

WHATS INSIDE

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

Cover

U.S. Marines conduct a simulated amphibious assault of exercise Talisman Sabre 19 in Bowen, Australia, July 22, 2019. Talisman Sabre provides an opportunity to conduct operations in a combined, joint and interagency environment that will increase participating countries' abilities to plan

and execute contingency responses, from combat missions to humanitarian assistance efforts. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tanner D. Lambert



53

ARMY

- 22 Commandos ready for anything
- 39 Pacific allies combine urban warfare skills
- 43 Technology allows ability to conduct real-time battle analysis
- 51 Retaining Army's Talent



22

OUR PEOPLE

- 30 Former Peacekeeper who hasn't forgotten the people of Timor-Leste

DEPARTMENT FEATURES

- 2 From the Presidents Desk
- 63 APPVA
- 72 Merchandise Form



39



46

FEATURE

- 10 Reflecting on 20 years; Progress, Problems and Prospects
- 14 Sappers Beyond Just Peace
- 29 Documentary underscores the importance of women in Peacekeeping
- 34 Size does matter
- 33 Royal Navy escort ships through Strait of Hormuz
- 54 PTSD: the price of keeping the peace
- 58 Ebola outbreak in the Congo a global health emergency

UNITED NATIONS

- 26 UN Chief calls for 'maximum restraint' in Gulf



46

ADF

- 46 Talisman
- 53 Latest round of Southwest Pacific engagements begin



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello members,

Since the Extra Ordinary General Meeting on 22 June 2019 where I was elected as your National President a lot has been happening within the association.

I would like to firstly acknowledge on behalf of all members of the APPVA our sincere thanks and dedication that Mr Allan Thomas, OAM has bought to the role as the National President for almost seven years. Allan remains as our representative at the DVA Operational Working Group.

Allan has provided the association with fantastic National representation on behalf of the APPVA. He continues with his high level advocacy work and managing the Veterans Advocacy Centre in Alstonville, NSW.

Allan has mentored me through my career within the APPVA. Five years ago I had no idea I would be given the opportunity to represent our membership at a National level as the National President.

In June, I attended my first Ex Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) meeting in Canberra. I was amazed at the work being done and the results being achieved by this forum.

During the ESORT meeting a discussion held in relation to a Royal Commission into DVA and Veterans suicides. I know this is a very important discussion within the veteran community and our Association.

As your National President I submitted a 'No vote' to a Royal Commission based on my exposure to how our association has previously positioned itself

on this subject. APPVA has never endorsed a RC to date, but some of our members have as individuals been publicly rallying the troops and lobbying politicians.

A robust discussion was held within the ESORT group and it was decided that a Royal Commission was at this time not in the best interest of the veteran community.

This decision was formed on the basis at the time of the meeting the Productivity Commission Report was due for release within the next couple of weeks. The enquiry has the scope to look into the way DVA undertake their role on behalf of the veteran community.

The Productivity Commission Report was tabled by the Federal Treasurer on 4th July 2019. There is a copy is available on our APPVA website for you to peruse. I encourage all members to read closely the recommendations of the report and I strongly urge members to provide any feedback through your respective Branch President or representatives.

The APPVA current position on a Royal Commission is not set in concrete. In the future, should members decide through their State Branches of a Royal Commission being the appropriate path, I am more than happy to convey this message to

DVA and other ESO's. A survey will be emailed to you all on this matter after our QGM.

ESORT also discussed the DVA decision to restrict veterans to 12 visits to Allied health professionals. This has been delayed until October 2019 and does not apply to TPI/EDA endorsed gold card holders.

DVA have some great work in the pipeline including the digital voice recognition of registered veterans. This technology has the intent of bringing all of our information to the person you are speaking with without going the process of identifying yourself by answering a series of questions only then to be transferred to another person that may be able to help with your enquiry. This is the new approach from DVA with a telephone system with a single point of contact phone number 1800 VETERAN.

We all took part in a Federal election to decide on our next national political party to lead our country into the future with Hon Scott Morrison MP returned as Prime Minister and Mr Darren Chester retaining the portfolio as Minister for Veterans Affairs.

Mr Chester has stated that he is prepared to work with the Ex Service Organisations to ensure they receive the best support and our veterans are provided with the best medical care.



**Dept of Defence media release:
25 July 2019**

Australian Service Contingents 1 and 2 who served in Rwanda on Operation Tamar were today recognised with the award of a Meritorious Unit Citation.

Operation Tamar was Australia's contribution to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, which consisted of sending approximately 700 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in two contingents to provide medical support and security for the medics.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said from 1994 to 1996 it is estimated that more than 800,000 innocent civilians were killed in Rwanda by armed militias and trained military forces attracting world-wide attention and condemnation.

"The men and women of Australian Service Contingents 1 and 2 demonstrated extraordinary courage, discipline and compassion in the performance of their duties and on behalf of their country we recognise their meritorious service," Mr Chester said.

More details are on the APPVA website including how to apply.

To those members who served in Rwanda I thank you for your service and your families for their support to you whilst you were deployed.

Open Arms — Veterans and Families Counselling provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7.

Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

Upcoming Commemoration

Timor Leste 20 Year commemorations of the first intervention of INTERFET into East Timor which was inclusive of ADF personnel and Australian Federal Police.

I have made travel plans to go to Timor Leste to represent the APPVA at these commemorations. As some would know I served with the 5th Contingent of Australian Police to serve as civilian Police with the United Nations to the East Timor community that was the United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor (UNTAET).

I will write a report for a future edition of The Australian Peacekeeper

on these commemorations and the celebrations of Timor Leste as a nation over the two decades since Independence,

To those members who served in Timor Leste (East Timor) I thank you for your service and your families for their support to you whilst you were deployed.

Veterans Health Week

DVA have advised that applications for Veterans Health Week from Saturday 26 Oct to Sunday 3 Nov 2019 have now closed. I encourage members to participate in not only this week of arrange activities but to be actively involved by looking after each other.

If you would like to discuss event ideas for VHW 2019, contact your local DVA VHW contact. Each state and territory has a DVA VHW Coordinator who is available to discuss any aspect of VHW — refer to the following table for contact details:

DVA VHW contacts by state and territory		
State/ Territory	Phone number	Email address
NSW/ ACT	(02) 9213 7224 (02) 9213 7228	VHNSWACT@dva.gov.au
NT	(08) 8935 1426	VHWNT@dva.gov.au
Qld	(07) 3457 7543	VHWQLD@dva.gov.au
SA	(08) 8290 0301 (08) 8290 0478	VHWSA@dva.gov.au
Tas	(03) 6221 6735	VHWTAS@dva.gov.au
Vic	(03) 9284 6285 (03) 9284 6729	VHWWIC@dva.gov.au
WA	(08) 9366 8591	VHWWA@dva.gov.au
General enquiries	1800 555 254	VHW@dva.gov.au

Media releases: Minister for Veterans Affairs – the Hon Darren Chester

27 June 2019

Veteran Treatment Cycle Initiative

"The health and wellbeing of veterans and their families is a high priority for the Morrison Government.

"We have listened to feedback from health professionals who deliver care to the veteran community about the need for more support to accompany the changes to allied health referrals, scheduled to start on July 1. The changes will now begin on October 1, 2019 to provide more time for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to meet with stakeholders.

"The new treatment cycle will improve the quality of care veterans receive through closer collaboration between a veteran's GP and allied health providers.

"DVA has been instructed to work closely with allied health providers, GPs and the veteran community to ensure the new arrangements are properly communicated and implemented in a timely manner."

For more information, visit: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/medical-services-and-conditions/improved-dental-and-allied-health-clients>

Comments attributable to Allied Health Professions Australia Chief Executive Officer, Claire Hewat:

"Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) and its members are grateful for the Minister's quick actions to delay the implementation of the new Treatment Cycle Initiative until October.

"The allied health sector is supportive of the introduction of the treatment cycle, but have been concerned about ensuring that veterans and the providers that support them are able to transition to the new system properly.

"The additional time will allow the sector to work with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to ensure a smooth and safe transition that ensures veterans do not miss out on vital care."

Comments attributable to Australian Medical Association spokesperson:

"The AMA welcomes the changes to the treatment cycle for allied health referrals for veterans. These changes introduced by the DVA promote GP-led team-based care. Planned

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multidisciplinary team-based care has been demonstrated to improve patient outcomes.

The treatment cycle will ensure strong links between GPs and allied health professionals, preventing fragmentation of care and unnecessary duplication of services."

The APPVA at this stage does not agree with the Government's position on this issue. These concerns will be raised with ESORT at our next meeting. It would appear the Government intends to roll out the new program as it is.

APPVA has the support of other ESORT members in opposing the restriction of access to only 12 visits before requiring a new referral.

We also have the support to also look at fees DVA pays service providers.

The fees schedule currently paid by DVA equates to around one third of the cost that most service providers schedule for their patients. This creates an unacceptable level where a veteran struggles to find an adequate service provider then to have the service declined as the veteran is not financially viable for the service provider.

I will keep the membership advised as this issue gains momentum in the coming months. The ESORT group also rallied the DVA to take a serious look at its schedule of fees as they are not in step with current medical costings which is resulting in veterans being denied a service in place of other patients who obviously pay more for their services.

The APPVA is moving into the 21st century with a new and far more efficient website. National Secretary Mark Horner has been working with sponsor who has graciously provided us with the new platform, supported by a great set up and implementation program.

You would have noticed the new process to renew your 2019/2020 membership online. The new method of payment means the APPVA does not hold any credit card or bank details as the member provides this information to a third party not affiliated with the APPVA.

You should have received by now a draft version of a proposed new constitution for your APPVA Branch. I encourage all members to please read it and consider any amendments you may.

Don't be concerned if you don't have a legal background. Advise your relevant Branch committee what you would like to see included or removed and we will take all proposals on board. We hope to have the finished product ready to view prior to the AGM in Canberra on 13 Sept 2019 where members can vote on proposed changes.

I hope to see as many of you at the AGM and the Memorial Service to be conducted at the National Peace Keeping Memorial on the morning of the 14th. Details on the website.

Lastly, with the assistance of NATCOM, I would like to restructure the APPVA from its current Branch arrangement to a more efficient structure. This was discussed with your Branch Presidents at the last AGM in October 2018. I look forward to inviting members to be actively involved in how your Association is set up and it operates.

Rob Woods
National President



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Looking Forward

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Reflecting on 20 years of Protection of Civilians in UN Peace Operations: Progress, Problems and Prospects

into by Paul

Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has described protecting civilians as “a defining purpose of the UN in the twenty-first century.” It may also be one of its biggest challenges.

THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AT 20

A great deal of progress has been made over the past two decades and the last ten years in particular have seen PoC institutionalised and professionalised at the UN. In the Security Council a thematic agenda has been consolidated through numerous resolutions, and the peacekeeping bureaucracy at the Secretariat has rolled out policies, guidance and training programs to better prepare peacekeepers for the task.

More than 95 percent of all peacekeepers deployed in the field today operate under the PoC mandate, and in many missions it is a strategic priority. PoC has been elaborated into a broad operational concept that directs military, police and civilian peacekeepers to implement a wide range of tasks – from militarily defeating those who threaten civilians to supporting the transformation of state institutions to create a more protective environment. A range of innovative and specific implementation mechanisms have also been developed in the field.

THE SUCCESSES AND FAILURES

While media headlines dwell on peacekeeping failures and inaction, academic studies have shown that peacekeeping operations can contribute to reducing civilian victimisation, decreasing the intensity of conflict-related violence and lessening the likelihood that conflict will reignite. What seems clear is that, overall, civilians fare better when armed peacekeepers are present.

What is less clear is whether it matters what these peacekeepers are mandated to do, or indeed whether or not they actually do it.

A clear protection mandate allows for better outcomes. In many instances, UN missions provide immediate and daily protection to huge numbers of people. For example, in South Sudan peacekeepers have protected hundreds of thousands of civilians in displacement camps since the outbreak of civil war in 2011. Recent studies correlate efforts of missions under the protection mandate to positive outcomes for civilians. But much more remains to be known about what works and what doesn't.

Despite these signs of progress, failures have continued, with catastrophic consequences for civilians. Failures to prevent massacres in close proximity to static bases and deadly attacks by armed groups — as well as inadequate responses to attacks by government forces or their proxies — illustrate that there remains a significant gap between the promise and the practice of UN protection.

THE IMPEDIMENTS TO EFFECTIVE PROTECTION

As UN peace operations are commonly deployed in contexts where there is “no peace to keep” they are required to confront complex and shifting threats to civilians. Concerns about their own safety and security, resulting in restrictive national caveats and risk-averse regulations, make it difficult for peacekeepers to get close to communities in need of protection.

Perennial resource constraints dictate that it is not possible to have a peacekeeper behind every tree while mobility assets are too few to protect effectively through rapid projection. The “fiscal squeeze” on the peacekeeping budget is only likely to further reduce the presence and

By Dr Charles Hunt

29th May marks 20 years since the first time UN peacekeepers were directed to protect civilians from physical violence in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Since then, the Protection of Civilians (PoC) mandate has become a centre of gravity for peacekeeping operations but also for the UN system as a whole.



capabilities necessary to overcome existing limitations.

In this context, it is critical that protection efforts are aligned with a clear political strategy for addressing the root causes of conflict; ultimately eradicating the protection needs. But such strategies are elusive for most missions where host governments and other parties resist, or flatly dismiss, efforts to advance political solutions. As a result, in cases such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Mali, missions are effectively stuck in US\$1b a year holding patterns; shape-shifting in response to changing conflict dynamics and threats to civilians with no exit strategy in sight.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE PROTECTION?

While overcoming these challenges will require action across different actors and at many levels, progress in two key areas would address some of the structural issues.

A Culture of Accountability

Too often the plight of civilians depends on which contingent of uniformed peacekeepers is stationed nearby. While repatriation of underperforming contingents and incompetent leadership must remain an option, what is needed are measures that can shift the incentive structures of peacekeepers so that they encourage

a proactive and risk tolerant approach to protecting civilians. It would be a step in the right direction to foster a culture of accountability that improves performance and increases the likelihood of protective action.

Realising the “Primacy of Politics”

Yet sometimes improving the performance of peacekeepers is not enough. New strategic thinking is required, as was recognised by the 2015 High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. Its report made “the primacy of politics” — the idea that UN operations should prioritise political solutions — *the phrase du jour*, repeated incessantly in discussions on peacekeeping reform. However, very rarely is this expression unpacked. While it is widely accepted that peacekeeping must complement rather than substitute political processes for ending conflict, more clarity is needed around how specific missions can contribute to advancing these political solutions and align protection efforts with a clear political strategy for each mission.

However, elevating political solutions as the goal of peacekeeping requires more than that. Member states will need to step up and prioritise PoC through their decisions and discourse in the Security Council. Even then, political solutions will only be privileged if the same member states are willing to provide robust

political cover to field missions when host governments are intransigent or worse; and when there is simply no viable peace process in place.

Whither the Protection of Civilians in UN Peacekeeping?

Make no mistake, protecting civilians in conflict-affected societies is difficult. In many ways it’s a “wicked problem”: finding a solution will involve dilemmas and require trade-offs. But UN peacekeeping will ultimately be judged by both international and local publics on its ability to protect civilians.

After 20 years of the protection of civilians mandate, a great deal of progress has been made but much remains to be done to deliver on this cardinal obligation. The credibility and legitimacy of UN peacekeeping — as well as the lives of hundreds of thousands of people — is at stake.

Dr Charles T. Hunt is Vice Chancellor’s Senior Research Fellow and Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow at the Social & Global Studies Centre, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University. He is also a honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, University of Queensland.

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Sappers beyond just peace:

Peacemaking, Peacekeeping, Defence Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance - 70 Years of United Nations Peace Missions.

By Don Hughes

"In peace prepare for war, in war prepare for peace."

Sun Tzu, Fifth century BC.

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

POST WWII – UN CHARTER - 1945

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

JAPAN (BCOF) 1946 -52

Although not a United Nations peace mission, the main Australian contingent of the **British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF)** arrived in Japan on 13 February 1946 for a six-year occupation. Essentially a peace and humanitarian operation, approximately 19,270 Australians served with BCOF, including many Sappers. On 22 October 1946, Sergeant J. R. Sewell, 10th Australian Bomb Disposal Platoon, BCOF, was awarded the **George Medal** for his rescue of Japanese survivors after an explosion in a boat carrying high explosives. He had been a member of 1st Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) Parachute Troop and is included on the RAE Roll of Honour for Japan and Korea having been killed in action

(KIA) at Muroto Saki Japan.

DUTCH EAST INDIES (UNGOC) 1947-51

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

THE 1947 AUSTRALIAN MILESTONE FOR PEACE

The inaugural co-founder and former National President of the Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Veterans Association of Australia (APPVA), **Paul Copeland OAM**, proudly points out that this 1947 contribution; *"has laid the historical milestone of ADF Peacekeeping Operations that have been conducted non-stop to the present day. Our Peacekeepers continue to receive international accolade."*

PEACEKEEPERS & PEACEMAKERS MEMORIAL

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

KOREA (UNC) 1950-56

On 25 June 1950, just a month after the decision to withdraw BCOF back

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

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

Despite WWII ending with atomic weapons, operations in Korea were more reminiscent of the trench and hand to hand warfare of WW1. 3RAR had earned for themselves an outstanding reputation as fighters. This was crowned with their magnificent stand against a Chinese division at Kapyong. Charlie Green was killed in action before that battle. The outstanding success of Kapyong earned 3RAR the **United States Presidential Unit Citation**. 1RAR and 2RAR also served with distinction in Korea. Total Australians killed in action (KIA) was 339 with 1216 wounded in action (WIA) and 29 prisoners of war (POW) taken (Evans p. vi).

RAE SAPPERS IN KOREA

Primarily an Infantry contribution by Australia to the Korean conflict other specialists were also despatched. Captain (CAPT) I.G.C. Gilmore RAE was attached to the British Commonwealth divisional engineers



Sappers from the Australian Army 1st Combat Engineer Regiment lay beach matting across soft ground to open the road from the landing point into Banda Aceh, Indonesia, for tsunami relief and reconstruction operations.

as an intelligence officer. He later commanded a Troop of New Zealanders in 12 Field Sqn, RE and undertook valuable work on minefields for which he was **Mentioned in Despatches (MID)**. Lieutenant (LT) R.W.O. Pugh was the first RAE officer to serve with the Infantry in Korea. He joined 3RAR in February 1952 and he and his Platoon used explosives to assist the rifle companies to dig in.

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

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

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

KOREA: THE FORGOTTEN WAR

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

KASHMIR (UNMOGIP) 1950-85

The **United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)** was established to supervise the ceasefire

agreed between India and Pakistan in the States of Jammu and Kashmir. CAPT I.M. (Ian) Stewart was one Australian Sapper who deployed to Kashmir in 1977 and was later Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) Stewart AM who had been the Senior Instructor at SME and CO 2/3 FER. He became actively involved in the Australian Red Cross after retirement from the ADF.

MIDDLE EAST (UNTSO) 1956-PRESENT

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

One of our RACT brothers, CAPT Peter James McCarthy (Bags), was killed whilst undertaking observation duties in Southern Lebanon after his vehicle engaged an anti-tank/vehicle

land mine on 13 January 1988. He was posthumously awarded the **ANZAC Peace Prize** jointly with the overall Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping commitment.

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

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL PEACEKEEPERS HONOUR ROLL

After extensive lobbying by the APPVA along with CAPT McCarthy’s daughter Sarah, and Avril Clark, the mother of Private (PTE) Jamie Clark who died after falling down a sinkhole whilst on patrol in the Solomon Islands in 1995, it wasn’t until 31 August 2013 that the Australian War Memorial recognised Australian Peacekeepers on its honour roll. As a result of their tenacity coupled with overwhelming Australian Public opinion, 48 Peacekeepers (Men & Women) are now included on the **Australian War Memorial Honour Roll** alongside over 100,000 Australians killed in more than a century of conflict at home and abroad.

The Roll includes 4 sailors killed clearing sea mines in 1947, 9 ADF personnel killed in the Sea King helicopter crash in Indonesia in 2005 and Craftsman (CFN) Beau Pride

killed in a vehicle accident in East Timor in 2011.

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

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

Nation building tasks continued at an impressive rate and more name changes occurred: District Engineers Office (1972-76), Provincial Engineers Office – Mendi (1976 – 78) and finally 12th Chief Engineer (CE) Works (1978 – 1999). PNG’s Independence occurred in 1975. 12th CE Works

celebrated its Silver Jubilee between 15-20 September 1988 (Hughes, various). 12th CE Works was awarded an **Institute of Engineers Australia Excellence Award in 1995**.

19TH CHIEF ENGINEER WORKS 1963 – PRESENT

19th CE Works and 12th CE Works shared a common heritage with the establishment of 19 CRE Works at Popondetta in 1963. The 2018 significant unit history of 19th Chief Engineer Works **Highlands to Deserts (The First Fifty-Five Years)** by Michael Tyquin, describes the birth of these two units well.

“*As the Australian Defence Force’s only construction project management and design unit 19th CE Works is a crucial capability within the Royal Australian Engineers and has contracted solutions to a myriad of challenges globally and at home*”, wrote Brigadier Dave Wainwright DSC, Head of Corps – RAE, in his March 2018 foreword to **Highlands to Deserts**.

More recent projects have seen the unit deployed to the islands of Timor Leste and the South West Pacific, Afghanistan and the greater Middle East region. Also, the unit has undertaken a diverse range of military, training and humanitarian tasks at home (Tyquin). 19 CE Works has been awarded a number of well-deserved commendations and awards.

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

The “*Chapel*” in Townsville was opened by the then Defence Minister-Sir Jim Killen. The construction supervisor of the project CPL “Sparrow” Parrish was awarded a **BEM** and the OC of 21 CONST SQN, MAJ Rainer Frisch, was awarded an **MBE**. CPL Parrish went on to be a



(R-L) Sappers Bradley Forster and Kris Bookham on the job searching for explosives during some concurrent training at Multinational Base Tarin Kowt.



Soldiers from the Reconstruction Task Force share a meal with Afghan National Army Combat Engineers after working together at the Baluchi Crossing for the people of Oruzgan Province. Lance Corporal Chris Lewis devoted more effort than most in preparation for his deployment with the Army to Afghanistan - he worked as a concierge at Afghan weddings in Sydney to practice his language skills and improve his understanding of the local culture.

Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) and MAJ Frisch the Commander Divisional Engineers (CDE) of the 1st Division as a Colonel (COL).

CYPRUS 1964 -2017

Peacekeeping is not only the preserve of the ADF. Australian Police have deployed to many United Nations operations and in particular, since 1964, to Cyprus to monitor the ongoing conflict between its Greek and Turkish communities. In 2017 the Australian Government has decided to withdraw this commitment. However, Australian Major General Cheryl Pearce AM, (RACMP) was appointed as the Force Commander of the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) on 8 November 2018, by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. General Pearce is the first female ADF Commander to command a UN Peacekeeping Force.

ZIMBABABWE (RHODESIA) 1979 - 1980

An Australian force deployed to the Commonwealth Monitoring Force-

Rhodesia (CMF-R) and included many Sappers; MAJ Jim Truscott OAM was a young Lieutenant who served the Corps well, particularly with Australian Special Forces, and later scaled Mount Everest. Also, as a Corporal (CPL), Captain Noel Tipton now 203rd Works Section, was an operator on this important Commonwealth Mission.

AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN 1989-93 (OP SALAAM).

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

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

UN mine clearance and security operations worldwide.

NAMIBIA 1989-90 (UNTAG)

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

UN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 1988

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

IRAQ 1991 (UNSCOM – OP BLAZER).

CAPT Brad Hampton and MAJ Col Chidgey, were both awarded **Conspicuous Service Medals (CSM)** for their Explosive Ordnance

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

WESTERN SAHARA 1991-94

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

CAMBODIA 1991-93

A great Sapper General, **LT GEN J.M. Sanderson AC**, who became the Chief of Army, was the inspirational Commander of the UN Force in Cambodia. Sappers and Signallers contributed much of their expertise and courage to this war-ravaged country.

THE BALKANS 1991-95

Many Sappers served with NATO Peacekeepers in the Former Yugoslav Republic (FYR). A nasty and vicious conflict. Sappers made significant contributions to this part of the world.

SOMALIA 1992-94

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

RWANDA 1994/95

In Rwanda CAPT "Alby" Hughes RAE was the Engineer Officer allocated to the mainly Infantry force in this horrible trouble spot in Africa. Australia's Official "**Peace Artist**", Dr George Gittoes AM witnessed the awful Kibeho massacre and with drawing and painting, recorded this human tragedy for the world to see. George has recorded the result of war and in most trouble spots around the globe. He has lived and worked in Afghanistan and Chicago USA. Immediately after the Kibeho massacre George travelled to



Sappers from the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment build a strong point at the front of Camp Phoenix, Dili.

Mozambique who were recovering from a 15 year long civil war.

MOZAMBIQUE 1993-2002 (ONUMOS/UNDP)

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

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

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

HAITI - (UN MISSION IN HAITI [UNMIH]) 1995

COL Marcus Fielding was the RAE Sapper on the ground in Haiti. He

was responsible for numerous infrastructure and works in helping to rehabilitate the country.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - BOUGAINVILLE 1997

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

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - OPERATION SHADDOCK 1998

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

TIMOR LESTE 1999 - PRESENT

LT COL (Steve) Day, as CO 3CER, led the Sapper Force in Timor (The International Force in East Timor [INTERFET]). The Sapper resource included most of the full-time resources of the RAE, throughout the deployment of Australian Troops to East Timor/Timor Leste from 1999 to 2012. Their exploits and tenacity are well recorded such as in the fine book, **Bridging the Gap**, by the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of 3CER at the time, WO1 Kevin Vann, OAM.

A small number of ADF and Police personnel continue to serve in Timor Leste.

MAJ GEN Steve Day DSC, AM is

currently the Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Australian Engineers Australia.

OP GOLD (SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES)

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

AFGHANISTAN - 2001 – PRESENT

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

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

BUSHFIRES -NUMEROUS

Numerous bushfires in all parts of Australia have been supported by Sappers of the RAE. Many stories abound. In Sydney, the ACT and particularly throughout Victoria. Many Sappers fighting fires in Victoria were awarded the Victorian Fire Medal and the National Emergency Medal (NEM).

BANDA ACEH 2004-5

The Tsunami of Boxing Day 1994 rallied international support. The Australian Army Engineer Group consisted of the 1ST Combat Engineer Regiment and elements of

19 CE Works. For their fine work they were awarded a **CDF commendation** and the **Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM)**. The recent CO of 22 ER, LTCOL Michelle Mac Cormack, was intimately involved as a Civil Engineer with 19th CE Works.

SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS) OPERATION ASLAN 2012-PRESENT

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

FLOODS - NUMEROUS

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

POSTSCRIPT/REFLECTION

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

UBIQUE

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

(Australian Federal Police College Memorial, Barton, ACT)

Also: In South Africa Zulu Language – “UBUNTU” “I am because, we are!”

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Australian Army Sappers from the 1st Brigade mark an enemy minefield during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2019.

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The Fullriver HC range are particularly reliable. Designed with AGM technology for high cycling, high cranking and high capacity they provide a genuine no-compromise high-output, dual purpose battery. HC Batteries are an ideal choice for performance, motorsport, heavy duty and 4x4 applications. R&J Batteries has a long and successful history as Fullriver's official oceanic partner and distributor, the two regularly liaise to ensure products continue to meet the highest standards.

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Commandos ready for anything

Sailing through Sydney Harbour, the first sign things were amiss was the dull thump of helicopter blades, barely audible over the water rushing past the bow of the ferry.

Seconds later, 2nd Commando Regiment soldiers disembarked from rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIB) and climbed over the side rails, while their comrades fast roped on to the deck from a hovering Black Hawk, supported by snipers in another Black Hawk providing aerial fire support.

They stormed through the ferry and subdued all the threats they met. Within minutes they had the ferry under control, the threats neutralised and the hostages saved.

The scenario was part of Exercise MARS Rotor Anchor Toothfish (RAT), a key exercise for the Sydney-based Tactical Assault Group – East (TAG-E) – the ADF’s “in extremis” counterterrorism force drawn from 2nd Commando Regiment.

Along with the maritime counterterrorism exercise on Sydney Harbour, MARS RAT also included a ship-at-anchor recovery of a large merchant vessel off Port Kembla, New

South Wales, and a coordinated split assault on two linked strongholds: a high-rise in Melbourne’s CBD and shipping facility in Hobart.

Lead-up component and refresher training meant the commandos were “fully versed” in the activity, according to Corporal B, who said increased access to training resources was great for the team.

“We moved TAG-E down to Melbourne for the high-rise scenario, with some of the team driving and others flying,” he said.

“From there, we assaulted the building from both ends, utilising Black Hawks to get us on top, while other callsigns moved up through the building’s stairwells.

“This sort of training only happens once or twice a year, usually during these big exercises, but having real infrastructure to train on – like a high-rise building in the middle of Melbourne’s CBD – is a real benefit.”

The regiment’s HR/CT (hostage recovery/counterterrorism) company that makes up TAG-E includes a RHIB boat team, commando assaulters, commando snipers, a dedicated medical team, and is supplemented by Navy clearance divers.

This mix of skills gives ground commanders many approach options, with Captain N saying the addition of Navy clearance divers added flexibility.

“The exercise is really about consolidating our key domestic counterterrorism skills,” Captain N said.

“Part of that is the maritime counterterrorism piece, where we have a remit out to 200 nautical miles/ We covered off on ship-alongside and ship-underway assaults, including sub-surface approaches with our divers.

“We were also working on force projection, using helicopters to launch us into top-down assaults to achieve vertical envelopment and using Royal Australian Air Force assets to deploy interstate.

“2nd Commando Regiment companies rotate onto HR/CT duties on TAG-E every few years at the moment, so it’s a good opportunity for us to consolidate our core skills.

While MARS RAT gave the company an opportunity to hone its maritime counterterrorism and aerial insertion skills, it’s not the culmination of their training program.

Because of their unique mandate, it has to be prepared for any eventuality.

“TAG is basically the Australian government’s fix for any situation that is beyond the capability or capacity of the state police,” Private R said.

“I can put my hand on my heart and say the guys I work with are the best. You want to come to work every day and you want to push to achieve your goals because you’re with like-minded people.”

Opposite: Australian Army soldiers from 2nd Commando Regiment secure a Sydney ferry in Middle Harbour, NSW.



An Australian Army Black Hawk helicopter from 6th Aviation Regiment prepares to insert 2nd Commando Regiment soldiers onto a ‘target’ building at the Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre, Melbourne, during counter-terrorism training.



BAC Systems Providing Key Defence Storage



As a leading supplier of industrial storage solutions to the Australian Defence Industry, BAC Systems is continually innovating its Drawer Storage technology and its Tool Display solutions. When designing a new hangar, tool crib or warehouse for under-wing assets, BAC will have an efficient solution that will stand the test of time.

BAC Systems is widely regarded as the premier manufacturer of high-density drawer storage cabinets for tools and spare parts. Defence users recognise that purchasing BAC Drawers is a long-term investment in their facility as the drawers will continue to operate flawlessly for decades. They are strong and durable and work just as well in a fixed store location as they do as a fly-away kit.

People concerned about purchasing a storage system that lasts so long need not be concerned about them becoming outdated. BAC Drawers are fitted with adjustable dividers and partitions. If your tool inventory changes, it is not difficult to adjust your drawers to suit!

BAC Drawers have been independently tested and were found to exceed the requirements of German Naval Standard BV043. Our rugged single drawer locks ensure that, even if you forget to turn the key, not even one drawer will roll open. Our large roller bearings and high tensile rails mean that your drawer rolls very freely

and always smoothly, even under load. BAC Drawer Storage Cabinets can be fitted inside vehicles, pods, fly-away kits and on ships.

BAC Drawers are a fantastic method for storing tools in a store, or in a fly away kit, but sometimes you wish to display your tools for easy recognition, or for tool control purposes. BAC Systems' range of Flightline Tool Boards and BAC Wall Rack panel are the perfect approach to tool display storage in the workshop.

With many aviation service companies giving up on RF and electronic tool control solutions, due to mixed results, the BAC Systems' method of visual tool control is again being adopted in tool stores and in the hangars. Visual tool control is a reliable system that places a negligible increase in reliance upon human cooperation compared to a computerised solution.

The BAC Flightline Toolboard was developed in conjunction with the RAAF to meet their tool storage and tool control needs. Over the decades it has seen refinements and is now widely recognised as the sturdiest and most reliable mobile toolboard on the market. It has unrivalled capacity – 7.4m² of perforated BAC Panel – and comes complete with a huge selection of pins, posts, hooks and toolbars.

The product, immediately successful with the RAAF and RAN, has even become popular in the education, manufacturing and automotive sectors!

If a Flightline Toolboard is too large for your site, or, if you would prefer tool display storage that is permanently fixed in location, BAC offers its BAC Wall Rack either mounted to a wall, mounted above a benchtop, or fitted within a cabinet. There is a BAC Wall Rack solution for every scenario.

BAC has devised many large drawer storage solutions for unique defence assets. Our drawers have been made up to 6 metres in depth, or, can be made up to 4.5 metres in width, depending upon how you wish for your storage to be oriented. Across Australia's RAAF bases, you will probably find a BAC customised large drawer storage solution holding external fuel tanks, FLIR pods, pylons and other underwing assets. If you have to store lots of large, long items in the smallest possible footprint, we will be able to provide you with the right drawer!

To learn more about BAC Drawers and tool display storage solutions for your hangar or tool crib, or even for your fly-away kits, please don't hesitate to contact the BAC Technical Sales Team.





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UN chief calls for 'maximum restraint' in Gulf

Dubai, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The Latest on the tensions between the United States and Iran (all times local):

10:45 P.M.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is again calling for “maximum restraint” in the Persian Gulf region and warning all parties that a new confrontation “would be a catastrophe.”

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq reiterated the U.N. chief’s plea to avoid any escalation when asked Thursday for Guterres’ reaction to Britain saying Iranian vessels tried to block one of its oil tankers in the Gulf.

Haq said the U.N. hopes all nations “will take steps to avoid” an escalation and confrontation.

Responding to a question on whether the secretary-general supports U.S. and other calls to safeguard ships passing through the Gulf, Haq reiterated Guterres’ call to avoid escalation.

“We want, of course, for everyone to allow for the freedom of movement of vessels and we’re hopeful that they will abide by that,” Haq said.

9:15 P.M.

The White House says President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by telephone and discussed Iran’s “malign actions” in the Middle East.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Judd Deere said Thursday the two leaders discussed cooperation “in advancing shared national security interests, including efforts to prevent Iran’s malign actions in the region.”

Netanyahu’s office said in a statement that he “expressed his appreciation for the President’s intention to increase sanctions on Iran.”

The Israeli premier delivered a thinly veiled threat to Iran earlier this week shortly after Tehran announced it had started enriching uranium beyond the limit set by a 2015 agreement with

world powers. Netanyahu has been a vocal critic of Iran and has vowed that he would never allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons.

8:05 P.M.

A spokesman for the Royal Gibraltar Police says officers have arrested the captain and chief officer of a supertanker suspected of breaching European Union sanctions by carrying a shipment of Iranian crude oil to Syria.

Patrick Payas tells the Associated Press on Thursday that the two are in police custody while investigations continue into the movements of the Grace 1 supertanker. He says they have not been formally charged.

Payas did not have information about their nationalities. He said other crew members remain aboard the ship.

The vessel was intercepted by the British overseas territory on the southern tip of Spain July 4. A senior Spanish official said the operation was requested by the United States.

The EU and others have imposed sanctions on Syrian President Bashar Assad’s government over its continued crackdown against civilians.

6:45 P.M.

A Hezbollah lawmaker says U.S. sanctions targeting two of the group’s members in the Lebanese parliament are spiteful and won’t force a change in their ideology or views.

Ali Mokdad spoke Thursday after the weekly meeting of Iran-backed Hezbollah’s parliamentary bloc.

The U.S. Treasury Department said it is targeting two Hezbollah lawmakers and a security official suspected of using their positions to further the aims of the militant group and Tehran’s “malign activities.”

Although the U.S. has been cranking up the pressure on the Iran-backed group, it is the first time it has targeted sitting members of parliament.

Hezbollah has been gaining seats

in Lebanon’s parliament since 1992. The group and its allies won a majority in 2018 elections while Hezbollah secured three Cabinet seats, the largest number it has ever controlled.

Mokdad said targeting the head of Hezbollah parliamentary bloc Mohamad Raad and lawmaker Amin Sherri with sanctions is a “continued assault on Lebanon, its people and their choices.”

3:30 P.M.

The European Union says it is making some progress on its controversial barter-type system to trade with Tehran and get around U.S. sanctions as part of its efforts to keep the Iran nuclear deal alive.

EU foreign policy secretary general Helga Schmid said Thursday that beyond the 10 EU nations that are already part of the system, she could “share with you that more, also non-EU member states, will join.”

Iran has breached the deal’s limitations in an attempt to get other nations to provide economic incentives to offset U.S. sanctions. The Trump administration withdrew from the landmark nuclear agreement last year.

Apart from the three EU member nations that are part of the deal, Britain, Germany and France, seven more EU member states have recently committed to take part.

2 P.M.

China is calling on all sides to avoid raising tensions in the Persian Gulf after Britain said three Iranian vessels sought to disrupt the passage of a British oil tanker through the Strait of Hormuz.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang says Beijing hopes the parties involved can “maintain cool and restraint” and safeguard peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Geng told reporters Thursday that China, a huge customer for oil and gas shipped through the strait, recognizes the influence events in the



region can have on the stability of the global supply of resources.

China was a signatory to the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and has sought to keep it in effect, despite the U.S. pulling out and re-imposing sanctions.

1:20 P.M.

The Kremlin is calling for restraint following a brief standoff between British and Iranian naval vessels near the Persian Gulf.

The British navy said it prevented three Iranian paramilitary vessels from impeding the passage of a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz early Thursday. The incident came a day after Iran's president warned of repercussions for the seizure of its own supertanker.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Thursday that "freedom of navigation should be ensured in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz," which he said is crucial for the global economy. Peskov says Moscow is aware of both Britain's statement and Iran's denial that it tried to impede the ship's passage.

Peskov called on "all parties" to show restraint and settle their disputes by negotiations.

Around 20% of all oil traded worldwide passes through the Strait of Hormuz.

9:35 A.M.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard has denied British allegations of a confrontation in the Strait of Hormuz, saying if it had received orders to seize any ships it would have executed them immediately.

The semi-official Fars news agency carried a statement from the Guard's navy early Thursday saying "there were no clashes with alien boats, especially English boats."

Britain says three Iranian vessels unsuccessfully tried to impede the passage of a British commercial vessel through the Strait of Hormuz and only turned away after receiving "verbal warnings" from a UK navy vessel.

Last week, authorities in Gibraltar intercepted an Iranian supertanker that was believed to be breaching European Union sanctions by carrying a shipment of Tehran's crude oil to Syria. Tehran had warned of repercussions.

The tanker's detention comes at a particularly sensitive time as tensions between the U.S. and Iran grow over

the unraveling of a 2015 nuclear deal, which President Trump withdrew from last year.

9:20 A.M.

Britain says three Iranian vessels unsuccessfully tried to impede the passage of a British commercial vessel through the Strait of Hormuz.

The British government said in a statement Thursday that the Iranian vessels only turned away after receiving "verbal warnings" from a UK navy vessel accompanying the commercial vessel British Heritage.

The statement says "we are concerned by this action and continue to urge the Iranian authorities to de-escalate the situation in the region."

It marked the latest escalation of tensions in the Persian Gulf over the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, which the Trump administration abandoned last year.

Authorities in Gibraltar seized an Iranian supertanker last week for allegedly trying to breach Western sanctions on oil shipments to Syria. Tehran had warned there would be repercussions.

apnews.com/

QinetiQ Electric Battlefield

A wave of electrically powered technologies promises to transform the way in which wars are fought. But are Defence's platforms ready to enter the future Electric Battlefield?

Technology is changing the way that modern Militaries operate. New sensor systems, mobility platforms, command and control systems and directed energy weapons are transforming the capability of military forces but they are also increasing their vulnerability to interruptions in energy supplies. The growing financial, environmental and human costs of transporting and burning fossil fuels are forcing governments to seek cheaper and more sustainable energy sources that create smaller logistical and carbon footprints. From the smallest drone to the largest aircraft carrier, the space available for power sources on board platforms is generally very limited. Introducing more batteries or generators to a platform adds weight, reducing mobility and range. The challenge in all cases is to increase energy provision while maintaining or reducing the volume and mass of the power sources.

Using electric drive systems in ships offers the same design flexibility that it does in land vehicles and can also make the ship far more

manoeuvrable. Electric propulsion is fast becoming a common feature of modern naval vessels, adopted by US Navy for its Zumwalt-class destroyers, the Royal Navy for its Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carrier and Type 45 frigate and the new Australian Hunter Class Future Frigates.

“On a frigate or similar sized warship, power availability is more limited, so the energy devoted to something like pointing, firing and cooling a directed energy system must not compromise other vital systems.” Dr Colin Cockroft, QinetiQ Australia

The performance of a large naval platform is less affected by small weight increases than an aircraft or armoured land vehicle, meaning energy provision for additional sensing and computing power is unlikely to have a significant impact.

However, space is limited and the types of equipment a large ship may be required to support, such as a directed energy weapon or electromagnetic aircraft launch system, have the highest power demand and fastest delivery requirements of any current or future platform-mounted capability.

Multi-stage hybrid systems that combine generators, high-power batteries, super capacitors and flywheels will be required to service competing storage and delivery requirements.

The US Navy's Gerald R Ford-class aircraft carrier has produced huge leaps forward in power provision for large ships. Its reactors generate 25% more power than those on the Nimitz-class carrier, while reliance on steam and associated infrastructure is significantly reduced to save space and weight. Its electromagnetic aircraft launch system is claimed to save 30% of the interior hull volume, while its power storage and delivery system is capable of supporting directed energy weapons and even electromagnetic rail guns. Overall power availability on the carrier is twice that which is required by existing systems, leaving plenty of headroom for the introduction of future technologies.

On frigates or similar-sized warships, multi-stage hybrid systems comprising combinations of generators, high-power batteries, super capacitors and flywheels will be required to service competing storage and delivery requirements. Distributing energy from these multiple sources will be achieved through a precise understanding of ship-wide power usage and the states of the various sources.

Manufacturers of unmanned maritime systems are leading the way in the use of solar power and other renewable energies, like the AutoNaut surface vehicle, propelled entirely by the motion of the waves. Such innovations from the commercial sector are likely to cross over into defence, and we can expect to see higher power density batteries, smart sensors and renewable energy playing a big part in meeting Defence's future power requirements.

Visit the QinetiQ stand at Pacific 2019 to learn more about Power and Energy, and the reality of the electric battlefield.



Documentary underscores importance of women in UN Peacekeeping

According to the UN, between 1957 and 1989, only 20 uniformed women served as UN peacekeepers. While that number has grown to nearly five percent of total uniformed personnel in UN peacekeeping today, the gender gap persists.

In the film “Journey of a Thousand Miles: Peacekeepers,” we meet three women from Bangladesh, who formed one of the first all-female, Muslim majority uniformed police units to deploy to the field, in this case, the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti. (Editorial note: the mission featured in the film, MINUSTAH, closed in October 2017. A follow-on mission has since deployed in its place and is set to close in October 2019.)

Though their time abroad is not without hardship – they arrive in Haiti without sufficient training and must cope with being thousands of miles away from their families – the women are also given authority and opportunity during deployment not yet possible in their own country.

Moreover, we witness how the presence of female peacekeepers helped to successfully build relationships with the local communities that were critical to rebuilding Haiti after the earthquake.

This is among the reasons why the documentary feels both hopeful and discouraging all at once – knowing that women can have a real, tangible difference in the field, but that so little progress has been made over the past few decades.

The Better World Campaign held a screening of the film and discussion on July 29 to discuss the important questions raised by the documentary. Joining the panel was Geeta Gandbhir, the film’s producer; Fiona Pearce, Squadron Leader and Military Gender Advisor, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations; and Xanthe Scharff, Executive Director of the Fuller Project. The discussion was moderated by Indira Lakshmanan, Executive Editor of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.



From left: Xanthe Scharff; Chandrima Das; Indira Lakshmanan; Fiona Pearce; and Geeta Gandbhir. *UN Photo*

As one of the filmmakers on the ground in Haiti, Gandbhir provided an important lens into how the peacekeepers shattered conventional norms for not only women and mothers, but for women from predominantly Muslim communities. Both Scharff and Lakshmanan also touched on this issue, and cited recent reporting from Afghanistan that showed these are challenges are pervasive globally, especially for women in the security sector.

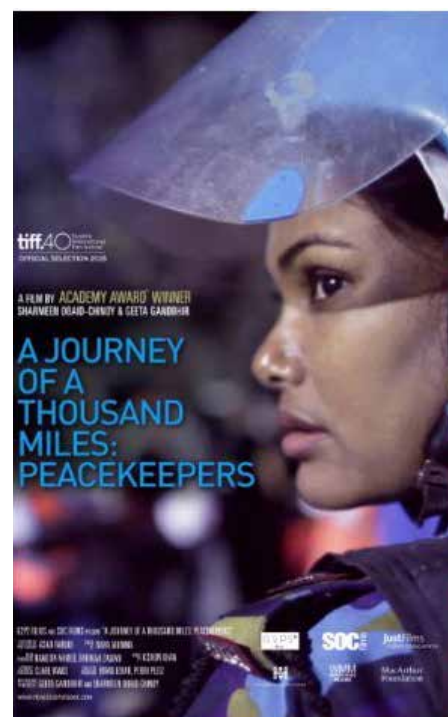
Another theme of the conversation was how despite these challenges, women have the power to bring peace and stability to conflict areas.

Pearce in particular highlighted how the UN supports initiatives that incentivize troop contributing countries to include women in their ranks. The idea behind doing so is two-fold: first, women bring unique perspectives and experiences, and second they have the potential to inspire a new generation of girls and women interested in the field. For instance, in Liberia the presence of female peacekeepers encouraged local women to follow in their path upon the deployment of the first all-female force in 2007. As a result, the Liberian National Police experienced

a dramatic increase in women joining its forces.

While the journey was not easy, both the film and the panel discussion are important reminders of the need to not only make women’s voices heard, but to call upon their examples for the future.

www.pulitzercenter.org.



The former Australian Peacekeeper who hasn't forgotten the people of Timor-Leste

After being deployed as a Peacekeeper in Timor-Leste, Shannon French set up two businesses to give back to the country - and help heal his own trauma.

This August marks the 20th anniversary of the 1999 Timor-Leste independence referendum, which followed violent clashes across the Southeast Asian country, in particular in the capital Dili.

Australia intervened as peacekeepers in its establishment as a nation when its people were being murdered by pro-Indonesian militias.

One of them was Melbourne man Shannon French, who in 2000 served among thousands of Australians fighting militia on the Timor-Leste front lines, as part of the 6th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment.

The violent images of war he witnessed have changed his life forever.

"The hardest part is the human side that you can't train for," Shannon, now 42, told SBS's Small Business Secrets.

"These places had been burned to the ground. There was nothing left in a lot of these villages."

"When we left in October [2000] the mission was still in the balance, the kids were crying and coming on to the base and bawling in tears, and it was really hard to leave, you felt like you were deserting them."

Shannon struggled to return to his normal life. He said he constantly questioned the behaviour and motives of people around him, had trouble sleeping and withdrew from social activities.



Shannon French at work at the Wild Timor cafe in Melbourne.

He was diagnosed with hypervigilance, one of several symptoms that make up post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Professor David Forbes of Phoenix Australia, the national centre for post-traumatic mental health, says acquiring PTSD in a peacekeeping mission is just as likely for those who have served in combat situations.

"The rates of PTSD in peacekeepers is 17 per cent, so I think when we think about peacekeeping, we miss the fact that there is a lot of traumatic exposure."

So Shannon set out to heal himself through philanthropy.

GIVING BACK

In 2012, Shannon and three other former soldiers had the idea to help people in Timor-Leste harvest wild grown coffee, originally planted by the Portuguese some 200 years ago. Locals receive a fair price for their exports.

"They just called us crazy foreigners. They were probably right!"

He set up Wild Timor Coffee Co. in Coburg, north of Melbourne.

Through the café, Shannon has raised more than \$100,000 for water

projects, schools and even a birthing centre in Timor-Leste.

But the business of coffee production is seasonal and has its limitations. So last year he and business partner Steven Dean, a former Australian Navy clearance diver, sought to expand his business ventures to a product that grows wild all year round; coconuts.

They built a factory in Lospalos, about 250 kilometres east of the capital Dili, employing women to produce coconut oil and providing a wage to anyone willing to collect coconuts.

The business is supporting around 50 families, but Shannon wanted to do more. So he now helps his biggest competitor in Timor-Leste to export her products to Australia.

Mana Dortia Kесе runs a coconut oil business called HAFOTI in seven districts across Timor-Leste, and is grateful for the support from a man she calls 'Maun Shannon' or big brother Shannon.

"He said 'Mana we need to send coconut oil to Australia', and I say 'oh this is good news'."

She plans to expand and hire more women.



Shannon French at Lospalos Coconut Oil in Timor Leste.

“After they have income we monitor them and we see their house improve, their children going to school, they getting access to health.”

he Wild Timor café is a hub for humanitarian activities, holding fund-raising events and donating money to disadvantaged people.

Barista Lauren Harrison said small donations make a big difference to people living in poverty.

“That’s one of the best perks about working here. It’s just awesome to know we’re putting our money and the good we’re doing is going to benefit someone else.”

And for Shannon, giving back is helping to overcome his own demons.

“When I walked around Timor, or when the army or Timor was mentioned, I was always going to have those visions, but now I have a positive mindset,” he said.

Abby Dinham
Source: SBS



Shannon French in Timor-Leste in 2000.



Precise Machining & Manufacturing Defence Manufacturing Partner

In today's digital age, there has never been more demand for that optimal 'Customer Experience'. While buzzwords abound and much has been written on the importance of 'CX' in sectors such as IT and retail, where does the manufacturing sector fit in comparison? While many in the sector have yet to make the transition from product focus to customer focus, for the team at Precise Machining and Manufacturing, the Customer Experience is what drives their whole business. Their strategy focuses around the key elements: knowing the customer, formulating a deep understanding of customer needs, staying engaged with the customer, and measuring customer satisfaction.

"What we excel at is maintaining a close relationship with our clients and working side-by-side with them to achieve their goals, to the level that we are seen as part of the team and visit at their facilities on either a daily basis or as often as required to help them to work through their pain points and offer fast and experienced assistance. This level of customer care is paramount in our industry" says Managing Director Terry Tinney.

The open and transparent relationship Precise has with their customers extends to all aspects of the business, including price, performance, quality and delivery. To this end, Precise have developed their own Manufacturing Resource Planning (MRP) system and software, which provides excellent job costing, performance metrics and traceability, guarantees timely delivery to customers, and ensures optimal use of their equipment and resources.

Another key component of the company's strategy is diversification, and the proven ability to provide excellent solutions in niche markets.

In the company's 37-year history, Precise have played a key role in producing many different items, from standard household items like plastic clothes pegs, showerheads, safety hats and the tooling for Bic Pens, to car engine blocks, defence and aerospace assemblies and even satellite componentry. Adaptability to new markets sees Precise's customers come from such diverse fields as Automotive, Defence, Domestic, Electronics, Food, Medical, Mining, Renewable Energies and Water. For over 10 years Precise manufactured titanium devices for renowned professor Dr David David AC of the Australian Cranio Facial unit, which is testament to their exacting standards. They have undertaken many projects in healthcare, including successfully delivering new knuckle joints out of specialised chromium cobalt steels for transplant into patients with severe arthritis as well as laboratory and sleep apnoea equipment.

Manufacturing in Australia has undergone a significant transformation over the last decade, particularly with the shutdown of the automotive industry, and cheaper production costs in Asia. Yet Precise has been one company that has managed to reverse this trend, using their knowledge from various sectors teamed with exceptional customer support, in order to achieve results for customers that couldn't be matched overseas.

Terry says, "we have been a leader in niche markets for many years and know that by working closely with our customers we can apply our diverse experience skill sets to achieve the outcomes needed, at a cost competitive price".

In order to strengthen their offering to customers even further, particularly in the defence market, Precise have

developed a comprehensive ISO 9001 system, employed a dedicated Business Development Manager to service defence clients, and undertaken a \$2 million machine and IT system upgrade, giving them the very latest CNC 5-Axis Machining Centres, Software and CNC Wire cutting / EDM capabilities. They now have 5 x 5 Axis Machining Centres, one of the highest numbers in South Australia. They also purchased specialised machinery in the Linear Motor Wirecut and EDM technology, which can cut intricate shapes from materials that can be too difficult to machine using other methods. The upgrade offers increased flexibility in services, and an assurance of reliability for customers.

The icing on the cake in their defence strategy is the company's keen awareness of the importance of collaboration in today's business environment. In order to reduce the risk that small companies can create due to lack of capacity, capability and financial standing, defence is looking for more SMEs to collaborate and form joint ventures. Terry believes that Precise is in a great position to fulfil the ISO 44001 – Collaborative Business Relationship Management System requirements.

"We've been collaborating for decades and have systems in which we partner with other companies of similar mindsets and work together to win Overseas and Australian larger programs and distribute back to all members. We worked out very early on that we would be more successful if we worked together"

Alex Krasser
Business Development Manager
Precise Machining & Manufacturing Pty Ltd
Precise Plastic Tooling Pty Ltd
Precise Tooling Australia
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Royal Navy will escort British Ships through Strait Of Hormuz

Tensions in the region have escalated recently, including an incident where a British-flagged tanker was seized by Iranian forces.

The Royal Navy will escort British-flagged vessels travelling through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Government said the move was in response to the "heightened threat to commercial shipping in the Gulf".

The UK has HMS Montrose deployed to the region, with plans for HMS Duncan, HMS Kent and RFA Wave Knight to join the vessel later this summer.

Tensions in the region have escalated over the past month, including an incident where a British-flagged tanker was seized by Iranian forces.

A Government spokesperson said: "Freedom of navigation is crucial for the global trading system and world economy, and we will do all we can to defend it."

"The Department for Transport has therefore updated its advice to confirm that the Royal Navy has been tasked to accompany British-flagged ships through the Strait of Hormuz, either individually or in groups, should sufficient notice be given of their passage."

The seizing of the British-flagged Stena Impero came after UK forces seized an Iranian oil tanker near Gibraltar.

The tanker seized by British forces was allegedly heading for Syria and going against European Union sanctions.

The UK wants to create a European-led maritime protection mission to ensure safe shipping in the Gulf.

France, Italy and Denmark support the idea, three EU diplomats said on Tuesday, while Germany says is too early to discuss the proposal.

<https://www.forces.net/news/services/navy/royal-navy-will-escort-british-ships-through-strait-hormuz>

Right: Iranian tanker Grace I was seized by British forces off the coast of Gibraltar earlier this month.



A British-flagged tanker was seized by Iranian forces last week. US Navy



Size does matter:

A frank conversation about ADF manpower

A period of modernisation combined with the increasing capability of regional peer and near-peer competitors is challenging the traditional technological advantage of the ADF – meanwhile, many continue to question the value of increasing the size of the ADF, despite having ample manpower to do so.

Australia as both a continent and a nation is unique in its position, enjoying relative geographic isolation from the flash points of global and regional conflagration of the 20th century – blessed with unrivalled resource wealth and industrial potential, the nation has been able to embrace vastly different approaches to the nation's strategic role and responsibilities.

Modern warfare has rapidly evolved over the last three decades, from high-tempo, manoeuvre-based operations that leveraged the combined capabilities of air, sea, land and space forces to direct troops, equipment and firepower around the battlefield during the first Gulf War, to low intensity humanitarian and peacekeeping operations in southern Europe and the south Pacific, and the eventual rise of asymmetrical, guerilla conflicts in the mountains of Afghanistan and streets of Iraq.

However, the growing conventional and hybrid capabilities of peer and

near-peer competitors – namely Russia and China – combined with the growing modernisation, capability enhancements and reorganisation of force structures in the armies of nations including India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand, all contribute to the changing nature of contemporary warfare.

This perfect storm of factors, swirling like a maelstrom across Australia's northern borders, has largely gone unnoticed by the Australian public, beyond the odd port visit by American or, as recently happened, Chinese naval vessels that seem to cause momentary flurries of concern – meanwhile, Australia's strategic and political leaders appear to be caught in an increasingly dangerous paradigm of thinking, one of continuing US-led dominance and Australia maintaining its position as a supplementary power.

THE LAY OF THE LAND

As it stands, the personnel budget for the Australian Defence Force for 2018-19 is \$11,776 million, supporting 14,689 for the Royal Australian Navy, 14,295 for the Royal Australian Air Force and 30,810 Australian Army – for a total ADF strength of 59,794 personnel. Additionally, the budget supports 16,393 within the Australian Public Service (APS) and 19,850

reservists. By comparison, Indonesia, our nearest regional power neighbour, has an active military of 395,500 – broken up into approximately 300,000 in the Indonesian Army, 74,000 for the Indonesian Air Force and 37,850 for the Indonesian Navy.

Looking towards an economic and political comparison – the Republic of Korea has a similarly sized economy and political position to that of Australia, however as a result of its ongoing struggle against North Korea, it has a significantly larger, more muscular military of approximately 599,000 personnel in active service. This is broken up into 464,000 for the Republic of Korea Army, approximately 70,000 for the Republic of Korea Navy (including Marines) and 65,000 for the Republic of Korea Air Force.

In light of the relatively small numbers fielded by the ADF, the question about personnel numbers becomes an increasingly important one – with the key question becoming: as the Indo-Pacific becomes increasingly contested and Australia's interests are challenged, is the ADF large enough to reliably execute the mission in a radically evolving geopolitical and strategic order?

POLITICAL WILL V PUBLIC WILL?

Despite the economic and political similarities between Australia and Korea – one thing becomes glaringly apparent is the latter's direct exposure to an ever-present and existential threat has prompted the development of a highly capable and sizeable military with increasing expeditionary capabilities and significant flow-on benefits for the Korean economy, which is now the world's 11th largest with a GDP per capita of approximately US\$25,000.

This raises yet another question: is it a lack of political will or public will preventing the development of the armed forces and supporting industry that Australia is going to require in the coming decades? This is particularly





relevant as the qualitative and quantitative edge of the US narrows in light of developments by peer and near-peer adversaries in China and Russia – two nations with their own economic, political and strategic ambitions for both the Indo-Pacific and the broader global order.

As an example, if Australia was to increase the combined strength of the Australian Defence Force to 100,000, this would still represent approximately 0.4 per cent of the Australian population serving in the military – it would, however, enable a broader range of tactical and strategic capabilities and would serve to develop a truly independent Australian defence capability in an increasingly troubled period in modern history.

It won't be an easy sell for both Australia's political leadership and the public at large, however the costs of not investing in and adequately developing the nation's capacity to act as an independent actor – with its own economic, political and strategic designs in the Indo-Pacific, the region intrinsically linked to our own enduring prosperity, security and stability – will spell disaster for modern Australia and the standards of living many have become accustomed to.

YOUR THOUGHTS

The ADF serves an important role within Australia's policy-making apparatus and is critical to long-term national security, and while the continued defence budget growth is expected to be widely welcomed by industry, the growing challenges to the Indo-Pacific region are raising questions about whether Australia's commitment to 2 per cent of GDP is suitable to support the growing role and responsibilities that Australia will be required to undertake as regional security load sharing between the US and allies becomes a reality.

Dr Malcolm Davis of ASPI reinforced this, telling Defence Connect at the Avalon Airshow in late February, "The government aspiration of spending 2 per cent of GDP on defence is simply not enough any more. We need to look at planning our force structure, our capability requirements and spending on a number of factors, including allied strengths and potential adversarial capabilities, not arbitrary figures.

"It is time for us to throw open the debate about our force structure. It is time to ask what more do we need to do and what do we need to be capable of doing."

The nation is defined by its relationship with the region, with access to the growing economies and to strategic sea-lines-of-communication supporting over 90 per cent of global trade, a result of the cost effective and reliable nature of sea transport. Indo-Pacific Asia is at the epicentre of the global maritime trade, with about US\$5 trillion worth of trade flowing through the South China Sea and the strategic waterways and choke points of south-east Asia annually.

Enhancing Australia's capacity to act as an independent power, incorporating great power-style strategic economic, diplomatic and military capability serves not only as a powerful symbol of Australia's sovereignty and evolving responsibilities in supporting and enhancing the security and prosperity of Indo-Pacific Asia – shifting the public discussion away from the default Australian position of "it is all a little too difficult, so let's not bother" will provide unprecedented economic, diplomatic, political and strategic opportunities for the nation.

Stephen Kuper
Defence Connect

Victorinox - the original Swiss Army Knife



The year is 1884, in the town of Ibach Switzerland, Karl Elsener and his mother Victoria open a cutlery

workshop. He begins developing a new kind of knife – one that offers as many functions as possible in a compact, easy to carry package.

By 1891, the knife is ready and Elsener delivers his innovation to the Swiss army for the first time. He patents it a few years later, legally protecting the names 'Officer's Knife' and 'Sport Knife.'

Following the death of his mother in 1909, Karl introduces the brand name 'Victoria' in her honour. He registers the famous cross and shield emblem as a trademark in the same year. It takes another decade for the company to evolve into its current form. Karl coins the name 'Victorinox' in 1921 by combining his mother's name with "inox," the French term for stainless steel, which the company now uses in its products.

In the wake of WWII, the freshly-named 'Original Swiss Army Knife' continues its successful expansion around the world. The small red knives from Ibach become an international sensation during the first half of the 20th century and launch Victorinox to new heights. With the staggering success of the Swiss Army Knife, Victorinox begins to venture into new territories.

Today, Victorinox produces and sells unique, high quality products worldwide which are of practical use in differing areas of life: Swiss Army Knives, Cutlery, Watches, Travel Gear and Fragrances.



Set sail with Victorinox Navy Camouflage Collection

Maritime shades of blues are the dominant colours that characterise the new "Navy Camouflage" collection by Victorinox. The maritime theme showcases some of the brand's most popular products from small to large in true nautical style

SKIPPER IN NAVY CAMOUFLAGE, RRP \$185.00



The only thing more beautiful than a perfect day on the water is knowing you're ready for any imperfections. The Skipper pocket knife is like a crew in your hand, combining typical Victorinox functionality with sailing-specific tools like a shackle opener and a marlin spike. So you're always ready for knots that mock you and shackles that refuse to let go.

CLASSIC SD IN NAVY CAMOUFLAGE, RRP \$52.95

Nautical meets camouflage with this Navy Camouflage Collection. Featuring a Classic SD, Huntsman, and Skipper, there's a practical companion no matter what the task may be. Featuring an understated



look in grey and blue tones, this collection offers a twist to the standard green camouflage. Whether you're in the Navy, or just like the sleek military look, this collection will allow you to tackle any situation life throws at you.

HUNTSMAN IN NAVY CAMOUFLAGE, RRP \$99.95



The trusty Huntsman is packed with functionality (including two blades, a wood saw, and a can opener), and is ready to help you navigate the seven seas and get you back home safely.

VX TOURING UTILITY BACKPACK IN NAVY CAMOUFLAGE, RRP \$429.00



Travel hands-free with the VX Touring Utility Backpack or slide its rear sleeve over the handle system of your wheeled luggage, this backpack is a stylish yet practical travel companion you can trust.

To view the complete range of Navy Camouflage Collection visit

www.victorinox.com



VICTORINOX



VICTORINOX



NAVY CAMOUFLAGE

Classic, Huntsman, Skipper





Australian Army soldier Corporal Kyle Hewitt from the 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, covers a doorway whilst integrated with United States marines during a simulated assault.

Pacific allies combine urban warfare skills

In today's world of irregular warfare, understanding how to navigate and fight in an urban environment is more crucial than ever.

Exercise Carabaroo, run by 7th Brigade for the first time, developed those skills with troops from the United States, Australia and the Philippines.

The participants conducted multilateral urban warfare training to develop drills, enhance interoperability and increase lethality within the urban environment.

The three-week exercise began with live-fire close combat range shooting before progressing through a series of urban operations training serials at both the Gallipoli Barracks and Shoalwater Bay urban operations training facilities.

Commander 7th Brigade Brigadier Andrew Hocking said the exercise culminated with a coordinated trilateral assault on a fictional urban village under siege by role-playing enemy forces.

"This all started days ago," Brigadier Hocking said.

"The team did their planning, battle procedure, rehearsals, flew in using US Marine Corps Ospreys, marched on to the objective and then fought through the urban village as three nations side by side.

"They are all obviously now in the process of learning and listening to each other's lessons and hopefully getting better by hearing that.

"Carabaroo is about learning from each other, building trust in each other, understanding each other's different cultures and shared values and then bringing that together in a high-end combat scenario, probably the most complex of them all in urban warfare."

Lieutenant Colonel Tommy Crosby, an operations officer with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the urban assault training would have



An Australian Army soldier from the 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and a soldier from the Armed Forces of the Philippines move tactically together during a simulated assault. *CPL Tristan Kennedy*

a real effect on their ability to conduct operations in their home country.

"It's important for us, especially as our warfare now is a changing environment," Lieutenant Colonel Crosby said.

"We are now conducting operations in urban areas. Just like what happened in our southern area in the Philippines.

"The training is the best welfare we can give to our men. We really need to enhance our skills, particularly in urban operations. This is the best way that we can get that, from Australia and the United States.

"Carabaroo is about learning from each other, building trust in each other, understanding each other's different cultures and shared values."

Training scenarios incorporated the US Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey.

Lieutenant Colonel Brian Grayson, US Marine Rotation Force–Darwin ground combat element commander, said the aircraft was put to good use

on Carabaroo.

"The capability for them to land just about anywhere is a capability that allows you to get as close as possible to the objective," Lieutenant Colonel Grayson said.

"It also has speed that allows you to move there really quickly or to extract pretty quickly."

Lieutenant Colonel Grayson said he enjoyed working with the Australians on Carabaroo because of their work ethic and positive attitude.

"Great people to work with, phenomenal field skills and just the 'mateship' – the idea that you welcome us with open arms," he said.

"We've taken away a lot of stuff so far that we are going to take back to the United States when we leave."

Exercise Carabaroo involved more than 360 members from the US Marine Corps, Armed Forces of the Philippines and 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

Defence

Power Equipment Unveils Three High-Performance Diesel Outboards

The Australian and New Zealand's marine industries now have access to three of the world's most advanced diesel outboard motors through the distributor network of the country's leading industrial and marine engine distributor, Power Equipment.

The motors are:

- The German engineered Neander Dtorque 50hp diesel outboard, globally marketed by Yanmar.
- The OXE 150hp and 200hp diesel outboards, designed and built by Cimco Marine in Sweden.
- The CXO300hp diesel outboard, built by Cox Powertrain in the United Kingdom.

Power Equipment General Manager Luke Foster says, "These are the first high output diesel-powered outboards that were specifically designed and manufactured from scratch, rather than existing engines that were modified to accept diesel fuel."

Each of these companies has invested years of research and development to create diesel outboards that can meet the demanding requirements of commercial operators and military vessels.

"We are very pleased to have secured the distribution rights for these innovative outboards. We are the only distributor in the world to have distribution agreements with all three of these brands," Luke says.



The Dtorque 50hp and OXE 150hp and 200hp are now available for order in Australia and New Zealand, and the 300hp Cox will be available for orders from mid-2019.

Power Equipment Product Manager Noel Van Der Meulen says, "Each of these outboards offer significant benefits that have not been available before. Because they are diesel-powered, these outboards deliver superior torque and lower fuel consumption than comparable petrol-powered outboards. They also provide operators greater safety because of their lower fire risks.

For example, they meet NATO's single fuel directive and the latest emission standards. Most of all, they deliver the endurance, reliability and

longevity that you would expect from a high performance engine."

The Dtorque 50hp is the first turbo diesel outboard with dual crankshafts. This configuration gives exceptionally smooth and vibration-free performance. The remarkable torque output (which peaks at 111Nm at 2500rpm) is greater than the best performing 70hp four-stroke petrol outboard on the market today.

The OXE 200hp diesel is the world's first diesel outboard engine in the high horsepower segment. It has a unique belt driven propulsion system coupled to a full hydraulic multi-plate clutch transmission.

This means the engine can be mounted horizontally, doing away with vertical shafts and bevelled gears, and allows for the full torque of the diesel to be transferred to the propeller shaft. It also provides crash stop capability, smooth gear engagement and low speed control.

Finally, the CXO300 is the highest power density diesel outboard engine ever developed and brings game changing potential for commercial and military applications.

The technology is based on a four-stroke, V8 architecture and the engine has a power-to-weight ratio that is comparable with high performing petrol engines, but at the same time delivers fuel consumption cost benefits that are around half that of a state-of-the-art petrol engine.



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Dtorque (50HP)



The Dtorque 50hp is the first turbo diesel outboard with dual crankshafts.

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With the growing demand, the order books are filling fast and the next deliveries are now currently out to Mid - 2020.

Mastering battlefield complexity for the Army in Motion



Technology gives soldiers ability to conduct real-time battle analysis

Cubic Defence Australia has partnered with the Australian Army to support the tactical capability of individual soldiers on the battlefield – enhancing lethality and survivability.

Real-time battle analysis was delivered by the military's civilian partners during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2019 (TS19). Cubic Defence Australia employees calibrated weapons on board HMAS Adelaide ahead of a large-scale amphibious assault at Langham Beach, Queensland.

The team sighted the systems that were fitted on small arms for the amphibious battle group. It allowed soldiers to fire lasers and for their accuracy and effect to be measured on sensors worn by the other troops.

Operations logistics manager for Cubic Defence Australia Ben Ouwinga said the systems gave an overarching and real-time view of command and control, as well as force-on-force engagement.

"We also have the ability to instrument 58 high-fidelity vehicle kits,

ranging from an M1 Abrams tank to ASLAVs [light armoured vehicles] to M113s [armoured personnel carriers] for full shoot-and-be-shot engagement capabilities," Ouwinga said.

Every four seconds, a ping tracked everything from ground speeds to engagements, which was relayed back to an exercise command centre where a team of analysis experts captured and recorded all the events.

"For Talisman Sabre, that means Forces Command can see how the forces are working together because we can give them a holistic analysis. We are able to capture and identify mission-essential tasks stipulated by each of the training organisations of what it is that they want to achieve," Ouwinga added.

Cubic liaison officer Major Pat McErlean, of the Combat Training Centre, said Defence had a long relationship with the company.

"This is a very important part of Talisman Sabre because it allows Army to understand the mechanics of the manoeuvres as they unfold

in a real-time environment. My understanding is that Cubic are at the forefront of this technology, which is only getting better and better," MAJ McErlean said.

TS19 is a bilateral combined Australian and US training activity. It is designed to practice respective military services and associated agencies in planning and conducting Combined and Joint Task Force operations, and improve the combat readiness and interoperability between Australian and US forces.

Occurring every two years, Talisman Sabre is a major exercise reflecting the closeness of the alliance and strength of the enduring military relationship. TS19 is the eighth iteration of the exercise and consists of a Field Training Exercise incorporating force preparation (logistic) activities, amphibious landings, land force manoeuvre, urban operations, air operations, maritime operations and Special Forces activities.

Defence Connect



TRANSITION:

a journey, not a destination.

"Defence Bank has always been part of my life. It was one area I did not have to change when I left the ADF."

Defence Bank has 'served those who protect us' since 1975. As the bank for ADF members, their family and friends, they know more than any other bank about what members go through when they decide to leave the ADF. Their strongest advice is to see transition as a journey, not a destination. Here, Defence Bank members share their knowledge and experience about the entire transition journey.

"The hardest decision was actually making the decision to depart the ADF. Then reality sets in as you leave the base and hand in your pass." Other comments from ADF members interviewed were around the difficulty of trying to accept the lack of routine in civilian life. "The army provides support for all your personal admin, whereas civilian life responsibility lies with you." "I left the service after 38 years and at times was a little unsure of what was next." "Doing all the discharge paperwork as well as all the medicals and interviews... it was difficult trying to prepare for my new career while navigating the process of leaving full time military."

"Plan, plan, plan" was the key advice to be heeded by members interviewed. "Your rank in the ADF no longer provides you with status and privilege. Civilian life is nowhere as regimented as the military." "Set yourself up financially and ensure you have a plan – a job you are going to or retirement funding, and



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the support of those around you to make it happen." "As with any major change in one's life, transition will not affect just the serviceman or woman. Therefore, be sure to include those around you in the process through effective two-way communication to assist all involved with the changes in routine."

"Defence Bank has always been part of my life, and it was one area I didn't have to change when I left the ADF. I was able to allot my super payments and wages as normal and continue using all the Bank's facilities." "A lot of ADF seem to think they have to leave Defence Bank when you leave the service, when in fact you don't at all. Transition is one of those times you need them the most." "It's funny because I only joined Defence Bank after I left fulltime army. All these years I could have been with Defence Bank."

"There was no change to my Defence Bank banking routine, from the moment I joined as a

cadet to even after 13 years of retirement. I did finally move to a different state but, fortunately, with electronic banking coming into its own... together with email, their Contact Centre, website, app, great Bank staff, fee-free ATMs... my family, like me, continue to be proud Defence Bank members."

"For me, Defence Bank made it not as difficult as I thought it could have been when I finally left the Australian Defence force." A Defence Bank staff member said, "We talk the same language, we understand defence life, and we understand transition. "Our appropriately named 'Wealth Investment Officers' know things like the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme and the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme... we're told if you mention those schemes to most other banks all you get back from them are blank stares."

As one Defence Bank member said, "In terms of banking, transition was easy. When we decided to review our home loan rate and other investments. We filled in some paperwork and they sorted out the rest. Hassle free and stress free." "I've always loved their warm smile and exceptional service. I use electronic banking but much rather prefer the human touch and enjoy that staff are happy to have a chat if not busy, and always treat you as a person, not a number on a uniform. Yes, transition is a journey and I'm taking Defence Bank on that journey with me."

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Talisman 2019

TS19 is a bilateral combined Australian and US training activity, and is designed to practice the two countries' respective military services and associated agencies in planning and conducting combined and joint task force operations, and improve the combat-readiness and interoperability between Australian and US forces.

Occurring every two years, Talisman Sabre is a major exercise reflecting the closeness of the alliance and strength of the enduring military relationship.

TS19 is the eighth iteration of the exercise and consists of a field training exercise incorporating force preparation (logistic) activities, amphibious landings, land force manoeuvre, urban operations, air operations, maritime operations and Special Forces activities.

Nearly 35,000 personnel, 30 ships and 200 aircraft from across Australia, the United States, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Japan and Canada are set to take part in what will be the biggest ever Talisman Sabre.

AIR FORCE SHARPENS SKILLS WITH F-22 RAPTOR TECHNOLOGY

The Royal Australian Air Force starts flying alongside United States Air Force (USAF) F-22 Raptor stealth fighter aircraft today as part of an Enhanced Air Cooperation (EAC) activity for Exercise Talisman Sabre 2019.

The aim of Enhanced Air Cooperation is to strengthen the ability of Australia and the US to work together as well as regional partners, in the interests of regional stability and security.

Group Captain Stephen Chappell, Commander of the Amberley based Australian-US task unit for the exercise, said training with the stealth fighter aircraft honed Australian fifth-generation integration and provided valuable training.

"Talisman Sabre builds on the regular exercises we do at Amberley, in the United States and the key training programs and exchanges with USAF and US Navy that we use to develop our tactics, techniques and procedures," Group Captain Chappell said.

"Integration with the fifth-generation platforms like F-22 and F-35 are key to how we will do our job both now and in the future.

"We train with Raptors annually, and this is a continuation of the journey and the ongoing pursuit and maintenance of full air combat integration.

"For Talisman Sabre, we will be focusing on how we operate and train on our F/A-18 Classic Hornet, F/A-18F Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler

and E-7A Wedgetail in the same theatre as this advanced F-22 Raptor stealth fighter jet."

Colonel Barley Baldwin, Amberley USAF Group Commander, 13th Expeditionary Air Force said his personnel were looking forward to the opportunity to exercise in Australia.

"Exercises and training opportunities like Talisman Sabre 19 foster stronger relationships and increase interoperability with our Australian allies, as well as enable our aircrew and support personnel to become familiar with conducting operations out of Royal Australian air bases," Colonel Baldwin said.

"I am excited for the 90th Fighter Squadron to return to Queensland where the squadron first established its long term relationship in with the Australians in 1942.

"During Talisman Sabre 2019, RAAF and USAF Airmen will train for high-end, modern combat as we continue to build upon our 70-plus year relationship."

The USAF deployed the F-22 Raptor from 90th Fighter Squadron, E-3C Sentry from the 962nd AACS, KC-10 Extender from the 6th Air Refuelling Squadron, and B-52 Stratofortress from the 69th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron to support Talisman Sabre 2019.



Royal Australian Air Force Group Captain Stephen Chappell, DSC, CSC, OAM, Officer Commanding No. 82 Wing and United States Air Force (USAF) Colonel Brian Baldwin, Group Commander 13th Air Expeditionary Force with a USAF F-22 Raptor.

LARGEST BILATERAL AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT CONDUCTED AS PART OF EXERCISE TALISMAN SABRE

United States Marines at King's Beach, near Bowen, QLD
 Below right: A service member with the Japan Self Defense Force approaches King's Beach



TS19 is the largest Australian-led amphibious landing and offensive assault since the Second World War.

Soldiers from Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Japan and New Zealand disembarked from a Combined Expeditionary Strike Group and assaulted Langham Beach, near Stanage Bay before moving into an extended operational zone across the region.

Major General Roger Noble, Deputy Chief of Joint Operations for the Australian Defence Force said the amphibious assault was a key phase of Exercise Talisman Sabre, the largest military exercise to take place in Australia.

"Through exercises like Talisman Sabre, we demonstrate the strength, viability, and endurance of the alliance between Australia and the United States as well as the varying levels of interoperability between our services," Major General Noble said.

"Australia's defence policy continues to be based on the three interconnected strategic interests of a secure, resilient Australia, with secure northern approaches and proximate sea lines of communications; a

secure nearer region, encompassing maritime South East Asia and South Pacific; and a stable Indo-Pacific region and rules-based global order.

"To ensure these three interests, the Australian Defence Force must be capable of operating as a joint force across sea, land, and air domains, maintaining high-end capabilities to act decisively when required.

"The relationship between Australian and the United States is the cornerstone of our regional stability. Practicing interoperability builds our flexibility to achieve our shared aims.

"A credible amphibious capability significantly broadens the options for Australia and the United States to fulfil these requirements."

Colonel Matt Sieber, Colonel Amphibious for Australia's Deployable Joint Force Headquarters, from the United States Marine Corps, said the large-scale amphibious assault began three days ago as troops prepared for the assault and surveilled the enemy.

"Once the beachhead was secured, the amphibious assault group moved in, utilising amphibious assault vehicles, landing craft and simultaneous helicopter insertions

into landing zones to come ashore," Colonel Sieber said.

"The support from the Queensland communities has been invaluable throughout the course of the exercise.

"The Stanage Bay township has opened to us for this amphibious landing; we will be moving to the Bowen area later on in this exercise, and both communities have been hugely supportive."



BRITISH ROYAL MARINE COMMANDOS GEARING UP

After training alongside the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) in Townsville, Queensland, a company of British Royal Marine Commandos participated in amphibious insertion from one of the Royal Australian Navy's largest ships, HMAS Canberra, off the Queensland coast as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 19 (TS19).

Throughout the training phase, the British Marines integrated with their 2RAR counterparts to enhance operations together on the ground in battle. Although joint training between the Australian Army and British Marines isn't new, TS19 is the first time a whole British Marine company has joined the exercise.

Personnel within the Company cover ground reconnaissance, engineering, anti-armour and joint tactical air control roles. This enables the Marines to find and strike targets which could potentially place the main landing force at risk. Over TS19, they had the ability to call on air assets

such as American F18 fast jets and Australian Tiger Helicopters to support these actions, delivering a high end warfighting capability.

British Marine, Corporal Bradshaw, found it extremely valuable to train with his Australian counterparts in the Lavarack Training Simulator near Townsville and to take part in a combat shooting range package conducted by 2RAR.

"The simulator was fantastic, giving the ability to call on fire support from air and artillery assets with coalition assets. We gained a lot of experiences from the range package on combat shooting and the team was highly professional" said Corporal Bradshaw.

While the British Royal Marine Commandos are used to training in a variety of environments around the world, for Marine Corke, a Mountaineer Leader specialising in Artic Warfare, training in Townsville and the Australian environment is a new experience.

"The environment and landscape are quite different and we have had to factor this into our pre-landing planning operations," said Marine Corke.

The British Marines have also had the chance to taste a little of the Australian lifestyle during their time here, with highlights including visits to the Great Barrier Reef, Magnetic Island, hugging a koala and catching an Aussie Rules match.

The British Marines worked alongside 2RAR reconnaissance specialists and Clearance Diving Team Four (AUSCDT Four) as a part of the Joint Pre-landing Force (JPLF) prior to the main amphibious assaults within TS19. They conducted reconnaissance operations in the vicinity of Stanage Bay, Queensland, before joining forces with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

A British Royal Marines Commando talks with a United States Marine whilst securing the Bowen Showground.



TALISMAN SABRE SUPPORT RECOGNISED



Senior Sergeant Andrew Harris of Queensland Police Service with Lieutenant General Greg Bilton, Chief of Joint Operations for the Australian Defence Force (left), his wife Julie and Assistant Commissioner Clem O'Regan.

With the eighth iteration of Exercise Talisman Sabre underway, one Central Queensland police officer received unexpected recognition from Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Greg Bilton.

Senior Sergeant Andrew Harris has been working with Talisman Sabre planning teams for nearly a decade – ensuring strong levels of safety enhancements, security and traffic management and support to the

civil communities over five exercises as the Rockhampton tactician for Queensland Police.

Lieutenant General Bilton said Senior Sergeant Harris' work has influenced the long-term sustainment of Australian Defence Force and United States training interoperability.

"Your support to the Australian Defence Force and partner nations is greatly appreciated," Lieutenant General Bilton said.

This is only the second Chief of Joint Operations gold commendation to be awarded to a Queensland Police officer.

For Senior Sergeant Harris, Talisman Sabre 2019 is the last exercise for him – as he says "all police officers have a use-by date" as he looks towards retirement with his wife, Julie.

Assistant Commissioner Clem O'Regan also presented Andrew Harris with an Assistance Commissioner's Certificate – Operational recognising his Defence engagement on behalf of Queensland Police.



Australian Army Private Thomas Braybon, who serves with 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, patrols in formation near Stanage Bay, Queensland, July 17. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Whitney C. Houston

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Retaining Army's Talent

A unique program to retain Army's talented and skilled members is set to be rolled out across Regular Army brigades in the near future.

With an increase of 1.5% in the annual separation rate from SERCAT 7, the Trade Transfer Scheme (TTS) to retain members takes on a unique focus – keeping members linked to their former unit.

“To keep Army ready now and future ready requires better management of those separating,” Commander Forces Command, Major-General Greg Bilton said.

“Currently, members leaving regular service are transferred to SERCAT 5 which is the Active Reserve. This transfer is part of the current transition process with the member being posted to a Reserve unit in their locality.”

Maj-Gen Bilton acknowledged the current Reserve structure with nights and weekend training isn't always a perfect fit while developing a career path outside Army.

“As leaders we must focus on retention of our talented and skilled workforce which is the aim of the

Trade Transfer Scheme (TTS).”

The TTS will see those transferring from SERCAT 7 provided the option of becoming a Reservist within their Regular unit. Employed under SERCAT 3, the member can return for service under a DA26 contract while continuing to develop their life outside Army.

“Following my recent JNCO engagement activity at Kapooka, I am confident this initiative will present a welcome “work choice” option,” MAJ-GEN Bilton said.

“TTS will also provide the COs with the ability to address capability gaps through accessing the right person at the right time.”

“The TTS allows separating members to retain links with their mates, unit and Corps.”

Maj-Gen Bilton said as an example of how TTS would benefit the organisation – if every unit across Army retain one JNCO under the program, separations would reduce by 2%.

The Total Workforce Model (TWM) was implemented in 2016 to provide Defence with the flexibility and agility

it needs to meet current and future workforce demands.

The TWM acknowledges that people are Defence's most valuable asset, and to attract and retain the right people, Defence needs a contemporary, flexible and agile workforce environment. To help individuals achieve the right balance between their personal commitments and service responsibilities, the TWM introduced the Service Spectrum to offer more options in the way people can serve.

The ability to retain talented and skilled members through the introduction of an additional ‘work choice’ option of ‘unit affiliation’ is key to generating and maintaining capability and reinforces the Stay Army theme of ‘one career, many jobs’.

This FORCOMD TTS initiative does not replace the extant Service Spectrum options available to members who no longer wish to render full-time service. However it provides an additional individual work choice plan where members seek to remain affiliated to their previous unit.



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The APS Benevolent Fund makes so many wishes come true at the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre (CPEC). Cerebral palsy is the most common physical disability in Australia and the most expensive to manage. CPEC provides physical, occupational and speech therapy to children, training to parents as well as enabling children and families to access the essential equipment they need in their daily lives.

The APS Benevolent Fund has granted a wish of major proportions to CPEC. Equipment and resources are critical in the provision of support for the kids and families at CPEC. Physiotherapy costs to the value of \$56,220.00, occupational therapy costs to the value of \$8,423.50, speech pathology costs to the value of \$25,524.00 and parent training to the value of \$47,461.70 brings our gift for the kids at CPEC to \$137,629.20.

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Latest round of Southwest Pacific and Timor-Leste engagements begin

The Australian Defence Force continues to support the Australian Government's Pacific Step-Up initiative through the latest series of engagements across the Southwest Pacific and Timor-Leste.

Joint Task Force 637 and Her Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) Sirius arrived in Fiji in early July for a five day port-call, signalling the start of what will be a comprehensive six month program of official activities throughout the region.

Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, French Polynesia, Samoa, and the Micronesia region will join Fiji as focal points for cultural exchanges and training activities.

Commander of the Joint Task Force Group 637, Major General Jake Ellwood said the new series of

engagements continued to reflect Australia's enduring commitment to the Pacific community in developing stronger people-to-people links.

"Defence activities are an important part of the Australian Government's program of enhanced engagement throughout the region, with the ongoing security and prosperity of our partners being our highest priority," Major General Ellwood said.

"We are interested in expanding our understanding of the needs of our neighbours and cementing our relationships with their national security forces."

Key events in the program include a Guardian-class Patrol Boat commissioning in Tonga, hydrographic survey activities, air transport support to Pacific Islands Forum delegates, and mutual training in Papua New

Guinea.

Defence will also continue to help remove the danger of unexploded remnants of war in Solomon Islands (Operation RENDER SAFE), conduct a joint exercise in Vanuatu (Exercise VANUATU ALLIANCE), and support the efforts to curb illegal fishing across Micronesia.

Major General Ellwood said the varied nature of the activities reflected the diverse geographic locations, histories, cultures and experiences of the participating nations.

"Australia's enduring connection to Pacific Island nations and Timor-Leste, as well as our proximity to this region, supports a like-minded approach to common goals such as regional security and the protection of sovereignty," Major General Ellwood said.



Australian Chief of Joint Operations Lieutenant General Gregory Bilton (left) and Major-General Ellwood (right) share a light-hearted moment with Timor-Leste Maj. General Lere Anan Timur, and his staff in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

Sgt Whitney Houston US Army

PTSD the price of keeping the peace

Rodney MacCormack remembers pushing a supermarket trolley towards the check-out. He stopped when he saw the queue snaking its way around the counter. Abandoning the trolley, he left as quickly as he could.

'Where's the shopping?' his wife Lesley asked when he returned empty-handed. 'What's wrong with you?' 'The crowds,' he said. 'I couldn't handle it.'

For former navy peacekeeper MacCormack, social avoidance was symptomatic of his post traumatic stress disorder diagnosis, along with hypertension, sweating, isolation, substance abuse and horrendous nightmares.

After joining the Royal Australian Navy in 1968, MacCormack's active service brought him into close contact with death and violence. He remembers hauling dead bodies from the shipwrecked MV Noongah off the New South Wales coast in 1969. On Christmas Eve 1974, Cyclone Tracey pelted sandstone bricks around him and ripped the uniform from his body while he manned the Darwin naval telephone exchange.

Along with other peacekeepers, MacCormack has faced a lack of recognition of the traumatising

situations peacekeepers can experience and their susceptibility to PTSD. He believes the role of peacekeepers often becomes lost in Australia's commemorative calendar.

In the shadow of Canberra's Australian War Memorial, Australia's first peacekeeping memorial has been completed on ANZAC Parade to address this lack of recognition. This Thursday 14 September will mark 70 years of Australian peacekeeping with a commemorative service and dedication of the memorial by Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

Australian Peacekeepers are defence force personnel and police deployed by the United Nations to provide security, political and human rights assistance to conflict-ravaged countries transitioning to peace.

Up to 60,000 service personnel since 1947 have served throughout the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Missions include Rwanda, Timor-Leste, Persian Gulf and the former

Yugoslavia, and non-UN deployments such as the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands.

Dr Rosalind Hearder worked with the Official History of Australian Peacekeeping and post-Cold War Operations project and has researched and written about PTSD. She believes stereotypical perceptions of war and peace can leave Australians with a misguided understanding of peacekeeping.

"I was picking glass out of my skin for a year. The vehicle was travelling at 125km an hour when it crashed. That's the equivalent impact speed of an explosion causing traumatic brain injury." — Paul Copeland

'It's not the same experience as combat. Instead of fighting an enemy, peacekeepers' role may be to stop former warring groups from fighting each other,' she says. 'That doesn't mean that peacekeeping is easier — the demands may be different but the long-term effects can still be damaging psychologically.'

Paul Copeland is past president of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association and has suffered from PTSD. He served as a Peacekeeper in Sinai, Tonga, Vanuatu and Israel. In 1993





he was deployed in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia. This mission organised elections, military security and civil administration, and maintained law and order and human rights. He explains how peacekeeping can escalate from a benign situation to the language of war. 'It's like a powder keg, if someone lights up a match it will explode. It can change to a war zone at the drop of a hat.'

In one of many life-threatening situations, Copeland was nearly killed when a military vehicle he was travelling in crashed. He was the first person to be aero-medically evacuated while on active service since the Vietnam War. Copeland spent six months in hospital and convalescence after shattering his femur in three places and sustaining facial injuries and mental trauma. 'I was picking glass out of my skin for a year,' he says. 'The vehicle was travelling at 125km an hour when it crashed. That's the equivalent impact speed of an explosion causing traumatic brain injury.'

Copeland was shocked when he did not qualify for a RSL-conducted wounded servicemen convalescence scheme as his injuries were not deemed to be 'serious enough', nor to be of a 'military nature' as this was a vehicle accident and he had not been shot.

Since then, as a peacekeeper advocate, Copeland says he has faced discrimination in having

peacekeepers recognised as veterans with the same physical and mental health needs as those who have served in combat. As past president of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association, he has struggled to attain equal access for members to medical services for the mental trauma that can result from peacekeeping missions. 'We've had to battle for everything,' Copeland says.

"Peacekeepers are as susceptible to PTSD as service personnel deployed to war zones. Feelings of demoralisation and helplessness and a lack of pre and post-deployment support have been shown to be key contributors."

Hearder says extensive international literature demonstrates that peacekeepers are as susceptible to PTSD as service personnel deployed to war zones. PTSD 'presents itself in the same way ... there's a strict criteria. People may have different experiences but it's the same diagnosis,' she says. Feelings of demoralisation and helplessness and a lack of pre and post-deployment support have been shown to be key contributors of PTSD for peacekeepers. 'Peacekeepers have constant contact with local people during missions and build strong relationships. If they go home and feel their service may have been for nothing once the mission personnel leave, it can lead to feelings of demoralisation,' Hearder says.

Copeland explains how stereotypes about peacekeeping service can compound this demoralisation. 'I've heard World War II veterans say, 'Peacekeepers? All you did is stand on street corners in blue berets and hand out lollies to kids.' It upsets a lot of us that we're viewed in that light,' he says.

Former Victorian State President Major General David McLachlan has said peacekeepers do not face exclusion by the RSL. 'If you've served in the Australian Defence Force you're entitled and welcomed into the RSL,' he says. 'There is no difference between someone who has served in Afghanistan and someone who's served in Cambodia as far as the RSL is concerned. They have both served our nation and are welcomed accordingly.'

This week's 70th anniversary memorial dedication takes place during 'Peacekeepers Week'. Commemorations will include Australian War Memorial activities to promote peacekeeping, Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans Association conferences and the annual conference of the United Nations Association of Australia.

While views differ on the current position of peacekeepers in Australian commemoration, it is clear that rightful respect for peacekeepers as part of the veteran community remains an emotional as well as practical issue. The memorial on ANZAC Parade must be more than a ceremonial symbol. It needs to represent a commitment to ongoing medical, practical and community support for those who keep the peace.

For MacCormack and Copeland, this recognition and the new memorial will signify official inclusion at a national level. 'This is a memorial I can go to and look at and think yes I was part of this,' MacCormack says. 'I'll be very proud.' Copeland sees it as recognition that 'keeping the peace is fraught with danger'. 'There will always be peacekeepers,' he says. 'This is a living memorial, it's past, present and future.'

https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/ptsd-the-price-of-keeping-the-peace?fbclid=IwAR29YiXPpGkbyQOqAjgrfiB44N5_kFCcnPIZwY-RdQtORMbbpe71pW3N6nA

QUT

QUT

Ebola outbreak in Congo declared a global health emergency

Geneva (AP) — The deadly Ebola outbreak in Congo is now an international health emergency, the World Health Organization announced Wednesday after a case was confirmed in a city of 2 million people .

A WHO expert committee declined on three previous occasions to advise the United Nations health agency to make the declaration for this outbreak, even though other experts say it has long met the required conditions. More than 1,600 people have died since August in the second-deadliest Ebola outbreak in history, which is unfolding in a region described as a war zone.

A declaration of a global health emergency often brings greater international attention and aid, along with concerns that nervous governments might overreact with border closures.

The declaration comes days after a single case was confirmed in Goma, a major regional crossroads in northeastern Congo on the Rwandan border, with an international airport. Also, a sick Congolese fish trader traveled to Uganda and back while symptomatic — and later died of Ebola.

While the risk of regional spread



Residents wait in line to receive the Ebola vaccine in Beni, Congo DRC.

remains high, the risk outside the region remains low, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said after the announcement in Geneva.

The international emergency “should not be used to stigmatize or penalize the very people who are most in need of our help,” he said. Tedros insisted that the declaration was not made to raise more money — even though WHO estimated “hundreds of millions” of dollars would be needed

to stop the epidemic.

Dr. Joanne Liu, president of Doctors Without Borders, said she hoped the emergency designation would prompt a radical reset of Ebola response efforts.

“The reality check is that a year into the epidemic, it’s still not under control, and we are not where we should be,” she said. “We cannot keep doing the same thing and expect different results.”

Liu said vaccination strategies should be broadened and that more efforts should be made to build trust within communities.

The U.S. Agency for International Development applauded the WHO decision and said USAID officials would “continue to scale up life-saving support” to end the outbreak.

This is the fifth such declaration in history. Previous emergencies were declared for the devastating 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa that killed more than 11,000 people, the emergence of Zika in the Americas, the swine flu pandemic and polio.

WHO defines a global emergency as an “extraordinary event” that constitutes a risk to other countries and requires a coordinated international response. Last month, the outbreak



A girl receives the Ebola vaccine in Beni, Congo DRC.

spilled across the border for the first time when a family brought the virus into Uganda after attending the burial in Congo of an infected relative. Even then, the expert committee advised against a declaration.

Alexandra Phelan, a global health expert at Georgetown University Law Center, said Wednesday's declaration was long overdue.

"This essentially serves as a call to the international community that they have to step up appropriate financial and technical support," she said but warned that countries should be wary of imposing travel or trade restrictions.

Such restrictions "would actually restrict the flow of goods and health care workers into affected countries so they are counterproductive," she said. Future emergency declarations might be perceived as punishment and "might result in other countries not reporting outbreaks in the future, which puts us all at greater risk."

WHO had been heavily criticized for its sluggish response to the West Africa outbreak, which it repeatedly declined to declare a global emergency until the virus was spreading explosively in three countries and nearly 1,000 people were dead. Internal documents later showed WHO held off partly out of fear a declaration would anger the countries involved and hurt their economies.

The organization's emergency committee will meet again within three months to assess the situation. Committee members will review whether the outbreak is still a global emergency and whether other measures are needed.

Wednesday's announcement prompted fear in eastern Congo, where many do business across borders and travel overseas.

"I am vaccinated and I protect myself against Ebola," said Zoe Kibwana, a 46-year-old shoe salesman who does business in Uganda, just 70 kilometers (40 miles) from Beni. "Closing the borders would handicap our economy. The health ministry and WHO need to end this epidemic as soon as possible."

The current outbreak is spreading in a turbulent Congo border region where dozens of rebel groups are active and where Ebola had not been experienced before. Efforts to



A morgue employee walks with a cross past others disinfecting the entrance to the morgue in Beni, Congo DRC.

contain the virus have been hurt by mistrust among wary locals that has prompted deadly attacks on health workers. Some infected people have deliberately evaded health authorities.

The pastor who brought Ebola to Goma used several fake names to conceal his identity on his way to the city, Congolese officials said. WHO on Tuesday said the man had died and health workers were scrambling to trace dozens of his contacts, including those who had traveled on the same bus.

Congo's minister of health resisted the characterization of the outbreak as a health emergency.

"We accept the decision of the committee of experts but one hopes that it's a decision that wasn't made under pressure of certain groups that want to use this as a way to raise

funds for certain humanitarian actors," said Dr. Oly Ilunga.

Those working in the field say the outbreak is clearly taking a turn for the worse despite advances that include the widespread use of an experimental but effective Ebola vaccine.

Dr. Maurice Kakule was one of the first people to survive the current outbreak after he fell ill while treating a woman last July, before the outbreak had even been declared.

"What is clear is that Ebola is an emergency because the epidemic persists despite every possible effort to educate people," he told the Geneva meeting.

Cheng reported from London. Associated Press writers Krista Larson and Al-Hadji Kudra Maliro in Beni, Congo, and Saleh Mwanamilongo in Kinshasa, Congo, also contributed to this report.

Photos AP Photo/Jerome Delay



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR ARMY INNOVATION DAY 2019

The Australian Army in collaboration with the Defence Innovation Hub invites industry to submit innovation proposals for Army Innovation Day (AID) 2019.

Army continuously explores new ideas, and builds relationships with Defence industry, academia and our international partners on the latest developments in technology and war-fighting capabilities. AID is an opportunity for Defence industry to present a range of unique, innovative ideas and future technologies not currently operational or in development.

Army's innovation theme for AID 2019 is Network Assurance. Submissions should advance Army's network resilience, boost network agility, network defences, or deceive adversaries regarding the disposition and characteristics of land networks.

Innovation proposals are to be received via Defence Innovation Hub Portal within four weeks of publication and will go through selection process to assess against a set criteria of uniqueness, innovation and ability to improve effectiveness and efficiency of Defence. All submissions will also be assessed against technology readiness level, and be demonstrable within 12 months.

Approximately 15 respondents will be selected to display and pitch their proposed innovations at AID 2019, due to be held at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra on 25 September 2019.

www.innovationhub.defence.gov.au



37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT THE MARTIN PLACE CENOTAPH ON SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2019

On Saturday 15th June 2019 a small group of British veterans from South Atlantic Medal Association 82 (SAMA82) AUS/NZ Branch, who saw Active Service in the 1982 Falklands War will be holding a Service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Martin Place Cenotaph., commencing at 11am. This Service of Remembrance will be the first one of its kind held in Australia by British veterans who now call Australia home.

The Service

The Service is the major activity for members of SAMA82 in the first ever Falkland Islands Liberation Commemorative Weekend held in Australia.

2019 marks the 37th Anniversary of the Falkland's War. The Falklands War was a ten-week war between Argentina and the United Kingdom over two British dependent territories in the South Atlantic: the Falkland Islands, and its territorial dependency, the South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The War began on Friday, 2 April 1982, when Argentina invaded and occupied the Falkland Islands in an attempt to establish the sovereignty of the islands which Argentina claimed belonged to them and was called the Malvinas. At the time of the invasion the Falkland Islands were defended by a small garrison of 22 Royal Marine Commandos. On 5 April, the British government raised and dispatched a naval task force to engage the Argentine Navy and Air Force before retaking the islands with an amphibious assault.

The conflict lasted 74 days and ended with the Argentine surrender on 14 June 1982, returning the islands to British control. For such a short war loses and casualties were high with a total of 649 Argentine military personnel, 255 British military personnel, and three Falkland

Islanders being killed during the hostilities. The Argentine wounded numbers 1,657 whilst 775 were wounded.

The Purpose

The purpose of the Service is to mark the 37th anniversary of the Falkland's War and to remember the 255 British service personnel who were killed during the war and the numerous veterans who have lost their lives as a result of the struggles since.

Who will be attending?

The Service will be attended by a small group of British veterans living in Australia who saw Active Service during the Falklands War and their families. The Service is also open to other Ex British military personnel living in Australia

Service Details

The Service will be led by an Australian Army Chaplain. The Key speaker at the Service will be Major Andrew Brayshaw, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.

Major Brayshaw was a Lance Corporal, Combat Medical Technician during the Falklands War and was a member of 16 Field Ambulance and was on board the Landing Ship Logistic Sir Galahad when it was attacked by Argentine aircraft on the 8th June 1982 at Bluff Cove. The disaster at Bluff Cove provided the world with some of the most harrowing images of the war due to the live TV coverage that filmed helicopters hovering over thick smoke to winch survivors from the burning landing ship.

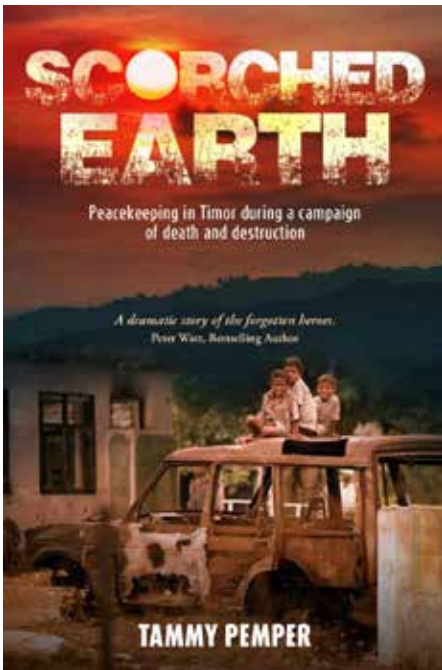
The attack on the Sir Galahad resulted in the heaviest losses sustained by the British Task Force in a single engagement resulting in 48 killed and 115 wounded including three members of 16 Field Ambulance.

Wreaths

During the Service a number of wreaths will be laid in memory of those killed during the Falklands War.

Enquiries

**Andrew Brayshaw
SAMA82 (AUS/NZ)
Phone: 0431 406 015**



SCORCHED EARTH

Peacekeeping in Timor during a campaign of death and destruction

Author: Tammy Pemper
 Publisher: Big Sky Publishing
 No of pages: 320
 Price: \$29.99

A dramatic story of the forgotten heroes who faced down the military might of a neighboring giant.

As a UN peacekeeper, I joined the East Timorese fight for life. By then, the earth had drunk the blood of one third of their population. But worse was still to come.

I would see it for myself.

I saw bodies carried to their deaths, machetes carve flesh from bone, and bullets spray into crowds of Timorese and at us peacekeepers. I learned the true meaning of fear, hopelessness, and courage. Shades of truth were twisted for evil gain. Every day I prepared to die. Decisions I made, which seemed so right, jeopardized the lives of others.

Police held automatic weapons to my head, militia wrote my name on death lists, and people drew their last breath, all of them brave, braver than me.

For this is the true story of my experience. In the midst of the East Timorese fight for independence, militia were determined to enact their scorched earth policy and raze Timor to the ground.

Timorese voted, Timor burned. It is their story, our story: a story that must be told.

COMSUPER – MILITARY ENTITLEMENTS GROUP

Dear Readers,

The Comsuper Military Entitlements group is a Facebook group that provides advocacy in relation to the superannuation entitlements of ADF personnel. Currently we have over 8500 members and we urge readers to come and join as we have some exciting things happening to benefit all.

Taxation of Pensions

The Comsuper Military Entitlements group is currently engaged in litigation against the Commissioner of Taxation. We believe that Military “Invalidity Benefits” (Class A or Class B) are being taxed incorrectly. In early 2015 it became apparent that Military “Invalidity Benefits” may not meet the definition of a “Pension” under the Superannuation (Supervision) Regulations 1994. As such the group submitted a “Private Ruling” to the Commissioner of Taxation in June 2015. This Private Ruling questioned the definition of a pension because Military “Invalidity Benefits” are subject to regular medical review. The ATO then permitted us to treat “Invalidity Benefits” as a lumpsum as opposed to a pension. Since then we have had to engage the AAT as well as a Federal Court Judge to decide whether our “Invalidity Benefits” are in fact a pension. We are currently awaiting the Judicial decision from the AAT.

CSC garnisheeing pensions

The group has also taken the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation to task in relation to the garnisheeing of Military pensions. This is an important initiative because CSC have controversially decided to become involved in veterans personal lives. The group finds this a disturbing trend as the Government has recently conducted a productivity commission into the workings of the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority, with CSC and other funds put on notice to lift their game. The Group has taken CSC to the Federal Court and is awaiting trial in this matter which has been set down for the 29th August 2019.

DFRDB Commutation

The group welcomes the Senate Enquiry into the DFRDB commutation issues. For those unaware it has been found that the government actuarial tables are deficient which has allowed DFRDB veterans to reach a particular age having paid back the Commutation lumpsum taken at discharge. The Senate Enquiry will explore these issues as there is currently no statutory mechanisms to restore those pensions back to the pre commutation rate. Hopefully some common sense might prevail as the exact same scenario plays out in relation to the offsetting of compensation lumpsums under the SRCA scheme against pensions paid under the VEA. We are aware of numerous cases where the veteran has paid back the compensation even at a very young age. Its obvious that the Government needs to take a serious look at the actuarial tables used in offsetting.

Kind Regards
 Peter Burns
 Admin.

UN SAYS 10 PEACEKEEPERS WOUNDED BY MINE IN NORTHERN MALI

United Nations (AP) — The United Nations says 10 U.N. peacekeepers were injured, four seriously, when a vehicle hit a mine during an operation outside Kidal city in northern Mali.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq says the U.N. Mission in Mali is investigating the incident early Thursday involving the mine-protected vehicle.

He says the injured peacekeepers are receiving medical care.

Mali has been in turmoil since a 2012 uprising prompted mutinous soldiers to overthrow the president of a decade. An Islamic insurgency and a French-led war ousted the insurgents from power in 2013, but extremist groups affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic State organization remain a threat.

The 16,000-strong U.N. mission in Mali is one of the most dangerous for peacekeepers. More than 100 peacekeepers have died since it was established in 2013.

AUSTRALIAN UNTAG VETERANS DINNER

A small dinner was held in Melbourne with High Commissioners/Ambassadors from Namibia and other countries, some Australian and Singapore UNTAG Veterans, Australian based Namibians to commemorate the passing on the founding Vice President of Namibia Nickey Lyambo, to also celebrate the Founding Father and First Presidents 90th Birthday Dr Sam Nujoma and the 30th Anniversary of the UNTAG deployment to Namibia.

The evening was held at the Park Hyatt in Melbourne and it was an opportunity for networking with UN Veterans and High Commissioners that attended. Some UNTAG Veterans are planning a return to Namibia in March 2020 and this was a timely opportunity to highlight the significant role that 17 Construction Squadron (UNTAG) played in the transition to Independence in 1989/90.

Her Excellency Anne Namakau Mutelo based in Malaysia flew in for the event and to catch up with The Honorary Consul-General of Namibia Mr Antonio Gelonesi and others including UNTAG Veterans from Australia and Singapore.



17 CONST SQN 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

WHEN
20 - 22 September 2019

WHERE
20 Sep - Memorial Service
17 Const Sqn - RAAF Base Amberly

You must register to access the base if you do not have a Defence ID
To book click on the link <https://www.trybooking.com/ZCSK>

20 Sep - Cobbers Night
Kedron-Waveil RSL Club

To book click on the link <https://www.trybooking.com/YTOQ>

21 Sep Formal Dinner
Kedron-Waveil RSL Club

To book click on the link <https://www.trybooking.com/ZCSJ>

22 Sep Farwell Lunch
Kedron-Waveil RSL Club

To book click on the link <https://www.trybooking.com/ZCSN>

FURTHER INFORMATION EMAIL:
ASSOC.17CONSTSON@OUTLOOK.COM



DINNER
Dinner is open to children to attend due to distance people are travelling. Please email for kids prices

BAND
Australian Army Band Brisbane is playing at the dinner

DRESS
Memorial Service - Jacket and Medals
Cobbers Night - Casual
Dinner - Formal
Farwell - Casual

ACCOMODATION
When booking Accommodation around Kedron-Waveil, mention the Birthday to get a discount

SPONSORS
Saint Gobains (Norton)
17 Const Sqn Association
Kedron - Waveil RSL Club
Kedron-Waveil RSL Sub Branch



RESEARCH PROJECT

Hi, we are conducting a research project into the experiences of Australian veterans accessing the health care system, and I was wondering if you might be able to share the link to our study with your members?

The aim of the study is to demonstrate that there are significant difficulties experienced, and to gather some information about how veterans feel it could be improved. Link is: <https://survey.app.uq.edu.au/Veteran-Health.aspx>



Have you got a story

Contributions by way of articles and photographs are invited from readers of Peacekeeper in the interest of promoting the Association.

Contributions should be sent to: APPVA Admin
PO Box 943, Alstonville NSW 2477 or email chook126@bigpond.net.au

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

VETERANS ADVOCACY CENTRE VAC

In September 2015, APPVA opened it's first veteran centre, as the APPVA Welfare Outreach Centre, in Alstonville Northern NSW. The founders, with more than 50 years combined Advocacy work, saw the need for a more independent service provision for veterans, especially for the more recently exiting/exited veterans.

Initially two small rooms were rented, but within six months, the continuing increase in the number of clients initiated the need for larger premises. The initial set up was funded by the founding members with some financial assistance from APPVA NSW. By 2017 the VAC was created as a not for profit organisation, and a Community of Practice, with funding thru BEST Grants for a paid admin person. Most of our other monies are from donations, community organisations, fund-raising, a local ESO recycling bottles system, other ESO's and guest speaking at local community groups.

We have five ATDP Accredited Compensation Advocates, ranging from level 2 to 4 and one mentee, with a client base Nationally and Internationally. In the last six months over 200 clients have been interviewed. The VAC has Compensation Advocates that lodge claims for clients over all legislation including VRB and AAT with positive results.

Our Wellbeing Advocates are ATDP accredited and consist of a level 2, level 1 and one mentee. Our level 2 Wellbeing Advocate is also the Regional Manager for ATDP, and a mentor.

Assistance is also provided with gaining financial assistance for veterans by providing assistance through a food pantry, library with books or CD'S, toiletries and household items. Housing the homeless through accommodation assistance or the supply of backpack swag beds, and provide a monthly Coffee Club for Veterans and families.

We support veterans thru the Ombudsman claims/hearings, liaise with local job agencies, support veterans to appointments, free equine therapy, organise seminars on

mental health issues, and offer a non judgemental environment for veterans to feel safe.

All but one of our Advocates are volunteers, with most being members of APPVA plus other ESO's.

It has been a very rewarding journey for all involved and has exceeded all expectations. It has been an amazing 4 years requiring substantial effort, but the dedication and unique service we provide to veterans and their families is truly a rewarding one.

In September we will be holding an open day with our local State member and Federal Member to celebrate 4 exceptional years of service to veterans.

Visit us our facebook page "Veterans'Advocacy Centre Alstonville" to follow all that's happening and if you are in the area, drop in and say hello or call and have a chat.

If you would like to donate to the VAC, our details are below:

BSB: 637 000 Acc#: 716 725 928
 admin@veteransadvocacycentre.com
 PO Box 943, Alstonville NSW 2477
 02 6628 3096



MOVIE COMPETITION

APPVA gratefully received 5 x double passes to the DANGER CLOSE: THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN movie to distribute to our members;

- The lucky winners were:**
Tony R – Western Australia
Nick H - Qld
Mark M – Vic
Michael G – Qld
Trent Smith – ACT

Enjoy the movie and thank you to the distributor for the tickets

QGM

On the 01st August we held our QGM and the following positions were filled for the remainder of the term until the AGM in September.

- Vice President - Mr Michael Murray**
Police Liaison Officer and Project Officer - Mr Mark Elm
National Entitlements Officer - Mr Allan Thomas OAM JP
Victorian Coordinator - Mr Charlie Wilson

The Clayfield Classroom

Clayfield College is excited to launch this year *The Clayfield Classroom*, a framework for excellent teaching and learning.

At Clayfield College, learning is at the heart of everything we do. We acknowledge that to learn well one must live well and, as such, our teaching and learning framework is a holistic approach. Our learning culture encompasses all in the community, with a particular focus on staff and students.

Providing exceptional learning experiences for students requires attention to the quality of learning available for staff. At Clayfield, we acknowledge that learning is a dynamic and emotional process which relies largely on the engagement of the learner.

The Clayfield Classroom framework attends to the key factors associated with learner engagement by ensuring that excellent learning opportunities are accessible to all at the College. It reflects ideas synthesised from recent educational research and

extensive classroom practice. These ideas are organised according to the cornerstones of our environment, the elements essential for learning and the features of high impact teaching.

At Clayfield College we are focused on the needs of individuals, our immediate community and our global community.

These needs are addressed through a thoughtfully engineered environment with four cornerstones which together provide a strong foundation for excellent learning. We celebrate diversity and innovation, we embrace creativity and challenge, we are committed to service and sustainability and we are connected and compassionate.

Students need to be intellectually challenged for high quality learning to occur. Attaining the right balance between difficulty and ease is necessary for them to make



meaningful progress and build the capacity to apply their knowledge and understanding to unfamiliar contexts.

The Clayfield Classroom is aimed at facilitating exceptional evidence-based teaching and learning in every classroom throughout the College.

More about *The Clayfield Classroom* can be found at www.clayfield.qld.edu.au or visit us soon. A personal tour or a taster day and sleep-over trial can be arranged by contacting our Enrolments Office on 3262 0220 or enrol@clayfield.qld.edu.au.

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CO-ED: PRE-PREP - YEAR 6

GIRLS ONLY: YEARS 7 - 12

GIRLS BOARDING: YEARS 5 - 12



Transition Simplified

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

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

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

Consider a new career direction well before you leave Defence. Remember that what you decide to do is not final or absolute. In today's job market, the average time spent with any one employer is now approximately five years and the younger generations are changing jobs every two years. This means long-term careers are becoming less likely. Statistics show that young job

seekers who leave school today will change careers (not just jobs) nine times before they retire. Therefore, whatever decision you make today, won't necessarily lock you in until retirement.

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

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

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

doing the best you can to secure that job.

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

Bottom line - The effectiveness of any written application is only determined by the ratio of applications sent to interviews gained. If you're sending out many applications, but not getting at least 50% success rate of being invited to an interview, then your written application needs adjusting. Similarly; the effectiveness of promoting yourself at a job interview is assessed by the number of job offers you get in relation to the number of interviews you attend. If either of these ratios aren't what you'd like, ask for help. Right at this moment, in Australia there are a number of funding sources available if the lack of finances is preventing you

from seeking assistance.

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

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

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

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

and help you through the next few months of your transition.

Is your choice to either find your feet through trial and error (which will take time), or seek assistance from those who have gone before you. How much time do you have to learn through trial and error on how to compete with other job seekers for commercial opportunities?

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

Transitioned - Qualified - Employed

Transition is not only about getting a new job – anyone can do that if you're desperate enough. It also about

understanding your commercial value, maximising your earning potential and knowing the cultural shift required before you change jobs. This makes all the difference in how you promote yourself, your starting salary and how smooth you will integrate into your new workplace.

EDIT (Ex-Defence Integration Team) is a not for profit organisation providing government funded training for veterans in their transition.

The first of its kind, this training combines a bespoke Defence Career Transition and workplace Integration program with Certificate III qualifications and direct access to employers at the end of the training – all fully funded.

The first program is scheduled to be run in Canberra 4-8 March 2019, with other courses scheduled to run in Brisbane commencing 24 March, 13 May and 24 June 2019.

By completing the EDIT Defence Career Transition and Integration course, participants will:

- Be better prepared to promote yourself to employers, by knowing over 100 of your transferable skills and your workplace achievements;
- Know your new career direction and how to access suitable job vacancies;
- Create a targeted and demilitarised written application;
- Be competitive when applying for jobs on the open job market;
- Know how to answer different interview question types in a way that the employer is expecting;
- Never have mental blanks at an interview again;
- Know how to reveal negatives without losing the job;
- Know your commercial value for salary negotiation purposes;
- Know how to separate the good from the poor military culture to seamlessly integrate into a non-Defence team; and
- Have direct access to a range of employers seeking ex-Defence staff.

The EDIT goal is for each veteran job seeker to secure long-term meaningful employment that reflects their true market value.

More info can be found at edit.org.au.

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





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APK-02/NC19

10 Transition Traps

1. Not thinking about your transition until you're almost out of Defence. Your loyalty won't be reciprocated.
2. Thinking that your next career move must be the job you have until retirement. The average time in any job now is only five years.
3. Thinking that because you can talk well with people in general, you'll be fine at job interviews. Talking about yourself in a promoting manner is more difficult than you think.
4. Compiling a Résumé from your own perspective and thinking it will be competitive in this job market. There are over 100 applications on average per job vacancy – above average applications are no longer competitive. Only the best applications get through.
5. Thinking that testing the waters with an average Résumé will be OK. You're asking an employer to judge you on an average Résumé. You can't decide to send them a better version of you later, as they will already have formed an opinion about your suitability.
6. Using a Resume that has grammatical and spelling errors (this is a major problem). Far too many job seekers send applications out before having them proof read.
7. Thinking a civilian employer will understand the context of your military terms in a written application and at a job interview. In all forms of communication with civilian employers, speak plain language only.
8. Not knowing how to use your existing network to open job opportunities. Your existing network is the best source of securing your first job outside Defence.
9. Thinking that everyone in your new organisation will love you because you served in the Australian military. Know that not everyone will love you and respect what you have done in Defence.
10. Working really hard to prove yourself in your new civilian workplace (it may show up your work colleagues). Be careful of the unintended collateral damage of working too hard in your new job.



ADF Member and Family Transition Seminar

ADF Member and Family Transition Seminars 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 where you'll have access to information on topics like:

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

Over the past six months, DCO have been working to change the current ADF Member and Family Transition Seminar based off feedback from members and their families.

At the new seminars, you can get information relevant to your circumstances by visiting our expo floor or attending information sessions. You'll be able to choose sessions depending on your interests, and talk one-to-one with representatives from

a wide range of stakeholder groups who will provide you with information on transition and the transition support available to you.

If you are an ADF member and would like to attend a seminar register your attendance through CAMPUS. ADF families and support people can register their attendance by emailing Transition National Support Team (adf.transition@defence.gov.au) including the PMKeys number of the ADF member they are supporting.

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

2019 Seminar Dates	
Regional Victoria	Wed, 28 August
Newcastle	Wed, 04 September
Townsville	Wed, 11 September
Albury	Wed, 25 September
Melbourne	Wed, 02 October
Darwin	Wed, 09 October

Perth	Tues, 15 October
Brisbane	Tues, 22 October
Adelaide	Thur, 31 October
Sydney	Wed, 06 November
Canberra	Wed, 13 November
Shoalhaven	Wed, 26 November
Townsville	Thurs, 28 November



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WED **16**
OCT

Relocating with children

Moving is a major life change, and children may face challenges as they leave behind friends and familiar places and activities.

There are several steps you can take to make the process more manageable for children and to help them become more positive and self-reliant. We also offer a range of support for children, including assistance with changing schools and special programs for young children and teenagers.

Support for changing schools

We have specialist aides and mentors placed in primary and secondary schools across Australia to smooth the transition of Defence children into the new school and community and to provide them with support as needed.

Education Liaison Officers, or EDLOs, are specialists who can advise you about local education systems, schools, education issues and support available for Defence students.

To assist children with moving between schools, we have resources to help them capture and scrapbook their experiences, achievements, friends and memories from each school and take them on to the next. The School Posting Passport gives a quick snapshot of all the schools the student has been part of, while

the Digital Portfolio Builder is a more detailed electronic record of their information. You can order these resources for free from the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

SMART Programs

The SMART suite of programs help Defence families develop their resilience, providing them with the psychological resources to manage the military way of life. Increasing your 'psychological resilience' means that despite experiencing frustrations and challenging circumstances, you can still maintain an optimistic outlook and keep going.

The SMART programs teach you a series of skills including grounding techniques, progressive muscle relaxation, changing self-talk, problem solving, and expressing emotions.

During a SMART session participants will also be given information and resources to connect them with valuable local community resources. The programs are delivered by local Defence Social Workers in small group sessions, and provide practical tips and techniques to help manage stressful situations.

To sign up for any of the SMART sessions in your region, or to find out more information, contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on

DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au or 1800 624 608.

FamilySMART

FamilySMART is a series of group programs designed to help the partners of ADF members identify and build on their strengths, learn techniques to cope with the stressors and challenges of the military lifestyle, and become more resilient, self-reliant and proactive.

The programs target challenging aspects of Defence life such as deployment, relocations, partner absence from home, or reuniting with a partner who is returning after a long time away.

TeenSMART

TeenSMART workshops are for Defence teenagers to help them manage issues arising from deployment and relocation.

During the workshops, Defence teenagers can meet and share their stories about being part of a military family. They can also learn some ideas and tactics to help them stay connected to their parents while they are away on deployment, and meet new friends when they move to a new posting location.

The workshop will also cover other things, like managing change and coping when feeling stressed out. There will be some tips and hints for handling emotions, and some great relaxation techniques, too.

KidSMART

KidSMART are a set of four-week programs for primary aged kids to help them manage issues arising from posting, relocation and deployment. The KidSMART mascots, Tyler Turtle and Sam Super, will help kids learn how to manage change, stay connected with friends and meet new people.

The workshops will also cover other things, like helping children to cope when feeling stressed or anxious, particularly during times of parental absence and deployment. Kids can learn some techniques for handling emotions and relaxation, too.



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

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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

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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.