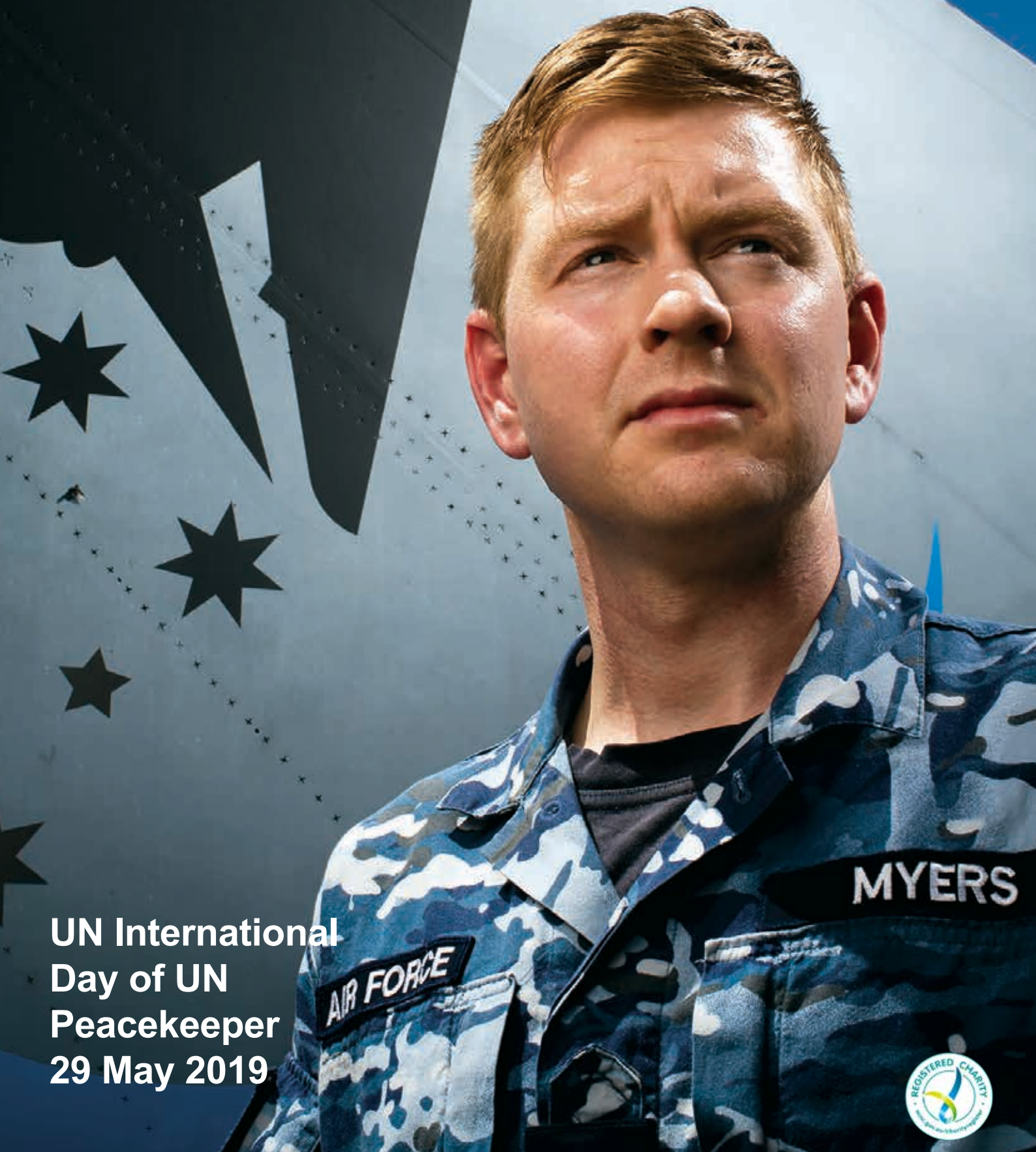


Australian Peacekeeper

WINTER 2019

MAGAZINE



UN International
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29 May 2019



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WHATS INSIDE

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

Cover

Flight Lieutenant Daniel Myers is an electrical engineer at RAAF Base Amberley, near Brisbane. Photo is part of the "Thank you for your service exhibition currently at the ANZAC Memorial Sydney from 5 April - 5 July



ADF

- 36 Think Tanks
- 39 Defence looks to future security challenges



ARMY

- 18 Brigadier makes military history in Afghanistan
- 25 Combined arms at full effect

AIR FORCE

- 46 A storm strikes in the NT

UNITED NATIONS

- 22 Australia to keep plying the UN Cyberspace game
- 47 2019 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

DEPARTMENT FEATURES

- 4 From the Presidents Desk
- 42 APPVA
- 52 Merchandise Form



FEATURE

- 8 The Australian Peacekeeper Narrative
- 12 Challengers for female Peacekeepers
- 16 Veterans Matters Update
- 20 Remembering our fallen engineers
- 21 Recognition for Cambodian who saved Aussie lives
- 26 Remembering Rwanda
- 32 Soldiers without guns



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.



**A leap forward in diesel
outboard engineering**



Dtorque (50HP)



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 Dtorque is available with either remote or tiller steering.

**WHEN
RELIABILITY
IS KEY**



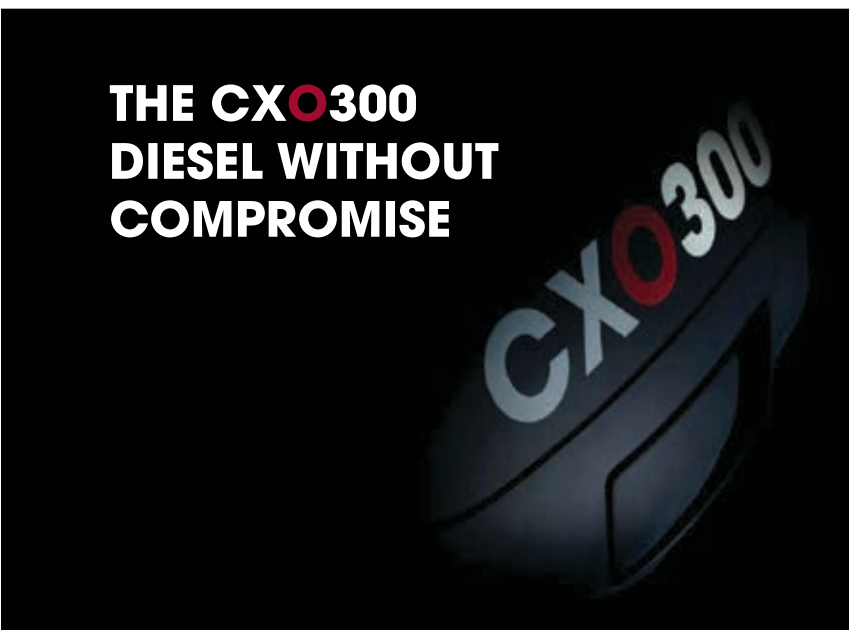
OXE (150HP / 200HP)
DIESEL



OXE represents Reliability, Strength, and Endurance.

The OXE is the world's first high performance 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. It is setting new standards for durability, fuel-efficiency and low emissions for an outboard engine.

**THE CXO300
DIESEL WITHOUT
COMPROMISE**



COX (300HP)



The Revolution Begins. Redefining diesel power.

The CXO300 diesel outboard is a world first. Combining the power and torque of a diesel engine with the advantages of an outboard COX redefines marine propulsion. The result is the most powerful commercial diesel engine ever developed, with levels of efficiency and reliability to match.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to all our members, it is hard to believe that we are now in May 2019. I hope all of you had a wonderful Anzac Day. You may not be aware but the APPVA are going through some significant changes with updating our old website and bringing into the new millennium. The website will include a column for the National President to keep you all informed of up and coming changes that may occur in the not to distant future.

The APPVA is now concentrating on our key issues with government and our National commemoration at the Australian Peacekeepers Memorial in Canberra on the 14 September 2019.

To date I have been to two Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) meetings in Canberra to discuss the Productivity Commission into the Department of Veterans' Affairs, this meeting was chaired by the Secretary to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, Ms Liz Cosson. The views of the National President's at the ESORT meeting was to retain the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The department plays a significant role in ensuring that veterans' both past and currently serving and their families wellbeing are managed effectively, efficiently and in a timely manner.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs are currently transitioning all their IT systems to better cater for veterans' and family needs, their has been significant improvements in time, taken to process claims, and to ensure that rehabilitation requirements are in place.

The current senior executive structure in the Department of Veterans' Affairs is made up of ex-military personnel who, like in the past have a better understanding of the rigours of service that veterans endure in the Australian Defence Force. There is a better understanding now than before on what type of jobs veterans did in the Australian Defence Force and are now able to apply their job specifics to service related injuries to get a quicker outcome for veterans' who continue to suffer from those injuries

after service and during service.

The department and national president's have now established what is called the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant after lengthy discussions and consultations over the past 12 months. The significant of the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant is to encourage Australian's to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service, and support veterans and their families.

I have included an article below that clearly outlines what the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant is.

Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant



The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant was announced by the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Darren Chester MP, on 27 October last year.

The Covenant encourages Australia to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service, and support veterans and their families.

The Covenant includes an oath, which the Australian people will be encouraged to take at community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day.

The new Veteran Card and an Australian Veteran Lapel Pin and a Reservist Lapel Pin underpin the Covenant.

The intention of the Covenant is to provide employers, businesses, local communities, and veteran and sporting organisations the opportunity

to commit to supporting veterans and their families.

VETERAN CARD

Veteran applicants, new to DVA, can apply for the new Veteran Card by creating a MyService account and, there, request a Veteran Card.

PLEASE NOTE

- This is the commencement of the implementation of the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant.
- Registration is aimed at applicants new to DVA.
- Current DVA health card holders will be issued with the new Veteran Card over the coming months.
- Registration includes the following:
 - As a veteran you are eligible for free treatment under the Non Liability Health Care (NLHC) arrangements for mental health, should you ever need it
 - During the application you will be asked to provide your bank details, as you may be eligible for a fortnightly payment supplement, associated with the NLHC arrangements
- Applications received prior to 18 February 2019 may receive an interim physical card by post, with the new physical Veteran Card following a few weeks later.
- The Government is working with Australian businesses and community organisations to discuss tangible recognition and services for Veteran Card holders.
- More information, including a list of participating businesses, will be available on this website over the coming weeks.

The Veteran Card will make it easier for Australians to recognise and respect the contribution that veterans have made to Australia and for our veterans to connect with the broader Australian community.

The Veteran Card is available to anyone who has served in the Australian Defence Force with at least one day of continuous full-time service.

Eligible Reservists, including those engaged in Disaster Relief Service, Border Protection Service, or involved

in a serious service-related training accident, will also be able to request a Veteran Card.

The card will help Australian businesses, service providers and community organisations to identify veterans so they can offer their acknowledgement and respect. For example, the card could provide a platform for businesses and community groups to provide tangible recognition and service to holders of the card.

It is important to note that the respective business or organisation determines what concessions, if any, they choose to offer to a veteran and their family. There is no obligation for a business or organisation to offer a concession.

The appearance of the Veteran Card is a redesign of DVA's current health treatment cards (Gold, White and Orange).

EXISTING DVA HEALTH CARDS (GOLD, WHITE AND ORANGE)

All existing DVA health card holders (Gold or White) and concession card holders (Orange) do not need to apply. Your existing services and entitlements are maintained. Health providers and participating businesses will recognise your existing card.

The new-look card will be issued to you over the coming months. You can request a Veteran Lapel Pin and Oath using MyService.

THE OATH

A key objective of the Covenant is recognition and support of the Australian community for veterans and their families.

The Oath is a declaration on behalf of the Australian people to give an enduring and formal recognition of the valued contribution that current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families make today, and have made in the past, to our country.

The Oath is not intended to replace the Ode, but is an additional commitment of respect to Australia's military veterans.

The Oath may be said at special events such as community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day.

VETERAN LAPEL PIN AND RESERVIST LAPEL PIN

The Veteran Lapel Pin and Reservist Lapel Pin provide a way for the public to recognise and connect with veterans and acknowledge their service to the nation. The pins will help identify veterans when they aren't wearing their uniform or medals.

The pins will be available for distribution in the first half of 2019.

VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK

Veterans' Health Week 2019
26 October to 3 November — Mental Wellness

This year Veterans' Health Week (VHW) will be held from *Saturday, 26 October, to Sunday, 3 November* and the theme will be *mental wellness*.

DVA will support ex-service organisations (ESOs) and community organisations with established links to the veteran community to deliver a range of events to highlight the importance of improving and maintaining good mental health. Mental wellness is essential for an individual's overall health and wellbeing which, in turn, strongly influences our physical health and social connectedness with family, friends and community.

MEDIA RELEASES BY THE MINISTER OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Budget puts veterans and their families first Australian veterans and their families will continue to see an improvement in support and services with \$11.5 billion in funding allocated in the 2019–20 Budget.

This funding represents an overall increase of \$300 million allocated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in 2019–20 compared with 2018–19 to support our veterans and their families.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the 2019–20 Budget was focussed on putting veterans and their families first and would see a continued investment in the transformation of DVA.

"Over the next two years DVA will continue its focus on making it easier and faster for veterans to access the services they need, when and where they need them," Mr Chester said.

"Veterans and their families will be able to access more services online and we will continue to simplify our phone system, introducing a

single contact phone number, 1800 VETERAN.

"We are making sure that every veteran, no matter where they live has better access to DVA by partnering with Department of Human Services to use their extensive network of shop fronts and centres, as well as Mobile Service Centres and agent networks.

"We will also be investing more to make DVA's online claims site, MyService, more user-friendly, making the claims process easier and faster.

"As the rising cost of living continues to put pressure on a lot of Australians, we have also announced a one-off Energy Assistance Payment that will provide additional support for more than 225,000 veterans and widows who receive support payments. The payment is worth \$75 for singles and \$125 for couples.

"We are continuing to deliver an extensive respect and recognition package with a veterans' covenant, nationally recognised veterans' card, lapel pin and commemorative program of national and international events."

The Australian Government's commitment to supporting veterans will strengthen with \$24.4 million in funding over four years for a range of programs including:

- \$16.2 million in funding to support grants to organisations who support veterans to deliver innovative programs to support veterans to find meaningful employment
- \$4.2 million to extend the trial of the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment which will continue to provide veterans with access to treatment for specified conditions before claims are approved, getting veterans treatment faster and preventing the risk of further deterioration of their condition
- \$4.0 million to provide training to volunteers who work with veterans enhancing their capability to recognise mental health risks and to provide intervention and support.

"Helping veterans effectively transition to civilian life is a priority for the government," Mr Chester said.

"We know that employing a veteran is good for business and the experience and skills they bring to a job can be invaluable.

"These grants will help veterans find employment by helping them

navigate the range of community and government services available to them."

Family violence victims who are former spouses or de-facto partners of veterans will also see an increase in support, with \$6.2 million in funding allocated in the Budget.

"Funding for the Partner Service Pensions — eligibility alignment measure will ensure former spouses and de-facto partners will be able to continue receiving the partner service pension after their relationship has ended and divorce proceedings finalised, including where it is determined that special domestic circumstances apply," Mr Chester said.

"This measure is about creating equity for all former partners of veterans, regardless of their marital status."

Last year the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade completed its inquiry into the use of Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force.

"We recognise that this is an ongoing concern for some veterans and the Australian Government is providing \$2.1 million so that any concerned veterans can have a comprehensive health check by a general practitioner to identify service-related illness, disease and injury," Mr Chester said.

The 2019–20 Budget also provides:

- \$3.5 million in funding to support the 2020 Anzac Day Dawn Service in France as well as for managing security and attendance in both France and Turkey consistent with previous overseas commemorations. The funding includes funds for a scoping study for a commemorative site on the Island of Lemnos, Greece, the former site of an Australian field hospital during the First World War.
- New and amended listings on the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

NEW RESEARCH PROVIDES DEEPER LOOK AT SERVING AND EX-SERVING COMMUNITY

Three major reports from the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme were today released, providing the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs (DVA), and the broader health community, a better understanding of the health concerns of current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said the Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies at the University of Adelaide has led the research programme, which investigates the impact of military service on the mental, physical and social health of serving and ex-serving ADF members and their families.

"The reports, *Technology Use and Wellbeing, Mental Health Changes Over Time: a Longitudinal Perspective and Impact of Combat*, each explored important aspects of serving and ex-serving members lives," Mr Chester said.

"Overall, the reports confirmed that most ADF members and their families are healthy and manage transition from the military to civilian life well, but some find transition challenging.

"The reports tell us that 84 per cent of transitioned ADF personnel were engaged in some purposeful activity, with 62.8 per cent in civilian employment — which includes 5.5 per cent who had retired. And we know that only 5.2 per cent of the almost 25,000 individuals who left the ADF between 2010 and 2014 were unemployed."

Mr Chester said the research also confirmed that more needs to be done to assist veterans and their families during the critical transition period to civilian life.

"The Government has invested in veterans and their families over successive Budgets, and as announced on Tuesday night, we have committed to a range of measures in the 2019-20 Budget," Mr Chester said.

"This includes an additional \$16.2 million in the 2019–20 Budget to support grants to not-for-profit organisations to deliver innovative programs to support veterans gain meaningful employment and \$4.0 million to provide training to volunteers who work with veterans on mental health support and intervention.

"The Government is committed to

putting veterans and their families first and will spend \$11.5 billion this year to deliver the essential services and support they rely on.

"Importantly, since this data has been collected, the Government has funded the transformation and improvement of DVA, and increased support for mental health, transition and employment for current and former ADF members, veterans and their families.

"Defence and DVA will use the research to further develop targeted programs initiatives that benefit current and former ADF members, veterans and their families, as well as determine future research priorities."

The \$6 million Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme is jointly funded by Defence and DVA and is the most comprehensive study undertaken in Australia on the impact of military service on the mental, physical and social health of transitioned and current serving ADF members and their families.

Seven of the eight reports have now been released and are available on the DVA and the Defence websites, along with further information on the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme. The Government will release the final report, a summary of the previous seven reports, in the near future.

About the reports:

The *Technology Use and Wellbeing* report is one of the first studies world-wide to investigate the use of the internet and new and emerging programs and technologies that support the wellbeing and mental health of serving and ex-serving military members.

It found that potential exists for the use of evidence-based new and emerging technologies that would help serving and ex-serving ADF members' self-manage their wellbeing and mental health.

The *Mental Health Changes Over Time: a Longitudinal Perspective* report examines the shifts in mental health status over a five-year period (2010–2014) in ADF members who have transitioned out of full-time military service compared with ADF members who remain in military service.

Similar to other international

military and veteran studies, the results from this report show that most people are in good mental health following discharge from active military service with some, particularly those who remain within the ADF, maintaining good health.

The **Impact of Combat** report examined the changes over time in the mental, physical and neurocognitive health and wellbeing of the of participants from the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) Prospective Health Study, who deployed to the MEAO between 2010 and 2012.

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE – SEATO BILL RECEIVES ROYAL ASSENT

Members of the Australian civilian surgical and medical teams who provided medical aid, training and treatment to local Vietnamese people during the Vietnam War will gain access to their Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card from 1 July 2019.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the Treatment

Benefits (Special Access) Bill received Royal Assent today.

"From 1 July, additional support will be available for the Australian Civilian Surgical and Medical teams who worked in Vietnam during 1964–72," Mr Chester said.

"Funding of \$22.2 million over four years will cover all their medical costs, not just injuries and illnesses that have arisen as a result of their employment in Vietnam."

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said the Australian Government has listened to the concerns of these men and women.

"They played a significant part in Australia's contribution to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) aid program in South Vietnam between 1964 and 1972, providing medical aid in Vietnamese civilian hospitals and training to local medical staff," Mr Frydenberg said.

During the Vietnam War, about 240 doctors and 210 nurses, and a small number of administrative and technical personnel worked in Vietnam under contract with the then Department of External Affairs.

"This measure recognises that while the medical teams were not under the direct command and control of the Australian Defence Force during the Vietnam War, they were exposed to hazards and dangers as a result of working in a conflict zone for the Australian Government," Mr Chester said.

In the lead up to the commencement of the Act, eligible members of the Australian civilian surgical and medical teams will be able to submit an application for the Gold Veteran Card.

That concludes my report for this winter edition of the Peacekeepers Magazine, I look forward to informing you of up and coming changes in our next addition of the Peacekeepers Magazine, this will also include the findings of the Productivity Commission into the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Sincerely,
Allan Thomas
National President

NEW REGULATIONS

New Regulations have been approved by the Governor General for the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM), as of 30th of January 2019. The new Declaration covers the following Operations with nominated HOSM Clasps:

VANUATU - CYCLONE PAM during the period 13 March 2015 to 1 April 2015; and covers a range of Organisations, including the ADF.

Link: [https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/regulations-updates/2019/HOSSUM/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Medal%20\(Vanuatu\)%20Declaration%202019.PDF](https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/regulations-updates/2019/HOSSUM/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Medal%20(Vanuatu)%20Declaration%202019.PDF)

WEST AFRICA - The Ebola Outbreak during the period 1 March 2014 to 29 March 2016. The countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea to the approved Organisations.

Link: [https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/regulations-updates/2019/HOSSUM/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Medal%20\(West%20Africa\)%20Declaration%202019.PDF](https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/regulations-updates/2019/HOSSUM/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Medal%20(West%20Africa)%20Declaration%202019.PDF)

PHILLIPINES - TYPHOON HAIYAN (YOLANDA). During the period 8 Nov 2013 to 16 Dec 2013.

Link: [https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/regulations-updates/2019/HOSSUM/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Medal%20\(Philippines\)%20Declaration%202019.PDF](https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/regulations-updates/2019/HOSSUM/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Medal%20(Philippines)%20Declaration%202019.PDF)

NEPAL - Earthquake Disaster. Service during the period 25 April 2015 to 22 June 2015.


Link: [https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/regulations-updates/2019/HOSSUM/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Medal%20\(Nepal\)%20Declaration%202019.PDF](https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/regulations-updates/2019/HOSSUM/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Medal%20(Nepal)%20Declaration%202019.PDF)

Declaration on 12 April 2019:

SOUTH VIETNAM - Amendment Declaration to include "Friends for All Children". Eligible Service from 18 February 1967 to 30 April 1975.

Link: [https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Service%20Medal/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Service%20Medal%20\(South%20Vietnam\)%20Amendment%20Declaration%202019%20-%20signed.pdf](https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Service%20Medal/Humanitarian%20Overseas%20Service%20Medal%20(South%20Vietnam)%20Amendment%20Declaration%202019%20-%20signed.pdf)

Other Declarations and information on eligibility for the HOSM is available at: <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/humanitarian-overseas-service-medal-regulations>



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.

The Australian Peacekeeper Narrative

“Peacekeeping is not a job for soldiers. But only a soldier can do it”
“Life only demands from you the strength you possess. Only one feat is possible - not to have run away.”

Dag Hammarskjöld, The Second Secretary General to the United Nations,
 Killed whilst serving the United Nations on 18th of September 1961, Zambia.

Peacekeeping. The name itself doesn't appear to be an activity or function that doesn't require a military or police presence. The name is not suggestive of any struggles or service in a war-ravaged country, where Peacekeepers themselves become targets. The name Peacekeeping appears to the unlearned to be a very low-keyed activity that embraces a pacified approach. Images of soldiers holding children's hands and being placed into a highly pacified posture provides a false façade toward the accurate unique nature of service of Peacekeepers. Peacekeepers are deployed for the future of the children of the host nation, and the narrative should not be confused with a Humanitarian role.

Indeed, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), places Peacekeeping in their blogs under the section of 'Women, Peace and Security' (WPS). So why is the service of Peacekeepers played down to that of a socially acceptable presence of deterrence, rather than a robust Combat capable Force ready to deal with violence and protect people?

Peacekeepers are the quintessential guardians of Peace. They are not civilian support staff. They are not bureaucrats. They are not Humanitarian Aid Workers. They are not babysitters. They are not politicians or diplomats. They are the protectors of the Peacekeeping Force (PKF). They are the Blue Berets who are military and para-military (Police) personnel of the PKF, working collaboratively in difficult and trying circumstances. They uphold the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), they are responsible for the security of humanity that they are on the ground, up close and personal, to ensure that

the Peace is maintained and kept.

Peacekeepers have and will be caught in the Crossfire. They will be attacked and faced with violence and death. They will have to defend themselves, depending on their Mandate. They will have to exercise the Rule of Law and the Law of Armed Conflict. They operate in confusing, malevolent and hostile environments. They hold a purpose, the purpose of Peace. On numerous occasions since 1947 to the present day and into the future, it has cost them their lives. For some, it has cost them their wellbeing, but they served believing that they were helping people, in desperate need of a helping hand to build their future.

Australia has committed over 80,000 ADF and Police personnel to Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) around the world, since the 14th of September 1947. Four Australian ADF Peacekeepers became the world's first to deploy into the field on a Peace Monitoring Operation in the then Dutch East Indies. This is a significant milestone in Australian Modern Military History. Australian Police followed suit by deploying to Cyprus on 26 May 1964 and remaining there for 53 years, withdrawing on 16 June 2017. The Australian commitment has been to over 63 PKO since 1947 up to the present day, non-stop in continuum.

For many decades Australian Peacekeeper Veterans have had difficulty in being adequately recognised. This difficulty culminates in the lack of awareness of PKO Service within the Australian General Public. Commemorations of Australian Peacekeepers normally occurs on 29 May [1948](UN International Day of UN Peacekeepers); and 14 September

[1947] (Australian Peacekeeper Day), albeit in a relatively small scale in comparison to others.

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial was dedicated on 14 September 2017, culminating the commemoration of 70 years of ADF and Police service, which has claimed 43 ADF and Police lives. The moral toll on Peacekeeper Veterans has also been 1 in 3 returned veterans suffering from chronic mental illness (Creamer et al., 2014). The Phoenix Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health (ACPMH) forecasts that 1 in 4 returning Australian UN Peacekeeper will suffer an acute mental illness (Forbes et al., 2016). There is an unknown number of wounded. PKO Service, whilst it may be viewed by some as benign, can erupt into violence and chaos without warning. PKO Service is significantly difficult to conduct, frustrating for troops and commanders, under arduous and malevolent conditions, with admirable restraint. Considerable tactical and logical decision-making is made by the lowest denominator to the highest Commander within the PKF.

The representation of Australian PK Service does not reflect the magnitude of Troop contribution to some of the most dangerous places on the planet at the time of deployment. Dr Brendan Nelson in a presentation on 1 November 2018 lamented: *“...our representation of Peacekeeping Service is quite frankly embarrassing...”* It is obvious that more needs to be done, not only with the presentation and educating the public of Australian PKO Service, along with tangible recognition in Veteran Entitlements and Medals; but also, with what our Peacekeepers

have endured, experienced and the profound positive and negative effect it has had on a number of Veterans' lives.

Australian Peacekeepers take pride in being among the world's best Peacekeepers. It is a reputation that has drawn International accolades on a number of difficult PKO. Unfortunately, Peacekeeper Veterans have gone largely mis-understood and underrecognised by Commanders, Veterans and the wider Community. George Gittoes, who worked alongside Australian Peacekeepers said: *"It is very unjust for veterans of 'shooting' conflicts like Iraq and Afghanistan to have their service regarded as any more dangerous or important than those of our Peacekeepers"*. George accompanied Australian Peacekeeper Soldiers during the Kibeho Massacre in Rwanda in April 1995. He also worked alongside them in a range of operations including Cambodia, Somalia, The Middle East and Western Sahara. He recorded the service of Australian Peacekeepers through film, sketch and paint.

PKO differ from each other in terms the Security Mandate to a particular PKO. The majority of PKO since 1989 to the present day has seen Australians armed, but with restrictive Rules of Engagement. Such differing environments presents challenges that have been overcome by the flexibility of our Troops. They are popular with the local people, popular with their fellow International Peacekeepers and are highly regarded by the International Community.

George Gittoes sums up his experiences with ADF Peacekeepers: *"I have been fortunate enough to witness the extraordinary courage, compassion and professionalism of Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers over many years and in different operations..."*

Australian Peacekeepers need to be more widely recognised for the unique and noble service that they have rendered, with many suffering as a result of this service.

By: Paul Copeland OAM, JP, International Vice President (Oceania) Soldiers of Peace International Association.

With input from and thanks to Peacekeeper Veterans and George Gittoes, AM.

Position Document of Australian Peacekeeper Veterans

To all Political Parties and Independents, The Australian Federal Election, Australian Parliament House April 2019.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1947 to the present day, and well into the future, Australia has provided approximately 80,000 troops in contribution toward International Peace, Security and Stability. By the word "Troops" we refer to the UN term of the contribution of Australia of those Members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and those seconded and who were Sworn Officers, of the Australian Federal Police (AFP). A Peacekeeping Force is comprised of both Military and Para-military (Police) Forces. Generally, they are the only group that is responsible for the Rule of Law, Right to Protect (R2P), Law and Order, Observing and disarming. On warlike service they also provided Peace Enforcement Mandates, to ensure peace by any means necessary. This is to protect International Peace, Security and Stability.

GENERAL

The issues that have been emanating from the Peacekeeper Veteran Community has been mainly been toward the equity of recognition and treatment as veterans in their own right. The view of some Senior ADF Officers toward Peacekeeping Service has been noted by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) in 2012, as *"...going on a well-paid UN holiday..."* This approach is unhelpful, when there are issues that need to be resolved by Defence. It is also insulting toward the service rendered by those Peacekeeper Veterans who have experienced significant trauma in a malevolent Peacekeeping environment.

These veterans have found an inappropriate ownership of decision-making policy by advisers within the Government toward the issues of equity and recognition for Australian Peacekeeper Veterans.

BATTLES FOR RECOGNITION

It has been a battle to get the simplest of recognition for these veterans since the increase of Australia's contribution toward Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) in the early 1990's. These veterans have had to fight for a rightful place to march on ANZAC Day as returned veterans; they have had to fight to have a National Memorial constructed in their honour; and they have had to fight to have their mates' deaths recognised at the Australian War Memorial.

The fight continues for appropriate recognition of their service rendered, in some of the most dangerous places on the planet at the time of service. In the context of equity with the previous generation of veterans, our Peacekeeper Veterans are the most under-recognised, the most under-represented and the most mis-understood group of veterans that Australia has seen to date.

MENTAL HEALTH

In the October 2014 Peacekeeper Mental Health Study (PK MHS) [aka Hathorne and Creamer et al., 2014]; it was found that 1 in 3 Returned ADF United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers suffered from a chronic mental illness. In the Phoenix Australian Centre of Posttraumatic Mental Health (ACPMH), Report of 2016 (Forbes, et al., 2016), it was forecasted that at least 1 in 4 returning ADF UN Peacekeepers will suffer from an acute mental health condition.

It is evident that the malevolent environments that our Service Personnel have served within is stressful, traumatic and has had life-long effects not only to the veteran, but also to the Veteran's partners and families.

Inclusive of Wellbeing is the appropriate recognition of service in comparison to those who are of a generation before them a different era, which there has been a generous array of retrospective service classifications and medallic recognition. It appears

that the present-day generation from the 1980's up to now, with the exception of the International Force in East Timor [INTERFET] (September 1999 – 20 February 2000); The International Coalition Against Terrorism ([ICAT] aka Afghanistan October 2001 to December 2014; and Iraq from March 2003 to August 2011.

RETROSPECTIVE RECLASSIFICATION

There remains unresolved retrospective reclassification matters for ADF Peacekeeper Veterans, particularly in Beirut 1983-1984, during the high dangerous Lebanese Civil War; and The ADF Contingent to the Humanitarian Intervention in Northern Iraq from May to June 1991. The latter literally invaded Northern Iraq to establish a Security Zone to repatriate displaced Kurds back to their homelands, in a highly dangerous and precarious environment.

EQUITY FOR REPATRIATION BENEFITS - POLICE

Over the last century and decades up until recently in this millennia, the sharing of Repatriation Benefits was the norm for ADF and AFP Service Personnel. In 1982 the equity issue for Police Peacekeepers serving in Cyprus was resolved by including those Service Personnel¹ into the *Repatriation Act 1920*. This of course transferred into the *Veteran Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA)*.

Unfortunately, the Veteran status of Police Peacekeeping Veterans was dissolved after the introduction of the *Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA)*. There was an unfortunate failure of the Government to continue the recognition of Repatriation Benefits for Police Peacekeepers and the last group to have entitlement to the *VEA* was the AFP Contingent to South Sudan in 2006.

We propose that a Review is conducted in order to investigate the equity issue of AFP Service Personnel

¹ By using the term 'Service Personnel' we refer to any ADF Member and AFP Sworn Officer, who have had the role of effecting the Peacekeeping Mandate of a given Peacekeeping Operation. It does not include Civilians.

who have served on Peacekeeping Operations since 1964 onward.

We also propose that the Government better recognises Returned Uniformed and Sworn Police Peacekeepers as Veterans within the Veteran Community.

MEDALLIC RECOGNITION

The proposition of an Australian Special Service Award, namely the Peacekeeping Special Service Medal for general recognition of the unique, difficult and noble service of Peacekeeping Service on Non-warlike Service was subjectively rejected by the AFP and the Defence Honours, Awards and Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT) in 2009-2011. This matter requires an **objective review** and consideration of the significance of service rendered by veterans and members of the ADF and the AFP. They are the Forces necessary to enable a Peacekeeping Force (PKF) to conduct its given Mandate.

The proposition of an Australian General Service Medal (AGSM), much like the AGSM for the Korean War Armistice 1953-1956; be awarded for Warlike Peacekeeping Service was also subjectively rejected by DHAAT. We propose that the concept of specific and separate AGSM for each of the Geographical regions of Africa² and S.E. Asia³ be struck for any Warlike Operation be given an **objective review**. By doing so, this matter would place those veterans on equal recognition terms with the generation before them, along with those who served on the International Force East Timor (INTERFET); Afghanistan (ICAT) from 2001 to 2014; and Iraq from 2003-2011.

The AGSM (Africa) will recognise the courage, service and sacrifice of less than 2,500 Veterans and the AGSM (S.E. Asia) up to 10,000 Veterans.

The need to recognise our ADF Disaster Relief/Response Operations (DRO) is also well over 20 years

² This includes ADF UN PKO in Namibia, Somalia, and Rwanda; the International Military Adviser Training Team (IMATT) Sierra Leone.

³ This includes ADF UN PKO in Cambodia and East Timor. It is exempt for those ADF members who served in the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET), due to a separate Operational Service Medal struck for that particular Operation.

overdue, as Government bureaucrats continue to bicker over recognition for our ADF members who deployed to disaster zones in Papua & New Guinea in 1998-1999, along with a number of other Disaster Relief Operations that have been in the best National Interest for our ADF to render support and assistance to the people in need within our South East Asian and South West Pacific Regional neighbours.

Our veterans who have so courageously served on various operations, particularly from the early 1990's have been systematically overlooked for Honours and Awards. Several veterans have been identified to be decorated by a number of influential people, however the matter has gone unresolved. We seek that these veterans are duly considered to be decorated for some of the most courageous service rendered in our Military History.

The time has come that the recent generation of Peacekeeper Veterans, are appropriately recognised. These Veterans have been overlooked in terms of equity and recognition for some time. We have observed Korea and South Viet Nam Veterans eventually being properly recognised up to 50 years past their service. Certainly, many of their mates that they served alongside in those conflicts have unfortunately passed over the passage of time. Those who passed before the Government made the right and moral decision to recognise their particular service did not get the opportunity to enjoy the recognition in their life.

Our Peacekeeper Veterans should not have to fight for the smallest concession in a similar context to the generation before us. Peacekeeping Service is one of a noble cause, in some of the most dangerous places on earth. We want to enjoy our recognition whilst we are still alive, not having to wait up to 50 years for the Government to make the appropriate decision. To cruelly delay such recognition only serves to deteriorate a veteran's wellbeing and pride.

CHANGING THE PEACEKEEPER VETERAN NARRATIVE

Too often our Peacekeeper Veterans are portrayed in a Humanitarian Role,

rather than conducting the front-end or coal-face of the Peacekeeping Operation. Civilians who are support staff have crept into the label of being called “Peacekeepers” however, it is our firm view that the Peacekeepers are those who are entitled to wear the UN Blue Beret and awarded the United Nations Medal for the particular Peacekeeping Operation served.⁴

The Service Personnel in Peacekeeping Operations are those ADF Members and those Sworn Officers of the AFP who are at the frontline of the implementation of public order, security, and protection of UN installations and Personnel and are the Peacekeeping Force (PKF) in their own right. They are the only Peacekeeping Force members who have the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Civilians.

They are the only ones bound by the Rule of Law, including the Law of Armed Conflict; preventing violence; Rules of Engagement (ROE); Orders for Opening Fire (OFOF); bringing Law and Order; and the conduct of defensive and offensive operations against an identified belligerent, within the parameters of the given Mandate. This is difficult service to perform.

They are bound by a strict code of discipline, dress, bearing and conduct the necessary Security Operations to bring about Peace to a troubled nation. They protect UN Installations, Personnel (including Support Staff) and are the Front Line of Peacekeeping. They deserve better recognition to what is currently available. A copy of the Peacekeeper Veteran Narrative is attached to this Paper.

We support the following Government initiatives:

1. The Transformation of DVA Program.
2. The Veteran Centric Reform Program (VCR).
3. The Review into the Delivery of Veteran Support Services. Making it ‘End-User Friendly’ for Veterans to navigate the complex Rehabilitation and Compensation System.

⁴ It must be noted that the UN Medal can only be awarded to Service Personnel for any given UN Peacekeeping Operation is a Foreign Award and not a specific Australian Award and permission must be sought from the Governor General to wear the medal by the recipient.

4. The Review into the Delivery of Veteran Advocacy Services, aka The Cornall Review of 2019.
5. The Review into the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Fund 1972-1991 (DFRDB).
6. The Review into Recognition of “*The Families Left Behind*” and seek to include recognising those Service Personnel who were unable to continually serve in their chosen vocation, as a result of their Operational Service caused wounds, injuries or illness.⁵
7. The Special Operations Forces – Pilot, in order to streamline the claims process and to have veterans ready for discharge from the ADF.

We seek action for the following matters:

1. **Retrospective reclassification of ADF service in the Observer Group Beirut (OGB), to the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) from 29 November 1983 to 10 March 1984; from Peacekeeping Service to Warlike Service. This is known to affect up to four (4) living Veterans.⁶**
2. **Retrospective reclassification of ADF service to the ADF Contingent to OPERATION HABITAT from Hazardous (Non-warlike) Service to Warlike Service. This is known to affect approximately 68 living veterans.⁷**
3. **A Review into the equity of Repatriation Benefits for AFP Peacekeeping Veterans.**
4. **Recognise our Veterans with the proposed Australian Peacekeeping Special Service Medal⁸ for service to non-warlike**

⁵ It must be noted that the UN Medal can only be awarded to Service Personnel for any given UN Peacekeeping Operation is a Foreign Award and not a specific Australian Award and permission must be sought from the Governor General to wear the medal by the recipient.

⁶ The Minister for Veterans' Affairs Media Release dated 6 March 2019, for the Women United by Defence Service Council (WUDS) to conduct this Review.

⁷ This matter is currently active within the current Minister for Veterans' Affairs Portfolio for Major Ray Williams (Retired).

⁸ This matter was previously raised with the Clarke Review of 2002-2003 and again reviewed in 2009-2010. It was rejected, however new information has come to hand to contend the rejection of the service having a ‘Moderate’ threat level, but rather to a ‘High’ threat level. A Military Threat Assessment (MTA) was never conducted for this Contingent.

Peacekeeping Operations, to complement the Australian Service Medal⁹ and the Police Overseas Service Medal.¹⁰

5. **Recognise our Veterans who have rendered Warlike Service in a given Peacekeeping Operation with an Australian General Service Medal applicable to the identified regions of Africa and S.E. Asia, to complement the Australian Active Service Medal.¹¹**
6. Review the effectiveness of the Defence Honours, Awards and Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT).
7. Properly recognise our ADF veterans who have rendered service overseas above and beyond that of normal service in Australia to our Regional Neighbours and elsewhere around the world on Disaster Relief Operations (DRO), with the striking of an Operational Service Medal (Disaster Relief Operations).
8. Properly recognise our veterans who displayed significant courage under fire and in arduous and malevolent environments by decorating them for their remarkable and significant service. This position paper is the initiative of the following organisations:

The Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (APPVA)

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The Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA) Oceania & Australia
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Police Peacekeeping Veterans
Point of Contact: TBA.

⁹ It is proposed that only ONE Australian Peacekeeping Service Medal is awarded to ADF Members and AFP Sworn Officers who have rendered service in a given Non-warlike Peacekeeping Operation.

¹⁰ The Australian Service Medal specifically recognises a Defence Member for service to a prescribed Non-warlike Operation from period September 1945 to 13 February 1975 (aka ASM 45-75) and the period 14 February 1975 to the present (aka ASM 75-).

The Police Overseas Service Medal specifically recognises an Overseas Police Operation, not particularly a Peacekeeping Operation, and is available to Sworn Officers of the AFP; and un-sworn workers of the AFP.

Challenges for female Peacekeepers can come from within UN militaries



Vanessa Newby

This article is part of a series on women, peace and security that The Strategist is publishing in recognition of International Women's Day 2019.

On 6 March 2019, Arizona Senator Martha McSally gave testimony at an armed services committee hearing that she had been raped by a senior officer while serving in the US Air Force. She said that she did not report it at the time for fear of retribution. While the sexual abuse of women by peacekeepers in host countries has generated significant policy changes in UN peacekeeping, sexual abuse within missions remains a little-discussed issue. It's one of several problems faced by female peacekeepers that come from the peace operations themselves, and not from the challenging environments in which they work.

Between 1989 and 1993, just 1.7% of military peacekeepers deployed by the UN were female. In 2001, the

proportion of women in military posts serving in UN missions had increased to little more than 4%. Currently, the number of female soldiers serving in operations abroad is 2,930, or 3.87% of all peacekeeping troops. Despite these low numbers, having women in peacekeeping missions is associated with success.

The presence of women in peace operations offers several benefits. First, in a security environment, it enables security precautions to be applied to both female and male populations. Second, as women are increasingly able to patrol, their access to female members of the community in the area of operation is significantly better than men's. Also, because women can usually speak with both men and women, they access intelligence from all members of society and therefore obtain a more holistic view of the security environment. Third, in highly volatile security environments, the presence of women at checkpoints

has been credited with promoting a less confrontational atmosphere.

In addition, access to women's networks enables female peacekeepers to consult with the non-elite sectors of the population who may have very different requirements for an equitable peace. This can help in developing a more representative solution at the mediation table.

It's important to note, however, that women are not only effective in 'women-only' spaces. Research has found evidence of women's effectiveness across all aspects of security; for example, in Liberia, the women-only police unit in the UN mission (UNMIL) demonstrated competency in riot control.

Women in peacekeeping currently face three main challenges: 'the exclusion of and discrimination against female peacekeepers; the relegation of female peacekeepers to safe spaces; and SEAHV [sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence] of female peacekeepers'.

Exclusion and discrimination can take many forms, but a key constraint is that national militaries frequently send combat units to peacekeeping operations. Indeed, at the UN mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL), European units have often deployed special forces, which usually don't contain women. Another problem is that oftentimes militaries simply don't have enough women in their armed forces to supply a gender-balanced force. Encouragingly, though, armed forces that have a higher proportion of women do tend to send more women.

These limitations don't seem to apply as often to female police officers. It has been found that women serving in national police forces have the agency to apply individually, or are selected for peace missions, which is why in general we see better representation of women in this area.

Exclusion can also come from force commander rotations. In 1992, the incoming force commander at the UNIFIL mission explicitly forbade women to undertake frontline military roles. Despite protests from female soldiers across UNIFIL, the policy remained in place for the duration of the force commander's tenure.

A further constraint on the inclusion of women in peacekeeping, and in the peace process more generally, has been the distorted narrative on women from UN headquarters. As Laura Shepherd has noted, women are sometimes schizophrenically written about as victims in need of protection or superheroines capable of representing all women. Neither of those characterisations sufficiently captures the reality of women's lives or the structural constraints they experience in particular environments.

Male colleagues' perceptions that women are in need of protection can lead to their relegation to safe spaces, which prevents them from taking on certain roles. This experience was noted by peacekeepers in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan, where male colleagues tried to prevent women from speaking to men in the villages they patrolled. In some missions, women have been prevented from leaving the base, while their male colleagues are free to do so, in the name of security concerns.

Research has also found that female soldiers are also less likely to be deployed to missions in countries that have low levels of development and/or have experienced higher levels of violence, especially sexual and gender-based violence. As these countries are logically in greater need of gender sensitive peacekeeping, this practice appears counter-productive.

As noted above, SEAHV is a further problem for female peacekeepers, though it's unclear whether the threat comes more from within militaries themselves, or from the environment in which they operate. Sexual violence within militaries has been attributed to what is termed a 'warrior syndrome' that promotes hypermasculinity; but it's hard to know the actual number of victims. A Rand report in 2015 found that fewer than one-third of attacks within the US military were reported



and 52% of victims who did report the incident faced retribution from senior officers for doing so. In the UNMIL mission, 17% of women listed sexual harassment within the mission as the biggest impediment to completing their duties.

While there are unique advantages to female deployment in peace operations, as Claire Hutchinson noted recently at an ASPI workshop, the diffusion of the WPS agenda should focus on full participation. Increasing female representation in peace operations needs to be done using an approach that includes women in all aspects of military activity and which does not relegate them to specialised spaces, such as care-giving, support roles or as providers of gender-sensitive advice. Effective leadership in peacekeeping not only

requires participation by both men and women but calls on a range of different skill sets from both genders.

Ultimately, UN peacekeeping is a sum of its parts—it's not just a question of changing the shape of peacekeeping missions; changing the military cultures that constitute them is also essential.

Finally, it is well to remember that peacekeeping operations are vehicles for advancing local reforms, so performance on the ground does matter. Leaving a legacy that champions gender equality is essential to help promote reform in receiving states and their security institutions.

Vanessa Newby is an assistant professor at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Image courtesy of the United Nations.



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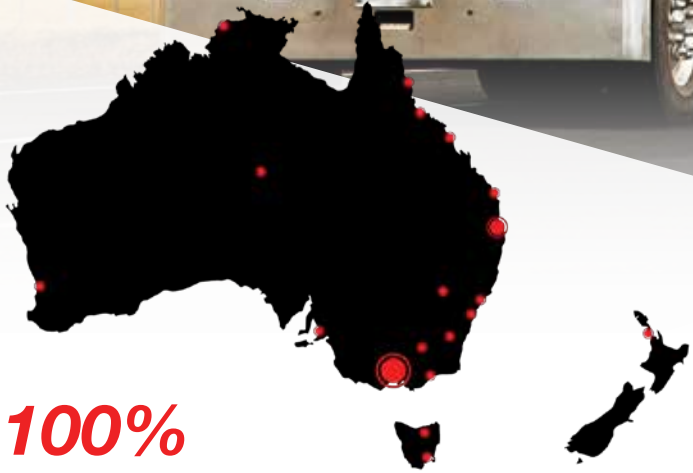
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Veterans' Matters Update

by Paul Copeland

1. During the period February to early May 2019, the APPVA has been busy with a range of Veteran related matters. **In February**, the APPVA lodged a Submission in response to the Productivity Commission Draft Report into Veteran Support Services. Link: <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/veterans/draft> The link for the APPVA Submission is located at: https://www.pc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/237400/subdr270-veterans.pdf

2. **March 2019.** During March, various representations have been made to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) for the up-coming Exhibition of "Courage through Peace", which is due to be launched in October 2019. Several Members of the APPVA, along with Paul Copeland, have already been interviewed and pledged various items for the display. Veterans who have served in Cambodia, Rwanda and Somalia, should contact Paul Copeland to discuss the Project on email: chook126@bigpond.net.au

3. On 21 March 2019, Paul Copeland and Dave Vinen attended the launch at the AWM of Volume IV of The Official History of Australian Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations, 'The Limits of Peacekeeping', Australian Missions in Africa and the Americas 1992-2005. The book is well researched and is a valuable addition to any avid Military enthusiast's book collection.

The Book was officially launched by His Excellency, General, The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retired), the Governor of NSW.

Link: <https://www.awm.gov.au/media/press-releases/peacekeepingIV>

4. During March an APPVA Work Group was held in NSW to further finalise the submission for the Retrospective Reclassification of 'Hazardous' or Non-warlike Service for OPERATION HABITAT in Northern Iraq, to Warlike Service. The matter will be finalised in the coming months for submission to the new Federal Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

5. **The APPVA Representative**

to ESO Round Table (ESORT) is the APPVA National President, Allan Thomas OAM, JP. ESORT met for the second time in 2019 on 2nd of April 2019. The day before the ESORT Meeting, a 'Pre-ESORT' Meeting is normally held the afternoon prior to the ESORT Meeting. This provides the opportunity to raise matters of importance by various ESO, and discussion of the ESORT Agenda.

6. **The Veteran Covenant** and the Australian Veterans Recognition Bill, 2019, was discussed at some length and it was noted that the Police Peacekeeper Veterans were not included into the Covenant. There has been separate approaches by Police Peacekeeper Veterans toward this matter, however it appears that support for them to be included into the Veteran Covenant will not be realised through ADSO or ESORT.

Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about-dva/legislation/list-bills-and-acts/australian-veterans-recognition-putting-veterans-and-their>

It appears that **Police Peacekeepers** are viewed by many ESO as another group of people who have served on various deployments such as Entertainers, QANTAS Flight Crews and ASEAN Medical Staff to Viet Nam. This is unfortunate, as these Veterans are not placed into support roles, but rather are part of the frontline of Peacekeeping Operations.

7. Of note for **ASEAN Medical Staff**, it was disclosed that these people who served in South Viet Nam during the War will be accepted for a Gold Card by the Government. Whilst these people did not serve directly for Australian Forces in Viet Nam, it was noted that they provided services to US Forces and other external agencies during the War and were subjected to much of the same as any other person fulfilling the Medical Roles at the time.

8. **ADF Transition Management** has been raised as a matter of concern by many within the ADSO and ESORT. It is envisaged that improvement systems are currently being introduced to better

effect Discharging ADF members separating from the ADF.

9. **The 'Cornall' Report** into the delivery of Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study has been released. The link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/consultation-and-grants/reviews/veterans-advocacy-and-support-services-scoping-study>

Member views and feedback is encouraged to be sent to the Secretary via email: secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au It is requested that feedback is received NLT 21 May 2019. This may form the Reply Submission from the APPVA to Government.

10. **DFRDB Inquiry.** The Government will commission an independent inquiry to examine the information provided by scheme administrators and relevant departments to members of the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) superannuation scheme. The DFRDB scheme, which was established in 1972 and closed to new members in 1991, allowed members to commute (exchange) part of their pension for a lump sum.

There are different views among some in the veteran community about certain areas of the scheme and the appropriateness of information provided to members at the time.

http://minister.dva.gov.au/media_releases/2019/march/va033.htm

11. **MRCA Single Treatment Pathway Bill 2019.** The single treatment pathway will be aligned with that in the VEA and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (the DRCA). Under the proposed amendments, medical treatment under the MRCA will be accessed and provided through a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Health Card. Link: <https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/about%20dva/budgets/2018-19/single-treatment-pathway.pdf>

12. **Retrospective Reclassification of Service** from Peacekeeping to Warlike Service – Observer Group Beirut November 1983 to March 1984. Work has

progressed on the matter of the reclassification of service from Peacekeeping to Warlike Service for up to three (3) Army Officers who served in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War in 1983-1984.

The APPVA Delegation met with the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in February 2019 and an undertaking was made to resolve the issue. Currently, the matter is being reviewed by Defence, however the Government, due to the Federal Election is in a 'Care-taker' mode. This will slow the result, particularly if a change of Government is made after the Elections.

13. Peacekeeper Federal Election Position Paper. The APPVA, the Soldiers of Peace International Association (SPIA) [Oceania], the United Nations and Overseas Police Association of Australia (UNOPAA), along with other Police Peacekeeper Veterans; have formulated a joint Federal Election Position Paper, which is included into this Edition. The joining of forces ensures continuity and better coordinated efforts toward resolving the many matters outstanding for Peacekeeping Veterans in Australia.

The Position Paper also includes the **Peacekeeper Narrative**, which is also published in this Edition.

14. Recognition of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice – the recognition of Killed, wounded, injured or ill. On 6 March 2019, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Darren Chester, MP, announced that a Review into the recognition of those veterans who were killed/wounded/injured/ill. The Media Release was titled "Recognition of the Families left behind." The Women United within Defence Service (WUDS) has been tasked with reviewing this matter by the Minister, of which the APPVA have already communicated with Mrs Rhondda Vanzellas, the Nominated Co-Chair of the WUDS. Apparently 12 women will be chosen and appointed by the Minister in the very near future, to provide direct consultation and advice to the Minister of various matters affecting or related to the WUDS. The WUDS, once appointed will receive their TOR for the aforementioned Review and it is assumed that a public Review will then commence.

At ESORT on 2 August 2012, the matter of recognising Killed/Wounded/Injured/Ill was an agenda item that basically stated that the ADF Chief of Staff Committee (COSC), had looked at the matter and it was more or less closed. It is obvious that some ESO and Veterans have been undergoing a lobbying campaign over this matter since 2012 and it has become a matter for the Minister to address. Of interest this has not been referred to the Defence Honours, Awards and Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT). Further information will be advised, once the WUDS has been established.

The APPVA provided a Submission in 2010, however the matter failed to gain traction from Government. This Submission was again sent to the ADSO and the feedback has been very positive toward the conceptualised recognition for families and veterans. A copy of this submission is located online at the APPVA Website.

15. In the ESORT Meeting of 13 November 2014, the announcement was made that the **Peacekeeper Mental Health Study (PK MHS)**; Viet Nam Veteran Family Study (VVFS); and the Rwanda Health Study (RHS); had been released by the then Minister, Senator Michael Ronaldson in the Senate on 28 October 2014. There was an undertaking to ESORT for ESO to make submissions to discuss the outcomes of these various studies.

On 24 March 2015, when the ESORT next met after the ESORT Meeting of 13 November 2014, there is no mention of the PK MHS; VVFS; or the RHS. It doesn't appear to have been raised for discussion, nor any submissions by ESOs made toward these Studies.

The outcomes of these Studies remain unrealised with the mainstream Veteran community and within the general community. The studies produced some astonishing outcomes, that need to be raised within the Pre-ESORT for discussion and action at ESORT. It was undertaken by ADSO to raise these matters.

16. A call to review the effectiveness of the Defence Honours, Awards and Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT). The DHAAT was first introduced by the Rudd Government in 2008 and underwent a number of Inquiries and Review since

that time. The DHAAT has been in operation for over 10 years, however, there has been no review conducted into the effectiveness of this Tribunal since that time.

There are concerns as to the DHAAT practise in line with Australian Administrative Law (AAL). The ADSO agreed with the matter, with action to be taken after the Federal Election.

17. Budget Briefing 2 April 2019. The ESORT was then closed, with the 2019 Budget Briefing conducted. The Government pledged Australian veterans and their families will continue to see an improvement in support and services with \$11.5 billion in funding allocated in the 2019–20 Budget.

This funding represents an overall increase of \$300 million allocated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in 2019–20 compared with 2018–19 to support our veterans and their families. Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the 2019–20 Budget was focussed on putting veterans and their families first and would see a continued investment in the transformation of DVA. Further details: http://minister.dva.gov.au/media_releases/2019/apr/va038.htm

Further News and Updates are available at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about-dva/news-and-updates>



Brigadier makes Australian military history in Afghanistan



Brigadier John Shanahan (left) meets with Train, Advise, Assist Command - Air Commander Brigadier General Joel Carey after the transfer of authority.

Replacing a wounded ally resulted in an Australian brigadier making history during one of the most turbulent periods in Afghanistan’s recent history.

Brigadier John Shanahan became the first non-US commander of the 11,000-strong Train Advise Assist Command – South (TAAC-S) since the Resolute Support mission began in January 2015.

He led TAAC-S for five months and handed command to US Brigadier General Miles Brown during a ceremony in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on 24 February.

The ceremony brought an end to 18 months in Afghanistan for Brigadier Shanahan, who originally deployed for 12 months as the Chief of Combined Joint Operations at Resolute Support Headquarters in Kabul.

“Taking over from a predecessor who was wounded in action gives you focus and clarity.”

On October 18 last year, two days before national parliamentary elections, the Kandahar Police Chief, Lieutenant General Abdul Raziq, was assassinated in an insider attack claimed by the Taliban.

Also wounded in the attack were senior local Afghan officials and two US personnel, including the then TAAC-S commander, Brigadier General Jeffrey Smiley.

The Commander of Resolute Support, US General Scott Miller, then requested that Brigadier Shanahan take up the TAAC-S command.

“Taking over from a predecessor who was wounded in action gives you focus and clarity,” Brigadier Shanahan said.

“The elections were delayed in Kandahar by a week in honour of Lieutenant General Raziq, which was a good thing but also put the world’s attention on us. The world was expecting Kandahar to be on fire. I was parachuted onto that drop zone.

“We got the governors and the leaders of the Afghan security forces together and we talked about how we were going to run the elections safely. That calmed a lot of things down.”

“I saw the Afghan people, the Afghan security forces and the soldiers of TAAC-S rise up against the Taliban.”

Despite the one-week delay in Kandahar, elections across the south

went ahead on time, and with fewer disruptions and greater voter turnout than many other provinces around Afghanistan.

How his team at TAAC-S and their Afghan partners handled that period of turmoil is one of Brigadier Shanahan's proudest moments in command.

"I saw the Afghan people, the Afghan security forces and the soldiers of TAAC-S rise up against the Taliban, resilient among sadness and chaos to execute peaceful elections in Uruzgan and Zabul on schedule and Kandahar only a week later," he said.

He said his time in Afghanistan has been challenging but he would do it again to help the people of Afghanistan.

"I can think of very few things I would have rather have done over the past 18 months," Brigadier Shanahan said.

"Helping Afghanistan to develop as a country, helping it to avoid descending into chaos and brutality, developing the Afghan security forces to defend the country and its people – and these are wonderful people – has been hugely rewarding," he said.

The area of operations for TAAC-S includes the Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan and Daykundi provinces.

The governors of the four provinces and senior representatives of the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police and National Directorate of Security attended the transfer of authority ceremony.

"To our Afghan partners, we have planned, trained and fought together."

Their presence was a strong show of support for TAAC-S and Brigadier Shanahan.

The new TAAC-S commander, Brigadier General Brown, said Brigadier Shanahan had helped shape the Afghan security forces as an effective fighting force and set the conditions for peace.

"Your personal sacrifice and dedication to the people of Afghanistan speaks to your character, competence and commitment," Brigadier General Brown said.

"Your style of leadership, laser mission focus and agility has shown you to be the consummate war fighter and has provided momentum for our fight with the enemy. Due to your influence, we have a strategic opportunity to bring this to a logical



Brigadier John Shanahan (centre) with the Afghan National Army 4th Brigade Commander Brigadier General Shafiqullah during operation planning in Zabol Province, Afghanistan.



Train, Advise, Assist Command - South (TAAC-S) Commander Australian Army officer Brigadier John Shanahan DSC, AM, OBE with the Afghan National Army 205th Corps Commander Lieutenant General Hamiid at the Forward Operating Base Eagle in Afghanistan.

conclusion."

Brigadier Shanahan said it had been a "tremendous honour" to lead TAAC-S – which comprised personnel from the US, Australia, Poland, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria.

"To all of those at TAAC-S, you have poured blood, sweat and tears into this mission and have worked alongside your Afghan partners to forge relationships of trust, mutual respect and, above all, friendship," he said.

"To our Afghan partners, we have planned, trained and fought together. We call you our partners and we have

learned so much from you militarily and as a nation. Your steadfastness and courage against the outrages of the Taliban is remarkable. I will miss you immensely."

Brigadier Shanahan commissioned into the British Army and initially served with the 7th Gurkha Rifles, one of the most respected combat units in the world, and later the Royal Engineers. He transferred to the Australian Army in April 2008.

Now, after being away so much, his main interest is spending time with his wife, Susan, and twin boys, Scott and Jack.

Remembering Our Fallen Engineers

By Phil Pyke

It took a final battle before the nine Royal Australian Engineers who were killed in Afghanistan finally got their own memorial – this time with objectors against the memorial location in Launceston's Kings Park.

Aiming to dedicate the national Royal Australian Engineers Afghanistan Memorial on April 24th (Kapyong Day), the team under Major (Rtd) Jamie Twidale, Michael Goldsmith and Dale Pollock worked with the support of combat engineers across the country to build the simple structure of two Bailey Brigade panels.

However, the Launceston City Council received a number of objections – more on the location rather than the memorial design itself. Finally, the design and location were approved after three hours of debate – with H Hour fast approaching and combat engineers with their families flying in from all over Australia.

Jamie Twidale was one of the 40 people who helped drive and complete the project with Launceston's Tom Pedley and Johnno Morrison giving their time to help build the memorial in honour of Corporal Richard Atkinson (their mate) who was killed in action 02 February 2011.

"I only knew Richard a little bit, he served in my unit in Darwin and then he deployed overseas with a different unit," said Jamie.

"We sourced two Bailey bridge panels which was the border around the parade ground of the School of Military Engineering at Moorebank, NSW."

"The significance of these panels is that all of our fallen brothers would have marched on this parade ground on numerous occasions."

More than 18 months of effort went into the memorial, with a determined bunch of Richard Atkinson's mates working to get the Memorial off the ground. Fundraising came from across Australia when an application with the Tasmanian Government under the Teddy Sheehan Grants wasn't successful.

At the dedication, the Commanding Officer of the School of Military Engineering, Lieutenant Colonel David Evans, paid tribute to the nine combat engineers who gave their lives in battle.

"As a sapper in Afghanistan, search operations were a demanding and regular undertaking, often leading the way to mitigate the numerous threats to our Australian and partnered forces," Lieutenant Colonel Evan said.

"This task was done in extreme heat or extreme cold and under extreme weight."

"Without these key skills our forces would not have, or been able to engage, with the Afghanistan tribal leaders or the local populations we were there to support."

Remembering Richard was at the forefront of the unveiling– but the other eight combat engineers who died in Afghanistan weren't forgotten with their names on the brass plaque on the face of the memorial.

Richard's brother, James, said the memorial meant a lot to his family.

"For me it's about returning here in the future, and not only remembering Richard, but also everyone else's



From Left Dale Pollock, Jamie Twidale, Lieutenant Colonel David Evans and WOI Shaun Chainey



L-R Peter Seymour, Rod Hayward, Michael Rooney, Shane Telford, Allan Pemberton, Adrian O'Loughlan, Peter Ireland, Adrian Eames, Dean Grose, Jason Cox, Jimmy Oakley (kneeling) Colin Glasby, Tony Wilshire, Jamie Twidale, Craig Jolly, Stephen Murphy(obscured), Garry Shaw, Dale Pollock, Mitch Partridge, Michael Goldsmith, Jason Sandy

sacrifice," he said.

"It's also about remembering that Richard used to live life to the full and it will remind me to do the same."

At age 22, Corporal Atkinson was the first Tasmanian to be killed in Afghanistan.

Royal Australian Engineers Killed In Afghanistan
 Sergeant Brett Till Corporal Ashely Birt
 Corporal Scott Smith Corporal Richard Atkinson
 Sapper Jamie Larcombe Sapper James Martin
 Sapper Jacob Moreland Sapper Rowan Robinson
 Sapper Darren Smith

Lest We Forget



Recognition for Cambodian who saved Aussie lives

By Fleur Laphorne

A Cambodian man has been recognised 25 years after he saved the lives of two Australian soldiers from the Khmer Rouge.

Toch Rada was presented with an Australian CDF Commendation for his more than 25 years' excellent service, including when he successfully negotiated the release of the two men who had been detained by the Khmer Rouge in Kratie, Cambodia.

A research officer and interpreter, Mr Toch was presented the commendation at a ceremony at the Australian embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia recently.

Mr Toch was joined by his family and members of the Cambodian embassy community where he was presented with his award by Australian Ambassador Angela Corcoran, acknowledging his exceptional performance in life threatening and routine circumstances over the past 25 years.

"The CDF Commendation is the highest internal Defence award. To the best of our knowledge it has never been awarded to a locally engaged staff member, anywhere in the world," Ms Corcoran said.

"I think it is important to note that this is not just an award for more than 25 years' excellent service, but because on at least three occasions Rada has performed admirably in very dangerous circumstances."

Former WO2 Gary Perkins was one of those men Rada saved after successfully negotiating their release.

"It makes me so happy and proud that you have received this Australian CDF Commendation, you are a credit to yourself, your brother, the memory of your family and the Kingdom of Cambodia," WO2 Perkins said.



Cambodian interpreter Toch Rada with family and colleagues at the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh.



Cambodia – Force Communications Unit Admin Squadron 1992
 Back Row: Capt. Woodhouse, WO1 Earle, Capt. Blundell, Capt. Atkinson, WO2 James, Capt. Monteath, WO2 Forde, WO2 Wood, WO2 Stalk, WO2 Cliffe, WO1 Van Den Broek, WO2 Gardner, WO1 Williams, WO2 Perkins
 Front Row: WO2 Hourigan (SSM), Major Gray (OC), Captain Lewis (2 i/c), Mr Ruddan Tooh (Interpreter)
 (Courtesy WO1 & Marin OAM)

Mr Toch said he had a mixture of feelings as he received his award.

"This is a tremendous honour not only for me but also for the Defence section, for the embassy and for my family to receive this award," he said.

"Therefore I would like to attribute this to them.

"Without their support, this wouldn't have happened today.

"It will be a great memory."

www.contactairlandandsea.com



Australia to keep playing the UN cyberspace norms game

The United Nations now has not one but two separate forums for discussing international rules of behaviour in the cyber realm, and Australia will be supporting them both.

The United Nations has restarted its process for setting rules on "responsible state behaviour in cyberspace" with two separate forums, and Australia intends to continue being a key player.

Early April, Australia's Ambassador for Cyber Affairs Dr Tobias Feakin, announced that his senior policy adviser Johanna Weaver would be the nation's representative on the sixth United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (GGE).

Weaver is the director of cyber policy at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

She holds a Masters of Laws specialising in strategic cyber policy, as well as a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Political and International Studies. She also sat through the previous round of GGE meetings as an adviser.

"Never has it been more important

to be clear about responsible state behaviour in cyberspace," Feakin said.

His comment reinforced the recent assessment by Australia's Foreign Minister Marise Payne that 2019 will be a "pivotal year in the development of the rules of the road in cyberspace".

"Over the past three years, we have seen an increase in the willingness of states and non-state actors to use the internet for malicious and indiscriminate ends," Payne said in a speech to the Lowy Institute in March.

"Certainly, in the past three years, more countries have developed cyber capabilities and demonstrated a willingness to use them."

Analysts believe that 30 or more nation-states either have or are working on an offensive military cyber capability.

THE GGE'S PROGRESS STALLED, BUT WILL RESTART AGAIN SOON

Previous rounds of GGE meetings, which began in 2004, made significant diplomatic progress, at least in comparison to recent years.

In the 2013 UN GGE Report, when the meetings were chaired by Australia, nations agreed that the UN Charter and international law applied in cyberspace, avoiding the need for

the UN to create a new global legal framework.

It was agreed that nations' efforts to improve cybersecurity would have to include "respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments", and intensify cooperation against criminal or terrorist use of ICTs, among other high-level aims.

In their 2015 UN GGE Report, nations agreed to a set of 11 international norms in cyberspace.

Those norms included that nations must not "knowingly allow their territory to be used for internationally wrongful acts"; not conduct or knowingly support activity that intentionally damages critical infrastructure; take "reasonable" steps to ensure the integrity of the supply chain for ICT products; and "not conduct or knowingly support activity to harm the information systems of the authorised emergency response teams (sometimes known as computer emergency response teams or cybersecurity incident response teams)".

After that however, the GGE process began to falter.

In August 2016, Brandon Valeriano and Allison Pytlak from the Washington-based think tank the Niskanen Center wrote a sharp critique, *Cyber Security and the Coming Failure of the UN's Group of Governmental Experts*.

"Since the GGE meetings are closed to non-members -- including technical experts -- it's difficult to understand the practice of the group's reports and outlooks. Even if the group did have an open dialogue, what real-world impact is the group having? What obligations do other countries have to act on the GGE's recommendations? In theory, this could be some useful fora [sic] to discuss these matters, particularly norms of behaviour, but the group's impact is limited by lack of inclusivity and its limited mandate," they wrote.





Director of cyber policy Johanna Weaver and Australia's Ambassador for Cyber Affairs, Dr Tobias Feakin. Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

"The rate at which technology and cyber conflict evolves easily outpaces that of diplomacy and the institutions that seek to engage such issues, but if the GGE continues to merely 'examine' and 'study', it will struggle to remain relevant."

The UN's procedures demanded that expert groups agree unanimously on all their discussion points in order to issue a report. The cyberspace GGE failed to do so in 2017.

ZDNet understands that there was good progress on how the 11 norms might be implemented, but there was less progress on clarifying how international law would apply.

The Diplomat reported that the US had demanded "clear and direct statements" on how international law applied, including "international humanitarian law, the right to self defence, as well as international law of state responsibility and countermeasures".

"Other countries, however, balked at the inclusion of such provisions," they wrote. Cuba argued that it would lead to a "militarisation of cyberspace" and legitimise "unilateral punitive

force actions".

"Although only the Cuban statement is publicly available, it is safe to assume that both Russia and China shared this position during the GGE's discussions," The Diplomat wrote.

TWO WAYS FORWARD IS UNPRECEDENTED, BUT IS IT BETTER THAN ONLY ONE?

In December 2018, the UN General Assembly restarted the debate, establishing not one but two processes to discuss cyberspace norms. The situation is unprecedented.

One is the sixth round of GGE meetings, proposed by the US, which will start in 2019.

Four weeks of meetings will be spread over 18 months to allow for consultation and diplomacy to take place in between.

As with previous GGE rounds, these will be closed meetings comprised of 25 member nations. Its chair will hold two informal consultations with all UN Member States in between its sessions, as

well as consultations with regional organisations.

The GGE will submit its final report to the General Assembly in 2021.

The other is a new Open Ended Working Group (OEWG), based on a Russian proposal, and is open to all UN members.

It intends to look at the existing 11 norms, identify new norms, and look at "establishing regular institutional dialogue" on cyberspace issues.

The OEWG will report to the General Assembly in 2020.

Some critics have seen this two-forum plan as doubling the UN workload.

"Having two separate groups is likely to split the General Assembly's attention on the issue. Only the countries with the largest staff at their UN missions in New York will have the dedicated manpower to adequately monitor the work of the two new groups," wrote Alex Grigsby from the Council on Foreign Relations in a detailed analysis.

"While having more member states participate in the cybersecurity conversation should be applauded, reaching consensus among 193 member states in an OEWG format is much more daunting than getting agreement among 15 or 25 in a GGE setting."

Grigsby also noted that Russia "tried to position itself as an advocate of democratic participation and inclusivity".

"In essence, Russia framed itself as a defender of the rules-based international order, committed to multilateral solutions to international challenges," he wrote.

It should also be noted, however, that Russia has supported the GGE process since its inception.

Australia, like the majority of the General Assembly, sees these two processes as being complementary, having gone on public record as a supporter to both of them.

"We are urging like-minded nations to throw their support and resources behind these international efforts that will build trust and transparency," Payne said in March.

By Stilgherrian
www.zdnet.com

Callout to Veterans of East Timor to attend the InterFET Anniversary Tour

Dear Sir/M'am

I am a former member of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment who has organised a tour for veterans to return to Timor Leste in September this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their vote for independence and the deployment of the Australian led International Forces East Timor peacemaking mission tasked with providing peace and stability to the Timorese people.

The government and people of Timor Leste are very proud of their progress over the last twenty years and are eternally grateful for our contribution in their autonomy and are therefore very excited to have Australian veterans attend the official anniversary celebrations planned in Dili.

I am hoping you would be willing to distribute the expression of interest to your members in order for them to have the opportunity to attend this tour if they wish. Even though this is an InterFET Anniversary Tour any members with an interest are welcome to attend.

Participants will have the choice of coming for 5, 12 or 18 days in order to cater for everyone's availability whilst enabling maximum participation in the official ceremonies and parades planned in Dili.

I have secured sponsorship that will cover the transport costs whilst in country and this has significantly reduced the total cost per participant. I am continuing to source more sponsorship to further reduce the cost however participants should be prepared to pay for their flights to Darwin and at least the deposit. At present the participant cost excluding flights to Darwin are approx \$950 for 5 days in Dili, \$1400 for the 12 day tour and \$2000 for the 18 day tour. These prices include vehicles, drivers, insurance, accommodation, some meals as well as gifts and donations for Timorese veterans hosting the group during the tour.

This is not a commercial enterprise and I will receive no financial gain from organising this tour. I simply hope to provide a significant Australian veteran presence at this important

event as well as providing veterans an opportunity to witness firsthand how far the Timorese people have progressed thanks to their contribution as serving members of the Australian Defence Force.

I have included a copy of the expression of interest (EOI) form for participants to submit if they wish to attend as well as a request for financial support that may be distributed to any members that may be in a position to support the tour.

If your members wish to participate please advise them that EOIs must be submitted by the 10th June 2019 in order to allow sufficient time to secure flights and accommodation.

Thank you for your time and please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kindest Regards,
Mark Herewini
Ex 3RAR
Tour Coordinator
InterFET Anniversary Tour
M 0467484535
E markherez@hotmail.com
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/20th-Interfet-Anniversary-Tour-1999-2019-1849089628502744/>



Soldiers from the 5th/7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment hold a transition parade from Interfet to UNTEAT. Photo Corporal Patrina Malone

Combined arms at full effect

By Captain Carrie Robards

The Australian Army's live-fire exercises are bound to get the blood pumping, and this year's Exercise Chong Ju was no exception. Held at Victoria's Puckapunyal Training Area on 8-9 May 2019, the annual exercise successfully showcased Army's joint combined arms capabilities.

Spectators witnessed the power of Army as a versatile and decisive force – observing a firepower display of a number of weapon systems before a combined arms team quick attack demonstration that included M1A1 Abrams tanks, Australian light armoured vehicles (ASLAVs), a M777A2 howitzer and a Tiger armed reconnaissance helicopter working together in support of each other and the infantry.

The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Rick Burr, AO, DSC, MVO stated that this year's exercise demonstrated the Army's

preparedness for operational deployments and showcased Army's capability to Defence industry.

"This exercise is an opportunity for Defence leaders and Defence industry to see how the ADF systems work in unison in a potential operational scenario.

The exercise also provided staff cadets of the Royal Military College - Duntroon an opportunity to experience a breadth of roles open to them upon graduation later this year.

"It is an exciting opportunity to showcase the excellent capabilities and combined arms training afforded to these soldiers and officers," Lieutenant General Burr said.

Also at Exercise Chong Ju was Army's Head of Land Capability, Major General Kathryn Toohey, AM, CSC, who stated that continual innovation and strong partnerships are key to ensure Army is able to meet the challenges of Accelerated Warfare.

"Increasingly Army is contributing

to joint effects in all warfighting domains, being land, air, sea, space and cyber."

"Exercise Chong Ju provides a great opportunity to demonstrate to our partners across Defence, other government agencies and industry, the lethality of Army capability.

"The demonstration is based on a Combat Team live-fire activity, which is the Army's basic building block for combat manoeuvre," Major General Toohey said.

Exercise Chong Ju is named after a battle in North Korea in 1950 when the Third Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, supported by tanks and artillery, attacked and captured a large North Korean defensive line during their northward advance to the Yalu River.

Australian Army soldiers from 9 Regiment (Royal Australian Artillery) get ready to fire the 81mm F2 mortar during Exercise Chong Ju 2019 at Puckapunyal Training Area, Victoria.



Remembering Rwanda: small mercy from the horror of Kibeho

What you don't expect to see when you arrive at Kibeho are the eucalyptus trees.

When Belgium ruled Rwanda, gum trees were planted across the colony to provide firewood. A small country in central Africa, Rwanda is mainly populated by two ethnic groups: the minority Tutsi and the majority Hutu. In a typical colonial strategy of divide and conquer, the Belgian administration placed the Tutsi minority in a privileged position. With independence in 1961, the Hutu majority gained power, and many Tutsi were forced to flee to neighbouring Uganda. Years later would begin the worst of all crimes.

Negotiations to end a Hutu-Tutsi civil war broke down in April 1994 – 25 years ago next month – when the Rwandan president, who supported a peace plan, was assassinated. Hutu extremists then perpetrated a genocide on moderate Hutus and Tutsis. In a little over three months, half a million Rwandans were killed. The genocide ended only when Tutsi rebel forces defeated the Hutu government and seized power in July.

In the aftermath of the genocide, the Australian government provided a contingent of around 300 Australian Defence Force personnel. Half were medical staff: the remainder were infantry and Special Forces to provide force protection. The troops arrived in the Rwandan capital of Kigali on 7 August 1994. Based at Kigali Central Hospital, they removed dead bodies and wrecked equipment and brought the hospital back into use.

A second contingent replaced the first in February 1995. The civil war had been over for six months, but hundreds of thousands of Internally Displaced Persons were still in camps. The largest of these was Kibeho, where between 80,000 and 100,000 people were living in a camp sprawling over nine square kilometres.

The new Tutsi government believed that the camps were full of genocidaires and feared they would become the



Australian peacekeepers on patrol in Rwanda, 1994–1995. *Photo George Gittoes*

nucleus for a Hutu guerrilla army. The Rwandan army began planning to close the camps by force.

About one thousand troops arrived at Kibeho on 18 April 1995 to shut down the camp. The UN mission hastily requested the Australian contingent to send 32 personnel to Kibeho. When they arrived the next day, as Corporal Blair Tidey remembered:

It was not until we moved deep into the camp that we found them – thousands of frightened people that had been herded closely together like sheep, huddled along a ridgeline.

The Rwandan army had concentrated the entire camp population in an area 1,000 metres long and 500 metres wide.

The Australians made contact with the troops and humanitarian workers already at Kibeho: a Zambian infantry company and the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) hospital staff at Kibeho, though unlike these two groups, they did not remain at Kibeho overnight. When they returned the next day, the Australians found that many refugees had been killed or wounded overnight. Half the casualties had gunshot wounds from Rwandan soldiers, the other half had

machete wounds from Hutu militia who were forcing the refugees to stay in the camp to provide the militia with a “human shield”.

Australian troops went out with stretchers to retrieve casualties and bring them to the MSF hospital for treatment. When Rwandan troops started firing at the hospital, Lieutenant Steve Tillbrook moved his soldiers to the Zambian compound for mutual protection. In heavy rain, Rwandan troops entered the hospital compound and started shooting. In desperation, people surged over the razor wire and swamped the soldiers' position. Lance Corporal Andy Miller ordered his troops to fix bayonets in case they needed to defend themselves.

When the last medical evacuation helicopter took off about 5.00 pm, around a thousand people rushed out of the camp. Rwandan troops on the ridge fired on those trying to escape with automatic rifles, rocket propelled grenades and machine guns. Then they moved down the valley in the rain, bayoneting and shooting the wounded.

As the Australians prepared to leave Kibeho that night, SAS medic Trooper Jon Church (who would

later be killed in the 1996 Black Hawk training accident) rescued a bawling three year old girl. Another medic bandaged her arm to make it appear that she was injured, and she was given a biscuit laced with diazepam. When the sedative put her to sleep, she was hidden in one of the ambulance storage bins and taken to an orphanage. As Captain Carol Vaughan-Evans recalled:

We always remember that as a small victory. Despite all the [Rwandan army] did to that mass of humanity, we got one little girl out of there.

The Australians returned to Kibeho the next day to treat casualties and recover bodies. In the parts of the camps they could access, they counted 4,050 dead.

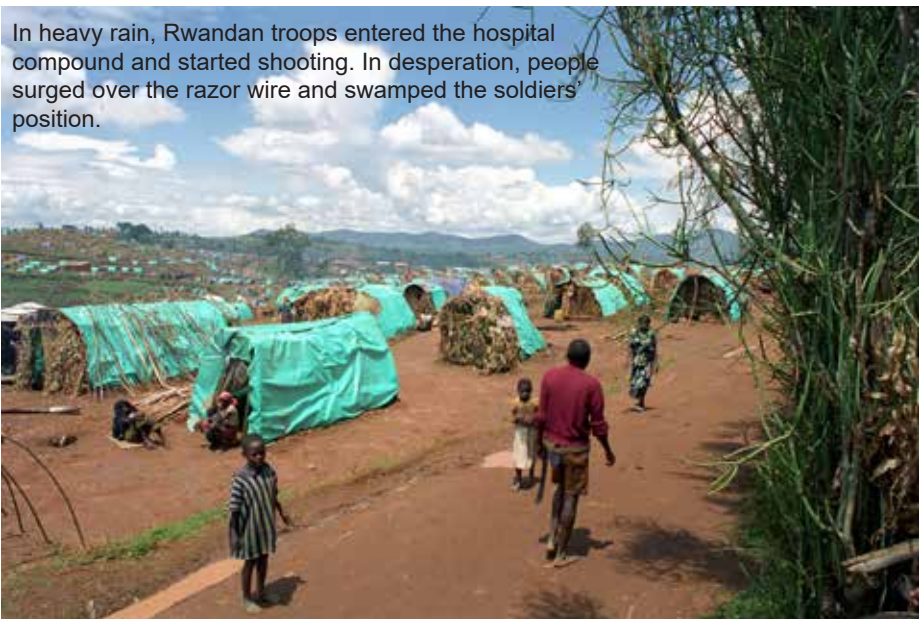
The Kibeho massacre was a horrific and disturbing event for all members of the Australian contingent in Rwanda. Many would later be diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Four who served at Kibeho – Corporal Andy Miller, Warrant Officer Rod Scott, Lieutenant Steve Tillbrook and Captain Carol Vaughan-Evans – were awarded the Medal of Gallantry for their actions, the first time Australian soldiers had been awarded gallantry medals since the Vietnam War.

Gum trees line the ridge at Kibeho, where Australian peacekeepers found that there was no peace to keep.

John Connor
www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/remembering-rwanda-small-mercy-horror-Kibeho



Private Theogene Ngamiye, a former Rwandan refugee, was inspired to join the Australian Army as a result of kindness showed to him by an Australian Army peacekeeper



In heavy rain, Rwandan troops entered the hospital compound and started shooting. In desperation, people surged over the razor wire and swamped the soldiers' position.



Above photos: General pictorial of Kibeho displaced persons camp.



Rwanda the Australian Contingent 1994-1995. Photo George Gittoes

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



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NAVY CAMOUFLAGE

Classic, Huntsman, Skipper



MAKERS OF THE ORIGINAL SWISS ARMY KNIFE | ESTABLISHED 1884



Leading Seaman Tanya Roberts,
Royal Australian Navy

Thank you for your service photography exhibition

Captain Marium Hamimi was toiling away in a suburban Melbourne pharmacy when she felt compelled to try "something different". That impulse drove her to enlist in the Australian army.

Born to Afghan parents while they were taking refuge in Pakistan, Ms Hamimi later came to Australia at age three with her mother and father under a family reunification program.

The 31-year-old says she is yet to meet another Afghan in the army. But that may change as the Australian Defence Force pursues greater diversity and tries to update its image for the modern era.

Ms Hamimi is one of 46 serving and former defence force personnel whose photographs are featured in an exhibition, Thank you for your service, which opens at the Anzac Memorial in Sydney's Hyde Park on Friday.

A joint initiative between the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Australian Defence Force, the NSW government, and The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age, the exhibition showcases the diverse nature of Australia's modern armed forces.

Last year, defence chief General Angus Campbell said women made up about 40 per cent of new recruits to the air force, 30 per cent to the navy and 20 per cent to the army.

Ms Hamimi signed up in 2012 and spent the second half of last year on assignment in Iraq, where she worked as a pharmacist in the coalition forces' health facilities. She speaks Farsi and has learnt Arabic - skills she was able to use while working with Iraqi soldiers.

There was "naturally a bit of interest" from locals who were surprised to see an Afghan woman in the Australian army.

"People I met day to day, the cleaners or other linguists I would come across, would usually recognise [my] surname and be like 'where are you from, what's your background'," she says.

"Iraqis love getting to know you. They don't really question how you

got into it [the army], they just want to know how old you are, where you're from - they love building that rapport with people."

Ms Hamimi is now based at the 1st Close Health Battalion in Darwin and is keen to be part of another international deployment where she can utilise her language skills. "I think that's a really unique contribution," she says.

All 46 portraits were taken by The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald's award-winning photographer Alex Ellinghausen, the current Press Gallery Journalist of the Year.

Veterans' Affairs Minister Darren Chester said the exhibition was "a reminder that as a nation we should be immensely grateful for what our current and former ADF personnel have done and are doing, and the sacrifices made by their families".

"Alex has done a remarkable job capturing the images on display and I congratulate him on the quality of his work."

"Thank you for your service" opens at the Anzac Memorial in Sydney's Hyde Park from 5 April - 5 July.

Photos courtesy Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and Alex Ellinghausen.



Captain Marium Hamimi, Australian Army



Flight Lieutenant Tjapukai Shaw, Royal Australian Air Force



Private Shayne Buckler, Australian Army

Soldiers without guns': How unarmed ANZAC's brought peace to war-ravaged Bougainville

When this military mission headed to war-torn Bougainville, it was guitars and culture rather than rifles that helped bring peace.

An ANZAC Peacekeeping mission to Bougainville in the wake of the tiny Pacific Island's savage civil war is finally getting recognition for its efforts to bring order - with guitars instead of rifles.

Bougainville was devastated by the decade-long conflict during the 1990s, which claimed at least 20,000 lives - or almost one-sixth of the population - and required the intervention of a multi-nation peacekeeping force.

Australian and Kiwi troops have proudly served as Peacekeepers, in conjunction with the United Nations, around the world. But this tour of duty was slight different: the troops were unarmed, on the advice of New Zealand Army Brigadier Roger Mortlock

Following a series of failed peace initiatives Brigadier Mortlock drafted the plan in October 1997, telling reporters he would deploy a Maori concert group and a shipment of guitars to help broker peace.

Former NZ Army Major Fiona Cassidy was deployed as part of the operation, and said an unarmed peacekeeping force was considered "unprecedented".

"We were living in effectively a war-ravaged country - we didn't know whether or not we were entirely safe," she said.

"Unless you've actually been in a war-zone it is really hard to describe the levels of anxiety you can feel."

The efforts of those unarmed Peacekeepers is now being recognised in the *Soldiers Without Guns* documentary, which recounts how tension boiled over in 1988 as tensions between Indigenous landowners and mine owners.

The Rio Tinto-owned Panguna mine was an important revenue source for the Papua New Guinea government, but was strongly



ANZAC peacekeepers working in Bougainville.

opposed by many locals who claimed it was polluting waterways.

What followed was 10 years of low-level conflict, pitting Bougainvilleans against the Papua New Guinea government, who blockaded the island.

The violence later evolved into internal conflicts between warring factions within Bougainville itself.

New Zealander Will Watson, director of *Soldiers Without Guns*, said the war is burnt into the psyche of Bougainvilleans.

"This was a really vicious war - I mean this was the worst civil war in the Pacific's history," Mr Watson said.

"They didn't die from bullets - they were dying from starvation and disease."

James Batley is a former deputy secretary of the Department of Australia's Foreign Affairs and Trade and served as a civilian member on peacekeeping missions to Bougainville.

"The Australian government was very concerned about the situation in Bougainville - there were certainly plenty reports of humanitarian problems on the island," he said.

A flashpoint in the civil war was in

1997 when the Papua New Guinea government hired the London-based mercenary group Sandline International to end the conflict.

Mr Batley said the now infamous Sandline crisis brought a renewed focus to solving ongoing disputes.

"New Zealand saw an opportunity in the wake of the Sandline crisis to support a homegrown peace process in Bougainville," he said.

"New Zealand leadership was critical in those first six months of the Truce Monitoring Group but after that it was an Australian led operation for the next several years."

Mr Watson said the joint nature of the peacekeeping operation helped pave the way for peace.

"The Howard government with Foreign Minister (Alexander) Downer decided the problems in Bougainville - the first 14 peace attempts weren't successful and there needed to be a new approach," he said.

"They trusted us to do that - I think that's the power of the Anzac spirit right there."

Des Ratima - a 25-year veteran of the New Zealand Defence Force helped integrate Maori culture into the New Zealand Army - something now



New Zealand soldiers perform the Haka for Bougainvilleans



Bougainvilleans overlooking their homelands.

entrenched in the armed forces.

Mr Ratima said cultural integration was paramount to building trust with visiting Bougainvillean leaders.

“Indigenous to Indigenous we were able to receive that and reciprocate that,” he said.

The Bougainvillean leaders were offered a traditional Pwhiri Maori welcoming ceremony and Hongi – the pressing of noses and sharing of breath. They also shared in performances of New Zealand’s traditional Haka.

“They left this country moved by

what they had heard and what they had shared and what they were exposed to,” Mr Ratima said.

The Burnham Peace Talks ended in many of the leaders signing a truce.

A subsequent New Zealand-led peacekeeping mission within Bougainville, supported by Australia, Vanuatu and Fiji, aimed to build on that agreement.

But Mr Watson said the declaration to use an unarmed force was met with skepticism by many.

“I was a journalist at the time – I thought this was crazy,” he said.

“A choir of other journalists [were] thinking this guy was insane and it was a really risky move.”

Mr Ratima said traveling to the Pacific Island unarmed and using Melanesian cultural customs helped build trust within communities on the traumatised island.

“The Indigenous to Indigenous connection that allowed trust - and with trust that allowed people to have confidence that the peace was worthwhile maintaining,” he said.

“Our cultural integrity was at risk – but we were prepared to put it out there.”

A peace agreement between Bougainvillean leaders and the Papua New Guinea government was signed in 2001.

Ms Cassidy, a Maori herself, said female leaders in the matriarchal Bougainvillean society were crucial to helping bridge the gap with locals.

“The women were fundamentally important to getting the peace process to where it did – for ten years they had watched their brothers – their children – their grandmothers be ravaged by war,” she said.

“They themselves had the conviction to say enough is enough and they pushed towards a peace process.”

Mr Watson believes the sentiments of cultural recognition, empowerment of women and trans-Tasman cooperation are at the heart of his documentary.

“This is the message that the world needs more than ever,” he said.

“The gift of love – people actually bold enough to help others when they didn’t need too.

“You’ll see it when you watch just how powerful the ANZAC spirit is.”

Bougainvilleans are scheduled to hold a referendum in October this year to decide their independence from PNG.

The documentary *Soldiers Without Guns* will open across selected Australian cinemas in May.

Photos *Soldiers Without Guns* (Will Watson)

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Exclusively distributed by Safety Mate

and created by a dedicated team of safety eyewear experts with decades of experience, the launch of UK based Riley® in Australia represents a completely fresh approach to eye protection. Engineered using the latest safety eyewear technology, innovative designs and unique performance features, Riley is ideally suited to a wide range of applications.

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Robust polycarbonate lenses provide high performance protection from impacts, delivering optical quality in accordance with AS/NZS 1337.1:2010 whilst three specialist coating technologies have also been developed – TECTON™, TECTON™ 400 and ARIDA™.

For enhanced durability on the inner and outer surfaces of the lenses the TECTON™ coating, available as standard across the majority of the range, delivers the highest-grade anti-scratch and anti-fog treatments available. The TECTON™ 400 coating offers high level UV protection whilst moisture-repellence is provided for workers through the ARIDA™ coating.

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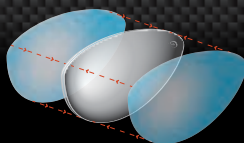
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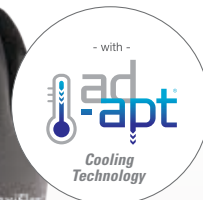


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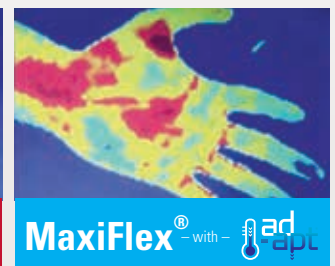


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Think Tanks

Defence scientists are collaborating with universities to ensure the best outcome for our soldiers

Kryssy Neil

Defence is drawing on the expertise of human performance experts from around the country to enhance the performance of Australian soldiers.

Under the Human Performance Research network, Army and Defence Science and Technology (DST) are working with seven universities to explore and develop methods to enhance the cognitive and physical capabilities of Defence personnel.

The DST Research Leader in Human Systems, Dr Nick Beagle, believes collaboration is key to maximising research outcomes for Defence.

“The future’s about partnership and our success at enhancing military capability, through science and technology, really depends on us harnessing the best research teams from across the nation to delivery that

capability,” Nick Says.

“The Human Performance Research Network, or HPRnet for short, is a new example of partnering to deliver transformative research for Defence”.

Nick says HPRnet aspires to be more than a transactional arrangement.

“We want it to be a true partnership through which we collaborate closely with the universities to achieve the common goal of boosting Army’s capabilities,” he says.

At the December 2016 lunch of the HPRnet, Brigadier Chris Mills, of Army Headquarters, emphasised the importance of investing in the Army’s human assets.

“Our soldiers must be able to out-think as well as out-fight the enemy; they must be able to defend

themselves, and Australia, from adaptable enemies who will use cyber and psychological attacks among many other types of unconventional warfare,” he said.

“Our soldiers must be more adaptable than our enemies and be able to react well in every situation in which they might find themselves. To be able to achieve this, our soldiers must be the most developed humans that Australia can produce.”

Nick likens the research to that employed by professional athletes and sports teams to enhance their performance.

“Just as science and technology is pushing the boundaries of elite athletic performance, its application is vital to preparing and equipping our soldiers for their challenging roles”. Nick says.

IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL BURDEN ON PERSONNEL

One line of research under HPRnet, led by Deakin University, focus on properly managing the physical burden placed on military personnel.

Associated Professor Paul Gastin says, “Whether you’re a professional athlete or a trained soldier, it’s a very physically and mentally demanding job, and maintaining peak performance comes down to the same thing – effectively managing load and recovery”.

The data obtained by Deakin will be used to inform the Army’s training loads and combat preparation to ensure soldiers are in peak condition and preventable injuries are reduced.

ENHANCED COGNITION UNDER STRESS

Scientists from the University of Canberra (UC) are looking at the cognitive aspects of performance,



The DST Research Leader in Human Systems, Dr Nick Beagles, has engaged the expertise of seven universities to help bring out the best in our soldiers

researching how soldiers perform in challenging conditions such as heat, altitude and when fatigued. They are developing ways to detect and manage the effects of these challenging circumstances on cognition.

The UC Associated Professor in Sports Psychology and project leader, Dr Richard Keegan, hopes the research will enable the team to predict when soldiers will have recovered from an activity and when they are ready for the next challenge.

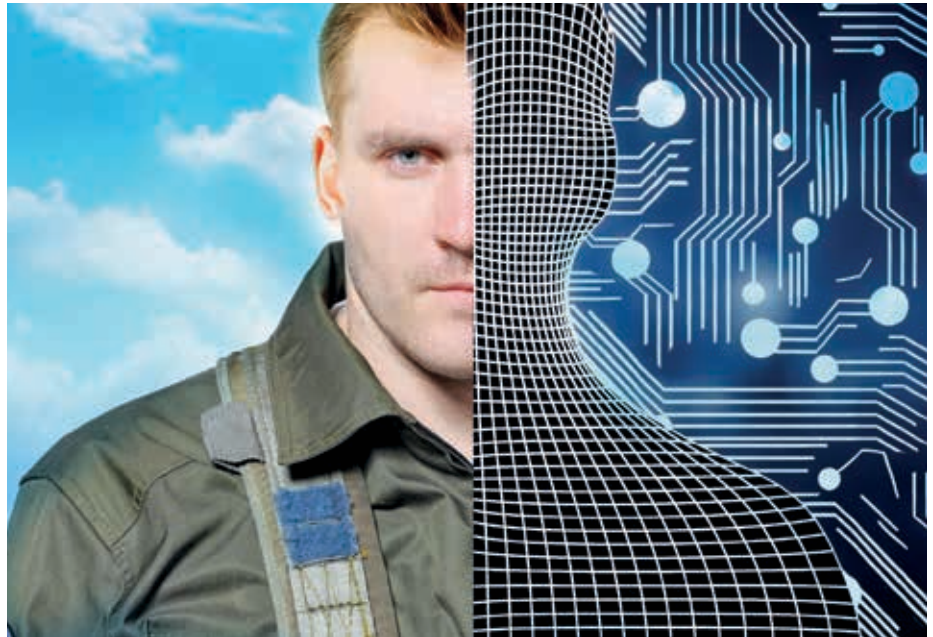
“Soldiers are occasionally pushed to make life-and-death decisions under enormous stress and huge uncertainty while managing physical challenges, such as hunger, thirst, sleep-deprivation and fatigue,” Richard says.

“We want soldiers to enter the field at peak cognitive capacity, so they make good decisions and come back alive.”

MATCHING DEMANDS TO PHYSICAL CAPABILITY

In an exciting field of research, scientist from Victoria University (VU) are exploring genetic predictors of physical performance.

A study of Army recruits in the UK found that after 10 weeks of basic training, recruits who possessed a particular genetic variation had improvements in strength endurance up to 11 times great than their counterparts.



Other studies have found that improvements in aerobic fitness can be predicted by a combination of genetic variations.

The VU team hopes that by extracting DNA from about 1000 recruits, they will be able to identify the genetic variations that predict particular physical performance attributes.

The team will focus predominantly on predictors of strength, power and endurance, but the data could also be used to investigate indicators of susceptibility to injury, or even the ability to make effective decisions.

VU's research could lead to more individualised conditioning and rehabilitation programs for soldiers and enable more informed decisions about the assignment of active and non-active duties.

REVOLUTIONISING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND MACHINES

The use of autonomous systems in combat can greatly reduce the risk to personnel, however mission effectiveness can be compromised by separating the soldier from the field.

Professor Hussein Abbass, of the University of New South Wales (UNSW), says teleoperation, especially in a war-fighting context, comes with its own challenges.

“While it removes soldiers from danger, mission effectiveness can be limited if there is not a clear

understanding of how the operators' cognitive performance may be compromised by various factors such as fatigue, having to multi-task, even having to switch from civilian to a war-fighting setting,” Hussein says.

His team is looking to design methods and metrics to improve the mission effectiveness and ‘trustworthiness’ of integrated human-machine teams.

BUILDING STRONGER TEAMS

In the military, teamwork is essential – soldiers' lives are quite literally in the hands of their team-mates. High performing teams who can withstand the pressure of battle are therefore paramount.

There is a rich source of literature on individual resilience, yet the notion that teams may have the collective capacity to withstand or recover from adverse events or stressors that threaten their performance has received less attention.

Curtin University researchers are addressing this gap in knowledge; conducting extensive research into the factors that influence team resilience and effectiveness among a range of team types, including newly formed, trained and specialised teams.

Drawing on expertise in psychology, physiology and organisational behaviour, the Curtin team will develop strategies which Army can use to foster and sustain resilient teams.

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE IN COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS

There are few work environments more complex than the military battlefield and even fewer where the cost of poor performance is so high.

Using the latest developments in neuroscience and mental training, as well as state-of-the-art visual and augmented reality technologies, the University of South Australia is developing a cognitive screening and training environment to optimise the selection and preparation of troops for operating in these complex, high-risk environments.

INCREASING BATTLEFIELD AWARENESS

A loss of situational awareness can have serious consequences on the performance and survivability of troops on the battlefield.

The University of Western Australia (UWA) is undertaking extensive research to enhance warfighters' situational awareness.

"Situation awareness is vital on the battlefield", says the project lead, Associate Professor Troy Visser, of the UWA School of Psychosocial Science.

"Our goal is to understand the cognitive skills that lead to greater situation awareness and then develop tools to enhance those skills".

In the first instance, the team will develop a "cognitive profiling tool" that can assess individual differences in the key cognitive skills that underpin situational awareness.

They then intend to develop tools and techniques to augment those cognitive skills through the use of tailored technology solutions and customised training.

TANGIBLE RESULTS

As a research network, HPRnet is designed to draw on the research and expertise of human performance experts from around the country, but for it to achieve success, it needs to deliver more than cutting-edge research. It needs to deliver results.



As Brigadier Mills explained, "Army is a practical organisation which likes to see tangible results for any money it spends.

"So, while we like a good research paper as much as anymore, what we like better and what we are expecting, are results that lead to actual physical improvements in what we do.

"If in years to come I can see

soldiers performing better, physically, cognitively, morally and ethically, if can see tools being used in our training that are leading to individuals performing better, with better performing teams and an overall better Army, I will feel that Army has achieved the result we wanted from our funding of the Human Performance Research Network".

Courtesy of Defence Magazine

Defence looks to future security challenges

During the Rapid Force Projection conference at the Australian Defence Force Academy on April 9, speakers recounted a range of past examples of deployments – both short notice and forecast.

The conference was opened by the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Vice Admiral David Johnston, who highlighted the need to think creatively about how Defence addresses rapid force projection, especially in light of changing global challenges.

“As our environment evolves, and more emphasis is placed on our region, we need to think creatively about the opportunities available to Defence, unbound by our current force or plans,” Vice Admiral Johnston said.

“It’s forums like this that allow us to consider the challenges and the opportunities for us to project force decades into the future.”

“We need to think creatively about the opportunities available to Defence, unbound by our current force or plans.”

The conference’s keynote speaker, Brigadier Richard Iron, discussed readiness and rapid deployment in the United Kingdom’s May 2000 deployment to Sierra Leone.

“Although London was taken by surprise by events in Sierra Leone, the person in charge of the response [Brigadier David Richards] was not,” he said.

Professor Craig Stockings, the Official Historian of Australian Operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor, gave an honest account of the challenges for readiness of the ADF when it deployed to East Timor in September 1999.

Another case study presented was the deployment of 50 Australian Army personnel to assist law and order efforts in Tonga in November 2006

All the case studies shared the common thread of the need to be able to deploy with a high level of confidence and preparedness.

While the introduction of platforms



The Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Vice Admiral David Johnston, speaks at the Rapid Force Projection Conference in Canberra.

like the C-17A Globemaster and Canberra-class LHDs (Landing Helicopter Dock) have increased the speed and volume of future force projection, the environment will change further still.

Professor Mark Howden from the Australian National University summarised the implications of climate change, and its calamitous effect on our immediate region. Rising average temperatures will lead to an increased intensity and area-of-effect for cyclones in the region, affecting food security and damaging the infrastructure required for disaster response, he said.

“The speed at which situations can go from bad to worse, and the speed with which we, as a regional power, must respond requires adaptation and innovation.”

But, force doesn’t always need to be projected physically.

Lieutenant Colonel Mick Cook’s address analysed the use of social media by Daesh to intimidate local security forces off the battlefield.

Giving the closing address for the conference, Air Commodore Kirrily Dearing, Director General Support for Headquarters Joint Operations

Command, said speed had become synonymous with modern warfare.

“Certainly over my career, every aspect of the world has become exponentially faster – communication, the media cycle, and innovation,” Air Commodore Dearing said.

“As a result, it is no surprise that the speed at which situations can go from bad to worse, and the speed with which we, as a regional power, must respond requires adaptation and innovation.”

How the ADF resources ‘readiness’ for its logistics systems – within Defence and with industry – will be key to providing rapid force projection into the future.

The Rapid Force Projection conference was jointly hosted by the Sea Power Centre–Australia, Australian Army Research Centre and Air Power Development Centre.



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.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY STUDY SEEKS PARTICIPANTS

La Trobe University is seeking participants who have transitioned from service with the Australian Defence Force on or after January 1, 2004.

Current research indicates that almost 50% of Australian veterans experience a difficult, or very difficult transition from military service, due to the impact of service on things like housing, relationships, employment, and physical and mental health and well-being.

We need to know more about the activities that are important to you now that you have completed service, so we can develop health and well-being strategies that build on veteran's skills and activity preferences.

Participation in the study involves completion of an online survey. The survey is completely anonymous and takes around 10 minutes to complete; about the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee or read the headlines in your local newspaper.

The study is being completed by

Kylie Carra, PhD researcher at the La Trobe Rural Health School in Bendigo, under the supervision of Dr. Brett Gordon, Associate Professor Michael Curtin, and Associate Professor Tracy Fortune. Kylie Carra joined the La Trobe Rural Health School in Bendigo in 2012, after 10 years of clinical experience as an occupational therapist at Bendigo Health. Through the experiences of family members who have served with the Australian Defence Force,

she is committed to improving the experience of transitioning from military service for current and future generations.

The survey can be accessed through the Research Map on the Centenary of Anzac Centre website

The survey can be accessed through the Research Map on the Centenary of Anzac Centre website anzaccentre.org.au/research-map/



study/australian-military-transition-study/

Alternatively, you can email k.carra@latrobe.edu.au to gain access to a printed or online version of the survey.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPVA MEMBERS AND POTENTIAL APPVA MEMBERS:

APPVA Inc (ABN 59 558 194 094), PO Box 943, ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477.

Membership will continually to be centrally managed by NATCOM. However there are important changes that APPVA Members need to be aware of, concerning APPVA Membership renewals and New APPVA Membership procedures and payment methods.

APPVA members, it is coming to that time of the year where membership fees will become due on the 30th June 2019 for another 12 months.

The annual fees for the APPVA Inc (this is the national association) are still \$40 dollars initial joining fee and then \$30 dollars annually, the application fee covers administrative costs and your membership. Existing Members. One of the features of our new website at www.peacekeepers.asn.au is the membership portal. Existing financial members can register and get access by contacting the Membership Officer via email to get an access coupon. In early May this email will be sent progressively out to members and if we have overlooked you, please check your spam folder or send the national Membership Secretary an email. This will allow you to register and gain access to the new website (for the remainder of FY18/19) and update your personal details.

The new website is secure and encrypted. When you register you will automatically be asked for credit card details for your annual membership which will be processed on or around the 1st of July each year – you have the option to select a single year or recurring annual debits. The transactions will be automatically processed by the bank and APPVA will not hold any of the credit card information. We use a platform similar to PayPal but with less fees called STRIPE.

Membership dues not paid by the 31st July each year will make the member unfinancial and no longer an APPVA member. This was set at a recent NATCOM Meeting as a Bylaw.

Once you are registered on the website you will be able to access the latest magazine online, Annual

General Meeting minutes, office holder bios and other important APPVA items not visible to the public.

NOTE: If you have not paid your FY18/19 fees that were due on the 1st July 2018 then unfortunately you are currently unfinancial. The NATCOM Committee is determining the renewal process for those overdue payments from members at our next meeting and we will advise you of the renewal of membership process. If you are not sure if you are financial, please contact the Membership Officer membership@peacekeepers.asn.au.

New Members

New members can apply online at anytime, with their application vetted and determined at the next Quarterly General Meeting of the APPVA Committee before membership is confirmed.

For those members who are unable or do not want to use the online facilities, membership forms can be downloaded from the public part of the website (soon) or mailed to you.

Those members not online will have a membership letter sent to their last known address.

Point of Contact is the National Membership Secretary, Email: membership@peacekeepers.asn.au Alternatively, Please SMS 0431 041 181 and the APPVA Membership Team shall get back to you.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS: 29 MAY 2019

Related Organisation/Agency: Field Missions: DFS/DPA/DPKO

The United Nations General Assembly designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The day has two purposes:

- To honour the memory of the UN peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace
- To pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN Peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage.

On 29 May, UN offices, alongside Member States and non-governmental

organizations, hold solemn events to honour fallen peacekeepers. Since the first UN peacekeeping mission was established in 1948, more than 3,700 military, police and civilian personnel have lost their lives in the service of peace as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease.

UN Peacekeeping operations use the Day to strengthen bonds with the local populations that they have been deployed to serve. For example, by holding sporting events, school and orphanage visits, art and essay competitions, photo exhibits, neighbourhood clean ups, tree plantings, concerts, and conferences and workshops on peace issues.

The 2018 theme for the International Day of Peacekeepers was “UN Peacekeepers 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice”. Over seven decades, more than one million men and women have served under the United Nations flag in 71 peacekeeping operations, directly impacting the lives of hundreds of millions of people, protecting the world’s most vulnerable and saving countless lives.

This year, we are looking forward to the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs to recognise the UN International Day of UN Peacekeeping, by a Media Release, recognising the service, courage and sacrifice of Australian and International UN Troops who have served on a range of UN Peacekeeping Operations since 29 May 1948.

The 29th of May 1948 is said to be the deployment of the world’s first UN Peacekeeping troops into a UN Peacekeeping Operation. However, it appears that this differs from the Australia’s claim that Australia was the world’s first UN Troop Contributing Nation to deploy UN Observers into the field. The matter obviously needs verification; however, this should not prevent our Government from recognising Australia’s contribution to International Peace and Security through over 60 UN Peacekeeping Operations since 1948 to the present day.

Commemoration of The UN International Day of the UN Peacekeeper 29 May 2019.

Courtesy <https://www.greeningtheblue.org/event/international-day-un-peacekeepers>

ANZAC DAY

CORAKI NSW 2019

Coraki is a small country town in Northern NSW, and this ANZAC DAY Pauline Maczkowiack and Liz Hill were invited to represent APPVA and the Veterans' Advocacy Centre Alstonville.

Pauline was invited to deliver the Commemorative address, which is always an honour, the address was firstly, focused on our original ANZACS and a reading from A LETTER HOME by SGT Bert Thomas who landed on the shores of ANZAC Cove April 25th 1915, followed by our more recent conflicts and these veterans being our caretakers of the ANZAC spirit. Pauline took great pride in addressing the role of Peacekeepers and Peacemakers on behalf of APPVA and the humanitarian work done by our forces under extremely difficult circumstances.

The emotional, and/or physical toll of all veterans is a subject that was also addressed.

Pauline then laid a wreath on behalf of APPVA and Liz laid the wreath on behalf of the Veterans' Advocacy Centre.

The address was well received by the community and after the service the Mayor of Richmond Valley Mr Robert Mustow congratulated Pauline on a very interesting and moving commemorative address.

Lest we Forget



Pauline Maczkowiack



Above: Pauline and Liz
Opposite top: Pauline, opposite below Liz Hill



ANZAC Day Perth

Photo: Galina Romalis



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Bruce McKenzie believes there are significant benefits in commercial aviation operations, particularly the weight of the pump. 'At 3.8 kgs, the opportunity to carry it with you in flight is very attractive. Wherever operations require regular refuelling, often in remote locations, there's a big advantage in having a lightweight pump with a fast fuel transfer capability immediately available.'

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Reunion 2020 Namibia 30 years of Independence

On the 21st March 2020 Namibia will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary of Independence and it is planned that an Australian contingent will again attend like happened in 2015 and join other UNTAG veterans and Namibia to celebrate.

In 2015 we met the Deputy Veterans Affairs Minister of Namibia Hon. Hilma Ndinelago Nicanor and presented a large framed memorial board and had a formal BBQ lunch with DFAT Staff from the High Commission from Australia based in Pretoria. ON the 21st 2015 several UNTAG Veterans were invited to the VIP area of the Independence Stadium to watch the military parade and 3rd Presidential inauguration.

It is hoped that 2020 will see similar activities and early

planning is underway especially for the pre 21st March formalities.

For those that want more information, local guide and hire car or accommodation details contact "Jack" Horner on 0431 041181 or email markhornerappva@gmail.com and the facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/305711446895/>



Wreath laying Camperdown park

A bright sunny morning welcomed a large crowd to the Newtown and Canterbury Hurlstone Park Sub-Branches combined pre-Anzac day service at Camperdown Park Memorial on Sunday 14th of April. I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the United Nations Peacekeepers.

Sincere appreciation to Sydney University Regiment, the Fire Brigade and the NSW Police for assisting in the service.

Michael Lyons
Newtown RSL Sub-Branch



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/ZCSJ>

20 Sep - Cobbers Night
Kedron-Wavell RSL Club

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

21 Sep Formal Dinner
Kedron-Wavell RSL Club

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

22 Sep Farwell Lunch
Kedron-Wavell RSL Club

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

FURTHER INFORMATION EMAIL:
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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

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A storm strikes in the NT

Training has ramped up in Darwin for Air Force's next generation of air warfare instructors with the completion of the first phase of Exercise Diamond Storm.

Exercise Diamond Storm 2019 started at RAAF Bases Darwin and Tindal on April 29 and ends May 29 – the exercise is the final phase of the Air Warfare Instructor Course, a three-phase intensive six-month course that integrates warfighting functions across a range of specialisations.

The exercise is a large force employment exercise with a focus on the execution of a tactical offensive counter air operation with aircraft from RAAF and the United States operating across the Top End.

"The course exercises complex, war-like scenarios."

Exercise Director Group Captain Matthew McCormack said the Diamond series of exercises was designed to enhance the integration of people and systems to facilitate the introduction of the Australian Defence Force's fifth-generation capabilities.

"The course exercises complex, war-like scenarios and the students will put their newly developed skills into practice and make decisions that will shape the way Air Force fights in the future," Group Captain McCormack said.

"We have spent the past week in Darwin and Tindal integrating multiple aircraft and crews into the airspace around the NT and now we are knuckling down into the complex part of the exercise.

"We will be flying during day and night from Darwin and Tindal into the NT training ranges."

Exercise Diamond Storm will integrate almost every combat capability within Air Force.

The United States Air Force has deployed F-15C Eagles and B-52 Stratofortress Bombers, while the United States Marine Corps MV-22 Ospreys and AH-1Z Vipers from the Marine Rotational Force-Darwin will also participate.

Air Force has deployed the F/A-18A Hornet, F/A-18F Super Hornet,

EA-18G Growler, Hawk 127 lead-in fighter, AP-3C Orion, P-8A Poseidon, C-17A Globemaster, KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport, E-7A Wedgetail and C-130J Hercules.

A range of ground-based capabilities and personnel from Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Air Warfare Centre and Combat Support Group are supporting the aircraft.



Above: Royal Australian Air Force firefighter Aircraftwoman Joanne Ward, from No. 17 Squadron, makes a radio call to a fire truck waiting to enter the taxiway as a No. 75 Squadron F/A-18A Hornet takes off. Below: RAAF F/A-18F Super Hornets, from No. 1 Squadron



2019 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS



Every year on 29 May, the United Nations commemorates the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. On this day, we pay tribute to all the men and women who have served as military, police or civilians in UN Peacekeeping operations. We commend their professionalism, dedication and courage and honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/129, designated 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. This is the date when in 1948 the first UN

peacekeeping mission named the "United Nations Truce Supervision Organization", or UNTSO, began operations in the Middle East. On this day, we pay tribute to the professionalism, dedication and courage of all the men and women serving in UN peacekeeping operations, and honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

This year, United Nations Headquarters will commemorate the Day on Friday, 24 May 2019. Activities will begin with a ceremony at which the Secretary-General will lay a wreath to commemorate those who have fallen

while serving for peace across United Nations Peacekeeping operations. The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal ceremony will take place immediately afterwards. Medals will be awarded to 119 military, police and civilian staff who have perished in the service of peace. The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix will hold a Press Conference during the daily noon briefing. In the afternoon, the Department of Peace Operations will hold the traditional medal parade for serving uniformed officers at UN Headquarters in New York.

Peacekeeping missions will observe the Day on 29 May as designated by the UN General Assembly.

2019 THEME: PROTECTING CIVILIANS, PROTECTING PEACE

This year's campaign theme for the Day is "Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace", chosen to mark the 20th anniversary of the first time that the Security Council explicitly mandated a peacekeeping mission to protect civilians (UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone from 1999 until 2005).

Join our campaign by using the hashtags #PKDay #ProtectingPeace

A4P: Our Core Agenda

Peacekeeping is one of the most effective tools available to the United Nations in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security. A4P represents the core agenda for our action and a driver of change permeating all aspects of the UN's peacekeeping work.

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Computer-based trial designed to assist veterans leaving military

Computer-based tasks will form the basis of a trial program to assist Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel as they transition from military to civilian life, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said April 2nd.

"The Stepping Out: Attention Reset (SOAR) trial is designed to test whether a brief attention training computer task improves adjustment to civilian life and may reduce the risk for mental health disorders," Mr Chester said.

"Open Arms—Veterans & Families Counselling (formerly VVCS) and Phoenix Australia are partnering with representatives from Tel Aviv University to conduct the research nationally.

"Any current full-time ADF members who are transitioning from service in the next 12 months can participate in the trial.

"Our Government is putting veterans and their families first and provides more than \$11.2 billion each year to deliver the essential services and programs they rely on. If you have served one full day in the Australian Defence Force you and your family can access free mental health care, through Open Arms – Veterans &

Families Counselling, whether that condition is service related or not.

About 5,500 people leave the ADF each year with most transitioning well, but for some there may be additional support needed. Our Government is committed to improving the transition services and programs ADF members and their families need, when and where they need it.

"Military training teaches you to pay close attention to your environment and the things that could be a potential threat – in many military settings this training is life-saving. Once you leave the military, if your attention is not re-balanced to suit a civilian setting, adjustment issues or mental health problems may develop.

"The findings from the study will play an important role in the Government's action on improving veterans' mental health and is just one of the many programs the Government is using to ensure veterans and their families receive the best possible support."

To sign up to take part in the trial, visit the SOAR trial website www.soar.phoenixaustralia.org.au, t: 1800 945 089 or soar-trial@unimelb.edu.au.

Benefits of employing veterans

Members of the ADF gain an extensive range of skills, abilities, recognised behaviours and attributes that make them valuable employees in the civilian workforce. They are good at solving problems, leading teams, and working under pressure. They retain core ADF values such as honesty, honour, initiative, integrity, respect and loyalty. These attributes make them valuable employees in the civilian workforce.

Their talents are readily transferable to the civilian workforce and include:

- learning new skills quickly
- being highly motivated and punctual
- communicating effectively to keep people informed
- completing tasks efficiently and on time
- working independently and as part of a team
- demonstrating leadership but also being able to follow instructions
- being well presented and courteous
- working with a variety of people from different backgrounds and with varying levels of experience

Many former ADF members will have acquired professional or trade qualifications that are recognised in the civilian workforce, for example mechanics, health professionals, carpenters and drivers.

Sign the Veterans Employment Commitment

If you'd like to benefit from the skills and experience veterans can bring to your workplace, then you should sign the Veterans Employment Commitment.

When you sign the Commitment, veterans will be able to identify your business as a veteran-friendly employer.

veteranemployment.gov.au/employment-commitment



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HEALTH CLINIC
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VISIT US AT OUR FINAL 2019 OPEN DAY
Register at CGS.ACT.EDU.AU

WED **16**
OCT

Website launched to assist transitioning veterans to find employment

A new website is making it easier for Australian Defence Force (ADF) members to transition to civilian work.

Minister for Defence Personnel, the Hon Darren Chester MP said the Australian Defence Force Transition and Civil Recognition website had been designed to assist ADF members seeking recognition of prior learning during service, and inform civilian employers of the professional skills, training and accreditation Defence veterans bring to the workplace.

“Employing a veteran is good for business,” Mr Chester said.

“The ADF provides highly skilled and professional personnel who have a lot to offer a potential employer.

“Giving our personnel an avenue to easily access their records and understand how their training and skills translate to civilian jobs will assist veterans to be re-employed sooner.”

Chief Executive Officer of Ironside Recruitment and former Army mechanic, Glen Ferrarotto, has worked hard to develop awareness of and confidence in veterans’ transferable skills within the mining sector and heavy vehicle mechanical trades.

“In early 2018, Ironside Recruitment embarked on what has now become the most successful intake of veterans into Australia’s mining industry in modern history,” Mr Ferrarotto said.

“The success of this program is due to a number of collaborative initiatives led by Fortescue Metals, with support from the Australian Defence College.

“The introduction of the Australian Defence Force Transition and Civil Recognition Project website is another way to support current and former service personnel in understanding how their skills and experience are transferrable in the civilian workplace.”

Major General Mick Ryan, AM, Commander of the Australian Defence College and CEO of the Defence Registered Training Organisation (RTO), said the achievements of the

Australian Defence Force Transition and Civil Recognition Project to date were outstanding.

“We’ve already seen the Australian Defence College’s ability as a RTO to retrieve documented civil accreditation for relevant trades substantially assist Ironside Recruitment in developing and delivering a veteran employment program with Fortescue Group,” Major General Ryan said.

“And now, with the introduction of this website, veterans will be able to contact the Australian Defence Force Transition and Civil Recognition Project team within the ADC to request individual Vocational Education Training advice and services, including recognition of prior learning for transferable skills acquired during service.”

Resources such as the Australian Defence Force Transition Training and Skills Guides and the Australian Defence Force Guides for Employers are now available to download from the website.

www.defence.gov.au/adc/adftcr/Veterans.asp
Defence image

Prior to Transition

Prior to transition it is important to save copies of the following documents:

- Your ‘ADO Service Record’ from PMKeyS
- Your two most recent PAR/PPR (signed)
- Copies of any Qualifications and Statements of Attainment you hold
- A description of tasks/duty statement for recent job roles
- Copies of any awards or commendations

Recognition of Prior Learning RPL

RPL is a process that converts what you’ve done in your profession, education, training, and extra-curricular activity into recognised civilian accreditation. Within the confines of what the DRTO can issue, we will ensure you are provided with civilian recognition of your time in service, where eligible. Information is available on the RPL page.



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

For All other Financial Institutions:

Account: APPVA BSB: 062 502 Account: 1052 9131 Member No:

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

The Defence Bank Account has been replaced by Bendigo Bank Account effective Aug 2017.
For Defence Bank users with automatic Debits, the account will be in transition for 12 months ceasing July 2018.
Please ensure you change your banking details to avoid mis-payments.

DELIVERY DETAILS

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



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