

Australian Peacekeeper

AUTUMN 2019

MAGAZINE





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WHATS INSIDE

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Australian Peacekeepers Magazine is published quarterly by Flight Publishing Pty Ltd (ABN 70 953 274 004) for and on behalf of the Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association (ABN 59 558 194 094) © 2018. All rights reserved. www.peacekeepers.asn.au

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

A loadmaster conducts final checks on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter prior to a support mission to deliver aviation fuel to flood affected communities in central and north Queensland.
Department of Defence image.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome and Happy New Year to all our members and on lookers, this year has started off very early for the APPVA, as your elected National President I was asked to attend an extra-ordinary meeting with Secretary to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs Ms Liz Cosson and other National Presidents from Peak Body Ex-Service Organisations (ESO), the Secretary Ms Liz Cosson had called upon ESOs to provide advice and further recommendations to the Productivity Commissions "draft report".

The purpose of the discussion was to share initial views on the findings, recommendations and requests for information set out in the draft report, ahead of preparation of further submissions to the inquiry and appearances before the inquiry's public hearings. The paper included the Key Points, Findings, Recommendations and Requests for Information as articulated by the Commission in each chapter of its draft report to help guide the discussion. The APPVA is in the process of submitting a further submission by 25 February 2019.

Some of the changes in 2019 that our members and onlookers can expect:

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 — Information for card holders and applicants

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.

All existing DVA health card holders (Gold or White) and concession card (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 automatically over the coming months.

Eligibility for the card

The card will be made available to anyone who has served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with one or more days 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 access the new card.

Benefits of the card

The Australian Government is working with businesses and community organisations to discuss tangible recognition and services for card holders. Organisations may wish to provide special offers, support or concessions 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.

Information about participating organisations will be listed on the DVA website over the coming months. There will be no changes to DVA services and entitlements.

Registering for a 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.

All existing DVA health card holders (Gold or White) 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 automatically over the coming months.

Applications for the Veteran Card can only be made online at this point. Other ways of applying will be supported from April 2019.

Examples of the new Veteran Cards



Sample client information included for illustrative purposes only.

Unmarked First World War Graves

The debt of honour owed to those who gave their lives in the service of their country can never be repaid but we demonstrate our gratitude and honour the sacrifice in our cemeteries in Australia and overseas.

Funding assistance

The Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG), within DVA, has established a program whereby individuals or associations might apply for funding to assist in marking an unmarked grave.

Pilot program

A pilot program will be available for two years. The outcome of this pilot program is intended to inform if there are requirements for the program to be extended.

Whilst the Office of the Australian War Graves (OAWG) is not responsible for these graves, the Australian Government has made funding available to assist with their marking in the form of this funding assistance.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to receive funding assistance the following applies:

- The current unmarked grave is located in Australia and is the grave of a First World War veteran.
- The First World War veteran served in the Australian Forces and died within 20 years of the end of the First World War.
- The applicant has the authority to alter the grave. This may be in the form of having the Right of Burial or in the absence of that, authority from the cemetery where the grave is located.
- The applicant provides a quote for the total cost of the marker.
- More information on eligibility criteria can be found in the frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Note

Funding assistance is not available for maintenance or refurbishment of existing grave markers.

Applications

Applications will be processed within 90 days of receipt of application, where possible. Please note that there is a capped amount of \$450 (exclusive of GST) for each application.

You may print off and submit an application form, or submit it online (link is contained in the application form).

The guidelines and application form are provided via the following links:

- Guidelines — Unmarked First World War Graves funding assistance program
- Form — D9349 — Application for funding assistance from the Unmarked First World War Graves Program

Carer Allowance – Important Information

Are you a carer? Have you received a request from Centrelink asking for details of your income?

From 20 September 2018, the Government introduced an income test for Carer Allowance, which is paid by the Department of Human Services (DHS) through Centrelink. As a result, recipients of this payment must now have an income under the income test limit (currently \$250,000 for individuals and couples).

Recipients of DVA income support payments, such as the Service Pension, Veteran Payment and Age Pension, will automatically meet the new income test requirements. However, DHS has advised that it has already issued letters to Carer Allowance recipients, some of whom may be DVA income support recipients, requesting they complete the *Carer Allowance adjusted taxable income details form*.

If you have received a letter requesting your income details and would like more information, or an extension of time to respond, you can contact Centrelink's Carers Line or the new Carer Gateway.

Centrelink Carers Line: 132 717

Website: Carer Gateway

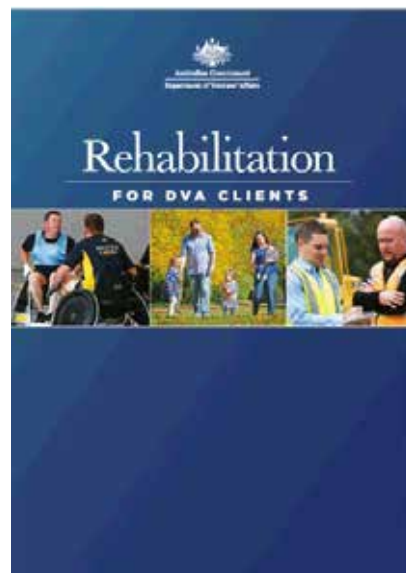
DVA is working with DHS to address veteran community concerns as a matter of urgency.

Rehabilitation for DVA Clients (Booklet)

Last updated 4 October 2018

DVA rehabilitation focuses on all elements of your life which could improve your wellbeing and aims to assist you to adapt to, and recover from, an injury or illness that is related to your ADF service.

- Rehabilitation for DVA clients (PDF 3 MB)



This can be downloaded from the DVA website:

<https://www.dva.gov.au/about-dva/publications/rehabilitation/rehabilitation-dva-clients-booklet>

The APPVA is in full swing with some major events currently underway, with hosting our first full commemoration at the National Peacekeepers Memorial in Canberra in 2019 since it was opened. We are hoping to get the support from the Australian Defence Force, Department of Veterans' Affairs and other Ex-Service Organisation in the ACT. As events and activities unfold, we will keep all our members and onlookers informed through our newly developed website, email and social media.

I look forward to catching up with members sometime in the 2019 at some commemorations held nationally, until then I will speak to you all in our next Winter addition of the Peacekeepers Magazine.

Regards

Allan Thomas OAM, JP

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.

Experience Matters: how I studied my CSU nursing degree from the high seas

The world is her oyster for Charles Sturt University (CSU) nursing student and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Medical Sailor Sarah Wheeler, as she prepares for her next venture outside the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

After eight years' service with the RAN, Sarah decided the time was right for her to take her training as a medical sailor and make her experience count by specialising in a field close to her heart – paediatrics.

Working full-time in the Navy meant that Sarah needed flexible study she could fit into her busy schedule. With CSU, a veteran-friendly university, Sarah could access the right kind of support and found study was achievable.

Sarah said she has balanced service life, study and other lifestyle commitments quite well and is looking forward to completing her degree this session, when all her hard work will pay off.

With the help of CSU, Sarah is ready to start her future career in the civilian healthcare industry.



Sarah Wheeler
Medical Sailor, Royal Australian Navy
CSU Bachelor of Nursing student

What made you decide to study with CSU?

I had spoken to a few colleagues who either started or completed their study through CSU or other universities,

and I was told that CSU were very supportive of Defence personnel. They also offered the degree I wanted to complete via online education.

What course are you studying and where do you want to take your career?

I'm currently studying my Bachelor of Nursing and I would like to specialise in paediatrics. Although my role in the Navy is in healthcare, it's very primary health focused rather than providing ward nursing care to patients. My current role is predominantly paperwork based rather than clinical and I would like to get back into the clinical environment. I've also only been working with generally young, fit, healthy adults. I feel that pursuing a career in paediatrics will be a new challenge for me.

What are some of the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through the ADF that are transferable to the civilian workforce?

Training and development of others, oral and written communication skills, problem-solving, interpersonal relationships, teamwork, leadership, time management, the ability to uphold the Navy values which can be transferred to any workplace that has a set of values such as the NSW Health core values.

How has your previous experience and training acquired through the ADF prepared you for university study?

The ability to adapt to change, including any last-minute changes, and time management skills to manage study and workloads. The ability to work in stressful high tempo areas has allowed me to be able to cope with my work, study and personal commitments. Due to constantly travelling and moving around for my work, I was happy to accept any location I was allocated for my work placement, even if it meant that I was having to travel long distances and pay for accommodation.

How will a CSU degree impact your career? Are you looking to progress in your current field or take your career in a new direction?

My degree will allow me to transition into the civilian workforce. I could transfer to a nursing officer in the ADF; however, because I want to work with children I have made the decision to transition out of the Navy.

What are the benefits of studying a degree during your service with the ADF? Is there any flexibility around study, exams and any work placements?

The pay I receive has enabled me to pay my fees upfront, which means I won't have a HECS debt on completion of my degree. I've also still received my pay while I have been away on clinical placement or at residential school, which has made it financially easier to complete those components of my degree. The ADF also offer their own assistance schemes, such as the Defence Assistance Study Scheme (DASS) which provides assistance through study leave and some financial support.

Your Experience Matters

Are you a former or currently serving member of the Australian Defence Force?

If you're looking to enhance your current career or want to make your next move count outside of Defence, find out how your Experience Matters here: futurestudents.csu.edu/defence





EXPERIENCE MATTERS ENTRY PROGRAM

Your defence experience matters at CSU.

That's why we've created a new admission pathway using your military experience as a benchmark – the Experience Matters Entry Program, developed in partnership with the Australian Student Veterans Association.

We use your rank to work out an equivalent ATAR.

So if you've completed your recruit training, initial employment training (or equivalent per branch of service) and at least two years' experience, you'll be eligible for most Charles Sturt University (CSU) undergraduate programs.

CSU is a veteran-friendly university – and we want to help you get qualified for the next chapter of your life.

Reach out to discuss your study options.

For more information, visit
futurestudents.csu.edu.au/defence

The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)
Provider Number for Charles Sturt University is 00005F. © Charles Sturt University, 2018. F5826.





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MANAGING THE CIVILIAN TRANSITION WITH STUDY AND SURFING

Maintaining an active lifestyle post-military is vital to both physical and mental health and Matt Hoare knows it well. The returned serviceman is about to graduate with a Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology this month from Southern Cross University. He plans to dedicate his post-military career to helping veterans improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

“Research shows how important exercise is to mental health. As an exercise physiologist, I want to work with veterans to design programs that suit their current situation and take into consideration their injuries and illnesses,” he said.

Matt is well versed in the power of exercise to heal the body and the mind. He co-founded the Association of Veteran Surfers (AVS) with fellow returned serviceman Kieran Scotchford in 2016. “Kieran and I met when our platoons merged before our Afghanistan deployment and we had a common love of surfing. During our training for the deployment and upon return we used surfing as a means to escape from the stress of military service and to clear our heads,” he said.

The ability of the ocean to heal and the powerful emotion of catching



a wave was something Matt had experienced from an early age, when his father pushed him onto his first wave aged five. He could see the potential it had to help veterans. “It just made sense that it was a great pathway to get veterans and their families together with like-minded individuals, and help ease the transition process from military to civilian life,” he said.

Now numbering more than 90 members and their families, the AVS has become an important support group for veterans struggling with the challenges of post-military life. “There are a couple of organisations in America which use Ocean Therapy to help veterans with mental and physical injuries, and are having great success. We are the first ex-service organisation in Australia to solely focus on using surfing to assist veterans.”

Study has been an important part of his own transition. “I believe university has given me a sense of purpose and drive to continue to improve my situation and help others in the process. A lot of veterans struggle with a lack of identity and purpose once they discharge, as they have been trained as a soldier, airmen, seamen etc. but once service

is over, the title goes with it,” said Matt.

The support at Southern Cross from other students in his cohort and staff often kept him going. “Studying has given me a new sense of purpose and identity, but also the other students are respectful of my past and have been amazing help at times when study gets stressful,” he said.

Being a university student was (almost) like being in the military. “We are a group of 20-30 people going through similar experiences, the highs and lows of studying at university, but also have very different pasts and stories to tell. It has been great to share this experience with my cohort and I have made a number of lifelong friends along the way,” said Matt.

The Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science and the Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology are offered at Southern Cross University Lismore and Gold Coast campuses. The Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science is also offered at the Coffs Harbour campus. Visit scu.edu.au for more information.



Photos courtesy of RSL Queensland



World's most dangerous Peacekeeping mission

Alastair Leithead:

"The UN is being sucked into the kind of conflict that claimed so many British and American lives in Iraq and Afghanistan"

Mali crisis

- Mali not geared up to combat terrorism
- France - the Saharan policeman
- Timbuktu waits for peace dividend
- World stars seek to revive Mali's music

Suspected Islamist gunmen have attacked a hotel in Mali's capital, Bamako, where 170 people were staying. At least 18 people have been killed and most hostages rescued. The BBC's Alastair Leithead recently went on patrol with the UN's peacekeeping mission in the country, which has suffered more casualties than any other in recent years.

In the vast, lawless land north of the Malian city of Timbuktu, Saharan sand whipped up by the wind quickly covers the tracks of the smugglers and the traffickers, the arms dealers and the jihadists who thrive in one of the most inhospitable places on earth.

Centuries-old mud built mosques, crumbling ancient manuscripts, and weather-worn Tuareg nomads, their heads and faces wrapped in white cotton cloth, give Timbuktu its sense of other-worldly remoteness.

But Timbuktu is closer than you think.

The burning sand barrier between North Africa and the rest of this continent is a barrier no more.

Europe is just one country and one treacherous sea crossing away.

Drugs, migrants and the influence of violent Islamists has put Mali on the map, prompting first a French military intervention and then a United Nations peacekeeping operation, which has quickly become its most dangerous on record.



Aeromedical Evacuation of a wounded UN Soldier.

Deadliest UN missions worldwide over last three years:

- Mali (MINUSMA) - 53 deaths
- Sudan (Unamid, hybrid mission in Darfur with African Union) - 48 deaths
- DR Congo (Monusco) - 18 deaths
- South Sudan (Unmiss) - 17 deaths
- Ivory Coast (Unoci) - 16 deaths

Source: UN figures from 2013 up to 31 October 2015, excluding deaths from illness

Pilots from El Salvador fly armed reconnaissance helicopters; the Bangladeshis have brought boats for patrolling the Niger River and the Dutch with a drone, attack helicopters and special forces to gather intelligence.

But it is troops from Mali's West African neighbours who make up the majority of the about 12,000 peacekeepers - soldiers, police and civilians - on the UN mission to Mali (MINUSMA).

There are certainly many dimensions to MINUSMA - the most dangerous of which is dealing with insurgents.

"Mainly it's mines and ambush - they are using asymmetrical warfare, and we have lost some brave peacekeepers," said Brigadier General Sidiki Daniel Traore, who commands the mission's western

region, which includes Timbuktu.

"You have to deal with this by using new tools - like intelligence - we have threats due to terrorist armed groups but also criminality and banditry."

On joint foot patrols with Malian and UN police, and out in the communities day and night with the army of Burkina Faso, the strategy is similar to that in Iraq or Afghanistan - win hearts and minds, reassure the people and gather information.

And in most places they do seem largely welcome.

Before they arrived, Timbuktu was living under a harsh form of Sharia when Islamist militants occupied parts of northern Mali for nearly a year.

JIHADIST VIDEOS

Everyone, from politicians, Tuareg groups, to those trying to sell trinkets to non-existent tourists - say security is the big problem.

But it is dangerous work.

More than 50 peacekeepers have died so far - and 200 have been injured.

One of the attacks on a UN convoy was filmed by jihadists who posted it online.

It shows a UN truck being hit by a rocket-propelled grenade; the bodies of some of the six peacekeepers killed in this attack are shown.

It is a video again reminiscent of

those from Iraq or Afghanistan.

A UN source says these kind of direct attacks make it the most dangerous mission, skewing operations from peacekeeping to a war footing.

“When we have to deal with constant attacks, it makes it very hard to focus on core tasks such as political facilitation, protection of civilians, human rights promotion, monitoring and institution building,” the source said.

The troops also have to deal with transnational crime and to political groupings who feel that this is the chance to enhance their negotiating posture.

MILITANCY IN MALI

- October 2011: Ethnic Tuaregs launch rebellion after returning with arms from Libya
- March 2012: Army coup over government’s handling of rebellion, a month later Tuareg and al-Qaeda-linked fighters seize control of north
- June 2012: Islamist groups capture Timbuktu, Kidal and Gao from Tuaregs, start to destroy Muslim shrines and manuscripts and impose Sharia
- January 2013: Islamist fighters capture a central town, raising fears they could reach Bamako. Mali requests French help
- July 2013: UN force, now totalling about 12,000, takes over responsibility for securing the north after Islamists routed from towns
- July 2014: France launches an



Peacekeepers have to deal with jihadist fighters, trafficking and smugglers.

operation in the Sahel to stem jihadist groups

- Attacks continue in northern desert area, blamed on Tuareg and Islamist groups
- 2015: Terror attacks in the capital, Bamako, and central Mali

An intelligence official, who asked not to be named, told us at least one al-Qaeda linked group is on the outskirts of Timbuktu.

He said three others are being pursued elsewhere by French troops acting under a different counter-terrorist mandate.

But the “human map” shown to us - a who’s who of militants, showing their connection to various armed groups, gangs and crime - has plenty of gaps.

Commanders and influential figures are often switching allegiance, moving from one jihadist group to another.

Some are currently split over whether to ally with the so-called Islamic State, or keep their connections to al-Qaeda.

It is causing instability within the groups and making them more unpredictable.

EMPTY LIBRARY

The imam of the Grand Mosque in Timbuktu, Abdramane Ben Essayouh, said he used to be an optimist, but now he is a pessimist.

He unpacked some of his ancient manuscripts which were hidden from the destructive hands of the jihadists - like many others in Timbuktu, protected by the families who have guarded them for centuries.

Two and a half years after they were driven from the city, the majority of his parchments and books are still stored in unmarked cardboard boxes - the dusty shelves in his library are empty.

“Security must be improved for everyone - for the people, and their property - but now they aren’t safe to go shopping or to travel,” he said.

The peacekeepers are trying, but this is a different type of mission for the UN.

Their key role is impartiality - and they have helped create enough space for militant groups to talk to each other and to the government and be part of an on-going ceasefire and peace deal.

But when they try to hit back against those planting bombs or launching ambushes, they get sucked into a counter-insurgency and the lines become blurred.



MINUSMA is the French acronym, translated to English as: The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. A UN Soldier sits on top of an Armoured Personnel Carrier, during an Armoured patrol in Mali.

CRUCIAL CROSSROADS

The Danish commander of MINUSMA, Maj Gen Michael Lollesgaard, believes the UN will be increasingly engaged in more similar missions.

“Who else will do it?” he said.

“The UN is the global organisation and has the great legitimacy of being supported by more than 190 countries.

“Nobody else of the bigger organisations wants to engage themselves in these conflicts in, for example, Africa.”

The ghosts of costly interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan have shaken the few countries like the US, which have the resources to carry out such missions alone.

He believes Mali is a crucial crossroads, and he would like to see more European nations making bigger contributions here.

“Seen from the European side, we have a lot of refugees coming up through Mali, we have a lot of drugs coming up through Mali,” he said.



UN Soldiers have to secure a large area of desert within the MINUSMA Area of Operations. The security of the AO requires large resources of manpower, mobility and logistical support.

“Mali is important because it has a regional impact and a global impact on terrorism.”

Retrieved From: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-34812600> on 22 January 2019.

Photos: MINUSMA Marco Dormino.

Editor: Whilst this story covers the MINUSMA Peacekeeping Operation in 2015, Mali remains one of the most dangerous UN Peacekeeping Operations in the world in 2018/2019.

Mali: Ten UN Peacekeepers killed in 'jihadist' attack

Ten UN peacekeepers from Chad have been killed in an attack by suspected Islamist militants in northern Mali, the UN says.

Another 25 Chadian troops were injured when the gunmen stormed the UN camp in Aguelhok early on Sunday. The attack was repelled, the UN says.

The UN mission in Mali was set

up in 2013 to fight Islamist militias operating in the country.

Militants have regularly attacked UN and Malian troops since then.

Al-Qaeda's North-African branch, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, said it carried out the latest attack, local media report.

Large swathes of northern Mali were seized by jihadists in 2012 until

they were pushed back in a French-led military operation the following year.

More than 15,000 personnel - including civilians - were later deployed as part of the UN mission, Minusma [MINUSMA].

But parts of the country are still out of the government's control.





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The Crisis of Peacekeeping

Why the UN can't end wars

In nearly 50 conflict zones around the world, some one and a half billion people live under the threat of violence. In many of these places, the primary enforcers of order are not police officers or government soldiers but the blue-helmeted troops of the United Nations. With more than 78,000 soldiers and 25,000 civilians scattered across 14 countries, UN peacekeepers make up the second-largest military force deployed abroad, after the U.S. military.

The ambition of their task is immense. From Haiti to Mali, from Kosovo to South Sudan, UN peacekeepers are invited into war-torn countries and charged with maintaining peace and security. In most cases, that means nothing less than transforming states and societies. Peacekeepers set out to protect civilians, train police forces, disarm militias, monitor human rights abuses, organize elections, provide emergency relief, rebuild court systems, inspect prisons, and promote gender equality. And they

attempt all of that in places where enduring chaos has defied easy solution; otherwise, they wouldn't be there to begin with.

Unfortunately, this endeavour has a spotty track record. Global leaders continue to call on "the blue helmets" as the go-to solution whenever violence flares in the developing world. U.S. President Barack Obama praised UN peacekeeping as "one of the world's most important tools to address armed conflict," and the UN itself claims that it has "helped end conflicts and foster reconciliation by conducting successful peacekeeping operations in dozens of countries." But in fact, UN peacekeepers too often fail to meet their most basic objectives. On many deployments, they end up watching helplessly while war rages. On others, they organize elections and declare victory, but without having fixed the root causes that brought them there—making it all too likely that fighting will flare again before long.

Part of the reason for this failure is a lack of resources. It is hard to fault the UN for that, since it relies on contributions from its members. The larger problem, however, is a fundamental misunderstanding about what makes for a sustained peace. The UN's strategy favours top-down deals struck with elites and fixates on elections. But that neglects what should be the other main component of their approach: embracing bottom-up strategies that draw on local knowledge and letting the people themselves determine how best to promote peace.

THE RISE OF THE BLUE HELMETS

When the UN was created, in 1945, it was never intended to have its own fighting force; the UN Charter makes no mention of peacekeeping. But it quickly became clear that some such capacity would be essential if the organization was to have any hope of meeting its simplest goals. In 1948, the



Brazilian peacekeepers with MINUSTAH patrolling the Bel Air neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
UN/MINUSTAH/Jesús Serrano Redondo

UN's mediator in Palestine asked for a small group of UN guards to monitor the truce between Israel and its Arab neighbours, an ad-hoc mission that marked the birth of peacekeeping. Most deployments over the next few decades followed a similar pattern: at the invitation of the host government and with the agreement of all warring parties, the UN would send in soldiers after a cease-fire or a peace settlement was reached, provided that no permanent member of the Security Council vetoed the idea.

UN peacekeepers make up the second-largest military force deployed abroad, after the U.S. military.

The possibility of a veto meant that intervention was limited to places not caught up in the East-West rivalry, and as a result, peacekeeping missions were rare during the Cold War. Only 13 were set up between 1948 and 1978, and none at all between 1979 and 1987. The missions that did exist were fairly unintrusive. A small number of unarmed observers would monitor cease-fire lines and troop withdrawals, as in Kashmir in 1949, or lightly armed soldiers would try to insert themselves between national armies, as in Lebanon in 1978. Sometimes, the presence of UN soldiers helped prevent further conflict, while at other times, it did not. The 1973 Yom Kippur War embodied this mixed track record: UN peacekeepers succeeded in enforcing the cease-fire along the Egyptian-Israeli border in the Sinai, but they failed to do the same at the Israeli-Syrian border in the Golan Heights. Even though the UN peacekeeping forces were awarded the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize, their global impact remained limited.

The end of the Cold War heralded a new era. With U.S.-Soviet tensions no longer paralyzing the UN, the organization would finally, its leaders thought, be able to do its job. And so in the span of roughly two years, from April 1991 to October 1993, it launched 15 new peacekeeping operations—more than it had in the first 40 years of its history. In many countries, the missions worked: in Namibia, El Salvador, Cambodia,



UN peacekeepers at the border with Israel near the village of Kfar Kila, Lebanon, December 2018. *Karamallah Daher*

and Mozambique, peacekeepers helped decrease violence by disarming combatants and brokering agreements. Owing to the sheer number of missions, peacekeeping became institutionalized. It acquired a dedicated department within the UN and its own staff, budget, and standard operating procedures—all the bureaucratic trappings of a global priority.

The optimism soon faded. First came the events in Somalia, where the UN would send approximately 28,000 troops to monitor a cease-fire in the country's long-running civil war and provide humanitarian relief. In June 1993, two dozen Pakistani peacekeepers were killed by militants there, and a few months later, in the "Black Hawk down" episode, so were 18 U.S. soldiers supporting the UN mission. Then came the massacres in Rwanda in 1994 and in Srebrenica in 1995, when UN peacekeepers stood by and watched as local armed groups perpetrated genocide.

Observers began to sour on peacekeeping. The people living where peacekeepers operated were not much kinder, portraying them as meek foreigners uninterested in their work. Salvadorans nicknamed the UN mission in their country "Vacaciones Unidas" (United Vacations), Cypriots spoke of "beach keepers," and Bosnians mocked the "Smurfs." Yet because major powers preferred UN operations to the type of full-scale interventions they had no interest in doing, the Security Council continued

to generate missions at a fast pace—authorizing 16 of them between 1994 and 1998.

By 1999, the UN realized it had to rethink its approach. That year, leaders in Kosovo, East Timor, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo finally reached peace agreements and asked for the UN's help in implementing them. The organization's secretary-general, Kofi Annan, who had previously headed its peacekeeping department, wanted to prevent new failures, so he requested two major reviews of international intervention. The first resulted in the Brahimi report (named after the Algerian diplomat who led the initiative), which detailed reforms to make UN peacekeeping more effective. The second produced the "responsibility to protect" doctrine: the idea that the so-called international community is morally obligated to help people living in states that are unable or unwilling to protect their citizens from serious violations of human rights.

Salvadorans nicknamed the UN mission in their country "Vacaciones Unidas" (United Vacations), Cypriots spoke of "beach keepers," and Bosnians mocked the "Smurfs."

These reports, and the debates they launched, transformed the UN's approach to peacekeeping. No longer should peacekeepers merely monitor cease-fire lines passively. Instead, they should take a proactive stance, using military force to prevent combatants from perpetrating violence. To avoid

another Rwanda or Bosnia, where overly restrictive rules of engagement had led to disaster, peacekeeping forces should have strong mandates and ample resources.

The result of these developments is that peacekeeping is now very different from what it was during the Cold War. Instead of trying to end war primarily between states, peacekeepers now focus on maintaining peace within states. Their duties have expanded to include a laundry lists of tasks, from reorganizing armies to protecting populations to arranging elections. The personnel have evolved accordingly. In addition to soldiers and military officers, UN missions now hire experts on development, gender, politics, economics, administration, justice, human rights, land-mine removal, elections, media, and communication. In postwar East Timor and Kosovo, the UN even served as a *de facto* transitional government overseeing the new states' functions. And of the 18 missions deployed since 2000, an increasing number have been given "enforcement" mandates: instead of relying on the consent of all the warring parties to implement peace agreements and using their military might only in self-defence, UN soldiers can employ lethal force to defeat combatants. In the Central African Republic, Congo, and Mali, UN troops have ended up fighting rebel groups on the side of—or on behalf of—the government.

Despite all these supposed improvements, today, just like 20 years ago, peacekeepers often fail to meet the high expectations set for them. Experts all use different definitions of success and thus arrive at different conclusions, so whether or not a UN mission can be considered a failure is a matter of interpretation. Some scholars have arrived at positive assessments. Michael Gilligan and Ernest Sergenti, for instance, have calculated that 85 percent of UN operations have resulted in prolonged periods of peace or shortened periods of war. Page Fortna has determined that, all else being equal, the presence of peacekeepers decreases the risk of another war breaking out by 55–62 percent. Lisa Hultman, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon have shown that the deployment of UN troops reduces

both battlefield deaths and civilian killings. Other scholars have come to more dispiriting conclusions. Jeremy Weinstein discovered that 75 percent of the civil wars in which the UN intervened resumed within ten years of stopping. Michael Doyle and Nicholas Sambanis studied 138 peace processes and found that roughly half of those that had peacekeepers failed to decrease the violence or further democracy. Roland Paris analyzed 11 UN missions in depth and found that only two were able to build a sustainable peace.

What's more, missions that are celebrated as successful on the national and international levels do not necessarily improve conditions on the ground. In a study of Liberia, Eric Mvukiyehe and Cyrus Samii showed that, despite some positive outcomes, peacekeeping deployments at the municipal level did not promote security or help restore local authority.

Finally, even the success stories tend to fall apart on closer inspection. The mission in Cyprus, which began in 1964, is often heralded for having reduced fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, but it can hardly be called a triumph. The island is divided in two, and political reunification looks almost as distant as it did 50 years ago. The 2004–6 operation in Burundi used to be the poster child for UN peacekeeping, credited with tamping down violence after years of civil war and helping the country transition to democracy. A decade later, however, Burundi is back to dictatorship and war. The bottom line is that UN missions do help, at times, to some extent, but they could do far better.

PEACEKEEPING ON THE CHEAP

The UN's defenders rightly point out that peacekeepers have one of the hardest jobs in the world. They operate in places rife with ruthless militias, abusive armies, corrupt officials, and shabby infrastructure. Instructions from the Security Council to support the host government further complicate their task, since rebels are less inclined to cooperate when they believe that the UN is aiding the enemy. Moreover, since great powers tend to care little about the crises the UN is sent to address, peacekeepers

are given precious few resources with which to accomplish their ambitious mandates. At \$7 billion annually, the UN peacekeeping budget may seem impressive. But it equals less than 0.5 percent of global military spending, and with it, the organization is expected to help resolve more than a quarter of all ongoing wars.

The main consequence is too few people on the ground, which makes it difficult for the UN to even scratch the surface of its mandates. In Congo, for example, the UN mission's gender office in the province of North Kivu—where sexual violence is pervasive—was staffed by one lone UN volunteer for years. Meanwhile, the number of UN soldiers is usually paltry given the size of the territories they're supposed to monitor or pacify.

There is roughly one peacekeeper per 400 square miles in Western Sahara, one per 50 square miles in Congo, and one per 30 square miles in South Sudan. Compare that to the peak of the U.S. war in Afghanistan, when there was one foreign soldier per two square miles, or to the United States itself, where there is one law enforcement officer per four square miles.

There is roughly one peacekeeper per 400 square miles in Western Sahara.

Since the UN does not have its own pool of soldiers, it must rely on the goodwill of its member states to provide them. Countries are reluctant to risk the lives of their troops in conflicts in which they have no stake, and so it often takes months for the UN to muster the forces it needs. When it finally does, it almost always ends up with poorly trained and poorly paid soldiers from developing countries. (In 2018, the top troop contributors to the UN were Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Rwanda.) These troops are often poorly equipped, too—forced to get by without helicopters and to make do with outdated vehicles.

To make matters worse, their commanders report not just to the UN leadership but also to their own country's chain of command. These officers know what their countries expect from them: to bring their



troops back home safe. When they have to choose between fulfilling the UN mandate and avoiding casualties, they generally choose the latter. That is what happened in Srebrenica in 1995, when the Dutch commander of a peacekeeping battalion, outnumbered and outgunned, had his soldiers stand by as Serbian forces rounded up and killed some 8,000 Muslim men and boys.

Worst of all, some peacekeepers harm those they are meant to help. In the Central African Republic, Congo, and Somalia, they have engaged in torture. In Bosnia, Haiti, and Kosovo, they have been implicated in sex-trafficking rings. In fact, over the past 12 years, the UN has received nearly 1,000 allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeepers. Those who commit such horrible acts are a minority, but the bad apples have done grave harm to the UN's reputation.

THE WRONG STRATEGY

Both the peacekeeping leadership in New York and the rank and file in the field tend to blame all these woes on the Security Council, which provides neither adequate resources nor clear mandates. To ensure success, they say, peacekeepers need more money, more logistical support, and more people, along with more realistic instructions. And, they add, the Security Council needs to force countries that contribute troops to stop interfering with the operations on the ground and instead tell their officers to respect the UN chain of

command. But peacekeepers can't hold the Security Council responsible for all their shortcomings. Because they are the product of compromise, mandates are always vague, and they always need to be interpreted. Besides, even when powerful states and troop-contributing countries devote ample resources to a UN mission, the resulting efforts often fail.

The problem is bigger than mandates and resources. Above all, it has to do with two strategic choices the UN frequently makes: first, to work with national elites to stop violence from the top down and, second, to push for quick elections as a way to consolidate the peace. The standard UN approach to ending wars is to host large, costly conferences in order to strike agreements between governments and rebel leaders and then organize a national vote and declare victory. Both tendencies are based on faulty assumptions.

The weakness of the top-down approach is that warfare is often the result of not just national or international competition but local competition, too. In many conflict zones, the fight is over such issues as land, water, livestock, and low-level traditional and administrative power. In South Sudan, for example, it is not only tensions between President Salva Kiir and the former vice president and now rebel leader Riek Machar that fuel the current fighting; it is also clan rivalries and countless spats between herders and farmers.

When it comes to the UN's fixation on elections, the problem is that

pushing for a vote before a country is ready may do more harm than good. In Angola in 1992, a premature vote triggered a resumption of fighting between the ruling party and the main rebel group (resulting in more deaths in two years than there were in the 17-year war that the UN had supposedly ended).

Both of these errors are on full display today in Congo, the site of both the world's deadliest conflict since World War II and the largest peacekeeping mission in the world. The UN attributes strife there to national and international factors: a weak central government, tensions between Congolese President Joseph Kabila and his opponents, and disputes with neighbouring Rwanda and Uganda. It views elections, which Kabila has delayed for years, as a sort of cure-all. In fact, much of the violence in Congo is local in origin. Disputes often centre on who will control neighbouring land, the exploitation of local mining sites, or the traditional or administrative power over a village or a district. These tensions often result in localized fighting in one village or territory but frequently escalate into generalized conflict across a whole province and even at times spill over into neighbouring countries.

Compounding these mistakes is the UN's overriding disdain for all things local. Because subject-area experience is valued more than country expertise, management positions almost always go to foreigners, who usually have no in-depth knowledge of their host societies, cultures, or institutions. Often, staff lack the language skills to communicate with local people—or even, at times, with one another. In the mission in Cyprus, for example, few peacekeepers speak Greek or Turkish; the same is true for Arabic or Nuer in South Sudan, Albanian or Serbo-Croatian in Kosovo, and French or Haitian Creole in Haiti.

Peacekeepers' everyday behavior only adds to the problem. Both the UN's military personnel and its civilian personnel live in fortified compounds and gather information mainly from elites. Sometimes, the result is that they thoughtlessly apply universal templates. For example, on seeing the success of so-called disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration



programs in Burundi and Sierra Leone, the UN attempted similar initiatives in Haiti and South Sudan, where conditions were different; the efforts failed. At other times, dangerous groupthink takes hold. In Congo, for instance, between the last two rounds of elections, from 2006 to 2011, most peacekeepers held a simplistic view of the primary cause of the violence (the illegal exploitation of mineral resources), the main consequence (sexual abuse of women and girls), and the best solution (a stronger state). By empowering the Congolese government and its army, the strategy that emerged from this view actually led to an uptick in human rights violations, including sexual abuse.

The preponderance of foreign staff and foreign ideas also generates resentment among local partners. In country after country, residents complain that peacekeepers are arrogant and demeaning, live in lavish accommodations, drive fancy SUVs, and spend far too much time relaxing and far too little actually doing their jobs. They regularly disparage peacekeepers as neocolonial; local media portray them as parasites at best and thugs at worst. Fair or unfair, these views often cause local people to refuse to cooperate with UN initiatives, even when they support the underlying goals.

In recent years, insiders and outsiders have attempted to change the standard UN approach. Certain low-level staff and high-ranking leaders within field missions have tried to promote local conflict resolution. A 2015 independent review of peacekeeping, commissioned by the

UN, emphasized the importance of customizing projects to each context and interacting with everyday people. Apart from a few marginal cases, however, the UN is largely paying lip service to the importance of these ideas instead of actually implementing them.

THINK LOCALLY, ACT LOCALLY

Peacekeeping is broken, but that doesn't mean the world should give up on it. In many conflict zones, peacekeepers are the only ones protecting populations against abuse by national armies and rebel groups—even if sporadically and imperfectly. (In the Central African Republic and Congo, people have protested or rioted at the mere hint that the UN might close a nearby base.) What's more, there's no alternative body or mechanism for reestablishing peace in conflict-ridden countries. The goal should be not to eliminate peacekeeping but to rethink it.

The main problem is that the UN looks at its efforts backward. It has a cookie-cutter approach that begins with international best practices and tries to apply them to a local situation. Instead, it should start with local realities and then create a customized strategy. For inspiration, the UN need only look to the pockets of peace that already exist in many war-torn places.

Consider the island of Idjwi, in Lake Kivu in eastern Congo. Since war broke out in Congo in 1996, a conflict that has killed anywhere from two million to five million people, Idjwi has avoided the brunt of the violence, even as other islands in nearby lakes have not. Idjwi has all the same factors that have fueled fighting around it: a geostrategic location, mineral resources, ethnic tensions, a lack of state authority, extreme poverty, disputes over land and traditional power. But the island's residents, including the poorest and least powerful, have set up various grass-roots organizations—religious networks, women's associations, youth groups, and so on—to help resolve disputes. They also draw on strong traditional beliefs—for example, forming blood pacts through which different families promise never to hurt one another. They have worked

to foster what they call a “culture of peace.”

There are similar examples: The inhabitants of the autonomous region of Somaliland, in war-torn Somalia, have reduced violence through a twin process of bottom-up peace building and state building and by relying on ordinary people and local leaders to help maintain their hard-won stability. In Colombia, residents of the rural community of San José de Apartadó have created a zone of peace in the middle of a region controlled by militias. Contrary to the UN's standard procedures, building peace doesn't require billions of dollars in aid or massive international interventions. It often involves empowering average citizens.

The UN currently views such bottom-up peace-building efforts as a sideshow. Instead, it should see them as an essential complement to its current top-down efforts to stop fighting. In practice, this means acknowledging that resolving local disputes is just as important—and just as much a part of peacekeepers' job—as addressing broader issues. It also means devoting money to local conflict resolution. Both at headquarters and on the ground, the UN should create specialized offices or departments for bottom-up peacemaking and staff them with experts in the analysis and resolution of grass-roots conflicts. This new staff, in turn, should produce guidelines and organize training for their colleagues. The Security Council should also mandate that all missions support bottom-up peace building financially and logistically. And the UN leadership should emphasize to all staff members that doing so within their own areas of expertise, whether that be elections or gender, is mandatory.

As peacekeepers seek to bolster local peace efforts, they must resist the temptation to impose universal approaches. They can take their cues from the Life and Peace Institute, a Swedish peace-building agency that grounds its actions in in-depth local expertise. In Congo, it relies heavily on local employees and does not implement projects directly, instead working with a few handpicked on-the-ground organizations. These organizations then empower ordinary citizens to come to their

own conclusions about the causes of their communities' conflicts, agree on the right solutions, and put them into practice. It's not foreigners based in capitals and headquarters who conceive, design, and implement peace initiatives; it's the intended beneficiaries themselves, with an assist from outside organizations.

For the UN, this model would mean stepping up efforts to recruit staff who have an in-depth understanding of local contexts and a command of local languages, even as it continues to hire people with subject-specific expertise, as well. When considering retention and promotion, it should value time spent in a given area more than the number of missions completed in different countries. And it should give preference to nationals over foreigners when filling posts for a given mission (and among nationals, it should give preference to those who come from the specific area where they will be working). Foreigners should be hired only for positions for which no local person with the necessary skills can be found or for those in which outsider status is an asset—for example, a recruiting post in which a local employee would face inordinate pressure to hire friends or family, a political job in which a local staff member might worry about retribution when standing up to a warlord, or a position in which contributing ideas from elsewhere is key. Even if the UN paid its local recruits a salary equivalent to that of its foreign staff, as it should, this measure would still save the organization money,

since it currently spends a great deal on extras for foreigners, such as insurance premiums and hardship allowances.

The UN should also rethink how it uses local hires. As things stand now, foreigners tend to make decisions, while local staff execute them. Although this makes sense for diplomatic missions seeking to uphold their countries' interests, it is a bad idea for an international organization whose main mandate is to promote peace. The prevailing practice should be inverted: local people should be in the driver's seat, and foreigners should remain in the back. Instead of imposing or strongly advocating one idea, peacekeepers should use their technical expertise in a different way: to suggest several options, explain the pros and cons of each, and offer support—financial, logistical, military, and technical—in implementing whichever plans the local stakeholders agree on.

Letting the intended beneficiaries of international intervention decide is all the more important when there are hard choices to make between two worthy goals—for instance, between democracy and peace or between peace and justice. In the current setup, foreign peacekeepers and diplomats, rather than ordinary citizens, are typically the ones who choose between these goals. Far better to let those who have to live with the consequences of a decision be the ones making it. For example, in places where a focus on elections would come at the expense of

addressing other pressing sources of conflict (such as poverty), the UN should recognize the tradeoff. If the demand truly exists for elections, they can be set up quickly, with the understanding that the risk of violence may grow. But if people seem to care more about solving other problems, then the UN should put democracy on the back burner and apply its scarce resources toward solving those underlying causes of war.

A BETTER WAY

The consequences of conflict rarely stay within national borders. What initially looks like contained fighting can quickly destabilize vital regions, and war creates a breeding ground for terrorists and illicit traffickers. In just the past five years, armed conflicts have spawned the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Partially in response to all these events, hateful nationalist political movements have surged in the United States and Europe.

In many cases, calling on the blue helmets has become merely a convenient substitute for a serious grappling with what it would take to bring peace. The same story thus repeats itself, whether in Bosnia, Congo, East Timor, Kosovo, Rwanda, Somalia, or South Sudan. After the outbreak of war, donor countries pledge millions of dollars in aid and ask the UN for help. Eventually, the warring parties call for cease-fires, sign agreements, and hold elections. But soon, sometimes just days later, violence flares up again. Often, it has never actually ended; in many cases, it lasts for years.

The international community's preferred strategy for dealing with conflict simply isn't working: peacekeeping as currently practiced is a Band-Aid on a gaping wound. The good news is that there is a way to rethink the current strategy so that it has a better shot at establishing lasting peace: rely more on the very people it is ostensibly trying to protect.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-12-11/crisis-peacekeeping>



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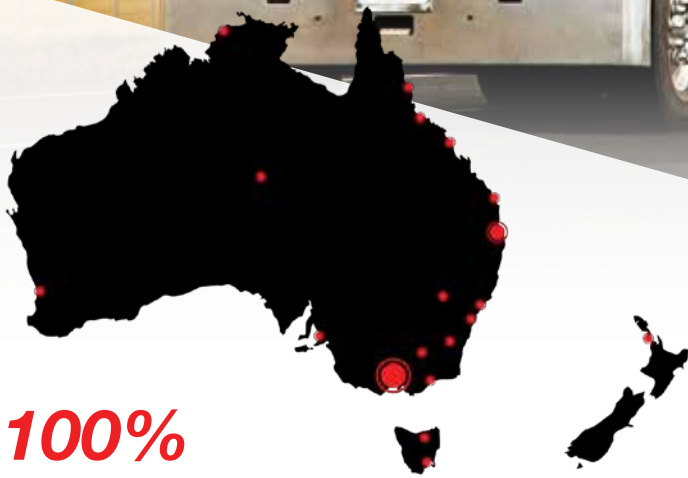
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Response to the Productivity Commission inquiry into Veterans' Support Services Draft Report

By Paul Copeland

POINTS:

1. For the past 2 decades, representations have been made to the Federal Government and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Significantly researched and constructive submissions have been lodged, only to be overlooked, for what has been interpreted as financially constraining changes. Therefore cost to the system has dictated negatively, rather than improvement to obtain long-term gain. Had the Government and DVA listened to the lobbying from 2002 to the present day and actually actioned the end-user feedback and recommendations; it is doubtful that the situation would not be as it is today.

Of note to Australian Police Peacekeeper Veterans, is the omission of any mention that Police Peacekeepers are included into the Veteran Compensation Space. It is acknowledged that whilst this Inquiry is based on ADF members, within a Veteran Specific System; Australian Police Peacekeeper Veterans have been engaged in a range of Peacekeeping, Capacity Building and War Operations since 1964 to the present Day. It is sought from the PC Inquiry to acknowledge the service, courage and sacrifice of thousands of Police Peacekeeper Veterans, who are part of the VEA and were up until over 10 years ago, very much a part of the Veteran Community. They have unfortunately been let down over the years by complacent Federal and State/Territory Police Associations, who have failed to act in maintain Police Peacekeepers in the Veteran Portfolio.

2. It is acknowledged however, that

DVA is fixing a range of long standing problems, particularly with the ICT Systems, data exchange and streamlining. There is much more work to do, so that the Veteran Support System under the Three Legislations (VEA, DRCA & MRCA) will be more end-user friendly and less complex. Such feedback from end-users, ESO Advocates and various SME is more critically needed now, more than it has in the past.

In 2009, DVA conducted a Review into Military Compensation Arrangements, of which the APPVA lodged a significant submission, identifying the many areas of complexity that should be resolved. These matters were not particularly acknowledged by DVA, nor any action undertaken to fix these identified areas.

Attachment: APPVA Paper on Military Compensation Arrangements.

3. The Transition Management System from Defence to DVA or "Civilian Street" has been noted to be substantially lacking in timely advice to exiting ADF members, and indeed the information is too complex and overwhelming, when the time comes for a veteran to lodge a claim for Commonwealth Liability. A better system is needed, albeit there have been discussions and workshops on Transition Management since 2005, yet the system needs significant improvement to enable a "Seamless" Transition, for ADF members, particularly those who are medically discharged.

4. It is recommended that there are employed ADF Reservists who hold SME skills and experience in navigating the ADF Discharge system and have them utilised as in-service Advocates. The necessity for seeking Commonwealth Liability

for various conditions just prior to Discharge may be alleviated with early intervention in terms of claimed conditions within the Veteran Legislation. Ideally these "in-house" ADF Advocates would also be mentors for ADF members who are in a difficult period of their careers, to encourage Rehabilitation, Retraining, Retention and if the last resort is made advice and connections to effect a seamless Transition on Discharge.

Attachment – PROJECT AKESA, Chief of the Army "Hidden Wounded" APPVA Papers.

5. The above Transition Management approaches have been recommended by various ESO in a range of Inquiries and Reviews since 2004 to the present day. These recommendations have been made by those who have experienced the Medical Discharge process and who have experienced the difficulties of transition. These Advocates are also those who are continuing to assist ADF and Former ADF Members with negotiating the complex environment of Veteran Entitlement Law.

6. The Suicide of Veterans Independent Study was undertaken by Professor David Dunt during the 2008-2009 period. Much of what is at the fore of today was presented and found during that Study Period. Indeed, the Peacekeeper Mental Health Study also had the finding that 1 in 3 returning Peacekeeper Veterans reported Chronic Mental Illness in October 2014. The Phoenix Australian Centre for PTSD (ACPMH), also found that 1 in 4 returning UN Peacekeepers were likely to report Acute Mental Illness (Forbes, et al., 2016). But, there has been no tangible improvements or strategies instigated to improve

the systems for these veterans. These have been wasted Studies if the Department, indeed the Government are not prepared to improve access to the cohort of veterans.

Dunt Review: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/research-and-development/health-studies/review-mental-health-care-australian>
Attachment: APPVA Synopsis to Dunt Review.

Australian Peacekeeper Mental Health Study: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/research-and-development/health-studies/peacekeepers-health-study>

7. Along with these Studies, the Families of Viet Nam Veterans Study was also conducted, again with a minimum impact from the perspective of actually recognising the problems of these Intergenerational issues and how the veteran system is better equipped to cater for these people.

Vietnam Veteran Family Study: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/research-and-development/health-studies/vietnam-veterans-family-study>

These Health Studies present the opportunity for timely streamlining of conditions, so that veterans and their families are not negotiating with complex satisfaction of the Statements of Principles. The listed Health Studies are not restricted, as there has been a number of Health Studies over the years, including The Gulf War Study (1990-1991); MILHOP Studies and East Timor Studies.

8. The submissions sent to the ANAO Audit and to the PC Inquiry have demonstrated poor case management, poor change management and an archaic ICT system that has been in place with DVA for at least a couple of decades. The system needs to be more end-user friendly and there are serious concerns toward the treatment of mentally ill veterans in having their cases accepted for Commonwealth Liability. It is suggested that the matters that have been raised within the

individual cases are referred to an impartial body to rectify. There have been noted indifferences between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Veterans, which should be resolved, rather than driving a cut-down version of the current beneficial Veteran Support System.

9. There are some significantly mis-guided and ill-conceived arguments being portrayed by some within the Veteran Community, that do not necessarily resonate with the wider ESO Community. The arguments are obviously self-focussed and centred on the experience of the veteran, however it is evident that there is a lack of knowledge of the veteran system that is in place, albeit there has been an adversarial approach with the Department from 2007-2017, where instances of questionable behaviour and decision-making has been undertaken with veterans' claims.

It is recommended that an impartial Panel investigates these Submissions and complaints of the Department in order to resolve these long-standing grievances with DVA.

10. Veterans do not want to go to Centrelink and queue for hours and be treated as Welfare recipients. Rather the Government approach has always been to provide Veterans and their families with pride for serving Australia, dignity and special attention and care to their needs and medical treatment. It has only been on the past 10 years or so, that there has been a noted oppressive approach toward Veterans in the Compensation space that has seen the loss of some entitlements, along with harsh legal decisions based on legal technicalities, rather than the merit of the case.

11. There are many matters that have been identified within the PC Report to be improved. However, there is also strong emphasis to reduce some of the benefits previously enjoyed by Veterans and their Families. There are areas of concern



with over-reporting and there has been no suggestions of how to scrutinise the Veterans Services System via data and Information Systems Reporting mechanisms. Comparisons are made throughout the document to Australian Worker's Compensation Models, however it is noted that the current Veteran Services System is more generous, reflecting the recognition of the nation to the recipient for their service to Australia.

12. Australian Veterans for over a century have enjoyed the Veteran Entitlements that the Government has provided, as a result of their service, courage and sacrifice. The System today retains the Beneficial approach to veterans and it is preferred that this remains the status quo. However, there are some fine tuning that is required to enable the Veteran Support System to be easier to navigate, along with fairness.

13. There are also a number of recommendations and



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findings that are of concern to veterans and their families. These recommendations must be challenged by the wider ESO Community, Veterans, Practitioners, Advocates and Veteran's Families.

14. A very brief dot point of the interpretation of the PC Inquiry Draft Report Recommendations are:
 - 14.1 Dismantle DVA and have Defence manage Compensation for Veterans in 2023.
 - 14.2 Introduce a new Veteran Services Commissioner (in place of the Secretary and other Senior Executives within the DVA Structure).
 - 14.3 A Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans' Affairs (The incumbent Minister holds both portfolios).
 - 14.4 Cease the DRCA eligibility (post Dec 1988 to 30 June 2004) and replace with a scheme similar to MRCA in 2025 (Scheme 2).
 - 14.5 Abolish the Special Rate Disability Pension.
 - 14.6 Maintain the VEA (Scheme 1), for older veterans at or above the age of 55 on the date of the proposed cut-over to Scheme 2.
 - 14.7 Include Superannuation (CSC) into the Veterans' Compensation system by access to a 'single door' (this goes against the principles of Australian Superannuation Law) and the proposition is

to utilise the same Medical assessment for compensation. There are anticipated difficulties in this area with the timing of claims and CSC assessments.

- 14.8 Not to increase TPI Rate of Pension.
- 14.9 Transfer responsibility of Commemorations over to the AWM.
- 14.10 Remove the Gold Card.
- 14.11 Remove the other younger persons and/or orphan payments under VEA, DRCA and MRCA. Note: Australian Compensation Systems do have similar payments to a deceased's dependents (widows and orphans).
- 14.12 War Widows Pensions only eligible for the partner of a veteran who dies as a result of service caused conditions. This means that the TPI transfer to War Widows, who automatically receive War Widows pension on the death of the veteran will be extinguished.
- 14.13 Remove the Veterans' Children Education Scheme (VCES) and the Military Rehabilitation Children's Assistance for Education and Training Scheme (MRCAETS). The PC's view is to place children on AusStudy and New Start with Centrelink.
- 14.14 Remove the Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DFISA) and the DFISA Bonus. There were no recommendations for an alternative Economic Loss compensation stream for eligible Non-warlike or Peacetime Service Veterans. The removal of DFISA will also penalise partners of TPI Veterans, as they will no longer receive the Support Payment, hence no longer eligible for the Pensioner Concession Card under the DFISA scheme.
- 14.15 Place Veterans and their families into the DHS arena or Welfare (Centrelink) for Income Support and other DHS Allowances.
- 14.16 Veterans to utilise a Private Health Insurance, rather than the White (Specific Treatment Entitlement Card) or Gold (All Conditions within Australia);

Card system. This goes against the DVA strategic plan to provide Cards to exiting ADF Members.

- 14.17 Veterans to be only treated for the conditions that they have had accepted. This is the view of the PC, as the Gold Card provides for All Health Conditions within Australia, this is in their view too generous.
- 14.18 Scrutiny of Veteran Mental Health and make comparisons of the performance and outcomes of Open Arms with external Counselling Services.

The attached Tabulated Recommendations provide commentary to the PC Inquiry Draft Report.

The interpretation is consistent with a number of ESO and a recent Veteran Forum that I had in Geelong last week.

In short, there is grave concern as to what the PC Inquiry Report is placing to Government. There are better ways to treat our deserving veterans and the Government needs to place Veterans into a "World Class" Veteran Entitlement System to ensure that these people who have given so much to Australia are accorded the well-used Politician phrase of "...we owe these men and women a debt of gratitude..." Veterans have rendered their service to Australia because they love their country, have a sense of duty, are proud of their country and because the ADF offers unique and noble careers.

The youth of today are watching the Government and how these veterans are treated, as they will be the ones that the Government will be hoping to recruit into the ADF to continue in the Defence of Australia, her interests, International Interests; and the inevitability of war. If the youth of today see that ADF members are placed onto a generalised "Worker's Compensation Scheme", it gives no incentive to serve and commit courage and valour. The ranks will be empty. I am sure that this is not what the Government desires, as do the tax-payers of Australia."



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Canberra Grammar School (CGS) is a co-educational Independent Anglican School offering outstanding academic education, co-curricular opportunities and pastoral care to day and boarding students of all backgrounds and faiths within a community guided by Christian values.

CGS has always been a proud boarding school, acknowledging the responsibility and commitment it takes to nurture students who are entrusted to the School's care. In 2019, CGS opened its brand new purpose-built boarding accommodation, representing the next phase of its transition to full co-education with nearly 30 girls in Years 7 to 12 joining CGS Boarding this year.

A parent's life is marked by firsts – your first child, their first tooth, and their first day at kindergarten. The biggest 'first' some parents have experienced to date may well have been 'first day at boarding school'. Living in the Boarding House encourages responsibility and independence, yet staying in touch with family is important to the School.

Dr Justin Garrick, Head of CGS said "As our boarding community grows and as contemporary expectations change, we believe it is necessary to evolve our staffing and our models of supervision and care. In 2020 we will shift our boarding care from the traditional model led by a teacher-housemaster – who typically



teaches classes and coaches sports during the day then runs a boarding house at night and on weekends – to a more sustainable model of full-time specialist residential care."

Next year will mark the launch of a new unique model for boarding focusing on residential and development care. With the appointment of a full-time Head of Residential Care, and two Assistant Heads of Residential Care (girls and boys), the model will move to focus solely on the provision of care and support for boarders, boarding families, and boarding staff.

"While the traditional model has served schools well for generations,

we believe it increasingly right to allow boarding staff to focus more exclusively on the enormous and complex task of caring for a large number of students 24 hours a day for 7 days a week, providing in loco parentis support, liaising with parents, teachers, support and health care staff, leading a team of specialist boarding staff, co-ordinating students' personal needs, facilitating a rich programme of activities, settling new students and representing the boarding community within and beyond the School." Dr Garrick said.

Boarders at CGS have 24-hour, seven-day-a-week support from dedicated and caring professionals including live-in and visiting tutors, a registered nurse and visiting doctor, while the residential staff are the boarding family who meet the everyday needs of boarders.

CGS also offers a variety of co-curricular activities in academics, sports, and the arts. An important consideration about being a boarder is to have an open mind-set, to be able to adapt and grow as a person.

The School encourages prospective families to visit during an Open Day or by arranging an appointment to view the School. Alternatively, prospective families can tour Canberra Grammar School and boarding facilities in virtual reality at <http://cgs.youtour.com.au>



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Help wanted: Women leaders in Peacekeeping

By Shannon Zimmerman



Female leaders in peacekeeping constitute a visible representation of Australia's commitment to gender parity.

Australia's contribution of Major General Cheryl Pearce to the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has helped UN peacekeeping achieve a major milestone. With Major General Pearce's appointment, UNFICYP has become the first UN mission to have its three major leadership positions filled by women. UNFICYP is led by Elizabeth Spehar from Canada, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the peacekeeping force in Cyprus. The leadership trio is completed by Ann-Kristin Kvilekval of Norway, who is the Senior Police Adviser of the force. In supporting Major General Pearce's

appointment, Australia has started living up to its commitment to being a leader in fostering women in peace operations.

UNFICYP is one of the longest running UN missions. Established in 1964, UN forces create a buffer zone between Turkish Cypriot forces in the north and Greek Cypriot forces in the south. The mission prevents violence between the Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in the absence of a ceasefire or peace agreement. Though, with roughly 800 troops and 60 police, UNFICYP is a small peacekeeping force compared to other missions, they deal with hundreds of incidents each year and are responsible for patrolling the 180 kilometre zone between the two sides. In their support of peace, they have also helped open several crossing points and disarmed 27,000 landmines in the area. Though the Cyprus conflict had continued for decades, talks in 2017 to reunify the divided island were seen as

the most promising in generations. Unfortunately, these talks collapsed without reaching an agreement, reaffirming the importance of a UN presence to prevent violence.

The importance of having women at all levels and in all aspects of peace operations cannot be overstated. The presence of empowered women in peace operations empowers women in host communities. For example, the all-female police unit formed in Liberia inspired Liberian women to join the security sector. When the female Formed Police Unit was established, women made up just six percent of the security sector. Nine years later that number has jumped to 17 percent. The presence of women also makes the mission more approachable and provides additional perspectives to ensure that peace operations are as efficient as possible, including ensuring that the specific needs of female combatants, ex-combatants and civilians are addressed. A UN mission without sufficient women is simply not as effective.

Even more important than the presence of qualified women is the presence of women leaders. The newly appointed Secretary General António Guterres pledged greater gender parity in the UN during his tenure and has made important steps to fulfill that pledge. In 2018, for the first time ever, the United Nations has gender parity at the senior leadership level. Unfortunately, such gains have not yet reached peace operations.

Despite the obvious benefits of women peacekeepers, the UN has struggled to increase the presence of women in its peacekeeping forces, both in the field and at the leadership level. This includes in civilian leadership, the military and the police. This is not to say that the UN has not made efforts to increase women's participation. The passing of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000 was the first of several resolutions which raised the importance of the role of women and girls, not only in peace processes but also in the UN's favoured mechanism to support these processes, UN peacekeeping operations. Even though it has been almost 20 years since UN Security Council resolution 1325, only four



Former Brigadier (now Major General) Cheryl Pearce on her previous deployment to Afghanistan

percent of troops deployed to peace operations are women. Police components fare slightly better with 10 percent of police officers deployed to UN operations being women and three of 16 (19 percent) of UN police components having women heads. It took till 2014 for the first female general to be appointed as the military commander, with Major General Kirstin Lund of Norway appointed to command the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus. Major General Cheryl Pearce is the second female force commander to be appointed in the UN's 70-year history.

The major reason we do not see more women in peacekeeping is that women are underrepresented in the security forces all over the world. The United Nations relies on military contributions from its member states. Even in the most developed countries, the ratio of men to women in the military is far less than fifty percent. For example, women only make up 16.5 percent of the Australian Defence Forces. This drops to 12.1 of soldiers who actually deploy, due to their lower representation in the high-demand occupational groups such as combat and security, and engineering, technical and construction. The percentage of women in the militaries actively contribute troops to peace operations is often even lower.

Recent initiatives, such as the Elise Initiative launched by Canada, to help troop contributing countries recruit and retain women, are a

strong step in the right direction. The UN has also launched the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative to strengthen peacekeeping, including having women, peace and security as a priority area. However, until women have time to move up the ranks in major troop contributing countries, it falls to those militaries with highly capable female soldiers already within their ranks, to step up and fill the gaps. The deployment of the highly capable Major General Pearce is a step in the right direction. Contributions to peace operations do not require the deployment of entire battalions. Instead, countries like Australia can bridge the gender gap in UN peacekeeping leadership by contributing women to mid and high level positions in the civilian, military, and police components of operations. Australia has highly competent and qualified women who would be able to contribute their experience, professionalism and skills to helping bring peace to conflict-torn countries. Leading by example, these women can show other troop contributors, as well as women (and men) in the host country the value of gender parity.

Shannon Zimmerman is a PhD researcher at the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect in the school of political science and international studies at the University of Queensland. She was formerly a Senior Program Specialist at the United States Institute of Peace.

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Chief of the Defence Force visit to the Pacific

Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC, travelled to Vanuatu, Tonga, Fiji and Solomon Islands from 20-25 January 2019.

General Campbell was accompanied by the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, Andrew Colvin APM OAM, Commissioner of the Australian Border Force, Michael Outram APM and the Deputy Director-General of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, Peter Vickery.

During the visit, General Campbell met with the Acting Commissioner of the Vanuatu Police Force Kalo Willie Ben, Chief of Defence Staff of His Majesty's Armed Forces (Tonga) Brigadier General Lord Fielakapa, Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto and Commissioner of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force Matthew Varley.

General Campbell said he was honoured to have the opportunity to meet with his Pacific counterparts during his first official visit to the region as Chief of the Defence Force to discuss current and future areas of defence cooperation and discuss shared security challenges.

"Australia has a long history of working alongside our Pacific Island partners to support capability development, respond to common security challenges and build interoperability and resilience across the region," General Campbell said.

"Australia is committed to taking our engagement with the region to a new level, working with our Pacific partners to build a region that is prosperous, secure and respectful of sovereignty.

"Defence plays a key role in this endeavour – we are and will continue to enhance our security cooperation

with our Pacific neighbours, building on our existing and long-standing engagement, including under the Defence Cooperation Program."



Exercise Boss Lift highlights benefits of employing reservists

In the jungles of Malaysia, 19 Australian senior executives from private and public organisations will receive a taste of life in the Army Reserve during Exercise Boss Lift 2019.

Exercise Boss Lift is a Department of Defence program designed to show employers the training, skills and experience that the Australian Defence Force Reserve service provides.

Employers will witness their employees and other Australian Army Reserve soldiers conduct infantry minor tactics such as patrolling, ambushes and section attacks.

Employers will eat ration packs, learn basic fieldcraft and have an opportunity to conduct live firing using Army weapons under the safety and supervision of the deployed officers and soldiers.

Participants of Exercise Boss Lift will be flown to Malaysia in a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C17 from RAAF Base Amberley, to visit their Reserve employees in Rifle Company



Butterworth at the Malaysian Army Combat Training Centre (PULADA).

119 Australian Army Reserve members are in Malaysia for three months of intensive training to develop foundation war fighting skills in a regional environment and conduct international engagement activities with regional partners in Southeast Asia.

Acting Head Reserve and Youth Division, Brigadier Duncan Hayward, said the program would give employers and potential future employers an understanding of the

skills their army reservist workers would not normally be able to display in their civilian roles.

"Exercise Boss Lift gives employers an opportunity to see how Reservists' training builds confidence and cultivates problem-solving skills, leadership ability and other attributes highly valuable in the workplace," Brigadier Hayward said.

For more information on the benefits available to employers of Defence Reservists, visit www.defencereservessupport.gov.au or call 1800 803 485.

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Virtual reality game to be used to train Peacekeepers



*You approach the Indian officers with a smile, but they don't seem too happy to see you. They nod and then continue to speak to each other in Hindi.**

A screengrab from the Gaming for Peace simulation training software developed with the aid of a €2m grant from the EU's Horizon 2020 project.

A virtual reality game to train international military and police in peacekeeping skills has been unveiled by researchers at Trinity College Dublin.

The simulation software will help personnel in “soft” skills such as communication, cultural sensitivity and gender awareness. It has been developed by an EU-wide consortium led by sociologists, computer scientists and psychologists at TCD as part of the Gaming for Peace (GAP) project.

Dr Mads Haahr, assistant professor in computer science at TCD, demonstrated the software at the Gaming for Peace Conference on Thursday.

It is planned that all military, police & civilian personnel being deployed in EU conflict prevention and peace-building missions such as those to Afghanistan, Palestine and Libya will be able to receive training through the game.

The software allows users to experience simulations of challenging scenarios from conflict and peacekeeping missions. They can enter the game as avatars, to role-play as a member of another organisation, a different gender or nationality.

Dr Anne Holohan, associate professor at the Department of Sociology at TCD, who is co-ordinator of the GAP project, said: “Peacekeeping missions are very complex missions with a lot of different types of organisations and different types of personnel, but they have to work effectively together to communicate and cooperate and there’s very little training in this area.

“We thought why not train peacekeepers in soft skills through a digital role-playing game because this allows them to practise and fail in a safe environment.”

SAVES MONEY

She added: “It also saves a huge amount of money in terms of training. At the moment, any role play training involves bringing people from all over Europe into one location which is expensive and time consuming.”

Lt Colonel Tim O’Brien, school commandant of United Nations Training School Ireland, said the school had been involved over the past two years in field testing and providing “scenario-based situations” which were now an integral part of the game.

“Soft skills are a necessary element of our pre-deployment training, regardless of whether it’s with the UN, Nato, OSCE or indeed the EU, so this tool will complement the current training that we use,” he said.

“There was a realisation that soft skills are more difficult to teach than standard military skills and it’s also harder to analyse the effectiveness of the training. So this is a use of modern gaming technology and it also acknowledges the fact that younger generations like using games. If you can combine games with education, then you have a successful product.”

Gaming for Peace was funded by a €2 million grant from the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme.

There were 14 partners in the project, from academia, the military, police, civil actors and business, including the PSNI, the Finnish military and Polish military, the Ted Kennedy Institute at NUI Maynooth, Upskill in Belfast, and Irish computer games company Haunted Planted, led by Dr Haahr.

Source <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/virtual-reality-game-to-be-used-to-train-peacekeepers-1.3754139>

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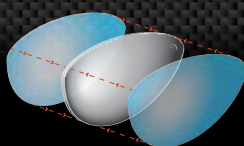
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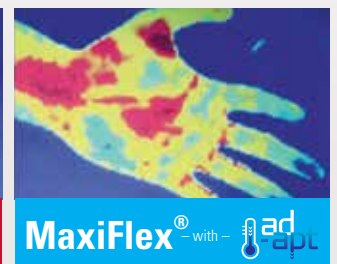


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First Sailor posted to all three Guided Missile Destroyers



Newly promoted Chief Petty Officer Marine Technician Benjamin Smith is proud to be the first sailor to be posted to all three of the Royal Australian Navy's newest and most capable warships, the Guided Missile Destroyers HMA Ships *Hobart* (III), *Brisbane* (III) and NUSHIP *Sydney*.

Having commissioned the first two Destroyers, he is very excited to be joining the commissioning crew of *Sydney* and putting his vast knowledge and experience into practice.

"Commissioning a ship is no small challenge, it will be hard work, but it's one of the most rewarding experiences of your career," Chief Petty Officer Smith said.

Chief Smith is also no stranger to serving under the name 'Sydney', having completed two postings on the previous Guided Missile Frigate HMAS *Sydney* (IV) which bore the same name, including being part of the ship's decommissioning crew in 2015.

"As I was previously a *Sydney* sailor and "once a *Sydney* sailor always a *Sydney* sailor," I am so excited to just be part of the *Sydney* legacy.

"It's hard to explain, once you've served on *Sydney* you just know - it isn't just the ship, it's the culture, it's

the attitude, it's the crew.

"I just endeavour to live up to her name and remain 'Thorough and Ready,'" Chief Petty Officer Smith said, referring to the *Sydney's* motto.

Chief Smith has benefited from some rare opportunities since joining the 'Destroyer family' in 2017.

While serving in the Surface Combatant Group Destroyer Capability Element, he sailed in the Spanish Navy Destroyer *Cristobal Colon* to gain platform familiarisation and training.

His posting to *Hobart* was as the platform hull and damage control supervisor, during which time he was awarded his Machinery Systems

Manager qualification. This was a very busy period for Chief Smith and *Hobart*, bringing the platform into service and participating in First of Class Trials.

He then posted to HMAS *Brisbane* in mid-2018.

"This came with its own challenges, but I was able to take lessons from HMAS *Hobart* and use them to improve on our processes and procedures as a ship class."

Chief Smith returned to *Hobart* for their Combat Systems Sea Qualification Trials off the west coast of the United States in late 2018.

This was a milestone period for the ship, proving the Aegis Weapons System capability through the firing of all weapon systems against realistic threat targets.

"This was an invaluable experience, being able to both witness HMAS *Hobart's* missile firings and conducting maintenance that is usually passed onto contractors," he said.

Being a Marine Technician, Chief Smith's other main task was to review the ship's maintenance package in preparation for the Post Delivery Upgrade for 2019.

Sydney is the final of three ships of the *Hobart* class Guided Missile Destroyers and is currently in the later stages of construction at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in Adelaide. She is due to be commissioned in 2020.



Navy photographer trains Afghan colleagues

A well-known Royal Australian Navy photographer, whose work has often appeared in the pages of *The Australian Peacekeeper*, has helped the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) promote the important work of its soldiers.

Petty Officer Andrew Dakin delivered a photography and video course to Afghan personnel posted to the Kabul Garrison Command public affairs unit.

The Public Affairs Operations Chief at the Command, Major Turkistani Qand Agha, said imagery was a powerful way to highlight to the Afghan people how the ANDSF worked to protect them.

“By improving our photography and videography skills we are able to communicate with the people of Afghanistan and gain their support

for the important work we do,” Major Qand Agha said.

“A teacher is like a parent in our eyes; they teach the skills you need in life and we are grateful for the new skills we have learned through this connection.”

A small team of Australian Defence Force servicemen and women train, advise and assist Afghan officials at the Command on the security of Kabul’s five million residents.

The team invited Petty Officer Dakin to deliver a course to improve the skills of the Command public affairs unit.

“I have been fortunate to teach photography to Defence members in the past but this was the first time I have used an interpreter,” he said.

“The students were receptive which made for an enjoyable few days.”

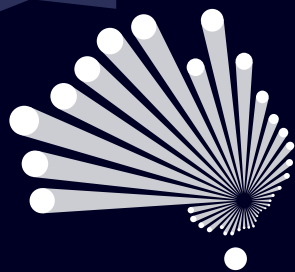
The two-day course focused on editing short video clips for use on social media accounts.

There are plans to conduct more public affairs workshops in the future.



Afghan members of the Kabul Garrison Command (KGC) public affairs unit watch a video editing session with Royal Australian Navy Petty Officer Imagery Specialist Andrew Dakin.

Every town
Every community
Every memorial



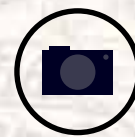
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to the map and upload a photo to
help us build the National Register of
War Memorials

Building the memorial of the future

"On the 1st November 2018, the APPVA National President Allan Thomas OAM, JP; and Paul Copeland OAM, JP, were invited by the Director of the Australian War Memorial (AWM) Dr Brendan Nelson AO, to attend the launch of a \$500M project that will extend the Exhibition of the AWM, which will include enhanced displays of Military Service, particularly of the past 30 years. The Launch was held in the Great Hall of the Australian Parliament House, with the Prime Minister Scott Morrison being the keynote speaker."

01 November 2018

Statement - Dr Brendan Nelson - Director of the Australian War Memorial

"Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made." – Australian War Memorial founder C.E.W. Bean

"For 77 years, the Australian War Memorial has stood at the base of Mount Ainslie. Located in line of sight of Parliament House, the Memorial reminds the nation of the cost of war, of service and the price of freedom. Although in a context of war, the Australian War Memorial is instead a place that reveals our character as a people, our soul. It tells the stories of love and friendship, selflessness, courage and endurance.

Within its galleries, the Memorial tells the stories of those who serve in Australia's military forces and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in war, warlike operations, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. The Memorial's ability to tell the stories of those men and women who serve in Australia's Defence forces has now reached its limits. The Memorial's galleries are at capacity, and yet the Memorial must continue to grow.

Just a fraction of the collection is on display. In crowded galleries the stories of Australian military service from the Boer War through to the First

and Second World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam are all largely told. Yet, the service of 70,000 young Australians in the Middle East Area of operations of the past two decades currently covers only 2 per cent of available space.

The opportunity, and the responsibility our nation now has, is to proudly tell the stories of what has been done in recent years in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Solomon Islands, and East Timor, and in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. We must tell these stories not years or decades after they have occurred, but now. It is also the stories of families who love and support them.

Visitor numbers are increasing and include former and current serving veterans. Today's servicemen and servicewomen are returning home to a country that has no idea what they have done, does not understand their service or the sacrifices they have made. Young servicemen and women are barely able to explain it to their families, let alone the rest of the nation. Their story must be told to help them understand the impact service has had on them, to help them transition to life back home, and to heal.

To make this happen, the Memorial has developed a detailed proposal to the Australian Federal Government to fund a major redevelopment of the Memorial's galleries and precinct to create a vision that will guide us for the next 50 years.

The proposed redevelopment will significantly increase exhibition and public program space in order to more substantially tell the stories of current and recent conflicts, operations, peacekeeping, and humanitarian missions. It will also include a new temporary exhibition space, improved visitor orientation, wayfinding and amenities, areas for respite and reflection, new education facilities, and a theatre and functions space. It will include a quiet area for reflection, a space to be used by veterans' organisations, an electronic wall displaying the myriad of community

cenotaphs and memorials and another presenting defence activity today.

There will be an extension to the Bean Building on the eastern side of the precinct to integrate research collections and services, and to optimise the space in the main Memorial building for exhibitions. Sensitively connected to the existing landscape, the detailed plans will ensure the original façade remains unchanged.

The Memorial plays a vital role to in our nation and is a true cultural icon for all Australians. This proposed redevelopment provides an opportunity to guide the future of commemoration and storytelling; right here in the heart of the land they loved."

Will they remember me in Australia?" a mortally wounded Australian asked Australia's official First World War correspondent, Charles Bean during the bloody battle of Pozieres in 1916. Bean later conceived of and resolved to build what is now the Australian War Memorial. More than 70,000 young Australians who have served in our nation's wars, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations over the past 20 years, may very well ask themselves the same question.

Since opening in 1941, the Australian War Memorial has recognised, honoured, and told the stories of our defence force personnel and their experiences in war, peacekeeping, and humanitarian operations.

Located in line of sight of Parliament House, the Memorial reminds the nation of the cost of war, and the effects of service. It tells stories of love and friendship, selflessness, courage, and endurance, as well as being a space where veterans and their families can come to terms with the effects of their service.

To ensure that the Memorial can continue to honour those Australians who lost their lives in war, a plan has been developed. Watch this video to see an artist's impression of the

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Artist impressions of future Australian War Memorial.

future Australian War Memorial. The redevelopment plan

The Memorial has developed a detailed proposal to the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia to fund a major redevelopment of the Memorial’s galleries and precinct, and create a guiding vision for the next 50 years.

The Memorial’s ability to tell the stories of those men and women who serve in Australia’s Defence forces has reached its limits. There is not enough space to inform the public of recent conflicts and operations and what is happening now. Significant redevelopment is required to improve the experience and understanding of our visitors by increasing gallery space and improving amenities.

WHAT WILL CHANGE?

The proposed redevelopment will significantly increase exhibition and public program space in order to more substantially tell the stories of current and recent conflicts, operations,

peacekeeping, and humanitarian missions. It will include a new temporary exhibition space; improved visitor orientation, wayfinding, and amenities; areas for respite and reflection; new education facilities; a theatre and functions space; a quiet area for reflection; a space to be used by veterans’ organisations; and two electronic displays, one displaying the myriad of community memorials, and another presenting current defence activity.

The proposal features an extension to the Bean Building on the eastern side of the precinct to integrate research collections and services, additional exhibition space added to Anzac Hall, and optimisation of exhibition space in the main Memorial building. Sensitively connected to the existing landscape, the detailed plans will ensure the original heritage façade remains unchanged.

WHY IS A REDEVELOPMENT NEEDED?

Just a fraction of the Memorial’s

collection is currently on display. The stories of Australian military service from the Boer War through to the First and Second World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam are largely told in crowded galleries. The service of 70,000 Australians in the Middle East Area of operations over the past two decades currently occupies only 2 per cent of available space.

Visitor numbers, including former and current serving veterans are increasing. We have the opportunity and responsibility to tell their stories; the stories of peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Solomon Islands, and East Timor; and the stories of families who love and support servicemen and servicewomen. We must tell these stories now, not years or decades after they have occurred.

www.awm.gov.au/futureplans



Forgotten conflicts: The Philippines

By Jared Ferrie Asia Editor with Miranda Grant. Source: IRIN.

As you read this, there are more than 40 conflicts unfolding in countries around the world.

Many of them don't get the media or policy attention of the wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan or Ukraine, and they may not have the same geopolitical or economic importance. But the toll of decades-long conflicts – from Colombia to the Ogaden, from Kashmir to Western Sahara – is just as devastating for the people who live there.

In a series of special features, IRIN examines the root causes, human cost and potential for peace of conflicts in Myanmar, Casamance, South Kordofan and Blue Nile in Sudan, southern Thailand, and Mindanao in the Philippines.

Then, we turn to you. Send us your reporting suggestions, and we'll do our best to keep other overlooked conflicts on the world's radar. Tweet us: @irinnews #ForgottenConflicts

BRIEF SITREP IN THE PHILLIPINES.

With a peace deal stalled on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, more militant Islamist groups are emerging and aligning

themselves with the so-called Islamic State. In other parts of Mindanao, indigenous communities are displaced by war between the government and communist insurgents, and peace talks have halted entirely. Can the next government get the peace processes back on track and stem the rising tide of militancy?

Mindanao is rich in resources as well as population diversity. It is also home to a violent patchwork of sometimes-overlapping armed groups. These include Islamist revolutionaries as well as extremist militants, communist rebels, paramilitaries, clan-based private armies, and networks of organised crime.

Most of the country's minority Muslims live in Mindanao, and have done since the 13th century. Their ancestors established independent sultanates and they largely governed their own affairs throughout the Spanish and American colonial periods. When the Philippines became independent following the Second World War, more and more Christian settlers arrived, and their autonomy was greatly diminished. By the early 1970s, discontent among Muslims led to the formation of armed groups.

Likewise, Mindanao's indigenous people came under increasing

pressure as their traditional territory was eroded, as it was on valuable farmland as well as a wealth of minerals. By the late 1960s, similar grievances throughout the Philippines led to a communist insurgency. With the retreat of communism globally, the insurgents have decreased in number but maintain strongholds in indigenous areas of Mindanao.

Indigenous people now find themselves trapped in the middle as communists battle the army and paramilitaries, while peace talks have stalled. Muslim civilians are also caught up in fighting between the military and the militants, who have adopted an extremist ideology as successive peace processes have failed.

NONGOVERNMENTAL ARMED GROUPS IN MINDANAO

New People's Army

Since 1969; communist insurgency with about 3,000 members, down from about 26,000 in 1986; active in central and eastern Mindanao, and other parts of the Philippines; skirmishes with security forces, kidnappings, attacks on multinational companies

Moro National Liberation Front

Since 1969; about 3,600 members drawn from Muslim communities; concentrated in western Mindanao; signed a peace agreement in 1996; most recent major conflict was the 2013 siege of Zamboanga City, which left 240 people dead

Moro Islamic Liberation Front

Since 1977; about 11,000 members drawn from Muslim communities; concentrated in central Mindanao; signed a peace agreement in 2014; clash with police commandos in January 2015 killed about 60 people, including 44 police

Abu Sayyaf

Since 1991; fewer than 500 members concentrated in southwestern Mindanao; Islamist militants had early links with al-Qaeda, but turned into a kidnap-for-ransom



group around 2006, targeting mostly foreign nationals; recently pledged allegiance to so-called Islamic State

Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters

Since 2012; between 200 and 400 members concentrated in central Mindanao; broke away from the MILF in rejection of peace deal; wants an independent Islamic state

Clan-based groups

Concentrated in western and central Mindanao; scores of violent incidents on any given day over land, political positions and other grievances

Private Armed Groups/ Paramilitaries

At least 75 throughout Mindanao; some members from indigenous communities, some are part of military detachments; in November

2009, one group allegedly led by Anda! Ampatuan Jr., massacred 57 supporters of a candidate opposed to Ampatuan's father who was governor of Maguindanao Province; in September 2015, indigenous people accused armed groups (the Alamara & Maga hat) they said were connected to the military of killing three tribal leaders

WHO IS THE REAL VETERAN

Who is the real veteran?

Did he die charging trenches under murdering fire, or suffer the gas, entangled in wire?

Did he clash with foreign soldiers fighting from tanks, or fall from the guns side by side with the Yanks?

Did he lie in a trench dreaming of peace and of calm, or was he helped from the battle by a brother in arms?

Did he return from the track all covered in mud, or was he carried by fuzzy angels all the time losing blood?

Did he return to the dock after numerous years, to tears of relief and victorious cheers?

Did he choose to go fight, or was he just sent; did he live amongst jungle in hoochie or tent?

Did he fight the North Koreans or the Viet Cong, who is the soldier to question was it right or was it wrong?

Did he train for war that at no time came, yet his sacrifice and promise were still the same.

He missed children's birthdays and loved one's events to attend all the courses on which he was sent.

We sign that blank cheque payable to our country, and sadly some are cashed so the others are free.

We go to keep peace and end trouble and strife; only to re-live the events for the rest of our life.

How do we get partners and kids to understand, and stop our dear mates dying at their own hand?

We are the ones fighting tyrants and IEDs and carrying the burden of comrades lost overseas.

Our scars may not be visible from the outside; they cover our souls, but don't cover our pride.

We don't ask for riches from those we protect, we ask only for thanks and a little respect.

Who are the real veterans, who can they be?

They served our nation with honor, and look just like me.

By

Scott Brooks RAEME
UNTAC Veteran (1993).



Medal Parade. CPL Scott Brooks (RAEME), Receiving his UNTAC Medal from the Commander of the Australian Contingent LTCOL Marty Studdert, Pteah Australii, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 1993.



Repairing the Pteah Australii Base Camp Power Generator, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 1993.

Defence responds to North Queensland emergency

From saving lives in flood ravaged Townsville to delivering fuel and fodder to western Queensland, the men and women of the Australian Defence Force have demonstrated their high-levels of professionalism during the recent monsoonal catastrophe in the region.

Over 30,000 litres of aviation fuel and 5.5 tonnes of fodder were delivered to flood stricken residents in north west Queensland as Air Force, Army and Navy assets and members helped graziers save surviving livestock.

Labelled as the humble heroes, members of Townsville's 3rd Brigade and RAAF Base Townsville worked alongside emergency services personnel to rescue 450 residents from the Idalia and Fairfield Waters areas as floodwater rapidly rose at the height of the flood overnight. Many ADF members were also impacted with their own homes flooded and families dislocated.

As the monsoon moved away from population centres, the plains of north-west Queensland created an inland sea. With farmers isolated and unable to reach their livestock, hundreds of thousands of cattle either drowned or died of exposure in the cold winds which accompanied the rain event.

Quickly the ADF contribution expanded under Commander Joint Task Force 646 Brigadier Stephen Jobson who led a taskforce of about 150 personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force in the response.



"JTF 646 is a component of a whole of government response focused on the provision of fodder and aviation fuel in support of the mayors of Cloncurry, Mckinlay and Richmond local government areas in their coordination of their response to the graziers affected by the floods," Brig Jobson told the North Queensland Register newspaper at the height of the flood response.

"This has been a devastating flood event and the ADF stands side by side with families or north west Queensland at this very difficult time."

"We're very proud of our long history of supporting Australians and we're dedicated to doing our utmost to support our fellow Australians of

north west Queensland in their time of need."

RAAF C27-J Spartans and C17s were deployed to Cloncurry, Julia Creek and Richmond to work alongside Army Chinooks and MRH-90 Taipans.

The result was 30,000 litres of aviation fuel, which was running critically low for local farmers who operate helicopters, as well as 5.5 tonnes of fodder to cattle stuck amid flood water.

In Townsville, soldiers from 1RAR, 3RAR and 4th Field Regiment assisted with sandbagging as well as doorknocking residents before the height of the flood.

"Over the night we moved at least 450 people from Idalia and Oonoonba along, with excellent work from 2RAR getting those people out of the flood, which was one thing, but getting them to a safe location with shelter and food," Maj Trembath of 3 Brigade Headquarters said.

"Certainly we know there are some acts of heroism out there.

"The support we provided certainly did save people and it was hairy, we were really concerned that things could have gone a lot worse."

"Due to our relationship with the Queensland Police Service, proving





direction as to where people were still needing support we were able to come together and do something pretty remarkable.”

“It was highly dangerous and there was significant risk involved, and we worked all night to do the job that needed to be done.”

“We live to serve, that’s part of our job description.”

Initially the Defence gym at Lavarack Barracks served as an emergency evacuation centre with 433 people sheltering overnight.

As this publication goes to print, the recovery phase continues as ADF personnel and volunteers, including veterans from Team Rubicon, collect ruined possessions from the streets.

With acknowledgement to North Queensland Register 12 February 2019

2ND CAVALRY REGIMENT

The men and women of the Regiment doing all they can to help the community, the soldiers are 100% committed to continue their efforts. The hardest thing is holding them back, proud to watch their compassion and empathy. The Regiment has swung into action to help our local Townsville, getting it done!



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Deepwater, Baffle Creek bushfire recovery draws Team Rubicon 'angels' to help residents rebuild

Military veterans looking for a new way to serve are stepping in to help Queenslanders who lost everything in last year's devastating bushfires.

Team Rubicon, a disaster relief organisation made up of military veterans, first responders, and civilians, has been tasked to 68 jobs in the Deepwater and Baffle Creek area.

The volunteers have been helping homeowners sift through the burnt remains of their homes to find family heirlooms, contributing more than 1,500 work hours in the past week.

It has been six weeks since the bushfires ripped through 16,000 hectares, destroying homes, sheds, and farms.

Paramedic and volunteer Andre Drozd said while clearing homes of debris, the teams had found and reunited families with precious heirlooms.

"We were lucky enough to find an engagement ring of the owners' grandparents that's to be passed on to the granddaughters," he said.

"So just to be able to find something that has that sentimental value for the owners is a rewarding thing."

Mr Drozd said it was difficult in the recovery phase for homeowners to decide their first steps — whether to clean up or to look for lost items — and it was nice to be able to help.

Volunteers 'like angels from heaven' with chainsaws.

Deepwater resident and first officer at Wartburg Rural Fire Station, Judy Ferrari, said the clean-up had a long way to go and the support from Team Rubicon had been overwhelming.

"They're like angels from heaven that have come down with all their chainsaws and goodwill and their smiling faces," Ms Ferrari said.

"There's a lot of members that probably never came out and asked for help but Team Rubicon has been going in and speaking to them and offering them welfare and a shoulder to cry on."

One of Team Rubicon's team leaders, Shane Sollars, said the



Military veterans Dean West (left) and Nicholas Goss have been using unmanned aerial vehicles to survey the damage. *ABC Wide Bay: Sarah Jane Bell*

volunteers' experience in the military had helped them to get the job done.

"We're chainsawing fallen trees out of the way for the fires up here and for the locals, clearing the dead fall away from driveways, repairing fences," Mr Sollars said.

Drones help with damage assessment

This operation is the first time Team Rubicon has used unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, for disaster assessment.

Drone operator Nicholas Goss said the vision taken from the drones would help the community to prepare for future events.

"We can relay back [the footage] and then get our assets dispersed where they need to be dispersed instead of wasting time," Mr Goss said.

"It's been a great feedback for them to get the idea from an aerial point of view of the actual extent of the damage."

Colleague Dean West said the new technology allowed them to provide the information to insurance companies needing to process claims.

"We can map the square-metreage

of a rubble building and actually tell the insurance company exactly how much rubble is in the area, so they can organise debris removals," Mr West said.

"That sort of stuff helps to get the homeowner into a new house quicker."

Team Rubicon gives veteran 'a sense of purpose' Team Rubicon has quickly gained momentum among former servicemen and women.

Mr Goss said he had been able to put his skills into good use again.

"I know I lost a lot of sense of purpose when I left the military and being a part of operations like this, part of Team Rubicon Australia, it really fulfils that sense of purpose again," he said.

Mr West, who was injured during his military service, said he also joined Team Rubicon as a way to give back.

"Soldiers don't ever lose that will to serve people, so to give back to the community has been amazing because in the military you don't get to see the civilian after-effects," he said.

"We get a lot of trauma in the military, so this helps heal us as much as it's helping the residents we're helping out."

UNTAG 17 Construction Squadron 30 years on

Australian Army involvement in UNTAG was formalised in February 1979 by Cabinet, which approved the plan to commit the 17th Construction Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers and Workshop as the main force for deployment. The squadron was to be supplemented by a Field Troop and by members posted from other units throughout the Army, bringing the squadron to a deployment strength of 275. A headquarters was to be formed, supporting the Chief Engineer at the UNTAG Military Headquarters. The total strength of the force was to be over 300 of all ranks, in what was known as Plan Witan. The unit had been placed on eight weeks' notice in July 1978, which was reduced to a week's notice to move in February 1979.

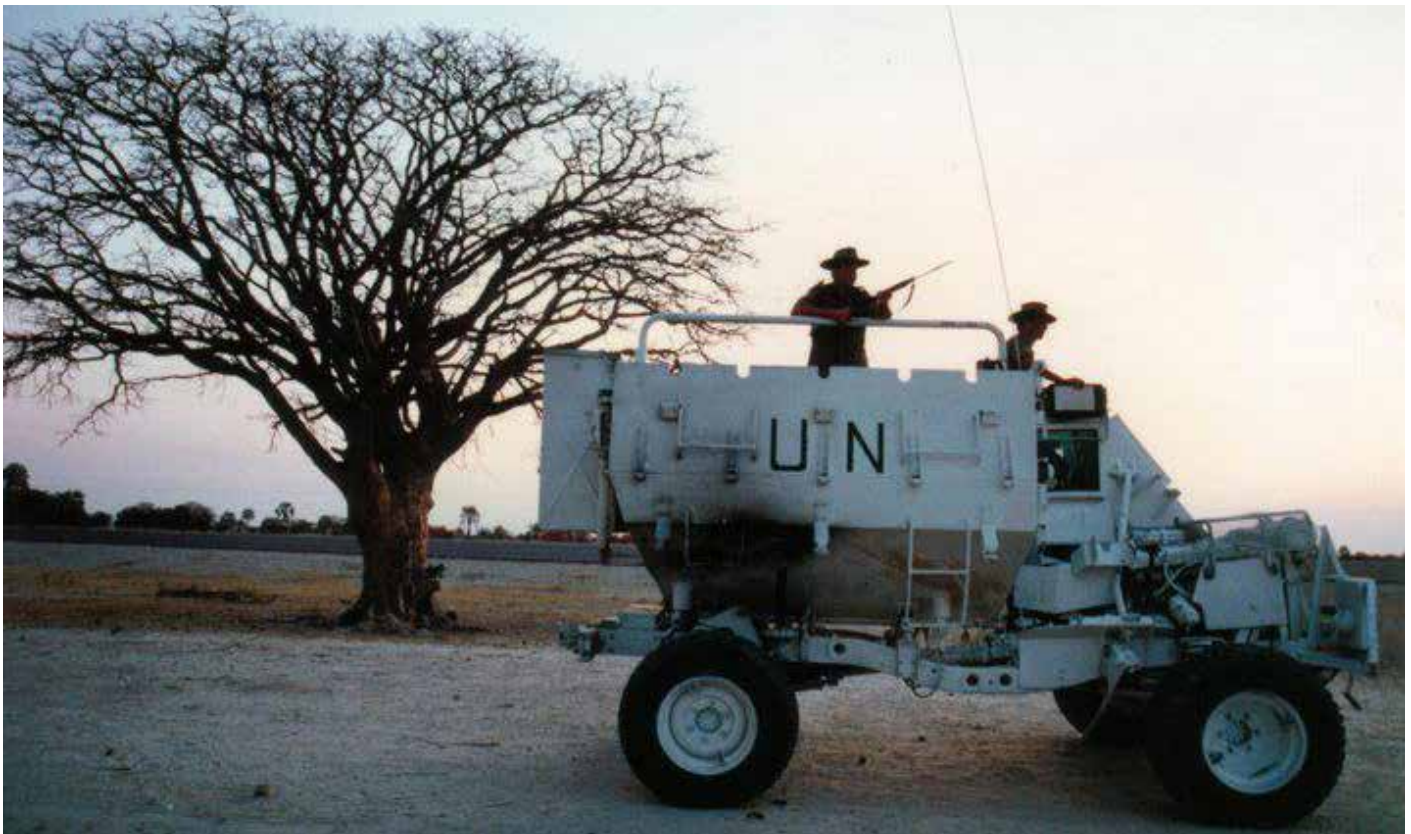
There was no agreement (or settlement) between South Africa and SWAPO, so an order to move was never issued. *The Official History* noted, "as the weeks passed the unit found it difficult to continue training because all its vehicles, equipment and plant were either in boxes or in a state ready for transhipment". The notice to move reverted to 30 days in June and pushed out to 42 days in September 1979, when the unit was formally released from standby.] The notice to move was increased to 60 days in March 1982, and 75 days in November 1986. In July 1987, all remaining specific readiness requirements were removed.

On the 19th Feb 1989 Major JJ Hutchings landed in Windhoek Namibia as part of an advance party for

United Nations Resolution 435 which was to oversee the transition from South African rule for South West Africa to a new country to be called Namibia in 1990.

The 1ASC advance party, comprising 36 officers and men, were deployed by USAF C-5 Galaxy via RAAF Learmonth and Diego Garcia to Windhoek. They arrived at 2:00 pm on 11 March 1989 and were met by Australian Ambassador to South Africa Colin MacDonald, Warren and Hutchings. The 17th Construction Squadron advance party of ten deployed by road to Grootfontein on 13 March 1989. The squadron's advance echelon, comprising 59 personnel (including the 14th Field Troop), arrived by USAF C5 Galaxy at Grootfontein on 14 March 1989. [86] The remainder of 1ASC were commended by Prime Minister Bob Hawke at a farewell parade at Holsworthy Barracks on 5 April 1989. The main body then deployed by RAAF Boeing 707 aircraft on 14 April.

The roles undertaken by UNTAG 17 Construction Squadron were many and varied and in the next edition I will cover these roles in more detail which ultimately ended up in success for UNTAG and 23 years later overdue recognition for the sappers and other veterans in the form of the Honor Distinction award.



1989 field section on patrol in Casspir

LOCATION Namibia and Angola

HEADQUARTERS Windhoek

DURATION April 1989 -- 21 March 1990

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HEADS OF MISSION

Martti Ahtisaari (Finland) July 1978 -- March 1990

FORCE COMMANDERS

Major-General Hannes Philipp (Austria), Commander designate September 1978 -- January 1980

Lieutenant-General Dewan Prem Chand (India), Commander designate January 1980 -- March 1989

Lieutenant-General Dewan Prem Chand (India), Force Commander April 1989 -- March 1990

POLICE COMMISSIONER

Assistant Commissioner Stephen Fanning (Ireland) March 1989 -- March 1990

STRENGTH Authorized upper limit of military component 7,500 all ranks, supported by civilian police and civilian international and local personnel

Maximum strength 4,493 all ranks, 1,500 civilian police and just under 2,000 international and local staff; the mission was strengthened by some 1,000 additional international personnel who came specifically for the elections

CONTRIBUTORS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia

FATALITIES 11 military personnel; 4 civilian police 3 international staff; 1 local staff; 19 Total



1989 Opuwo airstrip



Reviewed by Prime Minister Bob Hawke 5 April 1989



Australian Army land rover used in UNTAG



UNTAG Medal



Namibia location map

The 17 Construction Squadron Bear Cave being constructed in the Australian AO from 1989

In 1989/90 Australian Engineers were deployed to South West Africa/Namibia. They were positioned in SWA/Namibia in four major locations being Windhoek, Grootfontein where HQ 17 Construction Squadron was based and troops deployed to the north along the Angolan border at Oshakti and Rundu. It was in these northern areas of the deployment that the Australian bond was formed with hearts and minds as we know call it that is still evident today.

A search of facebook reveals several names of UNTAG from local Namibians in the north of Namibia that have named themselves after the UNTAG mission and I have befriended on such local born in 1989. <https://www.facebook.com/warren7887>

I have met him on two occasions in 2015 and 2018 when I returned back to Namibia.

He is a local Namibian that like many others started life in a mud and wooden thatched hut. He is currently building his own house near Oshikati and need around \$3000AUd to fund his roof.

Warren has agreed to have a room called the Bear Cave named after the now defunct 17 Construction Squadron Other ranks boozier in memory of the Australians that deployed into Ovambo land in Northern Namibia in 1989/1990.

I can be contacted to get donations to him directly.

Mark Horner

secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au



UN reviews Peacekeeper safety

United Nations (Xinhua) – Several member states of the United Nations on Monday February 11th called for plans to ensure the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel.

Presented during the 258th plenary meeting of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the latest report of the secretary-general highlighted key developments in UN peacekeeping, and it also noted that the changing nature of conflict has exposed peacekeepers to high security risks.

Fatalities among uniformed peacekeepers due to acts of violence almost doubled in 2017, from 34 in 2016 to 61, the highest recorded for peacekeeping since 1994, according to the report.

The report also found that the total cost of occupational safety and health fatalities, injuries and illnesses to the organization and its peacekeeping operations was approximately \$250 million a year.

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Omar Kadiri, Morocco's deputy permanent representative to the UN, said that the killing of UN peacekeeping personnel and all acts of violence against such personnel constitute a major challenge to the credibility of UN field operations and ability of peacekeepers to carry out their mandate.

He called upon the Secretariat to ensure that adequate measures are taken to improve the physical security infrastructure of camps.

On behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, Canada's permanent representative to the UN Marc-Andre Blanchard said that they strongly support a robust culture of performance evaluation and accountability throughout the UN.

The ultimate goal of strengthening performance must be to increase the overall effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, because doing so will improve the safety and



security of civilians and uniformed peacekeepers alike, said Mr Blanchard.

"More attention should be paid to the safety of peacekeepers," said Wu Haitao, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, adding that the Secretariat and the missions should formulate security rules in an integrated manner, strengthen information collection and sharing, ensure that security equipment and measures are in place, and strengthen medical ambulance capacity effectively.

According to the report of the Secretary-General, the United Nations last year made an action plan to improve the security of peacekeepers, and it is "a critical tool for fulfilling the commitment of the United Nations to ensure the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel," and it has been "the central instrument to improve peacekeeping performance in all its critical aspects."

To carry it out, the five peacekeeping missions with the highest fatality rates since 2013 have appointed dedicated teams to drive implementation on the ground, the report added.

The action plan includes a number of measures, such as the missions to support national authorities in prosecutions for attacks against peacekeepers, or re-examinations of missions' deployment footprint with regard to priority locations, threat assessments, mission support and medical considerations as well as operational capacities.

"There are preliminary indications that those efforts have begun yielding fruit, but we must remain vigilant, as the threats to peacekeepers remain extremely high," said the report.

The number of fatalities as a result of hostile acts from January to September 2018 was 43 percent lower than the figure for the same time period in 2017, and the six-month period from January to June 2018 also registered a 60 percent decrease in fatalities compared with the preceding six-month period from July to December 2017, it added.



Assisting the Modern Day Family

Since 1939, Clayfield College has offered a full boarding experience for regional, rural, remote and international students. Full time boarders enjoy generous leave privileges and a comprehensive recreational program.

Also on offer is permanent weekly boarding to girls whose families reside in Brisbane or live in regions which are easily accessible to Brisbane. Weekly boarders travel home every Friday after school, returning on Sunday afternoon to prepare for the beginning of the academic week. The Clayfield College Boarding House understands the need for students to live in residence during the week. Parents have peace of mind, knowing their daughters are able to focus on academic, sporting or cultural commitments in a safe and caring environment during the week, whilst still enjoying the home environment on the weekend. Whilst weekly boarders have the option of venturing home every weekend, they are encouraged to remain in residence as often as possible to participate in the recreational program. This option has aided the development of authentic relationships amongst all the boarders, as well as fostering a strong sense of community.

Along with the traditional boarding options, Clayfield College also offer a range of flexible boarding options to assist modern day family lifestyles and commitments. Daily, casual and weekly boarding options are available to meet the needs of busy families.



These options include attendance at afternoon co-curricular commitments or study time in the Learning Resource Centre, dinner and shower in the Boarding House, followed by two hours of supervised homework time with our specialist tutors, before pick up at 9:00pm. Parents with travel associated with their employment may opt for their daughters to stay overnight for one or two nights during the week to focus on study, or on a weekly basis to cater for their travel commitments.

Our stand-alone Boarding House, catering for girls from Years 5 to 12, is located across the road from the main school on Sandgate Road, Clayfield, and is a wonderful home away from home, where our girls can develop socially, emotionally, morally and spiritually.

Highly qualified and experienced

staff who provide a warm and supportive atmosphere, which enables students to feel at home, thrive, and learn for life, support Head of Boarding, Ms Di Kerr. The relationship between our staff, parents and carers is most important and therefore a close link is developed and maintained between home and the Boarding House. Boarding staff guide and support each boarder as she settles into her new family and encourage them as they grow and develop together.

Regular visiting specialists to the Boarding House include a daily visit by a registered nurse to attend to the girls' medical needs, a psychologist, who meets the girls individually and in groups to discuss any issues they may have, and a social media expert, who provides the much-needed advice on how to avoid and reduce risk online by using the complex and ever-changing security settings social media platforms have these days. Two chefs are also employed to provide nutritionally balanced meals and a varied menu. All efforts are made to accommodate specific dietary requirements.

Further information regarding boarding options at Clayfield College can be found at www.clayfield.qld.edu.au or visit the College soon at an Open Day scheduled for Thursday 14 March or Tuesday 21 May. A personal tour can also be arranged by contacting the Enrolments Office on 3262 0220 or enrol@clayfield.qld.edu.au.



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Young returning veterans at high risk of mental health issues

A new report investigates the high rate of mental ill-health facing younger defence personnel, and how to provide better support.



Reports have found that ex-serving male personnel aged 18–24 have a suicide rate twice high as other Australian men of the same age.

The experiences people face in combat are extreme.

Chris May, a soldier who left Australia to serve in Afghanistan as a 19-year-old in 2009, saw heavy fighting, explosions and dying children. His vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb and he was sent home with a brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at the age of 27.

‘For military and first responders, PTSD is a normal response to a completely abnormal situation,’ he told the ABC last year.

‘Exploring what it is is terrifying in itself because you don’t want to go find those emotions.’

Orygen and Phoenix Australia have co-authored a new report into the mental health of young ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel.

The report details some concerning statistics. For example, while young men and women make up only a quarter of full-time serving personnel in the ADF, they have the highest rate of mental ill-health among their colleagues, including conditions such as panic attacks, alcohol-use disorders and depression.

Ex-serving male personnel aged 18–24 have a suicide rate twice high as other Australian men of the same age.

‘This increased risk of mental ill-health could be attributed to a number of factors, including exposure to potentially traumatic events on operations, or leaving the service involuntarily,’ Orygen senior research fellow Dr Simon Rice said.

‘The loss of the protective factors the military provides, including social support and a sense of belonging

and identity, can affect the mental health of young ex-serving personnel, leaving many feeling unprepared for civilian life.’

The report, which gathered information from young veterans, the ADF, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, and mental health service providers, identifies key risk factors and gaps in services for young veterans:

- Short service periods of four years or fewer
- Barriers to services, such as culture, stigma or awareness
- Non-voluntary separation, such as being discharged early for injury
- A loss of protective factors, such as social support and belonging, or difficulty in transitioning to civilian life.

Young veterans identified key issues where there could be greater

opportunities for intervention:

- More structure in transition and post-transition support services
- A need to acknowledge that many young people may find it difficult to become engaged with services during or post transition
- The mental health consequences of military culture and training on a young person's developing self-identity

The report offers three key recommendations to provide better support for young veterans and help reduce high rates of mental illness and suicide.

First, that mandatory psychosocial health assessment should be undertaken for all young people leaving the ADF in order to help

identify and channel them to the most appropriate services.

Second, establishing targeted support hubs for young ex-service personnel to help them transition into non-military life.

Finally, improving engagement, a particular problem for young veterans, starting during recruitment, initial training and in their first year of service.

'It is especially important for young ex-serving people that we proactively engage with them, provide them with advice and support, and make treatment services easily accessible, including after individuals have transitioned out of the military,' Phoenix Australia head of policy and

practice Associate Professor Darryl Wade said.

The report also notes that GPs have an important role in veterans' transition period as an accessible entry point into the public health system.

GPs can make use of the Medicare Benefits Schedule item for an ADF post-discharge GP health assessment, which promotes early detection and intervention for mental and physical health concerns and includes screening for alcohol and other drug use, psychological distress, PTSD, risk of harm to self or others and anger problems.

<https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/young-returning-veterans-experiencing-high-risk-of>



NSW GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT VETERAN TRANSITION TO CIVVY LIFE

The NSW government has announced an extension of the Veterans Employment Program to support service personnel leaving the ADF.

Under the TAFE announcement, ex-service men and women will be able to access 1,400 TAFE NSW Smart and Skilled List courses. The courses will be available at no cost to eligible veterans who have completed up to eight years of service and discharged within the last five years.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian said, "As the Centenary of Anzac

draws to a close, it is fitting for us to leave a lasting legacy that empowers our contemporary veterans as they move into civilian employment."

The NSW government's successful Veterans Employment Program is being extended for another four years, with a new target of helping an additional 1,000 veterans to find work by 2023.

Since launching, 824 veterans have either found work or been offered a new role in the public service – far exceeding the government's target.

The Veterans Employment Program enables veterans to identify public service positions that may be suitable via a rank-grade matching tool, and helps to educate workplace managers on the skills veterans can offer.

NSW Veterans Affairs Minister David Elliott said, "Our servicemen and servicewomen put up their hand to protect us, so it is important that we continue to support them when they discharge."

Major and his Bulldogs brother kick different goals

Australian Army officer Major McLeod Wood (left), who is deployed as the Officer Commanding Training Team Victor with Task Group Taji 8, speaks with Iraqi Army officer Colonel Ahmed, Baghdad Fighting School 3rd Training Wing Commander

A family dynamic where one sibling is a major and another is a captain sounds fairly routine to most military families.

However, the Wood family, of Camperdown in south-west Victoria isn't like many others.

"My brother Easton is the captain of the Western Bulldogs," said Major McLeod Wood of Task Group Taji 8.

Major Wood is deployed as the Officer Commanding Training Team Victor, based at the Taji Military Complex, 20 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Task Group Taji 8 is Major Wood's third deployment, having served twice in Afghanistan.

"This deployment is really different because we're solely focused on training. It gives you a completely different mindset," Major Wood said.

"The focus is completely on making

the Iraqi Security Forces better."

The combined Australian-New Zealand task group provides the Iraqi Security Forces with training at the Taji Military Complex.

The priority for the eighth rotation of Task Group Taji is providing support to the Baghdad Fighting School in its instructor development as it trains the Iraqi security forces.

Although he is only a few weeks into his deployment, Major Wood said he was already witnessing rapid progress in the skill level of the school instructors and the Iraqi Army battalions they train.

"We are already seeing quite a difference just in their responses to the training and also how they actually use their weapon systems, their firearms and how they communicate with each other," he said.

Major Wood joined the Army via the Australian Defence Force Academy straight after high school.

He described his childhood in the Victorian south-west region as idyllic.

"Playing footy with the Camperdown Magpies and working out on the farm with mates and going

shooting are my favourite memories of growing up," he said.

Major Wood said although he played AFL with his younger brother, their time together on the oval at Camperdown was limited.

"I only played with my brother for a couple of games, he was a couple of years junior to me," Major Wood said.

"But I'd like to think I taught him everything he knows!"

The way he talks about his younger brother, it is obvious that friendly rivalry is alive and well in the Wood family.

"There is a lot of trash talking, our family is incredibly competitive. Both my parents were Commonwealth games-level athletes, dad in the triple jump, mum in the 800 metres," he said.

Despite the rivalry, the Wood brothers are close.

"We talk two or three times a week, he's always supportive and sending over boxes of goodies and letters and things like that. We talk quite a bit about how leadership affects both of us and what we do to try and get the best out of our people."



Letter**THE SENATE
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
DEFENCE AND TRADE
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

14 February 2019

Mr Allan Thomas
National President
Australian Peacekeeper and
Peacemaker Veterans Association
president@peacekeepers.asn.au

Dear Mr Thomas

Australian Veterans' Recognition
(Putting Veterans and their Families
First) Bill 2019 [Provisions]

On 14 February 2019 the Senate
referred to the Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade Legislation
Committee the provisions of the
Australian Veterans' Recognition
(Putting Veterans and their Families
First) Bill 2019 [Provisions] for inquiry
and report by 22 March 2019.

The purpose of this letter is to
draw your attention to the inquiry
and to invite you or your organisation
to make a written submission to
the committee by 6 March 2019.
More information about the bill
and the inquiry is available on the
committee's website: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/Veteransrecognition

The committee prefers to receive
submissions online as an attached
document by accessing the committee
website and selecting the Upload
Submission Online link at https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade.

Alternatively, submissions may be
emailed as an attached document to
fadt.sen@aph.gov.au or mailed to the
address below:

Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence
and Trade Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Information relating to Senate
committee inquiries, including
notes to assist in the preparation
of submissions for a committee,
can be located at www.aph.gov.au/

Parliamentary_Business/Committees.

Submissions become committee
documents and are made public only
after a decision by the committee.
Publication of submissions includes
loading them onto the internet and
making them available to other
interested parties including the
media. Please indicate if you wish
the committee to consider keeping
your submission, or part thereof,
confidential.

The committee would appreciate
you referring this letter of invitation
to any individual, group or organisation
that you think would like to contribute
to the inquiry.

The committee will consider
all submissions, and may invite
individuals and organisations to give
evidence at a public hearing. Should
you require further information, please
contact the committee secretariat on
(02) 6277 3535.

Yours sincerely
Lyn Beverley
Committee Secretary

WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGES

The APPVA has officially 2 Facebook
Sites that are endorsed by the APPVA
NATCOM.

One site is a Community Site that
posts news and articles of interest to
the Community of Peacekeeper and
APPVA Activities.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/Australian-Peacekeeper-and-Peacemaker-Veterans-Association-209494352511385/>

The other site is a Closed site
and is used for dissemination of
information to Members, along with
providing a chat facility.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/242034143370651>

The APPVA Official Website is
currently under construction to be
revamped with a fresh look. Members
will be advised when the new website
is operational.

Link: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

**RECLASS SOUGHT FOR
BEIRUT CIVIL WAR**

The APPVA continues to lobby to have
the retrospective service of APPVA
Member and former Army Helicopter
Pilot Major Ray Williams (Retired),
from non-warlike to warlike service,

for his service as a UN Military
Observer (UNMO) with the Observer
Group Beirut (OGB) to the UN Truce
Supervision Organisation (UNTSO);
during the period November 1983 to
March 1984. During this period Beirut
was under siege from a brutal Civil
War that had escalated when the US,
UK, France and Italy deployed 3,000
Troops to the Multinational Force
(MNF), which was a Peacekeeping
Force to protect Palestinian Liberation
Organisation (PLO) Fighters who
were to leave Lebanon. The "Islamic
Jihad", suspected to be Hezbollah by
US Analysts some years afterward,
on Sunday, 23rd October 1983,
conducted a simultaneous truck
bomb attack against the US Marine
and French Paratrooper Barracks
near the Beirut International Airport.
Over 9,500 kg of TNT was used in
the attacks that killed 241 US Marines
and 58 French soldiers. 6 Civilians
were also killed, totalling to 307 killed
in the attack.

As a result of this attack the
MNF was withdrawn on New Year's
Day 1984. On 4 November 1983 a
Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive
Device (VBIED) killed 28 Israeli
Defence Force (IDF) Soldiers and 32
Lebanese Prisoners. On 7 February
1984, the USS JERSEY fired 287 x
16 inch rounds into the Beirut area,
targeting and destroying Druze Militia
and Syrian Military Positions. The
Australian Embassy, located in the
Western part of Beirut was attacked
for 18 hours on 8 February 1984, of
which culminated in the withdrawal of
the Australian Embassy from Beirut
on 12 February 1984, due to the
worsening security situation. The
Australian Embassy did not return to
Beirut until 18th of July 1995, over 11
years after the deadly conflict.

There is no doubt that Ray Williams
was in the middle of the worst possible
situation, with extremely high risk
of being killed. Ray and Major Joe
Cazey remained in Beirut until rotated
out in March 1984. The situation
that Ray and Joe were operating
within can only be described as the
worst case harrowing scenario of
any UNMO. Being unarmed, but
continuing to conduct their duties with
diligence to Observe and Report back
to the UNTSO HQ in Jerusalem of
the situation on the ground in Beirut
during some of the most bloodiest of

battles that the city has ever seen.

Ray applied for War Service Pension (WSP), 20 years ago, after being accepted as being Totally & Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) as a result of his experiences in Beirut. His application for WSP was rejected, because his service was only classified as Peacekeeping Service. Unfortunately, Ray has been fighting a bureaucratic process since then to retrospectively reclassify his service to Warlike Service. On 1st of May 2008, the APPVA lodged a submission to the Nature of Service Review (NOSR), in order to provide identification of at least five “spikes” of service that was perceived to be warlike service as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflicts since the Australian Army began sending UNMOs to UNTSO in 1956.

The intent was to have NOSR accept the “spike” periods of the Arab-Israeli Conflicts to be retrospectively reclassified to Warlike Service. As of 20th of February 2019, Ray with his Advocate Paul Copeland, met with the

Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Darren Chester. The meeting was attended by ADF Officers of the Nature of Service Branch (NOSB) and ADF Legal Office. After a range of discussions and notations of Paul as to the War or Warlike Service precedents that have been in place with Merchant Mariners in WW2; OP HUSKY in Sierra Leone during January 2001 to February 2003 (Retrospectively Reclassified to Warlike Service on 22 March 2007); ADF UN Military Liaison Officers (UNMLO) serving in the UN Transitional Administration to East Timor (UNTAET) 20 February 2000 to May 2002; and The UN Mission in Support of East Timor (UNMISSET), May 2002 to 17 August 2003. The Minister wants to see this matter resolved.

The APPVA will be working with the ADF NOSB to address any legal concerns of the ADF toward the resolution of this matter. The end state was clearly made to the Minister that Ray is granted Qualifying Service, so that he is able to enjoy

the WSP including the Pensioner Concession Cards (PCC), which will be partnered with his wife, along with long deserving recognition of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) Clasp MIDDLE EAST and Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB).

The APPVA also mentioned the Retrospective Reclassification of the Australian Services Contingent to OPERATION HABITAT (ASCH), which was the ADF contribution of 72 soldiers and 3 Airmen to the Repatriation of Kurds, who were under siege by the Iraqi Military Forces (IZ), which occurred from the aftermath of the Gulf War 1991 (GW91). The NOSB Deputy Director acknowledged this and looks forward to the APPVA Submission. ASCH deployed to Northern Iraq with NATO Forces that were Special Operations Capable (SOC), under Command of the 3rd Brigade, Royal Marine Commando during the period 16 May to 30 June 1991. A submission is being refined by Dave Vinen and Paul Copeland.



IT SNEAKS UP ON YOU.

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WE’RE HERE FOR YOU.



Guardian Angels watch over Australian troops in Afghanistan

Brisbane-based soldiers of 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR), are playing a vital role in Afghanistan.

Deployed as Force Protection Element 10, they provide security and protected mobility to Australian and coalition personnel who are helping Afghanistan develop its defence and security forces.

The officer commanding the element, Major Morgan Reid, said the Australian Defence Force could not conduct its mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan forces without the 6RAR troops.

“If we don't have the Force Protection Element, our advisers can't do their job, they can't advise the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces and, therefore, they can't help make Afghanistan a safer place,” he said.

Force Protection Element soldiers are known by the mentors and advisers they protect as Guardian Angels.

The threat to Australian and coalition personnel in Afghanistan remains high, including personal and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, indirect fire and insider attacks.

The senior Australian mentor at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy, Lieutenant Colonel Alwyn Payne, said the Force Protection Element was as essential as the Australian advisers.

“When I was in Afghanistan 10 years ago, we spoke about the selflessness and commitment of our engineers to keep us safe. In today's operation, it is the Guardian Angels who are out there in harm's way looking out for us,” he said.

“There is no greater commitment you can receive from another soldier than to stand in the line of fire to ensure you stay safe when things get



Australian Army soldier Private Jack Reynolds of the Force Protection Element and a Afghan National Army soldier stand guard outside the Kabul Garrison Command.

tough. I am grateful to those men and women every day.”

Major Reid said one of the key successes of the Force Protection Element was its ability to balance the force protection posture with allowing the mentors to continue the mission and feel safe.

He said the 6RAR soldiers were highly professional, competent and motivated.

The Force Protection Element platoon commander, Lieutenant Will Brayshaw, said the most important skill of an effective Guardian Angel was the ability to “stay sharp”.

“Over periods of time the capacity to focus can deteriorate but in that split second that you are needed you have to be ready,” Lieutenant Brayshaw said.

“It is a massive responsibility we place on the soldiers here and for a relatively junior cohort it is even more significant, but across the board our guys and girls are performing really well,” he said.

Force Protection Element

soldiers are deployed throughout Kabul wherever there are Australian mentors.

This includes: the Train Advise Assist Command – Air, where Australian advisers are helping to develop a professional and capable Afghan Air Force; the Kabul Garrison Command, which is responsible for 25,000 Afghan troops and the security of Kabul and its 5 million residents; and the Marshal Fahim National Defense University, which is the premier military training organisation in Afghanistan.





Transition Simplified

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

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

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

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

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

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

- CV/Résumé
- Cover Letter
- Selection Criteria/Suitability Statement
- Linked-In profile
- Social Media presence

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

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

doing the best you can to secure that job.

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

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

from seeking assistance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Transitioned - Qualified - Employed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER &
PEACEMAKER VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)



(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)
ABN 59 558 194 094
APPVA
PO Box 943, Alstonville NSW 2477
Email: secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

Contact Details

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

Last Name City

Given Name(s) State Post Code

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

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

Phone Mobile.....

Service Details

Service (Navy, Army, Air Force, AFP etc)

Service Regt Number

Current / Former Rank.....

Post Nominal

Missions *(Attach separate sheet if necessary)*

Operation name..... Country.....

Dates deployed to

Operation name..... Country

Date deployed to

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

Signed Dated

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

Credit Card

Send application with completed details to: APPVA P.O. Box 943, Alstonville, NSW, 2477

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

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

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

Cheque of Money Order

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

Direct Credit - Internet Transfer Commonwealth Bank, Ballina

Account: APPVA **BSB:** 062 502 **Acc:** 1052 9131 **Membership No:**
Lodgement Reference Field: include your name and or membership number (if known)
Surname: Enter AUS (1st 3 letters of acc name), then enter amount required
Enter Member No: 153601 (if required)

For All other Financial Institutions:

Account: APPVA **BSB:** 062 502 **Acc:** 1052 9131 **APPVA Membership No:**
Reference field: Include your name and or membership number (if known)
If unsure of APPVA Membership No. – Contact secretary@peacekeepers.asn.au

Membership Type - Please select criteria

Full Member

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

Associate Member

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

Affiliate Member

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

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

10 Transition Traps

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



ADF Member and Family Transition Seminar

ADF Member and Family Transition Seminars help you and your family prepare for your transition into civilian life. You and your family are welcome to attend at any time during your ADF career. Seminars are held nationally where you'll have access to information on topics like:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Canberra	Wednesday, 20 February 2019
Newcastle	Wednesday, 06 March 2019
Brisbane	Wednesday, 13 March 2019
Sydney	Wednesday, 20 March 2019

Melbourne	Monday, 25 March 2019
Darwin	Tuesday, 02 April 2019
Hobart	Wednesday, 17 April 2019
Perth	Wednesday, 01 May 2019
Canberra	Wednesday, 08 May 2019
Wagga	Wednesday, 15 May 2019
Shoalhaven	Wednesday, 22 May 2019
Tindal	Tuesday, 28 May 2019
Brisbane	Wednesday, 04 June 2019
Adelaide	Wednesday, 19 June 2019
Townsville	Wednesday, 26 June 2019

St Clare's College

– Excellence in Girls Education

St Clare's College, Canberra is an inclusive and caring community where learning is valued and students are given every opportunity to grow in all dimensions of their life. We provide a safe and empowering environment for students to reach their full potential.

The College has dedicated and professional staff that will work with your daughter to support her in all aspects of her schooling. We have state of the art facilities to compliment your daughter's learning, such as modern science labs, open plan classrooms, a Trade Training Centre, areas for Performing and Visual Arts, extensive access to Information and Communication Technologies, a large Library and well maintained grounds.

In Years 7 and 8 the Foundation Studies Program enables all students to experience a wide range of courses to provide a sound basis for making future academic decisions.

In Years 9 and 10 students have the opportunity to begin specialising in areas of interest and by Years 11 and 12 they are able to choose individual academic programs and vocational courses that will provide the most appropriate pathway beyond school.

There are many opportunities for students to participate in extra-curricular activities that complement the academic program including leadership development programs,



debating, drama, dance, chorale, music and a wide range of sports.

The Pastoral Care Program promotes the spiritual and social development of students as well as supporting their learning needs. Students of Defence Service families have the support of a Defence School Mentor.

St Clare's College is a spirited learning community where students can develop their knowledge, skills, confidence and faith. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all prospective students and their families to visit the College and talk

to us about how we can support your daughter's education.

Open Events for Prospective Students

On Tuesday 30 April, prospective Year 7 students for 2020 have the opportunity to become a St Clare's girl for a day at our Try a Day! Students experience the exciting and enriching opportunities available at St Clare's College. To register for Try a Day visit our website: www.stcc.act.edu.au

Our Open Evening held on Wednesday 1 May, is an opportunity for parents and all prospective students to look at our facilities and talk to staff and students. The evening will run from 4.30pm to 7.00pm with an information session to be held in the College Hall from 6.00pm to 6.30pm and guided tours available throughout the evening.

Discover the many courses and leadership opportunities available for senior students at our Year 11 Information Evening on Monday 13 May from 6.00pm - 7.30pm at the College.

School Tours with the Principal are available by appointment at 9.00am or 4.00pm on Tuesday 7 May and Wednesday 15 May. Please contact the College reception on 02 6260 9400 to register for a tour.





"What I like most about St Clare's College is that it offers a safe and supportive environment that allows me to strive towards my goals."

Morgan, Year 12

Try a Day at St Clare's 30 April

Open Evening 1 May, 4pm - 7pm

School Tours 7 May and 15 May, 9am and 4pm

Enrolment Period 6 May to 31 May 2019



St Clare's College
Seek Wisdom

P: 02 6260 9400

E: enrolments@stcc.act.edu.au

www.stcc.act.edu.au

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

Patron: Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retired)



APPVA Merchandise
PO Box 943,
Alstonville NSW 2477
E: president@peacekeepers.asn.au
Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

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

CREDIT CARD

Send order form with completed details to Merchandise - Merchandise - APPVA, P.O. Box 943, ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477

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

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

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

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

DIRECT CREDIT - Internet Transfer - Commonwealth Bank, Ballina

Account: APPVA (AUS) 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:

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

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr (Rank) Address
Last Name City
Given Name(s) State Post Code
Email..... Country
Mobile

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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

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



ST JOSEPH'S NUDGEES COLLEGE BOARDING

More than 1,600 students from Years 5 to 12 call Nudgees College their school. For more than 270 of these students, it is also their home as boarders. All our boys are passionate about their school, about their learning and about making the most of the many opportunities that Nudgees College provides.

As a leading Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition, we have a strong school culture that is based upon clear values and high expectations. Over the past 128 years Nudgees College has developed a proud reputation as being a school in which fine young boys grow and develop into outstanding young men.

The holistic education and all-round development of each boy remains the key focus of the College. Nudgees College offers a rich diversity of educational opportunities in the classroom, in the pastoral care program, in diverse co-curricular pursuits as well as in faith development and social justice activities.

OPEN DAY 18 MAY 2019
REGISTER ONLINE AT NUDGEES.COM/OPENDAY



APK-01/NC19

BOYS' DAY AND BOARDING YEARS 5-12

www.nudgees.com

2199 Sandgate Road, Boondall, QLD 4034 Australia
Tel: 07 3865 0555 | Email: admissions@nudgees.com

CRICOS Provider No. 00572G. Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia.

"We knew that Nudgees College could provide so many more opportunities for our son. Not only in the everyday classroom context, but in a way that would expose Tom to new challenges that could help him grow into a young man who will leave an indelible footprint on his surrounding world."

- Nudgees College Boarding parent



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA



YOU CAN'T DEFEAT

WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE.

Trijicon REAP-IR® Mini Thermal Riflescope

With the Trijicon REAP-IR® mini thermal riflescope, you get more technology per square inch than any other thermal sight. It's small, light and powerful, and lets you engage targets in any light. Which means your enemy has just lost a tactical advantage.

- 640x480 image resolution, 12 micron pixel pitch, and 60 Hz refresh rate deliver a clear, crisp image in a wide range of conditions
- Advanced polarity control gives you multiple modes of white hot and black hot for rapid target identification
- Built tough and tested to MIL-STD-810G for extreme temperatures, vibration, shock, rain, sand and dust



See the technology at
TrijiconEO.com.



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THE U.S.A.

Trijicon®

Electro Optics Division