rich history celebrated, the current generation of students, staff and families actively works to build on it.

This is achieved on a daily basis by students who are taught, cared for and challenged by teachers who want the best for each student.

The holistic education, personal development, and wellbeing of each student is the key focus of the College. At Nudgee College, a rich diversity of educational opportunities is offered – in the classroom, in sport, and in cultural pursuits and activities – as well as in faith development and social justice initiatives.

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

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

More than 1,580 boys and young men call St Joseph's Nudgee College their school. For more than 280 of these students it is also their home as boarders.

Nudgee College Boarding is committed to providing our boys and young men with a unique educational experience that will shape the rest of their lives.

Our Bathersby Boarding Village is a contemporary and inviting home away from home for our boarders, and is the heart and soul of the College.

The high quality of this residential facility complements the high quality of care provided by our professional staff.

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

- Nudgee College Boarding parent



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Defence Chief thanks Force Support Elements

General Angus Campbell AO, DSC, Chief of the Defence Force, travelled to the Middle East in late September 2018 and witnessed the transfer of authority parade to mark the rotation of Australian Force Support Elements.

General Campbell presented the Australian Operational Service Medal to outgoing personnel, reminding them that Australia was proud of their service.

“You have all done a great job. You have been flexible, agile, open-minded and always with the words support in your mind,” he said.

“You should go home as proud of what you have achieved here as I am of you. I think you will find your families and Australia are proud of you as well.”

The Force Support Element provides theatre logistic support to Australian Defence Force operations

across the Middle East and North Africa, including operations Accordion and Manitou in the Middle East region, Highroad in Afghanistan, Okra in Iraq, Mazurka in Egypt and Aslan in South Sudan.

Under the command of Australian Army officer, Major Kate Porter, Force Support Element-8 distributed 60 tonnes of mail to and from Australia, kitted and de-kitted about 1,500 Australian personnel moving into and out of theatre, issued and returned more than 260,000 rounds of ammunition, and moved more than 1,000 tonnes of cargo.

Fifty-four soldiers in the rotation were deployed for the first time.

One member had his fifth child and two members became engaged to their partners back in Australia.

Commander of Australian operations in the Middle East, Rear

Admiral Jaimie Hatcher, AM, DSC, RAN also congratulated the team on a successful rotation.

“Australian Defence Force personnel across the Middle East, without exception, have commented on your professionalism, manner, tone and attitude to support the deployed task forces. You are the can-do Force Support Element,” he said.

Force Support Element-8 was made up of 77 soldiers mostly from the Army’s 3 Combat Service Support Battalion in Townsville, Queensland.

Force Support Element-9 is commanded by Major Dean Kachab. It is made up of 77 soldiers mostly from the 9th Force Support Battalion in Amberley, near Brisbane, and 10th Force Support Battalion in Townsville, with three Army reservists from the 2nd Force Support Battalion in Tasmania.



(L-R) Commander Joint Task Force 633, Rear Admiral Jaimie Hatcher, AM, DSC, RAN, chats with Australian Army soldier, Private Mohamed Khaled, after he presents him with the Australian Operational Service Medal during a Transfer of Authority parade held in the Middle East at Camp Baird.

Developing smarter military comms

An Australian research project aims to develop dynamic tactical communications for the difficult land battlespace environment.

Recall the scene from countless movies where the army signaller in the heat of battle calls for urgent air support. He had control, was acutely aware of the battle context and what information needed to be transmitted, and got immediate feedback about the state of the voice radio network (by the presence or lack of voice acknowledgement).

But since the advent of digitisation of the tactical network, the data deluge has become too much for humans alone to manage. There are just too many decisions to be made. Should the network be reporting enemy locations, sharing friendly force locations or requesting assistance with casualties? Calling for fire support or downloading the latest software update?

Greg Judd and Keith French, members of DST's Systems Integration and Tactical Networking

(SITN) team, have been working with the Army for many years. (DST is the Australian Government's lead agency responsible for applying science and technology for national defence.) Their research into smarter networking systems arose from their involvement in the operational test and evaluation of the new Land 200 battle management systems (BMSs), where they saw firsthand some of the issues that Army is trying to cope with.

"The idea came to us that we need to automate things," said Judd. "SMARTNet (Semantically Managed Autonomous and Resilient Tactical Networking) was born as a way to improve the functionality of the BMS."

RIGHT INFORMATION, RIGHT PERSON, RIGHT TIME

French explained the subtle difference between their aim and that of other DST teams developing ways to ensure the resilience of the physical side of the network.

"We are trying to ensure resilience

in the information that is being communicated. What we want is to be given any network, and then to add in some software smarts to give a greater surety of information transfer," he said.

"In other words, to satisfy the general information management mantra across all levels of Defence: right information, right person, right time."

Why is dynamic tactical communication management so difficult that it's never been attempted before? In the land battlespace environment, Judd said the communication infrastructure is not fixed.

"There are no base stations you can rely on like a mobile phone network. It's fragile because all the links use combat net radios that drop out and are continually on the move," he said.

"Your adversaries are also trying to jam your communications," added French. "Everything is against you. It's just not an environment where





you can send lots of data because it's not going to get through in a timely fashion."

The answer is to distil the data and send the highest priority information first. Less-important data can then get through eventually.

To be able to transform the data, and to link into the radio hardware, the SMARTNet team is calling on the skills of others in the field. A partnership has been established with US Army Research Labs (ARL) scientists who are now conducting research under the SMARTNet banner.

THE STATE OF THE NETWORK

Along with transforming and prioritising data, the third aspect is understanding the state of the network so that SMARTNet can dynamically 'throttle' the amount of data being transmitted.

"The network state will be continually changing as the battle context changes, and if we send too much data at the wrong time the network can seize up," said French.

"So the two main research thrusts at the moment are computational intelligence and assessing the state of the networks. How does SMARTNet

determine the current battle context and reason about it?" he added.

"It's important for SMARTNet to know if I'm in an assault phase and in contact with the enemy. How does it come to realise this fact and, once it does know, how should it use that knowledge to best transform, prioritise and throttle the flow of information — that's the challenge."

Judd said the second thrust is developing techniques to assess the state of the network and understand the implications.

"Let me emphasise, the reason this hasn't been done before in any other country is that dynamically prioritising information over a tactical network is difficult. How can we find out what the network is doing without clogging it up?" he said.

DEEP THOUGHTS

To solve these challenges, the SMARTNet team has been doing some deep thinking, in conjunction with colleagues at the University of Adelaide's Centre for Distributed and Intelligent Technologies, who are looking at the artificial intelligence side of things. The university's Centre for Defence Communication and

Information Networking (CDCIN) has also joined the fray. And the team is partnering with Consilium Technology, a company with experience building and commercialising artificial intelligence-based systems.

The four-year strategy is to gradually build up the fidelity and capability of the SMARTNet middleware.

"We'll be verifying and validating our concepts initially through a simple simulator, ramping up to more complex emulations and finally running field trials using real kit," said Judd.

The ARL team will be with them for the journey, and Judd is particularly looking forward to using the impressive ARL tactical network emulators to evaluate SMARTNet algorithms.

"It will be important to know that we are leading to improvements over the way the battle management system works now," he said. "But SMARTNet over real radios will be the ultimate test, and for that we have field experiments planned in the US in 2020 and Australia in 2021."

<https://www.criticalcomms.com.au/content/industry/article/developing-smarter-military-comms-1328925920#axzz5Ut9uJE2I>

Force protection priority in Southern Afghanistan

Protecting deployed troops from hostile actions is the priority for an Australian Army infantry officer embedded with Train Advise Assist Command - South in southern Afghanistan.

Force Protection Officer, Captain Aaron Condon, of the Command Headquarters, is based at Kandahar Airfield while deployed on Operation Highroad.

Captain Condon is responsible for force protection measures to ensure the safety of the coalition military and civilian personnel based at Kandahar Airfield.

He is also responsible for the preventative security measures taken for the NATO advisors who travel to Afghanistan National Defense and Security Force bases and other advisory locations in the area of responsibility.

Train Advise Assist Command - South covers the provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul and Daykundi and consists of troops from Bulgaria, Romania and the USA with a small team of Australians integrated.

Forces train, advise assist and enable the Afghan forces through security force integration of effects to develop long-term sustainability and posturing.

Captain Condon's duties include performing objective risk assessments using a system developed by Headquarters Resolute Support, based on a risk assessment tool designed by his predecessor, Captain Jason Law.

"The modified risk assessment tool is now used by NATO forces across Afghanistan at all sites we conduct advising activities," he said.

"I work closely with a US civilian contractor and a US Army Military Police officer who are the Command anti-terrorism officers.

"In conjunction with force protection assessments we also conduct anti-terrorism assessments, which are a requirement of the US Department of Defense, where we look at the security posture of each site.

"We need to know who controls security, what is the security of the perimeter, where are the entry control points and guard towers and what procedures are used, such as a quick reaction force and its notice to move."

Captain Condon and his team are responsible for the force protection assessments of nearly 30 operational sites as well as the locations for the Expeditionary Advising Packages, where a group of advisors 'fly to advise' the four brigades in the region



Australian Army officer, Captain Aaron Condon (left), the Force Protection Officer of Train Advise Assist Command - South, shares a joke with an Afghan National Police officer manning a guard tower.



Australian Army officer, Captain Aaron Condon, discusses security with United States Army soldier, Master Sergeant James W. Fox and United States Army officer, 1st Lieutenant Daniel Spencer.

for short-term missions of five to 30 days.

When the Security Force Advisory and Assistance Teams who advise the Afghan National Army 205th Corps, Provincial Governors and Afghan National Police on deliberate operations move to new locations they are often joined by Captain Condon and his team.

Captain Condon said joining a team on a train, advise, assist mission gave him opportunities to meet Afghan base commanders during the risk assessments and advise on opportunities to improve their security measures.

“Usually we’ll be assigned an Afghan escort to guide us around the sites and let the local security forces and personnel manning the guard towers know what we are doing,” he said.

“The Afghans are very receptive, and we can offer informal force protection advice on areas such as guard shift times, sectors of defence, range cards, the employment of weapons systems and how to manage entry control.”

The US-led Force Protection Element includes soldiers of the US Army and the Romanian Land Forces, who provide guardian angel support for activities outside Kandahar Airfield.

Soldiers of the Bulgarian Army manage one of the primary entry control points at Kandahar Airfield and do perimeter patrols of the base.

Captain Condon said his experience as an infantry officer with an engineering background gave him a good grounding for the role.

“To ensure we are compliant with Resolute Support’s policies we’ve increased our force protection measures at Kandahar Airfield and other bases with persistent surveillance of the perimeters which feed into the Base Defence Operations Centre,” he said.

“We’ve also enhanced the defensive positions at Kandahar Airfield with additional vehicle fighting positions.”

As one of the six Australians embedded, Captain Condon said it was interesting learning about the force protection procedures in the US-led coalition environment.

“The Australians integrate well with the US military because we are a small but dynamic workforce who are willing to work hard with our partners,” he said.

“I also need to negotiate with civilian agencies who don’t operate the same way as the military.

Captain Condon said the highlight of his mission was contributing to the mission to maximise the effects of Afghan Forces counter-insurgency operations in southern Afghanistan.

“It’s been rewarding ensuring the best possible security for the 10,000 coalition personnel employed in this region,” he said.



GROWING LIFESTYLE AT THE ORCHARD

"We wanted to make a big change from the lifestyle in Sydney and find a place where we didn't have to compromise on anything" Kerri-Ann said.

When the Hudson family relocated from Sydney they knew they wanted a lifestyle that was completely different from the hustle and bustle of the big smoke.

With a recent addition to the family, 15 month old Isabella, Andrew and Kerri-Ann Hudson, who are both very proud members of the Australian Defence Force, were excited about being transferred to Townsville.

Kerri-Ann said the couple spent months researching Townsville's property market, in particular, new developments where they could build their dream home.

"Andrew does some personal training so he wanted space for a home gym, I wanted a large new home with a pool and we both wanted plenty of yard for Isabella to play as she grows up.

"But probably the major thing we were looking for was a place that wasn't too far away from our work as we were sick of the Sydney commute and wanted to spend more time together as a family.

"As soon as we visited The Orchard, we knew it was perfect for us. It ticks all the boxes and with the new Ring Road, we are at work in 10 minutes with just two sets of traffic lights in between.

"The developer, Elements North Queensland, is a family owned



and operated business so they understand how family living works. The Orchard has wide streets and plenty of open spaces so kids can safely ride bikes and play outside.

"We love living at The Orchard, it is close to schools, shops and everything else we need and our house is on a 1,000sqm block so we have lots of space to grow as a family."

The Hudson's home includes four bedrooms, two bathrooms, media room, a pool and 6x6 metre shed that has been converted into a home gym.

The Orchard is Townsville's newest large-lot community by leading developer Elements North Queensland who have 30 years experience creating communities in Townsville.

For more information
theorchardnq.com.au | 07 4731 1425

The Orchard

The Orchard's proximity to Townsville's newly completed Ring Road means there is just two sets of traffic lights to the major employment nodes of Lavarack, JCU and the Townsville Hospital. With around 20,000 locals working in this precinct, The Orchard is receiving a lot of interest from families seeking more space to grow.

Nestled amongst natural bush land in one of Townsville's fastest growing locations, The Orchard will grow to be home to around 400 local families.

Designed and created with families at its heart, the large home sites range in size from 1,000 to 6,800 square metres. The Orchard is unlike other large lot communities in that all home sites are fully serviced including kerb channeling, town water and sewage connection, underground power and it is also NBN ready.

The community has a number of great schools just minutes away and plenty of shops and parks nearby with buyers drawn to its balance of convenience, lifestyle and space.

- NBN ready, fully serviced home sites from 1,000 to 6,800 square metres
- Priced from \$179,000



THE ORCHARD

The Developer

Inspired by nature and driven by experience, Elements North Queensland has been developing Townsville's best communities for 30 years.

Elements North Queensland is one of Townsville's largest developers and pride themselves on delivering safe, sustainable and connected communities for families to enjoy.

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Australian NATO embed juggles 1200 positions

It is human resources with a multinational flavour for an Australian officer deployed to Afghanistan.

Headquarters Resolute Support Deputy Chief of Personnel, Wing Commander Ivan Benitez-Aguirre, is responsible for management of about 1,200 NATO personnel in the headquarters of the train, advise and assist mission in Afghanistan.

With 41 troop-contributing nations working across the country, his main role is to ensure the positions are suitably manned by participants with the correct skills.

Wing Commander Benitez-Aguirre liaises with senior national representatives daily to ensure their nations' interests are met, such as gaining more military experience in operational roles.

"I also manage the civilian personnel who work for NATO in Afghanistan, which includes providing support for their honours and awards, casualty reporting and performance management," he said.

"I work with a team of five military and five civilian personnel and our role is challenging and exciting."

The structure of Resolute Support is reviewed yearly in March through the operations, planning and institutional development divisions who look at the requirements for the mission.

The revised structure is then sent to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe which broadcasts the available positions to the contributing nations.

In May each year the nations meet at the Global Force Generation and Manning Conference, where the positions are established to be manned by July.

At the latest summit, NATO welcomed the two new troop-contributing nations, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Wing Commander Benitez-Aguirre said Australia's enduring commitment to Afghanistan began with the NATO-led International Security and Assistance Force mission in 2001.

"Resolute Support was established

in 2015, as a non-combat mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, who assumed nationwide responsibility for Afghanistan's security.

"Its purpose is to help the Afghan security forces and institutions develop the capacity to defend Afghanistan and protect its citizens in a sustainable manner," he said.

Australia contributes about 300 personnel under Operation Highroad to Resolute Support.

"There are around 40 Australians embedded within Headquarters Resolute Support which includes Army, Navy, Air Force and Defence civilians," he said.

"We have personnel who are planning, operations, intelligence and communications experts in the main branches of the headquarters.

"These range from a senior clerk who provides support to billeting through to senior officers who provide direct assistance to Commander Resolute Support, Gen John W. Nicholson Jr."

Wing Commander Benitez-Aguirre said the Australians' skills and influence were valued.

"The feedback I get from other nations is the Australians are motivated, multiskilled, have a strong work ethic, are good leaders and think outside of the box," he said.

"We also have a good sense of humour which helps us generate



Royal Australian Air Force officer, Wing Commander Ivan Benitez-Aguirre, is the Deputy Chief of Personnel at Headquarters Resolute Support in Kabul, Afghanistan and is responsible for management of the NATO personnel in the headquarters of the train, advise and assist mission.

camaraderie and make great friends.

"It's satisfying to hear how the NATO headquarters staff appreciate the work done by the Australians."

Wing Commander Benitez-Aguirre said the structure of the Headquarters Resolute Support had changed in the last six months.

"At the recent NATO Summit, Allied leaders committed to sustaining the mission until conditions indicate a change is appropriate instead of a timeline and agreed to support the financial sustainment of the Afghan security forces through 2024," he said.

"This meant the original headquarters structure was not what was needed and was redesigned.

Speech, Brigadier Simon Johnstone, CSC Launch of Photographic Exhibition: “70 Years: Australia in Peacekeeping”

Level 1 Atrium, R. G. Casey Building, Barton

Friday 14 September 2018, 2.30pm-3.30pm

Australia has a strong and proud history of helping those who cannot help themselves through participating in peacekeeping operations. I am proud to be here to represent UN peacekeepers to commemorate this milestone and the launch of ‘70 Years: Australia in Peacekeeping’ on what is Australia’s Peacekeepers’ Day..

RECOGNISE PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

On 31 July 1947, Australia was the first UN member state to invoke Chapter VII of the UN Charter as the basis for the referral of a situation to, and action by, the UN Security Council (UNSC). That situation was the conflict in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). Australia’s decision was ground-breaking – at Indonesia’s request, Australia represented against the Netherlands (the colonial power), and urged the Security Council to intercede in the conflict. The resolution adopted was the Council’s first exercise of its authority under Chapter VII of the Charter to respond to a threat to international peace and security. The UN Good Offices Mission subsequently deployed to Indonesia to monitor the ceasefire and oversee mediation efforts was the first of its kind. The Australian personnel in that mission were deployed on 14 September 1947 and Australia considers them to have been the first ever UN Peacekeepers.

In 1948 UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 50 established the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO). This was the first recognised UN peacekeeping operation empowered to supervise the truce agreed at the conclusion of the first Arab/Israeli War. Since 1956, Australia has constantly contributed peacekeepers to serve as staff



APPVA National President, Allan Thomas OAM, JP; who is citing the Ode to the Fallen, the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra, 14th of September 2018.

officers in the UNTSO Headquarters in Jerusalem and as unarmed UN Military Observers (UNMO) throughout the region. My own experiences as part of UNTSO in Israel and Southern Lebanon reinforced to me to the critical service that peacekeepers render, and highlighted the high level of commitment from the Australian Defence Force (ADF), [Australian Federal Police (AFP)], Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and a range of Other Government Organisations (OGO). Peacekeepers make a difference. They shine a light in the darkest areas and provide independent truth in complex and often ambiguous Operations.

Australian peacekeepers have been on the forefront in some of our most significant global conflicts in the Middle East, Europe, Africa,



APPVA National Patron, Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired), who is hosting an informal Commemoration at the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra, 14th of September 2018.

Asia and the South West Pacific. Eight multinational operations have been commanded by Australians, including our Governor General in East Timor. MAJGEN Simon Stuart currently commands the Multi-National Force Observers in Sinai. Australia’s men and women have been part of global history, promoting our values and working to support the rules based global order. Today, we acknowledge not only their work and their successes, but the sacrifices they have made.

Sixteen Australian’s have died during peace keeping operations. Many other peacekeepers have been physically and mentally injured in order to protect those most vulnerable. We recognise their Service and sacrifice today. We will remember them. In

particular of I reflect on the loss of CPL 'Monsta' Jones, a soldier of my unit, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, who died in August 2000 while serving with UNTAET in East Timor. As Adjutant of his Regiment at this time I experienced the impact of his loss on his family, the UNTAET force, ADF and the wider Australian community.

Our peacekeeping experience has been both demanding and rewarding. Responsible for Army operations across the globe I see the incredible work our peacekeepers do on a daily basis. Our peacekeepers work in the most dangerous, physically and mentally demanding environments. Many are young and have never previously deployed or even left Australia. They witness both the best and worst of humanity and have to continually adapt to complex challenges of modern conflict. However, there are rewards. During my 13 months in Southern Lebanon I worked alongside observers from around 26 different nations. As well as serving with traditional partners and friends including many from South West Pacific nations - I also had the opportunity to work alongside non-traditional partners. The diverse perspectives we gain on these mission are unique and develop enduring relationships.

Our support to peacekeeping missions extends beyond our troop contributions. Through our Peacekeeping Training Centre here in Canberra and our most recent support to Blackrock Peacekeeping Centre in Fiji we continue to promote a standard of excellence and community by sharing our peacekeeping experience with men and women from other regional defence forces who look to Australia as a strong partner.

We also enable partner nations to undertake peacekeeping operations through English language training. Australia has provided funding for development and implementation of a manual for healthcare quality and patient safety, contributing to the development the UN Military Expert of Mission Course and UN Military Unit Manual on Logistics and providing funding to support the development of Protection of Civilian policy and the dissemination of associated guidelines. Each of these initiatives has contributed significantly to the creation to a safer and more peaceful world.

Australia continues to support our peacekeepers at all levels and have worked tirelessly with the United Nations to ensure both the safety of peacekeepers globally, and peacekeeping best practice. We were

proud to endorse the "Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers" in November last year. Similarly, we continue to empower woman in communities to have a voice in peacemaking and protect vulnerable groups through our commitment to UNSCR 1325 Women Peace and Security.

Australia's dedication to peacekeeping over the last 70 years has demonstrated that our commitment to global rules based order. However, at their core of all peacekeeping operations are people. It is our people, our highly respected peacekeepers that make the difference. We are known for treating everyone with dignity, no matter where they are in the world or the challenges they are facing. This is a reputation which has been developed over time, and we reflect on this with pride.

I wish to thank all Australians who have dedicated years of their lives as peacekeepers to create a better world in which the current and future generations can thrive. You have made – and continue to make Australia – proud.

Thank you.

Images courtesy of Paul Copeland.

BIRD INQUIRY INDEPENDENT REVIEWER



An Australian veteran who served in Afghanistan, Jesse Bird, tragically died of suicide on 27 June 2017 at the age of 32.

In 2017, the Government committed to an independent review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint

Defence/Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Inquiry into the Jesse Bird case after 12 months.

Emeritus Professor Robin Creyke AO has been appointed to conduct this review. Professor Creyke is widely experienced in issues such as veterans' entitlements and military compensation law.

This independent review will help ensure that DVA has learned from the tragedy and is transforming its systems and policies to better serve veterans and their families, especially when they are at their most vulnerable.

DVA has been and is continuing to improve and streamline numerous processes and making it easier

for veterans and their families to gain access to free mental health treatment.

The recommendations of the Bird Inquiry and DVA's implementation progress report are available online.



Experience Matters: how I studied my CSU nursing degree from the high seas

The world is her oyster for Charles Sturt University (CSU) nursing student and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Medical Sailor Sarah Wheeler, as she prepares for her next venture outside the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

After eight years' service with the RAN, Sarah decided the time was right for her to take her training as a medical sailor and make her experience count by specialising in a field close to her heart – paediatrics.

Working full-time in the Navy meant that Sarah needed flexible study she could fit into her busy schedule. With CSU, a veteran-friendly university, Sarah could access the right kind of support and found study was achievable.

Sarah said she has balanced service life, study and other lifestyle commitments quite well and is looking forward to completing her degree this session, when all her hard work will pay off.

With the help of CSU, Sarah is ready to start her future career in the civilian healthcare industry.



Sarah Wheeler
Medical Sailor, Royal Australian Navy
CSU Bachelor of Nursing student

What made you decide to study with CSU?

I had spoken to a few colleagues who either started or completed their study through CSU or other universities,

and I was told that CSU were very supportive of Defence personnel. They also offered the degree I wanted to complete via online education.

What course are you studying and where do you want to take your career?

I'm currently studying my Bachelor of Nursing and I would like to specialise in paediatrics. Although my role in the Navy is in healthcare, it's very primary health focused rather than providing ward nursing care to patients. My current role is predominantly paperwork based rather than clinical and I would like to get back into the clinical environment. I've also only been working with generally young, fit, healthy adults. I feel that pursuing a career in paediatrics will be a new challenge for me.

What are some of the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through the ADF that are transferable to the civilian workforce?

Training and development of others, oral and written communication skills, problem-solving, interpersonal relationships, teamwork, leadership, time management, the ability to uphold the Navy values which can be transferred to any workplace that has a set of values such as the NSW Health core values.

How has your previous experience and training acquired through the ADF prepared you for university study?

The ability to adapt to change, including any last-minute changes, and time management skills to manage study and workloads. The ability to work in stressful high tempo areas has allowed me to be able to cope with my work, study and personal commitments. Due to constantly travelling and moving around for my work, I was happy to accept any location I was allocated for my work placement, even if it meant that I was having to travel long distances and pay for accommodation.

How will a CSU degree impact your career? Are you looking to progress in your current field or take your career in a new direction?

My degree will allow me to transition into the civilian workforce. I could transfer to a nursing officer in the ADF; however, because I want to work with children I have made the decision to transition out of the Navy.

What are the benefits of studying a degree during your service with the ADF? Is there any flexibility around study, exams and any work placements?

The pay I receive has enabled me to pay my fees upfront, which means I won't have a HECS debt on completion of my degree. I've also still received my pay while I have been away on clinical placement or at residential school, which has made it financially easier to complete those components of my degree. The ADF also offer their own assistance schemes, such as the Defence Assistance Study Scheme (DASS) which provides assistance through study leave and some financial support.

Your Experience Matters

Are you a former or currently serving member of the Australian Defence Force?

If you're looking to enhance your current career or want to make your next move count outside of Defence, find out how your Experience Matters here: futurestudents.csu.edu/defence





EXPERIENCE MATTERS ENTRY PROGRAM

Your defence experience matters at CSU.

That's why we've created a new admission pathway using your military experience as a benchmark – the Experience Matters Entry Program, developed in partnership with the Australian Student Veterans Association.

We use your rank to work out an equivalent ATAR.

So if you've completed your recruit training, initial employment training (or equivalent per branch of service) and at least two years' experience, you'll be eligible for most Charles Sturt University (CSU) undergraduate programs.

CSU is a veteran-friendly university – and we want to help you get qualified for the next chapter of your life.

Reach out to discuss your study options.

For more information, visit
futurestudents.csu.edu.au/defence

The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)
Provider Number for Charles Sturt University is 00005F. © Charles Sturt University, 2018. F5826.



VVCS is now Open Arms - Veterans & Families Counselling

The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) changed its name to Open Arms - Veterans and Families Counselling on the 19th of October 2018, at the Australian Maritime Museum, Sydney.

The launch was attended by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Mr Darren Chester, MP; with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), Ms Liz Cosson AM, CSC; The Repatriation Commissioner Major General Mark Kelly AO, DSC; other veterans, current and former members of the National Advisory Committee (NAC).

Dr David Cockram, a Viet Nam Veteran who is a member of the NAC spoke of the significance of Open Arms and the need to change the name and how that name would resonate with ADF members – that being the Open Arms being used to marshal Helicopters in Viet Nam for a Hot Extraction or “DUSTOFF”, a technique that is still used today. In representing the Contemporary Veteran Group, Mark Donaldson VC, spoke of the value of VVCS and the new name and how it has helped many veterans around the country.

Open Arms continues to provide the same professional, confidential service, with 24/7 support available to all current and ex-serving ADF members and their families.

Frequently asked questions

WHAT IS YOUR NEW NAME?

As of October 2018, VVCS is operating as Open Arms, with the tagline veterans and families counselling.

The new branding also acknowledges that VVCS is a service founded by Vietnam Veterans.

Our name is changing but our phone number and professional service are not. We continue to provide free and confidential support to current and former ADF members and their families 24/7 on 1800 011 046.

WHY CHANGE THE BRAND?

Our organisation provides counselling support to veterans and their families when they need it most. But unfortunately, other than existing clients, many people who could greatly benefit from our services do not know who we are or how we can help.

Research showed that our previous name, which was regularly shortened to an acronym, was unclear, and the branding was uninviting, and not well recognised.

This new brand is an opportunity to better represent what we are all about with a fresh look that is more meaningful and recognisable, at a time when we are expanding the group of people who are eligible to use our services.

WHAT DOES THE NEW

OPEN ARMS LOGO REPRESENT?

Open arms are a very powerful symbol of support, safety, and security, particularly for Vietnam veterans, spent long periods in the jungle during the war.

Their lifeline was the Huey helicopter, which they would call to either take them out to safety at the end of an operation, or to provide critical supplies, like food, water, or ammunition.

But to let the pilot know where to land, one soldier had to stand in a field with open arms, completely vulnerable.

Our new logo reminds us of those brave soldiers, while also representing so much more about those who serve—families welcoming soldiers home, land crew directing planes, and, of course, our policy to welcome those who need support with open arms.



The Open Arms Launch with L-R: Darren Chester, MP; Ms Maree Sirois (National Covenor of Defence Families); Prof Jane Burns (Chair NAC); Paul Copeland OAM, JP (Proponent for Peacekeeper Veterans and former NAC Member); Ms Liz Cosson AM, CSC; Dr David Cockram (Vietnam Representative to the NAC); Stephanie Hodson CSC (National Manager of Open Arms); Mark Donaldson VC; Mrs Meg Green (President of the War Widows Guild); and Major General Mark Kelly AO, DSC (Repatriation Commissioner).

WHO DECIDED TO CHANGE THE NAME AND BRAND?

In 2017, the VVCS National Advisory Committee—which includes representatives of our key stakeholders—recognised that to better promote the valuable services we provide, we needed a more recognisable and memorable brand. Based on their advice the then Minister for Veterans Affairs, tasked the National Advisory Committee with overseeing the development of a new name and brand for the organisation.

How did you arrive at this new brand?

The new name and brand were developed based on market research and extensive consultation with

Vietnam veterans, current personnel, reservists, partners, families, contemporary veterans, and peer network advisers across Australia.

The results of the research were presented to the National Advisory Committee who unanimously agreed that the name Open Arms, and the tagline veterans and families counselling best represented our important work.

Isn't this change going to make it harder for people to find support? How will people know it is the same service?

Targeted promotion will let our main clients and stakeholders know about the change. This will include direct communication, advertising, editorials, videos, and a new website
Link: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/>



As our new brand is more recognisable and clearly represents what we do, we expect that, over time, it will better connect with potential clients, so that increasing numbers of people will contact us to get the support they need.

Member in Focus

ROB WOODS, JP

Joined the APPVA in 2014 and went on to be the NSW Branch Police Liaison Officer and then moved to the National Police Liaison Officer role in 2015 and at the AGM in 2018 was appointed as National Vice President.

SERVICE:

Senior Investigator – 2008 to 2018 (retired)

Private business – Manager 2006 to 2008

Australian Federal Police – Sept 1986 to Aug 2005 sworn member Nov 2000 to June 2001 UN Civil Police East Timor – Senior Sergeant

NSW Corrective Services – Feb 1986 to Sept 1986 Prison Officer

Royal Australian Army – Artillery from 1979 to 1985 rank of Bombardier

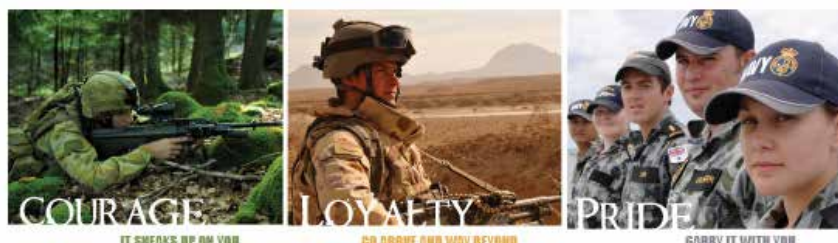
Butterworth Rifle Company deployment 1081 to 1982 for 3 months
ARES – Artillery from 1986 to 1992 rank of Sergeant

WHY DID I JOIN THE APPVA?

Basically I was ambushed by Pauline Maczkowiack who was one of former my soldiers in the ARES. Pauline showed me what the association does and I saw that the association was comprised of a group of good people who really cared about our veterans and did what they could to support them and their families.

This support goes way beyond normal business hours and takes a lot of their personal time all as volunteers, I admired the group and decided to stand with them in the fight against the beurocracy, legislation and red tape. My career here has been short but I have learnt so much about people and am still learning.

I encourage every member to seek out anyone that they believe can benefit or provide benefits to veterans in our community, I didn't know the APPVA existed until I was introduced to it, please seek out these people they can enjoy the support, spirit and camaraderie as I have.



Invictus Games Sydney 2018

Presented by Jaguar Land Rover

By Elaine Gallagher.

Game On Down Under - The Invictus Games 2018 celebrated sporting achievement and competition for more than 500 wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women from 18 nations and Team Rubicon Australia (TRA) proudly supported this adaptive sports event. Our TRA volunteers consisting of veterans, first responders and civilians fulfilled 65 volunteering positions ranging from packing and distributing uniforms to team leadership roles.

Former US Marine Corps veterans, William McNulty and Jacob Wood founded Team Rubicon in January 2010. In 2013, the first chapter of TRA was formed uniting the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders and civilians to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. TRA's primary mission is providing disaster relief to those affected by natural disasters both domestic and international. By pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders, medical professionals, and technology solutions, TRA aims to provide the greatest service and impact possible.

My personal belief is that anyone regardless of your background may benefit from volunteer work especially veterans during their transition back to civilian life. Ultimately, we need more options for healing to be inclusive for all who experience trauma, not a one-size-fits-all approach. Each individual has to be empowered to find his or her own path to healing and recovery. Since becoming a Greyshirt, I have formed new friendships and strengthen existing relationships. Volunteering with TRA is a great way to meet new people. It strengthens your ties to the community and broadens your support network, exposing you to people with common interests and community resources.

For Joanne Cornelius, who joined the Army as a 16 year old apprentice in 1987, transitioning out of the

Army in 1995 as a mechanic was difficult, trying to find a "civy" job and reintegrating into civilian life was challenging. She lost contact with her Army family, after serving for nine years. She attributes her eventual success in her career today, to the values of teamwork, initiative and mateship that the defence instilled in her at a young age. She recently joined TRA and since being part of the **TRibe**, volunteering has allowed her to work with persons with these same values. "Volunteering is so rewarding", said Joanne. "I have been looking for something that has been missing, the common value that all veterans find difficult in "civy" land, working for a cause greater than ourselves. Volunteering with Team Rubicon Australia during the Invictus games has provided me with the opportunity to work and be a part of a team of like-minded people."

The success of any volunteer organisation relies on its ability to attract and retain dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. Individuals who commit their time and effort to volunteer projects do so for wide variety of reasons. Volunteering with TRA is a more profound interaction than merely volunteering. It is essential to our mission because community decreases veteran isolation, and veteran isolation is a gateway to the multitude of issues that veterans live. Veteran and civilian volunteers participate shoulder to shoulder. This simple interaction elicits stories and commonalities, which make us, feel a part of something greater than ourselves.

Our organisation is just getting started and we need your help. We are looking for Australian Defence Force Veterans, Emergency responders and motivated civilians to join our team. You will have the opportunity to learn, train and deploy with like-minded colleagues and make a real impact in communities in need.

THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES? Join the team today!



Director of Development - Anastasia Bougesis
Invictus Games Ambassador - David Beckham



US Marine veteran, Cofounder of Team Rubicon and Founder of Team Rubicon Global, William McNulty
Army Veteran and Chief Executive Officer; Geoff Evans

Facebook:
Team Rubicon Australia and fill out the Expression Of Interest (EOI).

Instagram:
Follow Team Rubicon Australia on Instagram.

For more information go to:
<https://www.teamrubiconaus.org/>
info@teamrubiconaus.org



Army veteran Karen Holmes, Army veteran Elaine Gallagher Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison with Jenny Morrison (wife) and children



Army veteran Bruce Relph, Army veteran Mike Lee, Chief of the Defence Force General Angus J. Campbell, AO, DSC, Army veteran Elaine Gallagher, Army veteran Karen Holmes



Navy Veteran – Sarah Cannon, Army Veteran / Invictus Ambassador - Curtis McGrath OAM, Army veteran Joanne Cornelius



Army veteran Elaine Gallagher, National Manager, Open Arms Veterans and Families Counselling and Army veteran Dr Stephanie Hodson CSC, Army veteran Karen Holmes



Student paramedic – Katherine Wannan, Conservation Planner / Firefighter Ellie Dean, Army veteran Christopher James, First responder Mark Dobson, Army Veteran and Chief Executive Officer Geoff Evans



Army veteran Elaine Gallagher, A former servicewoman and dedicated Royal watcher, first met the Prince in 2015 and then again in 2017. 98 year old war widow Daphne Dunne Army veteran Karen Holmes

Right: Registered Nurse Lisa Skinner, Navy veteran Deborah Fenton, Navy veteran Sarah Cannon, Army veteran Joanne Cornelius, Vice Admiral, US Navy Mary M. Jackson, Army veteran Karen Holmes, Army veteran Elaine Gallagher





Team Rubicon Volunteer, Army Veteran Joanne Cornelius with her cousin, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, AO, RAN, Chief of Navy, at the 2018 Invictus Games Wheelchair Rugby Finals



Greyshirts of Invictus Games



Greyshirts of Invictus Games



Team Rubicon Global Ed Hill, Department of Veterans Affairs Minister The Hon. Darren Chester MP, Team Rubicon Australia Director of Development Anastasia Bougesis, Team Rubicon Australia Chief Executive Officer Geoff Evans, Team Rubicon Australia National Membership Manager Leasa Stephen



Greyshirts of Invictus Games



Right: Army veteran and Co Captain, Team Australia Nicki Bradley, Army veteran Elaine Gallagher, Army veteran, Team Australia Brigid Baker

USING THE POWER OF SPORT TO HEAL OUR VETERANS

The healing power of adaptive sports to help ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel will be adopted as a key measure to support the wounded, injured and ill (WII) community, with the announcement of a 'sports cell' by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Darren Chester on 26th October.

Mr Chester said adaptive sport has proven to be a positive aid for ex-serving personnel who are transitioning to civilian life, and for veterans and ADF personnel as part of their rehabilitation. As well as health benefits, sport creates a sense community which is so important to wellbeing post active service.

"Transitioning from the ADF into civilian life can be a challenging time for our personnel, especially if this is for medical reasons and as a Government we are committed to supporting them through this process. Mr Chester said.

"Sport is also the perfect platform to be active, build a sense of community and forge the friendships which play a big part of service in the Australian Defence Force, which is often a missing factor when re-entering civilian life.

"Like most of the world has seen this past week through the Invictus Games, it is truly inspiring to watch how powerful sport has been in motivating the recovery of our ex-serving personnel, enabling them to accomplish the greatest feats on an international stage."

The ADF Sports Cell will support the initiative being proposed by the Returned and Services League (RSL), working with likeminded ex-service organisations, to implement the Veteran's Sports Australia Program as a legacy of the Invictus Games 2018. The Cell will also foster an alumni community that enables some past competitors to become volunteer mentors, coaches and sports administrators.

"Our Government is putting veterans and their families first and provides more than \$11.2 billion each year to deliver the essential services and programs they rely on, but there is more to be done," Mr Chester said.

"By working together with veterans, their families and the organisations which support them we will can ensure we deliver the best possible after care for transitioning members."

James Brown President of the Returned and Services League NSW, said veterans family is stronger when it works together.

"The power of sport to heal and bind us as a community is incredible. For many veterans, it is a lifeline. Supporting veteran health and wellbeing is critical and Veteran Sport Australia will achieve this through sport."

Funding and support for the initiative is being provided by RSL NSW and ClubsNSW – both of whom are Founding Partners of Invictus Games Sydney 2018.

"The club industry takes great pride in the practical support it lends to the veteran community. This program is just another example of our determination to help our wounded warriors transition back into civilian life." said ClubsNSW CEO Anthony Ball.

<https://www.miragenews.com/using-the-power-of-sport-to-heal-our-veterans/>



Greyshirts of Invictus Games with Cobber



Closing Ceremony

Author: Elaine Gallagher
Membership Coordinator
Team Rubicon Australia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elaine Gallagher served with the Australian army for 13 years starting her career in The Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps (RAAOC) then transferring to Australia Army Intelligence Corps (AUSTINT).

She currently is a Welfare and Pensions Officer / Advocate at her local RSL Sub branch in Brisbane, QLD and also is the Associate Coordinator for the Brisbane Disaster Response Team (DRT) with Team Rubicon Australia.

All photos credited to Elaine Galagher

The Clayfield College Way

Clayfield College students know that everything is possible. Empowered by an understanding of the significant role they play in their own learning, they are motivated to engage in the behaviours that result in excellent outcomes. Clayfield's rich tradition of providing quality education to generations of boys and girls is combined with a commitment to innovative educational practice to ensure an optimal learning environment, which is creative and challenging. With a co-educational Primary School from Pre-Prep to Year 6, girls only from Years 7 to 12 and boarding for girls from Years 5 to 12, the College is a vibrant learning community.

We offer a stimulating curriculum and comprehensive co-curricular opportunities to meet the needs of each individual within our community. Students are extended, supported and assisted to develop the dispositions required for success. The skills of critical and creative thinking together with a capacity for self-regulation are a product of the College's strong academic focus. Opportunities to

participate and excel in the areas of sport, the arts and service leadership ensure that at Clayfield College education is holistic and personalised.

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Afghans equipped to meet tomorrow's challenges

Sustainment is an essential military function, and ensuring Afghanistan's troops are properly equipped to meet future challenges has been the recent role of an Australian Army officer.

Deputy Director Sustainment, Brigadier Haydn Kohl, of Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, was deployed to Afghanistan with the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

The Command is focused on helping Afghanistan develop a sustainable, effective and affordable Afghan National Defense Force in support of the Afghan Government.

The Command trains, advises and assists within Afghan security institutions to develop resource management capability, Inspector General and rule of law capability. It provides resources in accordance with Afghan requirements while ensuring fiscal oversight and accountability of funds and materiel delivered.

Brigadier Kohl said his role within the organisation was to provide support to logistics, medical and information and communication technology elements.

"There are teams in Kabul who work with the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Interior advising up to the deputy minister level to help them develop and implement their policies across Afghanistan," he said.

"We've come a long way from the days of the Mujahadeen era where the fighters largely relied on finding stores and equipment on the battlefield to keep fighting.

"Now, they're building a modern army, with a logistics supply chain across the country along with modern medical support, which includes aero-medical and ground evacuation capabilities as well as hospitals with state-of-the-art equipment.

"This modernisation also applies to the information and communication technology services – where in 2003 there were about 20,000 mobile phones in Afghanistan, now there's close to 20 million."

Command advisors work closely



Deputy Director Sustainment, Australian Army officer, Brigadier Haydn Kohl, of Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan (right), is awarded the United States Legion of Merit for his exceptional service by Commander Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, Major General Robin L. Fontes, while deployed on Operation Highroad to the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

with people such as the Surgeon General of the Afghan National Police and the Medical Commander of the Afghan National Army to develop their capability and introduce them to more modern approaches to medical support.

Brigadier Kohl said the biggest challenge was trying to describe to Afghans something they may never have seen or experienced before.

"Explaining how to use a computer network to organise the resupply of equipment or stores means having to describe the system in different terms until it is understood and can be achieved," he said.

As the Afghan National Defense Force-led fight against the Taliban and other terrorist organisations such as the Islamic State of Iraq ash-sham Khurasan continues in Afghanistan all stores and materiel are supplied centrally by the coalition through Kabul, except for fuel which was distributed directly to the units in the regions.

"The Afghan National Defense Force manage their own logistics

systems to get supplies from Kabul out to the military and police units, hospitals and supply depots across the country, and the fact units in the field have been able to continue fighting is a testament to the advances they've made in logistics," he said.

"An example of this is when the National Military Hospital in Kabul was attacked by gunmen in March last year, the Afghans were able to have it operational again in 24 hours.

"The Afghan National Police Hospital, which is the centre of the police health care system, now has new, modern facilities and on the management side we've watched the Afghans increase their capability for maintaining and maintaining their equipment instead of just replacing it.

"A key focus for the Command is ensuring that we are working with the ministries to develop a sustainable and affordable Force for the Afghan government."

The temporary armistice in Afghanistan during the religious holiday of Eid-ul Fitr in June was the first time the Afghan government and the Taliban agreed on a ceasefire

since 2001.

“It was a huge turning point, and now everyone is starting to talk about what reconciliation will look like, where before it was unimaginable to many people.

Corruption is also a focus for the Afghan National Defense Force and the Afghan government.

Brigadier Kohl said his team met regularly with the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Interior Affairs, who were committed to fighting corruption at all levels, regardless of individual rank or influence.

“They understand the goodwill of the international community is largely based on the confidence that their donated money and resources are being looked after well,” he said.

“It’s a big focus ensuring the resources we supply actually get to the policemen or soldiers on the ground and don’t end up on the black market.

More than 16,000 personnel from NATO member states and partner countries are deployed in support of the Resolute Support mission.

Brigadier Kohl said it was the highlight of his deployment to work with people from so many nations, including the Afghans who are fighting for the future of their country.

“These people genuinely believe in what they’re doing and believe there’s a positive end in sight.

“My biggest achievement has been working with the ministries and seeing the Afghan systems maturing and as a result we are seeing equipment we are supplying, such as vehicles, being maintained by Afghan mechanics, rather than simply replaced.”

Brigadier Kohl said the Australians within the Resolute Support mission are held in high regard by every nation of the coalition.

“From the Force Protection Element through to the mentors and advisors and the senior officers in the headquarters, their reputation has credited Australia as a nation,” he said.



Deputy Director Sustainment, Australian Army officer, Brigadier Haydn Kohl, of Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, in Kabul, Afghanistan while deployed on Operation Highroad to the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

“The influence we’ve gained from our reputation of having such good people, soldiers and officers on operations is spreading from the Pentagon to NATO.”

Brigadier Kohl was awarded the

US Legion of Merit for his exceptional service by Commander CSTC-A, Maj-Gen Robin L. Fontes, on 20 July 2018, and handed over his role to Brigadier Suzanne Melotte in early August.



ADF supports deployment of critical Vietnamese health capability to UN Mission in South Sudan

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) continues to support the United Nation's peacekeeping efforts in the South Sudan.

The ADF has worked alongside regional partners, most recently Vietnam, to contribute to the mission.

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) is utilising a C-17A Globemaster III aircraft to deploy a Vietnamese military field hospital to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. The Globemaster departed Ho Chi Minh City for Juba, South Sudan on 2 October.

This support is being provided as part of Australia's ongoing Defence Cooperation Program with Vietnam, which has supported Vietnam's peacekeeping capability since 2011.

Deputy Chief of Joint Operations Major General Greg Bilton, who

attended the farewell ceremony in Ho Chi Minh City on 1 October 2018, said the deployment was an important part of the Defence Cooperation Program between the two nations.

"By providing this strategic air lift capability to the Vietnamese People's Army, the ADF is not just supporting the UN Mission, but also enhancing military-to-military interoperability within the region," Major General Bilton said.

"Alongside the C-17, the ADF is also providing Vietnam with specialist peacekeeping and English language skills training."

An ADF contingent of up to 25 personnel are currently deployed to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), known as Operation ASLAN.

The personnel include a number

of UNMISS headquarters staff officer positions, aviation and logistics support roles and a military liaison officer position.



A loadmaster with No. 36 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, provides a C-17A Globemaster safety demonstration to personnel from the Vietnamese People's Army deploying as part of a United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

Is Indonesia Australia's 'most important' security partner?

In late August, Indonesia and Australia signed a new comprehensive strategic partnership agreement during Prime Minister Scott Morrison's visit to Jakarta. The document provides a new long-term framework for the bilateral relationship as part of a broader Indo-Pacific vision. Defence cooperation is a central component of that vision.

The relationship between the Indonesian defence force (TNI) and the Australian defence force (ADF) has been on the upswing. In early September, the Indonesian navy participated in Exercise Kakadu, Australia's largest maritime exercise involving 27 countries. And in 2016, the Indonesian army held a joint training exercise in Darwin as part of Exercise Wirra Jaya, which is now an annual event. It was the first time an Indonesian unit had trained on Australian soil since 1995.

Back in July, senior leaders of the armed forces agreed to hold more joint TNI-ADF exercises and training in 2019 and 2020.

Such developments reinforce the common refrain in the Australian strategic community that Indonesia is the country's 'most important' regional security partner.

This notion goes back to the 1995 Agreement to Maintain Security, the first defence agreement between the two countries. Although the pact was scrapped after the 1999 Australian-led UN intervention in East Timor, the 2006 Lombok Treaty revived the narrative.

The 2009 defence white paper noted that 'Australia's relationship with Indonesia remains our most important defence relationship in the immediate region'. Despite the bilateral crises and hiccups over the past decade, that view has persisted among Australian officials and analysts. The 2016 white paper stated that a 'strong and productive relationship with Indonesia is critical to Australia's national security'. Most recently, one

former senior Department of Defence official argued that Indonesia remains 'the country of most importance to Australia and our long-term security'.

But this story of Indonesia's importance is inaccurate.

First, Indonesia has never been the largest recipient of funding from Australia's defence cooperation program (DCP). That position has been held by Papua New Guinea since the 1970s. Indonesia wasn't even always the highest DCP recipient among Southeast Asian nations.

After the Lombok Treaty, DCP funding to Indonesia averaged around A\$4.4 million per year. But compared to other DCP recipients over the past two decades, Indonesia ranked second-highest only twice (2006–07 and 2016–17). Most often, Indonesia ranked third (12 years), fourth (two years), fifth (three years) or sixth (once, in 2000–01).

The DCP may not be the only form of defence engagement, but historically it constitutes the bulk of it, and the available DCP data provides a powerful measure that is difficult to ignore.

Second, Indonesia has never been Australia's most important training partner. That title belongs to the United States.

Bilateral exercises with Indonesia amount to only around 8% (37 out of 449) of all ADF bilateral exercises between 1997 and 2015. The United States, New Zealand, Thailand, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia have had more exercises with Australia than Indonesia has in that period.

Third, Indonesia and Australia don't have a well-developed and institutionalised arrangement for defence technological cooperation or defence industrial collaboration.

Policymakers only recently explored the possibility of industrial collaboration. In late 2016, Australia and Indonesia agreed to work together on developing an armoured vehicle based on the design of Thales



Australia's Bushmaster.

But such efforts pale in comparison to the low level of Indonesia–Australia technological cooperation. From 1969 to 2016, for example, Australia sent patrol boats, fighter aircraft, and light transport and maritime patrol aircraft to Indonesia. Most of the vessels, however, were provided during the Cold War and are by now around 40 years old.

Indeed, according to a survey of Indonesian recipients of Australian education and training programs, the lack of technological cooperation remains one of the big stumbling blocks in defence collaboration.

Taken together, these indicators suggest that Australia has more important security partners than Indonesia. Instead, Indonesia's significance to Australia's strategic geography and the historical volatility of bilateral ties seem to have driven the narrative.

In any case, to ensure that the broad vision outlined in the new partnership agreement can materialise, both Jakarta and Canberra need to stabilise and institutionalise bilateral defence ties. One of the first steps needs to be to stop saying that Indonesia is Australia's most important security partner. After all, that label is not only inaccurate, but also raises unnecessary and unrealistic expectations of what defence cooperation can accomplish.

Evan Laksmana

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/is-indonesia-australias-most-important-security-partner/>

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This unwavering dedication to supplying quality products resulted in R&J Batteries becoming one of only two approved Optima distributors throughout Australia and New Zealand.

US-Based Optima Batteries first came to attention in the 1970's with the introduction of the first maintenance-free lead acid batteries. Today Optima are best known for the use of their patented Spiralcell™ Battery Technology.

The Spiralcell™ Technology wraps two lengthy battery plates - separated by absorbent fibreglass sponges - into a tightly wound cell to maximise compression and optimise current flow, giving Optima their unique cylindrical cell shape. The unique design also provides a number of advantages over conventional flat plate batteries. The 99.99 per cent lead purity of the plates minimises the risk of corrosion and the dual-plate structure eliminates the multiple joints of more traditional flat plate battery structures, which can obstruct current flow.

Optima Batteries are completely maintenance-free, using internal pressure to recombine hydrogen and oxygen, retaining the hydrogen gas and making them inherently safer by reducing risk the of explosion. Optima uses ultra-high purity lead to extend battery life, eliminating internal



The fascia of R&J Batteries' Truganina, Victoria branch.

hot spots and corrosion caused by impurities or contaminants.

Pressurised cells combined with absorbent glass-mat separators between the plates provide virtually unrestricted power delivery, making Optima Batteries one of the most powerful batteries available. This high-efficiency design also means Optima Batteries can be re-charged in less than half the time it takes for a conventional deep-cycle battery.

Optima batteries are well suited to harsh working environments, their fully-sealed and pressurised design making them impervious to dust, moisture and other contaminants which can shorten battery life. The tightly packed, interference-fit spiral cells are up to 15 times more vibration-resistant than conventional batteries, making them ideal for use on rough terrain.

The range of batteries offered by Optima is versatile and covers a wide range of applications from Industrial machinery to automotive and 4WD. The Optima range is available in three types: Redtop, Bluetop and Yellowtop.

The Redtop battery is designed primarily as a starting battery for

automotive applications and packs a lot of power into a compact casing size. The Bluetop battery is designed with versatility in mind for marine and motorhome applications to provide both high-crank engine starting and onboard power; and the Yellowtop battery is a dual-purpose starting and deep-cycle battery designed to provide high power delivery over regular, repeated discharge/recharge cycles.

Deep-cycle batteries have thicker, stronger plates designed to deliver sustained power over extended periods, whereas starting batteries will have thinner, more porous plates for higher current delivery over a short period of time, usually just a few seconds to start the engine. Although the Optima Yellow top Battery is primarily a deep-cycle battery, its enormous cranking power means it can be used in virtually any starting application including most commercial vehicles and 4WDs. The Optima Redtop battery can also be used in any application requiring high cranking power, however the Yellowtop is better suited to any application where the battery will be cycled or subjected to power drain.



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Why corporate Australia needs veterans now more than ever

It wasn't until I was a few months into my first civilian job that I realised just how crucial the lessons learned during my time on the frontline would be for my future success.

I'm not alone. Veterans and employers all too often overlook the invaluable skills honed during service, which is a real loss to organisations across Australia.

What better training ground for leaders than the high-pressure environment of a war zone?

For over a decade I served as an electronic warfare operator in the army, intercepting enemy communications and providing advice and warning to those on the front line — knowing one small mistake could cost the lives of my fellow soldiers who had become my family.

My service included deployments to East Timor and Afghanistan, where I was regularly called upon in volatile situations to brief the highest ranking field commanders.

The dirt and grit of these battlefields may seem a world apart from my job as an inclusion and diversity consultant at Westpac. However, it was the skills I learnt in my 11 years in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) that armed me with the ability to identify and achieve both my colleagues' and the business' goals.

Nearly every veteran I know has outstanding leadership qualities; is a team player; is execution focused — and possesses a whole other range of incredibly valuable skills.

So why do the 5,500 defence members leaving the army each year face unemployment and underemployment rates significantly higher than the national average? What a waste of true leadership potential.

In the army you develop what is called "commander's intent" — being able to clearly articulate what success looks like. It is what the battlefield should look like at the end of the mission. It is what in business would be considered a mission statement.



Rachel Ranton was an electronics warfare operator in the Army and has made the transition into working as an inclusion and diversity consultant for Westpac.
Liam Kidston

It works because it describes what needs to be achieved, without prescribing how.

Today, Australian businesses, led by the Chair of the Veteran's Industry Advisory Committee, George Frazis, have the opportunity at the Department of Veteran Affairs' Employment Forum, to set our Commander's Intent — defining what success looks like for veterans transitioning into the civilian workforce and the Australian organisations that employ them.

This weekend also sees the start of the Invictus Games Sydney 2018, so the time is right for a discussion about the value veterans bring to society. I want us to pause and think about the value lost if these leaders aren't integrated into meaningful employment. I stress meaningful employment, because too often our veterans are pigeonholed into comparable roles like security, risk and operations. These are valid career paths, but we also need to examine their potential as leaders with purpose.

Businesses need to think less about the technical skills veterans bring — less about how many years' worth of industry experience a candidate has — and think more about the values, ability to learn and

broader work ethic of those they want to join their team.

Recent data shows the invaluable skills veterans possess are exactly those that Australian employers want from their employees. LinkedIn data, conducted in collaboration with Westpac, identified the top twelve skills Australian leaders look for in employees, such as project management and leadership, with the findings demonstrating that as compared to the average Australian on LinkedIn, veterans over index on all twelve.

My advice to veterans who have recently left the ADF — don't be intimidated by change. They need to understand the skills and capabilities learned in the ADF are valuable and transferable, and not only communicate these skills, but bring them to life on resumes and in interviews.

No one is saying the transition from the battlefield to boardroom is easy — but with greater recognition of the leadership these incredible, brave, smart, driven men and women can bring — the more likely their skills will be acknowledged and embraced by corporate Australia.

Rachel Ranton is an inclusion and diversity consultant at Westpac.

Australian Peacekeeper recognition

I have been fortunate enough to witness the extraordinary courage, compassion and professionalism of Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers over many years and in different operations, including: Somalia, Israel, Southern Lebanon, Western Sahara, Sinai, Cambodia, Rwanda, Mozambique, Bougainville and East Timor. At all times our Peacekeepers have made me feel proud to be Australian and proven to me that our military are the best trained and most humane in the world for these challenging tasks.

Whenever speaking to representatives of such Non-Government Organisations as the Red Cross, Oxfam, Medicines Sans Frontiers and Save the Children I have always heard enthusiastic praise for Australian Peacekeepers and who singled out for praise as the best of all International Military involved in Peacekeeping.

Australia does Peacekeeping better than any other Country in the World and it is my highly



Painting by Dr George Gittoes AM of Trooper Jonathan Church, at the Kibeho Massacre, 23 April 1995. Jonathan was unfortunately killed the following year in the Blackhawk Tragedy in High Range Training Area, near Townsville, North Queensland, where 15 SAS Soldiers (including Jonathan) and 3 Aircrew were killed when their Helicopters collided during a Counter Terrorist exercise.

informed experience that no one in the International Community would disagree with this assessment.

I have personally seen the risks that Peacekeepers have taken to fulfil their duty and save lives. In Somalia I was with our forces when they were confronted regularly by armed Militia while distributing food and medical aid, In Rwanda I was at the Kibeho Massacre when the Australian Field Hospital was under constant fire as were the soldiers who carried in the wounded and tried to restrain the slaughter, in Cambodia our forces risked landmines at every step and faced armed resistance to the Electoral process they were supporting from the Khmer Rouge, in Western Sahara there was the constant risk of landmines as well as being caught between the warring POLISARIO and Moroccan forces in a cease fire which was continually breaking down, in Bougainville our forces had to negotiate difficult terrain and go into completely unknown territory to bring the news of peace and in East Timor there was the constant threat of hostility and harassment from the retreating Indonesian army.

It is very unjust for veterans of 'shooting' conflicts like Iraq and Afghanistan to have their service regarded as any more dangerous or important than those of our Peacekeepers.

Our Peacekeepers, however, can be proud of bringing lasting democratic elections to Cambodia, stabilising Baidoa in Somalia, an end to conflict in Bougainville, helping to eradicate land mines in Mozambique, a democratic and independent national government in East Timor and a prosperous and peaceful Rwanda.

I was at the Kibeho massacre in Rwanda and assisted General Peter Arnison to write commendations for the heroes of that horrible event to be awarded the highest medals of bravery. My photograph of Jon Church carrying a wounded child while

wearing his blue UN Peacekeepers cap has become an icon symbolic of the extreme courage needed to be a successful Peacekeeper and exemplary soldier.

Apart from the service they give to troubled regions of humanity our Peacekeeping forces work at the cutting edge of modern military technology while on their missions and bring this experience back to Australia to enrich our ability to interface with International and multi-level, operations environmental. Australia's ability to face future threats is enhanced by our participation in Peacekeeping Missions.

Australia needs to always be proud of the service given by our wonderful Peacekeepers and never downgrade their contribution in comparison to service in any other theatre of war or conflict. I feel honoured to have been present to witness the greatness and heroism of Australian Peacekeepers and their achievements.

Dr George Gittoes AM
Sydney Peace Prize
Basil Shehade Award for Social Justice NY.



George Noel Gittoes (born 7 December 1949) is an Australian artist, film producer, director and writer. In 1970, he was a founder of the Yellow House Artist Collective in Sydney. After the Yellow House finished, he established himself in Bundeena and since then has

produced a large and varied output of drawings, paintings, films, and writings. Gittoes' work has consistently expressed his social, political and humanitarian concern at the effects of injustice and conflict. Until the mid-1980s, this work was chiefly done in Australia. But in 1986 he travelled to Nicaragua, and since then the focus of Gittoes' work has been largely international. He has travelled to and worked in many regions of conflict, including the Philippines, Somalia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Bougainville, and South Africa. In recent years his work has especially centred on the Middle East, with repeated visits to Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In 2011, he established a new Yellow House, a multidisciplinary arts centre in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Among many prizes, Gittoes has twice been awarded the Blake Prize for Religious Art. More on George's extensive work is at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Gittoes

Striking a better balance in the newest UN Peacekeeping Reforms



A US-led Security Council resolution focused on improving peacekeepers' performance was approved on Sept. 21, 2018, but is devoid of details on how the UN will measure such assessments. Pakistani troops, above, are among the UN's largest contingents in peacekeeping. *Mark Garten/UN Photo*

Just days before the United Nations held a meeting with heads of state and foreign ministers on Secretary-General António Guterres's Action for Peacekeeping initiative, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2436 on peace operations, on Sept. 21.

Drafted by the United States, the resolution is the result of collaboration between Council members and other UN member states heavily involved in peacekeeping efforts, and aims to answer Guterres's Declaration of Shared Commitments issued in March as a call for countries to renew their commitment to peacekeeping reform. The resulting resolution focuses on improvements to peacekeeping, emphasizing political solutions, data reporting and safety for civilians and peacekeepers.

Though defended as intentionally

leaving "as much space as possible for the endorsers to determine how best to take implementation forward," David Haeri of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations wrote with others in the IPI Global Observatory recently, celebration could be premature before it is clear how the renewed commitments will actually lead to real change.

An official pillar of the UN's mandate since 1948, the UN currently has 14 peacekeeping missions throughout the world, with most of them based in Africa. In the 70 years since the original mandate, the department that is now called DPKO (which is now under reorganization) has achieved, for the most part, significant success.

Yet the department has been dogged throughout its existence by concerns about wasted resources and other inefficiencies, inadequate

security planning for peacekeepers themselves and frequent allegations and confirmed incidents of sexual abuse and other violence by peacekeepers.

Over the decades, however, reform efforts constantly get stuck in longstanding tensions between countries that provide troops (mostly from Africa and South Asia) and countries that sit at home and provide money (mostly the US, European countries and Japan).

Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the UN, was quick to take credit for a hard-line approach to reform in the new resolution, which a permanent member of the Security Council told *PassBlue* after the vote on Sept. 21 was likely playing to national interests just weeks before the US midterm elections. The US provides only 55 troops to peacekeeping, but has been

providing about 28 percent of the budget, and the Trump administration has been keen to prove that the US alone can improve the UN.

Collaboration, however, seems to have produced a stronger document than the original version, obtained by PassBlue, proposed by Haley's office. One European ambassador involved in the negotiations said that the first draft provided was heavy on accountability from the troop-contributing countries (TCCs) on one side, but on the other side, light on incentivizing positive performance and ensuring enough resources to peacekeeping operations.

Indeed, fellow Council members strove for a better balance between performance demands from the US and provision of resources and incentivization — a sentiment echoed by several Council members and others in interviews with PassBlue.

Between the original draft and the approved resolution, for example, a clause was added to call attention to "instances of outstanding performance in order to highlight best practices and promote their widespread adoption."

The US mission to the UN, for its part, is credited with bringing troop-providing countries, like Pakistan, a major contributor, who do not currently sit on the Council into the conversation. Only one currently elected Council member, Ethiopia, provides more than 5,000 personnel

to peacekeeping operations.

A representative from the Pakistan mission to the UN said that inclusive steps allowed for the concerns of troop-contributing countries — such as "emphasis on transparency and feedback between the Secretariat, the Council and the concerned TCCs" — to be accounted for in the final resolution.

While these accommodations smoothed over some issues, troop contributors and others still see a lot of work to be done to make the resolution a prelude to real progress, particularly in key areas.

WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING

Since the approval in 2000 of Security Council Resolution 1325, which opened gender-equality opportunities in peacekeeping processes, among other requirements, there has been slow progress in addressing the needs and positioning of women in conflict and resolution environments.

As PassBlue reported earlier this year, "Female participation in peacekeeping remains low, especially in military and combat roles, partly due to the low number of women in the military in their own countries."

Anecdotally, it is clear that women's presence in peacekeeping missions has many benefits. In the 2015 Global Study on Implementation

of Resolution 1325, a female major in the Senegalese Army reported, "In the field [Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia], I've always been the one called upon to work with local women — they trusted me more," reinforcing that when women are present they become liaisons to other women, who are underrepresented in security environments.

Lt. Gen. Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, a Brazilian who was the force commander for the UN mission in the Congo, Monusco, agreed that women in peacekeeping is essential. Citing an example of a female officer inside the first helicopter going to the front line in the embattled region of North Kivu Province, he said: "This way . . . she collect[ed] important information to integrate the female perception in the situation awareness." The officer, he added, "developed a trustful relationship with the females in the villages."

The new resolution's clause regarding gender representation among peacekeepers, which comes at the bottom of the document, dwells on "a revised strategy to double the numbers of women in military and police contingents of UN peacekeeping operations by 2020."

Achieving these increases has proven tricky, though, in the past 17 years. Humble objectives such as a 20-percent mark for female participation in UN police are far behind schedule.

In some countries, such as Pakistan, the gender parity in the current police and military contingents does not exist. The 2015 Global Study pointed out that Pakistan's military academy accepts only 32 women and 1,000 men.

In response, the Pakistan mission to the UN pointed out that for "women's participation to be incentivized, it should not be limited to a numbers game," adding that "our approach should be incremental in application."

A Council on Foreign Relations report released last week goes into greater detail about possible incentivization and what that could look like.

Lt. Gen. Cruz agrees about quotas. "A higher rate of female in a peacekeeping [operation] may improve the overall mission performance," he wrote to PassBlue,



Better gender representation among peacekeepers, emphasized in the new US-led resolution at the bottom of the document, remains a serious challenge for the UN. Pakistan and other major troop-contributing countries want more incentives from the UN for women's participation. *Martine Perret/UN Photo*

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“but attention should be put not only in figures,” explaining that field conditions should accommodate women, which can be done only by giving women a more active voice so that the correct suggestions are made.

ASSESSING PERFORMANCE

Haley, in her comments to the Security Council as the envoy of the US after the new resolution passed on Sept. 21, stressed what could be considered a report-card system to improve the “performance” of peacekeepers. “This resolution mandates a timely and transparent reporting process for performance failures,” she said. “It requires real accountability measures for when these failures occur. And it applies objective criteria.”

But although Haley claimed that the resolution “creates real accountability measures and applies objective criteria to match the right team with the right mission,” there are no details in the document what these measures would look like.

A spokesperson for the British mission to the UN gave a clearer indication of purposes for the data, which would serve “to be aggregated in Headquarters so that we can assess what changes are required to mandates.”

Each peacekeeping situation is unique, however, which the TCCs — whose troops’ lives are always on the line in such dangerous missions as Mali, South Sudan and the Central African Republic — particularly want acknowledged. The Council will have to negotiate a balancing act in its work between the demands of countries that provide money and the counterdemands of countries that provide troops: a long-simmering tension that never goes away.

The Pakistani delegation pointed out, for example, in an interview that “no data-based system can be fair in judging performance until we have achieved a level playing field.”

A European delegate on the Council agreed that this discrepancy still needed to be worked out. Talks in December at the UN will reportedly focus on financing for peacekeeping, leaving it unclear if this discrepancy will be part of the discussion. Without



People from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who fled to a neighboring country, the Republic of Congo, were forced back to their own country, left to subsist in transit camps, for example, like this one outside the capital, Kinshasa. *Sylvain Liechti*

real measures, this “new” item will become meaningless.

The questions to consider in the coming months, one former UN official said, are how this data will be developed and who is going to review and compile it. Will the standards be developed by peacekeeping department staff or by independent experts?

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Secretariat’s original Declaration of Shared Commitments earlier this year mandated “holding personnel and leadership accountable for proper conduct, including through support to the UN zero-tolerance policy with its victim-centered approach on all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse.”

The new Council resolution, 2436, reiterates this priority — critical to both fairer treatment of civilians in host countries and to building trust on the ground — as it requests the secretary-general “to act with urgency to initiate Special Investigations into significant instances of performance failures, including failure to protect civilians.”

Sweden’s ambassador to the UN, Olof Skoog, emphasized that peacekeeper accountability is an element “that we find particularly important, as well as the full implementation of a human rights due diligence policy and the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.” (Sweden is an elected member of the Council through December.)

Nick Birnback, the chief of public affairs for the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, pointed out, however, that the department “launched a number of Special Investigations into critical incidents last year, including the killing of [15] UN peacekeepers in Semuliki in the [North Kivu province] in Democratic Republic of the Congo and allegation of inaction in the Central African Republic.”

He added that all of the special investigations “were independent and led by former UN officials with first-hand knowledge of UN Peacekeeping.”

In addition to tracking the progress of existing investigations, the Security Council will have to evaluate if current methodologies are sufficient, or how to develop new ones. In the coming months, one former UN expert said, the UN needs to also determine what kind of fast-tracking procedures are available and what kind of follow-up is pursued.

With skepticism, though, the expert cautioned that the public can’t depend on self-reporting by the UN, noting that there needs to be follow-up on what makes current investigations different from what has come before, which is safe to say can be said for the new resolution in general.

Maria Luisa Gambale

www.passblue.com/2018/10/04/a-better-balance-has-been-won-in-the-newest-un-peacekeeping-reforms/

3D printing offers new hope for war-wounded

Advances in medical technology are giving amputees more practical and adaptable options

After seven years of war, an estimated 86,000 Syrians are coping with losing a limb to amputation, according to the World Health Organisation and disability charity Handicap International. IRIN recently spent a day in neighbouring Jordan, exploring how 3D printing technology can produce a new generation of replacement limbs that are more comfortable and adaptable than traditional prosthetics.

Patients come from Syria, Yemen, and Iraq. Many have had amputations following war injuries. Local Jordanians are also patients, some with congenital conditions.

The Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Foundation, which supports medical and humanitarian innovation and research, funds the 3D project. Its director, Clara Nordon, says she particularly values the lessons learned from real-world field testing: “We see it as our duty to bring scientific evidence to what remains until now, a feeling.” She says the project will only claim a product is successful “when it’s proven valuable by our patients”.

A conventional replacement arm is heavy, and where it attaches to the stump, can become painful and sore. They can also be clunky and unsightly, and slow to deliver. Lower arms and hands produced with 3D printing, however, have offered encouraging results in terms of speedy production and comfort and ease of use for patients.

The €150,000-a-year 3D pilot scheme is bringing hope of more practical alternatives to conventional artificial limbs (prostheses), ones that can be tailor-made to the client: children can have upgrades as they grow; they can be painted and coloured; extra fittings can be snapped in and out; they can be made in unusual shapes and sizes. After only its first year, the project is also reporting early benefits in using 3D printing to make face masks to ease

the healing of burn patients.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which provided prostheses to more than 22,000 conflict-affected people in 2016, sees potential in 3D printing. It already uses 3D technology to develop and field test prosthetic components, explains ICRC’s innovation lead, Nan Buzard.

However, Buzard notes that before the technology can be more widely used regulatory questions must be addressed, as assistive medical devices must pass international certification in many countries. ICRC also notes that so far there are limitations in using the technology for lower-limb prostheses, which must be stronger than those manufactured for upper-limbs; 95 percent of ICRC’s amputee patients have lost all or part of their lower limbs.

NGO Handicap International has tested 3D printed sockets on a few below-the-knee amputees in Madagascar, Syria, and Togo. While patients offered positive feedback, costs were higher than conventional methods. (MSF, however, reports deep cost savings on manufacturing the prosthesis.) The experimental sockets, produced by a company based in the UK, met “structural and medical requirements,” Handicap International reports. In a study of the technology, it suggested further evaluation of a number of issues, including a review of technical training needs; cost of raw materials and workshop space; the costs of scanners and printers; and the speed and effectiveness of fittings.

For MSF’s Cordon, the technological potential of 3D imaging is even more of a game-changer than the printing: “Now what is really a breakthrough is not so much the printer but rather the scanner! It opens hundreds of leads to optimise tele-expertise, remote advice, and actual remote designing.”

Patients sometimes give up using a prosthetic – the reasons vary. They can be heavy, conspicuous, or unwieldy. Lighter, custom-made 3D printed “false” limbs could significantly improve the patient’s quality of life, MSF researchers say.

How it works: a 3D camera scans the patient’s arm and the image is used to manufacture a prosthesis fitted specifically to the individual. In 2017, its first year, the project fitted 17 people with made-to-measure plastic hand or arm prosthetics. The 3D project, based in the Jordanian capital Amman, runs alongside a larger conventional rehabilitation hospital. The 3D image files are sent to a commercial 3D printing firm. “It is personalised, depending on every patient,” says project manager Samar Ismail. The hands, forearms, and sockets are shipped back in as little as one day – conventional methods can take several weeks.

Ben Parker

<http://www.irinnews.org/photo-feature/2018/08/29/3d-printing-offers-new->



Test runs and reject plastic hands fill a shelf at the 3D prosthetics office in the rehabilitation hospital. The MSF project, which works with researchers in France and the United States, is considering whether 3D printing can produce useful upper arms, shoulders, and elbow joints, and whether it can produce a prosthesis strong enough to replace amputated legs. It’s also testing 3D printing to make face masks for burn patients, artificial bones used in training and surgery, as well as joints and connectors.



Ismail and the MSF Foundation are particularly upbeat about the “stunning” potential of the masks. After skin grafts and burn treatment, an elastic mask is usually stretched across the face. “It is not comfortable and it is not aesthetic,” Ismail says. Children sometimes refuse it as it looks grotesque. The team has started testing out a 3D printed mask. It’s transparent and only covers the affected area. It looks normal, Ismail says, and one of her patients, a Syrian girl with severe burns, refuses the elastic mask but will agree to wear the 3D printed one.



Yusuf*, a Syrian man in his 40s, was injured in 2016 and has multiple injuries to legs and both arms from a bombing in southern Syria. With a better prosthetic arm, medical staff say, the hope is he can feed himself and go to the toilet alone: an “off-the-shelf” prosthetic lower arm has not been a success. Here, he is being fitted for a new socket – the flexible joint between his real arm and the plastic lower arm and hand. His left arm stump was scanned, and he’ll get a new made-to-measure socket. The socket is the most sensitive part. *name changed.



Occupational therapist Noor al-Khatib teaches a patient how to tie his shoelaces with only one hand. This patient, a Jordanian boy, had a congenital problem with his left hand. “We are not doing the prosthesis and giving it to the patient, and after that going home,” Ismail says. Specific patient needs take precedence: a patient’s goal may be to wash themselves, tie shoelaces, or tie up hair. Adjustments are made based on patient feedback. When a boy’s prosthetic forearm snapped in a fall at school, later models were made to be more robust.



A demonstration of the 3D camera scanning a hand. After passing the handheld camera over a stump, a detailed three-dimensional image is built up on the laptop computer. After editing and modifications, the file is sent to a 3D fabrication company in northern Jordan, which then sends back the unique part, made from molten plastic by a small robotic machine.

TRANSITION SIMPLIFIED

A Defence career offers many strengths, skills and achievements that are relevant and transferable to a civilian workplace. After your initial training, you will have accrued skills such as adaptability, attention to detail, cooperation, cultural sensitivity, professional ethics, reliability, situational awareness, stress management and teamwork (to name a few).

After managing a team, you will have also accumulated skills such as coaching, facilitating group discussions, managing a team to meet deadlines, mentoring, personnel management, team building and supervisory/management skills, etc.

However, while you're still serving it is typical to think that your military role equates only to further military work. I know I certainly did after a 20 year Army career. So don't beat yourself up if you're thinking like that. With a broader understanding and a little help, you will be able to see beyond 'pigeon-holing' yourself into only similar roles you had in your military career. So we encourage you to take the time to explore career options and seek guidance on aligning your transferable skills to other industries and jobs. When you do this, it opens up many more opportunities and greatly increases your ability to see beyond the uniform more clearly.

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

Your written application is typically the "first impression" employers see of you. First impressions have a massive impact on your success or failure during this process. A written application includes:

CV/Resume | Cover Letter | Selection Criteria/Suitability Statement | Linked-In profile | Social Media presence

Your written application should

include more than what's on your Duty Statement and the list of things you have been responsible for. If this describes your written application – stop and get help now! It should include your demilitarised transferable skills (targeted toward the industry/job you wish to attract) and your workplace achievements. Achievements tell an employer about you from a cultural perspective - for example, your work ethic, initiative, team work, management performance, customer service and desire to improve your professional skillsets.

The most effective written application is one that quickly highlights to the employer how your skills match the skills required for their job. This is the area where most job search frustration occurs. So, spend time getting this area right and you'll have much greater success. The same principle also applies to the best way of promoting yourself at the job interview. Talk specifically to the points the employer is looking to use to grade applicants and you'll be doing the best you can to secure that job.

We recommend that at everything step of finding new employment, remove or replace military terms with every-day language. This will be challenging if you've never thought of doing this before. But you can if you avoid language like "*I have commanded teams of various sizes on many deployments in different situations*", or "*I managed a team to achieve the Commander's intent at sea and at shore*". While these examples aren't using military-specific terms, they make statements that only you know the context of. If you wish to use statements like these, then add examples of what you refer to. For example; "*on my last overseas deployment to Iraq, I managed a team of 10 staff for nine months to provide close protection and surveillance at airports, compounds and small villages.*" Or "*I managed a team of four highly skilled technicians over six months to operate the ship's combat radar systems whilst under pressure on high-intensity operations*".

Bottom line - The effectiveness of any written application is only determined by the ratio of applications sent to interviews gained. If you're sending out many applications, but

not getting at least 50% success rate of being invited to an interview, then your written application needs adjusting. Similarly; the effectiveness of promoting yourself at a job interview is assessed by the number of job offers you get in relation to the number of interviews you attend. If either of these ratios aren't what you'd like, ask for help. Right at this moment, in Australia there are a number of funding sources available if the lack of finances is preventing you from seeking assistance.

Defence invest significant time and money in training you to think and perform your military role to achieve the military mandate. We all know that this 'regimented way' of operating is different to most non-Defence workplaces. However, little is offered to help you know how it is different, how to adjust when engaging with civilian employers and also with new team mates when entering a non-Defence workplace.

When engaging with employers, you should know that typically the following traits are much stronger in Defence - focus on safety, teamwork, work rate and work ethic, professionalism and attitude to task completion.

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

There are any number of people and organisations wanting to offer help. But who is best placed to help you with your transition and find a job on a good salary? Our experience is that only someone who personally understands how challenging it is to relate military experiences to civilians and who has also worked in commercial workplaces can understand you, your current situation and help you through the next few months of your transition.

It's your choice to either find your feet through trial and error (which will take time), or seek assistance from those who have gone before you. How much time do you have to learn through trial and error on how to compete

with other job seekers for commercial opportunities?

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

For help in your smooth "Transition to Civilian", contact Trans-Civ www.transciv.com.au.

10 TRANSITION TRAPS

The following transition traps are what the team at Trans-Civ have observed over their 14 years in helping ADF members in their transition to civilian life:

1. Not thinking about your transition until you're almost out of Defence. Your loyalty won't be reciprocated.

2. Thinking that your next career move must be the job you have until retirement. The average time in any job now is only five years.

3. Thinking that because you can talk well with people in general, you'll be fine at job interviews. Talking about yourself in a promoting manner is more difficult than you think.

4. Compiling a Résumé from your own perspective and thinking it will be competitive in this job market. There are over 100 applications on average per job vacancy – above average applications are no longer competitive. Only the best applications get through.

5. Thinking that testing the waters with an average Résumé will be OK. You're asking an employer to judge you on an average Résumé. You can't decide to send them a better version of you later, as they will already have formed an opinion about your suitability.

6. Using a Resume that has grammatical and spelling errors (this

is a major problem). Far too many job seekers send applications out before having them proof read.

7. Thinking a civilian employer will understand the context of your military terms in a written application and at a job interview. In all forms of communication with civilian employers, speak plain language only.

8. Not knowing how to use your existing network to open job opportunities. Your existing network is the best source of securing your first job outside Defence.

9. Thinking that everyone in your new organisation will love you because you served in the Australian military. Know that not everyone will love you and respect what you have done in Defence.

10. Working really hard to prove yourself in your new civilian workplace (it may show up your work colleagues). Be careful of the unintended collateral damage of working too hard in your new job.

THE LOVE OF COFFEE

The Love of Coffee is supporting our veterans and their families through the entire transition from the Defence environment into the commercial workforce and integrating back into our communities.

3 Elements Coffee (a veteran owned Australian coffee company) has developed several blends of high-end premium coffee:

- Allied (full bodied with a hint of chocolate)
- Terra Firma (Army – Strong, robust blend)
- Hydro (RAN - Full bodied blend)
- Airbourne (RAAF - Light blend, but full of flavour)

A percentage of each bag of coffee sold is donated into the EDIT (Ex-Defence Integration Team) program to provide formal transition training to our veterans and their families, in order that they may have a better chance of gaining employment after leaving the military.

Terry McNally Director of 3Elements coffee says ex ADF personnel aren't looking for charity after leaving the military, they are looking for meaningful employment. They want to contribute to the commercial workforce by adding value from skills they have developed whilst being in the military. The only real barrier preventing this happening

is in the military to civilian translation of skill sets and languages. For example; when commercial businesses talk about using programs like Six Sigma and 5S, Defence personnel use instilled discipline to follow processes and maintain safety within the workplace to achieve similar outcomes.

Many civilian companies simply don't understand what military trained personnel can do or offer the commercial workplace, and exiting military personnel don't know what commercial value they have to offer. This is just one of the reasons leaving Defence personnel must be retrained in their thinking. Through organisations like 3 Elements Coffee, Trans-Civ and EDIT, we aim to change the current employer perception of someone with a military background, through empowering each exiting member to fully understand their value proposition and to be able to promote this effectively to commercial employers.

The EDIT Program is a fully recognised transitioning and workplace integration course designed to be undertaken prior to stepping out into the commercial workplace. It goes without saying that being part of the wider Defence community, spouses are also supported through the EDIT Program.

The EDIT Career Transition and Integration Program is a three-day course with two additional practice interviews to ensure each participant not only understands their commercial value, but it also assists with the all-important workplace integration. It is facilitated by ex-Defence members who have also experienced their own Defence transition and have also successfully integrated into a commercial workplace.

3Elements coffee also supports other Defence charities through hiring out of coffee carts and has pledged to support the EDIT transitioning course. You can also help your mates through purchasing 3 Elements Coffee directly from the website www.3elements.coffee.

3 Elements Coffee supports the not-for profit EDIT Program (www.edit.org.au).



Working to save lives in Afghanistan

An Australian Army pathologist deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Highroad is working alongside coalition medics to save lives.

Lieutenant Philip Cameron manages the 'Walking Blood Bank' at the military hospital at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul.

"The Walking Blood Bank is a pre-screened pool of United States and Australian service men and women who are on-call to donate blood during medical emergencies," Lieutenant Cameron said.

"It reduces the need to store and refrigerate large amounts of blood, which can be difficult in Kabul, and it minimises waste, which occurs when donated blood reaches the end of its shelf life."

With blood loss a major cause of death in combat casualties, the Walking Blood Bank can save lives.

The process begins as soon as medical staff are told a casualty being brought to the hospital might require blood.

Several donors from each blood group are called and asked to come in immediately.

After the casualty arrives and Lieutenant Cameron identifies their blood group, a nurse takes blood from the compatible donors.

For safety reasons, blood is drawn from the donor to a bag, not directly from donor to casualty.

"That is for the safety of the donor, so we know how much blood has been taken. We don't want to cause another casualty," Lieutenant Cameron said. "I then walk the bag to the casualty."

The process takes less than 15 minutes from the time the donation begins until the casualty receives the blood.

"The speed of this is key in assisting the clinical staff to have enough time to undertake life-saving interventions," Lieutenant Cameron said.

The donors are volunteers and are pre-screened before they are accepted into the Walking Blood Bank.



An Australian Army pathologist, Lieutenant Phil Cameron, deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Highroad is working alongside Coalition medics to save lives, with the 'Walking Blood Bank' program.

There are about 70 registered donors but Lieutenant Cameron plans to increase that to 120 before the end of his deployment.

The medical facility is a NATO hospital led by the US.

It is staffed by military health professionals and specialists from a number of coalition partners, including Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Norway, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Turkey, Germany, Portugal and the US.

Lieutenant Cameron is assisted by a laboratory technician from Slovakia, Rotna Martina Sedzmkova, and an Australian Army Reserve nursing officer, Captain Joel Donkin.

"We all want to achieve the same goal but it's interesting to see how we do things just a little differently," Lieutenant Cameron said.

As a scientific officer (pathologist), he is responsible for aiding medical practitioners in the diagnosis, monitoring and prevention of disease through the analysis of biological specimens.

Scientific officers serve in the

Army's deployable health unit, 2nd General Health Battalion, based at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.

They are also posted to the Maritime Operational Health Unit in Sydney where they maintain the pathology capabilities on board HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Canberra.



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Security Council condemns attacks against UN Peacekeepers in Mali

Source: Xinhua | **2018-10-28 10:47:19** | **Editor:** Shi Yinglun

United Nations, Oct. 27 (Xinhua) -- The Security Council on Saturday condemned attacks against UN peacekeepers in Mali that left two soldiers dead and several others wounded.

An attack on a UN camp outside of Timbuktu killed two peacekeepers from Burkina Faso and injured 11 others, and four peacekeepers from Togo were injured [wounded] in a convoy attack near Konna, a town in Mopti region, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said earlier Saturday.

Members of the Security Council in a press statement expressed their deepest condolences and sympathy to victims' families, as well as to

the government of Burkina Faso and to the UN mission known by its French acronym as MINUSMA. They further expressed solidarity to the government of Togo.

The members called on the Malian government to swiftly investigate the attacks and bring perpetrators to justice.

Attacks targeting peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law, said the members, stressing that involvement in planning, directing, sponsoring or conducting attacks against MINUSMA peacekeepers constitutes, pursuant to Security Council resolutions, a basis for sanctions designations.

The members expressed their concern about security situation in Mali and transnational terrorist threat

in Sahel region, urging Malian parties to fully implement the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation ("the Agreement") in Mali without further delay.

The Malian government in 2015 signed the Agreement with pro-government militias and some rebel groups in a bid to end hostilities and launch development programs in the troubled northern Mali, as well as to restore peace and stability to the country.

Members of the Security Council stressed that these heinous acts will not undermine their determination to support the peace and reconciliation process in Mali.

Retrieved from: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/28/c_137563886.htm

Australian designer to pitch refugee camp plastic upcycling project at United Nations

Australian designer HY William Chan will present a plastic waste recycling scheme for refugees at the United Nations' Global Goals Week, as part of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, which starts on 18 September in New York City and ends in October.

Co-created with youths at refugee camps in Greece, the project includes upcycling plastic waste material at the camps by refining and converting the it into 3D-printed objects.

Chan's team has successfully produced 3D printing filament from the waste produced by discarded plastic bottles, which was identified as a serious problem by the inhabitants of the Eleonas and Skaramagas refugee camps in Athens.

The team has also produced an accompanying educational curriculum toolkit, which "assists the beneficiaries in integrating with the host community and in employment opportunities as they develop problem solving, entrepreneurship and digital literacy skills through the program."

Chan, an urban designer at Cox Architecture, developed the project as part of a fellowship with the World Innovation Summit for Education and drew on past experiences working on sustainability and urban inclusion projects in informal settlements in South Africa, India and Colombia to inform the work. He is also a Rotary Foundation Centennial Scholar and represented Australia as a Young Ambassador during the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"By advocating the use of design and emerging technologies, we can inspire and educate refugee communities to be innovative architects of their lives and their environment," he said.

"We need to design these



HY William Chan. Image: courtesy HY William Chan

communities with dignity at the core so that refugee camps become hubs of innovation."

The project's development follows the UN's Sustainable Development Goals on education, innovation, sustainable cities and communities, and responsible consumption and production.

News Words Editorial Desk AAU

APPVA Veteran Advocacy Update

Dear Fellow Veterans and Practitioners,

The last 12 months has seen a tumultuous change within the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). These changes have been driven by the controversial suicide of former 1RAR Soldier and Afghanistan Veteran PTE Jessie Bird on 27 June 2017.

Some of the fallout of Jessie's unfortunate choice can be read on:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-14/jesse-bird-veteran-affairs-inquiry-finds-failings/9050594>

However, Jessie's death was not in vain, it was virtually the last straw for the Government and a struggling DVA with a concerned public and Veteran Community.

Significant pressures and measures have been put in place for DVA to fix; and others yet to be completed, along with a Productivity Commission Inquiry; Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Review into DVA; an Advocacy Study; along with a number of Senate Inquiries - which include an Inquiry into Tafenoquine and Mefloquine.

Unfortunately, for the latter, it would appear that the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) on 18 August 2017, will not be raising a Statement of Principle (SOP) for the condition of Chemically-Acquired Brain Injury caused by Mefloquine, Tafenoquine and Primaquine. Link: <http://www.rma.gov.au/sops/condition/chemically-acquired-brain-injury-caused-by-mefloquine-tafenoquine-or-primaquine>

The matter above, is before a Senate Inquiry for further examination into the effects of taking these Malarial Prophylaxis medications whilst serving on Deployments and within Australia. The Inquiry is now all but closed, however it has a reporting date of 29 November 2018, after a request and approval by the Government for an extension. Link: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_

[Defence_and_Trade/Mefloquine](#) (Watch this space).

The huge amount of official information is now available in the Veteran Space, which can be confusing and overwhelming. I highly recommend that if you are considering lodging a claim for a medical condition(s), that you seek advice from a qualified Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) Advocate. A list of these Advocates is available at: <https://www.atdp.org.au/eso/index.php>

The APPVA has a well-oiled network of competent practitioners, along with our own dedicated and hard-working Advocacy Practitioners who are doing great work for our veteran community.

At this point in time the APPVA is seeking volunteers to become involved as ATDP Compensation and Welfare Advocates. This is so that we are able to help our Members, Veterans and their Families. Should you have an interest in this area, please do not hesitate in contacting your State Presidents or Coordinators.

As you may observe, the Veteran space is evolving very quickly and it can be difficult to keep up with all the changes and Inquiries. However, the APPVA is represented in a wide range of State and Federal Veteran Fora. There is much to do in this space, however after our organisation has been practicing as Advocates for over 20 years, we are seeing changes for the better. We are consulting closely with Government and DVA to help fix the problems and ensure that your voice is heard.

It is unfortunate that Jesse Bird had to make the ultimate sacrifice to get these changes through and the Government to wake up to the difficulties that our veterans and their families have/are experiencing with the very Department whose purpose is to look after those who have served. There is light at the end of the tunnel and things can only get better.

"Looking After Our Own"

Allan Thomas, OAM, JP,
Advocate Level 4,
National President on behalf of
APPVA Practitioners and NATCOM.

TRANSFORMING DVA.

The Veteran Centric Reform (VCR), has seen a new approach by DVA, particularly the new Secretary, Ms Liz Cossons AM, CSC. Liz outlined her three priorities for DVA at the Ex-Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) on 14 August 2018. These were:

1. Putting Veterans and their families first;
2. Recognising the Unique nature of Military Service; and
3. Reflect, Remember & Respect Military Service.

More: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about-dva/publications/vetaffairs/vol-33-no3-spring-2017/plan-veteran-centric-reform>

AUSTRALIAN VETERAN COVENANT

Veterans and their families are at the centre of a fresh package of initiatives from our Government to recognise their vital role and service to Australia.

Link: http://minister.dva.gov.au/media_releases/2018/oct/va109.htm

THE VETERAN CARD.

Anyone who is eligible for a DVA White, Gold or Orange card will be eligible for the Veteran Card, including veterans who are transitioning or have transitioned from the Australian Defence Force (ADF). It also includes certain Reservists.

The Veteran Card will support up to 600,000 veterans, in Australia.

The card will help Australian businesses, service providers and community organisations to identify veterans so they can offer their acknowledgement and respect. For example, the card could provide a platform for businesses and community groups to provide tangible recognition and service to holders of the card.

This initiative will formally start in December 2018.

Veteran Cards link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/benefits-and-payments/veteran-card>

VETERAN PAYMENT.

From **1 May 2018**, Veteran Payment provides interim income support to veterans who have lodged a claim for a mental health condition under the Military, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 or the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988, are under age pension age and are incapable of working more than eight hours per week. Partners will also be eligible for veteran payment whilst the veteran is receiving Veteran Payment.

Veteran Payment is an income and asset tested payment, paid fortnightly, with a maximum rate of \$981.30 per fortnight for single persons and \$764.30 (each) per fortnight for members of a couple. Eligible renters may also receive Rent Assistance and those will dependent children may apply to receive Family Tax Benefit Part A through the Department of Human Services without having to satisfy the means test.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-is189-veteran-payment-overview>

VETERAN REHABILITATION.

In DVA rehabilitation, a rehabilitation provider will talk with the veteran to find out what is important to them. A personal plan will be tailored, taking into account individual circumstances and match them with suitable supports and services to meet the veterans' needs.

The booklet Rehabilitation for DVA Clients is available at www.dva.gov.au/rehabilitationbooklet

REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS FOR MEDICAL REPORTS FOR VRB AND SMRC.

As of **1 April 2017**, clients can claim a reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for costs incurred in obtaining relevant documentary medical evidence to support a review or appeal by the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) or the Specialist Medical Review Council (SMRC).

The reimbursement amount applies to each medical condition. The maximum reimbursement amount available previously was \$467.50 per condition.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF VETERANS' INCAPACITY PAYMENTS.

Currently, an eligible veteran's incapacity payments reduce to 75 per cent (or a higher percentage depending on weekly hours worked) of their normal earnings after a period of 45 weeks in receipt of incapacity payment.

Under this measure, an eligible veteran who is participating in a DVA rehabilitation plan, and studying full-time as part of their plan, will receive incapacity payments at 100 per cent of their normal earnings. Their payments will not be reduced after 45 weeks while they maintain full-time study as part of their rehabilitation plan.

This change aims to provide financial surety to veterans and their families, to facilitate ongoing meaningful employment and reduce future reliance on taxpayer funded support. It will benefit veterans who are studying full-time as part of an approved return to work DVA rehabilitation plan.

The change will take effect from **1 November 2018**.

Proposed Change to include Oral Claims for Compensation under MRCA.

Veterans covered under MRCA are now able to claim for compensation with respect to their service related conditions both orally and in writing.

Presently, veterans need to put a claim for compensation in writing in order for it to be treated as a valid claim by DVA. This is unnecessarily burdensome on veterans and creates administrative inefficiencies.

The amendment enables a veteran to indicate orally that he or she is seeking some form of compensation under the MRCA and for that oral indication to be treated as a valid claim under the MRCA. Should veterans prefer to do so, they can still continue to make a claim for compensation in writing and give it to the Commission.

This amendment supports the veteran-centric reforms being made by DVA and will lead to improvements for

clients. The changes make it simpler for veterans to claim compensation.

This change took effect **25 July 2018**.

WHITE CARD ON TRANSITION.

From mid-2018, access to mental health care has become even easier for transitioning ADF personnel when they automatically receive a White Health Card to access mental health treatment, without the need for claiming.

All mental health conditions are covered by this initiative including PTSD, anxiety, sleep disorders, alcohol use disorder and substance dependencies. The condition does not need to be service-related.

Personnel who have already transitioned from the ADF, who do not have a White Card for mental health treatment, may still be able to access this treatment by contacting DVA via email nlhc@dva.gov.au or calling 1800 555 254. More information can be found at www.dva.gov.au/nlhc Another way is to register as a DVA Client on the new DVA My Service Portal <https://www.dva.gov.au/my-service/#/> A guide on how to register is at the YouTube video <https://youtu.be/Y9zJIC8A6W4?t=79>

FAMILY SUPPORT PACKAGE.

This initiative is designed to assist veterans maintain connections with their family, community and employment. Implemented on **1 May 2018**, the following support will help alleviate some of the pressure when families need it the most:

Additional childcare arrangements in specific circumstances for:

- veterans who have rendered warlike service, post 1 July 2004 and are in receipt of incapacity payments and participating in a DVA Rehabilitation Program under the MRCA.
- the spouse/partner of veterans killed in recent conflicts or veterans who have taken their life after returning from warlike service.

Counselling support

- for the immediate family members of MRCA veterans, to enable the family unit to maintain its connections to community, employment and social interaction, and manage within its budget.

Home assistance and counselling support

- for the spouses/partners of veterans killed in recent conflict or veterans who have taken their life after returning from warlike service, to assist them to adjust to life after the death of their partner.

For further information please see the links below

<https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-mrc52-family-support-package-veterans-and-their-families>

<https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-mrc53-family-support-package-widowers>

If you have any questions about the Family Support Package, please send an email to: FAMILY.SUPPORT.PACKAGE@dva.gov.au

CARER ALLOWANCE – IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

Are you a Carer? Have you received a request from Centrelink asking for details of your income? From **20 September 2018**, the Government introduced an income test for Carer Allowance, which is paid by the Department of Human Services (DHS) through Centrelink. As a result, recipients of this payment must now have an income under the income test limit (currently \$250,000 for individuals and couples).

Recipients of DVA income support payments, such as the Service Pension, Veteran Payment and Age Pension, will automatically meet the new income test requirements. However, DHS has advised that it has already issued letters to Carer Allowance recipients, some of whom may be DVA income support recipients, requesting they complete the Carer Allowance adjusted taxable income details form.

If you have received a letter requesting your income details and would like more information, or an extension of time to respond, you can contact Centrelink's Carer's Line or the new Carer Gateway. Centrelink Carer's Line: 132 717.

Carer Gateway DVA is working with DHS to address veteran community concerns as a matter of urgency.

More: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/home-and-care/aged-and-community-care/carers/carers-allowance-important>

DVA ONLINE SERVICES ARE JOINING MYGOV.

DVA has joined its online services with myGov to expand the self-servicing capability and enable veterans and their families to access DVA services online. Supported by the myGov platform, MyService is currently being improved to become DVA's main online channel providing a simpler and more efficient way of interacting with DVA for veterans and their families. For the first time, families and students receiving support through the DVA Education Schemes can now submit claims and lodge supporting documents online. Using MyService, current and former ADF members and, for some services their families can:

- register as a client
- lodge a claim for compensation
- access free mental health treatment
- apply for an increase in the disability pension
- view an electronic copy of a DVA Health Card and accepted conditions
- submit claims for Education Allowance through Education Schemes
- keep personal details up to date, and
- track claims made online.

From **30 July 2018**, DVA veterans and their families will need to create an account with myGov and link with DVA in order to access our online services. This will only need to be done once and you will use the same login and password to access myGov and DVA online services.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about-dva/news-and-updates/dva-online-services-are-joining-mygov>

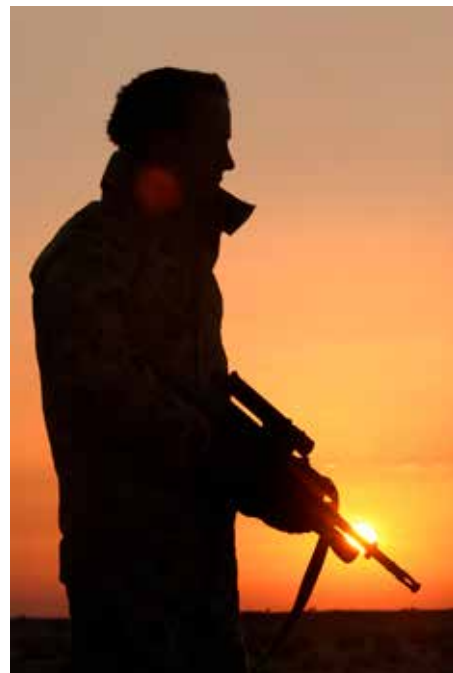
SUBMITTING CLAIMS FOR WHOLLY DEPENDENT PARTNER COMPENSATION UNDER MRCA.

A referral to Service Coordination should be considered if a family would benefit from a single point of contact within DVA to assist with streamlining claims processes, exploring potential entitlements and linkage into to relevant services.

For enquiries, please send an email to: SERVICE.COORDINATION@dva.gov.au

Reference Link:

<http://clik.dva.gov.au/military-compensation-mrca-manuals-and-resources-library/policy-manual/ch-7-compensation-death/710-continuing-permanent-impairment-and-incapacity-etc-payable-wholly-dependent-partners-and-eligible-young-persons-bereavement-payments>



Have you got a story

Contributions by way of articles and photographs are invited from readers of Peacekeeper in the interest of promoting the Association.

Contributions should be sent to: APPVA Admin
PO Box 943, Alstonville NSW 2477 or email
chook126@bigpond.net.au

The APPVA reserves the right to edit all articles submitted for content, length or format.

**AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION**
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)



(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)
ABN 59 558 194 094
APPVA
PO Box 943, Alstonville NSW 2477
Email: secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Contact Details

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

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

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

Phone Mobile

Service Details

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 P.O. Box 943, Alstonville, NSW, 2477

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 Bendigo Bank

Account: APPVA BSB: 633 000 Acc: 160753471 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: 633 000 Acc: 160753471 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

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

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

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

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 Merchandise
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 - Merchandise - APPVA, P.O. Box 943, ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477

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

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

Name..... **Signature**.....

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

DIRECT CREDIT - Internet Transfer - Bendigo Bank

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

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

For All other Financial Institutions:

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

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

The Defence Bank Account has been replaced by Bendigo Bank Account effective Aug 2017.
For Defence Bank users with automatic Debits, the account will be in transition for 12 months ceasing July 2018.
Please ensure you change your banking details to avoid mis-payments.

DELIVERY DETAILS

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

Email..... Country

Mobile

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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

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

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