

Australian Peacekeeper

WINTER 2018

MAGAZINE





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WHATS INSIDE

Contributors:

Australian Defence Force, The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Phil Pyke, Department of Defence, Paul Copeland, Allan Thomas; Kevin Ryan; Rob Woods; Randall New' Gary Nowlan' Rod Thompson; Paul Smith; The Department of Veterans' Affairs (Commemorations Branch); The Australian Strategic Policy Institute; The Office of the Honourable Dan Tehan, MP.

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

Vice President: Mick Quinn
 Treasurer: Rhonda Copeland
 treasurer@peacekeepers.asn.au

National Editor: Craig Anderson
 craiganderson14@gmail.com

Advertising: Sharon Pace
 peacekeeper@flightpublishing.com.au

Flight Publishing P/L: Kylie McQueen
 02 9386 4213

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

Cover



Commander of the Resolute Support Headquarters International Military Police, Australian Army Captain Liam Hardy (right), of the 1st Military Police Battalion, and Lieutenant Jeff Shirland, of the United States Army (left), join members of the force protection group in Kabul, Afghanistan on 18 April.
Defence Image



UNITED NATIONS

- 6 Security of UN Peacekeepers
- 7 Gone but not forgotten
- 10 UN Peacekeeping at a crossroad
- 11 Four UN troops killed in Mali
- 26 UN Chief calls for calm in C African Republic
- 27 Western Sahara



FEATURE

- 12 The first UN Peacekeepers
- 34 Returning to Rwanda
- 38 Sappers beyond just peace
- 44 Vets refused care

OUR PEOPLE

- 23 St George local to the heartland of Iraq



ADF

- 8 Gifting to the Gift-Giver
- 30 100 years on, we remember them
- 32 Graduation Day for ANAOA Students
- 33 P-8A Poseidon deployed to Korean

NAVY

- 28 2000 hour milestone in Romeos

DEPARTMENT FEATURES

- 2 From the Presidents Desk
- 46 APPVA
- 51 Membership Form
- 52 Merchandise Form



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year is proving to be a very hectic year for the association as we had to make preparations for ANZAC Day in State. Another significant event that will surely require some additional planning is organising an annual commemorative event in Canberra at the National Peacekeepers Memorial which opened on the 14 September 2017. As the lead Peacekeeping Ex-Service Organisation it will be our responsibility to instigate Peacekeepers Day commemorations on the 14 September at our memorial annually with other UN organisations.

Peacekeeping has played a significant role within the Australian Defence Force and will continue to play a significant role as operational aspects change from Warlike to Non-warlike service around the world that requires countries such as Australia to provide support to maintain peace and stability when needed globally.

Since my last National Presidents report I attended the last Ex-Service Organisation Round Table meeting in Canberra on the 8 May 2018 for the Budget Brief with all other Ex-Service Organisation National President's I have included the measures outlined in the 2018-19 Budget that concern veterans so you have a better understanding.

Delivering Australia's Digital Future – Veteran Centric Reform - Continuation

One of the highlights of the budget for veterans was the continuation of the ongoing transformation of DVA in 2018-19 will continue to improve the experience veterans and families have when interacting with DVA by delivering proactive, faster, easier-to-access and digitally-enabled services. This includes:

- calling one phone number 1800VETERAN, to access DVA services with quicker response times and improved call quality,
- expanding MyService to make lodging claims for incapacity, permanent impairment and income support easier,
- faster decisions on claims lodged in MyService through streamlined processes and increased automatic acceptance when possible;

- reaching out to veterans and their families who are not in contact with DVA with more options to learn about DVA services and support,
- using the power of data to anticipate the needs of veterans and their families and proactively connecting and offering services and support,
- providing veterans increased choice and online visibility of aids and appliances,
- continuing targeted ICT development.

Who will Benefit?

The ongoing transformation of DVA throughout 2018-19 will deliver benefits to veterans, their families, DVA staff and whole of government through reform of the department's culture, operating model and business and systems.

Date of Effect

The funding allocated to the ongoing transformation of DVA will commence from 1 July 2018.

How much will this cost?

The 2018-19 Budget provides \$111.9m over the four years to support DVA's ongoing transformation initiatives.

Support for Veterans' Employment Opportunities - Continuation

The measure introduced in the Budget will continue the development, implementation and promotion of the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program (\$4.0 million) and provide additional support to veterans who are finding the transition to the civilian workforce challenging (\$4.3 million).

It will also support an initiative of the Industry Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment to establish a framework to allow businesses to publicly commit to support the employment of veterans.

Why is this Important?

The aim of the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program is to increase employment opportunities for veterans by raising awareness in the Australian business community of the unique skills and experience that veterans can bring to the civilian

workplace. This is constituent with the Jobs and Growth measures announced in the 2017-18 Budget.

This measure will continue the development and implementation of the program's initiatives, including the delivery of annual awards. Further promotion and education about the skills and experience that veteran's possess is required to achieve cultural changes within the private sector.

Additional work will be done on the program's website, and research and evaluation will be undertaken to inform policy development around veterans' employment.

Infrastructure will also be developed to support a framework for employers to make a public commitment to veterans' employment. The framework is an initiative of the Industry Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment, which was established in 2017 under the program.

Veterans can access services through the Department of Defence's Career Transition Assistance Scheme (CTAS) for up to 12 months after separation from the ADF. However, these services vary according to the length of a veterans' ADF service and other factors.

This measure will provide support of veterans who need additional services to secure appropriate employment. It will cover the cost for services such as resume and interview preparation, translation of ADF skills into civilian competencies, mentoring and coaching services pre and post-employment.

Who will Benefit?

Former ADF members, spouses of serving ADF members and businesses seeking to support veterans will benefit from the continuation of the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program. It will also help veterans who are ineligible for vocational support through DVA's existing rehabilitation or CTAS to prepare for, and transition into, civil employment.

Date of Effect

This measure will start on 1 July 2018 with additional transition support starting on 1 July 2020.

How much will it cost?

The 2018-19 Budget provides \$8.3 million over the forward estimates to support this measure.

Improved Dental and Allied Health

This Budget measure is a reform package to improve dental and allied health services for the veteran community. The reform package has four main elements:

- technical adjustments to the fee schedules
- new treatment cycle initiative
- trials of funding models
- schedule upgrades to meet future needs.

Why is this Important?

This reform package re-balances the DVA arrangements for purchasing dental and allied health services. The package delivers on the Australian Government's commitment for DVA to review its dental and allied health care arrangements. The package will be implemented in a phased approach.

The aim of this initiative is to strengthen the quality of care for DVA cardholders by increasing general practitioner (GP) engagement and assessment. It is also expected this reform will ensure only clinically necessary allied health services are provided.

1. Technical adjustments to the fee schedules

From 1 November 2018, DVA will implement a number of technical adjustments to the dental and allied health fee schedules. The aim of these changes is to upgrade the schedules to a more contemporary industry standard. For instance, DVA plans a number of technical changes to the dental fees schedule to align the dental fees schedule more closely to the industry standard in dental care.

DVA will consult with affected professional associations before implementation of these changes. These technical changes will not have any increased cost over current budget estimates.

2. New Treatment Cycle Initiative

In July 2019, DVA will begin a new initiative building on existing GP referrals for veteran allied health services. Under this new treatment cycle, the GP may make a referral for up to 12 sessions of allied health

service delivery if it is clinically required for the patient. The patient will then undertake the treatment provided by the allied health practitioner. The new referral method will apply to all DVA allied health services, excluding dental and optical services.

At the end of the treatment cycle, the allied health provider will provide a report back to the GP. If the GP assesses that further allied health treatment is clinically required, then the GP will refer the patient for a further treatment cycle of up to 12 sessions. A client may have as many treatment cycles as clinically required.

The initiative will be developed and designed in 2018-19, including consultation with allied health providers, medical associations and ex-service organisations. The treatment cycle is planned to operate from 2019-20 onwards. DVA will evaluate the implementation of the treatment cycle in its first year of operation and report back to government in 2020.

3. Trial of funding models

In consultation with relevant allied health provider associations, DVA will develop and design up to four trials of new funding approaches for allied health services. These trials will test alternative funding approaches for selected professions to see if outcomes can be improved for clients. They will be evaluated with a report back to government. The design of the trials will be developed during 2019-20 and the trials will be implemented from February 2021 until 2022.

4. Upgrades to meet future needs

In February 2021, DVA plans to update key parts of allied health schedules to help meet future health needs. Proposed changes include addressing:

- use of new technology, online video counselling is at least as effective as traditional face-to-face counselling in terms of clinical outcomes, therapeutic alliance and satisfaction ratings.
- growing evidence on the clinical benefits of certain therapeutic techniques to address health problems. For instance, this includes physiotherapy to assist with incontinence, neurological and vestibular (balance) issues.
- Consistency with industry standards in order to ensure the DVA's fees

schedules are up to date and to help reduce red tape for providers.

- Opportunities to make improvements for complex care arrangement, for those at risk of suicide, those who are homeless and those discharging from hospital.

These upgrades will be made subject to the success of the new treatment cycle in ensuring only clinically necessary service provision.

Who will Benefit?

140,000 DVA cardholders who access DVA dental and allied health services will benefit from this package through improved communication between GPs and allied health service providers; access to an expanded range of services delivered through emerging technologies, for example, telehealth arrangements via telephone or video; and opportunities for enhanced complex care management for our most vulnerable clients.

How much will this cost?

This measure will be introduced in a phased way over the forward estimates. The new treatment cycle will start from July 2019 and it is planned to operate from 2019-20 onwards. Before this element starts, there will be a planning and development of systems costing around \$1.1 million in 2018-19. It is then expected that this element will result in average net savings of around \$18.2 million per year from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

The trial of new funding models will start in February 2021 and will have a total cost of around \$1.8 million over two years.

The planned upgrades to the dental and allied health fee schedules will start in February 2021 and will have a total cost of around \$11.1 million over the forward estimates.

Over the forward estimates, this initiative will result in a total net saving of \$40.7 million.

DVA Reconnects

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

Members were advised of the three phases of implementation, with feedback received from clients contacted during the process being

overwhelmingly positive. A full report will be provided to the ESORT once the project is finalised.

Support for Veterans through improved Compensation Arrangements – Reversal of 2015-16 Budget measures - SRCA Reforms

This measure will reverse two Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 measures from the 2015-16 Budget, which were aligned with changes to the Comcare Scheme but did not proceed:

- **calculating permanent impairment and the maximum payable** – would have introduced a new method of calculating permanent impairment payment and a higher maximum payment amount for some claimants.
- **Multiple injuries arising out of the one event** – would have provided for the impact of multiple injuries from a single event to be combined in calculating the person's permanent impairment payment. The measure would have resulted in a lower permanent impairment payment for a large number of claimants compared to the current rules.

Why is this Important?

The 2015-16 measures were to have commenced 1 July 2015, however, legislative changes were not passed by the Parliament.

The measure ensures consistent compensation arrangements for veterans and the general community.

Who will Benefit?

Those clients who may have been affected if the 2015-16 measures had been implemented.

Date of Effect

This measure will start 1 July 2018.

How much will this cost?

The 2018-19 Budget provides \$5.3 million over the forward estimates to support this measure.

Mental Health Treatment for Australian Defence Force Reservists with Disaster Relief and Certain other Service

The expansion of Non-liability health care eligibility to certain Reservists will provide treatment for any mental health condition without the need to link to condition to the person's military service, without requiring a diagnosis and separate from any compensation claim.

All current and former permanent full-time Australian Defence Force members are already eligible for mental health treatment, as are Reservists with continuous full-time service (CFTS). This measure expands eligibility to include Reservists without CFTS but with domestic or international disaster relief or certain other service.

Why is this Important?

This measure is important because:

- exposure to trauma increases the risk of mental health issues.
- early intervention improves health outcomes.
- it supports Reservists exposed to trauma as part of their Reserve duties.

Any mental health condition will be covered, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, alcohol use disorder and phobias.

Treatment will be delivered through the DVA White Card. Services available through this card included general practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, medication, public or private treatment and counselling.

Who will Benefit?

Reservists without CFTS who have been involved in:

- disaster Relief Services
- border protection service
- a serious service-related training accident

Date of Effect

This measure will start on 1 July 2018

How much will this Cost?

The 2018-19 Budget provides \$2.2 million over the forward estimates to support this initiative.

Support for Veterans through improved Compensation Arrangements – Removing the Stepdown for Incapacity Payments – Increased payments for Veterans Study

This measure provides former members of the ADF with incapacity payments at 100% of their normal

earnings when they are engaged in an approved fulltime study program as part of their DVA Rehabilitation Plan.

Why is this important?

It is anticipated that the measure will lead to more effective rehabilitation and more sustainable employment outcomes. The measure is consistent with the Australian Government's priorities for health and measures to promote veterans' employment and builds on the Jobs and Growth measures announced in the 2017-18 Budget.

- this measure will ensure that those former ADF members who are on a DVA rehabilitation plan and undertaking approved fulltime study are fully supported by the incapacity payment system while undertaking their studies.

- former ADF members on incapacity payments, including those undertaking an approved course of study, currently experience a reduction of up to 25 per cent in the payments after 45 weeks.

- This reduction may result in incapacitated ADF members making short-term decisions relating to employment at the expense of effective rehabilitation outcomes, including sustainable employment. Successful rehabilitation outcomes, especially those focused on returning to work, also reduce future reliance on taxpayer funded support.

- This measure aims to provide financial surety to members discharging from the ADF service into rehabilitation and then ongoing remunerative work.

Who will Benefit?

This measure will benefit former members with service that is covered under the MRCA 2004 and SRCA (Defence-Related Claims) Act 1988 who undertake an approved course of fulltime study through a DVA rehabilitation plan.

Date of Effect

This measure will start on 1 November 2018 and will run until 30 June 2022.

How much will it Cost?

The 2018-19 Budget provides \$10.8 million over the forward estimates to support this initiative.

Long Tan Bursary – Extension of Eligibility

This measure extends the eligibility criteria for the Long Tan Bursary to include grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans.

Why is this Important?

The Long Tan Bursary assists eligible children of Australian Vietnam Veterans, who served in the Vietnam War during the period of 31 July 1962 to 30 April 1975, to establish themselves in post-secondary education, by providing up to \$12,000 over three years.

Bursaries are awarded to those whose further education should, after obtaining a qualification, enable them to support themselves through gainful employment.

Expanding the eligibility criteria helps to ensure the Long Tan Bursary program will continue to provide assistance to the descendant of Vietnam Veterans.

Who will Benefit?

The measure will benefit grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans, who will become eligible to apply for Long Tan Bursary.

The children of Vietnam Veterans will remain eligible and the applications for Long Tan Bursaries will be given first priority during the assessment

process. This honours the original intent of the scheme.

Date of Effect

This measure will take effect on 1 August 2019

How much will this Cost?

There are no financial impacts as the number and value of the bursaries offered will remain the same. The program offers 37 per year, recipients

receive a total of \$12,000 over three years.

That was the main measures that effect veterans in the 2018-19 Budget introduced on the 8 May 2018, all of the savings within the DVA budget will be utilised in further enhancements to DVA ICT system. That concludes my report for this edition of the Peacekeepers Magazine.

Allan Thomas
National President



The banner features the Australian flag and the text: **2018 Land Forces AUSTRALIA INDO ASIA PACIFIC** 4 - 6 SEPTEMBER ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA. On the right is the logo for the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc. Below the banner, text reads: **LAND FORCES EXHIBITION 4-6 SEPTEMBER ADELAIDE EXHIBITION CONVENTION CENTRE**. The APPVA will be operating a stand at the Land Forces 2018. LAND FORCES 2018 will highlight the platforms, equipment, services and technologies that are increasingly demanded by the armies of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. If you would like to assist in manning the stand please contact: Craig Anderson at craiganderson14@gmail.com or 0481 165 592.

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Security of UN Peacekeepers:

The minefield of politics, people and principles



2 Feb 2018 | Lisa Sharland

'Keeping the peace' has become a dangerous endeavour in recent years. At the end of 2017, militants attacked a UN base in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Fifteen peacekeepers were killed—the highest single death toll from an attack on a UN peacekeeping mission since Somalia in 1993. According to a new report released last week, more peacekeepers have been killed in acts of violence in the last five years than in any other five-year period in nearly 70 years of UN peacekeeping.

Unfortunately, this trend isn't all that surprising. Several peacekeeping missions are currently deployed in high-threat environments where there's 'no peace to keep'. In some cases, such as in South Sudan, host authorities have put peacekeepers' lives at risk by obstructing the freedom of movement of mission personnel. In other cases, such as in Mali, terrorists and violent extremists have launched attacks against civilians and UN targets. And despite small arms and improvised explosive devices being

used in the vast majority of fatal attacks in recent years, peacekeepers still remain largely unprepared to address or mitigate these emerging threats.

The new report, *Improving security of United Nations peacekeepers*, recommends a series of reforms to 'change the way the United Nations does business in high-security risk peacekeeping operations'. Authored by former UN Force Commander and retired Brazilian Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, the report provides recommendations in 18 areas and proposes shifts in four broad domains: (1) changing mindsets so that personnel are willing to project force; (2) improving the capacity of missions to operate in high-threat environments; (3) ensuring mission footprints are 'threat-sensitive'; and (4) enhancing accountability of mission leadership and uniformed contributors when it comes to adapting to high-risk environments.

UN officials are keen to move forward quickly with the Cruz report's recommendations. Concerns about safety and security in UN peacekeeping

missions are significant factors (if not the primary factors) for most countries in determining whether they're likely to deploy, or to maintain their commitment to an existing mission. The UN secretariat has already developed an ambitious action plan to take forward the recommendations. However, past debates on many of these issues among the various peacekeeping stakeholders suggest that several of the proposed reforms will hit roadblocks, particularly with member states.

Take the report's approach to caveats. Member states use caveats to set boundaries, communicate expectations to the UN and manage risk for their troops. The report recommends that the UN 'should not accept caveats, because they weaken integration and mutual protection within missions', which in turn 'increases the risks of casualties'. While it's true that caveats create inherent challenges for UN peacekeeping, they're a necessary evil. Countries won't sign over their personnel to serve in missions without retaining some measure of

control. That's not to say every effort shouldn't be made to discourage and limit caveats, but it needs to be done in a way that doesn't result in member states applying 'hidden' caveats. As Alexandra Novosseloff has argued, if the UN is to understand why caveats are being applied and effectively manage them in operations, it needs to have a more transparent and substantive dialogue with member states on the issue to start with.

The report is also limited by its narrow approach to the concept of security. It focuses heavily on military components and the need to 'win'. That's despite the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations emphasising the need for political solutions to support peacekeeping and for missions to be people-centred. The Cruz report doesn't address community engagement or protection of civilians, ignoring the reality that communities can form an important part of security strategies if they see 'the UN as

worth protecting in the first place'. Astonishingly, there's also no mention of women or gender considerations, despite the continued commitment to strengthen the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. It's a considerable oversight given the important role of women in engaging with local communities to discern potential security risks.

Of course, it's easy to criticise a report for what it doesn't cover. There's absolutely no doubt that many countries that contribute their personnel to peacekeeping missions need to change their posture and mindset on force protection and security issues. The report makes many valuable recommendations that, if implemented, have the potential to dramatically bolster performance and accountability, strengthen casualty evacuation and medical response, and ensure that peacekeeping missions adopt a more robust posture, thereby better protecting the lives of

those who serve. Yet security in UN peacekeeping 'requires a shared approach' and can't be dictated from headquarters in New York.

If the UN is really going to change its approach to security, then a more substantive discussion needs to take place about the 'outer-limits' of UN peacekeeping. The Cruz report notes that there's a need for the UN to 'provide an updated interpretation of the basic principles of peacekeeping'. That interpretation can't be imposed. It will require a difficult but essential dialogue with member states, as they're ultimately the ones that will determine whether to implement these reforms.

AUTHOR

Lisa Sharland is the head of the international program at ASPI and a non-resident fellow at the Stimson Centre in Washington DC. Image courtesy of US Pacific Command.

Source: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/security-un-peacekeepers-minefield-politics-people-principles/>

Gone But Not Forgotten

By Major Sally Williamson

United Nations Truce Supervision (UNTSO) Organisation Military Observers from the Australian Contingent in Lebanon commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the death of Captain Peter James McCarthy.

On a cool but sunny day under a lone tree near the village of Shama in Southern Lebanon, four Australian Military Observers gathered with their United Nations colleagues to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the death of Captain McCarthy from the Royal Australian Corps of Transport (RACT).

Captain McCarthy was working with the UNTSO when, on 12 January 1988, the vehicle he was driving struck a landmine and he was killed instantly. During the short service, Major Sally Williamson paid tribute to the promising RACT Officer stating, "Captain McCarthy was taken from us suddenly with just two months left to serve on the mission."

'Captain McCarthy was a promising and well regarded officer, affectionately known as 'Bags'', Major Williamson said.

The ADF deploys twelve unarmed Military Observers to UNTSO, whose role is to support the implementation of the ceasefire between Israel and its neighbouring countries, and to observe and report on the implementation of various United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

"The pursuit of peace in the Middle East can come at huge cost, and Captain McCarthy paid the ultimate price in the pursuit of that peace," Major Williamson said.

The gathering commemorated the sacrifice made by the Australian officer at the site of the incident, marked by a distinctly Australian memorial.

The service concluded with the laying of a wreath on behalf of the ADF and RACT Officers and Soldiers, a minutes' silence and the playing of the Australian National Anthem.

"It is a privilege and honour to be here and to remember Captain McCarthy, whose sacrifice is not forgotten even after thirty years," Major Williamson said.



Gifting to the Gift-Giver

By Phil Pyke and Katie Lemsing
Images by Bill Guthrie

She is known as the quilt lady, heading an army of quilters across Australia bringing comfort to deployed ADF personnel across the globe through gifts of personalised quilts and laundry bags.

During the long weekend in June 2016, the creator of Aussie Hero Quilts in Jan-Maree Ball awoke to a nightmare.

With her home fully ablaze, Jan-Maree and family escaped, leaving behind many of their personal belongings which included prize possessions such as quilts and presentations from grateful ADF personnel.

On hearing of the news from Canberra, Katie Lemsing, a quilter with Aussie Hero Quilts, came up with the idea of creating a signature quilt with blocks signed by ADF members serving overseas.

“My partner, SGT Bill Guthrie, was deployed so I posted the signature blocks to him to hand around with a letter explaining the project,” said Katie.

“Of course with so many members knowing Jan-Maree and being recipients of quilts, I was concerned someone may tell her. So secrecy underpinned the project.”

With the blocks being signed and sent back, Katie got busy creating a unique quilt for a unique lady.

“I presented her with the quilt on Saturday 24th Feb at Poppy’s café at the AWM. She was every emotional, surprised and thrilled to received her special quilt.”

“Apart from acknowledging the great work Jan-Maree and all of us at Aussie Hero quilts do, I would like message of thanks to get out to the wonderful guys and girls who took time out of their busy day to sign these blocks and send lovely messages of support.

Katie said there are 17 signed blocks and all but one (from the Pyke family) were signed overseas whilst on deployment to the Middle east region.

“Some blocks were signed by a whole unit and others are on behalf of their unit. In all, I would say there are over 50 signatures on the quilt. All share the same message of support for Jan-Maree and Aussie Hero Quilts.”

Katie designed the quilt with a dominant orange colour – signifying the colour of the flames Jan-Maree saw in her sewing room as she evacuated the house. Secondly the only material saved from the inferno was orange. The backing of the quilt represents burnt flooring.

Badges from the Sallyman and Operation Okra Task Group 630 are sewn on the back along with a label saying “ This gift is given on behalf of the Australian Defence Force personnel who were deployed during



Royal Australian Air Force personnel from the Air Task Group Task Element 630.1.2, Rotation 10, stand before an E-7A Wedgetail airborne command and control aircraft with their custom designed Aussie Hero Quilts at the end of their deployment at the main logistics base in the Middle East Region.



Ship's Company of HMAS Newcastle display their Aussie Hero Quilts on the flight deck in the Middle East region in 2017

2016. It is in appreciation for the tireless efforts of Jan-Maree Ball (on behalf of Aussie Hero Quilts) 24 Feb 2018. (quilt made by Katie Lemsing)

For the recipient herself, the response was emotional.

"My beautiful quilt. I just love it," said Jan-Maree.

"I was totally caught off guard and am not used to having the tables turned on me like that. I may have teared up a little."

"People often tell me that they cannot explain what it is like to receive a quilt from Aussie Heroes when

deployed.

"I so wish I could send everyone emails to let them know just how much I love and appreciate this quilt."

Well I can honestly say that it is incredibly hard to put into words just how much this quilt means."

Jan-Maree said she couldn't wait to move into the new home and have the quilt hanging on the wall where she can see it all the time – "probably in my office which is where I spend

most of my time every day."

She said the colour of the quilt is really meaningful to her now.

"When I look at it, I am reminded of the fire but not in a bad way."

"It reminds me that although things were devastatingly bad, we have survived and thrived and will continue to move ahead."

For those ADF members involved in assisting Katie Lemsing create the quilt, there is an open invitation at the Ball household for a cuppa & a biscuit.



Above left: Katie Lemsing (left) presents the quilt to Jan-Maree Ball at Poppy's Cafe at the Australian War Memorial. Above right: Katie Lemsing with Jan-Maree (centre) and David Ball. *Images by Bill Guthrie*

Opinion: UN Peacekeeping at a crossroads

From Cambodia to Liberia, Mozambique to Côte d'Ivoire, dozens of countries have returned to peace with the support of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Every day, our peacekeepers protect hundreds of thousands of vulnerable civilians and ensure respect of ceasefire agreements while facing unprecedented challenges.

In 2017, 56 U.N. peacekeepers were killed by hostile acts, the highest number in over two decades. The blue flag does not offer peacekeepers protection against attacks by criminal or terrorist armed groups; the political solutions peacekeepers are mandated to support are often stalled or hardly moving forward. The blue helmets often operate in areas where massive number of civilians, often displaced, are at grave risk.

Unless the U.N. adapts to this new reality, the number of peacekeeper fatalities will continue to grow and our ability to protect the vulnerable will decrease. People will die, missions will fail. This cannot happen, peacekeeping matters too much to too many.

Last December, at the request of U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, a former U.N. force commander from Brazil, wrote a report on improving the security of peacekeepers. The Cruz Report candidly recommends that peacekeeping must change. We agree, and our work has already begun. Strengthening our posture, our training, and our capabilities will enable missions to more effectively perform their mandates in support of political processes. Peacekeepers must be fully trained, fully equipped, and fully prepared to act if we are to successfully confront today's challenges.

Operational reconfiguration is not the only response to peacekeeping challenges. We have started to strategically review our operations and question our fundamental assumptions and assess our



UNMIL peacekeepers in Liberia. Photo by: Albert Gonzalez Farran / U.N.

approaches, capabilities, and the conditions we need to implement our mandates. Where required, these reviews will recommend a strategic reset of our operations. We will cast a hard, cold eye on what we're doing and see if we've got it right.

We are strongly committed to making peacekeeping more effective. But we cannot do it without the support and engagement of our member states. They are our indispensable partners on all aspects, from the political support our missions critically need to the provision of troops, equipment and financial resources. Member states rightly ask for the U.N. to have a stronger role in preventing and responding to violence and atrocities. However, when critical capabilities are needed for the most difficult assignments, such as air assets or special forces, offers from Member states are scarce. Our operations must be efficient and yet the drive to reduce budgets must be balanced against the costs of operations in hostile environments.

All the pieces of the puzzle must fit together and all partners will have a role to play. The Security Council, the General Assembly, the U.N. Secretariat, troop and police contributors, host states, financial contributors, and regional organizations must renew their commitments and take an honest look at whether they have provided

peacekeeping with the mandates, resources, political support, mindset, and human capital that it needs to succeed.

Peacekeeping is by no means perfect or the right tool for every job and we certainly are not suited for peace enforcement or counterterrorism. But when properly mandated, equipped, and supported, peacekeeping does work. Whole populations that once lived under imminent threat now have a fighting chance for peace, thanks in no small part to the work of peacekeeping. The recent closure of peacekeeping operations in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia is testament to the positive legacy that U.N. operations have had over the past seven decades. Going forward, it is up to all of us to ensure that future peace operations are set up to succeed.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix

Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Mr. Lacroix brings to the position over 25 years of political and diplomatic experience, with a focus on multilateral organizations, and on United Nations activities and programs. Mr. Lacroix served from 2014 to 2017 as director for United Nations, International Organizations, Human Rights and Francophonie at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Source: www.devex.com/news/opinion-un-peacekeeping-at-a-crossroads-92440

Four UN troops killed in central Mali mine blast



BAMAKO

Four UN peacekeepers were killed on Wednesday when a mine exploded under their vehicle in central Mali in a deliberate attack, capping a bloody week for civilians and security forces in the West African nation.

Jihadists have ramped up their activities in central Mali in recent months, targeting domestic and foreign forces in violence once confined to the restive north.

EXPLOSION

The UN said in a statement that the "explosion of a mine or IED against a MINSUMA vehicle on the Boni-Douentza road" in the Mopti region killed the four peacekeepers and wounded four more.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "strongly condemned" the attack, his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

"These cowardly acts will not deter MINSUMA's determination to support the Malian authorities in their efforts to protect civilians and accompany the Malian people in their quest for peace and stability," Dujarric added.

ATTACK

The mission, known by the acronym MINSUMA, counts almost 11,000 peacekeepers and has been deployed in Mali since 2013 to counter a jihadist insurgency and general lawlessness.

"MINSUMA is currently upgrading

its security presence in central Mali," Mission chief Mahamat Saleh Annadif said. "Cornered, the terrorists are multiplying their attacks."

Six Malian soldiers were killed on Tuesday when their vehicle struck a mine, the army said on Wednesday, and a forest ranger was gunned down in a third incident blamed on jihadists.

MILITARY

Mali's military is frequently accused of abuses, with families on Wednesday pointing the finger at the army in the killing of seven civilians during an operation in the same area a week ago.

A UN report published this month found that "at least 20 percent" of recorded incidents in 2016 and in the first of half of 2017 that endangered civilian lives involved the Malian authorities — essentially the security forces.

Nouhoun Sarr, the nephew of one of seven men killed on February 21 after their arrest by the military, said the authorities informed him on Wednesday morning of his uncle's fate.

"They called us to tell us our

relatives were killed during the operation, without elaborating," he told AFP.

ARRESTS

Yehia Ag Mohamed Ali, a former minister and member of the opposition Sadi party, told AFP: "According to our information, the seven civilians arrested on February 21 by the Malian army in Sokolo were killed by soldiers."

The government said in a statement on Wednesday that the army was "carrying out reconnaissance missions and searches in the Sokolo area, during which civilians unfortunately lost their lives".

"An enquiry has been opened," it added.

Islamic extremists linked to Al-Qaeda took control of the desert north of Mali in early 2012, but were largely driven out in a French-led military operation launched in January 2013.

In June 2015, Mali's government signed a peace agreement with coalitions of armed groups.

But the jihadists remain active, and large tracts of the country are lawless.

Source: AFP News



A picture taken on November 29, 2017 shows soldiers of the MINSUMA contingent in Gao, Mali. One peacekeeper was killed in the April 14, 2018 attack.

Photo Michele Cattani AFP

The first UN Peacekeepers



Observers in Middle East 1967. UN photo

Graham Rayner

When were the first peacekeepers deployed by the United Nations? This is an interesting and some might say controversial question. On the one hand, the United Nations has made its opinion quite clear – the first peacekeepers (military observers in fact) were those sent in May 1948 to support the mission in the Middle East to monitor the truce between the Arab states and Israel during the partition of Palestine. On the other hand, Australia regards the first UN peacekeepers to have been the first military observers sent to what is now Indonesia in September 1947. There has also been a suggestion that the military personnel supporting the UN legation investigating incursions into Greece from its northern neighbours in 1946 as the first peacekeepers. To answer the question, we have to look at those first few years of the fledgling United Nations and track what happened as the UN and its General Assembly and Security Council “found their feet”.

Under the UN Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility

for the maintenance of international peace and security, but it works with the General Assembly and it is therefore pertinent to look at the matters which were addressed in both the General Assembly and the Security Council.

A useful guide is a publication of the UN called the Repertoire, a guide to the working of the Security Council. The UN’s website explains that:

the Repertoire, mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 686 (VII) in 1952, provides comprehensive coverage of the Security Council’s interpretation and application of the United Nations Charter and its own Provisional Rules of Procedure since 1946. Its primary purpose is to provide ... a source of information regarding the evolving practice of the Security Council.

Chapter 5 of the Repertoire provides an explanation of the history and workings of subsidiary organs of the Security Council, including all peacekeeping missions, commissions and committees. Other useful

documents include the Resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council and reports and correspondence from UN missions.

WHAT IS A PEACEKEEPER?

Before embarking on considering who might have been the UN’s first peacekeepers, it might be useful to consider what is meant by the term peacekeeper. When peacekeeping is mentioned most people have an image of a blue-helmeted soldier in a white truck with UN in big blue letters painted on the sides. These features did not come into being until the mid-1950s, and the stereotype usually ignores the role that civilians and police play in trying to help stem and resolve conflict.

The UN’s role in peacekeeping began almost the day it came into being. The UN was, and continues to be used as a relatively independent “vehicle” by which parties to a conflict are brought together to sort out their differences. The UN is not, and never has been an arbitrator as such. The UN will, with the agreement of the states involved; act as a facilitator in

the dialogue between warring parties; commission investigations; monitor ceasefires; help in the repatriation of refugees; assist in the implementation of ceasefire agreements; provide safe havens for the victims of violence in the field; and so on, but the decision making leading to settling of a dispute is determined by those directly involved. The UN does all this with civilian, police and military personnel provided by member states of the UN. On rare occasions it sanctions the use of force to curb fighting and to protect those affected by violence.

So what defines a peacekeeper? Is it the retired judge or statesman who is charged with mediating between warring factions? Is it a police officer who helps civilians distraught from violence or loss, or restore law and order? Is it a soldier whose very presence brings hope for protection and peace to the local population, or a military doctor or nurse who provides medical help? Or is it a civilian electoral officer who conveys the reliability and confidence that a hard-won election is conducted without interference or corruption? All are peacekeepers.

In the context of this article however, and in terms that the UN uses on its website when it refers to its "first" peacekeepers, peacekeepers are military personnel. The term peacekeeper was not used until long after the first peacekeepers had been deployed. Military personnel attached to UN missions were termed "military observers", or just "observers". In fact many observers were civilians. The role of observers was to make their presence known in the field of conflict, investigate breaches of agreements drawn up between the belligerent parties, provide reports and military assessments on the situation back to headquarters and, where possible and safe to do so, attempt to bring any localised tense situation under control through dialogue.

So when did the first UN military observers first appear on the international conflict landscape?

The Greek question - *The issues addressed by the Security Council have been couched in the terms of 'questions'.*

In its first year of operation (1946), the Security Council addressed three issues concerning potential trouble



UN observers, Middle East, date unknown.
Photo UN/Yutaka Nagata, www.unyouknow.org

spots. The Council took a watching stance on the situation in Spain under General Franco, but took no specific action. It actively sought Iran and the USSR to report on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Iran which had been a condition under a treaty signed between the two countries (and the UK) in January 1942 but had not been acted upon by the USSR by 1946.

The third issue that the Security Council confronted came as a complaint from Greece that rebels within its country were being supported by Albanians, Yugoslavians and Bulgarians making incursions into Greece. This was in effect the start of the third period of the Greek civil war fought between 1942 until 1949, between the army of the government and the military arm of the Communist Party of Greece with help from Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. The third period developed as a proxy war between the West and the East with the US backing the Greek government and the rebels backed by the three neighbouring communist regimes.

On the 19th December 1946 the Security Council established a Commission of Investigation concerning Greek Frontier Incidents (Resolution 15) "to ascertain the facts relating to the alleged border violations between Greece on one hand and Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria on the other." No mention was made of a civil war as such and there was

no call by the Security Council to both sides of the dispute to cease fighting. The Security Council formed the Commission of Investigation with a representative from each of the eleven member states of the Security Council.

The work of the Commission followed along the lines of a public inquiry. Public meetings were held, submissions taken openly and in camera, investigations made in support and interviews conducted with relevant people. The Security Council had sought and received agreement from the four countries involved that the Commission would have access to anywhere it wished to go and with whomever it wished to develop a dialogue. In return, each of the four countries had representatives embedded with the Commission



UNSCOB observers (military and civilian)
May 1949. UN photo

to maintain a liaison between the Commission and the government of each country.

The Security Council allowed that each state representative of the Commission could utilise such staff as it wished for support.ⁱ No mention was made of military personnel per se, each country making its own decision about its support team. Australia was represented by Mr John Hood, who went on to replace Mr Paul Hasluck in 1947ⁱⁱ as Australia's second permanent representative to the UN and in that role became president of the Security Council in late 1947. As a member of the Commission of Investigation concerning Greek Frontier Incidents, Mr Hood had five staff including Major-General John Chapman and Captain D Johnstone. Some other members of the Commission included military personnel amongst their support staff. When it was fully operational, the Commission comprised 11 member state representatives (all civilian except one), with 42 civilian and 9 military support staff, a total of 62. It is notable that the members representing France, the USSR, Syria, Poland, Colombia, and Brazil had no military supporters.

There is no suggestion that the military personnel involved in the Commission played any role that could be construed as peacekeeping – monitoring a ceasefire, mediating between belligerents, etc.. They were acting in a support role to their Commission member, utilising their individual skills in the pursuit of the goal of the Commission “to ascertain the facts”, in the same manner as the non-military supporters. Furthermore, there is no indication that the military personnel were formed into a group to provide military specific support or advice to the Commission.

In summary, the remit of the Commission of Investigation concerning Greek Frontier Incidents was not to monitor any ceasefire, report on any fighting per se, nor to provide any support to negotiations which might lead to a ceasefire or settlement of any dispute; it was simply to determine the facts surrounding the report of border incursions into Greece. No specific military help was sought by the Commission, but the skills of individual military officers brought to the Commission by



The chairman of the Committee of Good Offices on the Indonesian Question, Justice Sir Richard Kirby, meets Indonesian republican leader Soekarno in Jogjakarta November 1947. <http://www.insideindonesia.org>

individual members of the Commission were utilised by the Commission in the conduct of its work.

The findings of the Commission were that Yugoslavia and to a lesser extent Bulgaria and Albania were supporting the guerrilla warfare being conducted in Greece by communist insurgents, with many Greek guerrillas also crossing north to receive training, supplies, and medical treatment.ⁱⁱⁱ

It is further worth noting that the Security Council, after considering the report of the Commission resolved that the issue “*be taken off the list of matters of which the council is seized*”, and put it to the General Assembly.^{iv}

In its subsequent consideration of the situation, the General Assembly called on Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria to stop supporting the Greek guerrillas, and work with Greece to resolve the dispute by peaceful means and resume normal relations. The General Assembly also established a Special Committee to observe the compliance of the recommendations of the Assembly and to assist the countries in their observance of the recommendations. The United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans, UNSCOB, established on 21 October 1947, specifically sought and (eventually) deployed observers to the northern border regions of Greece.^v Six, later seven patrol bases were established along the border,

with headquarters in Thessaloniki. It is unclear when exactly the first military personnel joined UNSCOB. In its report of June 1948, UNSCOM reported that on 9 Dec 1947 “*military experts from the delegations*” to the Committee were sent to Epirus as part of a reconnaissance to determine where observer posts should be established. However, UNSCOB specifically referred to the fact that “*the first group of observers were despatched on 5 January 1948.*”^{vi}

Therefore, “military experts” had been part of UNSCOB probably from its inception, and observers definitely by early January 1948.

This clearly marks a deployment of military observers/experts/peacekeepers under the authority of the UN, probably in October 1947, but definitely by 5 January 1948. UNSCOB was dissolved in July 1951.

The UN does not include UNSCOB in its list of peacekeeping operations. One wonders why not.

THE INDONESIAN QUESTION

The most significant matter addressed by the Security Council in 1947 was that of the conflict in the then Netherlands East Indies^{vii}. Republican sentiment in the archipelago can be traced back to the nineteenth century but it wasn't until the Second World War that the circumstances presented themselves to pursue independence. The

occupation forces of Japan, towards the end of the war, actively encouraged this movement, and within days of the Japanese surrender republican forces declared their independence. The Netherlands, however, was keen to re-establish its 'mastery' over its colony. Under the auspices of the UK, an agreement (known as the Linggadjati Agreement) was struck in late 1946 whereby a United States of Indonesia (Java, Sumatra and Madura) would be created coexisting with Dutch rule over the remainder of the territory, and both subservient to the Dutch monarchy. However in July 1947 the Dutch summarily launched a full scale offensive against the Republic.

Australia and India invited the Security Council to get involved because in their view the Dutch action and the ensuing hostilities constituted a threat to world peace. The Security Council called upon the parties to cease hostilities and seek a peaceful resolution. Both parties essentially complied with the ceasefire by issuing orders to their people to do so, and as a result, on 25 August 1947, the Security Council offered its direct support to the Netherlands and the Republicans by establishing:

- a. the Committee of Good Offices on the Indonesian Question with a representative each from Australia, Belgium and the USA; and
- b. the Consular Commission at Batavia (today's Jakarta), formed by the Consuls of the UN member states with representatives in the Netherlands East Indies.

The remit of the Committee of Good Offices was to facilitate the dialogue between the two parties with the aim of reaching a satisfactory conclusion to the dispute, whilst the purpose of the Consular Commission was to report back to the Security Council on the security situation throughout the Dutch colony.

At its first meeting on 1st September 1947, the Consular Commission decided that it could not perform its task without the help of a team of military observers. Under its authority of the Security Council, the Commission called on its member states to provide the observers and Australia, the UK, China, France, Belgium and the US all responded. The first observers (the Australians) were deployed into the field on 14th



The first team of observers for the Consular Commission at Batavia on their first day of deployment. From left Major Lyn Campbell, Squadron Leader Lou Spence, Brigadier Lewis Dyke and Commander Harry Chesterman. Photo National Library of Australia P1383/14

September, with British officers arriving a few days later and the rest later still.

This clearly marks a deployment of military observers under the authority of the UN, on 14th September 1947.

The observers had no guidance from previous observer missions and so developed their own *modus operandi*, and at a conference of military observers in March 1948 their shared experiences became the principles for future UN peacekeeping activities:

- For the sake of neutrality, work in mixed-nationality teams
- Each team is responsible for a sector

- of the ceasefire line
- Observers represent the UN, not their own countries
- Observers have no power to give orders, but must bring parties together "through initiative, a sense of fair play, ingenuity and common sense"^{viii}

This document was the first to describe the role of peacekeepers/observers which was later much improved by the Mediator appointed to the UN mission addressing the Palestine Question (discussed later in this article).

The observers remained under the authority of the Consular Commission until the Commission was disbanded



The UN Mediator on Palestine, Count Folke Bernadotte (second from left) briefs observers, Israel 16 Sep 1948. Bernadotte was assassinated the next day and was replaced by his deputy, Dr Ralph Bunche – pictured on right). UN photo 102539



UN mil observers conferring in no-man's land between Merya (Arab) and Nabi Yusha (Israeli) lines, 1948. UN photo 349803

just prior to Indonesian independence in late 1949. However, they were regarded by the Committee of Good Offices, and its replacement organ the UN Commission on Indonesia, as their own.^{ix} In establishing the UN Commission on Indonesia in January 1948, the Security Council specifically directed the Consular Commission to provide “military observers and other staff and facilities”.^x

This appears to be the first reference to military observers made by the Security Council (or General Assembly).

Other than in its *Repertoire*, there is no mention of the Consular Commission at Batavia and its military observers, or the Committee of Good Offices on the UN's current website. Again, one wonders why, as the UN's intervention and involvement led to a successful outcome. The UN's first major success.

THE PALESTINE QUESTION

Palestine had become a territory administered by the UK under a trusteeship of the League of Nations from 1922. The UK was given control due largely because of its occupation during the First World War. Stewardship passed to the United Nations as part of the transition from the League after the Second World War. In effect, the United Nations could instruct the actions taken within the country, rather than request member states to take action, which is the norm. Under the UN's

Mandate, the UK was referred to as the “Mandatory Power”.

In 1947 the UK requested the UN to consider the future government of Palestine. In response, an ad hoc committee of the General Assembly formed the UN Special Committee on Palestine to “investigate all relevant questions and issues relevant to the problem of Palestine and prepare proposals for [their solution]”.^{xi} The Committee's report (A/364, of 3 September 1947) led to its inclusion on the agenda of the Second Session of the General Assembly in November 1947 at which a plan for the partition of the country into Arab and Jewish states, with a special focus on Jerusalem, was endorsed. The General Assembly also established the UN Palestine Commission to implement the plan and act as the provisional government. In addition, the Assembly referred the matter to the Security Council to take whatever steps would be necessary under Articles 39 and 41 of the UN Charter (the peacekeeping articles) should “a threat to the peace” arise.

The Commission made its reports to the Security Council, and in its first report (30 January 1948) aired a possible need for an “international force” to help implement the recommendations made within the Plan for Partition.

The Commission's special report and its progress report led to the Security Council's first formal consideration of the Palestine

Question and its first resolution, on 5th March 1948, which “encourage[d] all parties to take what steps were needed to curb the unrest”. By 1st April, the Security Council was disheartened by the increasing violence and called upon parties to cease fighting immediately, calling for representatives from the Arab and Jewish communities to arrange a truce through the Council. The Council also called for a special meeting of the General Assembly to consider the future governance of the territory.

On 23rd April 1948, the Security Council called on member states with “career consuls present in Jerusalem” to form the Truce Commission for Palestine to help in the negotiation of a ceasefire agreement.

The Security Council took exactly the same path as it did in August 1947 when it established the Consular Commission at Batavia to help address the Indonesian Question.^{xiii}

Later, on 14th May - the day on which the General Assembly created Israel, the General Assembly created the position of Mediator on Palestine, appointing Count Folke Bernadotte to the task of “arranging common services forthe safety and well-being of the population of Palestine; assuring the protection of the Holy Places, religious buildings and sites in Palestine; and promoting a peaceful adjustment of the future situation of Palestine.”^{xiv}

In its Resolution 50 of 29th May 1948, in its by now familiar plea for all parties to stop fighting and come to the negotiating table, the Security Council instructed the Mediator, in concert with the Truce Commission, to supervise the United Nations' call for all parties to stop all “acts of armed force”, stop introducing fighters and war materials from elsewhere, and stop military training. Furthermore, the Security Council decided that the Mediator and Truce Commission should be provided with “a sufficient number of military observers”.^{xv}

The Security Council's inclusion of the need for military observers was a clear lesson learned from the observers deployed under the Indonesian and Greek Questions.

The actual day when the observers arrived in the Middle East is unclear, but it is unlikely that it would have been

on the same day that the Security Council made its resolution. Indeed, the Mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte, did not issue his initial instructions on the roles and functions of observers and the Central Truce Supervision Board until July 1948. He referred to observers “acting on behalf and under orders of [the] United Nations Mediator are official representatives of [the] United Nations. They are under [the] command of [the] Mediator who is represented by a General Officer acting as his Chief of Staff in connection with truce supervision.”^{xvii}

No mention was made of the Truce Commission for Palestine, which essentially faded out of existence in the latter months of 1948, some of its functions taken over by the Conciliation Commission established on 11 December 1948 by the General Assembly and others by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) which morphed into being at about the same time. What is certain is that the Chief of Staff of UNTSO took over reporting to the Security Council after the role and position of Mediator was disbanded on 11 Aug 1949 under the Council’s Resolution 73.

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACEKEEPERS

The origin of the idea to create a day to commemorate UN peacekeepers, and in particular those who have died whilst in the service of the international community is unclear. Most people would agree that such a day is well deserved and warranted.

The first appearance of a suggestion for an International Day of UN Peacekeepers appears in the 2002 report on peacekeeping operations by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (known simply as the Fourth Committee) to the General Assembly.^{xviii} There had been no mention of such a commemoration in any of the Fourth Committee’s previous reports, or of the Special Panel it established to look into peacekeeping operations, or the reports of the Secretary-General in response to those reports.

In its March 2002 report (paragraph 151): “the Special [Political and Decolonization] Committee recommends that 29 May be designated the International Day

of United Nations Peacekeepers, to be observed annually in 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.”

There is no explanation on why the date was chosen for recommendation. However, in its next report to the General Assembly (A/57/522 dated 20 October 2002), the Fourth Committee advised that the representative of Ukraine had proposed a draft resolution for the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on behalf of 53 countries, including all of the countries that supplied military observers to the Consular Commission at Batavia, which referred to the significance of the 29 May as being the day that “the Security Council ... authorized the establishment of the first United Nations peacekeeping operation”.^{xix}

The General Assembly endorsed the draft without amendment, and thus was created the UN International Day of Peacekeepers as 29 May 1948.^{xx}

The reasoning behind the

acceptance of this date by Australia is unknown and surprising, given Australia’s prominent role and support in the establishment of the UN and the Security Council (Australia’s then Minister for the Navy, John Makin was the first chairman of the Security Council), and participation in most of the early issues facing the Security Council, in particular its prominent, and distinctly peacekeeping role in Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

If it is accepted that the premise for defining the first military observers deployed under the auspices of the United Nations is on the basis that they were requested by an organ of the UN and provided a collective function for that organ, and hence the UN itself, then the first such deployment occurred in September 1947 to Indonesia, closely followed by the deployment of observers to Greece. These deployments occurred a full six months before the deployment of observers to Palestine on 29th May 1948.

Furthermore, the mediation role played by the Committee of Good Offices on the Indonesian Question



UN observers in Ramallah, Israel 1948. UN photo 128635

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UN Interim Force in Lebanon marks UN Peacekeepers Day 2015. *National News Agency* <http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/44791/nna-leb.gov.lb/es>)

and the ceasefire monitoring and military assessment roles played by the observers under the Consular Commission at Batavia clearly fall within the definition of a peacekeeping mission. Hence the mission to Indonesia should be regarded as the UN's first peacekeeping mission.

Some might say that 29th May 1948 marks the day when a primary body of the UN (rather than an organ), the Security Council, made its first specific mention of the need for military observers to support the work of one of its subsidiary organs. However, in its Resolution 37 of 1st November 1947, the Council made reference to the "military assistants" of its Consular Commission at Batavia in supporting the work of the Committee of Good Offices.

The 29th May 1948 is commemorated around the world each year as the first deployment of peacekeepers to the first peacekeeping mission of the auspices of the United Nations, and 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of that "first" deployment. It is a pity that in 2002 Australia (along with all member states who provided observers to the 1947 Indonesian and Balkan missions) agreed to a draft Resolution put to the General Assembly that the date of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers be 29th May and not 14th September.

Correcting this mistake would be a herculean diplomatic endeavour. At the very least however, the UN might acknowledge the work of the military

observers deployed to Indonesia and Greece under its auspices.

Graham Rayner is a retired federal public servant and professional naval architect. Whilst he has had no direct involvement in peacekeeping missions, he served for ten years on the organising committee of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project as its industry and Canberra representative.

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ⁱ Security Council resolution 15 on 19th December 1946

ⁱⁱ Report (volumes 1 & 2) to Security Council by Commission of Investigation Concerning Greek Frontier Incidents, SC document S/360 of 27 May 1947

ⁱⁱⁱ *ibid*

^{iv} Security Council resolution 34 on 15th September 1947

^v UNSCOB report to Security Council of Jun 1948 covering period 21 Oct 47 to 15 Jun 48

^{vi} *ibid*

^{vii} The Security Council addressed a number of administrative matters during the year as well as an incident where two British ships were damaged by mines in Albanian waters with a number of crew being killed. The Council resolved that UK and Albania should refer the matter to the

International Court of Justice.

^{viii} Military Executive Board directive no 4: General instructions for military observers, Committee of Good Offices. 20 March 1948. (National Archives of Australia: A10158,62)

^{ix} For example: Committee of Good Offices' letter dated 25 December 1948 to the government of the Netherlands requesting freedom to operate aircraft carrying "the Committee's" military observers.

^x Security Council Resolution 67 of 28 January 1948

^{xi} General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1946

^{xii} Plan for Partition and Economic Union

^{xiii} Security Council Resolution 48 of 23 April 1948

^{xiv} General Assembly Resolution 186 (S-2) – Appointment and Terms of Reference for UN Mediator

^{xv} Security Council Resolution 50 of 29 May 1948

^{xvi} Instructions to given to observers and plans of organization of truce supervision, dated 23 July 1948, promulgated by the Security Council on 28 July, document S928.

^{xvii} Count Bernadotte's Chief of Staff was Swedish Major General Age Lundstrom, who was sitting beside the Count in a car when the Count was assassinated. Major General Lundstrom became the first Chief of Staff of UNTSO.

^{xviii} "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects." A/56/863 dated 11 March 2002.

^{xix} Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth) Committee, "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects", 29 October 2002, A/57/522

^{xx} General Assembly Resolution 57/129 dated 11 December 2002

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- A cooperative and collaborative relationship focused on outcomes
- Efficient, transparent and flexible Strategic Support Partnership Contract (SSPC) management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In January 2017, QinetiQ acquired RubiKon Group.





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS

29 MAY

This year's international day of UN Peacekeepers falls during the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, offering a chance to honour the blue helmets' invaluable contribution to the proud history of the organization and to reaffirm our commitment to make them even more effective in the years ahead.

Since its beginning in 1948, United Nations peacekeeping has evolved into one of the main tools used by the international community to manage complex crises that threaten international peace and security. Throughout its history, the United Nations has established a total of 71 peacekeeping operations. More than one million military, police and civilian personnel have served as UN peacekeepers, including 125,000 in the sixteen missions in operation today.

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, which is commemorated each year on the



29th of May, is an occasion to salute the peacekeepers of today who serve in some of the world's most volatile and dangerous environments. This Day is also a time to mourn fallen peacekeepers. During its history, more than 3,300 "Blue Helmets" have died devoting their lives to peace, including 126 men and women in 2014.

In the words of the Secretary-General: In a message to mark the Day, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "United Nations peacekeeping has given life to the UN Charter's aim "to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security". Through years of struggle and sacrifice, the iconic Blue Helmet has earned its place as a symbol of hope to millions of people living in war-ravaged lands."

Currently, UN Peacekeeping operations receive contributions of military and police personnel from

122 Member States. This impressive number reflects strong global confidence in the value of United Nations Peacekeeping as a tool for collective security.

To mark the Day at UN Headquarters, Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at 10:00 a.m. At 10:30 a.m., the Deputy Secretary-General will preside over a ceremony at which the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal will be awarded posthumously to the military, police and civilian personnel who lost their lives while serving in peacekeeping operations in 2014. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Herve Ladsous, and the Under-Secretary General for Field Support Atul Khare will hold a press conference at 12:00.

For more information: www.un.org/en/events/peacekeepersday/2015/



#PK70 1948-2018

UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING

70 YEARS OF SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS

29 MAY

Transitioning to civilian

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

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

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

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

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

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

- CV/Résumé • 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. They should include your demilitarised transferable skills that are targeted toward the industry/job you wish to attract and your workplace achievements. Achievements tell an

employer about you from a cultural perspective - for example, your work ethic, initiative, team work, management performance, customer service and desire to improve your professional skillsets.

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

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

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

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

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

task completion.

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

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

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

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 Chinese much better from someone who knows both languages and can help with the Aussie dialogue. Choose wisely who you seek help from.

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

Army takes St George local from the heartland to Iraq

Warrant Officer Class Two Ken Roberts did not set out to join the Army when he accompanied a friend from St George to Brisbane in 1986. However, more than 30 years later and half a world away in Iraq, he has no regrets.

"I joined the Army on the 15th April 1986, almost by accident," said WO2 Roberts, Company Sergeant Major of Task Group Taji 6's Logistics Company, based in the Taji Military Complex, North Baghdad.

"I travelled to Brisbane with a school friend Peter Watson who had a prearranged interview with recruiting. While I was waiting in the foyer, an Army Officer began telling me about the opportunities Army offered.

"Before I knew it, I had signed up," he added.

In the 32 years since that day, WO2 Roberts has deployed to East Timor, twice to Afghanistan and now to Iraq as a Recovery Mechanic with the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Corps.

"My primary role is a recovery mechanic, operating heavy salvage vehicles to recover stricken vehicles and equipment and get them to a place where they can be repaired or back loaded," said WO2 Roberts of his day-to-day role.

"My job on this deployment is Company Sergeant Major for the Logistics Company. Our company has elements of transport, supply and workshop.

"My main role here is maintaining discipline, training and welfare among the members of our logistics team here in Iraq," he adds.

While this is not his first deployment, this has been a great experience for the St George born-and-bred WO2 Roberts.

"The opportunity to travel overseas and working with coalition forces has been a highlight,"

"One thing I've enjoyed with this deployment is the opportunity to meet and work alongside the New Zealand members of our contingent.

"The mateship you develop and

experiences you share stay with you for life," says WO2 Roberts of his time on deployment.

Despite all deployment has to offer, WO2 Roberts is looking forward to seeing his wife Gillian and three children, Rebekah, Luke and Andrew as well the little things of home when he returns to Australia later in the year.

"I'm most looking forward to seeing my family and catching up with mates when I get home,"

"Even though I left St George in the 1986, I still refer to it as my home. My sister, Karen Beardmore with her husband Murray and family still reside there and I enjoy visiting when I can

As for the future, WO2 Roberts plans to settle back to a routine in Townsville, where he is currently posted to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

"When I return to Australia, I am posting to the Capability Acquisition Sustainment Group. This will be the pinnacle of my time with Army, working on future equipment for the next generation," says WO2 Roberts.

"The opportunity for up skilling and advancement is endless, if you are willing to apply yourself and have ambitions

"I encourage anyone looking for a rewarding career to investigate the options Defence has to offer."



Building a skills-set for the 21st century

According to *The Future of Jobs Report* compiled by the World Economic Forum last year, an estimated 65% of children today will end up in careers that don't yet exist.

We've already seen that shift happening with job titles like 'social media manager' and 'mobile app developer' that no-one had heard of ten years ago, and the use of descriptions such as 'disruptor', 'intrapreneur' and 'changemaker' indicate that, in the workplace of tomorrow, standing out will be more important than fitting in.

The conundrum is that those future careers and job skills will be created by the current generation and those starting university now – so how do we prepare students to not just qualify for these yet-to-be-invented work roles but to make them up as they go along.

"The skills valued most highly by tomorrow's employers will be cross-sector attributes like big picture thinking, creative problem-solving, evidence-based decision-making and entrepreneurship," says Professor Terry O'Neill, Executive Dean of Bond Business School.

"Whether our graduates end up working for an employer, setting up their own business or driving innovation as a systems developer, they need to be prepared to adapt to new technologies, retrain in new skills as required, embrace new systems of



leadership and management and to think outside the box."

Bond University is getting ahead of the curve by ensuring all students have the opportunity to build this skills-set for the 21st century. Recently the University launched an Australia-first co-curricular Transformer program specifically designed to develop creativity, encourage exploration, enable innovation and enhance the Gold Coast university's trademark entrepreneurial experience.

Offered in three stages on a fee-free basis, the Transformer program

gives students from all Faculties an opportunity to develop new systems, solutions and processes in response to an issue of their own choosing.

Unlike traditional business incubators that focus on commercialising a specific enterprise, Transformer encourages students to explore better ways of doing things, generate change and solve problems across a broad spectrum. It could relate to social welfare, environmental issues, economic improvements, technology, health, sport, art, law – any project, big or small.

"Our students are passionate about a wide range of issues and the dedicated co-working Transformer space brings them together with like-minded classmates, researchers and academics from all Faculties to explore innovative ideas and solutions that address an identified area of need," says Transformer coach and Assistant Professor from Bond's Medical program, Dr Christian Moro.

"It also provides access to a structured learning framework of staff and expert coaching sessions every day, interactive sessions for individual training and development, and guidance from industry experts.

Find out more about the program at bond.edu.au/transformer.



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UN chief calls for calm in C. African Republic



United Nations (United States) (AFP) - UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for calm in Central African Republic, where at least 24 people were killed in attacks in the capital Bangui targeting a church and a mosque.

Guterres condemned Tuesday's attacks, which also left about 170 people wounded, and "urges all actors to cease violence and work together to bring peace and stability to the country," his deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said in a statement.

"The Secretary-General calls for calm and urges the Central African Republic authorities to investigate these repeated attacks and quickly bring those responsible to justice."

The violence erupted when men in a well-known local militia group rammed through a roadblock. Armed men then stormed a church in the

middle of a service, killing worshippers and a priest.

In response, a mob burned a mosque and lynched two people believed to be Muslim.

The violence has raised fears that the country, one of the most unstable in the world, could again plunge into a bloody sectarian conflict.

Guterres expressed concern about what he called "inflammatory rhetoric," adding: "There is no justification for incitement to violence or hate speech."

CAR President Faustin-Archange Touadera governs with the support of a large UN peacekeeping operation yet can only claim to control a fraction of the country.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/un-chief-calls-calm-cafrica-140419932.html>



Western Sahara: UN Chief urges easing of tensions in Guerguerat area

PEACE AND SECURITY

Deeply concerned over rising tensions near Guerguerat in the buffer strip in southern Western Sahara between the Moroccan berm and the Mauritanian border, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on Saturday called for maximum restraint in the area.

According to a statement from a UN spokesperson, the Secretary-General underlined that the withdrawal of Frente Polisario (Polisario Front) elements from Guerguerat in April 2017, together with the earlier withdrawal of Moroccan elements from the area, was critical to creating an environment conducive to the resumption of dialogue under the auspices of his Personal Envoy Horst Kohler.

“[Mr. Guterres] calls on the parties to exercise maximum restraint and to avoid escalating tensions. Regular civilian and commercial traffic should not be obstructed and no action should be taken, which may constitute

a change to the status quo of the buffer strip,” the statement concluded.

Western Sahara is located on the north-west coast of Africa bordered by Morocco, Mauritania and Algeria. The colonial administration of Western Sahara by Spain ended in 1976. Fighting later broke out between Morocco and the Polisario Front. A ceasefire was signed in September 1991.

The UN mission, known by its French acronym, MINURSO, was deployed that year to oversee a ceasefire and a UN settlement plan; however, disagreements between the Government of Morocco and the Polisario Front prevented the holding of the anticipated referendum on the territory's future.

A revised settlement plan proposed by the United Nations after seven years of diplomatic consultations was rejected by one of the parties in 2004.

In 2017, the UN Security Council affirmed its full support for the commitment of the Secretary-General

and his Personal Envoy towards a solution to the question of Western Sahara.

In this context, the Council requested Mr. Kohler to relaunch the negotiating process with a new

dynamic and a new spirit leading to the resumption of a political process with the aim of reaching a mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council also emphasized the importance of the commitment of Morocco and the Polisario Front to continue the process of preparation for a fifth round of negotiations while also encouraging the neighbouring countries, Algeria and Mauritania, to make important contributions to this process.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/01/641082-western-sahara-un-chief-urges-easing-tensions-guerguerat-area>



Peacekeepers with the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) consult a map as they drive through vast desert areas in Smara, Western Sahara.

2000 hour milestone in Romeos

LEUT Mark Packer

Escorting allied merchant vessels in the Middle East in a warship can make for an interesting morning's work, particularly when you are supporting from the air.

In the skies above on the 10 March 18, two of HMAS *Warramunga's* maritime combat helicopter flight crew reached a significant milestone.

In the state-of-the-art MH-60R 'Romeo' Seahawk, Lieutenant Commander Dave Bettenay and Petty Officer Aircrewman Glenn Watson each achieved 2000 flying hours in Sikorsky Seahawks.

MH-60R 'Romeo' Seahawks provide surveillance and top cover on escorting missions to ensure the security and safe passage of the vessels she is operating with.

LCDR Dave Bettenay,

Warramunga's Flight Commander, is the senior member of the aviation department and has had a 28 year career with Navy, including four previous Middle East deployments.

"It has been quite a journey, I'm happy to have made the most of the opportunities that have come my way," LCDR Bettenay said.

PO Glenn Watson is the senior Sensor Operator and has deployed to the area three times previously over a 19 year career. Both aircrew members have gained this notable experience while operating MH-60R and previously S-70B2, the now-retired Fleet Air Arm asset.

By virtue of a high tempo operational deployment and some careful flight scheduling, a combined 28 years of flying Seahawks between them culminated to this impressive

achievement in the same flight.

"It was great to be able to tick over 2000 Seahawk hours after such a busy and successful patrol period," PO Watson said.

The two aircrew are currently embarked in *Warramunga*, deployed to Operation MANITOU in the Middle East Region. This is the 66th rotation the Royal Australian Navy has committed to the area.

The embarked aircraft is the ship's primary search capability and has flown over 350 hours in the last four months alone.

The MH-60R Seahawk 'Romeo' is a key surveillance and identification asset and has been integral to HMAS *Warramunga's* success in seizing more than AUD\$1.4 billion in narcotics since arriving in the Middle East Region in November 2017.



Flight Commander HMAS *Warramunga*, Lieutenant Commander David Bettenay, RAN (right) and Petty Officer Aircrewman Glenn Watson in front of HMAS *Warramunga's* embarked MH-60R helicopter after completing the feat of 2000 hours flight time in the Seahawk model aircraft during the Ship's deployment to Operation MANITOU.



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100 years on, we remember them

It was a solemn morning when the dawn broke over the 400 members of Task Group Taji, joined by Commander Joint Task Force 633 Rear Admiral Jaimie Hatcher, coalition colleagues and friends of the Task Group at Taji Military Complex in Iraq.

As Commander Task Group Taji, Col Robert Calhoun noted in his address, ANZAC Day holds a special meaning for the Task Group not only for its service, but as a joint Australian and New Zealand military mission in the same region where the ANZAC legacy was forged.

“I want to provide a brief snapshot of what the ANZAC Mounted Division experienced over the same six-months as our deployment in this region, 100 years ago,” Col Calhoun said.

“This is the same Division that originated the unique ANZAC patch that we wear today.”

After recounting the details of the ANZAC Mounted Divisions raids and defensive operations from Jaffa to the Jordan River Valley, Col Calhoun reflected on the cost of these campaigns.

“The Division’s casualty figures over the same six month period as our tour were over 200 killed in action, over 800 wounded in action and 55 missing.”



Task Group Taji ANZAC football team of Australian and New Zealand members at the Taji Military Complex, Iraq.

As Col Calhoun noted, Task Group Taji – 6 includes members from units that trace their lineage to these campaigns, notable the Australian Army’s 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the New Zealand Army’s Queen Alexandra’s Mounted Rifles.

“Despite the passage of time, these milestone above all things, give us cause to remember and bring these stories of courage, mateship and sacrifice into focus. It should also reinforce to us how special and unique the bond is between our nations,”

added Col Calhoun.

These sentiments were echoed by the Senior New Zealand Officer on the day, Maj T, who addressed the Task Group.

“Observing ANZAC Day here in Iraq, as an ANZAC contingent, provides us a unique opportunity to better appreciate the significance of the ANZAC Spirit.

“The bonds and relationships we’ve developed, the manner and character in which this Task Group has represented itself is the living embodiment of this spirit.”

More than 300 Australian and 100 New Zealand military personnel are deployed to Op Okra as part of Task Group Taji.

ANZAC VS ANZAC

It was Mate vs Mate, ANZAC vs ANZAC at the Camp Taji sports field on ANZAC Day when the hotly contested rugby league match between Australia and New Zealand was held.

Two national teams drawn from the ranks of Australian and New Zealand personnel from Task group Taji played a charity NRL match in national team jerseys kindly donated by the NRL and NZRL.



In a hard-fought match on the even harder sport fields, New Zealand: 32 triumphed over Australia: 20

More importantly, over \$6500 AUD (\$7000 NZD) was raised for charity, \$3505 AUD (\$3701 NZD) for Legacy Australia and \$3153 AUD (3376 NZD) for the New Zealand Fallen Heroes Trust. The team Captains presented cheques to Commander, Task Group Taji, Colonel Robert Calhoun at the post-game barbeque.

ANZAC DAY IN JERUSALEM

LEUT Miquela Riley

On Wednesday, 25 April, four officers from Operation PALADIN, the Australian contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), represented the ADF at an ANZAC Day service hosted by the Australian Embassy at Mt Scopus in Jerusalem.

They were alongside their counterparts from the MFO (Multinational Force and Observers), based in the Sinai, who provided the catafalque party for the ceremony.

Royal Australian Infantry (RAInf) CAPT Nick McRae, Royal Australian Armoured Corps CAPT Chris Nelson and CAPT Tom Lewis of RAInf, travelled from their duty stations in the occupied Golan Heights to attend the event with LEUT Miquela Riley, RAN, who is currently based in the UNTSO



LEUT Miquela Riley lays a wreath at the Commonwealth War Graves on Mt Scopus in Jerusalem. *Photo Rami Zarnegar*

Jerusalem Headquarters.

CAPT McRae said he felt honoured to have the chance to participate in ANZAC Day commemorations, despite being so far from home.

"It was a great opportunity to reflect and spend time with other Australians

who are also working in the region," CAPT Nelson.

CAPT Nelson added that this ANZAC Day had special significance as many Australian troops have lost their lives in campaigns throughout the Levant.



CAPT Nick McRae, CAPT Tom Lewis, LEUT Miquela Riley and CAPT Chris Nelson attend the Anzac Day service at Mt Scopus in Jerusalem.

Photo LEUT Miquela Riley

Graduation Day for ANAOA Students

Captain Lucy Saaroni

Australian Defence Force mentors deployed to Afghanistan were justifiably proud of their work, as 341 Afghan officer cadets graduated from the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA) at the end of March.

Australians have been mentoring Afghan instructors at the Academy since the institution opened in 2014. Since then, over 3,350 Afghan cadets have been trained in counter-insurgency, conventional warfighting tactics, leadership, English language and more.

“The junior officers that graduate from ANAOA are the future of Afghanistan’s Army and security forces,” said Captain Jason Tuffley, an Australian Army Mentor to Afghan instructors at ANAOA.

“The training they receive here is setting them up for success. When we consider that the Academy has now produced thousands of new Afghan commanders, we feel hopeful and proud of what we are achieving together,” Captain Tuffley said.

ANAOA is recognised as Afghanistan’s premier officer training establishment and – like Australia’s Royal Military College Duntroon (RMC-D) – is based on the British Army’s Sandhurst model.



Captain Gabrielle Taylor, an Australian Army Officer mentor talks to one of her mentees, Lieutenant Zamir who is an Afghan instructor at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy

In a recent initiative, Australia has offered a number of places to ANAOA's best graduates to study at Australia's Royal Military College Duntroon. By early 2019, four Afghan officer cadets will be well on their way to completing the rigorous 18-month Australian Army Officer training program.

Commander Joint Task Force 633, Rear Admiral Hatcher believes that this training opportunity enhances

the legacy of Australia’s commitment to Afghanistan and builds on the mentoring task at ANAOA.

Witnessing the graduation of these officer cadets, Rear Admiral Hatcher said, “It is clear the difference Australia’s commitment to the future of the Afghan National Army is making.”

“These young officers are clearly motivated to serve, proud of their achievements and excited for the future of their country,” Rear Admiral Hatcher said.

Officer Cadets from the Afghan National Army Officer Academy march during their graduation parade on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan.



Commanding Officer of 2 Kandak at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy

Australia deploys P-8A Poseidon to police Korean sanctions

28/04/2018

Brian Hartigan

Australia will deploy a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft to Japan to contribute to the enforcement of United Nations Security Council resolutions in our region.

CAPTION: A RAAF No 11 Squadron P-8A Poseidon armed with Harpoon missile on a training sortie. Photo by Corporal Craig Barrett.

Minister for Defence Marise Payne said this deployment was part of Australia's active role in efforts to maintain economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea.

"The deployment supports the international campaign to address North Korea's illicit trade and associated networks," she said.

CONTACT is surprised by the timing of this announcement however, coming just a day after significant

progress in negotiations was made on the peninsula.

Minister Payne said Australia welcomed North Korea's announcement of a halt to ballistic missile and nuclear weapons testing and, from yesterday's historic inter-Korean dialogue, to work for the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

"However, along with our partners, we will continue to apply maximum pressure on North Korea until it takes concrete and verifiable steps to denuclearise.

"Australia will continue to work with our partners in the region to ensure the full implementation and strict enforcement of United Nations Security Council resolutions."

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Brian Hartigan

Managing Editor Contact Publishing Pty Ltd



Returning to Rwanda: Remembering Australia's 'forgotten' Peacekeepers



Miles Wootten in Rwanda as peacekeeper in 1994.
Photo Miles Wootten

Miles Wootten wears part of his story on his skin — tattoos on his forearms, which can only be seen when he pulls up his sleeves and faces his palms to the sky, open, proud.

A kangaroo, a slouch hat, the flags of Rwanda and Australia and the motto of his unit, "Par Oneri", Equal to the Task.

Mr Wootten is proud of the efforts of the Australians who served in Rwanda.

"The whole lot, from start to finish," he told 7.30.

For almost two decades those memories were painfully private, but smells, words and memories would often take his mind back to Rwanda.

Sometimes the thoughts came in moments of stillness, sometimes in the middle of work.

"I've got stuff going through my mind now, that I can see, like it has just happened," he said.

The smell of eucalyptus would take him back to the morgue in Kigali. It was the only thing they had to rid the stench of killing.

The murderers of the Interahamwe militia used the Kigali central hospital as a place to take lives rather than save them.

Patients were massacred in their

beds. Doctors and nurses were slain too.

Mr Wootten was an army driver, but he was given the job of scrubbing the rooms in the morgue.

"To get them back and operational, because they were absolutely filthy from the war," he said.

"That's one of the places they started with the killings. It actually had torture and execution rooms in there, which was evident."

'We haven't asked because we were afraid of the answer'

Miles Wootten is excited but nervous about going back to Rwanda. He arrives in Kigali at night.

At first, it's hard to recognise the city after 24 years.

"[I] always just had an urge to want to go back," he said.

"And since being diagnosed with PTSD it's brought it to the forefront.

"A lot of Vietnam veterans have gone back and shown a lot of improvement.

"I'm kind of hoping for the same thing, for myself."

He's brought his brother Steve



Miles Wootten shows some Rwandan locals his tattoo marking his time as a Peacekeeper



Former Peacekeeper, Miles Wootten, at a memorial for Belgian Peacekeepers in Kigali

with him to share the journey.

“It’s taken Miles 20 years to talk to us about it and we haven’t asked that much because we were a bit afraid of asking him, what the answer would be,” Steve told 7.30.

“It’s only been the past three or four years that we have been talking about it as a family.”

Rwanda now ‘the Singapore of Africa’

Miles Wootten’s return has been part of a delegation organised by the Rwandan consulate in Melbourne and the Rwandan Development Board.

Kigali is spotlessly clean and the economy is growing.

Some Rwandans proudly declare their country “the Singapore of Africa”.

It might be more accurate than they imagine.

While Rwanda is peaceful and stable, it is tightly controlled and there is limited room for dissent.

The country has undergone a remarkable transformation from the deadly days of the genocide.

“It means a lot. Bottom line, it’s a lot. A little bit of closure, which has been good to see how well the country is doing, how well the people are doing,” Mr Wootten said.

But the past is never far away.

REMEMBERING THE GENOCIDE

The Kigali Genocide Memorial holds

some of the country’s most brutal truths.

Pacifique Bonheur lost most of his family in the genocide.

Now, he is a guide at the memorial, telling visitors what happened in the terrible months of 1994.

Mr Bonheur says it’s important for former peacekeepers to return.

“People like Miles, who decide to visit the country and inspire others to visit, this is something we need,” he told 7.30.

“We learn by our mistakes. They have learned theirs and we learned ours as well.”

For Miles Wootten, the memorial visit is the toughest day of the visit.

The exhibit includes photographs of dozens of children who were slaughtered in the genocide.

“Seeing the photos, that brought some of that back,” he said.

“And how ... how? How do you do that? Not only, how do you do that to a person, how do you do that to a child?”

PEACEKEEPERS REPORT MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

Miles Wootten was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in 2005.

Professor David Forbes is the head of the Phoenix Australia Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health in Melbourne.

He said peacekeeping veterans can face special challenges.

“Combat soldiers, they can go in and they have got more opportunity for taking action, to address the situations they find themselves in,” he said.

“But, with peacekeepers, the rules of engagement are more restrictive.

“So, sometimes they can’t intervene, at times where, if it were a combat operation, they might.”

Professor Forbes says a study has shown the mental health challenges faced by peacekeepers when they return home.

“In the study we did, looking at mental health outcomes for peacekeepers, 30 per cent reported diagnosable mental health problems,” he said.

“The most common problems were post-traumatic stress disorder,



Young people rollerskating in Kigali

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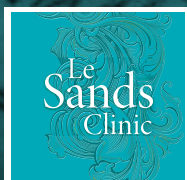
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Human skulls laid out in a church after the 1994 Rwandan genocide. *Photo Reuters*



Kigali Genocide Memorial guide Pacifique Bonheur with Miles Wootten.



Photos at the Kigali Genocide Memorial of children who were slaughtered in the 1994 genocide.

alcohol and substance use problems and depression, so rates of about 16 per cent for PTSD, about 12 per cent for alcohol abuse and about 7 per cent depression.

“And these were about two-and-a-half times the rate for gender age match control group.”

Some of the former Australian peacekeepers feel they have been forgotten and their service in Rwanda is still not properly recognised.

“It can be quite devastating, [it can] diminish their experiences, for those who might say, ‘It wasn’t a war’, ‘Why are you affected?’” Professor Forbes said.

“I think those things can have a big psychological impact.”

‘You’ve got no right to judge’

Miles Wootten wants Australians to understand what the peacekeepers did in Rwanda.

He says some veterans from other wars still look down on the troops who cleaned up after the genocide.

“Everyone else went to war and walked away,” he said.

“We cleaned it. Come back and see me when you’ve cleaned one, mate.

“I’ve actually said that to a person, ‘Come back and see me, when you’ve cleaned one’.

“You’ve got no right to judge anything we did here. I’m very proud.”

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-01/remembering-australias-forgotten-rwanda-peacekeepers/9710094>

By Africa correspondent Sally Sara



Miles Wootten is proud of the role Peacekeepers played in the clean-up of Rwanda.

SAPPERS BEYOND JUST PEACE: Peacemaking, Peacekeeping, Defence Co- Operation and Humanitarian Assistance - 70 Years of United Nations Peace Missions

By Don Hughes

“In peace prepare for war, in war prepare for peace.”

Sun Tzu, Fifth century BC,

One of the most important treatises on war and peace ever written was *“The Art of War”* by Sun Tzu in China over two and a half thousand years ago. He highlighted that *“the art of war is of vital importance to the state. It is a matter of life and death, a road either to safety or to ruin!”* He wrote many truths that are just as applicable today as back then. He recognised the significant importance of peace and humanitarian operations: *“the supreme act of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting...”*

POST WWII – UN CHARTER - 1945

After the calamity of World War Two (WWII) the Charter of the United Nations (UN) was signed on 26 June 1945 and came into force on 24 October 1945. On 1 November 1945 Australia ratified the Charter and became a staunch supporter and provider ever since – not only to UN missions but also other humanitarian and assistance operations worldwide.

JAPAN (BCOF) 1946 -52

Although not a United Nations peace mission, the main Australian contingent of the **British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF)** arrived in Japan on 13 February 1946 for a six-year occupation. Essentially a peace and humanitarian operation, approximately 19,270 Australians served with BCOF, including many Sappers. On 22 October 1946, Sergeant J. R. Sewell, 10th Australian Bomb Disposal Platoon, BCOF, was awarded the **George Medal** for his rescue of Japanese survivors after

an explosion in a boat carrying high explosives. He had been a member of 1st Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) Parachute Troop and is included on the RAE Roll of Honour for Japan and Korea having been killed in action (KIA) at Muroto Saki Japan.

DUTCH EAST INDIES (UNGOC) 1947-51

Australia contributed four military observers to the first **United Nations Peace Operation** into the field in Batavia, then the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). The four Australian Defence Force (ADF) observers comprised of 2 Army, 1 Royal Australian Navy and 1 Royal Australian Air Force officers to the **United Nations Good Offices Commission (UNGOC)** on 14 September 1947.

THE 1947 AUSTRALIAN MILESTONE FOR PEACE

The inaugural President of the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association

of Australia (APPVA), **Paul Copeland OAM JP**, proudly points out that this 1947 contribution; *“has laid the historical milestone of ADF Peacekeeping Operations that have been conducted non-stop to the present day. Our Peacekeepers continue to receive international accolade.”*

PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS MEMORIAL

A **Memorial to Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers** was formally opened on 14 September in 2017 in ANZAC Parade ACT. This memorial recognises 70 years of a significant and distinguished contribution by over 50,000 Australian Peacekeepers – Military, Police and Civilian – in over 60 international missions. Sappers have played a significant role in this United Nations commitment as well as other humanitarian and peace operations and missions conducted at home and abroad.



Japan BCOF. Photo AWM



Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Memorial

KOREA (UNC) 1950-56

On 25 June 1950, just a month after the decision to withdraw BCOF back to Australia, the Russian backed North Korean communists invaded the American backed South Korea: the practical onset of the Cold War! The Russians boycotted UN Security Council debates that ultimately led for the first time a UN armed intervention in the cause of resisting aggression. Australia was one of the first member states to volunteer forces to the American dominated **United Nations Command (UNC)**, under the direction of General Douglas MacArthur.

Withdrawal of BCOF back to Australia was reversed and the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) was in Korea by the end of September 1950. 3RAR was under command of Australia's youngest commanding officer (CO) of any Infantry Battalion in the AIF, Lt Col Charlie Green DSO. He was just 25 years of age but highly regarded for his demonstrated outstanding talent for command, tactical analysis, capable leadership and personal gallantry (Gallway p. 23,24).

Despite WWII ending with atomic weapons, operations in Korea were more reminiscent of the trench and hand to hand warfare of WW1. 3RAR had earned for themselves an outstanding reputation as fighters.

This was crowned with their magnificent stand against a Chinese division at Kapyong. Charlie Green was killed in action before that battle. The outstanding success of Kapyong earned 3RAR the **United States Presidential Unit Citation**. 1RAR and 2RAR also served with distinction in Korea. Total Australians killed in action (KIA) was 339 with 1216 wounded in action (WIA) and 29 prisoners of war (POW) taken (Evans p. vi).



Korea. Photo AWM

RAE SAPPERS IN KOREA

Primarily an Infantry contribution by Australia to the Korean conflict other specialists were also despatched. Captain (CAPT) I.G.C. Gilmore RAE was attached to the British Commonwealth divisional engineers as an intelligence officer. He later commanded a Troop of New Zealanders in 12 Field Sqn, RE and undertook valuable work on minefields for which he was **Mentioned in Despatches (MID)**. Lieutenant (LT) R.W.O. Pugh was the first RAE officer to serve with the Infantry in Korea. He joined 3RAR in February 1952 and he and his Platoon used explosives to assist the rifle companies to dig in.

CAPT J.M. Hutcheson assumed command of Assault Pioneer Platoon 3RAR in February 1952. The next year he served with 28 Field Engineer Regiment, RE (28 FER, RE) as an Intelligence officer. He was awarded the **Military Cross (MC)** "for outstanding service in respect of operations in Korea". Others to serve with 28 FER included: CAPT E.S. Swinbourne, Lt D.C. Kneebone and Lt J.F. Newton (Greville p. 443).

Based on 7 Field Squadron, RAE, CAPT P.J. Greville RAE, commanded the Assault Pioneer Platoon of 1RAR deploying to Pusan in Korea on 1 April 1952 and then moved to the "Kansas" line. Ambushed on the night of 23/24 August 1952 in the Naechon Valley,



A group of Australian soldiers serving with the United Nations Peacekeeping force in East Timor has taken on a humanitarian aid project to occupy their off-duty hours

Photo by CPL Kevin Piggott.

Greville and a section whilst mending a minefield fence sustained 2KIA and 3WIA. Greville and Pte D.D. Conlon were captured by the Chinese. They remained in captivity at Panmunjom until they were both repatriated in a prisoner exchange in August-September 1953 (Greville p.444).

KOREA: THE FORGOTTEN WAR

In the United States the war was initially described by President Harry S. Truman as a **“Police Action”** as it was an undeclared military action conducted under the auspices of the UN. It has often been referred to as the **“Forgotten War”** because of a lack of public attention it received both during and after the war, and in relation to the global scale of WW11 which preceded it and the subsequent angst of the Vietnam War, which succeeded it (Wikipedia, The Forgotten War). This is despite 1.8 million US Service-people taking part with 100,000 WIA and 37,000 KIA.

KASHMIR (UNMOGIP) 1950-85

The **United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)** was established to supervise the ceasefire agreed between India and Pakistan in the States of Jammu and Kashmir. CAPT I.M. (Ian) Stewart was one Australian Sapper who deployed

to Kashmir in 1977 and was later Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) Stewart AM who had been the Senior Instructor at SME and CO 2/3 FER. He became actively involved in the Australian Red Cross after retirement from the ADF.

MIDDLE EAST (UNTSO) 1956-PRESENT

In 1956 the **United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)** was established to monitor peace in the Middle East. Consisting of approximately 152 unarmed Military Observers from 20 different nations deployed to outstations and observation posts in Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied countries. Australia provides 12 Army Officers. Many RAE Officers have participated in this peacekeeping mission over the years.

One of our RACT brothers, CAPT Peter James McCarthy (Bags), was killed whilst undertaking observation duties in Southern Lebanon after his vehicle engaged an anti-tank/vehicle land mine on 13 January 1988. He was posthumously awarded the **ANZAC Peace Prize** jointly with the overall Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping commitment.

Also, in 1988 the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to United Nation peace-keepers for *“demanding and hazardous service in the cause of peace”*.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL PEACEKEEPERS HONOUR ROLL

After extensive lobbying by CAPT McCarthy’s daughter Sarah, and Avril Clark, the mother of Private (PTE) Jamie Clark who died after falling down a sinkhole whilst on patrol in the Solomon Islands in 1995, it wasn’t until 31 August 2013 that the Australian War Memorial recognised Australian Peacekeepers on its honour roll. As a result of their tenacity coupled with overwhelming Australian Public opinion, 48 Peacekeepers (Men & Women) are now included on the **Australian War Memorial Honour Roll** alongside over 1000,000 Australians killed in more than a century of conflict at home and abroad.

The Roll includes 4 sailors killed clearing sea mines in 1947, 9 ADF

personnel killed in the Sea King helicopter crash in Indonesia in 2005 and Craftsman (CFN) Beau Pride killed in a vehicle accident in East Timor in 2011.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA – 12TH CHIEF ENGINEER WORKS 1963 - 1999

To provide a critical Defence Co-Operation Program (DCP) to improve civil engineering infrastructure support in the more remote areas of PNG, LT COL D.F.W. Engel (later Major General {MAJ GEN} D.F.W. Engel AO, OBE) was appointed CRE 19th CRE Works for the purpose of raising the unit in preparation of the tasks that lay ahead. Initially based in Popondetta in the Northern District over its 36-year deployment period (Australia’s longest permanently deployed unit) the unit had numerous name changes (19th CRE Works (1963-67), District Engineers - Popondetta (1967 – 72). The unit moved to Mendi in the Southern Highlands District under the units Officer Commanding, MAJ I.M. Wells RAE and continued its vital work in the **“Last Frontier”** of the Southern Highlands Province of PNG.

Nation building tasks continued at an impressive rate and more name changes occurred: District Engineers Office (1972-76), Provincial Engineers Office – Mendi (1976 – 78) and finally 12th CE Works (1978 – 1999). PNG’s Independence occurred in 1975. 12th CE Works celebrated its Silver Jubilee between 15-20 September 1988 (Hughes, various). 12th CE Works was awarded an **Institute of Engineers Australia Excellence Award**.

CYPRUS 1964 -2017

Peacekeeping is not only the preserve of the ADF. Australian Police have deployed to many United Nations operations and in particular, since 1964, to Cyprus to monitor the ongoing conflict between its Greek and Turkish communities. Just last year the Australian Government has decided to withdraw this commitment.

ZIMBABABWE (RHODESIA) 1979 - 1980

An Australian force deployed to Rhodesia and included many Sappers; MAJ Jim Truscott OAM was

a young Lieutenant who served the Corps well and later scaled Mount Everest. Also, as a Corporal (CPL), Captain Noel Tipton now 203rd Works Section, was an operator on this important Commonwealth Mission.

EXERCISE INNER PEACE 1980

An early forerunner of a variety of humanitarian projects conducted within Australia by the RAE was the construction of the **All Saints Chapel at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville (Ex Inner Peace)** in 1980. A multitude of projects have since been conducted at home and abroad for training, military and humanitarian aims. Of note are the **AACAP** deployments and various remote airfields such as RAAF Base Scherger.

The "Chapel" in Townsville was opened by the then Defence Minister-Sir Jim Killen. The construction supervisor of the project CPL "Sparrow" Parrish was awarded a **BEM** and the OC of 21 CONST SQN, MAJ Rainer Frisch, was awarded a **MBE**. CPL Parrish went on to be a Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) and MAJ Frisch the CDE of the 1st Division as a Colonel (COL).

IRAN-IRAQ 1988 -90

CAPT Brad Hampton and MAJ

Col Chidgey were both awarded **Conspicuous Service Medals (CSM)** for their Explosive Ordnance Disposal skills in Iraq. Both were detained by Iraqi security forces and by their strong leadership skills diffused a potentially catastrophic situation for the UN Special Commission to Iraq. Their CO was LTCOL Charles Vagi, who was awarded a **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)** for his leadership and direction during that mission. COL Vagi was later appointed as the Head of Australian Defence Staff (HADS) in Papua New Guinea and earned a **bar to his CSC**.

AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN 1989-93

Many Australian Sappers have served on this critical humanitarian demining mission. Many have received well deserved accolades and honours. The intricate details of this deployment have been well documented by COL Marcus Fielding. His fine article, including all Contingent members and awards, will be published in sapper circles soon.

Australian Sappers that stood out from this period, are LTCOL Ian Mansfield AM, CSC, LTCOL Willem (Bill) Van Ree and MAJ Graeme Membrey who went on to conduct

UN mine clearance and security operations worldwide.

NAMIBIA 1989-90 (UNTAG)

Another great Australian Sapper success story was the deployment of a Construction Squadron (17 CONST SQN) to Namibia, Africa, to assist in supporting the Independence of that country. Along with many fine and well deserved individual honours and awards, the Unit earned itself The Australian Army's first "**Honour Distinction**". Well done.

UN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 1988

In 1988, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to United Nations peace-keepers for "demanding and hazardous service in the cause of peace."

WESTERN SAHARA 1991-94

A fine Doctor, MAJ Susan Walsh RAAMC, lost her life on this Operation in a plane crash. Sappers lament her passing and dedication.

CAMBODIA 1991-93

A great Sapper General, **LT GEN J.M. Sanderson AC**, who became the Chief of Army, was the inspirational Commander of the UN Force in Cambodia. Sappers and Signallers



Japan BCOF. Photo AWM



Colonel John Brennan on the banks of the Nile with an MLO from Zambia.

contributed much of their expertise and courage to this war-ravaged country.

CROATIA-BOSNIA 1991-95

Many Sappers served in the former Yugoslavia. A nasty and vicious conflict. Sappers made significant contributions to this part of the world.

SOMALIA 1992-94

Lt Bill Boyer and 17th Field Troop RAE during Operation SOLACE earned a well-deserved **CGS Commendation** on 21 October 1993.

RWANDA 1994/95

In Rwanda CAPT “Alby” Hughes RAE was the Engineer Officer allocated to the mainly Infantry force in this horrible trouble spot in Africa. Australia’s Official “**Peace Artist**”, George Gittoes AM witnessed the awful Kibeho massacre and with drawing and painting, recorded this human tragedy for the world to see. George has recorded the result of war and in most trouble spots around the globe. He currently lives and works in Afghanistan. Immediately after the Kibeho massacre George travelled to Mozambique who were recovering from a 15 year long civil war.

MOZAMBIQUE 1993-2002 (ONUMOSZ/UNDP)

Australia’s longest and probably most successful UN Mission, **Demining in Mozambique**, has been well documented. The Official War Memorial History will be released soon. 32 Australian Federal Police and 31 Australian Sappers contributed to the first landmine affected country in the world to be declared “**landmine free**” in August 2015! Sappers deployed there to assist in turning a quagmire of devastation into a Country of Hope & Prosperity.

A number of **Conspicuous Service Crosses (CSC)** were awarded: WO1 Dave Sinai; WO1 Laurie Mountain and MAJ Peter MacIntosh. WO2 Des O’ Hanlin was awarded a **CDF Commendation** and MAJ Don Hughes a **Land Commander Australia Letter of Commendation**.

Mozambique is now a Commonwealth country and is forging ahead with tourism and mineral exploration.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN/ANZAC PEACE PRIZE: 1995

Ambassadors, teachers, peacekeepers, soldiers! Sappers, have been involved intimately with UN Peacekeeping Operations over the previous 50 years in all corners of the World and were awarded the ANZAC Peace prize in 1995.

HAITI – (UNSTABMIH) 1995

COL Marcus Fielding was the RAE Sapper on the ground in Haiti. He was responsible for numerous infrastructure and works in helping to rehabilitate the country.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - BOUGAINVILLE 1997

Australians have also served in Bougainville to help settle a long running dispute between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the separatist Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA). The dispute over mining, land and cultural issues. Paradoxically, one of the BRA leaders was trained by the Australian Army in demolition techniques. **Professor Bob Breen PhD** has produced a wonderful Official history on Bougainville and the Solomon’s.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - OPERATION SHADDOCK 1998

A Tsunami devastated 30km of coastline on the north coast centred on Sissano in Sanduan Province on 17 July 1998. LT COL Rod West (CO 3CER) was appointed the Commander of a Combined Joint Task Force 110 (CJTF110) to provide humanitarian support to our neighbours. Approximately 2500 local residents were killed and over 9000 made homeless. The Task Force consisted of 3 CER, a large Signals component, the 1st Parachute Surgical Team, 1st Field Hospital with SAS interpreter and patrol support. LT COL Rod West was awarded the **Conspicuous Service Cross**, in part, for this timely and well executed humanitarian operation.

TIMOR LESTE 1999 - PRESENT

LT COL (Steve) Day, as CO 3CER, led the Sapper Force in Timor. The Sapper resource included most of the full-time resources of the RAE. Their exploits and tenacity are well recorded such as in the fine book, *Bridging the Gap*, by the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of 3CER at the time, WO1 Kevin Vann, OAM.

MAJ GEN Steve Day DSC, AM is currently the Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Australian Engineers Australia.

OP GOLD (SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES)

Because full-time Sappers were primarily deployed to Timor, Reserve Sappers had to “Step Up” to assist with security at the **2000 Olympic Games** in both the Operational Support Battalion (OSB) and the Joint Incident Response Unit (JIRU). Most positive outcomes were achieved on this “world stage”. Many other significant events have been well supported by Sappers over the decades – often just quietly in the background!

AFGHANISTAN - 2001 – PRESENT

The exploits and courage of sappers in Afghanistan in the Afghanistan War have been well documented. MAJ GEN John Cantwell AO, DSC, Commander Australian Forces Afghanistan 2010, probably best summed up the worth of sappers on operations: *“In Afghanistan in 2010, I came to learn that the Sappers were the true heroes”* (Cantwell).

Many Sappers were also involved in various humanitarian and support tasks. LT COL Bill Van Ree and MAJ Graeme Lambert RFD conducted demining operations with the UN and MAJ John Roberts built the airfield as a civilian contractor at Kandahar.

BUSHFIRES - NUMEROUS

Numerous bushfires in all parts of

Australia have been supported by Sappers of the RAE. Many stories abound. In Sydney, the ACT and particularly throughout Victoria. Many Sapper’s were awarded the Victorian Fire Medal for their services.

BANDA ACEH 2004-5

The Tsunami of Boxing Day 1994 rallied international support. The Australian Army Engineer Group consisted of the 1ST Combat Engineer Regiment and elements of 19 CE Works. For their fine work they were awarded a **CDF commendation**. The recent CO of 22 ER, LTCOL Michelle Mac Cormack, was intimately involved as a Civil Engineer with 19 CE Works.

SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS) OPERATION ASLAN 2012-PRESENT

Deep tribal divisions and continued conflict after 20 years of civil war has disrupted South Sudan becoming an independent nation since 2011. These simmering tensions prompted the UN to provide protection and humanitarian aid with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**. A number of Australian Sappers deployed on this Mission, particularly our geodetic specialists.

FLOODS - NUMEROUS

Sappers have always supported protection and recovery from flood

& cyclone disasters at home for decades. The most recent was 3CER (Commanded by LTCOL JKF Harris CSC) who commanded the Military Support to the recent far North Queensland floods & cyclone threat. Another job well done.

POSTSCRIPT/REFLECTION

Australian Sappers have contributed continuously to International Peacekeeping, Peacemaking and Humanitarian Support Operations in many diverse and hostile environments. There are probably RAE activities over the last 70 years I have missed. I would strongly encourage Sappers of all ranks & trades, to submit written and photographic articles to enhance the Sapper history & heritage record. We as a Corps, have done some amazing things over the years. We need to record them.

UBIQUE

“What we have done for ourselves alone, dies with us; what we have done for others and the world, remains and is immortal.”

(Australian Federal Police College Memorial, Barton, ACT)

Also: In South Africa Zulu Language –

“UBUNTU” “I am because, we are!”

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Australian Army aircrew technician Corporal Scott Clunie helps Papua New Guinea Defence Force personnel deliver aid from CH-47F Chinook helicopter during Operation PNG Assist 2018.

Veteran refused care – because DVA were paying

THERE ARE RUMOURS IN THE VETERAN COMMUNITY THAT SOME HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS, INCLUDING PSYCHIATRISTS, ARE REFUSING TO SEE MILITARY VETERANS AS PATIENTS.

THIS WEEK, I FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY THAT THE RUMOURS ARE TRUE.

It took me a very long time to admit that I might need to see a psychiatrist.

When I did 'give in' at the urging of friends and family, I went to my GP to get a referral to a psych who was recommended by a friend.

With the GP's referral in hand, I further procrastinated for months before eventually ringing for an appointment – only to be told that this doctor wasn't taking on any new patients and hasn't for more than four years.

Disappointing, but OK.

More weeks passed before I went back to the GP for a new referral – this time to someone she recommended – "I think you and he will get on well from an age and personality point of view," she said.

Cool.

Now, I know that DVA and the minister are keen to advertise, "if you have had full-time service in the ADF, you are eligible to receive treatment for any mental health condition" – and DVA "covers the entire cost of your treatment for any mental-health condition" – I see it repeated over and over in their press releases.

And, when they say it, they never mention any ifs, buts or maybes – no caveats – a whole new attitude towards veterans' entitlements and easier access to mental-health care.

To underline this new attitude, when I filled out the appropriate DVA form and sent it off, approval came back within 20 minutes!!!

Awesome. Confidence building.

Now I'm fully convinced I need and

even want to go. I'm committed. I'm determined. No more procrastinating.

So, I ring the second psychiatrist's office the same day and ask nicely for an appointment.

I was told the next available appointment was in April – but that was fine with me because I was about to go on holidays.

As requested, I immediately emailed them my GP referral – along with DVA's agreement to pay.

Two days later, the psychiatrist's secretary rings back and says, "I'm very sorry, but Dr XXX is unwilling to take on any new DVA patients at this time".

I asked why, but she could only repeat the message.

Gobsmacked. Upset. Deflated. Set back.

I thought about this for a while. Calmed down.

And came to the conclusion that maybe it isn't just this doctor.

What if this is a bigger issue?

“And what if a suicidal veteran or ‘emergency case’ was told ‘no veteran’s allowed’?”

So I went looking for answers.

I posed a range of questions to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, a separate set of questions to the Australian Medical Association, and formally offered the doctor a chance to also clarify his position.

The AMA responded within 24 hours – the doctor an hour after that – and DVA – well it was 69 hours later, and 17 hours after the deadline I gave them.

The AMA's bottom line was that doctors were not obliged to accept DVA cards for payment – and, in fact, the AMA said they had long been aware that an ever-increasing number of medical-service providers were refusing DVA cards for payment.

Warwick Hough, Director of the AMA's General Practice and Workplace Policy Department said the problem was that DVA's fee schedule had been frozen since 2012, but even before that, DVA generally paid a

lower fee for services than a medical practitioner would otherwise charge.

"While many doctors, in recognition of a veteran's service, are still willing to accept a lower fee, the lack of fee indexation has forced many to reconsider this," Mr. Hough said.

He cited a report on a survey of medical practitioners that the AMA conducted in March last year that found, "the indexation freeze is clearly having an impact on access to care for veterans and this will only get worse over time".

"Only 71.3 per cent of specialists are currently continuing to treat all veterans under DVA, with the remainder adopting a range of approaches including closing their books to new DVA-funded patients or treating some as private or public patients," the 11-month-old survey report said.

Mr. Hough said it was now well known that veterans often struggle to access psychiatric services

under DVA-funded arrangements.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs agreed with the AMA that, "Health care providers in private practice, including psychiatrists, are free to choose how to run their business".

"This means they can choose who they see as patients, the operating hours of the practice and how much they will charge.

"This also includes whether or not to provide treatment under the Department of Veterans' Affairs arrangements."

They also said that in the event that a practitioner does not accept DVA patients, DVA could provide assistance to identify another practitioner, provide transport assistance, or consider a request from the practitioner to fund services at a cost above the DVA fee, which would be determined on clinical need and consideration to the patient's ability to reasonably access

another practitioner.

The doctor who refused to take me on as a DVA patient phoned me to directly explain his position.

He said his current policy was not to accept any new DVA patients where a DVA card was the preferred payment method, simply because DVA did not pay a fair and reasonable fee.

He also said that he was legally barred from charging veteran clients a 'gap' under a DVA-payment arrangement, even if they were willing.

"On the other hand, if you or any other veteran want to come to me as a Medicare client and pay the Medicare 'gap', I'm more than happy to take you on," he said.

The DVA spokesperson said DVA was aware of *individual instances* of health-care providers not accepting DVA arrangements.

"These do not suggest this is a wide-spread issue impacting on veterans' and war widows' ability to access clinically necessary treatment," she said.

"Overall, the number of psychiatrists providing services to DVA clients has increased over time."

The AMA disagreed.

AMA's survey of members, which was conducted 11 months ago following growing numbers of anecdotal feedback from GP and other specialist members that veterans were facing increasing barriers to accessing specialist medical care, says, "the indexation freeze is clearly having an impact on access to care for veterans and this will only get worse over time".

"The continuation of the indexation freeze puts a significant question mark over the future viability of the DVA funding arrangements and the



continued access to quality specialist care for veterans."

On current trend, the AMA survey predicts the number of doctors willing to see DVA-funded clients could easily fall well below 50 per cent.

Mr. Hough said that while DVA arrangements were generally marketed by government as giving the same access to health care for veterans as privately billed patients, the funding provided did not match this commitment.

"There is a great deal of reliance on the good will of the profession and it would seem to the AMA that the government has chosen to test this good will with an extended fee freeze.

"Not surprisingly, this is now starting to impact on veterans' access to care."

As I said at the start, my personal experience put truth to a rumour floating around the veteran community – and opened a can of worms on a much bigger issue.

I felt compelled to pursue this, not

for myself, but 'for the greater good'.

Sitting down to think about this incident and how it made me feel, I had to reflect, "what if a truly needy patient experienced this". The answer is scary.

There is obviously a bigger issue here than DVA or the government is willing to admit. But surely, they will have to eventually.

The AMA said that a very similar situation was brought to a head in 2006, and when the government was eventually forced to fix the problem, it cost \$600million.

So, yes, I concede the solution may be expensive. But procrastination could easily cost more veterans' their lives.

How much are those worth?

Find the full set of questions posed to DVA and the AMA plus their answers in the 1 March 2018 issue of **CONTACT Air Land & Sea** magazine, www.contactairlandandsea.com

Brian Hartigan



ADTP News

1. Position vacant in the NT – Military Compensation Advocate Level 2

For some time that has been a shortage of advocates to meet the demand for assistance from the Defence and veteran communities in the Northern Territory.

To address this, the NT Government and ex-service organisations have joined forces to offer a 12-month paid position for a Military Compensation Advocate Level 2 or above.

The paid advocate will be supported by a close-knit team of volunteer compensation and welfare advocates based in Darwin. A motivated and diligent person will be able to make a real difference to lives of current and former Australian Defence Force members and their families across the Territory.

For further information, please contact Sue McCallum at 0414 511 952 or email: smatdp@veteransaustralian.org.au. The position description is available on the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au. The closing date is 6 April 2018.

2. Positions vacant in Regional Implementation Group 2 – NSW, ACT & WA

Expressions of interest are invited from volunteers to join the ATDP Regional Implementation Group Region 2, covering NSW, the ACT and WA. While advocacy experience and training qualifications would be an advantage, the main requirement is an interest in supporting the ATDP and some time available. See the ATDP website for more information: www.atdp.org.au. The closing date is 13 April 2018.

3. ATDP training update

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

Consolidation Training for Military Compensation Level 1 and Military Welfare Level 1

When you've completed your workplace and online training, and your mentor has indicated this in your online Workplace Experience Log,

you will be notified of when you can attend the final component of your training – a face-to-face Consolidation session. If you have any questions, ask your mentor or contact the Admin Officer for your region. Their details are at the end of this newsletter.

Workplace and Online Training for Military Compensation Level 2 and Military Welfare Level 2

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

Recognition of Prior Learning for Military Compensation Level 3

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

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

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

This rollout schedule is for the additional ATDP training programs:

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

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

4. Continuing Professional Development – the new 'refresher'

Development of the ATDP Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program continues apace. In the

coming months, information sessions will be held across the country to give advocates and ESO management a firsthand update about what's ahead.

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

But CPD is more than doing exercises and accumulating points. The program will give advocates at all levels a broad range of options in how they maintain and grow their knowledge and skills. There will be seminars arranged by and ESOs and other advocacy networks, and you'll be able to have your non-ATDP qualifications count for CPD. Reference material will help keep Compensation Advocates up-to-date with case law and changes introduced by determinations made under the legislation. Given today's technology, the potential of CPD is almost limitless.

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

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

There'll be another update in the next issue of Advocacy News.

Brian Warren
ATDP CPD Program Coordinator

5. VITA reminder to TIP-trained advocates

TIP-trained advocates and their ex-service organisations (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.)

6. Resolving issues

Do you have a question or concern about the ATDP? Are you unsure about where to go and who to ask? This table may help:

Resolving ATDP Issues

Question	Try this first:	Then try this:
I'm a pension officer. How do I get ATDP accreditation?	See the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au/WhatIsRPL.pdf	Contact the Administration Support Officer for your region. See the Contacts section of the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au/contact/contactForm.php
I can't login to the ATDP website. How do I get this fixed?	Try the 'Forgot login details' link on the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au	Contact the Administration Support Officer for your region. See the Contacts section of the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au/contact/contactForm.php
Things aren't working out with my mentor. Things aren't working out with my mentee	Contact your Regional Mentor through your Administration Support Officer. See the Contacts section of the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au/contact/contactForm.php	Contact your Regional Manager. See the Contacts section of the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au/contact/contactForm.php
I've asked my Regional Manager about a problem, but I'm not satisfied with their response. Who else can I talk to?	Contact the Chair of the ATDP Capability Framework Management Group by sending an email to: cfmgchair@atdp.org.au	Contact the Chair of the Strategic Governance Board: sgbchair@atdp.org.au
I did RPL but I haven't been accredited. Why? I don't think I was assessed correctly at RPL. Who can I talk to?	Contact the Administration Support Officer for your region. See the Contacts section of the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au/contact/contactForm.php	Contact the National Training Manager: ntm@atdp.org.au
I have some concerns about how the ATDP is being implemented. Who can I talk to?	Contact the Chair of the ATDP Capability Framework Management Group by sending an email to: cfmgchair@atdp.org.au	Contact the Chair of the Strategic Governance Board: sgbchair@atdp.org.au

7. Directory of Advocacy Services

In the last issue of Advocacy News we introduced the new Directory of Advocacy Services on the ATDP website. The directory aims to make it easier for veterans and their families to locate an ATDP-accredited advocate.

It lists the name of each ex-service organisation (ESO) that has ATDP-Accredited Advocates, the ESO's contact details, and whether they have welfare or compensation advocates or both.

At this stage it does not list the names of accredited advocates. We're planning to add the names of individual advocates in the future, as well as a better search function and other improvements.

New information will be added to the directory as more advocates are accredited and more ESOs provide their preferred contact information.

If your organisation has accredited advocates and does not appear on the list, or if you want to change any information, please send an email to: ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au

8. New veteran payment available from 1 May

The Australian Parliament recently passed legislation making available a new payment for veterans, new family support services and other initiatives to improve the lives of members of the Defence and veteran communities.

Veteran Payment

This new payment is for former ADF members who claim under the MRCA or DRCA for mental health problems and who can't work, so they have a source of income while their claim for initial liability is being determined. Partners of veterans may also be eligible for the payment. The Veteran Payment starts on 1 May 2018.

Family support

Also from 1 May 2018, there will be a new scheme for families of current and former ADF members with who have served in recent overseas conflicts. The support includes increased access to counselling, childcare, household services and attendant care.

Other changes

The legislation has a number of other initiatives that will be available

at different times over the next few weeks:

- A mental health pilot program for veterans in rural and regional areas with mild-to-moderate anxiety or depression who also need pain management for physical health conditions.

- Access to household and attendant care services for veterans who have had a catastrophic injury.

- An automatic process to remove the need for veterans to apply for a determination on their qualifying service.

- Gold Card eligibility for veterans who served in Japan after the cessation of hostilities at the end of the Second World War and before the British Commonwealth Occupation Force commenced.

For more information see the DVA website and search for 'legislation'. Advocates with specific questions can call the DVA General Enquiries number: 1800 555 254.

9. BEST grant applications open

The next round of Building Excellence in Training and Support (BEST) grants is now open, and applications close on **19 April 2018**.

BEST grants support the work of ex-service organisations in providing advocacy services to the Defence and veteran communities. BEST funding is a contribution towards the costs incurred by ex-service organisations in providing these services, and is closely linked with the ATDP.

This round involves a new way to apply for a BEST grant as DVA partners with other agencies in the Australian Government's Community Grants Hub: www.communitygrants.gov.au. The Grants Hub is an online portal where you can search for different types of grants, submit an application, manage your grants and receive an email alert when grants are open for applications. By standardising and simplifying grants processes across a number of agencies, finding and applying for grants is now easier.

As DVA has several categories of grants, the move to the Hub is happening progressively over a number of weeks. As well as BEST grants, you can find these grants on the Hub now:

- Veteran and Community Grants
- Grants-in-Aid

These DVA grants are expected to move to the Hub in the following months:

April 2018: Saluting Their Service – Community Commemorative Grants

May 2018: Saluting Their Service – Major Commemorative Grants

July 2018: Supporting Younger Veterans Grants

These grants will continue to be managed by DVA:

- Overseas Privately-Constructed Memorial Restoration Program

- Armistice Centenary Grants

The best way to keep across which grants are now on the hub is to click on 'Subscribe for updates on the Community Grants Hub website: www.communitygrants.gov.au.

On this website you'll also find all the information you'll need about applying for a grant when each grant program opens.

DVA grants are still DVA grants

The Hub is only responsible for the administration of grants. DVA will still determine what sort of grants are available and who is eligible for funding. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs will still approve successful DVA grants.

What if I'm not comfortable with computers?

If you need support in using and/or submitting your grant application on the Hub, please call 1800 020 283 or send an email to: support@communitygrants.gov.au. There is extra support for those who are not used to working with computers through the Australian Government's 'Be Connected' program. The program offers free computer training in your local community. For more details, go to the Be Connected website: www.beconnected.esafety.gov.au

Don't leave your application until the last minute!

If you think you might need help with lodging your application, contact the Hub as soon as possible. It may take the Hub team up to five working days to sort out your problems if they are complex. In turn, this may impact on your ability to lodge your application in time to be considered.

For more information about BEST grants and all of DVA's grant programs, go to the DVA website: www.dva.gov.au/consultation-and-grants/grants.

10. Hearing services for veterans

Hearing loss is one of the health conditions that many veterans make claims to DVA for each year. So it's unfortunate that some veterans are pressured by some providers into buying more expensive hearing devices than they need. The client then has to contribute to the cost of the devices, which may have extra but non-essential features.

DVA encourages advocates to ensure their clients are aware of all their options so they can make a fully-informed decision when they're buying a hearing device.

The Australian Government provides fully subsidised testing, devices and support through the Hearing Services Program. With this program veterans can access over 160 high-quality devices at no cost.

Veterans can also access assistive listening devices through DVA's Rehabilitation Appliances Program at no cost. This includes wireless microphones (e.g. Roger Pens), radio frequency devices and television headsets.

More information

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has advice and a helpful guide to buying hearing aids and devices. Search for 'hearing aids' on their website: www.accc.gov.au.

Presentation of Australia Day Award 2018

Silver Medallion bestowed upon the National Secretary Kevin Ryan JP.

On 13 Feb 2018, the APPVA National Secretary, Kevin Ryan JP was recognised by the APPVA for Meritorious Service toward promoting the interests of the APPVA within roles including the National Secretary, National Membership Secretary, and National Project Officer.

Kevin has been instrumental in a range of roles that have been necessary in the successful Management of the APPVA at the National Level, which he epitomises the APPVA Motto of "Looking After Our Own".

Kevin was presented the Silver Medallion, recognised by the Australia Day Council, making it an official Australian Award, by the Mayor of Lilydale Shire Ranges, Mr. Len Cox prior to the fortnightly Council meeting.

Paul Copeland OAM JP
APPVA Past President



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, YarraRanges Council, City of Knox Department of Education and Training Victoria, but also to The Australian War Memorial The National Library, The Australian DefenceForce, councils, schools, and educational and not for profit organisations across community and nation, that may express an interest in our outcomes.

 A green banner advertisement for the Land Forces 2018 exhibition. On the left is the Land Forces logo featuring a stylized map of Australia and the text "2018 Land Forces AUSTRALIA INDO ASIA PACIFIC 4 - 6 SEPTEMBER ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA". On the right is the circular logo of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc. Below the logos, the text reads: "LAND FORCES EXHIBITION 4-6 SEPTEMBER ADELAIDE EXHIBITION CONVENTION CENTRE". Further down, it says: "The APPVA will be operating a stand at the Land Forces 2018. LAND FORCES 2018 will highlight the platforms, equipment, services and technologies that are increasingly demanded by the armies of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region." At the bottom, it provides contact information: "If you would like to assist in manning the stand please contact: Craig Anderson at craiganderson14@gmail.com or 0481 165 592".

KOREA WAR MEDAL

ANNOUNCEMENT: Republic of Korea war service medal approved for wear

The Republic of Korea War Service Medal was introduced by South Korea in 1951 to recognise the assistance provided by members of the United Nations forces in combatting communist aggression in Korea.

After a long campaign, by the Australian Council of Korea Veterans Associations, the South Korean government has accepted an offer which has allowed the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), to approve the wear of the medal.

Previously only one foreign award for a particular service or campaign has been allowed. Those who served during this time were awarded the United Nations Medal Korea.

For more information about the award, to check the full eligibility criteria and to see if you or your family member is eligible visit:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/.../Republic-of-Korea-War-Service-M...>

As a foreign award, Defence does not administer the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. Eligible veterans may purchase a replica medal from any reputable medal dealer.

#AusArmy #GoodSoldiering
#YourADF #AusArmyVeterans

© Commonwealth of Australia

Paul Copeland This is a sensible decision by the GG. It should be noted that a number of Australian veterans wear foreign awards from a range of countries and organisations. For example, the Australians who served on the US Army Small Ships have both Imperial War Medals from WW2 and a range of US Awards. The AATTV, one of the most decorated Australian units in SVN have veterans who have been awarded many GRVN and US Awards, some for the same action, particularly for Gallantry.

The approach of Defence and the Government toward medallic recognition needs to have such equal approaches to be open with the same fairness to a range of veterans who have served on a range of Operations, particularly Post SVN to better, equally and appropriately recognise service of individuals by permitting further



wearing of Foreign Awards.

The Liberation of Kuwait Medal (Kuwait Government) issued to all Coalition Force individuals who served in the AO from 2 August 1990 to 31 August 1993 is one such award that should be permitted to be worn in addition to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Liberation of Kuwait Medal, for those who served in the Gulf War of 1991.

There are many more medallic recognition issues that affect current and ex-serving ADF Members that should not have to go to the DHAAT to be resolved, without the requirement for veterans to seek appeal at the Federal Court of Australia, which is well beyond the means of veterans fighting for due recognition of their service.

The Hon Darren CHester MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Minister Assisting the Primer Minister
for the Centenary of ANZAC
18 April 2018

EXPANDING SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AUSTRALIA POST

A program to improve easy access to general information about mental health services, counselling, rehabilitation, and transition and support services for veterans and their families has been launched

in Mount Gambier, South Australia and North Lakes in the Moreton Bay area of Queensland as part pilot the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is conducting with Australia Post.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the trial is part of the Turnbull Government's ongoing commitment to put veterans and their families first.

"This pilot, in partnership with Australia Post, is exploring the opportunity for DVA to further expand its reach to veterans and their families by tapping into the extensive network of Australia Post outlets," Mr Chester said.

"The pilot provides easy access to general information about mental health services, counselling, rehabilitation, and transition and support services to veterans and their families who may not have had prior contact with DVA.

"This expansion to a further two sites will provide more information about the way this service is accessed by veterans and their families in metropolitan and regional areas and will help us assess the benefits of the service further."

The pilot supplements DVA's existing face-to-face service delivery network by leveraging the large Australia-wide footprint of Australia Post, it does not replace any existing DVA program or service.

Information is available via the in-store Australia Post kiosk facilities, as well as the Australia Post concierge service, in-store posters, brochures and videos.

A feedback form is available via the in-store iMac in which DVA is seeking ongoing user feedback to continue improving the service. The pilot will be evaluated before its conclusion at the end of June 2018.



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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 480, Boronia Vic 3155
Phone: 0419 544 342
Email: secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Contact Details

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

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

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

Phone Mobile

Service Details

Missions *(Attach separate sheet if necessary)*

Service (Navy, Army, Air Force, AFP etc) Operation name..... Country.....

Service Regt Number Dates deployed to

Current / Former Rank..... Operation name..... Country

Post Nominal Date deployed to

I apply for either Full, Associate or Affiliate Membership to the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA). I agree to abide by its Constitution, rules and regulations. By signing the document, I authorise the APPVA to verify my stated Service or that of my partner or parent / child. I understand my details as supplied on this form, will be kept on record by the National Executive and my respective State or Territory Branch.

Signed Dated.....

Membership Payment Options (due 1st of July annually) **\$30 Renewal** **\$40 New**

Credit Card

Send application with completed details to: APPVA PO Box 480, Boronia Vic 3155

Please charge my credit card for the amount of: \$30 (renewal) \$40 (new) Visa Mastercard

Credit Card No _____/_____/_____/_____ **Expiry Date** ____/____

Name..... **Signature**.....

Cheque of Money Order

Send application in mail with cheque or money order payable to APPVA

Direct Credit - Internet Transfer Bendigo Bank

Account: APPVA **BSB:** 633 000 **Acc:** 160753471 **APPVA Membership No:**

Lodgement Reference Field: include your name and or membership number (if known)

Surname: Enter AUS (1st 3 letters of acc name), then enter amount required

Enter Member No: 153601 (if required)

For All other Financial Institutions:

Account: APPVA **BSB:** 633 000 **Acc:** 160753471 **APPVA Membership No:**

Reference field: Include your name and or membership number (if known)

If unsure of APPVA Membership No. – Contact secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au

The Defence Bank Account has been replaced by Bendigo Bank Account effective Aug 2017.

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

Please ensure you change your banking details to avoid mis-payments.

Membership Type - Please select criteria

Full Member

Open to any member or ex member of the Australian or New Zealand Armed Forces, Police Forces, Government Organisations or Defence Civilians who have Served on Warlike Operations; Peacekeeping or Peacemaking Operations; or Non-Warlike Service. In addition, Peacetime serving and ex Serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Full voting rights

Associate Member

Open to members of other National Armed Forces or Police Forces who have served in War, Peacekeeping or Peacemaking Operations. Persons who have served with Non-Government Organisations. No voting rights.

Affiliate Member

Open to all persons who have not been discharged for reasons of discipline, War Widows / Widowers, Defence Widows / Widowers, Partner(s), Parents and Children of an APPVA Veteran. No voting rights.

Persons applying for membership as a member or ex-member of an Armed Force, Police Force or, as a Defence Civilian meeting the above criteria for Full or Associate Membership, are required to complete the Service Details above. Persons applying for Affiliate Membership as a Parent, Partner or Child of a current APPVA member are required to complete the "Parent / Partner / Child" section in the Contact Details area above, to confirm the membership of the APPVA Member.

**AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION**
MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)



APPVA Merchandise, PO Box 24
Kallangur Qld 4503, Main Office -
Pine Rivers RSL Sub Branch,
1347 ANZAC Ave Kallangur.
E: president@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

MERCHANDISE	QUANTITY	OPTIONS – Please Circle	COST (incl gst)	SUB TOTAL
Navy Blue Polo Shirt		S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL MENS/WOMENS	\$30	
Pink Polo Shirt		WOMENS size 10-16	\$30	
Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Size: M XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL MENS	\$45	
Short Sleeved Chambray Shirt		Size: 10 12 14 16 WOMENS	\$45	
APPVA Cap Navy Blue		One Size	\$20	
APPVA Cap Pink		One Size	\$20	
APPVA Stickers			\$6	
Book - COMBAT MEDIC			\$29	
Book - SOLDIERS' Tales			\$19	
Book - Aussie SOLDIER			\$29	
Stubby Holder black with gold logo			\$8	
Postage and handling costs for all items as below: 500gm bag \$8.25 Less than 3kg \$13.40 Less than 5kg \$17.10 Any other larger posted items will be notified of costs as necessary with purchaser.			TOTAL	

CREDIT CARD

Send order form with completed details to Merchandise - APPVA Veterans Advocacy Centre PO Box 24 Kallangur Qld 4503

Please charge my credit card for the amount of:..... Visa Mastercard

Credit Card No _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ **Expiry Date** _____ / _____

Name..... **Signature**.....

CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER - Post cheque or money order payable to APPVA Veterans Advocacy Centre PO Box 943 Alstonville NSW 2477

DIRECT CREDIT - Internet Transfer - Bendigo Bank

Account: APPVA (AUS) BSB: 633-000 Account: 160753471 Member No:

Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form. Enter Member No:

For All other Financial Institutions:

Account: APPVA BSB: 633-000 Account: 160753471 Member No:

Include your name and the word "Merch" in the reference field and mail the order form. Enter Member No:

The Defence Bank Account has been replaced by Bendigo Bank Account effective Aug 2017.

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Please ensure you change your banking details to avoid mis-payments.

DELIVERY DETAILS

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

Email..... Country.....

Mobile.....

The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA) will accept returned products / merchandise where:

- The product is faulty, or not fit for the purpose
- The product does not match the sample or description

Proof of purchase (APPVA merchandise receipt) must be provided in order to:

- Obtain a refund (if paid by credit card, the credit card will be credited), otherwise a cheque will be provided, or
- Re-issue a like article

IMPORTANT NOTES:

The APPVA will take the utmost care in packaging; however, we will not accept any responsibility for goods damaged in transit.

The APPVA will not accept returns where the product or merchandise is ordered specifically for an individual (e.g. Montage, clothing, etc).

All queries for return of merchandise must be received within 30 days from date of purchase and directed to APPVA Merchandise Officer at merchandise@peacekeepers.asn.au. Item returns will be at the discretion of the APPVA Merchandise Officer provided the above criterion is met in the first instance. Please choose carefully as APPVA cannot accept returns due to change of mind.

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