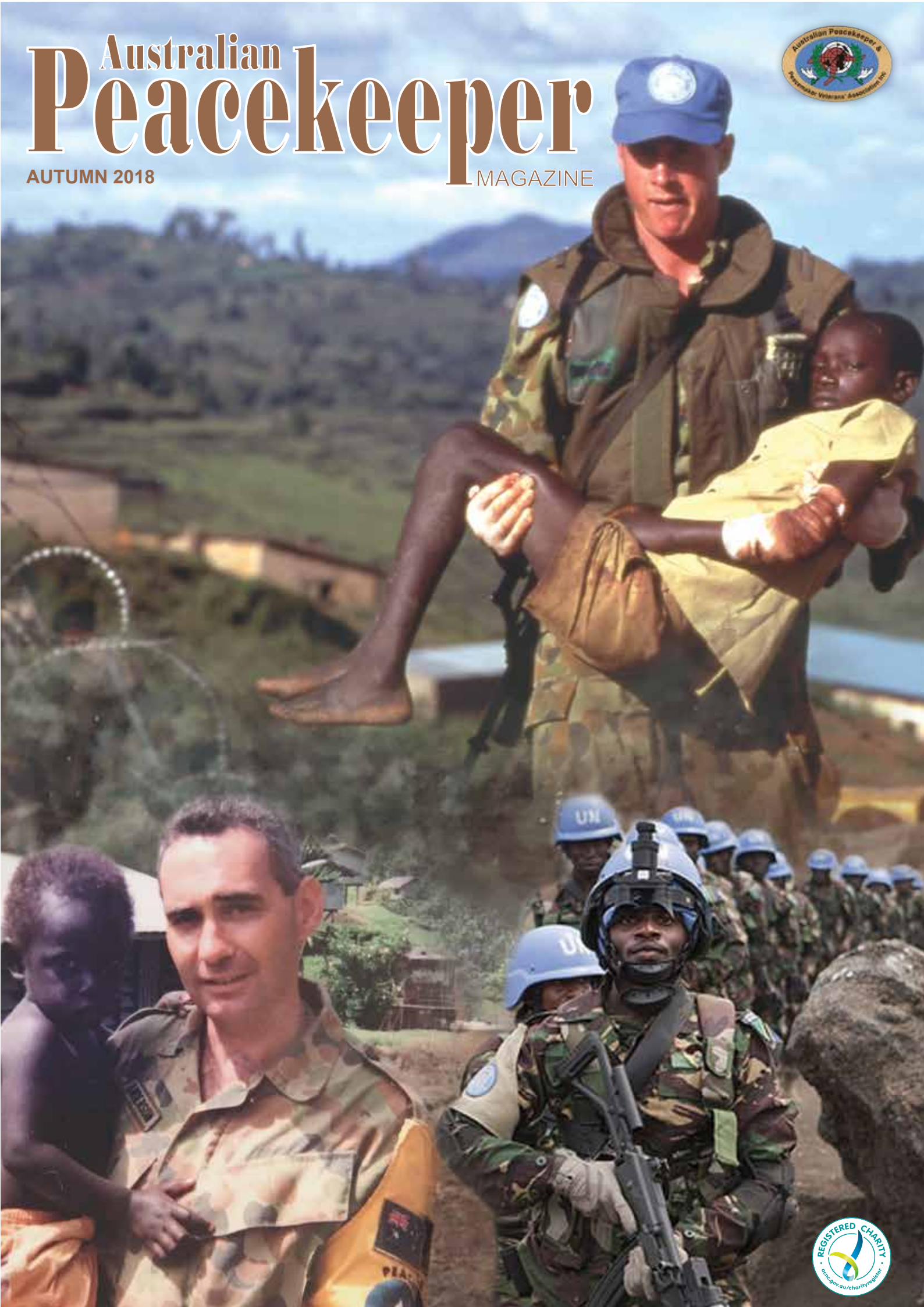


# Australian Peacekeeper

AUTUMN 2018

MAGAZINE





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# Australian Peacekeeper

MAGAZINE

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



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Collage of the International struggle for Peacekeepers.



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# From the President's Desk

Happy New Year and welcome back to all our members, constituents and onlookers. 10 January 2018 marked the 25th anniversary of the commencement of Australia's significant contribution to peacekeeping operations in Somalia. "In late 1992 a catastrophic humanitarian disaster compounded by a complete breakdown in civil order plunged Somalia into chaos. "In response to the crisis Australia deployed forces from all three Services with the Australian contribution to the Unified Task Force – Somalia (UNITAF) arriving in Somalia in January 1993.

Close to 1,000 personnel with land forces centred on the Army's 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), with significant contributions from a number of other units. The Royal Australian Navy deployed HMAS Tobruk and HMAS Jervis Bay with both ships providing important logistical support.

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) were used to move the Australian Forces to and from the conflict area and conducted regular resupply missions. "RAAF personnel also served in Somalia as air traffic controllers and in airfield management roles and members of the Australian Army were deployed to the town of Baidoa about 240km north-west of Mogadishu in January 1993 where banditry and warlord intimidation were rife "Australians were successful at fostering and protecting humanitarian relief efforts and won international praise for their efforts in trying to restore law and order and re-establishing functional legal, social and economic systems.

"The lessons learnt from working with non-government organisations, building local security infrastructure and enabling local community governance continue to inform the Australian Defence Forces' humanitarian and counter-insurgency operations today."

The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Minister of Veterans' Affairs acknowledges the 1,500 Australians served in Somalia from 1992–94, four were wounded or injured—and one Australian soldier—infantryman Lance Corporal Shannon McAlaine was accidentally killed on 2 April 1993.

Minister McCormack remembers him especially today and pay tribute to his service and sacrifice. His efforts are particularly significant as Forbes, his birthplace, is in the Ministers Riverina electorate which has given mightily to the military efforts of this nation right back to the Second Boer War.

Minister McCormack MP was pleased to see the Coalition Government provided nearly \$29,000 to assist 1RAR and the Australian Naval Association to commemorate this anniversary, Australia has a proud history of peacekeeping having participated in multinational peacekeeping operations since the first intervention in the Dutch East Indies in 1947. Our Defence Force has made a significant contribution to worldwide peace operations and today we recognise the peacekeepers who served in Somalia and those who continue to serve in countries around the world.

The Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) met

for the 38th time in Canberra on 10 November 2017.

The Chair welcomed Heather Evans and Maree Sirois, from the Partners of Veterans and Defence Families Australia respectively, to their first meeting as a new member of the ESORT. A minute's silence was observed to mark the passing of AVM Brent Espland, National President of the Royal Australian Air Force Association (RAAFA).

Members were addressed by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Dan Tehan MP.

The Minister began by highlighting his August 2017 ministerial statement regarding veterans and thanked members of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) for their initial response to his challenge for the Ex-Service Organisation community to speak with one voice. He advised that another ministerial statement would occur in 12 months and he would look forward to updating Parliament on the progress of the ex-service community in this regard. The Minister raised initiatives coming from the government's response to the Senate inquiry, *The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans* and topics discussed during the recent Veterans Ministers' Roundtable, including transition, housing, aged care and the need for greater sharing of data across states and territories.

The Minister concluded his remarks by acknowledging the work of retiring ESORT members Narelle Bromhead of Partners of Veterans and Tony Relph of Legacy. He commented on the professional way both had engaged with him and the tenacious manner in which they advocated on behalf of all veterans and their families.

## Rehabilitation & Support Update

Members were provided with a presentation regarding DVA's Rehabilitation Success Stories series. The series intends to publicise stories about veterans who have experienced successful rehabilitation outcomes following their participation in a DVA rehabilitation plan. Members were provided with updates regarding the Prime Minister's Veterans Employment Program and information on how the Australian Government is streamlining grant administration by transitioning to an on-line Community Grants Hub from early 2018.

## Health & Community Services Update

Members received updates relating to the Non-Generic Medication Price Increase; Trial of Assistance Dogs for Veterans with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder; Dental and Allied Health Review; Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme; and Veterans' Home Care Tender.

## Legislation Update

A summary was provided of activities during a DVA legislation workshop, held the day before ESORT. Members acknowledged and agreed the workshop had been a success with DVA committing to hold a follow up event. Members were provided with information regarding

improvements to DVA webpages. The improvements are designed to assist the public in navigating recent and proposed changes to DVA related legislation.

## Transformation

Members were updated on the Department's Transformation initiatives, including the success of the new MyService, which now has had over 539 clients registered. When pursuing Veteran Centric Reform, the importance of continuing co-design was emphasised with a pilot program using a Special Air Service cohort highlighted.

## Client & Commemorations

Members were updated on Domestic and International commemorations that the Department will be delivering in 2018, including:

- The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic
- 25th Anniversary of the arrival of 1RAR task group in Somalia
- 50th Anniversary of the Battles of Fire Support Coral and Balmoral.

## Member Submissions

Presentations were received from the War Widows' Guild of Australia, Partners of Veterans Association of Australia, Royal Australian Regiment Corporation, and Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia on the following topics were discussed by members:

- Aged Care Fees;
- GST Exemptions for Cars;
- The Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme;
- Mental Health Care;
- The Men's Health Peer Education Program; and
- The American 'GI Bill'.

The next meeting of the ESORT will be held in Canberra on Friday 9 March 2018.

The APPVA had its first meeting in 2018 on the 23 January 2018, it was good to catch up with my fellow executives and discuss issues before the association. This is a very testing time for the association as we aim to ensure we continue to be open and transparent with our issues to all levels of government for the betterment of membership and constituents nationally.

**Allan Thomas**  
National President



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# UN base attack ramps up security fears for vulnerable civilians in Eastern Congo

What international news there has been from the Democratic Republic of Congo recently has centred on the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe in the south-central Kasai region. But the killing of at least 14 Tanzanian UN peacekeepers last week turned the spotlight momentarily onto the country's eastern North Kivu province.

Far from being an isolated incident, the large-scale assault on the blue helmets' base occurred amid a chronic and worsening security crisis in the neglected region that has deadly humanitarian implications for the civilian population.

It is still unclear who engaged MONUSCO's Force Intervention Brigade for several hours on 7 December at its base at Semuliki in North Kivu's Beni Territory – an indication itself of the region's convoluted and constantly evolving conflict dynamics.

According to the UN's emergency aid coordination arm, OCHA, more than one million people in North Kivu are displaced, including more than 400,000 who have fled their homes this year.

The Congolese state barely has a foothold in the east – an absence that partly explains the insecurity – and so the work of helping the population to cope with the protracted crisis is left largely to outside actors such as UN agencies and NGOs. This task is made much harder by mountainous terrain, dense rainforests, and a dearth of roads.

Parties to the violence include: dozens of non-state armed groups in constantly changing configurations; the national army, the FARDC, which mounts frequent offensives against these groups and which has regularly been

accused of carrying out attacks on civilians; MONUSCO, which, despite its strained relations with the Congolese government, sometimes deploys alongside the FARDC in counter-insurgency operations; and criminal gangs that engage in kidnapping and banditry.

## Blurred lines

As Médecins Sans Frontières pointed out in an analysis published earlier this year, the lines between the armed groups and criminals are blurred.

“Armed robberies and kidnappings can take place in order to finance an armed campaign with a political objective and, inversely, armed clashes over territory take place in order to extract resources as an economic objective in and of itself,” it said. “Since those responsible for both political and criminal violence are largely the same, the intent of the violence becomes nebulous.”

Much of the FARDC's rank-and-file is made up of poorly trained and ill-paid former members of armed groups recruited as part of disarmament and reintegration programs.

As well as prompting mass displacement, the violence in eastern Congo has left local communities with very limited access to healthcare, at the mercy of shortages of both basic drugs and medical personnel. Agricultural production is also well below the potential offered by the fertile soil; while unemployment and corruption are rife.

MSF identified some specific medical consequences of the region's displacement, including malaria, other infectious







Christian Jepsen/NRC More than a million people in North Kivu province are displaced

diseases, and malnutrition, especially in the camps. “Sexual violence, in addition to diarrhoea and respiratory infections from difficult living conditions, [is] common to all communities rather than just the conflict-affected,” the study added.

The backdrop to the problems in the east, and in Kasai, is a political crisis set off by President Joseph Kabila’s refusal to step down at the end of 2016, when his second term in office expired.

Congo is still trying to recover almost 15 years after a civil war that tied in several of its neighbours and claimed up to six million lives, either from fighting or because of disease and malnutrition.

Some 8.5 million people need emergency assistance and protection across the vast country, which is about four times the size of France and facing one of the world’s largest and most intractable humanitarian crises.

## Who attacked the Peacekeepers?

MONUSCO has attributed the deadly raid on its base, which lies close to the Ugandan border, to “suspected ADF elements”, referring to members of the murky Allied Democratic Forces group.

Established in the region for 20 years, the ADF, now well embedded in the local community through ties of marriage, trade, and ad hoc alliances with other armed groups, has been widely blamed for a spate of massacres of civilians in the Beni area that began in earnest in October 2014 and were mainly carried out with machetes.

At least 800 people have been killed and 180,000 people displaced due to the violence, according to the Congo Research Group, an independent non-profit.

With alleged Islamist leanings, the ADF makes for a convenient scapegoat, but the tendency to attribute every atrocity in Beni Territory to the group obscures the area’s complex and deep-rooted conflict dynamics, political power struggles, and inter-communal rivalries (explored in great detail here).

For example, in 2015, the UN’s Joint Human Rights Office reported that soldiers from the FARDC’s 809th regiment took part in attacks on civilians alongside ADF fighters.

And a senior FARDC officer, Brig. Gen. Muhindo Akili Mundos, has repeatedly been accused in Congolese parliamentary reports, as well as those by the UN’s investigatory Group of Experts, of being behind civilian massacres in the region.

Numerous calls for an international criminal enquiry into the atrocities committed in the region have so far gone unheeded, while few are convinced that ongoing military trials of suspects will deliver justice.

## False flag operation?

According to Jason Stearns, director of the Congo Research Group, preliminary reports indicate that at least some of the MONUSCO base attackers wore FARDC uniforms. Other reports have described hundreds of heavily armed assailants.



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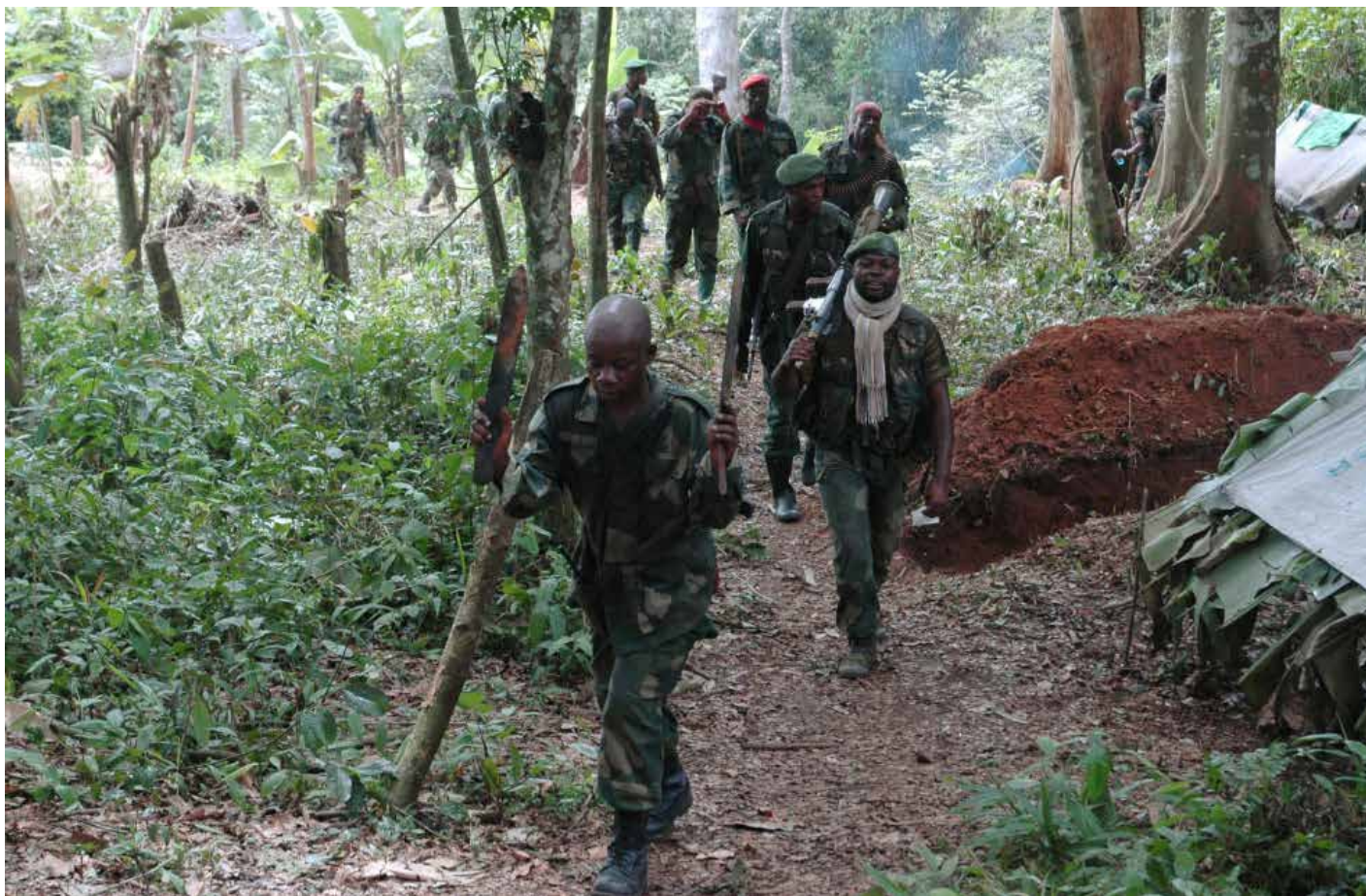
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Clara Padovan/UN FARDC troops in Beni territory, North Kivu province

The scale and intensity of the assault, not to mention the uniforms, have led some observers to conclude that the attack was beyond the capabilities of local actors and therefore had to involve the Congolese state in some kind of “false flag” operation.

Jean-Claude Maswana, a Congolese analyst working as a professor of economics in Japan’s Tsukuba University, accused the president of deliberately fomenting insecurity in the country, including in Kasai, to justify delaying elections and appointing his own successor.

“No matter how you see it, this latest killing is likely to be an operation by Kabila,” he said. “Even the original ADF [when it was better organised and stronger] couldn’t sustain a fight [lasting several hours] against Tanzanian soldiers. All this indicates a level of planning, organisation, and mastery of heavy weapons that even the original ADF can’t possibly have.”

Stearns wouldn’t go that far but said it was unlikely the group had acquired such significant firepower and possible it could have acted in concert with others.

“It’s true that the ADF have positions to the north of the Mbau-Kamango road [on which the MONUSCO base lies] and probably took part in the attack,” he told IRIN. “But in the past the ADF have often collaborated with other groups in the region, Mai-Mais and local militias, and it is possible this is the case this time too.”

Stearns suggested the aim of the attack might have been to gain control of the Mbau-Kamango road so as to dominate the zone.

## Fear of more violence

Thousands of displaced civilians in the region have only recently returned to their villages after fleeing a wave of atrocities in 2014 and 2015.

Residents of Mbau, a village located at the western end of the key artery, nearer the main city of Beni, told IRIN that the attack added to people’s constant fear of violence.

If the base’s attackers “were able to inflict so much damage on well-trained and well-armed soldiers, what will happen if they decided to attack civilians again, as they did in the past,” said Sesele Darlose, one recent returnee.

Other high-profile attacks have also unsettled people’s frayed nerves here. In October, 26 civilians were killed on the Mbau-Kamango road. Survivors said the attackers were dressed in new army uniforms.

“No one finds the presence of soldiers on this road reassuring,” a headman told IRIN in the village of Mukoko, asking not to be identified by name. “Those who attack us wear the same uniforms as the government army. That’s why the villages are abandoned.”

But what about the peacekeepers? They also “can hardly protect themselves,” he added.

Source: IRIN- [http://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/12/15/un-base-attack-ramps-security-fears-vulnerable-civilians-eastern-congo?utm\\_source=IRIN+-+the+inside+story+on+emergencies&utm\\_campaign=4691e7da6b-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_WEEKLY\\_ENGLISH&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d842d98289-4691e7da6b-75474985](http://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/12/15/un-base-attack-ramps-security-fears-vulnerable-civilians-eastern-congo?utm_source=IRIN+-+the+inside+story+on+emergencies&utm_campaign=4691e7da6b-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_WEEKLY_ENGLISH&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d842d98289-4691e7da6b-75474985)



# UN Chief urges DRC elections to go ahead as scheduled



Above and bottom right : Congolese protest against President Joseph Kabila's refusal to step down from power in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dec. 31, 2017.

## Margaret Besheer

The U.N. secretary-general is urging authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo not to further delay general elections but to hold them, as promised, at the end of this year.

“In the current politically polarized climate, there is a real risk that plans for the holding of the long-awaited polls could be derailed once again,” Antonio Guterres wrote in his quarterly report to the Security Council on the work of the U.N. stabilization mission in DRC, known as MONUSCO.

The government and opposition signed an agreement Dec. 31, 2016, calling for President Joseph Kabila to step down after elections were held in 2017. But the promised polls have been repeatedly delayed, inciting civil unrest and prompting fears that the 46-year-old Kabila may seek to further extend his 17-year-long rule.

The elections, which are also to include legislative and provincial contests, have been rescheduled for Dec. 23, 2018.

“The government, the ruling majority, the opposition and civil society, and the Electoral Commission must all play their part in ensuring that electoral preparations proceed in a timely fashion,” U.N. Peacekeeping Chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix told a meeting of the Security Council on Tuesday. “Further delays in the electoral process not only risk fueling political tensions, but also compounding an already fragile

security situation.”

Lacroix’s office oversees the MONUSCO mission which, with more than 21,000 personnel and an annual budget of over a billion dollars, is the U.N.’s biggest peacekeeping operation. It recently suffered the loss of 15 Tanzanian peacekeepers in an ambush in the volatile eastern part of the country.

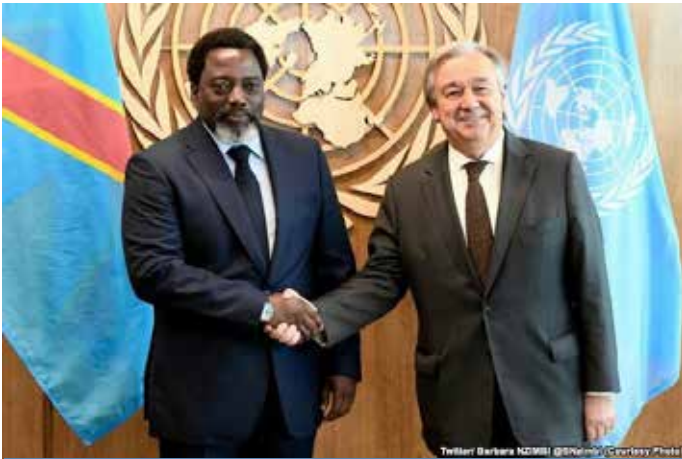
On Dec. 31, state security forces forcibly put down anti-Kabila protests organized by Catholic activists, and at least five protesters were reported killed, further raising concerns.

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Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres shake hands during the U.N. General Assembly, New York, Sept. 23, 2017.

peacekeepers in an ambush in the volatile eastern part of the country.

On Dec. 31, state security forces forcibly put down anti-Kabila protests organized by Catholic activists, and at least five protesters were reported killed, further raising concerns.

DRC U.N. Ambassador Ignace Gata Mavita wa Lufuta dismissed the allegations, saying the five deaths had nothing to do with the protests and were of separate incidents involving mainly criminal elements. He reiterated the Kabila government's willingness to hold elections.

"While we wait for elections scheduled on 23 of December of this year, the right attitude of all political actors and all

the Congolese people should be to do everything possible to prepare for the smooth holding of these elections in a peaceful atmosphere," the envoy said.

Several security council members expressed concern about the security situation, the violation of human rights, and the need for the elections to go ahead as scheduled.

"Credible, transparent and peaceful elections leading to a peaceful and democratic transition are necessary for the stability of the DRC, and indeed the entire region," France's U.N. envoy Francois Delattre told the meeting. He warned that "stagnation in the political process" would only add to the instability threatening the region.

Ivory Coast, which joined the council on Jan. 1 as a non-permanent member, urged all parties to hold the elections on time and expressed concern at the recent violence around the protests.

"My delegation is concerned at the recent protests that led to loss of life, significant material damage and many arrests of protesters," Ambassador Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoue said. He urged all political stakeholders to exercise restraint and avoid violence.

Equatorial Guinea is also a new council member, and its envoy Anatolio Ndong Mba advocated that all stakeholders participate in "transparent, frank and inclusive, and good faith dialogue."

As part of its mandate, the U.N. mission in DRC is supporting the electoral process, and providing logistical and technical support to the Electoral Commission for voter registration and other electoral activities.

Source: UN Wire - <https://www.voanews.com/a/un-chief-democratic-republic-congo-elections/4200631.html>



# In-depth - the human cost of cuts to the Peacekeeping mission in Congo



MONUSCO special forces training in the eastern province of North Kivu. CREDIT: Sylvain Liechti/MONUSCO)

**Lauren Spink - Peacekeeping advisor at the Centre for Civilians in Conflict**

WASHINGTON, 10 January 2018

## **Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo took a turn for the worse in 2017 and the New Year is unlikely to bring much relief to Congolese civilians.**

Political repression in the last two weeks resulted in at least eight civilian deaths and over 100 arrests, while conflict and rights abuses continue across much of the troubled country, especially in the volatile east.

With the administration of US President Donald Trump focused on reducing the price tag for both peacekeeping and the United Nations, American and UN officials will need to understand how these budget cuts are affecting the ability of peacekeepers to protect civilians.

The peacekeeping operation in Congo, known as MONUSCO, was the first to face cuts in 2017 and provides valuable lessons that should be learned before further cuts

are considered.

The month of December exemplified the escalating insecurity in the country.

It began with the most deadly attack on peacekeepers since the MONUSCO mission was first deployed in 1999. The assault on a base in Beni left 14 UN soldiers dead, one missing, and many more seriously injured.

Analysts believe it was perpetrated by the Alliance of Democratic Forces – one of dozens of rebel groups operating in eastern Congo.

Find our comprehensive coverage: [Crumbling Congo – the making of a humanitarian emergency](#)

In the following weeks, Congolese security forces and rebel groups subjected civilians to hundreds of human rights violations. The abuses included killings, abductions, sexual violence, displacement, and extortion.

2017 closed with the Congolese government violently repressing protests against President Joseph Kabila's refusal to step down by the end of the year as agreed in negotiations between the government and opposition in





An Ethiopian thaw, a Syrian flare-up, and an Afghan reprieve: The Cheat Sheet

December 2016.

Despite the growing threats to Congolese civilians throughout 2017, MONUSCO's troop levels were reduced in March and its budget cut by eight percent in June. These cuts were largely driven by the US administration's goal of shrinking peacekeeping costs and consequently US financial contributions.

US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has branded the cuts to MONUSCO and other peacekeeping operations as an attempt to promote efficiency.

However, unless the United States and the UN learn lessons from the last round of budget cuts, saved US dollars could mean more civilian lives lost in Congo.

### Detailing the problems

A report from the Centre for Civilians in Conflict released today details how the short timeline in which MONUSCO was required to downsize was problematic.

In order to reduce troop levels last March, MONUSCO rushed the closure of five bases in North Kivu Province.

The condensed timeline resulted in a lack of adequate consultation between MONUSCO's military leadership and the mission's civilian personnel, who carry out critical activities to protect civilians, such as monitoring human rights violations, resolving local conflict through dialogue, supporting community self-protection strategies, and convincing armed actors to demobilise.



Coordination helps ensure that the UN mission's military component can provide the security that civilian personnel need to access conflict-affected areas.

MONUSCO's withdrawal from some areas has raised concerns that violence against civilians will increase in the resulting security vacuum. In the time allowed, MONUSCO was unable to put in place many of the mitigating measures they had identified to protect civilians ahead of the closures, such as implementing training to strengthen local security forces and building the capacity of civil society groups to carry out protection activities.

The mission is now working to take some of these steps retroactively.

With fewer bases and less field presence, MONUSCO adopted a new protection strategy that relies on mobility rather than a static field presence to protect civilians.

The strategy, called "protection through projection", depends on short-term field visits carried out by the mission's civilian and military staff to areas where MONUSCO bases have closed or where a security situation is deteriorating.

For almost two decades, UN member states and analysts have called for more mobile and flexible peacekeeping operations, but it is unclear whether MONUSCO's new model can succeed.

More comprehensive and better joint planning between mission components would help the chances of success. Without consistent field presence in high-risk areas, MONUSCO will need to continue to develop strategies for remotely monitoring threats that allow them to prevent and pre-empt violence.

It will also require increased outreach to manage community expectations. These activities hinge on the mission's civilian personnel. Unfortunately, MONUSCO's aviation assets and the travel budget for its civilian staff were both cut in 2017. The loss of air assets and travel funds will make increased mobility difficult.

The overarching lesson that UN member states need to learn is that haphazard budget cuts to individual missions will not in themselves make peacekeeping operations more efficient or effective.

UN member states, UN secretariat officials, and UN peacekeeping missions will need to work together to do the long-term and difficult work of identifying and reducing inefficiencies, many of which originate in the bureaucracy of UN headquarters and the political turf battles of member states. Otherwise, the US government may save some money in the short-term, at a steep cost to civilians in Congo and for other conflicts where peacekeeping missions are deployed.

As one civilian stated after a MONUSCO base was closed in his town: "Personally, I don't know of, nor do I have, any hope for another way to be protected."

Source: - IRIN [http://www.irinnews.org/opinion/2018/01/10/human-cost-cuts-peacekeeping-mission-congo?utm\\_source=IRIN++the+inside+story+on+emergencies&utm\\_campaign=ed25d79e75-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_ENGLISH\\_ALL&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d842d98289-ed25d79e75-15726101](http://www.irinnews.org/opinion/2018/01/10/human-cost-cuts-peacekeeping-mission-congo?utm_source=IRIN++the+inside+story+on+emergencies&utm_campaign=ed25d79e75-RSS_EMAIL_ENGLISH_ALL&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d842d98289-ed25d79e75-15726101)



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*Caleb*

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*Howard*

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# Cabinet papers: Peacekeepers haunted by the horrors of Rwanda

Kevin O'Halloran was a 34-year-old Platoon sergeant when he served in Rwanda in 1995, standing by — restrained by strict UN rules of engagement — as the violence exploded following the mass slaughter of mainly Tutsi people by Hutu militants.

He was in one of two Australian contingents sent with the UN to quell the genocide of the Tutsi as growing tensions in 1994 escalated into full-scale murder between the two groups. For many veterans, it has been a decades-long ordeal since to have their experiences recognised as warlike service rather than simply peacekeeping.

"I don't think Australia knew what we were getting in to," the 56-year-old said.

Australia's military contingent to Rwanda was never designed to provide major medical assistance or to work in mass refugee camps, according to cabinet documents — but the 652 Australians sent there encountered both scenarios.

The small central African nation was tearing itself apart. In 1994 about 800,000 people were murdered in three months before reprisals began.

"Nothing can prepare you," Mr O'Halloran said. In an April 1995 massacre, he said, "there were 4000 people (killed) by the time they told us to stop counting". "We were told not to count any more bodies," he said.

Australians looked on as a vastly larger force of Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front militants ran amok killing thousands in a refugee camp.

The six-month posting left Mr O'Halloran burnt out.

"It's not the time spent on the ground, it's the actual — not the trauma, though that's probably the best word — it's seeing the events and not doing something about it," he said. "Seven of (the contingent) have committed suicide that I know of."

Cabinet documents said under the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda's mandate, Australians were not authorised to become involved in conflict other than for self-defence, and the mission would be classified "non-warlike". This was



**"Trooper Jonathan Church (SASR), carries a wounded child from the carnage at Kibeho, Rwanda, 25th of April 1995". George Gittoes**

despite a report suggesting the "overall risk" to Australians would be "medium to high".

For Lucy Wong, a medical administrator at Kigali hospital, where Australia established a medical unit, government thinking did not represent the reality.

Ms Wong was exposed to atrocities. "The one that stands out for me was the baby that was thrown into boiling water. I had to go in with them (the relatives) and how do you keep a baby still that has burns to its body," she said.

The documents provided few surprises to former peacekeepers association president Paul Copeland, who fought for 10 years to have the deployment reclassified as warlike. "Due consideration of the dangers and due consideration of the risks wasn't noted in these documents," he said.

Retrieved from: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/cabinet-papers-peacekeepers-haunted-by-the-horrors-of-rwanda/news-story/8074f8d3cd77eb103252f751cc276ebf> on 1 January 2018.

# UN Chief says conflicts today average more than 20 years

By Edith M. Lederer

United Nations (AP) — Conflicts today are longer — more than 20 years on average — and often involve multiple armed groups competing for control of government institutions, natural resources and territory, the UN Chief said Wednesday.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a Security Council meeting on the growing complexity of challenges to international peace and security that "we are seeing not only a quantitative but also a qualitative change."

"The perils of nuclear weapons are again front and center, with tensions higher than they have been since the end of the Cold War," he said.

Guterres didn't name any countries but he has repeatedly urged North Korea to halt its escalating nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

The secretary-general also said "cybersecurity dangers are escalating," climate change has emerged as "a threat multiplier" and water scarcity is "a growing concern."

He further warned that inequality and exclusion are feeding "frustration and marginalization."

While there has been a long-term decline in the number of armed conflicts, Guterres said "conflicts have surged" in

the Middle East and parts of Africa.

Conflicts are also "becoming more intractable," he said, and they are becoming more regional and international.

Guterres said political factions and armed groups are also multiplying, with hundreds of armed factions in Syria alone.

"External military and financial support to conflict parties prolongs civil wars — and fuels wider tensions as local fights become proxies for larger rivalries," Guterres said.

"Conflicts are more linked with each other, and with the worldwide threat of terrorism," he said. "And transnational drug smugglers and human traffickers perpetuate the chaos and prey on refugees and migrants."

Guterres said the U.N. must rethink its approaches to respond to the changing nature of conflicts — and prevention must be the key.

He said achieving U.N. goals, such as ending extreme poverty, promoting economic development, protecting the environment, addressing climate change and achieving equality for women, are among the best "instruments of prevention."

Source: [http://www.njherald.com/article/20171220/AP/312209727#//](http://www.njherald.com/article/20171220/AP/312209727#/)

Posted: Dec. 20, 2017 8:00 am Updated: Dec. 20, 2017 7:30 pm





## UN Chief issues new warning over Polisario's illegal armed actions in Guerguerat

By **Safaa Kasraoui** January 11, 2018

Following a series of illegal manoeuvres carried out by the separatist front in the buffer zone, the UN Chief addressed a strong message to Polisario, stressing the importance of stability in the buffer zone to avoid further escalation.

Stéphane Dujarric, a UN spokesperson affirmed on Tuesday during a press briefing that Guterres ordered the separatist front to comply with international regulations and to "avoid any operation likely to change status quo of that area."

Cuba's news agency, Agencia de Noticias Latinoamerica S.A, reported that the UN top official reiterated his steady commitment to relaunch the political process of dialogue between Morocco and Polisario over the Western Sahara conflict.

Guterres' new warning message came after his official statement issued on Saturday, January 6, where he expressed his deep concern over rising tensions near Guerguerat.

Guterres statement and his new letter followed a series of illegal manoeuvres carried out by Polisario in the region. Members of the Polisario Front have been blocking trucks registered in Morocco from crossing the Moroccan-Mauritanian border.

Polisario has also threatened participants of Africa Eco-Rally from crossing the border, which led to the UN's strong reactions and response.

The separatist group has been defying the 1991 ceasefire and military agreements signed between Morocco and the front. Polisario has also refused to comply with the orders of the UN chief.

On January 6, Guterres said that "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."

To respond to Polisario's actions, Morocco's Inspector General of the Royal Armed Forces and Captain of the Southern Military zone issued orders to raise the state alert to the maximum level. Helicopters and troops were sent to the restricted zone in response to Polisario's repeated armed maneuvers in the region.

The separatist provocative actions were continuously repeated since December 2017. Morocco has also contacted the MINURSO and the UN chief to denounce the presence of the armed elements of the separatist group, asking the mission to urge Polisario to withdraw from the region.

Source: <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2018/01/238058/un-antonio-guterres-polisario-guerguerat-western-sahara/>

## UN extends mandate of Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus for 6 months

The UN Security Council on Tuesday renewed the mandate of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months and endorsed implementation of recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's strategic review of the mission.

Unanimously adopting resolution 2398 (2018), the Council extended UNFICYP's mandate until July 31 and welcomed efforts by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leadership to reach a comprehensive and durable settlement.

Noting the outcome of the Conference on Cyprus, which reconvened in June 2017 in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, it urged the sides and all involved participants to renew their political will and commitment to a settlement under United Nations auspices.

Recalling its resolution 2369 (2017), the Council called upon leaders of the two sides to, among other things, put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on core issues, and to improve the atmosphere for negotiation, including through more constructive and harmonized messages and refraining from rhetoric that could make success harder to achieve.

Requesting the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to maintain transition planning in relation to a settlement, the Council welcomed his report on the Strategic Review of UNFICYP (document S/2017/1008) and endorsed implementation of its recommendations within existing resources.

The Council held consultations on Cyprus on Jan. 17 during which Special Representative and head of UNFICYP Elizabeth Spehar briefed on the latest Secretary-General's report, as well as on the report on the strategic review of the mission.

During the consultations, Council members expressed unanimous support for the work of the UN mission and its good offices.

Spehar also told the members that UNFICYP is ready to implement any recommendations of the strategic review that are endorsed by the Council.

After independence in 1960, the tensions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots increased. UNFICYP was originally set up by the UN Security Council in 1964 to prevent further fighting between the two sides.

Turkish troops occupied the northern part of Cyprus in 1974 in reaction to a coup by the military rulers of Greece at the time.

Since then, the small Mediterranean island has been divided into two. The southern Greek Cypriot side is recognized by the international community and is a member of the European Union; only Turkey officially recognizes the break-away northern region.

# The Clayfield Way

Clayfield College is a place where all individuals are valued for their unique qualities and talents. Our academic, pastoral and co-curricular programs, supported by our exceptional teaching staff, are essential in providing opportunities for our students to grow and develop in a Christian learning environment. Our students are encouraged, nurtured and inspired to achieve personal excellence, that's our way, The Clayfield Way.

The College is located in the beautiful inner-northern Brisbane suburb of Clayfield, only six and a half kilometres from the central business district and served well by public transport. The Citytrain network is situated close by and the College is centrally located to Brisbane City Council and private bus lines. The College is only five kilometres from the Domestic and International airports as well as the Gateway arterial road that links the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.

We welcome students from all over Australia and the world, catering for girls from Pre-Prep to Year 12 and boys from Pre-Prep to Year 6. The College is also a Boarding School for girls, caring for students from Years 5 - 12, on a daily, casual, weekly or term basis.

Clayfield College is justifiably proud of our academic record and achievements. The College is recognised within the wider community as a school that inspires students to strive for academic success. We offer a stimulating and engaging curriculum, that incorporates innovative learning experiences, and is personalised to challenge the learning needs of every student.

Our students are encouraged to broaden their interests by extending themselves in the arts, sport and community service through our extensive co-curricular program.

Through our comprehensive Creative and Performing Arts program, we offer our students a variety of opportunities to pursue and enjoy the wonderful world of Music, Visual Art and Drama.



We also believe that maintaining a healthy body is pivotal for our students' development. Participation in sporting activities is encouraged for all students from Pre-Prep to Year 12. Clayfield College offers excellent sporting facilities, including a multi-purpose Physical Education Centre and gymnasium, a heated swimming pool complex, playing fields, tennis and netball courts, and access to external sporting fields. Our sporting program encourages all students to achieve their full potential and to contribute to the success of their teams.

Our Service program offers opportunities for our students to participate in local and global community service groups and projects to develop their sense of individual responsibility – not only to College life and the community within which they live, but to society as a whole.

Our Pastoral Care Program focuses on a holistic approach which encourages our students to develop commitment, self-discipline, self-motivation and a sense of social responsibility. We encourage our students to be happy, laugh often, work hard and give back to the community.

Ultimately, what Clayfield College offers is an opportunity for your child to explore their full potential. Our highly experienced staff have the passion, drive and ability to inspire and guide, him or her, to be the very best they can be. This is our way, the Clayfield Way.







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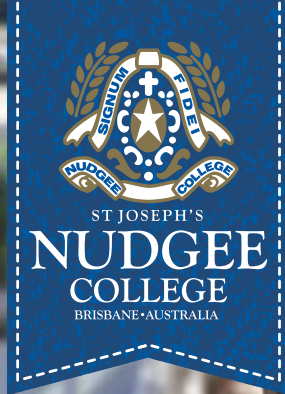


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*"We knew that Nudgee College Boarding could provide so many more opportunities. Not just in normal everyday education, but in a way that would expose Tom to new challenges, that could help him to grow into a young man who will leave an indelible footprint on his surrounding world." - Nudgee College boarding parent, 2017*

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# Navy's role in Peacekeeping

Since the formation of the United Nations in the closing stages of the Second World War, much effort has been expended to limit the form and extent of conflict through international treaties and conventions, and Australia has been a leading player.

During the past 70 years Navy has achieved a proud record of participation in International Peacekeeping, with peacekeepers serving in the field with the United Nations almost continuously throughout that time.

Not all peacekeeping operations are benign and as such they fall into three distinct categories. The first, Peacekeeping, describes non-coercive diplomacy and formally refers to observer and interposition forces. Peacekeeping operations implicitly operate under a mandate and according to conditions which are agreed to by all concerned.

Open ocean Peacekeeping Operations are rare and, more commonly, naval forces have been used to patrol coasts, estuaries and rivers to monitor ceasefires. Warships have also provided neutral venues for peace talks, while other specialist naval personnel have been employed ashore as military observers, liaison officers, headquarters staff officers, disarmament inspectors or in medical logistics and communications detachments.

The utility, reach and presence of naval forces, particularly amphibious vessels and their embarked air assets, has also seen the provision of substantial logistic support to Peacekeeping forces operating ashore.

Peace enforcement operations move a step further than Peacekeeping and are defined by a coercive use of military forces to assist diplomatic efforts to restore peace and order.

In some circumstances peace enforcement operations have been undertaken when one or more of the belligerents have not consented to intervention by international forces.

While the level of force exerted is carefully controlled, the possibility of reprisal by the affected party generally requires such operations to be conducted in concert with a range of self-protective measures. The roles played by maritime forces often depend upon the nature and scale of the operation, but may extend to high-level sea control

and power projection operations, as well as the provision of logistic support.

Sanctions and embargoes are a major maritime component of peace enforcement. Peacemaking may be defined as operations to secure a ceasefire or peaceful settlement, involving diplomatic action supported when necessary by direct or indirect use of military assets.

The presence of a warship close offshore can assist immeasurably in this context, providing an unmistakable show of military strength and national resolve. Irrespective of the type of peacekeeping mission executed, all have inherent dangers and risks associated with them and consequently a number of Australian Defence Force personnel have lost their lives in the pursuit of peace.

Since 1947, Peacekeepers have taken part in more than 50 operations, in more than two dozen theatres of conflict around the world.

Given its size and resources, Australia is also expected to take a particular leadership role in the region when it comes to bringing aid to the victims of natural disasters.

Few if any of these missions could be undertaken without naval support, and the men and women of the Navy have regularly been on the frontline when Australia has sought to display its interest and concern in world events.

Published on 04 October 2017 Mr John Perryman (author), ABIS Jo Dilorenzo (photographer)

Source: <http://news.navy.gov.au/en/Oct2017/Operations/4082/Navy's-role-in-peacekeeping.htm#.Wk6077pulaF>



**Chief Marine Technician Mathew Philp and Leading Seaman Michael Wilson check the oil in the engine room on HMAS Brunei during operations in the Solomon Islands in support of Operation ANODE - the Australian Defence Force (ADF) contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).**

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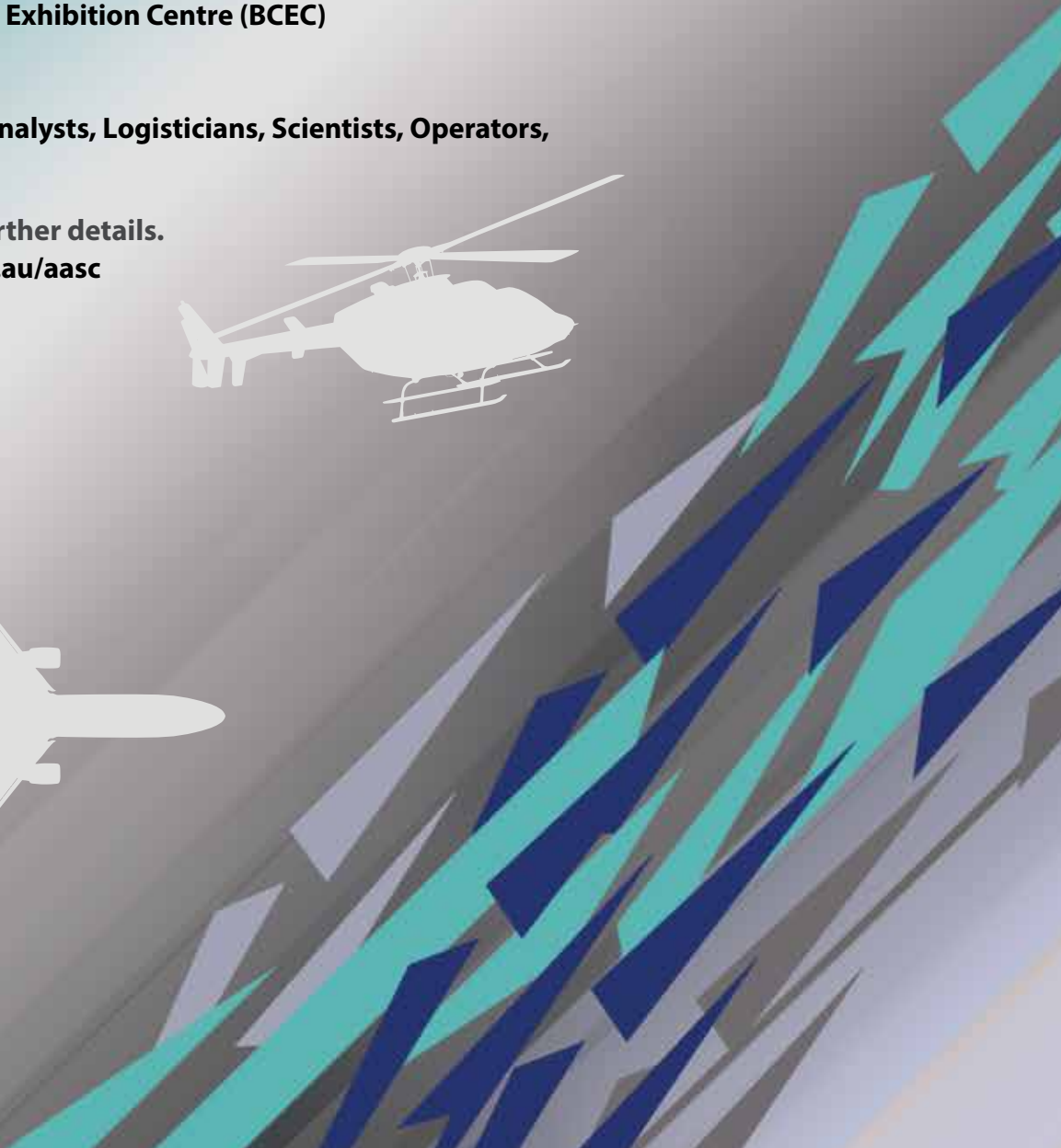
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# Super Hornets fly last mission in Iraq

Two Royal Australian Air Force Super Hornets flew the Australian Air Task Group's final strike mission over Iraq on Sunday.

Australian F/A-18 Hornets have conducted continuous operations in Iraq since their first mission in October 2014, flying more than 2700 sorties and more than 21,000 flying hours.

Operating within a US-led Global Coalition, and at the invitation of the Iraqi government, Chief of Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin said the RAAF had made a significant contribution to the fight against Daesh.

"Over more than three years, hundreds of ADF personnel have deployed to the Middle East as part of the ATG strike element," Air Chief Marshal Binskin said.

"With each deployment, they have demonstrated the highest levels of skill, courage and professionalism.

"Our aircrew and their support crews have consistently delivered in extremely difficult and challenging conditions.

"The Air Strike Group and their families can be proud of their achievements and their important contribution to help the Iraqi Security Forces liberate their country from Daesh."

While the January 14 flight marked the completion of Australian strike missions in the Middle East, the ATG will continue to support the coalition air campaign in Iraq and Syria, with a RAAF KC-30 air-to-air refuelling aircraft and an E7-A Wedgetail airborne early warning and control aircraft and associated aircrews, maintenance and logistics teams.

Air Chief Marshal Binskin said the ADF would continue to work with coalition and Iraqi partners over the coming months to establish their ongoing requirements and assess where the RAAF can make the most valuable contribution, as they worked to maintain the gains made in that region.

"ADF personnel attached to the Special Operations Task Group and the Task Group Taji training mission continue to provide an extremely valuable contribution in the ongoing fight against terrorism."

The Super Hornets and crews will now pack up and make the long ferry flight home to Australia – maybe in time for Australia Day.

Australian Middle East News Operations Royal Australian Air Force 16/01/2018 Brian Hartigan. Source: <http://www.contactairlandandsea.com/2018/01/16/super-hornets-fly-last-mission-in-iraq/>





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# LAND combat vehicle system

## Project description

LAND 400 will acquire and support the next generation of Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) with the firepower, protection and mobility to defeat increasingly lethal and adaptive adversaries well into the future.

LAND 400 will deliver enhanced levels of survivability to the Joint Land Force including sensors, weapons and information systems which will be networked to strategic intelligence platforms.

At its foundation, the program will deliver replacements for the Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) and M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) fleets.

The program will also provide specialist Manoeuvre Support Vehicles (MSV) to properly enable Army's combat brigades to undertake joint land combat.

LAND 400 has four discrete phases:

- LAND 400 Phase 1 – Project Definition Study (completed).
- LAND 400 Phase 2 – Mounted Combat Reconnaissance Capability, primarily enabled by the Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) mission system (the ASLAV replacement).
- LAND 400 Phase 3 – Mounted Close Combat Capability, primarily enabled by the Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) (the M113 APC replacement) and MSV mission systems.
- LAND 400 Phase 4 – Integrated Training System.

## Current status

LAND 400 Phase 2 is in the final stage of tender evaluation following the successful completion on schedule of the Risk Mitigation Activity (RMA).

This is a closed evaluation and no further external input can be accepted by Defence. In addition, no commentary or information is planned to be released in the coming months.

The process will conclude in the first half of 2018 with Defence making a submission to Government for LAND 400 Phase 2 Gate Two approval.

## Industry engagement

BAE Systems Australia have announced Fisherman's Bend, Victoria and Rheinmetall Defence Australia announced Brisbane, Queensland as their preferred assembly sites should they win the LAND 400 Phase 2 contract.

During November and December 2016, Defence conducted capability showcase workshops around Australia, where 337 Australian and New Zealand companies had the opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities to the two shortlisted LAND 400 Phase 2 companies (and their subcontractors).

These showcase workshops achieved a significant aspect of the LAND 400 Phase 2 Risk Mitigation Activity; increasing opportunities for Australian industry involvement in the project.

Defence is working with the shortlisted companies to develop their Australian industry plans which will become contractually binding on the winner.

Defence conducted a LAND 400 Phase 3 Request for Information (RFI) in late 2015 / early and 2016. The RFI responses have been evaluated and the information is being used to develop the business case for First Pass approval by Government in the first half of 2018.

<http://www.defence.gov.au/dmo/equippingdefence/land400>



# Back to Bougainville

Trouble is returning to the island of Bougainville and Australia must be prepared. With the 2019 independence referendum looming, Australia will be called on to help support the peace process, whatever the referendum's outcome. Australia was a major participant in two past interventions on the island, and its strategic connections run deep. Australia must ensure that it is adequately prepared for the coming challenges in Bougainville.

The 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement stipulated that a referendum on independence would be held between 15 June 2015 and 15 June 2020. Last year, John Momis, president of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, and Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of PNG, agreed on a target date of 15 June 2019. Two months ago, however, O'Neill backtracked on that commitment. He cited the 'proper establishment of rule of law, proper establishment of a government structure on Bougainville, [and] proper disposal of weapons' as conditions for the referendum to go ahead, and said that if those criteria weren't met, the referendum 'may not be possible'.

In response, Momis denied that good governance or complete weapons disposal were prerequisites for the referendum. Furthermore, he claimed that PNG was 'hampering' Bougainville's disarmament and good governance efforts by failing to give Bougainville the grant money it was owed. PNG faces severe financial difficulties stemming from government overspending and overreliance on the commodities sector, which declined sharply in 2015. Revenue projections took a 20% hit, but government spending remained the same.

PNG has since defaulted on its electricity bills for government buildings and been suspended from voting in the UN for failure to pay its membership dues. The cost of supporting the Autonomous Bougainville Government and the peace process may be behind O'Neill's recent backflip on the referendum. Depriving the Bougainville government of funds may save PNG money while also impeding efforts to organise an effective independence campaign.

This disagreement could derail the peace process just as it's approaching its conclusion, and it's possible that Bougainville may choose to fight to hold the referendum, rather than accept delays and weak promises from PNG.

The conflict on the island stems from the establishment of the Panguna mine in 1972 by Conzinc Riotinto of Australia. The mine displaced local landowners and caused environmental issues. The people of Bougainville were angry about a lack of compensation from one of the world's richest copper mines. And the mine and its construction brought mainland Papuans to Bougainville, creating ethnic tensions.

Those factors led to an outbreak of violence and then armed conflict in 1988. The Bougainville Revolutionary Army fought against increasingly brutal PNG defence forces, which used Australian-supplied helicopters to attack villages and allegedly drop executed detainees' bodies into the ocean.



A fragile peace process began in the early 1990s, encouraged by Australia and the wider Pacific community. The process led to a peace conference in 1994 between the PNG government and Bougainville leaders. An Australian-led multinational peacekeeping force was deployed to protect the conference and its attendees. The conference, however, collapsed when a few key Bougainvillean leaders refused to attend and PNG soldiers attacked other leaders who did.

Violence resumed following the collapse of the conference, reaching its peak in late 1996 and early 1997. A major scandal—the hiring of Sandline mercenaries to fight in Bougainville in 1997—forced the PNG prime minister, Julius Chan, to resign, effectively ending PNG's military attempts to pacify Bougainville.

New Zealand sponsored talks in 1997 led to the deployment of a new peacekeeping mission to the island. The Truce Monitoring Group was a mix of military, police and government agency personnel from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Vanuatu. PNG and Bougainville concluded a peace agreement in 2001, and the mission withdrew in July 2003. Throughout the period, Australia played a key role.

It may well again. Given the potential for violence during the referendum, it was always likely that Australia and New Zealand would be asked to support the effort in some capacity, potentially with observers on the ground. A return to violence could require an even more substantial peacekeeping mission. Given that weapons are still present in Bougainville, it behoves Australia and New Zealand to support the disarmament process, even with their own financial resources if PNG proves unable. Pressure also should be placed on O'Neill to abide by the timetable agreed with Momis. PNG recalcitrance will likely slow the rate that weapons are handed in if former fighters believe there could be a return to conflict.

Bougainville is an issue that Australia will have to deal with, one way or another. Right now, there's a chance to smooth the way towards the referendum and potential independence. If negotiations break down and violence returns, however, Australia's involvement will be much more difficult.

Author Declan Sullivan is a master's candidate at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University. Image courtesy of the Department of Defence. Source: The Strategist - <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/back-to-bougainville/>



# Australian Defence Force on heightened alert during Russian military exercise in Indonesia

**Exclusive by Defence reporter Andrew Greene**

Updated Sat at 1:59pm Sat 30 Dec 2017, 1:59pm

Defence personnel in Darwin were operating at "increased readiness" earlier this month as Russian strategic bombers conducted navigation exercises close to Australia, flying out of an Indonesian military base.

Key points:

- RAAF Base Darwin placed on a "short period" of heightened alert
- Russian Ministry of Defence claims it "carried out air alert mission over neutral waters of south Pacific Ocean"
- Defence Department would have been concerned about Russian intelligence collection, defence expert says

The ABC can reveal RAAF Base Darwin was placed on a "short period" of heightened alert, while over 100 Russian personnel and several aircraft were stationed at the Biak Airbase in Indonesia's eastern Papua province.

During the five-day stopover two nuclear-capable Tu-95 bombers flew their first ever patrol mission over the South Pacific, prompting concerns they may have been collecting valuable intelligence.

The Russian Ministry of Defence claims its strategic bombers "carried out air alert mission over neutral waters of south Pacific Ocean" in a flight lasting more than eight hours.

## Why Russia and the West can't get along



**Vladimir Putin is the man many credit with not only "making Russia great again", but making it feared.**

In a statement to the ABC, Australia's Defence Department said "the ADF maintains appropriate levels of readiness and posture to respond to evolving circumstances," but did not specifically refer to the Russian activity.

"There were no instances of unalerted or unscheduled foreign aircraft operating in Australian airspace during this period," the Department added.

Defence also insists RAAF Base Darwin was never in lockdown, but did acknowledge "in early December there was a brief period of increased readiness" at the facility.

Two Russian Ilyushin-76 transporters carrying 81 personnel arrived on Biak island in Indonesian Papua on December 4, and were joined shortly after by a pair of Tu-95 bombers, bringing the total number of deployed troops to 110.

## Russian aircraft 'likely gathering Australian intelligence'

One of Australia's leading defence experts believes the Defence Department would have been concerned about the ability of the long-range Russian aircraft to collect intelligence during their visit to the region.

Executive director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute Peter Jennings said this month's deployment was a significant step by Moscow.



**Two Russian Ilyushin-76 transporters arrived in Indonesia on December 4. (Supplied: Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation)**

"For the Russians to send a couple of aircraft this far down south I think is really proving it's got the capacity for that long-range reach," he said.

"It doesn't surprise me in the least that our own military forces raised their alert levels in response.

"I'm sure there would have been concerns about Russian intelligence gathering because they wouldn't have come this far south without wanting to look at the one significant [United States] allied presence in this part of the world, which operates out of [RAAF Base] Darwin and RAAF Base Tindall a little further south."

Source: ABC News

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-30/australia-on-alert-during-russian-military-exercise-in-indonesia/9293362>

# Need to remove some ink?

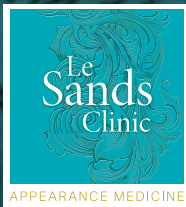
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# ANZAC Day in Antibes

Three Brits and an Aussie at the spectacular Australian Embassy in Paris the day before Australia Day; this hardly seems to link with Steve Wright's report on the first ANZAC Day in Antibes in 2013, but it does.

Since Steve Wright, our president, triggered the first commemoration that year, we have continued annually to build on the early success. We routinely have 50 or more for the dawn service, with an even bigger number at our 1100 gathering. The fact that we have this second service is a reflection of how we have now fully integrated into the French way of remembrance. Unlike in the Anglophone world, where there tends to be one overarching organisation both providing support for veterans, and for leading the commemoration of past wars, in France there are a myriad. This has a downside, in that many of the associations are running out of members, as we move ever further from the world conflicts of the 20th Century. The upside is that there is quite a community among the associations, with a fine mixture of banners to add colour to our ceremonies.

As a result, as the ANZAC Day team became recognised, and as we formalised our approach to the event, we have been welcomed into this select group. We are doubly welcome because we are now getting a great support from what is generally quite a young expatriate Aussie & Kiwi community. Not only children with their parents, but also young Antipodeans who are crewing on yachts, working in the hi-tech world of Sophia Antipolis, or indeed some who have the tough option of working in Monaco (you would think it tough, if you saw the morning and evening traffic jams).

In France both the national and local government strongly support commemoration both out of respect for the past, and in order to try and ensure that today's youth remember and recognise the supreme effort made by their forebears. Antibes is particularly welcoming, which has helped ensure that each ANZAC Day event has been fully provided for both logistically, and in terms of security, a sad necessity in the world as it is. Now that we have registered as a charitable association, in order to ensure the ongoing and future success of this event here on the Côte d'Azur, we have our own access to the Maison du Combattant, with its lecture hall, meeting rooms, and such necessities as photocopiers, all funded by the town and its taxpayers.

One other way in which we probably differ from many other ANZAC Day gatherings is that, from the outset, we have particularly welcomed Irish participation, with an Irish flag flying alongside the others, and Irish wreaths being laid with

the rest. The Irish State, and some Irish politicians, were strongly against such recognition, and indeed attitudes remain ambiguous today, but the reality is that many Irish volunteered, and died, in the service of King and Commonwealth, and it is only right that they should be remembered.

As a result of this work by the small management team, with Steve Wright as our president, his partner Felicity, Linda Rhoades, our Secretary, Shelley Ward, and myself, Simon Jackson, ANZAC Day Antibes, and the ANZAC Day Antibes Association, can hopefully look to a healthy future. Of course we would like more Australians and New Zealanders to join in the management (at present only Steve and Linda have that honourable status), but for the present, with help from whoever is available on an ad hoc basis, we seem to be managing.

All of which brings us round to the picture you see of us in the Ambassador's apartment on the top of the Australian Embassy in Paris. We were very honoured this year to be awarded Australia Day Achievement Medallions and to have them presented to us at the Australian Embassy.

On our visit to the Embassy, we were very kindly hosted by the Defence Attaché, Col Anthony Egan, and members of his team. Unfortunately, the Ambassador had been called, at short notice, to the Elysée Palace, but all was not lost as the Deputy Head of Mission & Australian Ambassador to UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Angus Mackenzie presented the medals and certificates. Mr Mackenzie also hosted us for coffee and brownies. Linda was home in Australia, but for the rest of us it was a day to remember, with the added bonus that the view from the top of the Embassy (which is on the bank of the River Seine, only a few hundred metres from the Eiffel Tower) is superb.



**Ambassador Mackenzie with the team and Colonel Egan with the Eiffel Tower in the background**

# 25th Anniversary of Australia's Peacekeeping deployment to Somalia

**The Hon Michael McCormack MP Minister for  
Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel  
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the  
Centenary of ANZAC  
Deputy Leader of the House  
Federal Member for Riverina**

10th January 2018 marks the 25th Anniversary of the commencement of Australia's significant contribution to Peacekeeping Operations in Somalia, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Michael McCormack says.

"In late 1992 a catastrophic humanitarian disaster compounded by a complete breakdown in civil order plunged Somalia into chaos," Mr McCormack said.

"In response to the crisis Australia deployed forces from all three Services with the Australian contribution to the Unified Task Force – Somalia (UNITAF) arriving in Somalia in January 1993.

"Close to 1,000 personnel with land forces centred on the Army's 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), with significant contributions from a number of other units. The Royal Australian Navy deployed HMAS Tobruk and HMAS Jervis Bay with both ships providing important logistical support."

Mr McCormack said elements of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) were used to move the Australian Forces to and from the conflict area and conducted regular resupply missions.

"RAAF personnel also served in Somalia as air traffic controllers and in airfield management roles and members of the Australian Army were deployed to the town of Baidoa about 240km north-west of Mogadishu in January 1993 where banditry and warlord intimidation were rife," Mr McCormack said.

"Australians were successful at fostering and protecting humanitarian relief efforts and won international praise for their efforts in trying to restore law and order and re-establishing functional legal, social and economic systems.

"The lessons learnt from working with non-government organisations, building local security infrastructure and enabling local community governance continue to inform the Australian Defence Forces' humanitarian and counter-insurgency operations today."

Mr McCormack said more than 1,500 Australians served in Somalia from 1992–94, four were wounded or injured—and one Australian soldier—infantryman Lance Corporal Shannon McAliney was accidentally killed on 2 April 1993.

"We remember him especially today and pay tribute to his service and sacrifice. His efforts are particularly significant as Forbes, his birthplace, is in my Riverina electorate and



has given mightily to the military efforts of this nation right back to the Second Boer War," Mr McCormack said.

"I am pleased the Coalition Government has provided nearly \$29,000 to assist 1RAR and the Australian Naval Association to commemorate this anniversary, Australia has a proud history of Peacekeeping having participated in Multinational Peacekeeping Operations since the first intervention in the Dutch East Indies in 1947.

"Our Defence Force has made a significant contribution to worldwide peace operations and today we recognise the Peacekeepers who served in Somalia and those who continue to serve in countries around the world."

## **Australia's contribution to peacekeeping operations in Somalia began 25 years ago. (AAP)**

The haunting eyes and the jutting ribs of Somali children are among the most vivid memories from Paul von Kurtz's time in Somalia.

Mr Von Kurtz, from Townsville, was a platoon sergeant in the Army's first battalion (1RAR) and was among the first to touch down in the lawless capital Mogadishu.

"We were all very green.. it was very much an eye-opener," he told AAP.

Among their duties, Australian troops went on nine-day patrols to protect the convoys of aid groups distributing food.

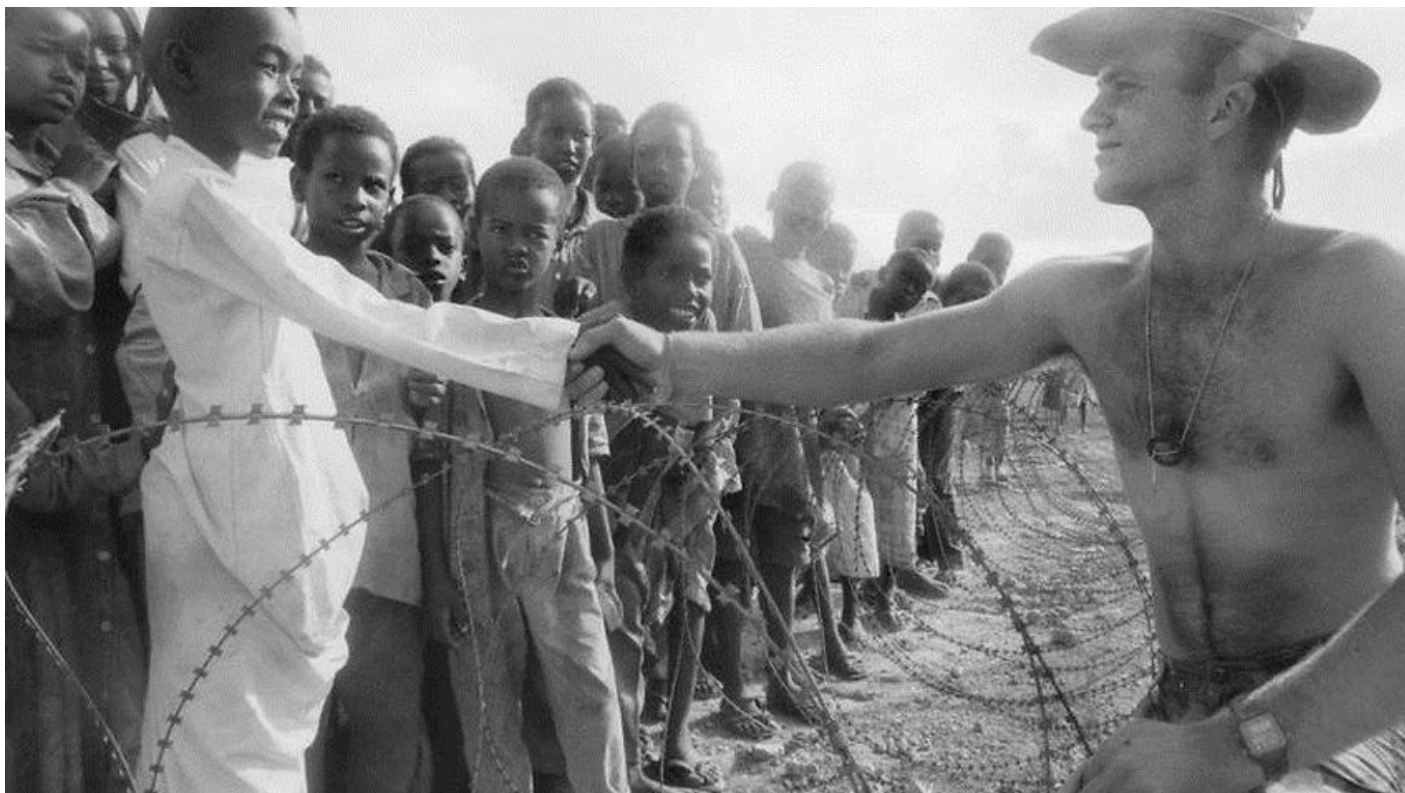
"What we were doing was having a great effect," he said.

"Towards the end, the kids were putting a bit more meat back on their bones and you saw them playing and there were smiles back on their faces."

Mr von Kurtz served in Somalia for about five months and laments it wasn't longer because the Australian troops were making a significant difference.

The deployment was physically challenging.





Mr von Kurtz weighed 75kg at the start but a lack of fresh food meant his weight dropped to 52kg by the time he left.

The Australian Defence Force learned important lessons about ensuring soldiers have adequate food which it's implemented on deployments since then.

Mr von Kurtz recalled it had been an uphill battle for Australians to build trust with Somalian's because in the past the country had experienced a lot of foreign interference from the Italians, British, Russians and Americans.

There were some initial rock-throwing incidents and when the Australians arrived at Baidoa they were shot at on the first night, he said.

Australian Federal Police superintendent Bill Kirk also served in Somalia on a secondment with the United Nations and helped to restore the rule of law.

Mr Kirk said it was very difficult to operate on the ground and personnel could only leave compounds with bodyguards.

"You would think, why are we here? They don't even like us," he told AAP.

He recalled shark nets being put up at the beach in Mogadishu because some UN Peacekeepers had been attacked while swimming.

"I thought sharks were the least of the worries," Mr Kirk said.

The Somalian conflict received the Hollywood treatment in the 2001 film *Black Hawk Down* which was based on a true story. But that incident with the US special forces happened before the Australians arrived.

More than 1500 Australian defence personnel served in Somalia from 1992-94, four were injured and there was one death, Lance Corporal Shannon McAliney.

The Australian Navy sent HMAS Tobruk and HMAS Jervis Bay to Somalia and the air force conducted regular resupply missions and personnel served as air traffic controllers at the airport.

Federal Labor frontbencher Mike Kelly and NSW Governor David Hurley both had military deployments to Somalia.

\*1RAR is having a reunion of Australian veterans of Somalia on May 15 in Townsville.

Source: AAP - <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/25-years-since-aussies-deployed-to-somalia>



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# The struggle to survive South Sudan's hunger season

## Famine was declared in some areas last year, but worse is expected in 2018

With South Sudan's harvest season coming to an end and the dry season fast approaching, she is exhausted and hungry, taking longer rests in the shade of a nearby tree where she chews on a few raw peanuts to fill her empty stomach.

She earns less than half a dollar for a day's work labouring for her cousin, who is a local farmer in Aweil, close to the northern border with Sudan.

She has few other options: her village's harvest was ruined by rains earlier this year and her family crossed the border in search of food.

Weak and sick with a constantly bleeding lump in her breast, she was left behind, so came here – a four-day walk – to try to eke out a living. She hopes that one day her children, who left to find work in neighbouring Sudan, will come back to take care of her.

Moukiir has seen many harvests over the years, but this has been one of the worst, in a region that has historically struggled with food insecurity.

"I either work in the fields or collect garbage in exchange for a piece of bread and some tea," she told IRIN. "I'm exhausted and hungry and it's hard to survive, but I can't give up."

Despite its current harvest, South Sudan is facing an extreme food crisis.

Its four-year civil war, with its mass displacement and terrifying violence, has wrecked food production and undermined rural markets.

Almost half of the population – 4.8 million people – are



*Abuk Moukiir sits in the shade of a tree while harvesting peanuts. She's sick and weak but survives hunger by finding different day jobs*

currently severely food insecure. That's 1.4 million more than the same time a year ago.

It's projected to get even worse in 2018, with an estimated 5.1 million people expected to go hungry.

## Food crisis in South Sudan

Albert Gonzalez

Many of Aweil's men have left in search of work to try to support their families.

Others have joined President Salva Kiir's forces in the battle against rebel militia, or have stayed loyal to the previously powerful former army chief Paul Malong, who is from the area but was sacked earlier in 2017.

## The hunger season

Climatically, nearly everything went wrong this past year. Floods inundated Aweil's lowlands while drought afflicted its highlands, spreading desertification further north towards Sudan. Experts are increasingly blaming this deadly combination on the effects of climate change.

Like Moukiir, 1.4 million people in Greater Aweil are trying to cope with failed harvests, crop pests, hunger, disease, and exhaustion.

They have managed to survive the crisis so far, but the hunger gap – the period between when households run out of stored food and the next harvest – is fast approaching, threatening malnutrition and even death.

The lean period usually starts in February in the middle of the dry season and can last until July, when the rains yield a new harvest.

"But even in the current harvest period, millions of people need sustained assistance to survive," the World Food Programme's representative in South Sudan, Adnan Khan, told IRIN.

This is a region where it took a massive humanitarian response to avert famine earlier this year. Much of the food currently available in the local market has been smuggled in from Sudan, but few people can afford it.

Nyanciech Hiieu buried her husband last year and is now left with five seemingly relentlessly hungry children.

Much of her crop was destroyed by striga, a parasitic plant that regularly infests sorghum. Some of the sorghum was saved, but not enough to last through the hunger gap.

The family had only returned to the country three years ago, having initially fled north to the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, at the start of the civil war in 2013. They had hoped for a better homecoming.

"I wanted to give my children the chance to grow up here, but it hasn't been easy since my husband's death," said





**Nyanciech Hiieu stirs a thin vegetable broth in a pot over the fire**

Hiieu.

“Providing food for my family and taking care of them at the same time is almost impossible,” she explained, as she stirred a thin vegetable broth over an open fire.

The exhausted mother took a gamble, which she hopes will pay off.

“I joined a women’s farming group and it was a big success,” she told IRIN. “We were given tools and were taught how to grow vegetables. All produce was shared between the group’s members.”

She had to spend several weeks in training, with no choice but to leave her children at home under the supervision of her nine-year-old daughter.

“Awel took care of the younger ones and I would cook dinner as soon as I returned home,” said Hiieu.

Awel, with her ripped t-shirt and beaded bracelet, looks way too young to be able to take responsibility for a whole household of children.

“It was sometimes scary, but I knew that if something had happened, I had neighbours close by to call for help,” she explained. “I knew that mum would bring home vegetables for us to eat.”



**Adut Adak sits in her small mud hut. She young mother wasn’t able to harvest this year, but compensates by collecting and selling firewood and by making grass fences**

The family currently survives on two meals of sorghum and dried okra a day. But this will likely fall to one with the progression of the dry season, and there is no money to buy food in the market.

“During the lean season – or hunger gap – [many] cases of malnutrition are observed,” said UN Food and Agriculture Organisation nutrition specialist Nicholas Kerandi. “[In] places where food is extremely scarce and disease common, deaths of children often occur.”

The agency runs resilience programmes for farmers in Greater Aweil, including the women’s groups that Hiieu joined, where she receives seeds, tools, and training.

### No nutritional value

Adut Adak is only in her mid-twenties and has five children. The family eats little more than a plate of cooked sorghum each day, and she makes sure not a single grain goes to waste.

But as every nutritionist knows, a sorghum-only intake is not sustainable. It may fill the stomach, but it’s not a balanced diet.

“When proteins, vitamins, and minerals are lacking, the immune system will generally tend to weaken and individuals will be susceptible to disease,” FAO’s Kerandi explained. “Most children in sorghum-only areas are malnourished and their diet often affects their growth and can lead to stunting.”

But Adak has little else. Food is boiling over an open fire in her mud hut, wrapping the small room in thick smoke that slowly escapes through the cracks in the thatched roof.

Holding her youngest daughter, Amiir, on her lap, Adak sits on a wooden bed with an old mosquito net hanging over it.

“I’d like for my five children to go to school, but if we ever have money, it will be spent on food,” the young mother explained.

Things were so bad last year she was unable to plant sorghum and has nothing in store. Her husband left a few months ago to live with relatives in Sudan who feed him. She is on her own.

“I spend my mornings collecting firewood to sell in the market and my afternoons making fences out of dried grass. If I don’t sell any of it, my family goes hungry. That’s why I work as hard as I can,” she said quietly.

On a good day, they eat two portions of boiled sorghum, and sometimes Adak finds wild forest fruits, although they also have limited nutritional value.

But giving up is not in the nature of South Sudanese.

“My family might be hungry some days, but next year I will plant sorghum so that I can feed them,” Adak said. “Until then, I will work hard to make sure we have enough to survive.”

Source: Stefanie Gilinski/IRIN [http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2018/01/08/struggle-survive-south-sudan-s-hunger-season?utm\\_source=IRIN+-+the+inside+story+on+emergencies&utm\\_campaign=d7099bdbfa-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_ENGLISH\\_ALL&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_d842d98289-d7099bdbfa-15726101](http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2018/01/08/struggle-survive-south-sudan-s-hunger-season?utm_source=IRIN+-+the+inside+story+on+emergencies&utm_campaign=d7099bdbfa-RSS_EMAIL_ENGLISH_ALL&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d842d98289-d7099bdbfa-15726101)





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# Younger Veterans – contemporary needs forum

## Meeting Summary

The Forum convened in Canberra on Wednesday 13 December 2017.

Discussions covered a range of topics.

The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) Update

The VVCS has been undertaking a range of activities in response to recent reviews and community feedback in order to strengthen client accessibility and service delivery responsiveness. These activities include coordinated care; a focus on families; harnessing enabling technologies; and building evidenced based research.

## Government response to Senate Enquiry

The Government has committed \$31 million to five new initiatives that will further support the mental health of current and former ADF members, and their families. The Government Response is available on the Australian Parliament House website.

## Health and Community Services Update

The Forum was updated on ongoing mental and social health initiatives including the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme and mental health update.

The Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme is the most comprehensive study undertaken in Australia that examines the impact of military service on the mental, physical and social health of serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members.

The mental health update highlighted the launch of the Centenary of ANZAC Centre in September 2017, which will function as the nation's leading centre of research in veteran and military mental health.

## Rehabilitation and Support Update

Updates on the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) and Educational Assistance were provided.

The ATDP Capability Framework Management Group continues to review the Welfare training package to increase the focus on the needs of younger veterans.

The tertiary education policy guidelines were updated to clarify when retraining and further education should be considered appropriate for an individual veteran undertaking a DVA rehabilitation program.

## Transformation and Veteran Centric Reform (VCR) Showcase

Members were provided a demonstration of DVA's new online claims processing portal, MyService. This portal

streamlines and simplifies the way veterans make DVA claims, significantly reducing waiting times.

## Legislation Workshop

The Forum received an update on the first legislation workshop with stakeholders held on 9 November 2017. A range of ideas were discussed, including the need for a case management model, better promotion of the full range of rehabilitation services available and inconsistencies across the Acts in how they deal with the same issue.

The Forum noted the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) commenced on 12 October 2017 and the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Omnibus) Bill 2017 passed the Parliament on 15 November 2017.

## Principal Medical Adviser Update

The Forum was updated on current medical projects by Dr Ian Gardner, Principal Medical Adviser. These included a focus on the improvements as part of VCR to dispatch automatic letters requesting treating specialists to provide input into more than one condition; and streamlining conditions and automatic acceptance of a claim.

## Member Submissions

The Forum heard four-member submissions from The Warrior's Return, Remembrance Foundation represented by Modern Soldier and Australian Veterans Alliance.

The member submissions addressed:

- The proposal to duplicate the Oasis Shopfront currently located in Townsville to additional locations;
  - Non-Liability Health Care initiative;
  - Veteran Suicide Register; and
  - PAYG Changes.
- Guest Presentations

The Forum heard two guest presentations:

- Professor David Forbes from Phoenix Australia spoke to the Forum about the Rapid Exposure Supporting Trauma Recovery (RESTORE) Trial. This trial will investigate whether an intensive delivery of prolonged exposure therapy, involving 10 sessions over a two week period, will deliver outcomes which are comparable to standard prolonged exposure treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The presentation also included The Centenary of ANZAC Centre and the broader research agenda.
- Mr Garth Callendar from the NSW State Government presented an update on the success of the NSW Veterans Employment Program.

The next Forum will meet in March 2018.

**Coralee Goedhart JP**  
APPVA Representative

# The (First) battle for Fire Support Base Coral - South Vietnam 12-13 May 1968

By Detective Senior Sergeant (Ret) Garry Nowlan JP

## Every Story Starts Somewhere

I remember many years ago, not long after leaving school and taking my first tenuous steps in life's journey, I met a young man named Raymond John Glover. I had left home and gone out into the world, direction-less, aimless and was bumming around in a small country town on the far south coast of NSW. Ray was 3 years older than I, had recently returned from service in Vietnam and was similarly disconnected. We became close mates, probably because at that time he was in every sense just as direction-less as was I. We spent a couple of years of wasted youth in and out of meaningless, mundane work. Not knowing what we wanted in life and even if we did, how to get it. Just going through the motions in trying to find our way. We ended up working for Ray's old man cleaning bricks on building sites. Travelling from site to site and living in an old caravan, we spent many a lonely night just talking to pass the time. And it was then I learned that Ray had fought in a battle in Vietnam at a place called Fire Support Base Coral. Ray did not say much about it. Just that the NVA and Vietcong attacked in human waves and the gunners engaged the enemy in close quarter battle with 'Splintex' rounds, firing their guns over open sights. Of course it meant little to me then, as I knew nothing about life or Vietnam. Just an interesting yarn. But, one I was destined to remember.

Our already meagre fortunes changed for the worse when Ray's father sacked us for goofing off on the job and we set out on a disastrous enterprise to hitch hike across country in search of seasonal labour. We finished up abandoning the project and going home disillusioned, with empty stomachs and emptier pockets. Our lives soon moved in different directions. I went on to serve in the Military and later joined the NSW Police Force where I found my feet and served for four decades in Australia and overseas. Ray settled down and married his home town sweetheart Maxine, who became his rock.

We kept in touch for a couple of years but soon drifted apart. And so it was that I did not see Ray Glover again for 41 years. But, during this hiatus I became interested in military history and never forgot Ray's story about Coral. Through research and self learning I came to know what an important and monumental conflict Coral was, from both a military and political perspective. And my respect for Ray and the men of Coral grew exponentially with this knowledge. So, on this the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle, please indulge me while I tell what I have come to know about the Fight for Fire Support Base Coral.

## The Vietnam War

Australia was involved in the Vietnam conflict from 1962 to 1973 along with New Zealand, the US, Thailand and the Republic of Korea. The ideology driving the war was

to prevent the Republic of South Vietnam (SVN) from being taken over by Communist North Vietnam. The political thinking of the day was based on the 'domino effect'. That was, if SVN fell to communism, then the rest of South East Asia would follow and western civilisation would succumb to the yellow peril. The enemy were the Chinese and Soviet backed North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Vietcong (VC) regional guerilla forces.



**Gunner Ray Glover 102  
(Coral) Field Battery**

The largest enemy offensive of the war was the Tet Offensive in January 1968, where thousands of NVA regular troops and VC main force units attacked Saigon wreaking havoc and destruction. The offensive had been defeated by February 1968, mainly through American might and fire-power. But, in April of that year Intelligence reports indicated the NVA and VC intended to attack Saigon a second time, to gain traction for their cause during the upcoming Paris Peace-Talks.

## The Australians

The Australian Forces in Vietnam were based at 1 ATF in Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy Province in the south. But, in order to meet this threat, it would come to pass that Australian troops were deployed to Bien Hoa Province in the north, bordering on the notorious War Zone D, as part of Operation Toan Thang (Complete Victory).

My old mate Ray Glover was then serving as a Gunner with 102 Field Battery, 12 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery Corps. On 4 March 1968 at the age of 19 years, Ray went to Vietnam. He did not know it then, but he would soon take part in the largest and longest battle of the Vietnam war, Operation Toan Thang and the battle for Fire Support Base Coral.

## Operation Toan Thang

Operation Toan Thang called for elements of 1 RAR and 3 RAR, supported by 12 Field Regiment to mobilise to Bien Hoa Province and set up a network of Fire Support Bases to repel any move by the NVA and VC against Saigon and to protect US Bases at Long Binh. They were also to interdict and block the movement of enemy forces during their withdrawal from Saigon. On 5 May the NVA and VC launched an attack on Saigon but failed to achieve the earlier result of Tet. By 7 May they had been defeated and were withdrawing towards the Australian positions in the Area of Operations (AO) known as AO Surfers.



## The Fly-In

12 Field Regiment and 102 Field Battery were deployed to AO Surfers as a combined force with 161 NZ Field Battery and US 'A' Battery 2/35 Battalion to establish a defensive position known as Fire Support Base Coral. Their primary role was in support of infantry ground troops. The operation was to commence at 0700 on 12 May with the air borne insertion of B Company 3 RAR to secure an LZ and facilitate the co-ordinated fly-in of all the other units including 1 RAR, 12 Field Regiment, 102 Field Battery and support units. The insertion phase was supposed to be completed with all operational units in place on the ground by 1245 hrs to enable defensive positions to be constructed before last light.

But, due to a combination of inadequate planning, poor reconnaissance, bad luck and a lack of effective communication between 1ATF/HQ and section commanders on the ground, things became confused and started to go awry. US helicopter support was temporarily withdrawn which delayed the fly-in of men and equipment, orders were unclear or not adequately relayed and troops and sub units were not sure where they should go. In addition, it soon became apparent there was a large enemy force in the area which had been engaged by US forces throughout the day. Australian clearing patrols had also found ominous signs of recent enemy activity. To add to the confusion radio communication was sporadic and the Regimental 2IC Major Brian Murtagh, who was the FSBP Coral Local Defence Commander, became separated and could not be located at crucial times during the insertion phase.

To make matters worse, the 6 x 105mm Howitzers of 102 Field Battery arrived by Chinook helicopter earlier than expected but the gun tractors did not, so the guns could only be moved by manpower. Then the arrival of the bull dozer was delayed so the gun and defensive positions could not be properly developed. Problems were compounded when Major Murtagh placed 102 Field Battery too far from the LZ. When concerned unit commanders eventually located Murtagh he was 1500 meters away from the LZ. But, he disregarded warnings from subordinates, stating the gap would be filled when the rest of the force arrived. The bull dozer did not arrive until 1720 hrs and was quickly put to work constructing last minute defensive positions and earthworks around No 4, 5 and 6 guns. But, work ceased at dusk with 'stand to'.

Troops on the ground had to dig individual weapon pits to obtain some degree of protection. No defensive stores had arrived and at days end Coral had no barbed wire, no claymore mines or trip flares, so was left largely undefended, unco-ordinated and strategically vulnerable in the event of large scale enemy attack. As the day grew late, the Local Defence Commander Major Murtagh was still a no-show and confusion reigned at FSBP Coral.

## The Enemy

Unknown to 1 ATF, the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 7th Division was located approximately 9 kilometres to the east of FSBP Coral and several units of the division were also based in the vicinity. The North Vietnamese 165th Regiment was operating to the north



**D Coy 1RAR clearing patrol FSBP Coral May 1968.**

and the 141st Regiment to the east, while the battalion-strength 275th Infiltration Group had only recently arrived, having left the Ho Chi Minh Trail on the Cambodian border just 48 hours earlier.

Unbeknown to the Australians, events had been carefully observed by concealed enemy infiltrators. They watched with interest the 1500 meter gap in the Australian defences and determined to exploit it. However, in one of those seemingly insignificant but fortuitous events which can turn the tide of a battle, 1 RAR Mortar Platoon arrived very late in the afternoon. Unobserved by hostile eyes, they established their mortar tubes and defensive perimeter right in the gap which had earlier appeared to the enemy to be vulnerable and undefended.

## The Warning Signs

Darkness fell and the troops stood down. There were some minor enemy incursions during the night which should have set alarm bells ringing at Regimental Command level but appear to have gone largely unheeded. About midnight a 1 RAR mortar platoon machine gunner engaged a small party of enemy near his position and the NVA responded with green tracer rounds. Regimental HQ accused the mortar platoon of firing at them, until they were reminded the Australians only used red tracer rounds! The battery conducted some routine fire missions during the night in support of 1 and 3 RAR, which had multiple contacts with small groups of enemy.

## A Stroke of Luck

Under cover of darkness a large enemy force of over 1000 troops moved undetected to within 250 meters north of FSBP Coral. But, in a magnanimous stroke of luck, while 3 guns had been diverted to the east for the earlier fire missions, 3 guns remained facing north, the direction from which the so far unseen enemy forces would advance. And crucially these 3 north facing guns had been bundled, providing some basic protection.

After cleaning up the gun positions from the fire missions, most men retired to their weapon pits to sleep. But, by another stroke of luck the men of No 4 gun decided to stay awake for coffee and cigarettes. Combined with the late arrival of 1 RAR Mortar Platoon, this synchronicity of events were to have a significant impact on what was to follow.



**Bunded 105mm Howitzer at FSPB Coral**

## The Battle

Undetected, hundreds of enemy had crept to within 50 meters of the Coral defensive perimeter and hidden in the tall grass. Then at 0230 hrs without warning all hell broke loose. 102 Field Battery and 1 RAR Mortars came under a cataclysmic hailstorm of small arms and rocket fire. Thousands of green tracer rounds streaked and crackled overhead, the smell of cordite permeated the air and RPG's howled into the battery positions. Adding to the maelstrom of light, colour and sound was the smoke and muzzle flashes from hundreds of automatic weapons and bursting rockets, while the flickering, brilliant white glow radiating from illumination rounds cast a ghastly aspect over the catastrophic scene. Then whistles sounded, bugles blew and the enemy rose and stormed towards the exposed Australian positions in a screaming, murderous horde.

They were immediately engaged with M60 machine gun fire by the few gunners on sentry duty. And because the men of No 4 gun had been awake they were able to quickly retrieve their weapons and engage the advancing enemy with effective, withering small arms fire thus slowing the advance.

Gunners Grimes and Schwartz at No 6 gun engaged the enemy with their M60 which jammed, so they moved back to No 5 gun bund where they continued the fight, until Grimes took a direct burst from an NVA armed with an AK47. But, though wounded in the hand he was saved when his SLR took the brunt of fire. Meanwhile the section commander 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant McLeland emptied his pistol at the surging NVA, then sprinted to his weapons pit to retrieve his F1 SMG and returned to the fight.

At the same time a forward observer 2000 meters north saw a large enemy force heading towards the Coral position and called for a fire mission... "*One four fire mission Battery.*" Lieutenant Ian Ahearn the 102 Field Battery Gun Position Officer now under sustained enemy attack, made the following harrowing reply, "*This call sign under ground assault.*" To which the stunned forward observer could only reply, "*Oh!*" Lieutenant Ahearn was to play a prominent, heroic and crucial role in the battle throughout the night.

Simultaneously, the enemy charged the 1 RAR mortar position. Corporal Hickey on piquet duty reported seeing about 400 enemy 50 meters to the front gibbering. But, no sooner had he raised the alert than the position was over-

run and he was killed in action. As the mortar platoon were the last to arrive on dark, they did not have time to complete their weapons pits. The mortar-men were trapped by the speed of the enemy advance so decided to stay and fight. They withdrew to their shallow shell scrapes, consolidated and returned accurate fire on the advancing enemy. The NVA seemed surprised when confronted by the presence of the mortar platoon and of their fierce level of resistance. In the face of this unexpected resistance, which would cost the lives of 5 brave Australians, the enemy hesitated causing their advance to stall and lose momentum.

But, the fire fight raged in the mortar platoon positions as the NVA desperately tried to regain the initiative. They briefly seized an 81mm mortar and managed to fire off 3 rounds before being killed by concentrated small arms fire. So, dire was the situation the platoon commander Lieutenant Tony Jensen made the unprecedented call for 'Splintex' rounds to be fired across his own position. While senior officers dithered, the men of mortar platoon fought for their lives.

Meanwhile No 4 gun was engaging the enemy with HE and 'Splintex'. But, due to the close proximity of NVA, the rounds were high and ineffective. So, Lieutenant Ahearn set the artillery rounds to 'muzzle action' and the men of No 4 gun then engaged the enemy at close range over open sights.

Such was the intensity of the fight, ammunition was soon running short for the No 4 gun position. So, Lieutenant Ahearn arranged for a resupply of small arms ammunition. As No 4 gun was providing the most effective and sustained fire-power it was agreed that all guns with the exception of No 5, would give up 4 of their 6 'Splintex' rounds to No 4 and additional HE rounds were moved to No 4 gun. During the battle No 4 gun crew took the fight to the enemy and would fire 84 rounds, including 22 'Splintex' rounds, over open sights. This sustained and accurate fire was to have a devastating effect on the assaulting enemy force.

The No 2 gun then received a direct hit from an RPG which damaged the trail and blew out both tyres, partially disabling the gun. But, No 2 gun continued to provide fire support throughout the night even though the heavy 2.2 ton piece had to be manually manhandled into firing positions by the gun crew, which was a difficult task under fire and with two flat tyres.

Then the No 1 gun ammunition bay received a direct rocket hit causing it to ignite. Gunnery Sergeant Dial tried to extinguish the fire and had to temporarily abandon the position. But, when it abated he returned to his gun and resumed the fight.

Throughout the battle, transport NCO Bombardier Riley re-supplied ammunition to the forward guns by fearlessly driving his Landrover back and forth through heavy enemy machine gun fire.

Meanwhile the NVA had penetrated the gun positions and close quarter fighting raged around No 5 and 6 guns, with No 6 gun eventually being overrun and occupied by the enemy. But, amid the confusion Gunnery Sergeant Max Franklin had the presence of mind to remove the firing pin while under fire and disable the Howitzer, before falling



back to join the fight at No 5 gun. The machine gunner in No 6 bund put up a fight but was forced to withdraw as the enemy rushed his pit in strength. Two sentries armed with an M60 briefly re-occupied the bund but were forced to withdraw under intense enemy small arms fire and in this contact the gunner was wounded and dropped the machine gun. The enemy then set up the captured weapon and used it to engage the Australian positions. A detachment from No 5 gun then attacked the enemy in No 6 gun pit with M79 grenade launchers and small arms, killing the two NVA and silencing the machine gun. But, there were still enemy surging around the No 6 gun position so the men of No 5 gun laid their piece on the No 6 gun's position, so they could engage if the enemy tried to move it. The fighting in the gun positions during this assault and to later re-take No 6 gun was desperate, intense and heroic.

Surprisingly, no orders or instructions were received from the Regimental Defence Commander during the battle, bar one. Orders were given to silence the NVA machine gun which had been firing from No 6 gun bund and causing discomfort at Regiment HQ. Apart from that, the conduct of the battle seems inexplicably to have been left to junior officers, NCO's, section commanders and the initiative of individual diggers on the ground to determine the course of events. Basically, leadership from senior commanders on the ground were a no-show throughout the night.

By now communications were becoming a real problem. Some of the radios had been knocked out by rocket fire and telephone wires and communications between units had been cut by shelling. Amid the confusion infantry units outside of Coral began calling for fire missions as they were in contact and engaged with enemy forces. In spite of the critical situation at Coral, guns No 1, 2 and 3 began providing accurate and sustained artillery support to these infantry units. While No 4 and 5 guns fought to save the Coral perimeter.

But, mortar platoon was still in big trouble. With casualties mounting, so desperate was the situation facing these men, the platoon commander Lieutenant Tony Jensen, was still calling on 102 Battery to fire 'Splintex' rounds across his own position. The gunners, at first incredulous at hearing such a request had hesitated, until receiving confirmation of the orders at least three times. Then while the hard-pressed mortar-men cringed in their tiny shell scrapes, the gunners of No 5 gun responded by firing 5 'Splintex' rounds over open sights into the mortar platoon area. With each



**No 2 gun-Note not Bunded & tyres blown out by direct RPG hit**

deafening burst 8000 tiny dart like steel flechettes howled over the heads of the beleaguered Australians, raking the ground, tearing enemy flesh from bone and obliterating everything in it's path. Then all went eerily quiet and the gunners were confronted with the numb and sickening realisation, they may have just massacred their own men.

By this time 'Spooky' and US Cobra helicopter gun ships had arrived on the scene and the deafening chatter of mini guns spitting out 6000 rounds per minute and exploding rockets added to the cacophony. The scene took on a surreal aspect amidst the smoke and noise, while graceful streams of red and green tracers arched overhead punctuating the blackness. And a glimmering light show of brightness to shadow painted the sky, cast from the tiny floating umbrellas from which suspended the brilliant white glare of the slowly descending illumination flares.

## The Respite

All this fire-power combined with a determined defence by the diggers and relentless, accurate fire from the gunners over open sights directly into the attacking enemy, had taken a terrible toll. There were dead and wounded NVA everywhere. And in the approaching dawn the enemy, spent and badly mauled began to disengage. Harried all the way by the gun ships and interditory artillery fire, as they melted into the bush. But, the Australian defenders had also suffered heavily.

In the half light No 5 gun detachment sent out a clearing patrol which contacted and killed two enemy around No 6 gun. A second clearing patrol then moved into the Mortar Platoon position and were shocked by what they found. It was utter chaos, there were dead and wounded men lying everywhere and the medics immediately began treating the wounded. Five Mortar-men were dead with eight wounded out of a platoon strength of around thirty men. Thirty eight dead NVA were scattered around the Mortar Platoon perimeter. Two wounded prisoners were taken and a large number of enemy weapons and assault rifles were captured.

In daylight the tired, battered and traumatised men of 12 Field Regiment, 102 Battery and 1 RAR emerged from shell scrapes and weapons pits to evaluate the scene and count the cost. Weapons and guns were cleaned, ammunition supplies re-stocked, pits dug deeper and barbed wire defences strengthened. Most of the photographs taken that day reveal young men surveying the scene, having a brew, a smoke with mates and looking pretty relieved



**Command Post at FSPB Coral**

# Ultimate defence with robust and reliable medium voltage solutions

Ensure a reliable end-to-end solutions provider for your defence requirements, NHP offers an extensive range of medium voltage solutions, allowing application flexibility as well as higher productivity and safety.

From quality medium voltage switchgear to long-lasting transformers and market leading substation and automation solutions, the NHP medium voltage range can be customised to suit your specific performance criteria and are reliable, robust and built to last.

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## Ensuring personnel and asset protection with fast arc quenching

Arc faults have been a hot topic in the electrical industry for more than a decade with much of the discussion centred on aging oil-based medium voltage switchgear and the increased risk that they pose.

NHP Medium Voltage Switchgear cubicles are designed and type tested to mitigate the consequences of internal arcs and therefore protect both the operator and the installation. Through a strategic pressure release system, the internal arc is restricted to the compartment where it originated and it does not spread towards the operator or to other compartments.

The cubicles are specifically designed to minimise the consequences of an internal arc and forming a key component of this, is the option of a built-in arc quenching system 'Arc Killer' which can extinguish an arc in less than 50ms. Exclusive to NHP switchgear, Arc Killer is a unique worldwide patented system developed in Europe for the DF2 series air insulated modular type switchgear. It provides an efficient and also simple arc fault protection not only for switchgear in substations but also in the ring network without the need to send a remote trip signal to upstream CB, unlike typical systems based on arc flash relay.

Arc Killer from NHP protects medium voltage switchgear from internal arc damage and allows fast restoration of switchgear avoiding long downtime and huge financial loss. It also ensures the highest level of operator safety in the unlikely event of an internal arc fault, going beyond requirements of the Australian standards.

Arc Killer takes arc quenching to a new level providing an improved security that protects valuable switchgear and eliminates blast damage to switchrooms caused by the expanding gas high pressures and temperature generated by arc faults. Not only are the operator and the environment are shielded from harm, but the super-swift arc extinguishing system allows cubicles to be back in operation very quickly in case of an internal fault. Moreover, The Arc Killer fast operation allows full containment of the arc fault within switchgear enclosure without need for external ducting or venting. Consequently the substation design is simplified and the arc fault safety rating of switchgear is always maintained irrespective of where and how it is installed.



The Arc Killer technology and the benefits that it brings to a site highlights the advantage of partnering with a medium voltage supplier such as NHP. In addition to the market leading range of switchgear complete with Arc Killer technology, the extended NHP medium voltage range can be called upon to help users leverage information to improve their operations, network efficiency and ultimate reliability.

From the successful monitoring, evaluation and intelligent control of a distribution substation as well as substation control systems architecture, NHP is your trusted partner.



and chuffed, as they had just survived and won, one of the most sustained and intense battles of the Vietnam War.

## The Cost

The fighting had been costly for both sides. Australian casualties included nine killed and 28 wounded, while one howitzer and two mortars had been damaged. North Vietnamese casualties included 52 dead, who lay strewn around the perimeter. Blood trails indicated many more NVA dead and wounded had been dragged away.

This action of the 12/13 May 1968 was the first and most sustained attack on FSPB Coral which was completely unprepared for the events of that night. While the NVA continued to mount further attacks on Coral and FSPB Balmoral until 6 June, after the first night the Australian positions were strengthened and heavily reinforced with APC's and Centurion Tanks, so were much better prepared to stave off further attacks.

## Second attack on FSB Coral, 16 May 1968

At 0230 on 16 May the NVA began a heavy barrage of RPG's and mortar fire, concentrating on A Company 1 RAR, 1 ATF headquarters, and the forward task force area. Now heavily reinforced, the Australian and US artillery and mortars quickly responded with heavy counter-battery fire, with a total of 60 guns from three batteries of 105mm field guns, one battery of 155mm howitzers, one 200mm battery and nine 81mm mortars firing in support, augmented by air support from three heavy fire teams each of three helicopter gunships and three fighters with bombs and napalm. This and attacks on 22-26 & 28 May were repulsed.

## Fire Support Base Balmoral

The enemy then turned their attention to FSPB Balmoral some 4.5 kms north of Coral, which was similarly attacked and repulsed by 3 RAR on the 22-24 & 28 May. And while these actions were no less significant and heroic than Coral, this article is only intended to deal with the actions at the First Battle for Coral. This and further attacks on 22-26 & 28 May were all repulsed

## The Aftermath

During the 26 days of fighting in Operation Toan Thang the Australians had inflicted punishing losses on the communists and forced the North Vietnamese 7th Division to postpone a further attack on Saigon. North Vietnamese and Viet Cong casualties in AO Surfers included 267 killed confirmed by body count, 60 possibly killed but removed by the enemy, 7 wounded and 11 captured, while Australian losses were 25 killed and 99 wounded. Five New Zealanders and five American soldiers were also wounded.

Had the Australians been defeated at Coral this would have had catastrophic political ramifications. Not only would it have resulted in the loss of some 220 Australians killed or captured, together with all artillery, mortars, weapons, ammunition and other stores, but would have provided North Vietnam with a huge propaganda weapon and high-level traction for their cause in the upcoming Paris Peace-



NVA dead FSPB Coral 13 May 1968

Talks. It would also have resulted in a complete shift to Australian policy regarding the conduct and strategy of the Vietnam War.

## Postscript

Many Coral Veterans feel disappointed that the true story of this battle has never been fully disclosed, that the achievements and bravery of the soldiers was not appropriately venerated and that appropriate medallic and other recognition was never forthcoming. Some believe it was such a stuff up at command level, that there were high-level attempts to sweep it under the carpet and prevent embarrassment to some senior ranking officers. Lieutenant Ian Ahearn then a junior Artillery Officer of 102 Field Battery on whose memoirs much of this narrative is based, has revealed that of the 13 commendations he submitted for acts of bravery that night, only 2 were actioned resulting in 1 MM and 1 MID. The rest were ignored. Now Colonel Ian Ahearn (Ret), has been strident in pushing for appropriate recognition for the diggers and gunners of Coral for many years.

My mate Ray still does not talk much about his experiences at Coral. Just that it was a debacle caused by a breakdown in communication, the incompetence of commanders on the ground, a massive intelligence failure and that the young diggers should never have been put in this situation in the first place.

And I know Ray was much more deeply affected by his experiences in Vietnam than he was prepared to admit back then. But, with his wife Maxine's support Ray prospered, built a nice home, raised a wonderful family and made a good life. And through Maxine, Ray finally found peace with his ghosts from Vietnam.

This story is Dedicated to the Men of FSPB Coral. But, most particularly to Gunner Raymond John Glover, Service No 2412439, 102 (Coral) Field Battery, 12 Field Regiment RAA. A Digger and a good Mate. Lest We Forget.

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# Advocacy News



## 1. A Message from Chair

Welcome to the last issue of Advocacy News for 2017. Looking back on the year, it's terrific to see how much progress has been made in implementing the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) in just 12 months. We have achieved national accreditation of the Course in Military Advocacy (10620NAT), developed the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for Level 1 Compensation and Welfare Advocates, and the Consolidation modules for Level 1 in both streams. ATDP Level 2 will be available in both streams in 2018, as will RPL for Level 3. And last but not least, around 400 Advocates now have ATDP accreditation.

## 2. Directory of Advocacy Services

One of the main aims of the ATDP is to make it easier for veterans and their families to locate an advocate. We are pleased to announce that the first version of the Directory of Advocacy Services is now available on the ATDP website. New information will be added to the directory as more Advocates are accredited and more ESOs provide their preferred contact information.

## 3. Recognition of Prior Learning Level 1

Have you completed some TIP training? Would you like to be accredited as ATDP Military Advocate Level 1? TIP practitioners have their skills and knowledge tested for ATDP accreditation through an assessment process called 'Recognition of Prior Learning' (RPL).

## 4. Online Workplace Experience Log

### What are WELs?

Workplace Experience Logs (WELs) are used by people undertaking ATDP training ('candidates') to record each workplace learning activity. Candidates record the date, details of the activity and their comments. Then their mentor adds feedback about the activity and initials the entry.

## 5. Welfare Support Officer

### Do all welfare officers need accreditation?

Some of the work Welfare Officers do does require ATDP accreditation, but a lot of the valuable work welfare officers routinely perform, such as hospital visits and organising social activities, does not require formal accreditation.



## 6. New online Welfare learning modules

If you're a TIP-trained Welfare Officer, you will be familiar with the Welfare online learning module, which was developed some years ago. The package provided information about how to connect veterans with a broad range of government and community services, such as health, housing and transport.



## 7. ESO authorisation of Advocates

All Advocates are now required to have a signed letter of authority from their ESO before they practice as an advocate. (Previously, a letter was only required for Advocates whose ESO was a member of VITA – the Veterans' Indemnity and Training Association.) By issuing a letter of authority, ESOs are ensuring that all their Advocates are covered by their professional indemnity insurance. There is an example of a letter of authority on the ATDP website that ESOs can adapt to suit their requirements.



## 8. Why are Welfare Officers now called 'Advocates'?

Under TIP, the term 'advocate' only referred to Level 3 and Level 4 practitioners who represented clients at the Veterans' Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Under the ATDP, we've broadened this to include all the different ways members of ex-service organisations assist current and former ADF members and their families. The term 'Advocate' simply means 'a person who puts a case on someone else's behalf' which, of 5 course, is what all Ex-Service Organisations do. So under the ATDP, if you are accredited and help clients with claims for compensation or pensions, or provide welfare services, you are an advocate.

Role	Description
Military Welfare Advocate Level 1	Under supervision, advises and assists members of the ex-serving community and their families to access entitlements, benefits and support available from DVA, other government agencies and community-based service providers.



Military Welfare Advocate Level 2	Advises and assists members of the ex-serving community and their families to access entitlements, benefits and support available from DVA, other government agencies and community-based service providers.
Military Compensation Advocate Level 1	Under supervision, advises and assists members of the ex-serving community and their families with compensation and rehabilitation claims.
Military Compensation Advocate Level 2	Advises and assists members of the ex-serving community and their families with compensation and rehabilitation claims.
Military Compensation Advocate Level 3	Advocates on behalf of members of the ex-serving community before the Veterans' Review Board.
Military Compensation Advocate Level 4	Advocates on behalf of members of the ex-serving community before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

### 9. What is Recognition of Prior Learning all about?

Have you completed some TIP training? Would you like to be accredited as ATDP Military Advocate? TIP practitioners have their skills and knowledge tested for ATDP accreditation through an assessment process called 'recognition of prior learning' (RPL).

#### Am I ready for assessment?

To be ready for assessment at Level 1, you will have performed the following tasks **under supervision**:

Military Compensation Advocate Level 1	Military Welfare Advocate Level 1
1. Planned and conducted two interviews with clients who are making a primary claim.	The following tasks are to be completed for two clients. One of these can be a simulated client, i.e. not with an actual client but carried out in a realistic setting with a person representing a typical client.
2. Completed six primary claims: two under each of the three DVA Acts: VEA, SRCA/DRCA and MRCA* Three of the six claims can be for simulated clients, i.e. not actual clients but carried out in a realistic setting with people representing typical clients.	1. Planned and conducted two client interviews for clients with different needs. 2. Prepared two post-interview action plans for clients with different needs.

3. Maintained appropriate records	3. Implemented two different action pathways as agreed with the clients. 4. Maintained appropriate records.
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To be ready for assessment at Level 2, you will have performed the following tasks **unsupervised**:

Military Compensation Advocate Level 2	Military Welfare Advocate Level 2
1. Planned and conducted three interviews where the client is making a primary claim.	These tasks are to be completed for three clients. One of these can be a simulated client, i.e. not with an actual client but carried out in a realistic setting with a person representing a typical client.

2. Completed six primary claims: two under each of the three DVA Acts: VEA, SRCA/DRCA and MRCA* Three of the six claims can be for simulated clients, i.e. not actual clients but carried out in a realistic setting with people representing typical clients.	1. Planned and conducted three interviews for clients with different needs. 2. Completed three post-interview action plans.
3. Received, analysed and validated one claim determination and informed the client of the outcome and ramifications.	3. Implemented three different action pathways as agreed with the clients.
4. Maintained appropriate records.	4. Maintained appropriate records.

\* Information about DVA legislation can be found in CLIK on the DVA website under 'Tools and Calculators'. Go to [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

For more information about the ATDP accreditation requirements, see the Accredited Course Documents on the ATDP website: [www.atdp.org.au](http://www.atdp.org.au).

### 10. What does a mentor do?

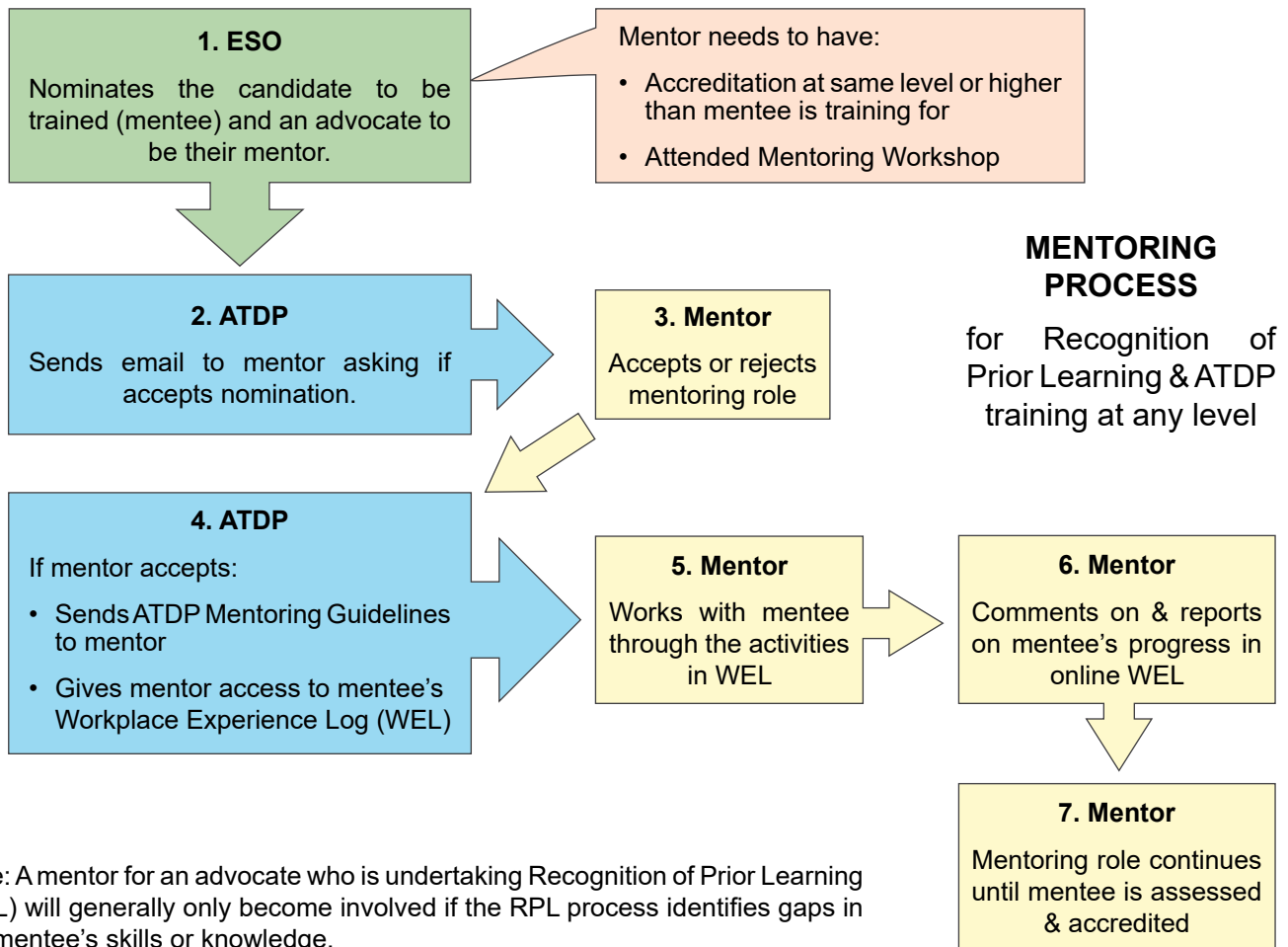
In a nutshell, mentors guide their 'mentee' through the activities listed in their Workplace Experience Log (WEL) and record their progress in the online WEL.(see diagram following page)

### 11. VITA insurance coverage for TIP practitioners

The Veterans' Indemnity and Training Association Inc. (VITA) provides access to professional indemnity insurance for ESOs that provide advocacy services to the veterans' community.

VITA supports and recognises Advocates under the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) and the Training and Information Program (TIP). These programs deliver the training and currency needed for Advocates to meet the requirements of the professional indemnity insurer.

### 12. Continuing Professional Development – the new 'refresher'



In the last newsletter we introduced the ATDP Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program. The program will allow Advocates and their ESOs to be confident that ATDP accredited Advocates can provide high-quality services to former and current ADF members and their dependants on an ongoing basis.

**Lastly**, the program needs to satisfy the Veterans' Indemnity and Training Association (VITA) requirement that it will keep Advocates' knowledge and skill levels 'current'.

### 13. Aged Care in Welfare

Aged care is an important area of interest to the veteran community – for younger veterans who are arranging care for their parents, and for older veterans who are entering the system or are already in it.

### 14. Which advocacy services require accreditation?

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

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

Activity	Y	N
Prepare and/or lodge liability, compensation and income support claims	✓	

Prepare requests for review of DVA decisions	✓	
Prepare appeals for review by the Veterans' Review Board or the Administrative Appeals Tribunal	✓	
Provide representation at hearings by the Veterans' Review Board and Administrative Appeals Tribunal	✓	
Provide information and/or referrals for health, rehabilitation, housing, transport, household assistance, education schemes, and other government or community services and benefits	✓	
Provide advice and information about government services for transitioning from the military to civilian life	✓	
Provide information and/or referrals for medical, financial, legal and police matters	✓	
Provide information and/or referrals for funeral arrangements and bereavement assistance	✓	
Visits to home, hospital and aged care facilities that do not include the provision of information or advice		✓
Personal services such as researching and delivering eulogies, driving, shopping trips, domestic assistance, child care and home maintenance		✓
Administration, such as for ESO clubs, offices and day clubs		✓
Organising and conducting social, family and sporting activities		✓



If qualified, providing professional services on behalf of an ESO that require non-ATDP qualifications, such as counselling and sports coaching	✓
Providing or administering services and support on behalf of the ESO, such as financial support, scholarships, accommodation, welfare checks and mentoring children	✓
Training or instruction on behalf of the ESO, such as cooking, craft, gardening, and home and car maintenance	✓

**15. ATDP contact details**

**ATDP Regional Managers and Administration Support Officers (ASOs)**

Region 1 (QLD & NT)	Region 2 (NSW, ACT & WA)	Region 3 (VIC, TAS & SA)
<b>John Sutton</b> Acting Manager rm1@atdp.org.au	<b>Allan Thomas</b> Manager rm2@atdp.org.au	<b>John Methven</b> Acting Manager rm3@atdp.org.au
<b>Tamsin McGuin</b> ASO aso1@atdp.org.au (07) 3358 5845	<b>Brian Morelli</b> ASO aso2@atdp.org.au (02) 9488 7667	<b>Philip Boys</b> ASO aso3@atdp.org.au (08) 8290 0449

**General enquiries:**  
ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au

**Websites:**  
Advocacy Training & Development Program – www.atdp.org.au  
Department of Veterans’ Affairs – www.dva.gov.au

**16. Is the holiday period a tough time for you or someone you know?**

For the serving and ex-serving community in particular, some of whom may already be struggling with a mental health condition, the holiday season may trigger feelings of loss and isolation associated with sad memories. This is common, and the most important thing to remember is that you are not alone. The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) is here to support you.

VVCS is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It provides free and confidential nationwide counselling and support for war and service-related mental health conditions.

VVCS counsellors have an understanding of military culture and can help to address concerns such as relationship and family issues, anxiety, depression, anger, sleep difficulties, post-traumatic stress disorder and alcohol or substance misuse, with the aim of finding effective solutions for improved mental health and wellbeing.

If you’re going through a tough time, feeling lonely or just want someone to talk to, call **VVCS** on **1800 011 046** and get the support you need.

**VVCS Group Workshops**

Developed in conjunction with Phoenix Australia and Flinders University, the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) is excited to announce that a new suite of group programs will launch in 2018.

The programs will incorporate eLearning modules, covering anger, trauma recovery, anxiety and pain management.

The Group Program calendar is updated each month with new topics, dates and locations across metro and regional Australia. To find out more or register your interest, visit the Group Programs page on the VVCS website or call 1800 011 046.

Earlier this year, VVCS also introduced community webinars to make information about mental wellbeing more accessible. The first webinar, ‘Thriving not just surviving’, was held in April and covered the topic of military PTSD. This was followed by a webinar on sleep disturbance, ‘Getting a good night’s sleep’, in August and one on exercise and wellbeing, ‘A healthy mind and body’, in November.

Community webinars scheduled for 2018 will be hosted by Dr Mark Creamer and will cover relationships, military transition, suicide prevention, families, anger and chronic pain.

To watch the latest webinars visit the VVCS Community Webinars Playlist on YouTube.



**GP Health Assessments**



All former serving personnel can access a one-off comprehensive health assessment from their GP. This

includes those who have left the permanent force and are now in the Reserves, and those who have left the Reserves. There are no time restrictions for accessing this one-off assessment.

The assessment can help GPs identify and diagnose the early onset of physical and/or mental health conditions a veteran may be experiencing and provide treatment or refer the veteran to other services.

DVA will fund the assessment through the usual DVA Health Card arrangements. If the former serving member is not a DVA client, a Medicare rebate is available. GPs may decide to bulk bill the assessment at no cost. If the GP charges a fee that is higher than the rebate, the gap will require payment.

For further information, visit the At-Ease portal.

## Veterans' Indemnity and Training Association Inc

PO Box 3362, BELCONNEN DC ACT 2617

An open letter from the VITA President

RE: VITA coverage of TIP trained practitioners

The Veterans' Indemnity and Training Association Inc. (VITA) provides access to professional indemnity insurance at an affordable cost for members of Ex-Service Organisations and incorporated groups who provide advice and advocacy services to members of the ex-service community about government pensions, benefits and community support services.

VITA supports and recognises Advocates under the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) and the Training and Information Program (TIP). These programs deliver the training and currency needed for Advocates to meet the requirements of the professional indemnity insurer.

VITA has previously issued an Open Letter stating that professional indemnity insurance coverage would continue to be available to TIP Trained Practitioners until such time as all who wish to transfer into the ATDP stream via the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) pathway have had ample opportunity to do so.

The letter also stated that eventually cover would have to be curtailed as practitioners are required to maintain currency but, as TIP refresher training is no longer available, TIP Practitioners cannot update their training without ATDP accreditation.

RPL opportunities have been available for some time for Level 2 Practitioners, are now available for Level 1 Practitioners, and will be offered soon for Level 3 and 4 Advocates. Consequently, VITA advises the following cut-off dates for coverage of TIP Trained Advocates not progressing through to the ATDP stream:

**Level 1 and 2: Cover will not be available beyond 30 June 2019**

**Level 3 and 4: Cover will not be available beyond 31**

## December 2021

VITA believes these dates will provide continuing opportunities for RPL transition for those intending to do so, while allowing those not intending to transfer to continue to practice while a body of ATDP accredited Advocates is built up to meet ongoing client demand.

Yours sincerely

**Dennis Mitchell**

**President**

**7 December 2017**

## Bright Outlook for service to Veterans



**Coralee Goedhart JP, QLD State Branch Secretary, Mick Phelan APPVA Webmanager**

RSL Advocacy Services in Pine Rivers has been given a boost with better facilities at the Pine Rivers District Sub Branch headquarters at Kallangur

The eight Advocates can now work out of four newly-created offices in an updated existing building.

The offices were officially opened by federal LNP Member for Dickson, Peter Dutton who

thanked the volunteers for their services.

"You make a difference in people's lives, you achieve many wins due to your determination." Mr Dutton said.

"You now have a permanent structure to the good work you do now and will do in the future."

Michael Phelan of Cashmere, who served in the Army, and Coralee Goedhart of Morayfield who served in the Air Force were presented with Australia Day medallions by Mr Dutton for their services to the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association.

Sub Branch President Margaret Lord said it had received grant funds through the Stronger Communities Program to improve the office space our Advocates.

"We have had eight Advocates working from three small offices which raised concerns around disabled access and overcrowding.



"We applied for a grant, were successful in our application and were then able to complete the construction work over the Christmas break.

Mrs Lord said the Federal Government grant was \$13,00 with the amount matched by the sub branch.

"Our Advocates work with hundreds of veterans and their partners every year and began meeting clients on January 15 in more spacious, well-lit and private offices thanks to the grant funding from the Australian Government."

Advocates work with and on behalf of veterans and their families in their dealings with Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist veterans and their families receive the services they are entitled to.

Article and Pictures with thanks to:

ALAN QUINNEY

Reporter

QUEST Community News



L-R Coralee Goedhart JP, QLD State Branch Secretary, Margaret Lord- President Pine Rivers RSL Sub-Branch, Federal Minister for Immigration - The Hon. Peter Dutton MP, Randall New QLD Branch President, Mick Phelan APPVA Webmanager

## UN Chief reviewing strategy of Peacekeeping

### AU Commission chairman commends Turkey, China for development cooperation with Africa

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Sunday said the Intergovernmental Organization is reviewing its strategy of Peacekeeping.

Guterres said the need to review the strategy was deemed necessary in order to make Peacekeeping Operations cost effective and Peacekeeping Missions more equipped, better prepared and more efficient.

This came in a news conference on the sidelines of 30th Assembly of African Heads of State and Government in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

"Peacekeeping is becoming baby-sitting," Guterres said, adding that it is not sustainable with the level of casualties being inflicted on Peacekeepers.



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

According to him, the re-strategizing will focus on redesigning of Peacekeeping Forces with larger operations and "making sure we have forces that are better equipped and better prepared."

The UN chief said the world needed not only Peacekeeping but also Peace Enforcing.

Speaking about the multinational Peacekeeping Force in Somalia, called AMISOM, he said: "We believe AMISOM needs more predictable funding for its activities."

In June last year, the United Nations voted to cut \$600 million from the global body's \$8 billion Peacekeeping budget.

However, Guterres reiterated that "the United Nations is fully at the service of the African Union both at the continental and sub-regional levels."

He said development partnership between the UN and the AU has gained momentum.

Meanwhile, opening the leaders' summit, African Union Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat commended Turkey and China for what he described as laudable development cooperation with Africa.

Speaking about security situation, Mahamat said the scourge of terrorism continue to ravage the Sahel region and East Africa.

Combatting terrorism in Africa needed more concerted efforts of the African nations and the cooperation of the international community at large, he added.

The leaders continued their deliberations behind closed doors and they would wrap up their deliberations tomorrow.

By Addis Getachew Source: <http://aa.com.tr/en/africa/un-chief-says-reviewing-strategy-of-peacekeeping/1045176>



## Veterans Advocacy Centre Alstonville

On Christmas Eve 2017, the C3 Church in Ballina made an extraordinarily generous donation of \$5000 to the Veterans' Advocacy Centre (VAC) in Alstonville. Earlier in 2017 the Ballina RSL Club donated \$6000. Ballina RSL Sub Branch has undertaken to donate \$5000 over the year. Donations ranging from \$50 to \$1000 have been made by other RSL Sub Branches, including Alstonville, Evans Head, Lismore, and Maclean; and other organisations such as RSL Women's Auxiliaries, Partners of Veterans; and personal donations in the same range from individuals, including VAC personnel who donate their travel payments, and other members of APPVA. This tsunami of generosity is all in a good cause. It fills the gap between the cost of running the VAC and BEST Grants.

VAC Compensation and Welfare Advocates assist serving and former military personnel injured in service to obtain compensation for their injuries, and where those injuries result in disability, to obtain the welfare services they need. We also advise how to access new rehabilitation initiatives available through departmental and local agencies.

Some of our personnel are members of Overwatch Australia, a veteran self-help group that monitors social media to assist veterans at risk of self harm and suicide. We proactively address veteran and family social needs through participation in Veterans' Health Week and providing facilities such as a trailer, barbecue, chairs etc for social activity.

In addition to connecting veterans with disability to welfare services, the welfare advocates also assist homeless veterans to find accommodation and to obtain the resources they need while homeless, such as the backpacks distributed through Backpack Australia.

The VAC also operates a redistribution service, known

as the Veterans' Pantry, for veterans and their families experiencing hardship. Food and some household goods are donated by businesses and members of the public, and are supplied at no cost to our clients in need.

The VAC Compensation and Welfare Advocates are either veterans or relatives of veterans from various ESOs including APPVA NSW, several RSL Sub Branches, Navy, Army and Air Force Associations, Partners of Veterans and others in a collaborative Community of Practice. All are trained to various levels to assist veterans with the paperwork involved in claims for compensation, and to lodge and prosecute appeals when claims are rejected. Experienced Compensation and Welfare practitioners mentor trainee Advocates at the VAC to ensure that the compensation and welfare needs of veterans can continue to be met in a professional and compassionate way into the future.

The running costs of the operation are covered to some extent by grants from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. However, the department does not pay the rent nor provide seed funding. Rent is our biggest regular cost and it keeps us living from hand to mouth. As well, the VAC needs funds



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6664532aa



to install equipment such as a telephone system and office necessities that others can't imagine doing without. These facilities are needed to ensure that Advocates from other ESOs can be reasonably accommodated and mentored and be paid travel allowance to attend.

VAC personnel live by the dictum "every little bit helps", potting plants at home and selling them at the front door; framing signed sports paraphernalia for Club 500 lotteries; sausage sizzles at monthly auctions by Elders; raffles at major events such as car rallies; applying for grants; VAC personnel donating their travel payments; selling veteran memorabilia; public speaking on VAC at clubs and associations; walking the streets with flyers; association magazines distributed to local business and professional suites; selling knit ware made by the CWA; running PopUp Shops; running Coffee Club and much more.

Though VAC personnel do everything we can to help ourselves, in truth, we depend on the generosity of donors to keep our doors open and provide the means of serving Veterans in need.

## Operational Working Party

### Summary of Meeting – 1 December 2017

The Operational Working Party (OWP) met in Canberra on 1 December 2017.

The Chair welcomed members to the second meeting of the OWP. Members endorsed a revised Terms of Reference.

### Veteran Centric Reform (VCR) Showcase and MyService Update

Members participated in an interactive presentation showcasing the recent improvements to supporting broader transformation, and the development of the DVA MyService web application and how it is delivering real benefits for veterans and their families.

### Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP)

Members were provided with an update of the ATDP. Members discussed the future role of advocacy and the process for current advocates to complete Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) under the ATDP.

### Dental Prosthesis Claims and Processes

Members were provided with information regarding the process for claiming dental prostheses. There has been a sharp increase in the demand for dental implants and DVA will undertake consultation with the industry to determine the most effective manner in which to process these claims into the future.

### Member Submissions

Submissions were received from the Australian Special Air Service Association, the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia and Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia on the following topics:

- Administrative Appeal Tribunal hearings;
- ESO Portal;
- Veteran Employment;
- Delays in cases; and

- Departmental medical advisors.

The next meeting of the OWP will be held in Canberra on Tuesday 27 March 2018.

**Trevor Plymin**  
APPVA Representative

## Australia Day Awards 2018 – NSW APPVA

Three members of APPVA received awards at this year's Australia Day Ceremony at the Ballina Shire ceremony. These awards were in recognition of the many years of voluntary work and service to the veteran community. Allan Thomas, Pauline Maczkowiack and Liz Hill set up a Veterans Centre in Alstonville in 2015 from 2 small rooms. Within 6 months they moved to larger premises to meet the demand. The Veterans' Advocacy Centre offers services from Pension Advocates, Welfare Advocates, provides a veteran's pantry, maintains furniture and household goods, book and DVD library, hosts a monthly Coffee Club, provides miniature horse therapy free to veterans and their families, plants for sale, mobility aids, and the assistance of a Mens' Health Peer educator. They were presented with the Soldiers of Peace International Association Oceania silver medallion and Certificates for Meritorious Service to the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association.



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# Transition 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.

Its 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).

### ADF Transition Seminars

Come to an ADF Transition Seminar to help you and your family prepare for your transition into civilian life. You and your family are welcome to attend at any time during your ADF career. Seminars are held nationally throughout the year. You'll receive information on topics like:

- transition support and administration
- future employment
- finance and superannuation
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- veteran and family support services
- Reserves.

If you would like to attend a seminar, submit an approved webform AC853-4 to your local ADF Transition Centre.

For enquiries regarding the seminars you can email Transition National Support Team.adf.transition@defence.gov.au

Sydney	7-8 March
Brisbane	14-15 March
Townsville	27-28 March
Adelaide	11-12 April
Canberra	18-19 April
Melbourne	9-10 May
Darwin	23-24 May
Newcastle	6-7 June
Perth	13-14 June
Wagga	19-20 June
Sydney	4-5 July
Brisbane	10-11 July
Cairns	24-25 July
Shoalhaven	1-2 August
Hobart	8-9 August
Adelaide	5-6 September
Darwin	19-20 September
Canberra	26-27 September
Melbourne	10-11 October
Brisbane	16-17 October
Townsville	23-24 October
Liverpool	31 October- 1 November
Perth	14-15 November

### 3 Steps to Defence transition success

Changing jobs after your Defence career shouldn't be frustrating. Transition success can be achieved through a cultural shift of demilitarising your thinking, using non-Defence words to promote yourself and by fully understanding your commercial value - and that's where we help.

Adjusting culturally to become commercially job-ready and compete with other job-seekers in this over-populated job market is every Defence member's greatest challenge. Learn from those who have gone before you.

#### Step 1 Know your new career direction

Use your military experiences and achievements to move into the right career for you. The right career direction will be challenging, rewarding and pays you the salary you deserve.

*"Find the job you love and you'll never work another day the rest of your life." Confucius*

Before you do anything about changing jobs, it is imperative that you know where you're headed. Know what type of job you're targeting. Sometimes we go through life feeling like we are never fully satisfied in what we do. Some people fall into a great job, others are strategic about it. If you're not happy in your job, then move to something better. There are a number of factors that will influence what type of job is most satisfying for you. The sad part is that because of the frustration around searching, applying, meeting employers and self-promoting - all with the possibility of ending up in something worse off than where they are now, most people don't even try. So they stay stuck, but they don't have to. Deciding on what career direction to take is most effectively achieved by combining a number of factors, such as:

- What type of job is your personality type suited to?
- What work background and transferable skills do you have?
- What are your financial goals?
- What are your personal values?
- Plus any other restrictions or boundaries you may have imposed on you, from either your family, or maybe some physical restrictions.

#### Step 2 Use a demilitarised and Targeted CV

Your written application is your marketing tool. It's your first impression. Get it right and it will open many doors. Get it wrong and you will be subjected to no end of frustration.

#### Promote Your self to Employers

- Defining your new direction
- Using a professional CV
- Where and how jobs are advertised
- Wining a government job
- Understand the employers perspective
- Good & bad of military culture in a commercial environment
- Preparation=success
- Choosing and using referees
- When and how to reveal negatives
- Salary negotiation

For more information <https://transciv.com.au/>

# UN Peacekeepers shouldn't shy away from 'using force'

## Report calls for changes in policy after attacks on forces

UN Peacekeeping Forces need to change the way they operate and not shy away from using force to reverse a worrying trend of escalating fatalities, according to a new report made public Monday.

The recommendations were submitted to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in December by a team of experts headed up by Brazilian Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, a former UN Commander in Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"The United Nations and Troop/Police-contributing countries need to adapt to a new reality: the blue helmet and the United Nations flag no longer offer 'natural' protection," the report stated.

"Unfortunately, hostile forces do not understand a language other than force. To deter and repel attacks and to defeat attackers, the United Nations needs to be strong and not fear to use force when necessary," it recommended.

Casualties have spiked since 2013, with 195 personnel in UN Peacekeeping Missions killed by acts of violence -- more than during any other five-year period in history. Last year saw the highest number of fatalities since 1994, with 56 deaths.

As missions face threatened budget cuts from the Trump administration, the report said troops are often too "in a

defensive posture" and need to "take the initiative to neutralise and eliminate" threats to their security.

The report recommended that the United Nations start replacing officials, contingents and units that lack capacity to carry out their mandate. Deficient pre-deployment training is a main cause of fatalities, it said. Among the recommendations were "surprise exercises and tests" to verify troop readiness.

The report also called for missions to be strengthened with sophisticated equipment such as mine-protected vehicles, special weapons and night-vision goggles.

**AFP, United Nations Source:** <http://www.thedailystar.net/world/un-peacekeepers-shouldnt-shy-away-using-force-1524262>





# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)



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

## Contact Details

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

Last Name ..... City .....

Given Name(s) ..... State ..... Post Code .....

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

Name of Parent/Partner/Child ..... Email .....

(Complete only for Affiliate Membership)

Phone ..... Mobile .....

## Service Details

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

Service Regt Number ..... Dates deployed ..... to .....

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

Post Nominal ..... Date deployed ..... to .....

## Missions *(Attach separate sheet if necessary)*

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

Signed ..... Dated .....

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

### Credit Card

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

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

Credit Card No \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_    Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Name ..... Signature .....

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

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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.*

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## 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)



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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.			<b>TOTAL</b>	

**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.

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

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

**DELIVERY DETAILS**

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

Last Name ..... City .....

Given Name(s) ..... State ..... Post Code .....

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

Mobile.....

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

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

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

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

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

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

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

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



# VVCS



## **Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service**

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Australian Government  
Veterans and Veterans Families  
Counselling Service

[www.vvcs.gov.au](http://www.vvcs.gov.au) 



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Electro Optics Division