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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.

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Officer Cadet, Asher Price from the Army Reserves leads a section patrol during a training exercise out of the Murray Bridge Training Area in South Australia. *Defence image*



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and Welcome back to all our members and on lookers, the association was well represented in 2018 at various Anzac Day commemorations nationally. It was good to see with a large number of female Australian Defence Forces ex-service women and current serving women attending marches across the country side.

We now have to change our focus to the Peacekeepers Day in Canberra on 14 September where the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association look to commemorate this occasion with other Peacekeeping associations and the wider veterans community.

Some news From VITA

VITA reminder to TIP-trained advocates

TIP-trained advocates and their ESOs are reminded of the following cut-off dates for VITA insurance coverage for pension and welfare officers and advocates who do not have ATDP accreditation:

TIP Level 1 and 2: Cover will not be available beyond 30 June 2019 (This includes primary claims submitted by TIP Level 3 and 4 Advocates if they do not have ATDP Level 2 accreditation.) TIP Level 3 and 4: Cover will not be available beyond 31 December 2021

So don't delay – sign up for a Recognition of Prior Learning assessment to get your current skills and experience recognised for ATDP accreditation.

If you're not sure if you'll meet the requirements for accreditation, there's an online self-assessment tool for Military Compensation Levels 2 and 3 on the ATDP website:

www.atdp.org.au. There will be a self-assessment tool for Military Welfare Level 2 soon.

If you'd like to brush up your skills, consider asking your ESO to enrol you in ATDP Training for Military Compensation Advocate Level 1 and/or Welfare Advocate Level 1. If you have any other questions or concerns about what's involved in getting ATDP accreditation, have a chat with your friendly Regional

Manager. Their contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

More information You can find the self-assessment tools, information about Recognition of Prior Learning, ATDP training and VITA insurance on the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au. (Scroll to the bottom of the page to find the VITA documents.)

National Forum Updates

Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT)

The ESORT met for the 39th time in Canberra on 9 March 2018. The new Minister, the Hon Darren Chester MP, attended for the morning session. The Minister spoke of his background and pleasure at being appointed as the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

Transformation

The regular Veteran Centric Reform showcase provided an update on:

- the next MyService release which will further streamline the processing of claims
- the ongoing digitisation of client files which continues to assist in reducing the time taken to process claims
- the Australia Post trial which is exploring the effectiveness of using Australia Post retail shopfronts to improve access to DVA information.

Rehabilitation and Support

The ESORT was updated on:

- the progress of new legislation for the new Veteran Payment which was introduced to Parliament on 15 February 2018. The new payment will be available from 1 May 2018 pending the passage of the legislation. Another bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on 15 February, the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Veteran-Centric Reforms No.1) Bill which amends the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* providing additional childcare arrangements, counselling, household services and attendant care for prescribed current and former ADF members.

- the ongoing work of the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program and the programs upcoming

inaugural awards which will be held on 28 March 2018 at Parliament House.

- information and comparison of access, eligibility and time restrictions to education as part of a rehabilitation scheme under the recent United States enacted

Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017, S. 1598 (known as the Forever GI Bill) the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Defence-related Claims 1988* (DRCA).

Health and Community Services

An update was provided on continuing research into suicide in the Australian Defence Force and ex-serving community, the implementation of various suicide prevention pilots funded under the 2017-18 budget measure, the Centenary of ANZAC Centre, ADF post-discharge GP health assessments, the Psychiatric Assistance Dog trial, the first release of the AT Ease Channel redevelopment project due to commence shortly, the expansion of the Men's Health Peer Education Program to include the promotion of women's and contemporary veterans' health, an update on progress of the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme, the review of the 2018 Rehabilitation Appliances Program, the veteran membership funding proposal from the Diabetes Associations across Australia.

Client and Commemorations

Members were updated on Domestic and International commemorations that the Department will be planning for and delivering in 2018.

Legislation Update

Members were provided with an update on the Veteran-centric Reforms No. 1 and Omnibus Bills. Members were also advised that it is anticipated that two sets of *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) regulation amendments will be developed this year.

Defence Update

Members were addressed by

representatives from the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme and provided with an overview of the aims of the scheme, which is to provide an incentive to members to remain in the Australian Defence Force. A further item was presented by BRIG Gavin Duncan DSC on the Renewal Program which realigns work structures, values and culture within Special Operations Command.

Member Submissions

A range of issues important to ESORT members were also discussed under various submissions which included the future of Advocacy, the need to prioritise strategic issues for consideration of ESORT, the complexity of collaboration across Ex-service organisations and the request for regular updates on the progress of recommendations from the Senate Inquiry into Veterans Suicide.

National Aged and Community Care Forum - NACCF

The National Aged and Community Care Forum met in Canberra on 23 March 2018.

Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) Review

The RAP provides aids and appliances to eligible Gold and White Card holders to help them maintain independence in their homes. DVA regularly reviews its programs to ensure they are meeting the needs of clients and are effective and efficient. While the RAP Schedule is reviewed approximately six monthly, the last comprehensive review of the Program was in 2013.

The aim of the Review is to ensure RAP:

- continues to meet the clinically assessed needs of the veteran community; and
 - it is flexible and responsive in catering for the future needs of all eligible veterans and their dependents.
- Members were encouraged to submit written input by email to RAP. Review.2018@dva.gov.au by 30 April 2018.

Navigating the community and aged care system

The Department of Health is undertaking work to improve the usability of My Aged Care and has been seeking input from DVA on a

number of their aged care publications to ensure information regarding veterans and their dependents is included. This includes input to the Department of Health's publication, 'Five steps to entry into an aged care home', which is currently being updated.

Members were encouraged to view the 'Navigating Aged Care' webpage on DVA's website to explain the linkages between DVA and Health. DVA is also developing a 'companion' e booklet to this publication with veteran-specific information.

Diabetes memberships for DVA clients

DVA currently funds four state and territory diabetes associations (QLD, NSW/ACT, SA and NT) for membership fees for eligible veterans. The remaining associations (VIC, WA and TAS) have not previously applied for DVA funding.

The Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission will shortly be considering a joint proposal from all state and territory diabetes associations, which would enable eligible veterans across Australia access to diabetes associations' education services.

Veterans' Home Care (VHC) procurement

On 3 April 2017, DVA released a Request for Tender for the delivery of VHC services as the Department is required to approach the market at regular intervals to ensure it obtains the best value for money when purchasing services for veterans.

DVA worked closely with new VHC service providers to assist with training new staff, to schedule a smooth transition and to maintain continuity of care to veterans. All affected clients were contacted about the changes and were advised that if they have any issues with their new VHC service provider they can request to be allocated to a different provider in their region.

Transformation and VCR Showcase

Members were updated on the range of transformation projects currently underway in the Department. Members were provided a demonstration on the new online MyService application designed to significantly improve the

times taken to process claims.

Department of Health Update

The members received an update on the improvements to the My Aged Care website and how the Department of Health are working towards a simplified language and pathways to access services. This project has been co-designed with reference groups, real clients and real users. It is an example of positive collaboration with DVA to provide clearer pathways to care.

Member submissions

Two member submissions were raised by members.

Aged care facility fees

This submission raised the question of whether or not the totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) component of a veteran's income is included when assessing the amount to be paid for care in an aged care facility.

Members were advised income that is assessed for pension purposes at an aged care facility includes the disability pension. However, when a client has Qualifying Service, disability pension payments are excluded from the calculation of aged care fees.

If Qualifying Service has been rejected or alternately never tested, then any amount of disability pension received by that client will be included when calculating aged care fees. This includes TPI payments.

Aged care facility inspections

This submission questioned if DVA, or an Agency on its behalf, carry out inspections of aged care facilities to determine their suitability for veterans.

Members were advised DVA does not carry out inspections of aged care facilities. However, the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency, which is approved under the Aged Care Act 1997, ensures high quality care for people receiving Australian Government-subsidised aged care.

The Aged Care Complaints Commissioner provides a free service for anyone to raise their concerns about the quality of care or services being delivered to people receiving aged care services subsidised by the Australian Government.

Guest Presentations

Forum members were addressed by a guest presenter from Allianz Assist, who introduced the objective of Allianz Assist is to provide appliances, care and support to veterans and update members on their current pilot working with Legacy Australia to provide support to DVA clients and non DVA clients.

Operational Working Party

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the OWP for 2018.

Chief Health Officer / Principal Medical Adviser Update

Members were provided with information on the Commonwealth Government's revised timelines for cervical cancer screening following the establishment of a much more sensitive test on identifying the presence of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). Due to the improvements in screening, the frequency of the test is now every five years and continues to be covered by DVA's treatment cards. Members were advised of a two studies being undertaken on behalf of DVA regarding the ADF, its use of firefighting chemicals and potential exposure to its members.

Productivity Commission Inquiry

Members received information regarding the processes and timeframes for the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the rehabilitation and compensation system for current serving members and veterans. At the time of the meeting, the Terms of Reference had yet to be released but were expected to be announced shortly.

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Presentations

Representatives from each of the ADF Services attended the meeting to discuss the calculation of career progression as it relates to compensation cases. Members were advised that each of the Services currently have different methods of calculating career progression and that DVA makes compensation decisions based upon the advice provided by the ADF. A joint DVA and Defence working group had been convened to identify opportunities

to harmonise career calculation methodology. Members were also shown the Department of Defence's 'Engage' website which provides a common access point to information on the broad range of services and support available through Government agencies and from the External Support Community.

Dental Prosthesis Claims and Processes

Members were provided with information regarding the process for claiming dental prostheses. Following consultation with the industry, DVA has consolidated the required forms to access these procedures resulting in a significant reduction in the time taken to process such claims. The revised forms and processes have been endorsed by the Australian Dental Association and communicated across the industry and veteran community.

Transformation & Veteran Centric Reform Showcase

Members were updated on continuing improvements and enhancements to the DVA MyService web application and how it is delivering benefits for veterans and their families.

Rehabilitation

Members received an overview of the DVA Rehabilitation Program, including the eligibility criteria and assistance available to veterans. The benefits of focusing on the holistic 'wellness' of veterans and their families was also discussed. Members will be briefed on successful individual case studies at a future meeting.

Member Submissions

Submissions were received from the Australian Special Air Service Association, Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans Association, Royal Australian Regiment Association, and the Naval Association of Australia on the following topics:

- Incapacity payments and the application of Statements of Principles;
- Appeal rates
- Fast tracking of claims involving mental health and the Military Rehabilitation Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) compared to the Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986

• The Special Operations Forces Pilot occurring at Holsworthy Barracks to support a seamless, end-to-end experience for transitioning ADF members

• Acceptance of Repatriation Health Cards for the cost of treatment; and

• MRCA in regards to the Special Rate of Disability Pension and the period of incapacity to work.

Younger Veterans – Contemporary Needs Forum

The Forum convened in Canberra on Thursday 8 March 2018.

Discussions covered a range of topics.

The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) Update

The VVCS has been undertaking a range of activities in response to recent reviews and community feedback in order to strengthen client accessibility and service delivery responsiveness. These activities include a Telemedicine trial using Skype for consultations which is progressing well and the addition of six Assistant Director Clinical positions which is resulting in the escalation of urgent care being provided to our most at risk group.

Health and Community Services Update

Members were updated on the ongoing mental and social health initiatives including the current Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) review and mental health update.

The RAP assists entitled veterans, war widow/ers and dependants through the provision of aids and appliances to minimise the impact of disabilities, enhance quality of life and maximise independence when undertaking daily living activities. The RAP is currently under review to ensure the program is efficient, effective and appropriate. As part of the review written responses are being sought and can be provided by email to RAP.Review.2018@dva.gov.au with a closing date of 30 April 2018.

The mental health update highlighted the Co-ordinated Veterans Care Program and the extension of access to younger clients. The program assists those clients who

have mild to moderate depression to link with allied health professionals.

Rehabilitation and Support Update

An update on the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program was provided to members. A key focus under the Program is the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program Awards, which will recognise the achievements of companies in creating employment opportunities for veterans and ADF spouses.

An overview of rehabilitation was provided to members, including the rehabilitation success of three individuals who have participated in DVA's Rehabilitation Program and undertaken further study.

Chief Health Officer / Principal Medical Adviser Update

Dr Ian Gardner provided an update on:

- the "streamlining" of conditions to facilitate quick acceptance of claims;
- concerns in some parts of the veteran community around the long term effects of the anti-malarial drug Mefloquine on the brain. The Repatriation Medical Authority has determined that there is insufficient medical-scientific evidence that this exposure causes chronic brain injury. The Specialist Medical Review Council is currently reviewing this decision.

- the work being done at the national level on the use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) by firefighters, noting that there is marginal evidence of any health impacts but that there are environmental concerns. Further information is to be provided on this issue at the next meeting.

Issues and Roadblocks to Transition

An update was provided on the work of the Transition Taskforce. Members discussed the roadblocks to transition and the development of "conditions for success", including a single medical assessment process and mandatory transition plans for all discharging ADF members.

Member Submissions

The Forum heard a total of four member submissions from the Remembrance Foundation, Modern Soldier, Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association

and the Australian Veterans Alliance. The submissions addressed:

- clarification of the internal process, policy and procedures for actioning claims from start to finish;
- clarification of the process and required documentation when claiming incapacity payments/loss of income;
- the emerging issues surrounding Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme entitlement while receiving the Comsuper Invalidity Pension; and
- the 5% incapacity payment reduction for veterans under DRCA.

Guest Presentations

The Forum heard a presentation on the Veteran Community Outreach Project: Paulatim delivered by Talissa Papamau as a representative of the Remembrance Foundation. The Foundation has collaborated with DVA, the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service and Phoenix Australia - Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health to investigate the evidence basis and effectiveness of an outreach service delivery model with a focus on mental health conditions and suicide prevention. The initial phase of the project, which will produce a literature review, will be complete at the end of April.

That concludes my report for this years Spring Addition of the Peacekeepers Magazine, I look forward to providing our members with the most up to date information from a national perspective.

Allan Thomas OAM, JP

DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION (APPVA) INC.

Dear fellow Peacekeepers and Peacemakers;

During the last few months issues have developed that have had the potential to damage the good standing and reputation of the association with federal and state governments, other Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) and the wider community. An investigation was in progress when in mid-June the National Committee of Management (NATCOM) of the APPVA was

presented with specific allegations of prejudicial conduct with enough evidence to initiate disciplinary action in accordance with the national constitution. To that end the alleged offenders were requested to suspend all official and general APPVA activities and were advised that an independent disciplinary sub-committee was being appointed to investigate the specific allegations and that they would each have a right of reply and appeal to that sub-committee. Those members were also requested not to use social media or communicate pending the disciplinary sub-committee hearing their case. This was requested for a number of reasons including protecting their personal and the association's reputations, to give them a fair hearing and to prevent any of the alleged issues from escalating.

Since those members were notified on the 21st of June 2018 all have engaged in multiple communications and actions, with some members also releasing media releases, social media posts and emails containing allegations, accusations and even threats. These have all been in flagrant and repeated disregard of the requested communication black out and have attempted to damage the personal reputation of other members and also the wider association. Because of this ongoing prejudicial conduct and deteriorating situation the NATCOM reluctantly and with great regret decided on the 11th of July 2018 to expel the alleged offenders from the association. This means that the ex-members listed below can no longer vote, hold office or represent the association in any capacity. Relevant federal and state authorities and other ESO are being formally advised of the expulsions.

With regard to this whole situation NATCOM wants to emphasise the following points:

- The independent disciplinary sub-committee has been appointed and will still investigate both the original issues and specific allegations. The sub-committee includes association members with police investigative experience as well as an independent 3rd party with legal and veteran's affairs expertise.

- All members belong to the national association and its constitution, but are managed by their local branches which act in

accordance with their state approved constitutions. NATCOM has expelled the listed ex-members from the entire association which automatically includes any relationship they had with their branch.

- Following on the previous point, any issues currently being dealt with by a state branch remain the responsibility of that branch, with ex-members no longer being able to participate except as an external party.

- NATCOM is working with other

ESOs to ensure that any veteran who was being represented by the ex-members will still be represented.

None of the issues or allegations have been mentioned in this correspondence in order to maintain the integrity of the investigation and the reputations of the accused. We hope this clarifies what has and is still occurring and why it has not been widely publicised. We request that you do not spread any rumours or allegations, but if you do have anything

that concerns you, you should bring it to the attention of one of the NATCOM members listed below. This is a trying and stressful time for all concerned and we request your forbearance as we work our way through it.

The NATCOM requests that any correspondence be sent through email to: president@peacekeepers.asn.au

Allan Thomas OAM, JP
National President

TO VICTORIAN MEMBERS

Recent months has seen a significant amount of turmoil and angst as I foresaw back in via my president's report at the Feb 2018 QGM.

We have now matters referred to the police, several members of Victoria expelled by the National Committee (NATCOM) with ongoing internal and external investigations. The trigger was a governance inspection that inspects the minutes versus the financial records. To date the minutes have been provided to the Governance Inspector and we are still waiting on the financial records. Why are the financial records not forthcoming is what you need to be asking?

Two weeks ago, the committee froze the financial accounts legally via the bank after determining that a non-committee member was an active signatory to the accounts. This was contrary to an email instruction I sent to the committee around the 4th March 2018, to ensure we started moving towards compliant governance.

On the 11th May and 08 July three "committee" meetings were held but only one was in accordance with the Victorian governance document. One even was called an AGM and offered free membership which the States branches cannot offer, so several members were not entitled to attend or vote and are not financial members and also several members were under suspension that now have been dismissed. The main organiser of this meeting was the former Vice President, that had resigned in many written forms that it was farcical, who presided over these meeting in a non-compliant position and therefore with no quorum nor governance

conformance. Your current Victorian Executives are Mr Mark Moles (Victorian State Secretary) and me, Mr Mark Horner (Victorian State President), so if you have any queries please direct them to either Mr Moles or myself.

APPVA membership are held nationally and aligned locally but in the case of admittance or expulsion to or from the Association, that function is the sole responsibility of NATCOM. Those members that have been dismissed back on the 11th July and were notified in writing by NATCOM.


In terms of my current residential location, yes, it is now interstate after relocation some weeks back, but those loud but irrelevant breach of the constitution claims from some opponents, need to peruse the governance document as there is oddly enough no specific requirement to reside in Victoria. That is a fact. I stated back in November 2017 AGM, that I would see the GI process through before I step down and that GI has not been concluded due to frustration of those with vested interests in not allowing it to proceed with all the required documents being made available, that belong to APPVA Victoria.

In regards to the OP Shop, we will be advertising a full time or position sharing management role to manage and operate the OP Shop in the near future to ensure that it remains a viable operation.

There are a lot of kangaroo court proceedings being conducted by real or fake social media profiles and we have three Victorian FB pages, of which there is only one official page. The other two are being looked at in terms of use of IP and breaches of copyright as well as defamatory posts or management or such on these and other pages. Those admins on those pages need to consider the legal implications as well as the harm they are causing our members and veterans. Think before you post or join.

It is conclusion it is hope that those correctly dismissed members move on from the Association and let us APPVA get back to looking after our own veterans where some other ESOs have let us down in the past.

Regards
Mark Horner
State President Victoria



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
president@peacekeepers.asn.au

The APPVA reserves the right to edit all articles submitted for content, length or format.

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TOUGHBOOK

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Exercise HAMEL represented the first time this new BMS technology was featured in an Australian military operational exercise and it successfully connected the main battle tanks to the Army's battle management network. Prior to integrating the battle management hardware, the tanks had not been able to communicate on this mission-critical network.

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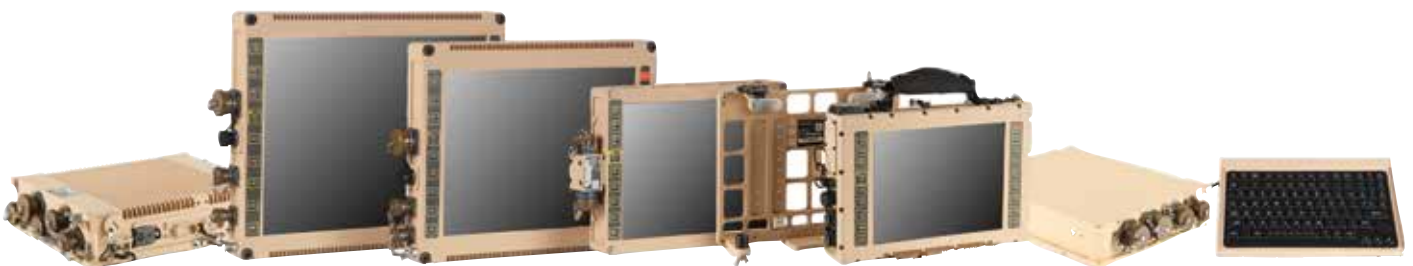
The BMS hardware, similar to the Leonardo DRS Mounted Family of Computer Systems (MFOCS) used by the U.S. military and other allied nations, is able to run multiple mission command applications simultaneously, including Command and Control, Maneuver, Logistics and Situational Awareness systems, all while being engineered to accommodate future software demands.

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 **LEONARDO DRS**

Shakeup of Defence 'call-out' powers will make it easier for police to request military backup during terror attacks

By defence reporter Andrew Greene. June 27th.

Requests for military backup during terrorist attacks would become easier under a shakeup of Defence "call-out" powers being introduced into Federal Parliament.

It will also allow the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to be pre-authorised to respond to threats on land, at sea and in the air, and will expand the military's powers to search, seize, and control movement at the scene of a terrorist incident.

The measures were recommended last year in a Defence counter-terrorism review which was prompted by the Lindt cafe siege, and other recent deadly international terrorist attacks.

LONDON ATTACK PUTS MILITARY CALL-OUT POWERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Under the changes to the Defence Act, it will become simpler for states and territories to request ADF support during a terrorist attack or other widespread and coordinated violent incidents such as riots.

Police will continue to take charge over dealing with terrorism incidents and the Government stresses that the military's Tactical Assault Groups dedicated to counter-terrorism may not be able to do so in time if attacks occur away from their bases in Sydney and Perth.

Attorney-General Christian Porter said the changes to the ADF's "call-out" powers are the most significant changes since the provisions were enacted in 2000 in the lead up to the Sydney Olympics.

"The terror threat we face is greater and more complex than that we faced when these laws were introduced almost 20 years ago," Mr Porter said.

"The Government is committed to ensuring that law enforcement agencies around Australia can easily request ADF assistance to respond to these threats where necessary and are available to states and territories to assist with other major incidents, such as geographically dispersed or otherwise widespread, coordinated acts of violence or other domestic incidents that threaten the security and lives of Australians."

Defence Minister Marise Payne said the changes were part of a



A soldier and police officer walk past the Houses of Parliament London. *Neil Hall*

suite of measures being rolled out to enhance the ADF's support to national counter-terrorism arrangements.

"Defence has already strengthened the practical support it provides to state and territory police since the outcomes of the review were announced in July last year," Senator Payne said.

"This includes the establishment of an enhanced ADF counter-terrorism liaison network with state and territory police, a broadened program of specialist training and streamlined police access to Defence facilities, such as rifle ranges," she added.

Neil James from the Australia Defence Association supports the overhaul but believes today's legislation simply formalises much of what already occurs.

"The whole concept of this goes back centuries back in the days when they didn't have police forces and governments used to call on the military to do things that the police now do. All this is doing is putting in a statute what is a century-and-a-half of precedent."

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-28/military-call-out-powers-up-for-debate-legislation-in-parliament/9916636>



Malcolm Turnbull announced in July last year the Government was looking to change call-out powers. *Brendan Esposito*



Using troops to respond to a terrorist attack in Australia would be a last resort, but one put back in the spotlight after attacks worldwide.



NSW public order and riot squad police gather outside the Lindt Chocolat Cafe during the violent 2014 siege.
Dan Himbrechts

CRC's specialty chemicals giving defence industries a clean advantage

As one of Australia's leading manufacturers of chemical cleaners, CRC Industries offers a comprehensive range of scientifically formulated products specifically targeted to meet the needs of Australia's defence industries.

CRC's diverse offering of aerosol and bulk cleaning products and systems cater for a broad range of defence applications including auto mechanical, heavy vehicles, aviation, electrical precision, marine and more.

Managing Director of CRC Australia, Shona Fitzgerald, said the company was dedicated to increasing the efficiency, reliability and safety of machinery and equipment through the provision of technologically advanced, high performance products.

"The defence sector is critically aware of the importance of asset protection and performance and the detrimental effects poor cleaning and maintenance protocols can have on machinery and equipment wear, safety and workplace productivity," Mrs Fitzgerald said.

"CRC's proven products and industry best practice are giving military and peacekeeping teams peace of mind and the ability to extend equipment life and provide healthier and safer working conditions."

Mrs Fitzgerald said CRC's expertise in supplying the defence sector was based on its commitment to innovation, strong process understanding and distribution networks.

"Through our proven systems, products and services, backed by over

50 years' experience, we are proud of the role we have played in providing customers with excellent outcomes in productivity, labour management, equipment maintenance and safety," Mrs Fitzgerald said.

"The defence industry has high standards and so do we. CRC is recognised as being a leader in product quality, performance and regulatory compliance.

"Our research and development team continually advances new and improved products to help workers in the defence industry do their job faster, easier and safer.

"As a premium supplier of quality industrial cleaners, degreasers, corrosion inhibitors and effective lubricants, we offer the tools needed to keep operations running smoothly, even in the harshest environments," she said.

When choosing an industrial cleaner it is important you are getting the product that is best suited to your needs, and to seek professional advice where needed.

"There are many options to consider such as whether to use chlorinated or non-chlorinated formulas, with each have their advantages depending the specific applications and compliance protocols," Mrs Fitzgerald said.

Traditional chlorinated solvents such as CRC Brakleen is an industry favourite because of its fast evaporation and good cleaning properties for non-polar soils such as grease, oil and carbon deposits.

CRC also offers an extensive range of non-chlorinated solvent blends such as Non-Chlorinated Brakleen, Brakleen Force and Lectra-Clean in addition to brominated, fluorinated and naturally derived solvents.

In each case it is important for users to familiarise themselves with the intended use, follow directions carefully and consider factors such as flammability, controls for EHS and effects that some compounds may have on materials such as plastics and elastomers.

Here's a small sample of some of CRC's best-selling cleaners:

SmartWasher: Considered across multiple industry sectors as the ultimate solution to parts washing, CRC's patented SmartWasher systems deliver high-performance cleaning

while maintaining a non-hazardous and non-flammable environment. The SmartWasher uses a natural process called bioremediation to degrade and remove contaminants from its cleaning fluid, allowing re-use.

CRC NF Contact Cleaner is a revolutionary precision cleaning solvent which is non-flammable, chemically stable, non-conductive, non-corrosive and fast evaporating. NF Contact Cleaner instantly removes grease, oil, dirt, flux and other contaminants.

CRC Brakleen NF: A non-flammable (NF) heavy duty cleaner and degreaser for brake, clutch parts and general mechanical equipment. With its excellent penetration, CRC Brakleen NF helps brakes last longer and perform better, helps eliminate brake squeal and clutch chatter and safely settles and removes potentially hazardous brake dust. It is powerful, quick cleaning, quick evaporating, non-staining, non-corrosive and silicone free.

Brakleen Compliance Plus: This modern technology product has been formulated to not only remove brake fluid, grease, oil and other contaminants from linings and pads, but is an ideal wetting agent for both brakes and clutches. Brakleen Compliance Plus is designed to be applied using a plastic sprayer, creating a mist which settles and removes dust from brake and clutch assemblies, keeping users in line with new Australian regulations prohibiting the use of compressed gas for the removal of debris. In jurisdictions not impacted by the new laws, CRC's original brake parts cleaner **Brakleen** and **Brakleen Force** are non-staining and non-corrosive products designed to safely settle and remove dust without the need for disassembly.

CRC CO Contact Cleaner: A precision electronic cleaning solvent, CO Contact Cleaner is a technically proven, stable, inert, plastic safe formula. It is a high purity, non-staining, cleaning solvent with rapid evaporation.

CRC Lectra-Clean: A trusted electric motor and equipment cleaner and degreaser. The TCE free product effectively removes grease, oil, wax dirt and other contaminants from motors, parts and other electrical and mechanical equipment.

Further enquiries: 1800 224 227 or info.au@crcind.com



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The new CRC Brakleen NF is a powerful, heavy duty cleaner and degreaser for brake, clutch parts and general mechanical equipment, formulated to quickly and safely dissolve and flush away grease, oil, brake fluid, transmission fluid, hardened deposits and other contaminants.

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Boasting a 220m beam
distance at 1000 lumens.

TM03

Tactical torch that can
be adjusted between
Suppressive Light Mode
and Strobe Ready Mode;
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HC65

Includes a high CRI
auxiliary red light which
helps users preserve night
vision in dark areas.



Industry consultation begins on Land 400 Phase 3



Phase 3 will replace Army's M113s. *Defence*

Defence is seeking input from Australian industry on the proposed tender timeline for LAND 400 Phase 3.

The acquisition of mounted close combat vehicle capability through the tender will be one of Army's largest purchases.

According to Minister for Defence Industry Christopher Pyne, consulting on the draft timeline would lead to a smoother and better informed tender process reducing the cost of tendering to industry.

This multi-billion-dollar project will replace Army's M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers with a fleet of up to 450 modern Infantry Fighting Vehicles and 17 Manoeuvre Support Vehicles

"Just as with the Phase 2 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles, Australian industry involvement and Australian

workers will be critically important to this project," Minister Pyne said.

"This project is another exciting opportunity for Australian industry to deliver leading edge technology in support of the Army."

Minister for Defence Marise Payne said the government was committed to investing in advanced vehicles that are better equipped to meet the range of current and emerging threats which are becoming more lethal and sophisticated.

"This multi-billion-dollar project will replace Army's M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers with a fleet of up to 450 modern Infantry Fighting Vehicles and 17 Manoeuvre Support Vehicles," Minister Payne said.

"These will provide new levels of protection, firepower, mobility and enhanced communications. The new

vehicles are expected to enter into service by the mid-2020s."

"The proposed tender timeline identifies key milestones in the tender evaluation. We welcome industry's feedback on the timeline to better enable both industry and defence to plan for this significant boost to capability."

The government provided First Pass approval for Land 400 Phase 3 in March to acquire the Infantry Fighting Vehicle and Manoeuvre Support Vehicle capabilities.

The opportunity to review and comment on the timeline will remain available until Monday 9 July.

Read more at <http://www.australiandefence.com.au/land/industry-consultation-begins-on-land-400-phase-3#xMvkdITVULSa83K1.99>

A quick reaction force (QRF) moulded by Africa's circumstances

Africa's crises are both honing and stalling the formation of the African Standby Force (ASF) of the African Union (AU) - a quick reaction force that could eventually number about 30,000 troops to be deployed in a range of scenarios, from peacekeeping to direct military intervention.

Originally intended to become operational in 2010, the deadline for the ASF has been reset for 2015; but despite the delay, the ASF is becoming increasingly woven into the operating procedures of current AU security operations.

The ASF "is very much a work in progress", African Union Commissioner of Peace and Security Ramtane Lamamra told IRIN, but "at the political level there is a strong support for it under the guiding principle of bringing about African solutions to African problems."

Once up and running, the ASF will be based on five regional blocs each supplying about 5,000 troops: The Southern African Development Community (SADC) force (SADCBRIG), the Eastern Africa Standby force (EASBRIG), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) force (ECOBRI), the North African Regional Capability (NARC), and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) force (ECCASBRIG), also known as the Multinational Force of Central Africa (FOMAC).

The regional forces are not a standing army like national forces. As the AU Peace and Security Council protocol of the ASF stipulates, they "shall be composed of standby multidisciplinary contingents with civilian and military components in their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment at appropriate notice."

The ASF is the legacy and logic of the Constitutive Act of the AU adopted in 2000, the successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). In a complete break from the OAU, which had advocated non-interference in member states, the Act gave the AU

both the right to intervene in a crisis, and an obligation to do so "in respect of grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity".

Lamamra said the ASF "Implies the immediate availability of the instruments [of intervention and prevention] to be translated into concrete deeds... when they relate to some kind of enforcing decisions of the legitimate organs of the African Union, such as cases of unconstitutional changes of government... or armed rebellion, such as the terrorist situation in northern Mali."

I believe the learning curve for the standby force is AMISOM. We have to deliver on the lessons learned in the AMISOM process

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was held up as an example of what the ASF could be. "I believe the learning curve for the standby force is AMISOM. We have to deliver on the lessons learned in the AMISOM process - five years of effective presence on the ground under quite challenging circumstances," Lamamra said.

"The lesson of AMISOM is that Africans should be ready to make sacrifices, and Uganda has wonderfully shown that they are ready to make sacrifices for the common good of Africa." Uganda has supplied most of the AU troops supporting the Somali government against jihadist rebels.

The AU has deployed 14 staff officers to Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, "in the first ever deployment of ASF elements," El Gassim Wane, AU Commission director of peace and security, told IRIN.

A field exercise - Amani II, following the Amani I mapping exercise in 2010 - is being planned for 2014 and three of the five brigades are expected to take part.

ARTICLE 4 (H)

Lamamra was confident that by 2015 all of the ASF's regional brigades - with the probable exception of NARC, owing to the disruptions of the Arab Spring - would be operational and able to fulfil all the criteria of AU's Article 4 (h), which influenced the international development of the UN Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine.

There are six scenarios in Article 4 (h). The lowest rung is the attachment of a regional military advisor to a political mission; then an AU regional observer deployed within a UN mission; followed by a stand-alone AU regional observer mission; and deployment of a regional peacekeeping force under the auspices of a Chapter VI mandate, all within a timeframe of 30 days or less. Scenario five is a multidimensional AU peacekeeping force deployed within 90 days, and scenario six relates to "grave circumstances", such as genocide, and deployment within 14 days.

Lamamra said the timeline of 14 days for level-six intervention should be reassessed to about seven days. "For instance, resolution 1973 of the UN Security Council was adopted on 17 March and the actual military operation started on 19th March - 14 days would have been too much in terms of protecting civilians."

In a 2010 paper, *The Role and Place of the African Standby Force within the African Peace and Security Architecture*, Solomon Dersso, a senior researcher at the Addis Ababa office of the Institute for Security Studies, a Pretoria-based think-tank, notes that "Article 4 (h) not only creates the legal basis for intervention but also imposes an obligation on the AU to intervene to prevent or stop the perpetration of such heinous international crimes anywhere on the continent."

However, implementation of R2P rests with the Security Council, while the imposition of Article 4 (h) resides with the AU and does not require the Security Council's blessing.



Scenario six of Article 4 (h) has yet to be used by the AU and Dersso told IRIN he “sincerely doubted” the article would be invoked in the short term against member states, as “it would deprive the AU of any leverage it has over a target government,” and the AU has already “shied away” from implementing the article in Darfur.

He expected the ASF to be close to being able to comply with Article 4 (h) level-five scenarios by 2015, but the development of regional forces was proceeding at different paces.

The two-speed progress of the regional brigades - in which ECOWAS and SADC are recognised as the furthest along the path - is not just a consequence of the two regional blocs housing the continent’s economic power houses of Nigeria and South Africa, AU Commission director of peace and security El Gassim Wane told IRIN.

Intrinsically, in most of these situations what is needed is a political response, and there is a temptation that if you have a standby force to use it because you have a military capacity

“ECOWAS and SADC have made tremendous progress, EAS Brigade too, while NARC in the north was lagging behind, but then started speeding up, but the Libyan crisis

meant progress had to stop,” he said.

“Money may play a role, but money alone cannot explain that. ECOWAS and SADC focused early on conflict and security issues, so had a competitive advantage in the very beginning. Experience, length of involvement in peace and security issues, have certainly played a key role,” Wane said.

Alex de Waal, executive director of the World Peace Foundation, told IRIN the availability of a standby force could cloud judgment.

“Intrinsically, in most of these situations what is needed is a political response, and there is a temptation that if you have a standby force to use it because you have a military capacity... And my concern over something like Mali would be that the military option runs the danger of getting the AU into a Somalia-type situation, where the use of military force five or six years ago by the US and Ethiopia very seriously rebounded. But having said that - yes, in a situation where there is a need for some sort of peacekeeping deployment in the context of a political initiative, it makes sense.”

ALTERNATIVES TO THE ASF?

Analysts have questioned whether 30,000 troops would be sufficient to deal with the continent’s crises, and 2012 has illustrated that such concerns are valid. A range of crises this year erupted within the space of a few weeks, from the uneasy relationship between South Sudan and Sudan deteriorating into border skirmishing, to coup d’etats in Mali and Guinea-Bissau.

Wane said the establishment of the ASF did not necessarily mean it would be the only security option at the AU’s disposal, and the four-country operation against Joseph Kony’s Lord’s Resistance Army, (LRA) a rebel movement that started in northern Uganda, could be considered as a useful model for the future.

“It’s not an ASF operation per se, as ASF has its own processes, and it was not really conceived as an ASF operation - it was conceived as an ad hoc, very flexible arrangement to enhance effectiveness to deal with the LRA once and for all. It’s a very flexible

and creative way of dealing with a specific security issue... Who knows? We may replicate it elsewhere, where there is a security problem,” he said.

The force ranged against the LRA - comprising soldiers from the Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Uganda - has fought against the LRA in past, but is set apart, as it operates under the aegis of the AU.

Abou Moussa, the Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), based in Libreville, Gabon, told IRIN: “The specific nature of this deployment [against the LRA] is termed ‘authorised’ as compared to ‘mandated’.”

“Under authorised deployment, each country provides for the needs and requirements of their respective troops without the AU’s contribution. This is extremely important, as this can be considered as their own contribution towards the determination to put an end to Kony’s actions. It is very costly. However, the AU covers the needs of staff officers - some 30 of them posted to the various coordinating centres.”

The AU task force has three operational centres, located in Dungu, DRC, at Obo in CAR, and Nzara in South Sudan, with its headquarters in Yambio, South Sudan.

“The Regional Coordination Initiative [against the LRA] means more subtle changes in the way the operation is run, with representatives of all four countries involved in the command structure in Yambio,” which sidesteps the politically sensitive issue of the DRC’s refusal to host Ugandan forces on its soil, Ned Dalby, a central Africa analyst for the International Crisis Group, a conflict resolution NGO, told IRIN.

In July 2005, the International Criminal Court indicted Kony and four of his commanders, Okot Odhiambo, Dominic Ongwen, Raska Lukwiya and Vincent Otti, for a variety of crimes against humanity and war crimes. Lukwiya and Otti have subsequently been killed, but the arrest warrants for the remaining three remain outstanding. The LRA has not been active in Uganda since 2006.

Source: <http://www.irinnews.org/news/2012/05/09>

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100% Australian owned, R&J Batteries is now one of the fastest growing battery companies across both Australia and New Zealand. Co-founder and Managing Director Ray Robson's strong commitment to quality ensures only the very best products are sourced from around the globe.

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 facade 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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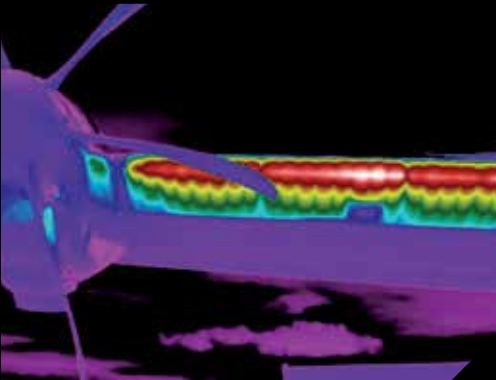
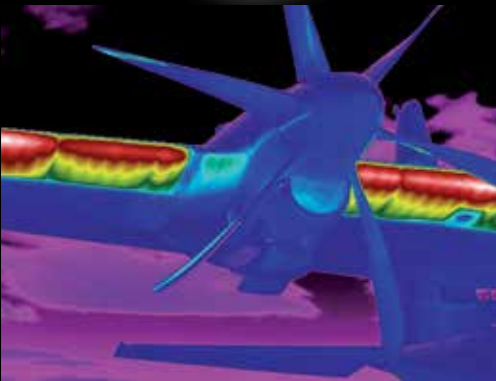
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You can't be it if you can't see it: Women in Defence Awards 2018

The inaugural Women in Defence Awards, hosted by MC Tracy Spicer, saw seven women honoured for their remarkable contributions to Defence and industry at a gala event in Canberra.

Nicole Davies of Broad-spectrum (Communications), Kirsty Buchan of BAE Systems Australia (Legal/Contracting), Group Captain Wendy Blyth of CASG (Project Management), Dr Christine Shanahan of DST Group (Engineering), Jamie Negggers of Top Aces (Technical Trade), and Tamara White of ASC (Rising Star) won awards for outstanding work in their fields.

Ms Shireane McKinnie was inducted as the inaugural Hall of Fame member for her lifetime of service in the old Defence Materiel Organisation, and for her continued passion for engineering and project management with her work with Engineers Australia.

Also in attendance were 12 other finalists nominated by friends and colleagues in each of the above categories, plus a wide range of industry and Defence figures, including Australia's first female Minister for Defence Senator Marise Payne.

A number of speakers took to the podium to talk about the often-unrecognised contribution women make to Defence and industry and highlighted the strengths that a diverse workforce brings to companies and organisations.

A central theme soon emerged as women told their stories: "You can't be it, if you can't see it."

"We need to spread the word," Minister Payne said. "Indeed, I hold firmly to the view that if you can't see it, you can't be it. Or it's certainly so much harder to be it."

"I have always understood that I was "other" in my industry," SYPAQ CEO Amanda Holt said. "However,

it wasn't until my first major project working in the dockyard that the extent of this "otherness" was truly felt."

"With over 300 engineering and technical personnel in our project team, there were only three other women. I worked with more Ian's in the Combat Systems team than women. I worked with more Johns in the management team than women.

"Visibility matters. Recognition matters."

I worked with more Johns in the management team than women

That, in a nutshell, is the purpose behind the Women in Defence Awards.

It is worth spelling out clearly. Young women thinking of pursuing careers in Defence, in STEM, or related fields are more likely to do so if they see other women in the area.

Numbers are not the only measure of equality, but they are a fair indication of whether an organisation is achieving equity of access and opportunity.

Improvements have been made, but there is much more to be done. As our Managing Editor Katherine Ziesing pointed out in February, women make up roughly 40 per cent of the Defence APS workforce, below the wider APS average of 57 per cent.

Only one of the Top 10 Defence companies in Australia has a minimum 30 per cent female representation (ASC, which has directors appointed by government).

Those numbers can't be improved unless more women consider Defence as a career, and that is only likely to happen if women already in Defence are recognised and made visible.

If that's not a reason for embedding Women Peace and Security initiatives, if that's not a reason for the value of our gender advisors, then I won't be able to find one

Yet this is not just about hitting a 50 per cent target. In her speech, Minister for Defence Marise Payne told the story of how in the days following a tsunami, women in Sri Lanka drowned themselves rather



Tamara White of ASC, Rising Star award winner, with Caroline Dawson of Leidos.

Leigh Atkinson

than be rescued by all-male crews.

"Women, who had been stripped of their clothing, and one presumes their dignity and their self-respect and determination for life, when faced with boats of men only in the rescue efforts in the Sri Lankan tsunami, chose to drown," Minister Payne said. "They could not expose themselves. They could not humiliate themselves, they could not destroy their own cultural being."

"If that's not a reason for embedding Women Peace and Security initiatives, if that's not a reason for the value of our gender advisors, then I won't be able to find one."

Diversity is critical to the success of missions. It is critical to organisations' ability to recruit top talent. It is critical to the success of national endeavours - the shipbuilding program, the space agency, Australia's largest Defence modernisation program since WWII - and also ensures they are truly national.

"We have a responsibility as we tread the path for the women who follow us," Minister Payne concluded. "First of all, to make sure that they are actually walking behind us.

"Secondly, where we can, we must smooth that path."

Read more at <http://www.australiandefence.com.au/awards/adm-launches-women-in-defence-awards>

The Power of an MBA

The Institute of Public Accountants (IPA) is one of three professional accounting bodies recognised in Australian law. Of the three bodies, the IPA has lifted the bar on education standards for its 35,000 plus members and students globally with its professional program now a fully-fledged Master of Business Administration (MBA).

Education standards globally continue to escalate and become more challenging. Market competition has a lot to do with this as the populous become more demanding for products, services and solutions in a faster, less expensive and more effective way.

"As a profession, we see this as inevitable and urge our members to embrace technological change which is an every-day occurrence in a fast-paced world," said IPA chief executive officer, Andrew Conway.

"It has never been a better time to become an accountant. Accountants hold a strong mantle of being the most trusted adviser to their clients but to maintain that level of trust they must be not just up to date, but leaders in the knowledge space," he said.

However, as demand for professional services continues and therefore, the need to maintain currency of knowledge and skills, there is one education standard that has not only stood the test of time, but has lead the way for postgraduates to stay ahead of the pack.

A Master of Business Administration (MBA) remains one of the greatest sought after business qualifications and is seen as a genuine competitive edge for those who

have successfully completed their studies.

When businesses go to market to recruit new talent, the MBA speaks volumes as part of their selection and decision making process. While qualifications may not be the end all, if candidates meet all or most of the selection criteria, display the right person for the job, then an MBA may well be a deciding factor in their favour.

Not only does an MBA assist a person entering or transitioning within the job market, the qualification has a proven track record of increasing individuals' income levels.

The Financial Times (U.S) cites in a January 2018 article, '*An MBA is still a good boost for salaries*', that between 2014 and 2017, that average salary of an MBA graduate had risen 12 per cent and early data analysis at this early stage of 2018, indicates they are still increasing.

Salary increases may vary from country to country but it is fair to say, the MBA has made significant inroads to improving the pay packet and lifestyles of many postgraduates. When MBA awardees apply their studies to the workplace, it also provides a bargaining chip when it comes to promotion and pay rise negotiations as the workplace sees the value of the end-product.

The IPA Group has partnered with Deakin University to deliver an MBA program for members. This program is delivered in two stages and is online and very flexible meeting many of our members' needs. This award-winning program is ranked amongst the top online MBAs in the world.

"For people who may be exiting the Australian Defence Force, having served their time for our Country, I reiterate that it is indeed a great time to



consider an accounting career and welcome any enquiries relating to membership," said Mr Conway.

"Having an MBA as our professional program provides people with the opportunity to diversify and advance a career of their choice.

"Of the three professional accounting bodies, the IPA's MBA program is head and shoulders above the rest. In today's competitive world, the MBA represents a considerable advantage.

"Many who have undertaken or currently studying the IPA-Deakin MBA program have commented on the flexibility the online learning is; to be able to achieve MBA status at their own time means they can continue to work for their living while achieving a highly sought-after qualification.

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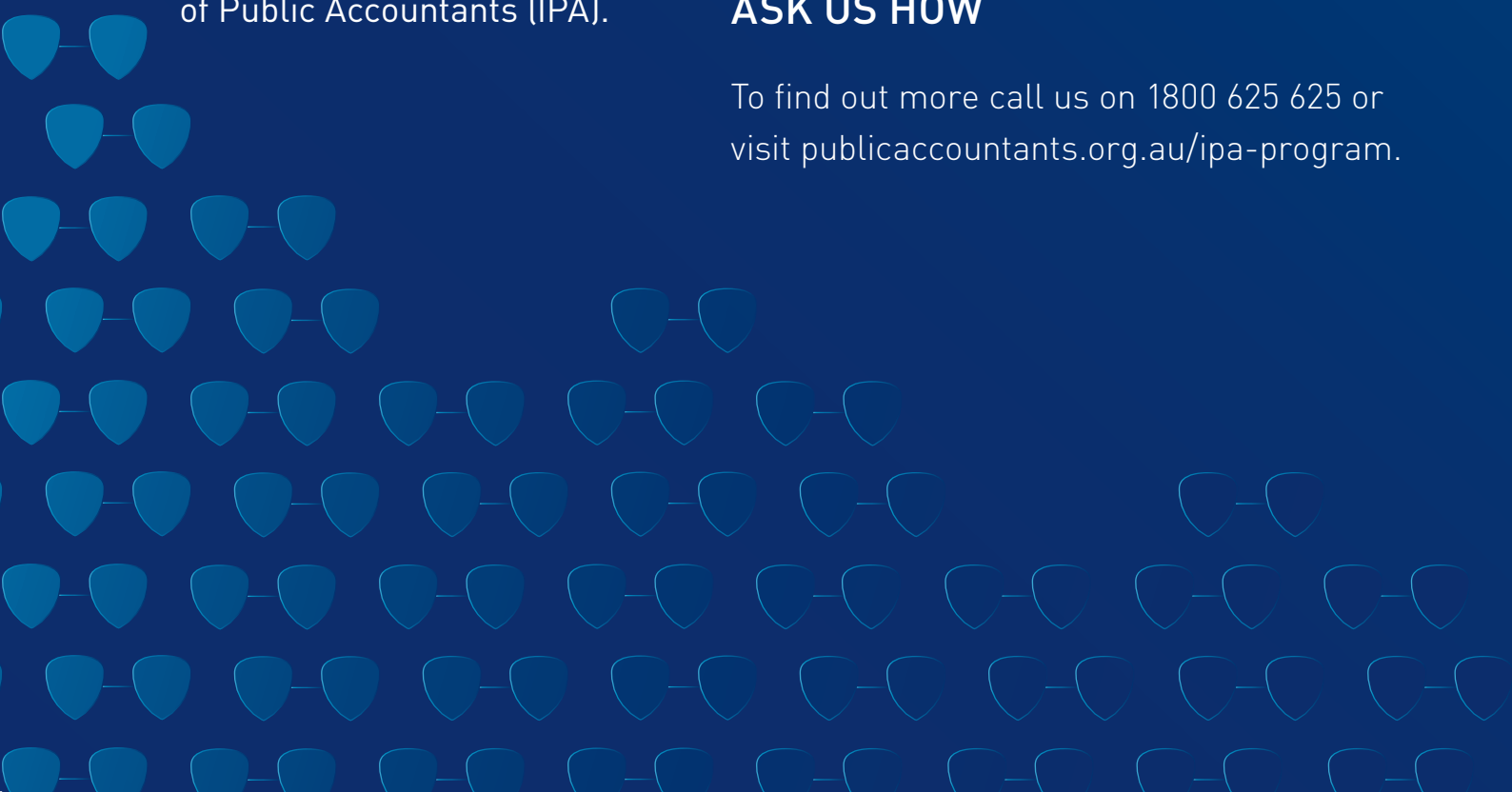
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Yemen's Houthis indicate willingness to hand over port to U.N.

By Yara Bayoumy, Warren Strobel and Jonathan Landay

Washington - Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis have indicated they would be willing to hand over management of Hodeidah port to the United Nations, a potential breakthrough in a conflict that has caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis, sources familiar with the efforts said.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have pledged a swift military operation to take over the airport and seaport without entering the city centre, to minimize civilian casualties and maintain the flow of essential goods.

The Saudis and Emiratis, who intervened in Yemen in 2015, say they must recapture Hodeidah to deprive the Houthis of their main source of income and prevent them from bringing in missiles.

Hodeidah port is a principal entry point for relief supplies for Yemen. U.N. officials have warned that large-scale fighting in the city could threaten tens of thousands.

U.N. envoy Martin Griffiths has been in the Houthi-controlled Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, this week to try to negotiate a solution.

A U.S. official said the United States was urging the Saudis and Emiratis to accept the deal. A diplomatic source at the United Nations said the coalition had informed Griffiths it would study the proposal.

The source said the Houthis indicated they would accept overall U.N. rule for port management and inspections.

A Western diplomat said the United Nations would oversee income from the port and make sure it gets to Yemen's central bank. The understanding is for Yemeni state employees to remain working alongside the United Nations.

"The Saudis have given some positive signals on this as well to the U.N. envoy over the last 24 hours. The Emiratis also gave positive murmurs but the deal still has a little way to go,"



An armoured vehicle of the pro-government forces drives down a main road in the Hodeidah province, 50 kilometers from the port city of Hodeidah, which the Iran-backed Houthi insurgents seized in 2014. AFP

the Western diplomat said.

The sources cautioned that the plan still needed agreement from all sides to the conflict, and would not, at least in its initial stages, result in an immediate ceasefire.

In a statement on Thursday, Griffiths said he was "encouraged by the constructive engagement" of the Houthis and would be holding meetings with Yemen's internationally backed president, Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi.

There was no immediate comment from the Saudi and Emirati embassies in Washington. Houthi representatives could not be reached for immediate comment.

The Saudi-led coalition intervened in the war in 2015 to roll back Houthi control of Yemen's main population centres and reinstate its internationally recognized government.

DILEMMA FOR WASHINGTON

The Hodeidah battle coincides with increased tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which are locked in a three-year-old proxy war in Yemen that has killed more than 10,000 people, displaced 3 million and pushed the impoverished country to the verge of starvation.

The United States has provided

aircraft refuelling and some intelligence for the Saudi-led campaign in Yemen, but U.S. officials say they are not providing direct help to the Hodeidah offensive.

But Washington is a major arms supplier to Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, which critics say makes it complicit in civilian casualties.

Questions remain over the withdrawal of the Houthis from Hodeidah city itself, as the Emirates and their Yemeni allies have demanded, as well as over a broader ceasefire, the Western diplomat said.

Securing an agreement on leaving the city could be "one of the major sticking points," the Western diplomat said.

Speaking earlier at the United Nations, Saudi Arabia's U.N. ambassador, Abdallah al-Mouallimi, reiterated the coalition's demand that the Houthis quit the city entirely, while citing Griffiths' slow progress.

"On the ground, what we are offering is for the Houthis to hand over their weapons to the government of Yemen and to leave, to leave peacefully and to provide information about the locations of the mines and improvised explosive devices and so forth," Mouallimi said.

Earlier on Thursday, Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdelsalam highlighted the group's "positivity in



dealing with the United Nations about the port's revenues," but criticized the Saudi-led coalition, whose aim he said was to "destroy Yemen."

(Reporting by Yara Bayoumy, Warren Strobel and Jonathan Landay; Additional reporting by John Walcott in Washington, Michelle Nichols at the United Nations and Ali Abelaty in Cairo; Writing by Warren Strobel and Yara Bayoumy; Editing by Peter Cooney)

Source: <http://www.businessinsider.com/yemens-houthis-indicate-willingness-to-hand-over-port-to-un-sources-2018>.

Tanzanian UN peacekeeper killed, 7 wounded in Central Africa ambush



United Nations (AP) — The United Nations said Monday that a Tanzanian peacekeeper was killed and seven others wounded in the Central African Republic when a U.N. patrol was ambushed.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the attack happened Sunday in Dilapoko, a village in Mambere-Kadei Prefecture in the country's southwest.

He said one of wounded peacekeeper was in critical condition and was taken to the capital, Bangui, for treatment at the U.N. Mission's military hospital along with three other soldiers whose condition was serious.

The U.N. mission in Central African Republic is one of the deadliest peacekeeping missions. The country has seen deadly interreligious and intercommunal fighting since 2013, when predominantly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in the capital and mainly Christian anti-Balaka militias fought back.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the attack and urged the Central African Republic's government "to spare no effort" in identifying and bringing the perpetrators to justice, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

The spokesman said the peacekeeper's death "brings to four the number of peacekeepers killed in targeted attacks in the Central African Republic since January 2018."

Dujarric said the secretary-general "pays tribute to all of the courageous men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace in the Central African Republic" and "recalls that attacks against United Nations peacekeepers may constitute a war crime and that sanctions can be applied against the perpetrators."

Source: <http://www.njherald.com/article/20180604/AP/306049743#>

Crossing the Blue Line

Four reservists from Queensland, who normally walk the thin blue line, are using their enhanced people skills as members of Task Group Afghanistan.

The soldiers, who are deployed on Operation Highroad, are officers with the Queensland Police Service (QPS), but at Camp Qargha near Kabul they are working as mentors at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA) or as members of the Force Protection Element (FPE).

Operation Highroad is the ADF's commitment to NATO's Resolute Support train, advise and assist mission. About 300 ADF personnel are deployed.

ANAOA is an institution within the Marshal Fahim National Defence University, which also houses the National Military Academy and the new Sergeant Major Academy.

In Australia, Captain (Capt) Louise Broadfoot, of 11th Combat Services Support Battalion, is a sergeant with the Tactical Crime Squad in Mackay.

In Afghanistan she is taking a break from executing search warrants and is working as a mentor for the Afghan National Army (ANA) instructors at ANAOA.

Capt Broadfoot said she worked closely with two female ANA instructors – a lieutenant and a senior non-commissioned officer.

"They instruct both male and female officer cadets and an area we are working hard at is the integration of male and female instructors with the officer cadets of both gender," she said.

"As a mentor dealing with the language and cultural barriers in Afghanistan, the most important skill I've learnt from QPS I use here is simply how to communicate with people.

Capt Broadfoot said she joined Victoria Police in 2001 before moving to Queensland in 2006 and joining QPS.

"I became a reservist in 2007 because I was always interested in joining the military and my first deployment was in 2015 on Operation Resolute, which is protecting Australia's borders and maritime interests," she said.

"It's a highlight of my military career to be a part of the NATO Resolute Support mission and I'm looking forward to continuing my work with the female instructors and officer cadets.

"Joining the Afghan National Security Forces as a woman is a massive step and I've been incredibly interested to hear what motivates them.

"One of the women I'm mentoring is learning to instruct the counter-IED course and it's heartening to see how enthusiastic she is to learn new skills."

Lance Corporal (LCpl) Matt Strudwick, of 9RQR, normally works as a constable in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley.

At Camp Qargha he is another member of the FPE, which he said was an amazing group of professional soldiers.

"I joined the Army in 2010 and was with the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, until I transferred to the Army Reserve and joined QPS in 2015," LCpl Strudwick said.

"A lot of my military and policing skills complement each other, and my infantry background has certainly been an advantage."

LCpl Strudwick said he was pleased to be chosen for the deployment as he always wanted to work in Afghanistan when he was a full-time soldier.

"It's been interesting working in this amazing environment and watching the mentors develop the next generation of ANA leaders," he said.

"My wife has been very supportive, but it's always hard to be away from the family."

Capt Jason Tuffley, of the 25th/49th Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment, did a brief stint as an Australian soldier in 1989/90, but circumstances led him across the ditch where he joined the New Zealand Police.

He returned to Queensland in 2001 to join QPS and joined the Army Reserve in 2011.

As a senior sergeant at the QPS Headquarters on the Gold Coast, Capt Tuffley is a professional practice manager – he manages internal complaints and maintains the police

standards of discipline.

At ANAOA, Capt Tuffley is a mentor for an ANA officer commanding a tolay, (company of about 100 soldiers) as well as three platoon commanders, who also instruct officer cadets.

"It's challenging, but interesting, and I'm happy to be here contributing to the NATO mission," he said.

"By us helping the Afghans to lead in the provision of security and stability for their country means we play a part in the process."

Capt Tuffley said the common police and military skills of planning, analytical thinking, problem solving, and the preparation and delivery of orders were important to the success of his role in Afghanistan.

"Avital skill in QPS and in the military mentoring role is communication," he said.

"We need to influence the ANA soldiers to do what needs to be done by using a set of 'soft skills' and maintaining a professional relationship.

"After spending five months at Camp Qargha, I'm seeing the results of my work and the development of the Afghans we mentor.

"QPS will also benefit from our time in Afghanistan because we will return with different skill sets and invaluable experiences we can share."

The QPS officers working at Camp Qargha are members of the 11th and 13th Brigades' Battlegroup Cannan.

They all made a serious commitment in contributing to the battlegroup's capability for the last few years – a big factor in the selection process for deploying on an operation.

Private (Pte) Mitchell Harris, of the 9th Royal Queensland Regiment (9RQR), is with the FPE and said his roles include guardian angel, base security and being a member of the quick reaction force for the greater Kabul area.

"In all our interactions with Afghan troops, coalition forces ensure soldiers, or guardian angels, are nearby to provide security," he said.

"My deployment to Afghanistan has been a rewarding experience."

Pte Harris completed a plumbing



apprenticeship before he joined the Army Reserve in 2006 and while on continuous full-time service three times deployed to Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.

He joined QPS in 2013 and is now a plain clothes constable working with a criminal investigation branch in Maryborough.

Pte Harris said the ethics and skills he learnt with Army were easily transferred to policing such as discipline, teamwork, integrity and the ability to work in mixed environments.

“The decision-making skills and planning techniques I’ve learnt with QPS have also been extremely useful for my soldiering roles,” he said.

“The work of the mentors at ANAOA is enhancing the ANSF in their roles as the lead for the security of Afghanistan.”

Picture Australian Army officer Captain Louise Broadfoot, of 11th Combat Services Support Battalion, is also a Queensland Police Service sergeant with the Tactical Crime Squad



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

First World War Commemorative Car Poppy

November 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the First World War. After four years of fighting, one of the world's most devastating conflicts was finally over and Australia mourned more than 60,000 who had died.

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Indian Army to double its share of women in UN Peacekeeping Missions



The first all-female unit of United Nations peacekeepers
REUTERS/Christopher Herwig , LIBERIA

Currently, United Nations Peacekeeping Missions are going on simultaneously in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria.

New Delhi: With the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces engaged in peace missions in at least eight nations across the world, there is now a need to ensure post-conflict resolutions bring lasting peace. One way, experts believe, is to involve more women in the peace process. One of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, India, is all set to take the lead in terms of involving more women.

Lt. General Sarath Chand, Vice-Chief of Army Staff (VCoAs), told News 18 India was going to double the number of women it currently involves in UN Peacekeeping Missions. "From deciding the mandate of the peacekeeping missions to negotiating ceasefires and post-conflict resolution, women need to play a larger role. Currently, women constitute under

4% of the military component of peacekeeping missions. The United Nations Secretary-General wants it to be 8% by next year. We (Indian Army) have also been instructed to double the number of women on our end and we will keep up our end of these commitments."

Speaking earlier at a 'UN Women' event in New Delhi, which is hosting a workshop on gender integration in peacekeeping missions, Lt Gen Chand, who has also served on UN peacekeeping missions, recalled horrors of conflict-related sexual violence on the battlefield. "I have also been a part of UN peacekeeping missions and I have witnessed firsthand the suffering of women. Rape and sexual violence are used as tactics of war by rebel groups. This isn't something that the UN didn't know. This was happening despite UN resolutions being passed against it."

Currently, United Nations Peacekeeping Missions are going on simultaneously in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic

Republic of Congo (DR Congo), Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria. "More and more, we see the nature of international conflict change. We are moving from inter-state conflict to intra-state conflict," said Lt. Gen. Chand, adding, "We need to take care that when we include women in peacekeeping missions, they also need to be provided adequate security as part of the mission."

Currently, women are not allowed to serve in the Indian Army's combat units like the Infantry, Armoured Corps, and the Mechanised Infantry. The Indian Army inducted within its ranks a female officer for the first time in 1993. In 2007, the first all-woman United Nations Peacekeeping Force was sent to Liberia, which had 105 Indian policewomen. India has been one of the largest troop contributors to the UN Peacekeeping Force, with 1.8 lakh troops deployed over 43 missions since the inception of the UN Peacekeeping Mission.

Source: <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-liberia-peacekeepers-idUKL3141529720070131>



From Iraq to Darwin, Soldier Recovery Centre gives former rifleman new lease on life



Before being diagnosed with epilepsy, Brett Humphrey was training Iraqis to fight Islamic State. *B Humphrey*

Brett Humphrey is fit and able-bodied, but the 26-year-old can't return to his old job.

The rifleman from the Royal Australian Regiment's 5th battalion had been on deployment in Iraq last year training local soldiers to fight Islamic State when his life took a turn he never saw coming.

"On the way back [I] had a stopover in Dubai, was handing our gear back in, went to the mess for lunch, woke up 30 minutes later in the hospital," he said.

"Got told I had a seizure, never had one before in my life."

Doctors told Brett he had epilepsy, despite no family history of the condition.

Back in Australia, he suffered another seizure. This time behind the wheel, crashing his car on his way to a football game.

Last September, he began rehabilitation at the Soldier Recovery

Centre (SRC) inside Robertson Barracks near Darwin.

"It's a holistic program which is designed around the members' needs that are assigned here for their recovery and rehabilitation," said Major Mark Elliot, the new Officer-in-Charge at the centre.

The centre provides an eight-week or rolling program for the wounded, injured and ill — complex cases which are too difficult to manage in their own unit.

The program also involves work outside of Robertson Barracks, with participants doing yoga and Pilates, and volunteering at the RSPCA and local schools.

"The ultimate goal is to get them back to work in the same job they were doing before," Major Elliot said.

"If they can't do that then obviously we would like to get them into an alternative role in the Army or even in the ADF.

"Ultimately if they can't meet both those requirements then they would transition ... out of the Army."

Sadly, Mr Humphrey won't be rejoining his mates at 5RAR.

"We handle weapons, I can't handle weapons having epilepsy," he said.

"[I] could have a seizure, [it] could end up very badly for other people around me if we have live ammunition."

PROGRAM 'OPTIMISING MENTAL HEALTH'

Mr Humphrey has been at the centre the longest and could be there for the remainder of the year while he works out his future.

However, his passion for WWII history and AFL history could see him transition to life outside the barracks.

The program works closely with physiotherapists and deals with issues from muscle tears to mental health.



Brett Humphrey says he is managing his epilepsy by keeping it in perspective

"So regardless if they've got a complex case or if it's a mental health issue I treat all soldiers the same," said physical training instructor Ty Dansie, who has served in the military for more than a decade.

"Obviously, I've had those different experiences overseas so they can relate to that and that's what bonds us."

Major Elliot said the Army now has much greater awareness of mental health issues.

"Our program tries to optimise

mental health ... but also at the same time we have better access now than we've ever had before actually on base with the mental health team that works here," he said.

"The most satisfying part of it is seeing soldiers actually recovering and a tangible result coming out of the program here."

Established in 2012, Darwin's Soldier Recover Centre is seen as a leader among other centres in Townsville and Brisbane.

A special, smaller recovery unit was set up in Adelaide recently and is run by the team in Darwin.

"We have good activities that we do like going out and helping and volunteering. It just brings people together and gets them up and about, a bit happier and brighter," Mr Humphrey said.

"Just the mindset of people. They come in, they're broken, they're probably upset, they're depressed, but everybody gets around each other here."

Mr Humphrey's future is uncertain, but he is keeping things in perspective.



Despite his condition, Mr Humphrey can do all of the exercises as part of the program. *Dane Hirst*

"There's a lot of people that come through the SRC that have a lot more problems than I do and you just think: 'well, my problem's not as bad as those blokes,'" he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-24/soldier-recovery-centre-helps-wounded-injured-ill-veterans/9690492>

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UN chief condemns killing of Peacekeeper in South Sudan

June 26, 2018 (JUBA) - The United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres on Tuesday condemned the killing of a peacekeeper from Bangladesh, who was supporting the delivery of humanitarian aid to vulnerable civilians in war-torn South Sudan.

In a brief statement released, the UN chief offered his deepest condolences to the bereaved family and to the government of Bangladesh.

"The Secretary-General recalls that attacks against United Nations peacekeepers may constitute a war crime," stressed the statement, adding that the UN chief reaffirmed his "unwavering support to the brave men and women serving in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in their efforts to protect civilians and stabilize South Sudan," it noted.

UNMISS named the fallen "blue helmet" as Military Liaison Officer,



UN peacekeepers from Bangladesh work in Juba, Sudan (Reuters).

Lieutenant Commander Ashraf Siddiqui, who was part of a convoy being led by Nepalese peacekeepers, providing protection to humanitarians who were travelling from Yei to Lasu.

Several shots were fired at their vehicles by unknown gunmen, said the statement, and the peacekeeper "was hit and died from his injuries shortly afterwards", said the UNMISS Spokesperson.

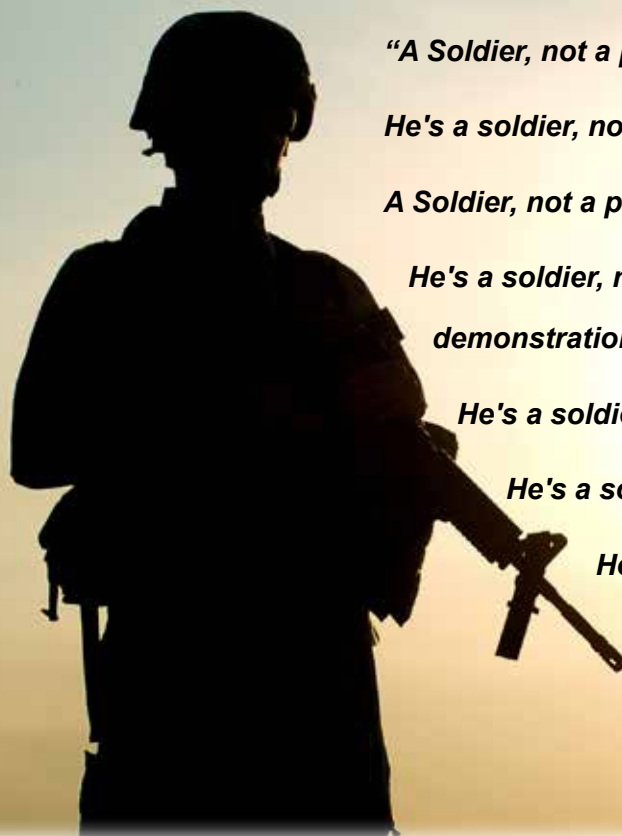
"It is a tragedy that he lost his life in such an appalling act of violence, while working to help those in need and to protect the lives of others", said the UN Special Representative and head of UNMISS, David Shearer.

"Peacekeepers and aid workers should be able to carry out their work freely and safely and not be subjected to the kind of senseless attack we have witnessed today," he added.

South Sudan has been experiencing a civil war since December 2013. Tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions more uprooted or pushed to the brink of starvation in a conflict characterised by mass rape and the killing of civilians.

Since 2011, UNMISS has reportedly lost 56 personnel deployed in the young nation.

Source: <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article65734>



"A Soldier, not a priest, gives us freedom of religion,

He's a soldier, not a journalist, giving us freedom of the press,

A Soldier, not a poet, gives us freedom of speech,

He's a soldier, not a labour, gives us the right to demonstration,

He's a soldier, not a lawyer giving us the right to a fair trial,

He's a soldier, not a politician giving us electoral law,

He's a soldier who salutes the flag,

Who under this flag fights,

Whose coffin is this flag...

Charles M. Province"



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Brisbane soldier awarded Order of Australia while on deployment in Iraq (Qld)

An Australian Army reservist has started a six month deployment to Iraq on a high note, becoming a member of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

Major Lance Johnson, currently on Task Group Taji-7, and his seventh deployment, is receiving the Queen's Birthday honour for his service to public administration in the Northern Territory for his work with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

The 48 year old, who resides in Warner, Brisbane, joined DVA after 27 years in the regular Army as a medic and Health Officer, becoming the Darwin Office Manager and Acting Deputy Commissioner of DVA, Northern Territory.

He has been passionate about removing barriers between veterans and DVA, and was instrumental in increasing the number of registered veterans in the Northern Territory by promoting their entitlements.

"I came out of my health role and had seen so many guys and girls who were getting medically discharged that didn't know what their entitlements were, where they were going to get money from or how to get services," Major Johnson said.

"From there we went about ensuring we established a really strong connection so those people were confident, but also we weren't waiting for them to come to us, we were going to them."

He said it was a surprise and honour to receive the award, and a unique experience being in Iraq for it.

"It would have been nice to be home to share it with my wife and kids, but it's a different way of receiving an award," he said.

"I've accepted the honour, but put it to one side to crack on with doing my job."

Major Johnson is currently the Health Advisor on Task Group Taji-7, in charge of providing the wider health picture to command as the Task Group continues with its mission of training Iraqi Security Forces as they combat the Daesh terrorist threat.

"It's good to be part of the legacy



Australian Army officer Major Lance Johnson, of Task Group Taji-7, is deployed as the Health Advisor at the Taji Military Complex, Iraq.

that we will leave, to know you were part of helping a country rebuild is a fantastic opportunity," he said.

This is Major Johnson's second time deployed to the Taji Military Complex in Iraq.

He has also served on tours to Somalia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

"Anytime you get an opportunity to deploy and represent your country is a really good thing," he said.

"And I think more so this time than any other, because what I learn from this trip will give me an opportunity to influence a department back in Australia.

"So when our staff at Veterans' Affairs are looking at claims for these people, they have a greater understanding because it's their own staff member that's saying what happens over there," he said.



Versatile Force

Soldiers from 2RAR (Amphibious) embarked HMAS *Adelaide* as part of the largest multinational force the ship has welcomed on board since her commissioning in 2015.

The amphibious soldiers joined the Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD), at Pearl Harbor for Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RimPac) with troops from the US, Japan, Tonga, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

2RAR logistics officer Capt Brenton Chapman said more than 800 military personnel joined the ship's company for transit to the island of Hawaii for the field phase of the exercise.

"This is a significant accomplishment for *Adelaide* as she will be operating at capacity with about 1300 of her 1400 bunk spaces occupied," Capt Chapman said.

"Australia's other LHD, HMAS Canberra, embarked a similar force during RimPac 2016, however this is a first for *Adelaide* and marks a significant milestone for the ship as part of Australia's amphibious force." Due to the sheer size of the embarkation, Capt Chapman said

the ship was loaded over a number of days while berthed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Loading began with 674 tonnes of vehicles and equipment being secured onto the Light Vehicle Deck, including 2RAR's organic transport and US Marine Corps vehicles, including amphibious assault vehicles.

Before setting sail, Capt Chapman said that all embarked forces were introduced to life on board an Australian amphibious assault ship with induction training.

"All of the multinational forces received training on routine and daily life on board the ship, safety procedures and general habitability on the ship for their transit," Capt Chapman said.

As the Army's amphibious experts, the 2RAR soldiers are well-versed in ship life, however this was the first time they had embarked *Adelaide* as part of a multinational task force of this scale and diversity.

Capt Megan McDermott



Above: Australian Army and United States Marine Corps personnel embark on HMAS *Adelaide* at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii during Exercise Rim of the Pacific 18. Opposite & below: Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion (Amphibious), Royal Australian Regiment, Australian Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Doug Pashley, addresses soldiers onboard HMAS *Adelaide*.





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- Tom Larter, CEO (ANZ) WithYouWithMe



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Guide and deliver

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS TRAIN IRAQIS TO DESTROY HEAVY DUTY TARGETS IN THE RANGES OF BESMAYAH, IRAQ

In the vast, barren, desert military ranges of Besmayah, Iraq, RPGs blast tanks; mortars illuminate the night sky and .50 calibre heavy machine guns decimate targets. Firing those weapons are Iraqi Army soldiers, under the watchful eyes of Australian Army trainers from Task Group Taji-7.

A mobile training team from the task group's Training Team Sierra went to Besmayah to deliver the heavy weapons training package to about 100 soldiers from the Iraqi Army 59 Bde across June-July. The team spent several days with the Iraqi soldiers, live-firing 120mm mortars, RPG and .50 calibre heavy machine guns to train them on the weapon systems.

Mobile training team leader Capt Laurence Smith said support weapons were an important part of a brigade's arsenal and would help in their ongoing fight against Daesh. "They provide that key fire support

that any Army unit needs to be able to effectively function," he said. "These weapons systems, being employed effectively, are going to reduce casualties in the Iraqi Army and allow them to neutralise Daesh threats quicker."

Sgt Barry Blenman was one of the Australian trainers for the 120mm mortars and coached trainees how to effectively use illumination, white phosphorous and high explosive rounds.

"The Iraqis are probably old hands of the Russian equivalent, however we taught them a better way to use the sighting system and provide a more accurate direct fire with the 120mm mortar tubes," Sgt Blenman said.

"They were motivated from the start, they were very competitive and they always put in the hard work."

The mobile training team also had an important support team, including a New Zealand armourer and ammunition technician, to ensure both the weapon systems and ammunition remained safe to use throughout the training package. New Zealand ammunition technician Cpl S said his role was to inspect the ammunition

before and during training serials.

"If anything looks wrong with the rounds, I inspect it and see what's happened and whether it's good to go," he said.

"We just had one before – a mortar round had a loose tail fin on it, so I was able to say 'no, we're not going to fire that' and keep everyone safe."

Cpl S said it was a great new experience to see these weapon systems in action.

"We don't usually get to do this at home, so it's awesome," he said. "Getting involved in different weapon systems and seeing the difference the trainers are making to the Iraqis, and seeing how they're progressing, is awesome to witness," he said.

This was the first of several heavy weapon mobile training teams that Task Group Taji-7 will run at Besmayah.

"The reason we do this training at Besmayah is because it has better range facilities for the sort of heavy weapons that we're using and we can employ these weapons at Besmayah without impacting any of the local community," Capt Smith said.

Capt Anna-Lise Brink



An Australian Army soldier provides direction to an Iraqi Army soldier on the use of a .50-calibre machine gun.

Florence's story



Florence Stopps and Justin Brown

Florence was born in Wooburn Moor, a tiny hamlet in Buckinghamshire, Southern England, 25 miles from London. She loved spending time alone in the woods and fields and especially going to school, undeterred by the 5kms walk each way in the winter. This was during World War II and a time of severe deprivation and rationing. Florence lived next door to her Grandfather (widower and WWI veteran) and her single beloved Uncle Bill, her mother's only older sibling. Florence was one of four daughters and clearly remembers in 1944 when she was only 7 years old, the early morning 3kms walk with her Uncle Bill to the local railway station when he returned from leave before again being posted for overseas duty. He rarely spoke due to severe stammering caused by shell shock as a Gunner. She was heartbroken when they parted and remembers Uncle Bill saying "Don't look back" before going to the station. Later in life she asked why he always said "Don't look back" to he responded that he did not want her to see his tears knowing it

may be the last time they met. He later married an older widow from Derbyshire but had no children, and lived to 84 years. He was Florence's son's Godfather by proxy. Florence remained in touch with him and has written their story in rhyme.

In 1969 Florence and her family emigrated to Australia as \$10 Poms in the ship Achille Laura finally settling in Morphett Vale after several moves. She was offered a Real Estate office position and encouraged to study as a licenced Real Estate Consultant which she did at the same time as learning to drive and to obtain a scarce telephone line. After returning to UK in 1976-8 for major surgery she began an 18 year career as a Medical secretary/researcher to medical directors/Senior lecturers with Flinders Medical Centre and adjoining Medical School/University. She learned without tuition, the languages of Nuclear Medicine, Ultrasonography, Radiotherapy, Clinical Oncology, Outreach Palliative Care, Medical Ethics. In addition she performed 5 year terms of voluntary work as a Community Representative/Advocate on many committees in Primary, High School, University, Department of Health, hospitals, Division of General Practice, Secretary of local city Bands (2) and Advocate for many in the community. She has written many unpublished papers at the request of medical personnel, and studied many courses at WEA and University. She continues to advocate and lobby on behalf of others by letters to the Editor of daily and local papers or directly to organisations.

Florence loves learning, is an avid reader, written short stories and poetry on any subject, and continues to study world events. She keeps in touch on line with long-time friends worldwide, and belongs to the University of the Third Age and Fleurieu Peninsula Family History Group who have written a book on the pioneer WWI Veterans. Florence was asked to recite her poem "Remember Me" at the book launch. Her special interest in writing poetry began on her retirement 20 years ago after the birth of her first grandson when an entire

7 verse poem "downloaded" as she describes it. Her interest in Return Service personnel was the World War I service of her Grandfather, Grandfather-in-law, and her Uncle Bill and Father-in-law's service in WW II.

After life-threatening complications following open heart surgery and 2 years later by the late diagnosis of very rare and incurable terminal blood cancer with rarer complications, Florence has written over 80 poems in three years. Written on many subjects and published in various media arenas they all "download" entirely, up to 15 verses long. She continues to personally illustrate and frame them, donating large A3 framed copies to The Jamie Larcombe Centre SA, RSL's, libraries, hospitals, the International Peace Museum in Hiroshima, shops and individuals. Many were written for inspiration and support. She treasures correspondence from the Royal family, especially many from Prince Harry of whom is very fond and for whom she has written and illustrated many inspirational poems, and for the Invictus team. She feels blessed and humbled that she has been given this gift to share and is considering the many requests to publish in book form and record her poetry. She intends donating some proceeds to various non-profit organisations.

Florence has refused to allow her multiple serious life threatening health conditions, many requiring hospitalisations and surgical interventions since adulthood, to change her positive and enthusiastic attitude to life, or her philosophy of "Looking outwards and not inwards," "Giving to the community and not expecting to always take." After three "near death" experiences she practices medication and imagery to help PTSD and regards these health episodes as challenges and character building!

I met Florence here at the Partnerships Hub, Jamie Larcombe Centre earlier this year after she had contacted me to see if I would like some framed copies of the poems that she had written for our younger veterans. "I hope they might bring some comfort

and inspiration to the young men and women who have given and sacrificed so much for us" she said to me during our first meeting. Poems such as "Our Heroes", "Remember me" and "Fork in the road" speak of community and personal love and support for our veterans at times when perhaps life was leading them to darker places. Such is the caring nature of this

fantastic lady at a time when her own health is frequently impacting her quality of life.

We spoke of my experiences as a Peacekeeper during that first meeting, a conversation that I enjoyed immensely, and in the days that followed Florence wrote two poems as a tribute to our peacekeeping forces. We trust you will enjoy reading them

as much as Florence enjoyed writing them for you.

My thanks to Allan Thomas and Kevin Ryan for their consideration and for agreeing to publish the poems, it will mean a great deal to both of us.

Justin Brown
Former Army Apprentice, Combat Engineer and Peacekeeper
Story with permission from Justin.

The quiet heroes of Australia's military

To detect hidden explosives meant to kill them, modern soldiers now have access to robots and electronic sensors among a vast range of technological wizardry.

But the tool they trust more than most is the faithful canine companion that has lived at humanity's side for more than 15,000 years.



Sarbi tries on the iconic bush hat at Eastern Creek. *LCPL Janine Fabre.*

Despite years of research, the military is yet to find a replacement for the sniffer dog and its sense of smell - more than 100,000 times better than ours.

Major Kendall Crocker, senior veterinary adviser for the Army, said dogs have saved hundreds of Diggers' lives and remained a critical component of the military.

"The US spent more than \$1 billion on projects and they came to the conclusion that the most effective device for detecting explosives in

many situations is a dog's nose," he said. "There are still projects on artificial robots and looking at detectors to pick up certain chemicals that are associated with explosives, but a trained dog can learn a new explosive in a matter of an afternoon. They are phenomenal in what they can do."

For frontline Australian soldiers, explosives detection dogs and military police dogs are not just lifesavers.

They are also best mates, building unbreakable bonds with handlers who often adopt them as pets when they retire. A large percentage of explosive detection dogs are rescue dogs pulled off death row themselves.

Lance Corporal Rueben Griggs, who has just taken on Bee, a three-year-old male kelpie cross adopted from a western Sydney animal refuge, said there was no doubt about their importance.

"I've seen the devastation an IED can cause and I know that when the dogs are involved and on point, the amount of lives saved by the dogs finding explosives before they are activated is countless," he said.

The ADF officially recognises June 7 as the National Military Working Dog Day and last year began awarding a Defence Canine Operational Service Medal - the first defence force to do so.

The day corresponds with the death of Sapper Darren Smith, 26, and his bomb dog Herbie, who died together in Afghanistan in 2010.

Since 1993, it has been an ADF policy to return all working dogs to Australia. In the event a dog is killed, its ashes are brought home.

Major Crocker said dogs were treated to the same medical care and evacuation procedures as soldiers.

Elissa Lawrence



Australian Army soldier from the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment (2CER) Sapper Dane Houghton and his Explosive Detection Dog (EDD) Chaz (left), New Zealand Army soldier from the 2nd Engineer Regiment Corporal Hynes and his EDD Chuch (centre), and Sapper Mason Revell from 2CER and his EDD Dexter at the Southport Army depot.

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Assisting sleep patterns

Are you the 1 in 3 Australians who don't get enough quality sleep?

We should all know that affected sleep patterns interfere with how we function day-to-day, and result in increased unwanted body fat.

In this article for the Australian Peacekeeper, I'll cover some of the effects of reduced sleep, and some simple techniques to help fix the problem.

YOUR BRAIN

Reduced sleep sets your brain up to make bad decisions. It dulls activity in the brain's frontal lobe, which drives our decision making. It puts your brain's reward centre on high alert, which leads you to search for something sweet or salty and impairs your ability to say NO to that piece of chocolate.

Research conducted by the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that, when people were starved of sleep, they were much more likely to increase their late night snacking, and were definitely going for something carb heavy.

A second study found that people with less than 8 hours sleep were more likely to eat bigger portion sizes.

YOUR HORMONES

The hormone ghrelin, which triggers the feeling of hunger, is increased when you don't get enough sleep, causing even the strictest dieter to detour from their plan.

It gets worse. The hormone leptin, which triggers the feeling of being full, decreases dramatically, which naturally leads to over-eating.



A third and frustrating change is in the hormone cortisol. It's your stress hormone which affects the body in many ways, shapes and forms. When you haven't had enough sleep, it spikes and causes your body to hold onto energy for the waking moments, essentially causing you to hold onto fat. Research found that we lose 55% less fat when sleep is reduced, which can be linked to this change in particular.

Lastly there is the well-known insulin, which is a hormone needed to change sugar, starches and other foods into energy. Researchers found that reduced sleep over more than 4 days reduces your insulin sensitivity by up to 30%. Your body becomes less effective at using fat from your bloodstream as energy, leaving your body to simply store it as fat.

TIPS FOR IMPROVING SLEEP

- NO screen time for at least 45 minutes prior to bed. This means no TV, Phone, Tablet or any device that emits bright light. These devices emit 'blue light', which affects your body's natural sleep patterns and cycles.

- Make your room dark. This will help your body produce the natural sleep hormone melatonin and you'll get a better night's sleep.

- Watch what you drink. Avoid stimulants, especially caffeine, for at least 6 hours before bed. If you're particularly sensitive to caffeine, you may need to increase this time. Remember caffeine is also in tea. If you tend to wake in the middle of the night for a toilet break, limit the amount of fluid for a few hours before bed.

- Create a schedule and stick to it. The body will naturally click into gear with the routine you create if you stick to it. This can be TV off, shower, read with lights dimmed, and sleep.

In summary, a lack of quality sleep can have a dramatic impact on you reaching your weight loss goals, your will power to say no to that sweet tooth, and even the risk of sporting injuries.

Ensuring 7.5 hours sleep a night should be your goal. If waking later isn't an option in your busy life, build good habits that allow you to get to bed earlier.

Callan McDonald is a Sydney based Physical Training Instructor with the Royal Australian Navy in addition to running his own business. He is also a younger veteran along with his sister and step-father. He writes this piece exclusively for the Australian Peacekeeper magazine.

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Bright future lies ahead

WA cadets will represent Australia after winning the CA Cadet Team Challenge Capt Dean Benson reports.

The CA Cadet Team Challenge (CACTC) trophy is heading west this year after Team WA kept its cool in testing Puckapunyal winter conditions to take out the premier Australian Army Cadets (AAC) military skills competition.

The 2018 challenge brought nine of the best AAC teams representing each regional command in Australia together for the annual four-day event in early July.

Cadets navigated their way through a vast AO, built rafts that were used for water crossings, competed in time trials through the obstacle course, tested their marksmanship and quick decision skills and conducted hands-on first aid scenarios.

But it wasn't just the Aussies putting their skills on show this year.

One team from the New Zealand Cadet Forces and two teams from the United Kingdom's Army Cadet Force

competed alongside the Australian teams for their own international trophy for best overseas performer – which ultimately went to the UK's Team El Alamein.

Comd Victorian AAC Bde Col Jason Cooke, which hosted the event, said he was immensely impressed with the level of skill and resilience shown by the cadets throughout the challenge. He also praised the AAC volunteer staff.

"The tireless efforts of the AAC volunteers helped create a safe and enjoyable event for the cadets to participate in," he said.

"Without their hard work, this event simply would not be possible." RSM South Queensland Bde WO1 Jacinta Doyle said a touch of interstate rivalry brought out the best from cadets each year.

"This event is region against region. State against state," she said.

"That makes the cadets train hard before coming, and then once they're here they pull together as a team because they take that pride in

winning the cup.

"Throughout the event, some of them start a little gun-shy but then you'll see some of the leaders step up.

"You do see different leadership skills and it forces some of the cadets who perhaps lack a bit of confidence to become more confident by the end." Cadet LCpl Keisha Melville, of 170ACU in the Northern Territory, joined Army Cadets two years ago because she "wanted to drive a tank in the military".

She said events such as the challenge have taught her a great deal.

"Being a cadet has taught me the importance of leading a team," she said.

"I've also learned a lot about respect; it's become a lot more important to me because it's such a massive thing in Cadets." Team WA received its trophy from CA Lt-Gen Rick Burr and will now represent Australia on the international stage at the New Zealand equivalent event later this year.

Breaking ground

Experts discuss future of coordinated air defence, reports Pte Renee Breeze.

The challenges and opportunities of delivering an integrated air and missile defence system were discussed in Canberra recently as experts from Army, Navy, Air Force, industry and

coalition partners gathered to discuss this stepchange capability.

The Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) seminar, held in Canberra on July 25, facilitated discussion between Army, Navy and Air Force subject matter experts.

Through the lens of integrated battlespace command, talks centred on new missile and detection technologies that afford new levels of protection for ground forces.

Comd Forcomd Maj-Gen Gus McLachlan said developing interoperability was key to Australia's future defence capability.

"This is an incredibly important step

for Army with genuine collaborative engagement with the Air Force and Navy," Maj-Gen McLachlan said.

"We're about to move into an incredible new era and we're intellectually preparing for it.

"It's the first advance in machine assistance to help decision-making" "We've got plenty of thinking and learning to do about what this capability means for the ADF and Army has a real responsibility and opportunity to help design an integrated air and missile system and this is just the first part of what will truly be a joint system there's a lot of work to do." Leut-Comdr Ali Withers, of Sea Training Group, said coordinating jets and ships has been well demonstrated for Navy.

"Integration of systems between Navy and RAAF is not new per se," she said.

Army's Director General Training and Doctrine Brig Ben James closed the seminar, saying the conference was integral to delivering a 'One

Defence' approach to the battlespace.

"This is not business as usual - this is breaking new ground for Army," Brig James said.

"It's essential we start thinking about this capability, to learn from our sister services, from our industry partners and from our coalition allies who have similar systems in service.



The NASAMS Canister Launcher, firing an AMRAAM missile

Injured veterans face a new fight when they return home

OPINION

Australia's complex and confusing military rehabilitation and compensation system is taking a heavy – at times tragic – toll on injured service men and women, writes military compensation specialist Tim White.

Earlier this year our nation paused and came together to give thanks for all who have served and died for our nation.

ANZAC Day conjures images of Gallipoli, slouch hats, mateship and the horrors of war, of brave elderly veterans who receive the applause of the crowds with quiet dignity while they raise a glass to their mates who never made it home. We owe our way of life to these brave souls.

If you attended one of the many dawn services or marches across the country, you would have been surrounded by men and women in uniform, the people who proudly, selflessly serve our nation.

But did you notice the young faces of those in uniform around you?

Since 1999, more than 73,000 Australians have served in overseas military conflicts. It is a commitment which eclipses the 60,000 we sent to Vietnam.

The cost our country has paid for this military involvement is far-reaching – on human, emotional and economic fronts. The after-effects will reverberate for decades after our people come home. If they come home at all.

You would expect that those brave individuals who chose to defend our country, and who are unfortunate to be injured, would be easily compensated and readily assisted with medical treatment for their injuries.

But is that actually the case?

In my experience as a lawyer who speaks to injured Defence men and women every day, I find that long after the fighting has stopped, our injured veterans face a new fight at home – the fight for compensation and medical assistance.



More than 73,000 Australians have served in overseas military conflicts since 1999.

This fight is defined by long wait times, complicated and strict legislation, a growing mental health problem, and the ever-increasing workload of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

The DVA currently has around 30,000 individuals who have accepted injury claims – that is, they are receiving some income support or payment of medical expenses for a military-caused injury.

DVA records indicate 81 per cent of those who served in Vietnam have one or more accepted military-caused conditions.

If that trend continues with the 73,000-plus Australians deployed overseas since 1999, our nation will have a considerable, long-term financial commitment and the DVA will need an enormous amount of extra support and funding to manage the mountain of claims coming its way. It will also need to introduce simpler processes.

The current legislation that applies for service men and women injured in Australia or overseas is the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA). The DVA has reported an 89 per cent increase in claims under this Act since 2014.

The legislation is complex and lengthy. In my view, it is considerably more complex than comparable state-based legislation that applies to work-

related injuries.

Why do injured ADF members have to face such a complicated and confusing scheme? Given that the numerous other laws that cover injuries arising from work accidents or motor vehicle claims are considerably less complex, why can't a similar approach be adopted to cover ADF members?

The system, as it stands, is taking a heavy, at times tragic, toll on ADF members.

A recent Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report concluded the suicide rate among former ADF service men between the ages of 18 to 24 was almost double that of the national rate. This statistical variation is alarming and must reflect a loss of connection and communication with young ex-ADF male members.

I suspect that part of this increase in the suicide rate is attributable to the complex and lengthy claims process that ADF members generally endure.

In August last year, the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee delivered a comprehensive report, containing some 27 recommendations, many of them dealing with the current DVA scheme.

This committee was established primarily to look into suicide rates with ADF members and veterans. It received thousands of submissions –

a recurring issue being the increased stress and anxiety experienced by ADF members as a consequence of the complex, lengthy DVA claims process.

One of the committee's key recommendations was for legislative reform so that the current military compensation framework was significantly simplified. Included in that recommendation was a review of the use of a cornerstone of the MRCA scheme, namely the use of Statements of Principles (SOPs) in determining a compensation claim.

The SOPs is one of the further group of documents that must be considered with any ADF member's injury claim. In short, for a member's compensation claim to be accepted as having been service-caused, they must fulfil the strict criteria set out by the specific SOP relating to their injury.

There are hundreds of SOPs covering a large range of injuries. In my view, these SOPs are unreasonable and narrow in their criteria of whether an injury or disease has been service-caused.

“There is still a lot of work to be done before things get easier for injured ADF members”

Whatever the condition is, a member's claim will be rejected unless it can satisfy completely the factors listed in the SOP.

In many circumstances, a particular condition – for example, a degenerative condition – may be as a result of years of military service and not be due to any one particular incident. Despite the member's service clearly causing or contributing to those degenerative changes, unless the member can fulfil a specific factor in the relevant SOP, their claim will be rejected. On this basis, it can be said that the bar to getting your claim accepted is set far too high.

Often the strict application of the SOP results in injuries being rejected by the DVA despite there being a clear service cause. Such an approach is not utilised in any of the state-based injury schemes that cover work injuries or motor vehicle



Members of the Australian Regular Army marching at the Sydney Anzac Day parade.

claims. Indeed, the SOPs are unique to Australia's military compensation scheme.

War comes at a significant personal cost for thousands of Australian service men and women and their families. However, the financial expense of these conflicts also continues to amaze and concern me.

While Australia's commitment is significantly less than that of the United States, it is being reported that the cost to the US alone from its involvement in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, factoring in caring for their returned military personnel, will run in the order of \$US6 trillion (\$A7.9 trillion). That estimate includes the considerable ongoing and long-term support that injured veterans require.

Recently, there have been considerable steps taken to address issues at the DVA, including the provision of no-fault medical treatment for psychological conditions and additional federal funding.

Now, a veteran or a current-serving ADF member can submit a more basic form for access to paid mental health treatment. That is, the DVA will now pay for reasonable mental health treatment, even though a decision has not yet been made about whether the condition is service-caused. Unlocking early treatment is critical for ADF members and veterans struggling with mental health issues, so this is a significant step in the right direction.

The Federal Government late last year announced a number of other significant financial commitments relevant to the ADF community, including an additional \$31 million to

assist veterans with mental health issues. This included a \$16 million package, over four years, to veterans who are financially vulnerable and who have already claimed for mental health conditions.

In short, now it is possible for veterans making a mental health claim to receive interim income payments while their claim is being investigated and assessed. At this point, though, these payments are available only to individuals whose financial hardship is due to the fact their inability to work is caused by their mental health condition.

These funding initiatives are critical steps in the right direction, but they are not enough to fix the mounting problems facing the DVA. There is still a lot of work to be done before things get easier for injured ADF members.

The continued use of the SOPs will ensure it remains a complex, confusing and often unjust scheme to those ADF members injured during their service.

But any meaningful change at the DVA hinges on action being taken in Canberra first – namely, to simplify military compensation legislation, ease the documentation required for a successful claim, and speed up the entire process to avoid placing any more stress and anxiety on these injured people.

Our injured Defence men and women have made enormous sacrifices in the name of serving and protecting our country. They deserve more. It's now time that we give back to them.

Tim White is partner at Tindall Gask Bentley and a military compensation specialist. www.indaly.com.au. Photo AAP

UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice

LETTER ADDRESSED TO VARIOUS POLITICIANS

Australian Defence Force and Police Force United Nations (UN) Peacekeeper Veterans, and those currently serving on UN Peacekeeping Operations, will Commemorate 70 Years of the Deployment of UN Peacekeepers into the field, which was in the Middle East Region under the auspices of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO [1948]), on the 29th of May 2018.

Australia has proudly been at the forefront of a number of UN Peacekeeping Operations in terms of Troop contribution and Command.

As such, the Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA) Oceania/Australia, is seeking wider Australian Political and Government acknowledgement for such Noble Service.

The United Nations is Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of UN Peacekeepers with the theme of *"UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice"*. Link: <http://www.un.org/en/events/peacekeepersday/>

On the 29th of May 2018, UN Offices, alongside Member States and International Peacekeeper Veterans Organisations will hold events world-wide to honour fallen Peacekeepers. Since the first UN Peacekeeping Mission was established in Israel, following the Israeli Palestinian War (aka The Israeli Independence War) of 1947-1948; over 3,400 military, police and civilian personnel have lost their lives under the UN Flag in the service of peace as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease.

In the past year, 134 International UN Peacekeepers have died serving the common goal of International Peace.

The United Nations recognise the 29th of May 1948 as the first deployment of Peacekeepers into the field in Israel and surrounding

countries, however the Australian War Memorial Historians discovered around 2 decades ago, that Australia was in fact the first Member Country to deploy UN Peacekeepers into the field in Indonesia on the 14th of September 1947.

The latter, is known to many as *"Australian Peacekeeper's Day"*, which includes Commemorating many other non-UN Peacekeeping Operations such as the Multinational Force & Observers (MFO) in the Sinai, The International Force in East Timor (INTERFET), Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville (PMG), Peace Monitoring in the Solomon Islands and the International Security/Stabilisation Force (ISF) in Timor Leste.

Today, UN Peacekeeping deploys more than 100,000 military, police and civilian personnel in 14 peacekeeping operations on four continents. Currently, UN Peacekeeping Operations receive contributions of military and police personnel from 124 Member States as well as critical equipment that sustain our operations. Peacekeeping is truly a global partnership and this number reflects strong global confidence in the value of the UN's flagship enterprise. Peacekeeping has also proven to be a solid investment in global peace, security, and prosperity. Despite the size and breadth of its operations, at just under \$7 billion a year, peacekeeping's annual budget remains less than on half of one percent of global military spending.

It is important to the General Public, Defence and Veteran Communities that the Government recognises the selfless service, courage and sacrifice toward International Peace, Security and Stability, that has been rendered by tens of thousands of Australian Defence and Police Force members (UN Troops), who served on these at times extremely dangerous UN Peacekeeping Operations.

UN Veterans are a highly vulnerable group of Veterans, who served in significantly malevolent

environments as was discovered with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Australian Peacekeeper Mental Health Study, released on 27 October 2014. That Study found that over 1 in 3 returned UN Peacekeeper Veterans who had served in UN Peacekeeping Operations from 1989 through to 1995, have suffered a Chronic Mental Illness.

Indeed, a paper released by the Phoenix Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Health (Forbes et al., March 2016); who were concerned about the alarming findings from the Australian Peacekeeper Mental Health Study – predicted that at least 1 in 4 returning UN Peacekeeper Veterans will experience an Acute Mental Illness when these Veterans Return to Australia and later in life.

High numbers of UN Peacekeeping Veterans reported suffering from Isolation, Demoralisation, Substance Abuse and Anger. Rwandan Veterans suffered a staggering 38% occurrence of Chronic Mental Illness, mainly Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Yet, such significant personal and family sacrifices are not particularly recognised by the Australian Government, when it comes to the stature of Australian Peacekeeper Veterans. Senior Officers in the ADF have been noted by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) that to serve on UN Peacekeeping Operations is *"...to go on a well-paid UN Holiday..."* We are sure that this is not an overwhelming view of Defence Force Officers.

Indeed, such un-warranted posturing was and continues to be made most apparent when the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) previously represented Medallion Recognition matters to the Defence Honours, Awards and Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT) in various Inquiries from the period 2009 through to 2012.

What these veterans simply seek is equality in a highly inconsistent

Australian and Defence Honours and Awards system. Does the Government, along with Defence and Police Senior Officers view the service of Peacekeepers as “*Second rate*”? It would appear that nothing is being done to address this matter. A closed-door approach, appears to be the only response to numerous representations for over 10 years.

Other issues such as retrospective Reclassification has dogged these veterans for many years. For one Veteran it has been a fight for almost 20 years to have his service in the middle of the Lebanese Civil War of 1975-1990; particularly during 1983-1984, reclassified to Warlike Service. This veteran continues to fight for this reclassification of service to this day. He was in the middle of some of the bloodiest battles in Beirut at the time. It was so severe and highly dangerous, that the Australian Embassy in Beirut had to close and relocate to Damascus in Syria.

It is however acknowledged and highly praised, that the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial (which was funded from Government sources, along with corporate and public donations); was dedicated by the Governor General of Australia, His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC on 14 September 2017. A long and overdue National Recognition for Australia’s significant contribution to International Peacekeeping Operations since 1947 to the present and well into the future.

Since Australia’s first UN Contingent on 14 September 1947, to the present day, over 60,00 Australian Troops and Police have deployed on UN Peacekeeping Operations. Australia has unfortunately lost 27 Peacekeepers and one Service Police Dog, with countless (mainly unknown statistics) of wounded, injured and ill. Many UN Peacekeeping Veterans, as proven by the Australian Peacekeeper Mental Health Study, continue to suffer the horrors and physical incapacity, as a result of their UN Peacekeeping Service.

I am sure that you will agree that a Media Release identifying and recognising such an Internationally significant Day, will be observed and recognised by the Australian Government, and provide open public awareness of such service, courage

and sacrifice of our UN Peacekeeping Veterans, from the past, present and future.

It has been the oversight of numerous Ministers and Opposition Spokespersons in the Veteran Portfolio over many years, who have not publicly recognised the importance for the recognition of our UN Peacekeepers. Indeed, Australian Peacekeepers are the most mis-understood, under recognised and under-represented group of veterans that this country has ever seen. Let’s not forgot those who have sacrificed their lives, their wellbeing and their quality of life for such honourable service. Let’s also not forget what these veterans have achieved in highly demanding, volatile and dangerous environments, in the cause of International Peace, Security and Stability. Make this service worthy of recognition and praise.

(Signed)
Yours Sincerely,
P. A. Copeland, OAM, JP,
International Vice President (Oceania & Australia).

United Nations



General Assembly

United Nations A/RES/57/129
Distr.: General 24 February 2003

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/57/522)]

57/129. International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

The General Assembly,
Reaffirming that peacekeeping continues to be among the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing the invaluable contribution to the promotion of peace and security of all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and recalling in this regard the awarding of the 1988 Nobel Peace

Prize to United Nations peacekeeping forces,

Recognizing also the sacrifice of all the men and women who lost their lives in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and recalling in this regard the establishment by the Security Council of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, Bearing in mind that the Security Council, by its resolution 50 (1948) of 29 May 1948, authorized the establishment of the first United Nations peacekeeping operation, and recognizing that 2003 marks the fifty-fifth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping,

Recalling its resolution 56/225 B of 22 May 2002, in which, inter alia, it endorsed the proposals, recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations,¹ including its recommendation that 29 May be designated the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers,

1. *Decides to designate* 29 May as the International Day of United Nations

Peacekeepers, to be observed annually to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers in an appropriate manner;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

73rd plenary meeting
11 December 2002



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Armoured vehicles, weaponry and sophisticated ICT systems are standard issue in the Army, but when your job involves working with electricity, the fact is, you'll need more than that to stay safe. The good news is there are three pieces of kit that'll help personnel take control of their safety at work on the tools with the defence force; in fact, they could even save a life.

Meet the MAX power adaptor, the X1 weatherproof connector protector and the 15A surge protector. Designed and made by Ampfibian, a northern NSW-based company dedicated to creating industry-tough products that combine safety and convenience, they're toolbox must-haves for Army personnel working with power equipment on site. Here's why.

- The MAX not only makes connecting 15A loads to 10A power

supplies legal and safe, it's equipped with a Residual Current Device (RCD), which immediately cuts the power if it detects a

difference between incoming versus outgoing current, and a Miniature Circuit Breaker (MCB), which cuts power if there's an overload or short circuit. Combined, it means the MAX is a highly effective piece of personal protective equipment. It's also IK08 impact rated, and dust and water resistant to IP55.

- The X1 is a high-quality connector protector that features a retaining mechanism to keep power connections firmly together, and patented seals to prevent electrocution in the wet. Suitable for trade and commercial use, it's IK09 impact resistant, IP55 hose and weatherproof and designed to fit standard and heavy-duty 10A and 15A extension leads.

- The 15A surge protector protects expensive power equipment from surges (those super-short, super-high rises in voltage that are too

fast to trigger conventional fuses or RCDs) when they're plugged into a power source, especially portable generators. Rated at 15 Amps and with a 500 Joule surge absorption rating, plug it straight into the power supply before connecting any tools.

Australian made, and made to comply with Australian standards, the MAX, X1 and 15A surge protector give defence personnel the power to be accountable for their own safety whenever they're around electricity and water. For more information head to ampfibian.com.au.



Canada to send helicopters to U.N. Mali mission, allies relieved



Canadian Forces door gunner Sergeant Chad Zopf leans out of a CH-146 Griffon helicopter during a training exercise in Kandahar district, Afghanistan June 18

David Ljunggren

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Canada will send six helicopters and 250 support troops to join a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali this year, officials confirmed, ending two years of deliberations that had upset allies.

Canada plans to deploy two Chinook transport helicopters and four Griffon attack helicopters to provide armed escort and protection in the fight against Islamist militants in the violence-torn West African nation.

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, saying many details still needed to be worked out, told reporters the force would be deployed for 12 months. A U.N. spokeswoman said the mission would start in August.

The United Nations on Monday said 162 people deployed in Mali have been killed since 2013, making it the world's deadliest peacekeeping operation.

"We always act to mitigate as best as possible the level of risk that Canadian armed forces personnel face while on operations ... although we cannot altogether eliminate the risks," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told legislators.

Canada's Foreign Minister

Chrystia Freeland (2nd R) and Chief of the Defence Staff General Jonathan Vance leave following a news conference announcing Canada will send helicopters and support troops to join a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali, on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, March 19, 2018. REUTERS/Chris Wattie

Earlier this month, four U.N. peacekeepers were killed by a roadside bomb in central Mali.

The announcement is less ambitious than Trudeau's Liberal government had initially planned. Shortly after coming to power in late 2015, Ottawa promised to commit up to 600 troops to U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Although Sajjan himself visited Mali and Canada sent two reconnaissance missions to the country, the government at the time never formally said it would send troops there.

Ministers later put the plans on hold amid fears of casualties, angering allies who said they felt let down, and prompting some to speculate the delay could hurt Canada's bid for a non-permanent seat at the U.N. Security Council.

"Canada's contribution will play a valuable role in the continued efforts

to bring peace and stability to Mali," said U.N. spokeswoman Charlotte Larbuisson.

Sajjan played down the idea the Canadian force was too small to make a difference, telling reporters it would "have a tremendous impact on the mission" given that the U.N. had specifically asked for helicopters.

Diplomats welcomed Monday's announcement, saying it would help peacekeepers operate without interruption.

Lisa Raitt, deputy leader of the official opposition Conservative party, told Trudeau in the House of Commons there would be a real threat to Canadian soldiers and told him it was "absolutely deplorable" to provide so few details.

James Bezan, the Conservative party's defence spokesman, had earlier accused the Liberals of sending troops to a highly dangerous country to help Trudeau's "selfish political ambition to win a seat on the U.N. Security Council".

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-peacekeeping-canada-mali/canada-to-send-helicopters-to-u-n-mali-mission-allies-relieved-idUSKBN1GV1ZF>



Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland (2nd R) and Chief of the Defence Staff General Jonathan Vance leave following a news conference

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Veterans' boardriders club helping defence personnel surf back into civilian life

A pair of Australian army veterans are helping returned soldiers transition back into civilian life one wave at a time.

The Association of Veteran Surfers (AVS) is a Surfing Queensland-affiliated boardriders club founded by Matt Hoare and Kieran Scotchford, both 29, following their discharges from the defence force.

Both men said they found solace in the ocean as they struggled to readapt after their military careers.

"We realised once we were out in the surf, it really does take away the negative thoughts you might be having, and we thought if this works for us, we might be able to offer this to other veterans and serving members," Mr Scotchford said.

"I experienced challenges when I discharged and couldn't find employment, and I was trying to find my purpose in life again.

Both men said they found solace in the ocean as they struggled to readapt after their military careers.

MODEST START BEFORE NUMBERS SWELLED

The association has gone from strength to strength since Mr Scotchford and Mr Hoare's first 'official' surf on the Gold Coast in 2016.

"At our first AVS surf, Matt and I were the only ones who turned up — but now we have about 50 members," Mr Scotchford said.

"We have surfers from 20 all the way to 70 years old now, [and] we also have families, with some young little groms joining in."

The organisation has now extended to the Sunshine Coast, where an event — complete with barbecue breakfast and surfing lessons — was held over the weekend at Coolum Beach.

Coming along for his first AVS surf was Shaun Richardson, 28 from Brisbane who returned a month ago from his second air force deployment in the Middle East.

"When you first come home to your family and friends, it's pretty overwhelming," Mr Richardson said.



Two members of the Association of Veteran Surfers at Coolum Beach on the Sunshine Coast. *Megan Kinniment*

"The biggest thing is that people don't know the military way of life, understanding the military discipline, the way that is embedded in your head.

"I struggle talking to my family about certain things, they are trying to comfort you, but it's hard for them to get it.

"Events like this let you unwind and get back into normality."

STRANGE SIMILARITIES HAVE SOOTHING EFFECT

Mr Hoare and Mr Scotchford's vision for the AVS was to create a healthy, active community for returned and serving defence personnel, who often struggle with the darkest of thoughts.

Mr Scotchford said surfing and military service are perhaps more alike than they first appear.

"Surfing can be related to military life in some ways — you're paddling out in an uncertain environment, you are against the odds, you're looking to your left and right, and you are looking out for your mates," he said.

"The difference is, you're out there having fun and you're in a relaxed environment and you're with a great group of mates that you can talk with

in a way that civilian people might not understand.

"You can get somewhat isolated, and you can miss that community feeling you had in the defence force."

"A lot of guys that do struggle with PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] once they discharge from the military, and do tend to isolate themselves and they don't want to go out and be social.

"The great thing about surfing is that you can speak about your problems, but also have a good time and forget about [your problems] in a relaxed environment and you're getting a physical workout at the same time."

For newcomers like Mr Richardson, the experience has already proved invaluable.

"This is awesome — you can come out and you can relate to people, talk about your experiences, the pros and cons, your deployment, and people are happy to listen and appreciate what we've done," he said. *ABC News*

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).



Protect your infantry with Linatex® rubber

It is said that practice makes perfect, which is why target practice is an important part of the armed forces' training regime. During practice sessions, it is vital that the shooter is in a safe environment. Elimination of ricochet risk is a key safety strategy for all shooting ranges.

"Our Linatex® rubber target backing curtains have been used by the military, police, government and private indoor ranges around the world for over three decades. Positioned between the target and the backstop, our curtains are designed to protect the shooter by eliminating ricochet risk and containing the lead dust," states Mark Doyle, Global Product Manager for Linatex® rubber products at Weir Minerals.

One remarkable feature of Linatex® rubber is its ability to self-heal instantly when penetrated by a bullet, leaving only a pin sized hole in its wake. It can withstand continuous shooting of thousands of rounds from a wide variety of calibre and power, ensuring the rubber lasts significantly longer than competing products.

Not only does the Linatex® target backing curtain keep the shooter safe from ricochet, but it also dampens noise within the shooting range. Unlike canvas or wood boards, it does not disintegrate resulting in substantially less maintenance.

Weir Minerals also manufactures Linagard® Ballistics FR rubber which

has several unique properties making it ideal for ballistic usage. These include extreme elongation, fire retardant properties and containing no toxic halogens.

Elongation is viewed as one of the key requirements of ballistic rubber within the shooting industry. Elongation of 200% is considered the gold standard and the greater the elongation the longer the rubber lasts. Linagard® Ballistics FR is capable of 833% elongation - four times the industry gold standard. A 150mm² sheet of Linagard® Ballistics FR is capable of withstanding in excess of 1,500 shots before requiring replacement.

Additionally, the problem with many types of rubber used in shooting ranges is flammability, and there is a high demand for fire retardant (FR) rubber in shooting ranges to eliminate this risk.

Linagard® Ballistics FR is a specially formulated rubber that doesn't sustain flame and is self-extinguishing. It is certified under the UL94 flammability standard to the highest level of V0 & HB. The flame retardant capabilities are also achieved without the use of highly toxic halogens. This certification is achieved without negatively affecting its durability as is the case with most flame retardant rubbers.

TCRT Systems are the exclusive distributor for this rubber, and have

developed a number of innovative products specifically for the military.

"We have been working with Linagard Ballistics FR rubber for a number of years now to develop multiple products for the military. One of our recent developments is our Armadillo panel which is a laminate of ballistic steel and Linagard Ballistics FR rubber. The unique properties of the Linagard Ballistics FR rubber assist in dissipating the energy of the bullet. Testing has demonstrated that the laminated panel is up to eight times more bullet resistant than the ballistic steel alone." states Clive Blair from TCRT Systems.

Another ground-breaking product which has been developed by TCRT Systems using Linagard® Ballistics FR rubber is a moulded tile that can be used for floors, walls and ceilings to eliminate ricochet risk on shooting ranges and within shoot houses. The tiles can also be used as backstop panels on pistol ranges with all lead being trapped behind the tile within the backstop panel.

TCRT systems also manufactures rifle range backstop panels that are capable of stopping a 338Lapua round at 50 metres. The secret to the success of these backstop panels is the use of Linagard® Ballistics FR as the front membrane. These panels are highly efficient and allow for the easy recovery of all lead whilst relying upon the Linagard® Ballistics FR to eliminate all ricochet risk.

Linatex® rubber has a long history with the army, dating back to World War II when fighter planes' fuel tanks were lined with Linatex® premium rubber. If the fighter plane was shot at and a bullet penetrated the fuel tank, the rubber would quickly close over and prevent fuel escaping from the tank. It's a tried and tested product that has been used by the military for over half a century and continues to add high value to this day.

TCRT Systems and Weir Minerals sell the above products globally to the military, police force and governments. Visit www.linatex.weir or tcrtsystems.com to find out more.



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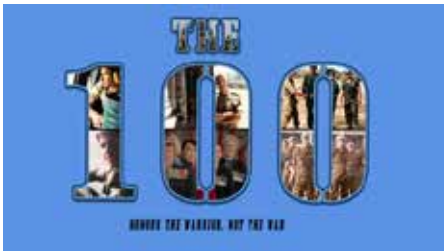
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THE 100 HONOUR THE WARRIOR, NOT THE WAR



Focusing on the personal achievements during and post service of The Modern Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker.

Australian Military Service Personnel have served in over 70 operations or deployments, since 1947. The project will be a digital archive containing the transcribed audio-visual interviews of over 100 service men and women involved, no matter race, colour, creed or persuasion.

The interviews will be housed within a bespoke, secure online database that will allow individuals to search via keywords or phrases.

Through this not for profit venture, we hope to share the lived experience across generations with the service men and women who will follow, inform and possibly prepare enlistees for the realities and challenges they may face.

We will also draw on the expertise of mental health professionals, advocates and published authors familiar with the subject matter.

The 100 will be launched in 2018, in line with the Centenary, and continue from there and will be made available, free of charge to not only our supporters; Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association, Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Dandenong RSL, RSL Victoria, Eastern Regional Libraries Victoria, Yarra Ranges Council, City of Knox Department of Education and Training Victoria, but also to The Australian War Memorial The National Library, The Australian Defence Force, councils, schools, and educational and not for profit organisations across community and nation, that may express an interest in our outcomes.



LAND FORCES 2016 - DELIVERING RESULTS

Building on the success of the inaugural LAND FORCES 2014 in Brisbane, LAND FORCES 2016 was a rich environment for defence and industry professionals. 501 exhibitors from 23 countries showcased goods and services to more than 13,450 visitors from Australia and the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

Exhibitors included companies from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States.

Key to the visitor program were 66 international delegations.

The Australian Army and Department of Defence used LAND FORCES 2016 as a platform for engagement and partnerships with neighbours, allies and industry.

The Chief of the Australian Army invited his counterparts from around the region and further afield to attend the biennial Chief of Army's Exercise during LAND FORCES 2016.

The Australian Defence Science and Technology Group (DST Group) hosted the second iteration of its influential Future Land Force Conference (FLFC).

The Australian Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG), Centre for Defence Industry Capability (CDIC), and DST Group all held industry briefings at LAND FORCES 2016.

In all, there were 11 conferences, seminars and industry roundtables at LAND FORCES 2016, augmented

by the activities of the CDIC and AusIndustry who worked to support SME outreach to prime contractors and supply chain partners.

Building on the results delivered at its two preceding events, LAND FORCES 2018 will again be the place to do land-defence business in Australia and the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

DVA CLAIMS HINDERED BY PROCESSING SYSTEM FLAWS

Lacks visibility of staff workflow. Australia's national auditor has cast a spotlight on serious problems with claims processing at the Department of Veterans' Affairs amid a major program of work to improve support systems.

On June 28th The Australian National Audit Office delivered its assessment on how well the department delivers services to around 165,000 veterans.

It found "weaknesses in DVA's business systems and processes" that have hampered its ability to process claims efficiently.

This is particularly the case with the department's new integrated support hub (ISH) system used to process rehabilitation & compensation (R&C) claims for veterans.

The ISH system was introduced to streamline claims processing after a \$23.9 million investment in the 2016 federal budget.

It will eventually replace 18 legacy systems that a 2013 IT vulnerability review by the Department of Finance found wanting. The "systems supporting R&C processes had 'a high risk of catastrophic failure'" Finance said at the time.

For the moment the ISH is still only being used for several - rather than all - claim types covered by the 18 legacy systems.

It is still not being used by DVA to manage workflow, “but rather as repository of records associated with a claim at the completion of processes”.

This is because the “ISH system does not require a sequential approach to processing of claims”.

The auditor said R&C claims were being primarily managed outside the processing system and “input ... when they are complete”.

“Testing identified that the workflow of R&C claims is primarily managed through the use of spreadsheets that are maintained outside of the primary processing system (ISH),” the audit states.

This approach to workflow management could mean that, in some instances, claims are lost between hand-off points.

The ISH system also lacks “controls to ensure integrity over the high volume of manual records placed in the system”.

Introducing the system for only several claim types has also meant that DVA staff are now “using multiple systems” to process claims, which “could affect timeliness and accuracy of processing”.

In response to the audit findings, the department said future ISH system releases would improve management reporting and monitoring.

At least some of the work is expected to overlap with future stages of the department’s veteran centric reform program, which scored an additional \$112 million in last month’s budget.

The funding will be used to begin remediation work on 13 major systems that underpin income support business capabilities and support the R&C work that began following the 2016 budget.

<https://www.itnews.com.au/news/dva-claims-hindered-by-processing-system-flaws-495811>

NEW YOUNG-VETERAN-SUPPORT GRANTS AVAILABLE NOW

\$1,000,000 worth of grants are now available to assist younger veterans establish themselves into civilian life, and manage the challenges and opportunities that their ADF service

presents.

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Darren Chester said the Supporting Younger Veterans (SYV) grants program was now open for applications for the 2018–19 financial year to provide further assistance to younger veterans.

“The funded programs will directly help the mental, physical and social wellbeing of these younger veterans,” Mr Chester said.

“They also raise community awareness of the important issues faced by younger veterans.

“As the programs are well researched and sustainable they will be able to help many younger veterans over a number of years.

“Other important considerations are that there is collaboration among ex-service organisations and other organisations in the broader community, and that projects or services are delivered in a sustainable way to build capabilities in the veteran community.”

Projects that previously received funding have provided a range of services including personal coaching and peer support to disengaged and unemployed veterans, the training of young veterans as Disaster Response Instructors, and innovative treatments to mental-health challenges aimed at improving resilience, mental wellbeing, psychological stress, post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms and dysfunctional behaviours.

“It is pleasing to see previous grants recipients such as Veterans Care Association and Team Rubicon Australia creating positive opportunities for the younger generation of veterans,” Mr Chester said.

“There is no maximum or minimum amount that can be sought for this grant opportunity and applications are open from now until 2pm on Tuesday 14 August 2018.

“If you think you may need help with your application please call or email the Community Grants Hub as soon as possible to ask for help.

“This will ensure any issues can be worked through in time for your application to be considered for funding.”

“This is just one important initiation aimed at putting veterans and families first and I encourage organisations to



apply for this round of grant funding.”

For information about how to apply for grants online, see the Community Grants Hub website: www.communitygrants.gov.au or the Department of Veterans’ Affairs website: www.dva.gov.au. Support is available by phone: 1800 020 283.

FRENCH SCHOOL NAMED AFTER WWI DIGGER

A primary school in the small French town of Blangy-Tronville has been renamed after an Australian World War I soldier.

Private Arthur Clifford Stribling from the small town of Tarlee in South Australia died near Blangy-Tronville on 25 April 1918, while fighting as part of the 50th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force.

Before officially renaming the school, the town conducted a memorial service at the soldier’s grave.

Invited guests included members of Private Stribling’s family, the Australian Ambassador to France, the town’s Mayor and Australian Defence Force representatives, including the Australia’s Federation Guard contingent in France for Anzac Day commemorations.

The Australian Defence Force Attaché Ceremonial – France and Belgium, Colonel Scott Clingan, said the town picked one Australian serviceman to represent many.

“The village wanted to pay their respects to all Australians who fought here during World War I as an act of



gratitude for their service,” Colonel Clingan said.

“They picked one Australian soldier to represent them all and chose Private Stribling because he is buried in their local cemetery and comes from a town with a population of no more than a couple of hundred people – much like Blangy-Tronville.

“Also, because he died on Anzac Day 100 years ago.”

Private Stribling’s Great Nephew, John Willis, said he felt proud of his great uncle.

“It is very humbling to see a young man from our family, from a small town like Tarlee, have a school on the other side of the world named after him like this,” Mr Willis said.

“Until now, I didn’t really know anything about him except that he fought in the war, so this has been quite an experience. I’m proud that my great uncle’s name will help preserve the memory of the Australian soldiers here in France a century ago for new generations of French children,” he said.

During his speech at the renaming ceremony, the Mayor of Blangy-Tronville, Eric Guéant, said his town would never forget what Private Stribling and his colleagues did for France.

“Our schoolchildren will now see his portrait in their classroom every day; his sacrifice for France is to be passed on in our children’s memories,” Mayor Guéant said.

“This plaque bearing his name also testifies our tribute to you, the people of Australia, whose forefathers

so numerous came, fought here and, for some of them, never returned home.

“You are more than our guests, you are more than our friends. We love you, definitively,” he said.

The renaming was one of several commemorative events and visits the Australian Defence Force contingent has attended since arriving in France, ahead of the Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux and Anzac Day March through the city of Bullecourt.

DEFENCE PUMPS CYBER RESEARCH PROGRAM

Pinpoints ‘priority projects’. The Department of Defence has put the call out to Australia’s scientists and researchers to bowl-up a series of research projects aimed at improving its understanding of cyber technologies.

The Defence Science and Technology (DST) Group has started accepting proposals for its cyber research program to tap into potential benefits and limitations of cyber technologies.

The callout comes as universities across Australia battle Defence’s ambitions to be able to dictate what technology research and development is considered national security sensitive under a review of miltech export control laws.

The program is aimed at understanding how Defence can use

“cyber technologies, create prototype systems, and demonstrate the practical applications of systems to Defence problems”.

It’s seeking proposals from industry and universities for a series of “priority projects” for an initial 12 month period, with up to \$650,000 provided through the Next Generation Technologies Fund.

A number of projects have been identified, including trustworthy machine learning, resilient cyber systems, detecting human vulnerabilities towards cyber threats via trust analytics, privacy-preserving distributed edge computing, and cyber-enabled information warfare.

Funding will be tied to “agreed deliverables and milestones” and future funding will be provided if the project is “promising”.

Minister for Defence Industry Christopher Pyne said the government was encouraging the development of cyber capabilities to respond to malicious cyber activity.

“Malicious cyber activity costs Australian business and families over \$1 billion every year, and malicious cyber activity from state and non-state actors is a threat to Australia’s national security,” he said.

“The government encourages Australia’s scientists and researchers to contribute to the development of cyber capabilities, which is a priority for national security.

“We want academia and industry to collaborate with Defence Science and Technology, and CSIRO’s digital research network, Data61, to deliver technology developments and demonstrator systems within three to five years.

“It is critical that Australia develops a sovereign capability to protect our nation.”

<https://www.itnews.com.au/news/defence-pumps-cyber-research-program-499286>



Young Veterans Forum – 25 July 2018

Attending the Young Veterans Forum (YVF) is always a great opportunity to get first-hand information about the changes and improvements being undertaken by DVA to support our veterans. It also provides a platform to express concerns and challenges faced by our younger veteran community within the DVA space.

Some of the following topics were discussed at the July forum -

- **Provisional Access to Medical Treatment Trial (PAMT)** is a two-year trial to provide veterans with access to medical treatment for specified conditions while their claim for liability under the MRCA or DRCA is being processed. Further details about this trial can be found on the DVA website, including the 20 specified conditions accessible during the trial.

- **White Cards (Health Treatment Cards)** – Any member who transitions from the ADF will now receive a White Card on discharge/resignation. DVA have now linked into all members currently serving and new members joining the ADF to ensure the transition from Defence to DVA occurs.

Any member with SRCA/DRCA accepted conditions who doesn't have a White Card for these conditions,

need to contact DVA (by email or phone) and request one be issued.

- **VVCS** – This essential organisation is rebranding. From October 2018, VVCS will be changing its name to 'Open Arms'. All contact numbers and services will remain the same. This change has been made after extensive consultation with the veteran community, serving members and families with the intent of making these very important services well known amongst the younger veteran and veteran's families' platform.

- **RESTORE** – This treatment program is currently being trialled and is aimed at serving/ex-serving members suffering from mild to moderate PTSD symptoms. They are currently looking for participants to join the trial. If you, or someone you know may be interested in participating in this trial, please contact Holly Knight on 1800 856 824 or email restore@unimelb.edu.au to discuss the details.

- **MyService** – This is the new and evolving online platform for submitting claims to DVA. The latest version rolled out on 30 July 18 making this service open to any member with Defence service. Previously, this program only allowed members with a PMKEYS number to register, however now the program is linked in with

MyGov so any member with service may access and utilise this service. Registering is easy and the process of submitting a claim has been improved, with many conditions added to the database. Some conditions are being accepted, in principle, within minutes. This is fantastic advancement of the claims process, however, as an Advocate, I would still recommend seeking assistance/advice before proceeding with any claims.

One area that always seems to raise questions from veterans in the Advocacy space is the role of the Complex Case Team within DVA. I requested some clarification of this team and its role be raised at the forum and the Secretariat arranged for representatives from this team to attend. In summary, this is what I can explain:

The Complex Case Team was established in 2012 because of the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART) and the subsequent claims for liability. This team manages cases relating to Sexual/Physical abuse, SAS, Mefloquine/Tafenoquine claims and other cases deemed to be complex in nature. The staff in this team are experienced Delegates as well as Social Workers who are utilised as the POC for communication between the Veteran and DVA. Staff undertake specialised training in PTSD to assist with their understanding of the illness and its effects. This team works with the same time frame of 120 days for initial liability claims, however, due to the complexity of some cases this can (and usually does) go beyond this.

This is just a summary of discussions from the forum. The minutes from these Forums will be available on the DVA website for all to review.

Coralee Goedhart
Advocate



**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

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

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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
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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	

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