

Australian Peacekeeper

SUMMER 2019

MAGAZINE



**DEFENCE DENIES PEACEKEEPERS WARLIKE
SERVICE IN CIVIL WAR**

OP PALADIN - THE QUEST CONTINUES

COMMEMORATING 20 YEARS OF INTERFET



WORK SMARTER. NOT HARDER.



Get the best out of your SmartWasher[®] with quality mats and fluids.

For the most effective heavy duty cleaning, using SmartWasher's bioremediation technology.

The SmartWasher mats and fluids use a proprietary blend of micro-organisms to break down oil and grease into water and CO₂.

SmartWasher eliminates the need to haul away used fluid - the OZZYJUICE non-hazardous degreasing solutions and the OZZYMAT, our patented, microbe impregnated particulate traps simply clean until new mats are required. Simply check the levels on OZZYJUICE solution and replace OZZYMAT at the correct intervals (every 30 days) and that's all the maintenance you need!

OZZYJUICE degreasing solutions are pH neutral, use no hazardous solvents, are not caustic and have no flash point. These powerful degreasing solutions clean as quickly as premium solvents.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE
SMARTWASHER RANGE AT
WWW.CRCSMARTWASHER.COM.AU



SmartWasher[®]
BIOREMEDIATING parts washing system

WHATS INSIDE

Contributors:

Australian Defence Force, Department of Defence, Paul Copeland, Rob Woods, Mark Horner, Department of Veterans Affairs, David Vinen, Australian War Memorial.

President: Rob Woods JP.

presidentAPPVA@peacekeepers.asn.au

Vice President: Ian Lindgren

Treasurer: Brendan Hill,

treasurer@peacekeepers.asn.au

National Editor: Paul Copeland OAM,JP

chook126@bigpond.net.au

Advertising: Sharon Pace

peacekeeper@flightpublishing.com.au

Flight Publishing P/L: Kylie McQueen

02 9386 4213

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.

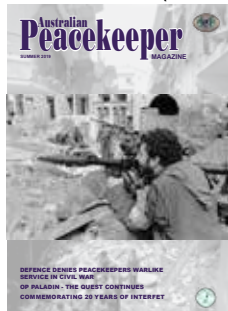
Cover

Lebanese Civil War, 1975 to 1978

Langevin Jacques/Contributor/Getty Images

Rescuers try to save the survivors of a car bombing in Sin-el-Fil, Lebanon, six kilometers (four miles) northeast

of Beirut, in May 1986. The Lebanese Civil War plays a large role in Rabea Jaber's novel "Confessions." Joseph Barrak / Getty-AFP



8

ARMY

38 Task Group Taji

39 Independence in their sights

39 Brothers reunite in Iraq



38

ADF

28 Remembering INTERFET

DEPARTMENT FEATURES

2 Presidents Report

2 Editors Report

48 APPVA

APPVA membership is open to Veterans both ADF and AFP that have served. To join head to peacekeepers.asn.au/register



20



28

FEATURE

8 Peace with Honour

12 The Australian Peacekeeper Narrative

17 Story of an Australian Peacekeeper in War in Somalia

19 Red Card for Defence

20 The need for Monitoring & Evaluation in Advancing Protection of Civilians

24 Timor Leste 20 Year Tour

37 Australian Peacekeeping Day

44 Launch of Vol 1 the Official History of Peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS

32 Service with the UNTSO in the Middle East Part 1



49

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello members,
I sincerely hope that this issue of Peacekeeper finds you all well, our AGM was conducted on 13th Sept 2019 and unfortunately, I was unable to attend as I was in Timor Leste representing our association at the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of InterFET.

I have written a short story on my activities and it is in this edition of Peacekeeper. I encourage all veterans who served in Timor Leste (East Timor) so consider undertaking a trip back there. The people are as resilient as ever and much has changed to my amazement.

From my recent experience, I can say that what we did as Peacekeepers in East Timor certainly made a difference and the Timorese have the greatest respect and admiration for the Australian Peacekeeper.

The Australian Parliament sat in mid-October and Mr Paul Copeland OAM was there representing one of our members in relation to reclassification of service. Paul met with a number of politicians who have shown support for the call that this sensitive subject and its

processes must be reviewed.

Paul as always gives 110% in his efforts to provide support to our veteran community and this instance Paul has taken this role on with his usual vigour a doggedness to get the system to recognition our veterans appropriately, his push for reclassification of service will impact on a number of our members.

The APPVA is moving forward with positive steps, you the members discussed the draft constitution at the AGM and recommended some changes to the draft document which NATCOM intend to discuss at an EGM on 12th Nov 2019 where the draft document will again be submitted for endorsement and then to implementation.

This will be the launch pad for a new look committee structure along with a number of discrepancies in the Constitution 2009, some of the changes include the addressing of capitation fees. The 2009 document prohibits the National body from paying capitation fees to the states. A new look disciplinary practice, membership types clearly defined, there will be no requirement for state-based committees and the current Branch/State Presidents will be known as Regional Coordinators.

The Regional Coordinators will be apart of the 'committee' that will manage the business of the APPVA as is currently done by the NATCOM.

The ongoing legal process in Victoria continues with me receiving a court writ in September, this writ was responded to with the assistance

of our legal team. Currently that response was lodged with Melbourne Magistrates Court on Friday 18th October 2019.

The writ and our response is available for members to read should you wish by going to the members area of our website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au and then login to the members area.

Remembrance Day is fast approaching, I remind all members to take time out to reflect on those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for us at 1100hrs, 11 Nov 2019, if you are able to attend a ceremony in your area I encourage you to do so. It would be great to see some photos and stories from your Remembrance Day activities in the next edition of 'Peacekeeper'.

I encourage you all to contact your respective APPVA representatives and provide any stories, photographs of your service or any activities that are undertaken in your area to be included in upcoming editions of 'Peacekeeper', remember this is your magazine as well and we want to hear your service and experiences.

You can also make contact with our editor Paul Copeland, OAM with any suggestions that you would like to see included in your magazine.

On behalf of the APPVA National Executive and the National Committee of Management, I wish you all well and look forward to another season of 'Looking after our own'.

Yours sincerely,
Rob Woods
National President

EDITOR'S REPORT

Canberra Attitude to Peacekeepers - Operation Normal

By Paul Copeland

Inside the hallowed halls of the Defence precinct of Russell offices lies a biased and confrontational culture.

It's a culture contrary to the values Defence claims underpin

everyday actions. These values are:

"Integrity is doing what is right.

We behave honestly and ethically, and demonstrate the highest standards of probity in our personal conduct. We act fairly and accept personal responsibility for our decisions and actions. We build trust through productive working relationships."

As written in the APPVA National President's opinion piece (Red Card

for Defence), Defence personnel have denigrated the service of specific peacekeepers, made dubious claims about what constitutes warlike service around 'tanks rolling over barbed wire', hidden key information in an unnecessarily redacted report and making the unbelievable claim of the deaths of 300 US and French peacekeepers don't apply in defining warlike service because they weren't attached to the UN.

None of the Defence values have been applied in the matter of retrospective reclassification of service for veterans of the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO). In reality, the words around Defence's values are meaningless especially when applied to peacekeeping matters.

The conflict on the reclassification of UNTSO across six to seven spikes on Op Paladin is just one of a number of challenges peacekeepers have faced with Defence and DVA across the decades.

Some of these APPVA challenges for peacekeeping have been won through hard work and lobbying such as the reclassification of Rwanda and the Australian Training Support Team East Timor.

Placing 48 names of Australians who died on peacekeeping, monitoring and enforcement, humanitarian operations and other non-warlike operations on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial was another APPVA achievement.

Making the commemoration of these 48 Australians fair and equitable took over a decade to change the historical entrenched position of both political parties, Service Chiefs, AWM Council and RSL.

On 30 August 2013, following an 18 month concerted APPVA campaign, the Australian War Memorial has unveiled three new bronze panels on the Roll of Honour, commemorating an additional 48 Australian servicemen and women. Dr Brendan Nelson, as the incoming Director, was key to this success with private briefings prior to his appointment.

This move brought much comfort to the families of the 48 who previously had to ask AWM staff to unlock a cabinet to view the name of their loved one in the Book of Remembrance. Decades of these families being treated unfairly in their grief overcome by doing what is fair and equitable.

However, the move to seek an Australian Peacekeeping Medal was a battle lost, but the war continues. Between 2009-2011 a Review was conducted by the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal into Peacekeeping Service. This Inquiry was doomed from the start, with Defence and AFP influence to refute the merit of such a unique award for unique service.

It was made quite apparent at the Tribunal Hearing, that Panel Members had not read the comprehensive Submission from the APPVA. The attitude of the Tribunal Panel was dismissive of past precedent and failed in so many areas to provide natural justice and procedural fairness.

The logic of the Australian Peacekeeping Medal is to complement the Australian Service Medal and the Police Overseas Service medal for ADF and Sworn Police Officers. They are the frontline of Peacekeeping Security Operations and experience significant stress and pressure whilst serving within malevolent environments.

When the peacekeeping exhibition opened at the Australian War Memorial, the politicians have laid claim to how the exhibition acknowledges the contribution and sacrifice of those on peacekeeping operations. There will be photo-opportunities, interviews and lots of back-slapping particularly from politicians and senior Defence officials.

There are strong concerns for the ADF personnel who deploy on non-warlike operations which currently include OP Paladin (Israel/Lebanon), OP Mazurka (Sinai), OP Aslan (South Sudan) or those training on OP Augury (Philippines) or OP Manitou (Persian Gulf/Straits of Hormuz/Gulf of Oman) and OP Accordion (Iraq).

Our concerns are about current serving personnel being wounded, injured or killed by attacks between belligerent forces, including terrorist groups such as Al-Nusra Front, ISIS, Hezbollah, Al Qaeda or Iranian and Syrian regular forces and even self-declared non-sectarian groups such as Free Syrian Army or Syrian Islamic Liberation Front.

The Middle East, as recent events have demonstrated, can change quickly. Attacks on oil infrastructure and threats of attack by Iran means Australian Defence Force personnel are facing increasing threats.

In South Sudan, the UN is intending to rebalance the deployment of peacekeepers moving away from static protection to increase confidence building patrols in areas where people will be returning to.

The Philippines remains an additional concern, as those ADF personnel have not been provided adequate coverage from service in a

State of Disturbance, when Extremist Insurgents do not discriminate in their targeting – it is a highly dangerous place to serve. The service in the Philippines should have been warlike service from the beginning, not treated like a Pacific Ocean Exercise.

The APPVA believes those in the Nature of Service Branch are culturally biased in their views, inexperienced in their research and wrong in their advice to senior ADF officers and Ministers. They have also contradicted a number of precedents of classifying operations as far back as 1964 (Ubon), in 2012. Going unchecked, this bias will continue into the future.

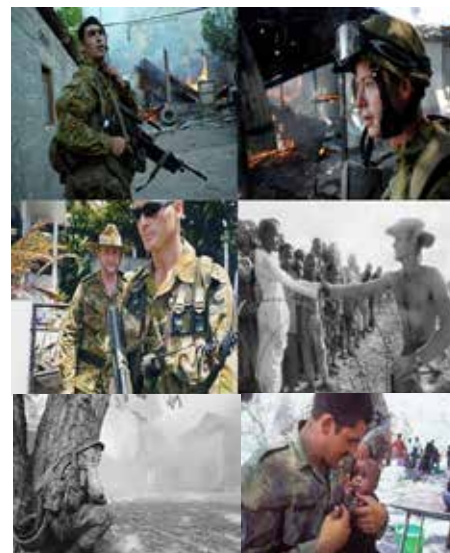
To provide fairness to those with previous service and for those at risk now and into the future, we call upon Ministers Darren Chester and Senator Linda Reynolds to make all processes relating to non-warlike operations open and transparent.

By doing so, an impartial Inquiry is needed, with input from Veterans. Not just an Inquiry, where recommendations seldom see the light of day, but something tangible, binding and doing the right thing by many disaffected veterans who have so honourably served Australia.

All they ask for is a fair go, the proper application of the principles of natural justice. The current system for these matters is broken and is not fit for purpose.

For Defence – indeed *integrity is doing what is right*.

Past and current challenges for peacekeepers indicates otherwise. Let's aim to change the future and call for a quasi-judicial inquiry into recognising the service of Australia's Veterans.



How I found my career direction with a Charles Sturt teaching degree

Charles Sturt University student and former Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Combat Systems Operator David Hunt has discovered his career direction through the gift of education. And when it comes to study, his experience matters.

How did you find out about Charles Sturt University?

My wife completed a Bachelor of Nursing with the uni and suggested it, as did a couple of good friends I went to school with who attended years prior. Incidentally, I helped build the student accommodation in Dubbo as a tiler's labourer prior to joining the RAN, so I've known about Charles Sturt from the very beginning of my adult life. I guess it was just a natural transition, as the uni has always had a good reputation and a strong presence in rural New South Wales.

Why did you choose to study the Bachelor of Education (K-12)?

I have always understood that the university's training of educators was of a high quality, and I wanted to give myself the best chance for employment upon completion. My decision to pursue K-12 was to broaden my chances of employment with a major (mathematics) and range of teaching (primary and secondary). Plus, I have a personal desire to see others progress and succeed in life.



What was your role in the RAN and what are some of the highlights of your career?

I served in the RAN as a combat systems operator (mine warfare) sailor. I spent the entirety of my career posted to various Minehunter, Coastal (MHC) ships and land-based units from HMAS Waterhen, Sydney. Some of my highlights include undergoing exercises in South-East Asia as well as various ports around the Pacific Islands and Australia. These gave me the opportunity to visit other countries and work with various navies. I was also a recipient of two Commanding Officer's Commendations in 2007 and 2010, and the Warfare Community Medallion after my promotion course in 2008.



What were your career ambitions when you first joined the RAN? How do these compare with your goals today?

My first and ultimate goal was to go on operation, with the secondary goal of instructing recruits or trainee sailors. As well as these goals, I also had an ambition of possibly being a member of Sea Training Group, which assesses and tests unit readiness throughout the RAN. There are similarities in the goals I set myself



in the RAN compared to me studying to be a teacher. For instance, a large majority of my goals involve training/educating people.

What's your advice for other ADF veterans considering studying with Charles Sturt?

My best advice would be that if you are considering undergoing studies, you should not ignore this urge – grasp it with both hands. One of the greatest misconceptions that many veterans seem to fall into is that their lives peaked when they were in the ADF. This is not true by any means. In fact, their service should be seen as a cornerstone for the rest of their lives.

Ex-service personnel have a unique advantage of being able to operate under pressure, as well as having a commitment to timings, punctuality, discipline and determination. These are qualities that many are searching for within themselves while studying. However, these are already deeply entrenched within all those whom have served.

The sense of accomplishment and assuredness that I'm working to a better future for myself and my family is one of the best feelings I've had in a long time. Once again, I encourage any veteran out there thinking of studying to take that step.

Read more online at study.csu.edu.au



Charles Sturt
University

Experience Matters Entry Program

Your defence experience matters at Charles Sturt University.

That's why we've created a new admission pathway using your military career as a benchmark.

We'll use your rank to work out your equivalent ATAR.

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

At Charles Sturt, we're a veteran-friendly uni. And we're here to help you get qualified for the next chapter of your life.

→ study.csu.edu.au/defence



Power Equipment Unveils Three High-Performance Diesel Outboards

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

The motors are:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A leap forward in diesel outboard engineering



Dtorque (50HP)



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

This configuration gives exceptionally smooth and vibration-free performance. The remarkable torque output (which peaks at 111Nm at 2500rpm) is greater than the best performing 70hp four-stroke petrol outboard on the market today. The Dtorque is available with either remote or tiller steering.

**WHEN
RELIABILITY
IS KEY**



OXE (125HP/ 150HP/ 175HP/ 200HP)
DIESEL



OXE represents Reliability, Strength, and Endurance.

The OXE is the world's first high performance diesel outboard engine in the high horsepower segment. It has a unique belt driven propulsion system coupled to a full hydraulic multi-plate clutch transmission. It is setting new standards for durability, fuel-efficiency and low emissions for an outboard engine. There are hundreds of successful OXE units operating around the globe in harsh conditions ranging from the cold of the arctic with cruise liner Hurtigruten to the heart of Dubai with scorching heat.

**THE CXO300
DIESEL WITHOUT
COMPROMISE**

CXO300

COX (300HP)



The Revolution Begins. Redefining diesel power.

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

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

Peace with honour

Forty years ago, as a UN blue beret, Jack Thurgar walked through a minefield to save a stranger's life. Today he's still fighting for the peacekeepers.

By IAN MCPHEDRAN



Jack Thurgar. *Justine Walpole.*

On October 9, 1979 a farmer was ploughing a field in one of the world's most hotly contested pieces of real estate. The island of Cyprus had been divided into Turkish and Greek areas since 1974, marked by a buffer zone that was being enforced by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which included 20 Australian police officers. The field was in a protected sector of the zone that was keeping apart the warring forces – the Turks to the north and the Greek Cypriots to the south.

The UN had insisted that the Turks allow authorised farmers into the buffer zone to cultivate what had been their land. So on that day two Australian officers, Chief Inspector Jack Thurgar and his driver Sergeant Stan Wilson, were near Omorfita, a suburb of the capital Nicosia, overseeing one such farming operation on either side of an unmarked Greek-Cypriot minefield laid during the invasion. Turkish forces had issued an ultimatum that if the approved farmer and his UN guardians weren't out of the zone by midday, they would open fire. With their tanks, armour and infantry locked

and loaded, the threat was serious.

At 11.50am, just 10 minutes before the deadline, Thurgar and Wilson were keeping an eye on the Turkish forces to the east of the field when they heard a commotion. A contract farmer named Chrysostomos Seas had suddenly appeared, driving a tractor towing a plough. He had already charged through the Greek lines and was heading directly for the unmarked minefield. He was living in a refugee camp and had been contracted by

another farmer to plough the deadly fields. No one had told him about the minefield.

Siren blaring, the two Australians sped towards him but when they were about 300m away the tractor hit two mines. The explosions blew the tractor apart and threw Seas 20m through the air, peppering him with shrapnel. Wilson stopped the vehicle close to the edge of the minefield. He and Thurgar, a former SAS trooper and Vietnam veteran, radioed in the incident and called for medical support. Then they got out and began to walk carefully into the minefield. Thurgar was certain the farmer was dead. He ordered Wilson to return to the vehicle to establish a command post and to man their only radio while he went deeper into the field towards the casualty.

A Greek National Guard officer had also seen the blast and called out a warning, pleading with the Australian to go no further. But as Thurgar got closer he saw the farmer moving, trying to raise himself on one elbow. "I knew that something had to be done or he would die," he says. At the same time, he recalled his army mine training and its rule number one: "Stay out of minefields."

As a 19-year-old SAS trooper, Thurgar had been wounded in



The remains of Chrysostomos Seas' tractor, cut in half by the blast. *Jack Thurgar.*



Jack Thurgar visits farmer Chrysostomos Seas in hospital *Jack Thurgar*.

action in July 1970 by a landmine in Vietnam. He still carries enough shrapnel in his body to trigger airport security scanners. But this experience didn't deter him. "There are times in life when there is confusion and uncertainty, and someone will surely die if nothing is done; then someone has to step up and make command decisions. I did that on the day."

As he gingerly stepped across the minefield, trying to minimise his footprint, he saw several antitank mines protruding from the soil and the metal prongs of "jumping jack" or "bouncing betty" antipersonnel mines sticking up. He also knew that the field contained other types of mines so there must be many more that he couldn't see. "I was shit scared and my legs were like jelly," he recalls. "My training said, 'Maintain the aim', which was to save his life – so I had to keep going." Minutes later, Thurgar reached the critically injured farmer, whose lower left leg was hanging by a flap of skin. The Australian used what was left of the man's clothing to stem the bleeding and dress his shrapnel wounds and burns. He then hoisted Seas into a fireman's carry and set off back across the minefield on a direct line to the vehicle.

"I knew about the golden hour and how crucial it was for a critical casualty to reach hospital within 60 minutes – and the clock was ticking." It would have taken hours for engineers to clear a safe path to the man. A helicopter winch-out was not possible either, because of nearby power lines and swirling winds. Just like in the song *I Was Only 19* by John

Schumann, Thurgar says he thought every step could be his last.

After carefully picking his way out he finally reached the vehicle just as a UN helicopter, co-ordinated by Wilson, landed in a safe place to medevac the farmer. The entire rescue operation from blast to hospital took just 26 minutes – well inside the "golden hour". Thurgar held the man's hand and reassured him as they flew to a UN military base close to the Nicosia hospital. During the flight, the injured farmer asked him if he had any children. Thurgar replied that yes, he had two sons. "He said to me, 'I have a daughter and they will be married'." Seas lost his leg, but lived to see his daughter married.

Australian Army engineering experts have calculated that when he entered the minefield that day, Thurgar had a 96.65 per cent chance of dying in a killing zone that contained two mines per metre of frontage. A map of the minefield drawn after it was cleared by the UN Mine Action Service shows he must have passed over numerous mines on his way in and out. Forty-eight antitank weapons and 96 antipersonnel mines were eventually recovered from the blast section of the minefield in an area measuring 75m by 50m.

For his extraordinary courage in warlike circumstances, Jack Thurgar was awarded Australia's second highest civilian bravery award, the Star of Courage – the highest ever presented to an Australian peacekeeper. But in the opinion of Wilson and others, this is not good enough. "It happened so fast and the

adrenalin was flowing and our focus was on saving the man's life," Wilson says now. "I started to shake a bit back at the barracks afterwards but Jack, who knew first-hand what mines could do, had acted well above and beyond the call of duty – and deserves the Cross of Valour."

The Cross of Valour was introduced in 1975 under the Australian honours system but it was not implemented until 1986, when the Hawke government announced the introduction of gallantry awards for members of the military and the CV was recognised as the highest Australian award for civilian bravery.

Honours and awards had been a source of controversy in Canberra throughout the 1970s and 1980s when two government agencies, the Department of Administrative Services (Imperial awards) and the Government House Honours and Awards Secretariat (Australian awards) conducted a bureaucratic turf war. The Whitlam government introduced Australian-only honours but in 1976 Malcolm Fraser reintroduced imperial awards, creating a two-track system. Thurgar's award was caught in the ensuing political and bureaucratic maelstrom dominated by a military hierarchy that never wanted to lose the imperial system.

Numerous trained observers believe that the citation issued by Government House significantly downplayed the Cyprus incident. It said Thurgar placed himself in "great peril" after the tractor "struck a mine overturning it and severely injuring the driver". Had it more accurately reflected the reports submitted to the Australian Federal Police by the UN force commander and witnesses, the citation would have read "extreme peril". It would also have described the tractor as being cut in half by 12kg of TNT in a mixed unmarked minefield under "warlike" circumstances. Thurgar is the only civilian to receive the decoration allowance (payable only to an Australian bravery award recipient who acted under "warlike" circumstances) despite Government House bureaucrats denying that Cyprus was "warlike" in his original citation. The allowance has been just \$1 a week since the end of World War II.

In his 1979 submission recommending

Can you name
a not-for-profit
personal & financial
service provider that
offers all of this?



The APS Benefits Group can

- > Personal Loans
- > Secured Car Loans
- > Property Loans
- > Funeral Cover for Life
- > Tax & Accounting
- > Insurance Broking
- > Mortgage Broking
- > Wills & Estates
- > Legal Services
- > Financial Planning*
- > Savings & Investments*



1300 131 809



Helping Families

Disclosure Information: Membership of the APS Benefits Group automatically entitles you to a funeral benefit issued by the APS Benefits Group. You should consider the Combined Product Disclosure Statement & Financial Services Guide (available from the APS Benefits Group or our web site www.apsbenefitsgroup.com.au) before making a decision to become a member of the APS Benefits Group or buy any products offered by the APS Benefits Group. Financial services provided by the APS Benefits Group are provided under its AFSL No. 244115. Financial planning services are provided by APS Financial Planning Pty Ltd, APS Financial Planning Pty Ltd and its advisers are authorised representatives of Future Private Wealth Pty Ltd - Financial Planning Services Australia. ABN 54 120 889 532. APS, APS Benevolent Fund, APS Savings Discounter. This is not a bank product. It is an unlisted APF. No independent assessment has been made about the risk to investors losing any of their principal investment. Applications for APS Notes can only be made on the Investment Application Form which accompanies the prospectus issued by APS Savings Ltd. Please read the prospectus carefully before deciding whether to make an investment. APS Wills & Estates. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

APS Benevolent Fund

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

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

The APS Benevolent Fund is a registered charity and a deductible gift recipient. Any donations (above \$2) are tax deductible.

The Fund is administered by the staff of the APS Benefits Group. All costs of maintaining the Fund are borne by the Group, so that people making donations are assured that every dollar is used to fund benevolent projects.

You can donate online, or download a donation form from at www.apsbenefitsgroup.com.au or donate electronically using the following bank account details:

BSB: 063 158 Account No: 1046 3206 Acc Name: APS Benevolent Fund Reference: Your Name

We will send you a tax deductible receipt at the appropriate time.

Leave a Gift in your Will

Would you like to leave a lasting legacy to the community? This may include leaving a gift to the APS Benevolent Fund in your will. We would be happy to talk with you about your intentions and provide suggested wording for your solicitor. **If you do not have a solicitor, then Philip Lambourne of APS Wills & Estates would be happy to advise and assist you.**



• We are Personal •

• We are Financial •

• Helping Families •

Find out More

If you would like more information about the APS Benevolent Fund or Leaving a Gift in your Will, please call 1300 131 898 or (03) 9322 2000.



Jack Thurgar. *Justine Walpole.*

Thurgar for a bravery award, the then AFP commissioner Sir Colin Woods wrote that "Chief Inspector Thurgar, with his combat experience, would have been well aware throughout this rescue operation that his chances of being killed were extremely high".

In 2015, the National President of the Commando Association, retired Major General Mike Clifford, requested a review of Thurgar's case by the office of Honours and Awards. That review was supposed to include a thorough examination of all AFP and UN files. However, after the office simply reaffirmed the original Star of Courage, Thurgar submitted a Freedom of Information request for all associated documents. To his dismay the documents revealed that Government House had not even requested the files or any other information from the AFP. He then turned to the Commonwealth Ombudsman, who recommended that he request another review by Government House. That has been granted, and is due to be finalised in November this year, just after the 40th anniversary of the incident.

Government House did not reply to The Weekend Australian Magazine's calls, but according to Thurgar a senior official assured him that it would take account of all the relevant files, including his submission to the Ombudsman and all the AFP files. Numerous military awards have been successfully reviewed by the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal, but there is no equivalent civilian appeal body and no non-military award review has ever been successful.

One man who knows mine warfare

better than most is former federal Labor MP Graham Edwards, who lost both legs to a landmine in Vietnam in May 1970, two months before Thurgar was wounded in action. "I was lying in an unmarked minefield with my life ebbing away when my survival depended on the courage of the two blokes who came in and dragged me out," Edwards says. "Without them I would have died."

He says the crucial difference between himself and the Greek Cypriot farmer was that he (Edwards) was a trained soldier. "That bloke would have been scared stiff and when Jack arrived it would have been like a miracle." He believes Thurgar qualified for the highest award and that the review must deliver justice for him and for all peacekeepers. "Jack is not a glory seeker but his case demands justice and those conducting the review must understand his courage and how it was downplayed in the original citation."

After studying all the evidence for a submission to the review, a former Australian Army engineer and mine expert, retired Major John Cazez, says that, having already suffered a mine injury in Vietnam, lesser men would have been unlikely to enter the unmarked minefield. "The [antitank mine] explosion that caused the farmer's injuries made it even more hazardous because it would have been impossible to see other nearby mines," his submission says.

A new exhibition at the Australian War Memorial called "The Courage for Peace" opens next month. It will honour the work of Australian peacekeepers and dispel some of the

myths surrounding their service. It will include Thurgar's medals, which he has donated to the AWM.

Since 1947, some 80,000 Australians have donned the blue UN beret and placed themselves in mortal danger during peace-building operations from the Sinai to Cyprus, Rwanda, Cambodia, Somalia, East Timor, Bougainville and elsewhere. They suffer from higher rates of post-traumatic stress than well-protected military personnel deployed on operations. The UN still has peacekeepers in Cyprus, currently under the command of Australian Major General Cheryl Pearce, but the AFP contingent withdrew in 2017 after 53 years of service.

Paul Copeland is a retired Army Warrant Officer and former peacekeeper who has been an advocate for peacekeeping veterans since 2001. He has seen numerous instances where decision-makers for honours and awards were not provided with all the information or even both sides of the case. "Some senior military officers regard peacekeeping missions as overpaid United Nations 'Club Fed' holidays," he says. "That's incredible when you think of some of the missions and the fact that peacekeepers often work unarmed and isolated in dangerous places without fire support or command and control."

Thurgar, a federal policeman for 14 years following his army career, was a peacekeeper for two years, completing four six-month tours. Retired now, he lives in northern NSW and is heavily involved in veterans' matters. He says he is not pursuing justice for personal glory but for all peacekeepers and their families whose efforts have gone largely unrecognised. "My incident shows the level of danger that can be faced, but there are many, many more examples."

Seas and Thurgar were reunited in Cyprus in 2005. Having learnt English, Seas (who died in 2008) was able to explain to Thurgar that he had been an army engineer – and had laid mines elsewhere on the island during the 1974 invasion.

Ian McPhedran's new book Where Soldiers Lie (HarperCollins, \$39.99) is out September 24.

Reprinted with permission from the Weekend Australian 5th November.

The Australian Peacekeeper Narrative

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

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

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

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

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

the Peace is maintained and kept.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

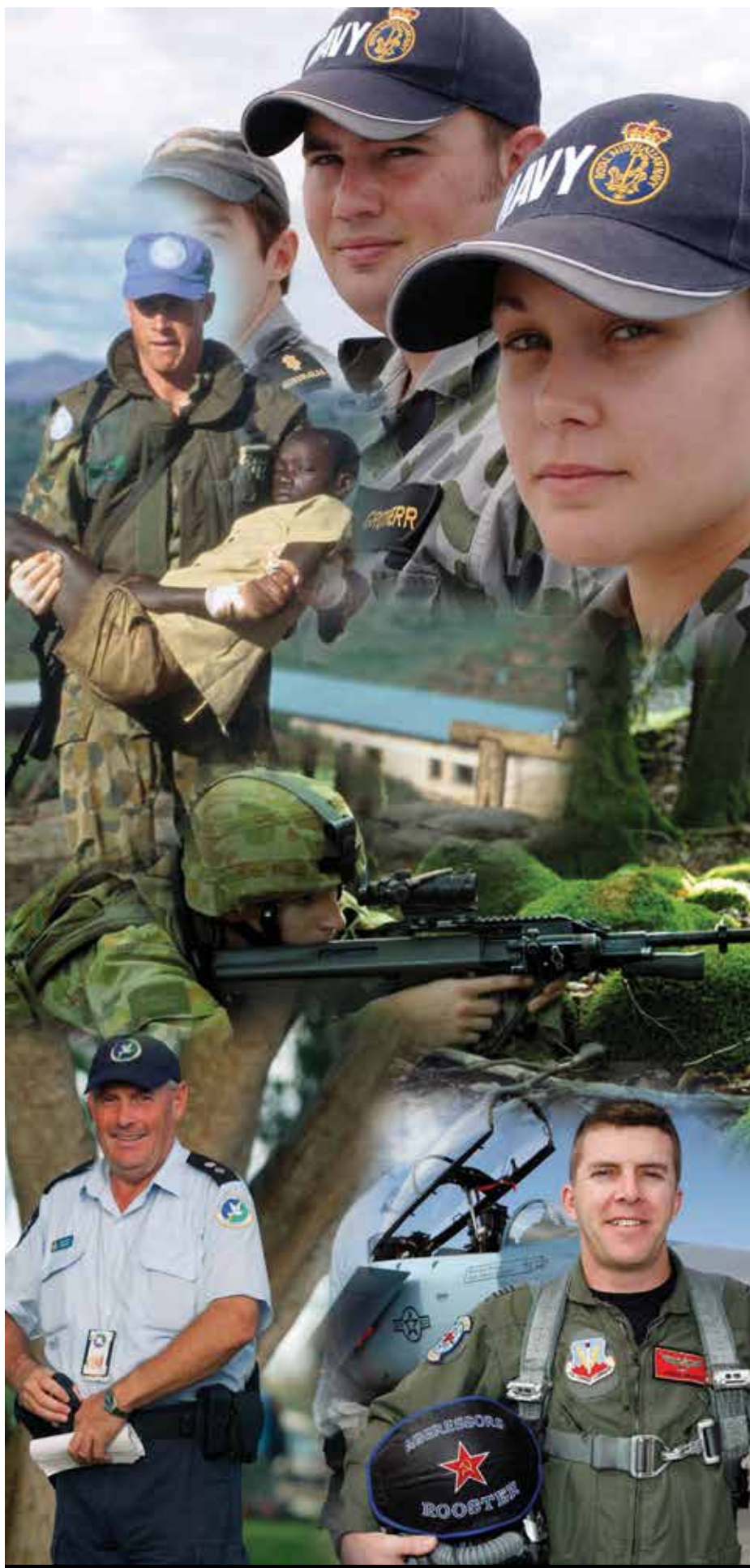
PKO differ from each other in terms the Security Mandate to a particular PKO. The majority of PKO since 1989 to the present day has seen Australians armed, but with restrictive Rules of Engagement. Such differing environments presents challenges that have been overcome by the flexibility of our Troops.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

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

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

By:

Paul Copeland OAM, JP,
National Covenor, Australian Peacekeeping Service Alliance
 With input from and thanks to Peacekeeper Veterans and George Gittoes, AM.



www.peacekeepers.asn.au



**Southern Cross
University**

Where could you go?

Find out more today
scu.edu.au or call 1800 626 481

**Take your next step towards
a new career with one of
Australia's leading young
universities.**

Whether you want to study online, on campus,
fulltime or part-time Southern Cross University can
support you to make the career change you want.

Our excellent teachers and outstanding student
support are just a couple of reasons we were awarded
five stars by the Good Universities Guide, 2020.



Managing the civilian transition with study and surfing

Maintaining an active lifestyle post-military is vital to both physical and mental health and Matthew 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.

Matthew 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 Matthew 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 organisation in Australia to 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 Matthew.

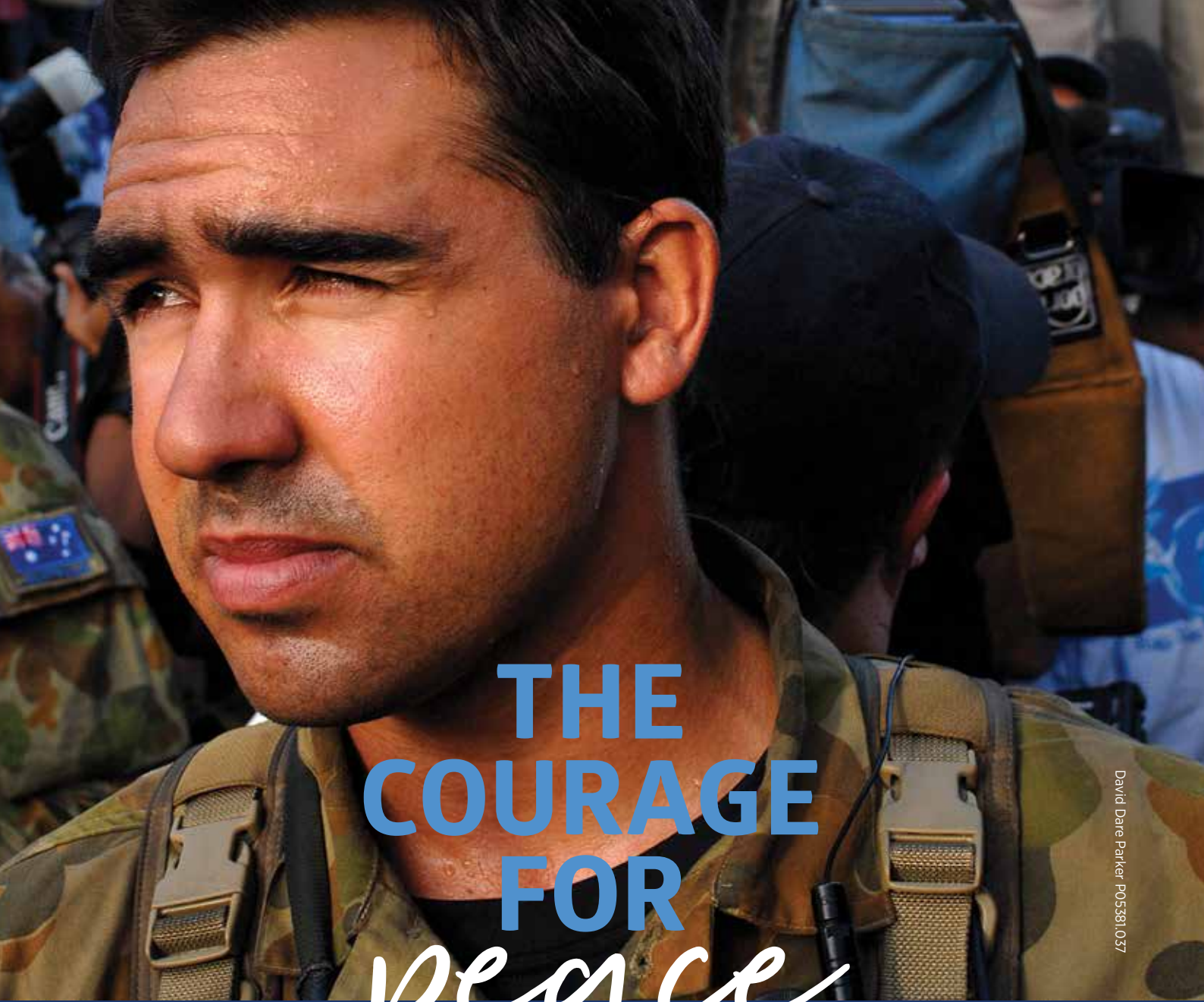
The support at Southern Cross from other students in his cohort and staff often kept him going. “Studying has given me a new sense of purpose and identity, but also the other students are respectful of my past and have been amazing help at times when study gets stressful,” he said.

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 Matthew.

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.

Photo courtesy of RSL Queensland.





David Dare Parker P05581037

THE COURAGE FOR *peace*

This special exhibition honours those Australians who work tirelessly to avert tragedy and build peace.

From Bougainville to East Timor; Rwanda to Solomon Islands – explore the stories behind peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, where Australian civilians, diplomats, police and military, have shown the courage to make peace.

awm.gov.au/courageforpeace



peace

Story of an Australian Peacekeeper at War in Somalia

A new exhibition, "The Courage for Peace," has been unveiled at the Australian War Memorial.

While the Australian War Memorial devotes a majority of its space to honouring the work of Australians serving in conflict, its Director, Dr Brendan Nelson, says the work of those aiming to prevent conflict overseas hasn't been given as much of that same recognition in the past.

"It's embarrassingly small and totally inadequate," Memorial Director Brendan Nelson said. "It doesn't do justice to what over 40,000 Australians have done on Peacekeeping."

This new exhibition, launched at the Memorial recently, is hoping to change that.

The Courage for Peace aims to tell the story of Australian Peacekeeping efforts around the world across the decades from Rwanda to Cambodia, East Timor to the Solomon Islands.

Dr Nelson said the idea for the exhibition came four years ago, following a suggestion by a visitor to the Memorial. "They said why don't we tell the story of what Australia does to stop war in the first place," Dr Nelson said. "As Australians, we are at our very best when we do everything we can to prevent conflict and make peace, and participation in war is evidence of failure of political leadership around the world."

Large parts of the exhibition have been sourced from Memorial's own collection, along with items loaned from the National Museum of Australia, the AFP museum and personal items from those who were involved in a Peacekeeping Operation.

David Vinen, a former member of the Australian Regular Army and now Barraba resident, along with his wife Jacki, were invited to attend the official unveiling of the exhibition, recognising the involvement of Australian Peacekeeping Forces since 1947.

David Vinen joined the Army in 1984 and was allocated as a Combat Engineer. In 1988, David transferred to the Australian Intelligence Corps

and became an Operator Intelligence. In 1990 David was posted to the Defence Intelligence Organisation in Canberra. In August of that year Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. The team David was in were specialists in the Middle East. When Kuwait was invaded, David and his team formed an analytical team where David although a Corporal, became one of the senior advisors for Defence, the Federal Government and other Government agencies. Quite regularly, he was called personally a number of times to brief the Chief of the Defence Force. Following the conclusion of Operation Desert Storm, David was awarded a Chief of the Defence Force Commendation. David spent 8 months in the analysis group when the surrender of the Iraqi Forces was accepted.

In 1992, David was posted for 5 months to the U.K. This was during a time of troubles with the IRA. This included random mortar attacks on Defence facilities and random bombings. David was trained by and worked with the U.K. Army in Anti-Terrorism operations across the U.K. By the time David arrived from the U.K., he had experience in two types of warfare. Something rarely seen in the early 1990's.

At the end of 1992, David was approached by the Intelligence Officer of the 1st Commando Regiment. David was asked if he would like to be posted to the Commandos into the Intelligence Sergeant slot. David immediately said yes and in January 1993, he was posted to the Commandos.

In early February 1993, David's boss asked if he would like a deployment to Somalia. Since returning from the U.K. David had been watching every news report as to what was unfolding in that country. David was told that due to his work during the Gulf War and in the U.K., he was chosen by the Chiefs of the Defence Force Committee, along with 4 others to form the advance party for what was to become a force expansion to keep the food supply routes open in order to provide nutrition during

a most severe drought. In addition, the main goal of the reinforced UN contingent had also turned its focus to shutting down the violent activities of Mohammad Farah Aideed; he was the main obstacle with returning Somalia to a more peaceful state.

David's involvement in Somalia is extensively reported in the Official History of Australian Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations, Volume IV, The Limits of Peacekeeping.

David was the founding person of the UN Intelligence Group, even though the UN had about 28,000 troops in the country. His group eventually expanded and became a mix of nationalities and differing ranks. David was central to some of the most pivotal moments that occurred, particularly in Mogadishu as he was trusted by the U.S. Forces deployed to Somalia due to the ANZUS agreement. David was one of two people entrusted with information that came from U.S. sources. The other person was Lawrence Stein, one of the other four who were selected along with David. Lawrence, a resident in Manila was also a Corporal.

In mid-April 1993, it was determined by David and Lawrence that the Aideed's Militia had removed heavy weapons from a number of UN designated storage sites. A number of Somali utes had heavy machine guns mounted on the tray. This was against the agreement set in early 1993 where, no Somali faction was allowed heavy weapons.

On 5 June, inspections were carried out on 6 weapon storage sites. David and 5 others were assigned to Radio Mogadishu. David's team found no weapons after a two hour search. When the inspection was completed, David and his team saw well over 200 Somali's forcing themselves against their Pakistani protection party of 35 soldiers at the gateway to the radio station. The Pakistanis suffered numerous deaths and casualties while protecting David's teams attempt to get vital information back to UN HQ.

On this day 24 Pakistani's were



Taken on 18 June 1993, in retaliation Aideed's Militia killing UN Troops on 5 June 1993. This air assault consisted of two Black Hawks and three Cobras against a recently discovered compound on the outskirts of Mogadishu. The compound was used for the transit of weapons and money into Mogadishu, along with militia. David was the Mission Commander for the assault.

killed by Aideed's militia. David and his team barely escaped with their lives.

Following the 5 June attack against UN Forces, a bounty was placed on Aideed's head. He returned the favour by placing \$50,000 USD bounties on those in the Intelligence Group, Lawrence's group and much more on the heads of the UN operation.

Hostilities continued to increase and eventually in August 1993, Task Force Ranger was deployed from the US to kill or capture Aideed and his lieutenants. Task Force Ranger failed in three of its missions. The first two targets were against UN staff.

On 3 Oct 1993, David was visited by a Captain from Task Force Ranger. The Captain wanted to know "is it safe to raid the Bakhara Markets?" David advised against going into the heart of Aideed's territory. This would be an absolute disaster. His information was ignored.

The result was Black Hawk Down. During 3 Oct to 4 Oct, the Somali's had killed five US soldiers and captured Michael Durant. The bodies of 2 US Soldiers were dragged through the streets which outraged the world as it had been broadcasted live across the

world. Following these events, Task Force Ranger was ordered to conduct no more raids.

The priority of the US and subsequently, the UN became the recovery of the five dead and hopefully Durant, alive. This was done by a select few people including David and Geoff Raftery (also from 1 Cdo Regt). The recovery of the dead was conducted over a period of several days.

Following the recovery of the five dead, David and John Boyle, a Captain from the US, who was David's immediate superior, were warned that they would recover Durant. On 14 Oct 1993, David and John were given orders to meet a small convoy that had Durant and a Nigerian Corporal who was captured over a month before Durant was.

Expecting only 2 Red Cross Ambulances, they were followed by 2 of Aideed's technicals. Each had a heavy machine gun and about 8 militia in and on each vehicle. They were intercepted by David and John when the 2 ambulances drove past them to the UN hospital. David and John then prepared to engage the technicals. They immediately withdrew.

Durant and the Nigerian were then taken to the hospital for examination. That was David's last task, as he and the other 4 who arrived in March with him were told they were leaving for home in a little over 2 weeks. They departed Somalia in Nov and were the longest serving Australians in Somalia. A deployment of 9 months.

David was never recognised or acknowledged for being in the team that recovered the bodies of the 5 dead and the recovery of Durant.

David left the Army in mid-1995 due to PTSD after being involved in 3 different conflicts covering 4 consecutive years. David Vinen has kindly given us the above information concerning his military service, and loaned us the official series book, "The Limits of Peacekeeping" which gives a detailed report on his service in Somalia and the Black Hawk Down helicopter rescue for us to read.

If you have a chance to view this history book, you will find it most interesting.

The Courage for Peace will be on display in the special exhibitions gallery of the Australian War Memorial until late 2020.

By David Vinen

Red Card For Defence

If the current long-term debate on reclassifying UNTSO service across Op PALADIN was a soccer game, Defence would have been long red-carded off the pitch for unfair play. And most likely not let back on for continual poor behaviour.

The 82 – 85 period in Lebanon was a war in the eyes of every other nation except Australia.

The Israeli Defence Force launched a three-pronged invasion of southern Lebanon in "Operation Peace for Galilee". Roughly 60,000 troops and more than 800 tanks, heavily supported by aircraft, attack helicopters, artillery, and missile boats, crossed the Israel–Lebanon border in three areas.

Simultaneously, Israeli armour, paratroopers, and naval commandos set sail in amphibious landing ships from Ashdod towards the Lebanese coast north of Sidon. Israel's objective was to push Palestine Liberation Organisation back 40km to the north.

At the bottom of this article is list of key events across this period including the evacuation of the Australian embassy after it sustained an artillery and rocket attack in February 1984. Oddly Defence believes this attack and evacuation still doesn't constitute a war.

Without doubt Defence has played the stone-wall game for 21 years. Firstly, years of inaction with nothing done. Secondly Defence commenced an investigation into UNTSO without any defined Terms of Reference nor addressing a provided National Archives brief including Embassy cables (not included in Defence's investigation) and statements of facts and contention outlining the case as it applies to veterans' legislation.

So why should Defence be red-carded off the pitch?

- For conducting an investigation without any Terms of Reference.
- Hiding the findings in a heavily (unnecessarily) redacted report.
- Deliberately hiding behind "operational security" when Secret AUSTEO cables and other documents have long been declassified.
- For stating warlike service is only

when tanks are rolling over barbed wire.

- For denigrating the service of other UNTSO peacekeepers in a meeting.
- Denial of procedural fairness overall and being overtly biased in meetings.
- Not applying the correct legislation and using hearsay.
- For writing to several UNTSO veterans to advise them while a previous Government reclassified their service, Defence reminded them it still didn't agree with the decision – a highly vindictive and unprofessional approach.
- For claiming the lives of 301 US and French peacekeepers are irrelevant in defining war-like conditions because they weren't attached to UNTSO.
- For believing rocket and artillery attacks on the Australian embassy and subsequent evacuation still isn't warlike.
- For leaving this issue deliberately unmanaged for over a decade.

It's evident the reclass of service has to be removed from Defence who have a vested interest in denying procedural fairness and conducted this inquiry in a biased manner.

How many members would this reclassification apply to? Hundreds? Thousands? Or perhaps at the most 24 – yes 24 peacekeepers. So why the resistance? Why?

The view of warlike service being (in the words of the Defence members) tanks rolling over barbed wire is an antiquated Hollywood view. Unbelievably, this view shouldn't be used in any credible investigation and the APPVA is unsure when that type of war existed – possibly Vietnam, possibly Normandy.

Who has been behind this investigation advising senior ADF officers and Minister Chester? A Defence civilian and a Reservist Lieutenant Colonel – none with operational service.

Disappointingly Minister Chester is supportive of these actions despite saying in February 2019, *"The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant will be enshrined into*

legislation, providing an opportunity for the nation to recognise the service and the sacrifice of all who have committed to defend the nation, and pledge their commitment to support veterans and their families."

"The bill also provides for acknowledgement of the demands and challenges that a veteran or their family may experience during and after military service. For these sacrifices, we acknowledge that additional support may be required and where support is required it will be provided in a way that is appropriate and sensitive to their individual circumstances and in a way that elevates their self-esteem."

"The bill also includes a statement requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to adopt a beneficial approach when interpreting legislation and applying a fair, just and consistent approach to veterans' claims so that the public may trust and have confidence in the determinations made."

There's been no *fair, just and consistent approach* to these veterans. And there is no confidence in the determinations made. Just a biased case based on poor deliberately hidden research resulting in equally poor advice to the current and previous Vice Chief and the Minister.

Minister Chester's Covenant are shown to be just empty words because the cost of accepting the reality of war in this case is negligible.

Defence's position is a wrong position enshrined in the time-renown bad Canberra attitude. Perhaps it's time for the Tribunal or even the Royal Commission to expose how Defence continues to treat veterans.

Meanwhile Defence deserves to remain red-carded to the bench. And the fight for UNTSO recognition is now beginning.

Rob Woods,
National President.

The Need for Monitoring and Evaluation in Advancing Protection of Civilians

Despite all the progress the United Nations has made on protection of civilians (POC) policy in the past twenty years, and the innovative protection practices UN peacekeepers have implemented in the field as a result, it is unclear if and to what extent those practices are effective at reducing violence against civilians. This is because peacekeeping missions do not have systems in place to monitor and evaluate their efforts. It is imperative that peacekeeping missions begin to fill this gap in order to advance POC. Monitoring and evaluation is essential for missions to learn what's working and what's not, and to use that analysis to correct course and maximize impact.

WHY IT MATTERS

Several recent studies have found that peacekeeping missions reduce violence against civilians. But we know very little about which of a peacekeeping missions' many activities is helping to reduce violence against civilians. Peacekeepers carry out dozens of different activities with the goal of protecting civilians—ranging from conducting patrols, to facilitating local peace dialogues, to strengthening legal and security institutions. Yet, because there is no monitoring and evaluation of these activities, we do not know which of

them is effective at reducing violence and under what circumstances.

For example, it seems likely that the effectiveness of patrols at deterring armed groups depends on their motivations and capabilities, or the types of relationships peacekeepers have with the local community, or in which environments the peacekeepers operate, or at what time of day they patrol. We don't, however, track and analyze the effects of patrols on levels of violence. Knowing more about the conditions under which patrols are more likely to be effective would help peacekeepers use patrols strategically in the areas where they are most likely to be effective.

The lack of monitoring and evaluation is a problem for all of a peacekeeping mission's activities, but it's a particular gap for POC. This is due, in part, to protection being costly and logistically challenging, and to the fact that there is little analysis available to inform decision-makers on how best to allocate resources for protection. Missions currently track and report on their own activities (e.g., through the results-based budget process) and collect data on levels of violence and perceptions of security (e.g., through perception surveys and POC incident databases). However, they have no processes in place to

assess whether and how their field activities are linked to POC outcomes.

Particularly in the current environment of austerity, monitoring and evaluation is essential to making sure that scarce resources are allocated to the activities that will lead to the biggest reduction in violence against civilians. Systematic monitoring and evaluation is critical to providing mission leaders the information they need to make these decisions effectively.

OPPORTUNITIES

Two recent developments have created an opening for real progress on this issue. First, UN member states recently recognized the need to evaluate performance as an urgently needed aspect of peacekeeping reform. For example, last year, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2436, requesting and supporting steps toward greater tracking of and reporting on performance data in peacekeeping missions.

Second, the UN Department of Peace Operations recently introduced the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS) into peacekeeping missions in the field. CPAS is intended as a way to track a mission's progress toward mandate implementation at the strategic level. CPAS is not designed for monitoring and evaluation at the operational level, and therefore cannot tell missions which of their POC activities is working and why (for example, why a local peace dialogue seems to be working in one village but not another, or why an early warning system appears to be less effective over time). However, the implementation of CPAS has spurred peacekeeping missions to institute new processes for data collection, analysis, and sharing, and is encouraging a culture in which mission leaders' decision-making is informed by systematic tracking of indicators. As such, CPAS provides a useful entry point for monitoring and evaluation.



CHALLENGES

What stands in the way of peacekeeping missions implementing a monitoring and evaluation framework for POC? There are three main challenges.

The first is the risk of politicizing data. Peacekeeping missions operate in extremely complex and challenging environments which make it very hard to evaluate POC. The data available is often incomplete or inaccurate, and results can be interpreted in different ways. Missions may worry that member states will interpret the data to support their political agendas—for example, to justify reducing or closing a mission, or cutting a specific activity from the mandate. There is also the possibility that POC monitoring and evaluation may yield information about the POC performance of different troop- and police-contributing countries, which could also provoke political sensitivities.

The second is a lack of technical personnel. Monitoring and evaluating POC in volatile peacekeeping environments needs full-time personnel with the right technical expertise. Personnel are needed to train staff on data collection, ensure data are meeting quality standards, develop and adapt monitoring and evaluation methodologies, analyze the data, and brief decision-makers in the mission. Peacekeeping missions do not currently have staff with the time or skills to do this work.

The third is the absence of monitoring and evaluation culture. Since peacekeeping missions are not used to monitoring and evaluating their activities, introducing this system will likely cause friction and challenge the established organizational culture. Monitoring and evaluating POC would place a significant upfront burden on peacekeepers—particularly on military, police, and civilian personnel serving in field offices, who would be responsible for the bulk of the data collection and reporting. If the monitoring and evaluation system doesn't offer real utility for those field personnel, they will be reluctant to take on this burden. Monitoring and evaluation could also suffer from competition between different sections and components, which may clamor to claim credit for successful

initiatives. And most importantly, if senior leadership do not value the analysis and use it to inform their decision-making, personnel at all levels will not see it as a priority.

THE WAY FORWARD

These challenges are considerable, but they can be mitigated by designing the monitoring and evaluation system the right way.

DESIGNATED MISSION PERSONNEL

UN member states should fund full-time evaluation specialist posts in peacekeeping missions and include monitoring and evaluation of POC in peacekeeping mandates. The analysis these specialists produce will enable missions to implement their POC budgets more efficiently and effectively.

AUTOMATED DATA COLLECTION

To minimize the burden of data collection on field personnel, missions should enable automated (rather than manually inputted) data collection wherever possible. One valuable opportunity is through GPS tracking of peacekeeper patrols, which will allow missions to analyze the relationship between peacekeeper presence and violence against civilians more precisely without having to enter patrol data manually.

Focus on Outcomes at the Operational Level

Missions already collect a lot of data on their own activities (outputs), and some data on violence against civilians (impact), but very little on the direct effects of their actions (outcomes). The monitoring and evaluation system should try to fill this gap, linking specific POC activities in specific locations to outcomes in those locations. This will ensure that the data is not only useful to heads of missions but can also inform operational decision-making by heads of field offices, heads of sections, and sector commanders.

COHERENCE WITH OTHER REPORTING SYSTEMS

The monitoring and evaluation system should be linked to other reporting systems where appropriate,



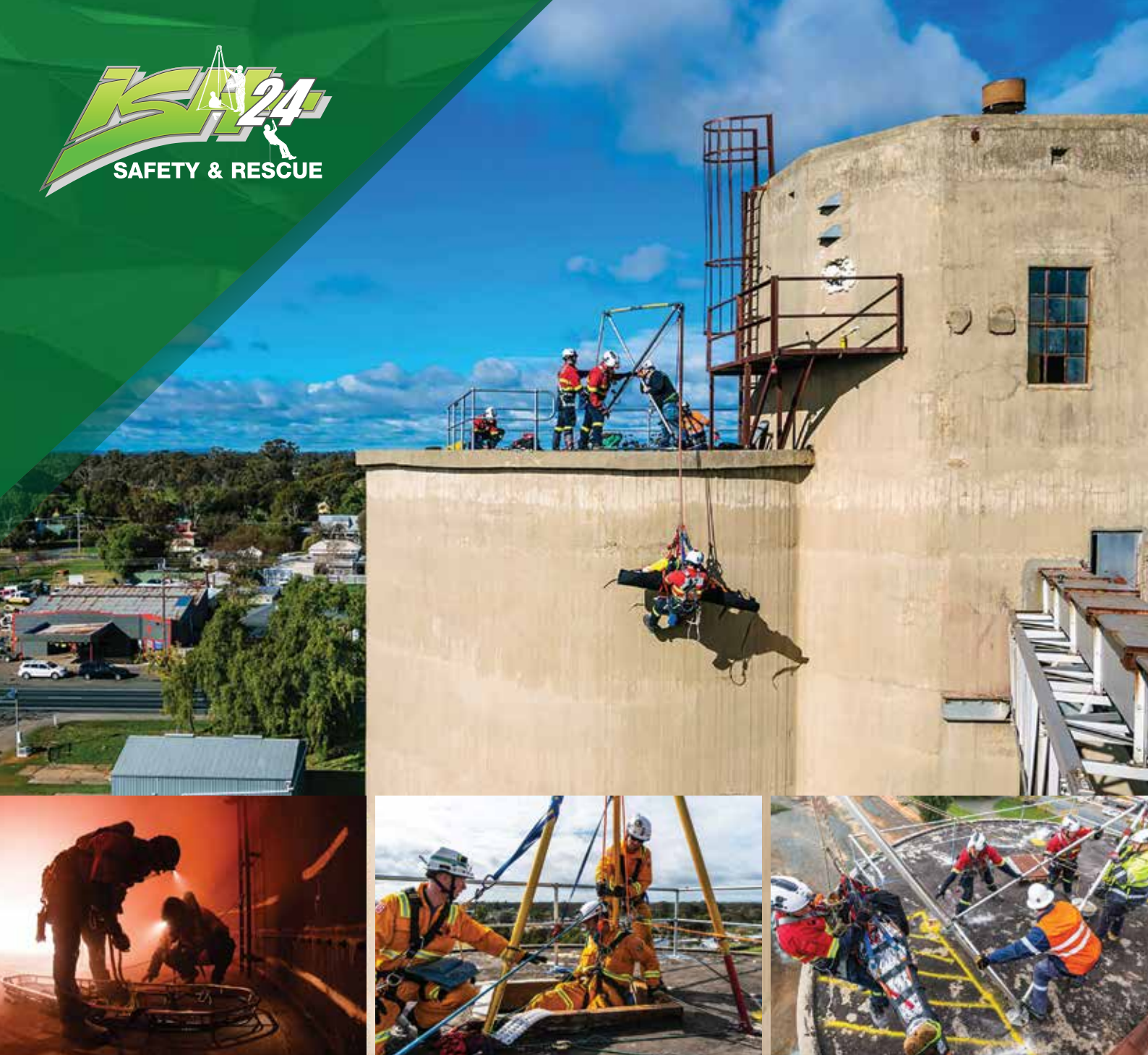
such as the results-based budget and CPAS. This will minimize duplication, enhance reporting quality, and, if done correctly, could even reduce some of the reporting burden on missions, for example by automatically populating the activities section of the results-based budget performance report.

Field Mission Ownership

UN member states should allow field mission leadership to “own” the data and analysis produced, and not require missions to make them public. This will incentivize accuracy and integrity in data collection and analysis and reduce the risk that the data will be politicized. It will also ensure that mission leaders are receiving POC analysis that is most useful for their own operational decision-making, reinforcing the system's sustainability. Some top line findings could be included in reports of the secretary-general to ensure that member states also benefit. Mission ownership is essential to foster a culture of learning and adaptation within peacekeeping, which will improve POC effectiveness.

By Aditi Gorur
reliefweb.int





ISH24 IS PROUD TO WELCOME STUDENTS TO ONE OF THE BEST CONFINED SPACE AND VERTICAL RESCUE TRAINING CENTRES IN AUSTRALIA

P: 1300 001 201

VIC OFFICE: 10 Trantara Court, East Bendigo, VIC 3550 **WA OFFICE:** 21 Joel Terrace, East Perth, WA 6004

 sales@ish24.com.au  [ish24rescue](https://www.instagram.com/ish24rescue)  [company/ish24rescue](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ish24rescue)  [ish24rescue](https://www.facebook.com/ish24rescue)

www.ish24.com.au

ISH24 Pty Ltd - RTO 41559

UNIQUE RESCUE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Students will have the unique opportunity to work in small, supportive teams (maximum 8 students per class) and foster their leadership and organisational skills through complex hands-on scenarios.

With 40 practical exercises based on real-life rescue situations, 14 confined spaces and vertical rescue structures between 10 and 23 meters, the ISH24 Rescue Training Centre is the most versatile venue in the country, purpose built to enable immersive rescue training.

SOUGHT AFTER INDUSTRY SKILLS

The 5-day course is geared towards individuals who are looking to progress in safety & rescue roles within the mining, industrial and State Emergency Services sectors.

The intensive rescue training week covers a variety of units including:

- PUASAR022 - Participate in a rescue operation
- PUASAR025 - Undertake confined space rescue
- PUAFIR210 - Prevent injury
- PUASAR032 - Undertake vertical rescue
- MSMWHS216 - Operate breathing apparatus
- PUAFIR207 - Operate breathing apparatus open circuit

Upon successful completion of the week-long course, students will obtain nationally accredited qualifications, recognised Australia-wide.

We are certain that the skills and knowledge that you will gain from attending this course will stick with you for life!

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are not required to have prior rescue knowledge. However, given the specialised nature of this training, applicants must have the following current competencies:

- RIIWHS202D Enter and work in confined spaces (obtained within the past 2 years)
- RIIWHS204D Work safely at heights (obtained within the past 2 years)
- HLTAID003 Provide first aid (obtained within the past 3 years)

If you do not hold the required pre-requisites, ISH24 can provide all the required training to ensure that all your workplace safety skills and competencies are up to date. Completing your training with ISH24 will ensure that you have the best possible knowledge base ahead of undertaking the intensive 5-day rescue training course.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

The ISH24 Rescue Training Centre is located at 2 Railway Place North in Goornong, Central Victoria.

For out of town or interstate students we can assist with organising suitable accommodation and transport to the training centre.

NOW BOOKING STUDENTS FOR 2020!

Public rescue training calendar for 2020 offers multiple date options. For a full list of course dates please visit our website at www.ish24.com.au/training/schedule

In celebration of International Women's Day on March 8th

ISH24 is inviting 8 women to join us for a week-long nationally accredited rescue training course Free of Charge.

Applications and nominations for the 2020 Women's

Rescue Training Week are now open.

Contact us to learn more.



Timor Leste 20-year Interfet Anniversary Tour

On 11 Sept 2019 I had the honour and privilege of returning to Timor Leste for the 20th year Anniversary Tour with a group of former InterFET members from 3 RAR.

Whilst I was not part of InterFET my role commenced in Nov 2000, when I was deployed as part of the 5th Australian United Nations Civil Police contingent to the then East Timor to provide security, training and build community support for a new country in the making.

I travelled from Darwin to Dili to commence a 12-day tour around Timor Leste which when I was deployed I was unable to do. On arrival we were treated like VIP's by the people and government of Timor Leste.

Our arrival was for me one of mixed emotion, wanting to know if we did achieve what we strived to set up some 20 years prior.

It was very easy to see that what the Australian Military and Police deployed to East Timor had in fact achieved our mission goals, this was very evident in the new buildings and infrastructure that has been established.

The streets had lighting, the roads were full of motorbikes and cars and the traffic lights were working again. Having been to Bali I can relate the style of living to that of Timor Leste, poverty was still very much present; the community were active, and people moved freely without fear around the country.



We travelled to Ocuisse, here we were treated like VIP's, local businesses like this one Café Del Mar, put up flags and really turned on the warmth of the Timor Leste people.

The buildings in Dili have all been cleaned up and unless you had witnessed the carnage and destruction you would be forgiven for not knowing what had occurred here some twenty years ago.

I got to return to the village I was deployed to in 2000 for some 6 or so months, (ok it was 185 days of deployment) in a town known as Gleno in the Ermera District located in the mountains to the west of Dili.

It was very moving as I finally located the house, I was unsure if the same family still lived there. As I walked to the front of the house a familiar face appeared from down the side, it was our previous landlord Senhora Marcelino



Members of the group former 3 RAR InterFET veterans display the books for the community to see.

and his wife Senhora Marcelina. It was very moving experience and we exchanged hugs and in broken tetun we communicated. They were very happy I had come back to see how they had progressed. Their home had significant renovations one, the shower and toilet that we got him to build had made way for extensions to the house at the rear of the property. Senhor Marcellino assured me that life has been good to him and his family.

The joy and the sense of gratitude displayed by the Timor Leste people was very overwhelming, they have the utmost respect for the Australians who came to their from 1999 onwards to help secure their future as a free country.

I returned to the Police station at which I was posted and saw the huge amount of change that had taken place. I was greeted by the Assistant Station Commander who had only been there for 3 days and was posted there on promotion.



Senhor Marcellino and Senhora Marcelina with their two grandchildren, oddly enough the children were about the same age as their mother when we were there!!

The gifts were left for me by a young lady that I had provided training and mentored in 2000 as a young trainee East Timor Police officer. I attempted to find her on my arrival, I did get to speak with her on the phone but unfortunately the day I was in Gleno Natércia Martins had



Here I receive a traditional TAIS (scarf) and locally grown coffee from the Assistant Commander.

flown to Vietnam for an International Police Conference. This young girl had remained in the Police and was now the District Commander of Police for Ermera District.

The joy I got from knowing that the majority of the trainee police that we were training during UNTAET had remained in the Timor Leste Police and had all achieved promotion was extremely rewarding to know that we did in fact do some good for these amazing people.

On 20th September 2019, Sir Peter Cosgrove spoke at the official commemoration of the 20 year anniversary of InterFET at the now Presidential Palace, Sir Peter Cosgrove praised the efforts of those deployed and recognised the resilience of the Timor Leste people during those difficult times.



In 1999, Major General Cosgrove was the InterFET Commander for all military deployed under the various United Nations missions, InterFET, UNMET and UNTAET. A friendly game of soccer was arranged with Major General Cosgrove captaining the InterFET team and the freedom fighter leader and later President Xanana Gusmao captained the Falantil team. The score was a triumphant victory to Falantil.

On 23rd September 2019, both leaders returned to captain another friendly game of soccer consisting of veterans from 1999. It was truly an amazing game to watch with both teams struggling with match fitness and the crowd that gathered was truly uplifting. The two 10-minute halves revealed a 1 all draw. Most of the players struggled to walk from the field with both age and climate taking their toll on both teams.



The official photograph of the two teams and officials on 23rd September 2019.



Scott Fuller, 3 RAR veteran participated in the InterFET team and provided some entertaining theatrics that earned him a yellow card from the ref!! The crowd literally went wild with laughter.

On the 20th September 2019, the Captain and crew of HMAS Choules that had travelled to Timor Leste to be a part of the celebrations hosted a cocktail party on board. Some 350 guests were invited for a couple of hours of celebration with drinks and finger food provided. They did a great job and provided the setting for our last formal engagement prior to leaving Timor Leste.

I know a lot of veterans don't like to think about 'going back' on this tour we had a couple of veterans who were obviously struggling with their emotions, with the help and support of fellow veterans all were extremely grateful for the opportunity to go back with the support of their mates.

For me it enabled me to address some things that needed closure, I did not know any of the group I travelled with before but found myself connected to these guys and them to me.

This tour provided me an opportunity to clearly demonstrate that no matter what uniform we wore, what operation we were deployed on, but at the end of it all we are all peacekeepers with exactly the same needs and wants.

**Yours respectfully,
Rob Woods
National President**

All images R Woods



Looking back over the deck where the marquee was set up and the ships crew provided music and refreshments. Many thanks to the Captain and his crew!!

Power up with Optima Spiralcell® Technology

R&J Batteries are the official distributors of Optima Batteries in Australia and New Zealand. Their distribution network of 20 company owned stores and over 7,000 resellers ensures they can provide Optima batteries to customers in every state and territory.

R&J Batteries is Australia's number one supplier of premium batteries, providing power for all applications. 100% Australian-owned and proudly independent, the battery experts at R&J Batteries pride themselves on providing world-leading products and quality service.

R&J Batteries supply world class products from Optima, ACDelco, BAE, Relion, Fullriver, Hardcore, Motobatt and Predator. They have built strong industry partnerships and are proudly the sole distributor of Delkor and U.S. Battery in Australia and New Zealand.

Their diverse brand portfolio allows R&J Batteries to supply a battery for almost any operation. Well known for their quality automotive batteries, they also supply motorcycle, caravan, motorhome, commercial & marine batteries. R&J Batteries also offer batteries for unique and specialised applications such as industrial, UPS & solar power systems.

Being Australian owned, R&J Batteries recognise the need for batteries that are suited to Australia's harsh operating conditions, especially within the commercial market. Their commercial battery range features advanced technology & high cycling ability, capable of withstanding extreme temperatures, varying terrain and big electrical loads. These have been tried and tested in many heavy-duty applications and conditions such as transport, mining, agriculture and earth moving.



R&J Batteries specialise in maintenance-free lead acid batteries, AGM & EFB technology plus various starting & deep-cycle batteries. With each brand having its own unique application-specific technology and features.

Optima® batteries are built to handle high cycling and high cranking pressure from the toughest of applications in industrial machinery, performance automotive or 4WD. Best known for their patented Spiralcell™ Battery Technology these batteries are completely maintenance-free, using internal pressure to recombine hydrogen and oxygen, retaining the hydrogen gas and making them inherently safer. Optima batteries use ultra-high purity lead to extend battery life, eliminating internal hot spots and corrosion caused by impurities or contaminants. Optima batteries come in 3 types, Redtop®, Bluetop® & Yellowtop® which cater for starting, marine and deep cycle applications respectively. Optima's proven range was a natural choice for R&J Batteries, who are proudly endorsed by Optima as a preferred nation-wide distributor of their cutting-edge automotive, marine and deep cycle batteries.

Fullriver batteries are another staple within R&J Batteries' portfolio; used in almost all applications in the automotive, motorsport and

manufacturing industries for both standby and cyclic use. Fullriver set themselves apart from other manufacturers by retaining complete control of every production phase from grid casting, to water filtration and acid mixing. They have established an enviable track record for reliability, lifespan and sustainability across their deep-cycle (DC), deep-cycle gel (DCG), high cranking / high cycling (HC) and standby AGM (HGL) series'.

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

R&J Batteries' comprehensive battery range is among the best in the world, specifically handpicked to suit Australia's difficult operating conditions and demanding applications. R&J Batteries are committed to providing their customers with the latest battery technology from across the globe, this will never change.

www.rjbatt.com.au



OPTIMA SPIRALCELL[®] TECHNOLOGY

PURE PERFORMANCE

99.99% pure lead plates make every battery more energy-dense than traditional alternatives.



SPIRALCELL
TECHNOLOGY

POWER PACKED

OPTIMA's signature Six-Pack™ design delivers greater starting power thanks to increased plate surface area.

LOSE THE LEAK

Glass Mat separators are what give OPTIMA batteries a dramatic improvement over traditional, flooded batteries.

ALL WOUND UP

Built to incredibly tight tolerances, the spiral winding gives OPTIMA batteries more efficient output, and greater vibration resistance.



Your official OPTIMA[®] Battery importer & distributor.

Wholesale and trade enquiries welcome / 1300 769 282 / rjbatt.com.au

Remembering INTERFET

BRINGING ORDER TO THE STREETS

Serving in East Timor was a family affair for the Chief of Staff, Reserve and Youth Division, Colonel Scott Palmer, whose father Glyn served there in 1975 on an Australian medical team.

Colonel Palmer, then a captain, deployed with INTERFET (International Force East Timor) in September 1999, posted to the headquarters of Army's 3rd Brigade as the plans officer. But, he reverted to operations officer for the duration of the deployment.

"We'd been on a heightened notice to move for some weeks post the referendum in late August," Colonel Palmer said.

"We knew something was going to execute, but didn't know when or exactly what force elements might be given the nod to deploy.

"From early September, as the security situation in East Timor started to deteriorate and international pressure was building for intervention, it was more a question of not whether we would deploy, but when we would.

"We left Darwin via C-130 late afternoon and arrived after nightfall into Komoro Airfield, Dili."

It was a hive of activity with troops arriving, the Indonesian military attempting to extract, some refugees still present and militia active within Dili and the surrounds.

"We carried in what we could - five days per person rations, as much water as we could manage, front-line ammo for pistol and Steyr, as well as all the equipment to establish the command post; computers, log books, key mapping, et cetera," he said.

"We basically ran the operations for the brigade's land forces establishing the initial footprint on the ground in Dili, securing the infrastructure and people and commenced working with the Indonesians and locals to provide security."

Colonel Palmer said Dili was in chaos when they arrived.

"I remember plenty of smoke



Sgt. photographer Bill Guthrie filming military information personnel spreading message of Interfet arrival in Suai.

plumes, but interestingly enough another characteristic of Dili at the time was many empty homes and businesses – people had fled to the hills to safer ground," he said.

"The busiest areas were the port and the airport – it was squalor, litter, human dung piles reminiscent of the dark ages and people attempting to flee the country unsure of what lay ahead of them."

He left East Timor in December, 1999, having spent his time split between Dili and Suai, on the south coast. He deployed there again for six months from October, 2001.

"I believe we left a collective legacy in Timor-Leste that is being built upon as the country finds her feet," he said

RECORDING HISTORY

An Air Force photographer preparing to deploy to East Timor in September, 1999, realised things were getting serious when he was issued with live ammunition the night before leaving.

Senior imagery specialist at the 1st Joint Public Affairs Unit (1JPAU), Sergeant William Guthrie, said it was a wake-up call.

"Up until then, I'd only ever been issued with blanks," he said.

Sergeant Guthrie, although a photographer, also worked as a darkroom technician with the Electronic Media Unit, and said his vehicle was the last one loaded into HMAS Tobruk before it sailed for Timor-Leste as part of the INTERFET (International Force East Timor) mission.

"I was one of the few members of the unit with a heavy-rigid truck licence, so I drove the Hino heavy general service truck carrying all the 1st Media Support Unit's (1MSU) supplies and equipment, while towing a 30-foot purpose-built caravan," he said.

"During the voyage over, I had time to join my brother, Leading Seaman Peter Guthrie, who was part of the ship's company – he's still serving in the Navy.

"When it became known two brothers were serving in the same warship, it caused some debate; But once I explained I was an Air Force member and only on my brother's ship temporarily, a blind eye was turned."

Sergeant Guthrie had the "dubious honour" of being the first off the ship when it arrived in Dili.

"What a sight to behold that was – the devastation was something I'd never seen the like of before and the acrid smoke and dust filled your nostrils and stung your eyes," he said.

"The devastation was prolific in the extreme and it seemed, in the first month or so, that the destruction was systematic and comprehensive of anything of inherent value to the East Timorese, from infrastructure to personal property.

"It was the closest thing I'd seen that resembled a war zone up until that stage."

His destination was the Hotel Turismo, a short distance from Tobruk.

"1MSU took over the damaged hotel's grounds with a force protection element supplied by the 4th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), and we had 84 international press representatives under our umbrella," he said.

"The military team members and I set about erecting the caravan's massive surrounding tented annexe and set up the facilities to start processing the rapidly growing product coming in for dissemination.

"One of my primary jobs was to make a darkroom so I could wet process the numerous rolls of film coming in from the military photographers, so I converted the hotel's main dining room kitchen into an improvised wet processing area."

Sergeant Guthrie said the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) role in East Timor was the catalyst that changed the ADF to the force it is today.

"Before 1999, the ADF was more of a sideshow in the world arena since the distant days of Vietnam," he said.

"We didn't do a great deal that the world knew about outside our borders, but Timor in 1999 changed all that and Australia can now hold its head high in the knowledge it contributes a recognisable force on the world stage.

"I'm proud to have been part of it."

I STILL RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR IMAGERY

One Navy photographer still receives requests for the imagery he captured on the deployment.

The Officer in Charge of Navy Imagery Unit-West, Chief Petty Officer Damian Pawlenko, said another of his photos was displayed in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

"I deployed at short notice with public affairs officer Lieutenant Emma



Chief Petty Officer Damian Pawlenko during the INTERFET deployment.

Williams from Darwin to Dili as a two-member team on the catamaran HMAS Jervis Bay," Chief Petty Officer Pawlenko said.

"We worked mainly from HMA Ships Success, Jervis Bay and Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Protecteur, and also from the Hotel Turismo in Dili.

"The streets were in disarray at the time, with lots of rubbish and debris on the side, including faeces, and there wasn't any order to the place.

"There was also burning fires and smoke everywhere along the streets, with a real third-world country smell in the air."

Chief Petty Officer Pawlenko said high temperatures and humidity in Timor-Leste were a challenge for processing his film.

"I had a Jobo portable colour film processor that I used both on Success and in the Hotel Turismo," he said.

"I couldn't keep the temperature of the processing chemicals down and had to process the film at a higher temperature.

"Most of the time the film ended up okay, but on some occasions they were slightly magenta in colour, caused by high temperatures.

"I had to dry the wet film in a portable film dryer with soft collapsible sides that was hung up, which allowed the film to hang all the way down and dry, and I also had a portable 35 millimeter film scanner."

Chief Petty Officer Pawlenko said taskings were decided on a day-to-

day basis and nothing was really forecasted.

"We kept our ear to the ground and heard from various people what was happening in the coming days," he said.

"While in East Timor, I worked mainly with the clearance diving teams and hydrographic teams from HMA Ships Brunei and Balikpapan in various locations around the country."

According to the imagery specialist, it was a challenge to be a photographer in and around Dili at that time.

"But I met some great people along the way and had great experiences, and it's a period in my life I will never forget," he said.

"I thought the work was invaluable and extremely important at the time, to capture the Australian Defence Force's involvement in the operation for immediate use and for historical purposes.

"Looking back, I think it was an important time for the ADF to be involved in stabilising a neighbouring country and I feel proud to have played a role in East Timor."



TRANSITION:

a journey, not a destination.

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

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

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

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



The Defence Bank Foundation is an independent charity to support wounded, injured and ill current and ex-serving ADF members and their families. To make a donation, go to defencebankfoundation.com.au or visit a branch. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

We're winning where it counts.



Defence Bank is proud to be a winner of the Mozo Experts Choice Awards 2019 in the category of Excellent Banking App.

Another way we are striving to reduce member effort across our range of products and services.



Defence
Bank

Defence Bank Limited ABN 57 087 651 385 AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 234582.

Defence Bank recommends you read the Defence Bank Products and Services - Conditions of Use for any product you choose to take.

defencebank.com.au
1800 033 139



**Defence
Bank**

defencebank.com.au
1800 033 139

Salute.

Introducing the Defence Bank Salute account.

Our Salute account rewards those who have reached 15 or 25 years of service, are on deployment or leaving the ADF, with bonus interest for 12 months.*

Up to **2.75%** p.a.
Variable rate.

It's simply our way of saying 'thank you'.
Talk to us today to find out more.

*Terms and conditions and interest rates are available at defencebank.com.au. Fees and charges may apply. Interest rate is current as at 10 July 2019 and is subject to change without notice. No minimum deposit. Bonus interest for balances up to \$100,000. To receive the Salute account, the member must deposit \$1500 (minimum) into a Defence Bank Everyday Access account each month of the 12 month period. After the 12 month period the interest rate will revert to the Salute account base interest rate. Before acquiring any product please consider whether it is right for you. Defence Bank Limited ABN 57 087 651 385 AFSL / Australian Credit Licence 234582.

Service with the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East -Part 1.

Story by Major Ross Eastgate, OAM (Retired)

In May 1977 I was posted to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation in Palestine (UNTSO) for a 12-months tour.

Although that official title would later prove problematical, that was its official UN designation.

The first Australian United Nations Military Observers, termed 'UNMO', were posted to UNTSO in 1955.

In 1977 my wife and 18-month-old son accompanied me, as was then allowed.

We arrived on 17 May and I was immediately reassigned to the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights.

We were based on the Syrian side of what was termed the Area of Separation (AOS), living in Damascus.

WARNING: UN terminology is an acronym rich environment.

Other UNTSO Military Observers operated from Tiberias, in Israel and in Cairo.

Although there had been a serious M16 "jumping jack" mine incident which killed the Austrian battalion 2IC in the days before our arrival, it was a relatively safe environment.

We worked alongside armed UNDOF troops from Austria, Poland, Canada and Iran, two-man teams of different nationalities manning observation posts (OP) on either side the AOS after the UN supervised armistice following the Arab-Israeli War of October 1973.

Israel described it as the Yom Kippur War, Arabs as the War of Ramadan.

We also conducted fortnightly weapons inspections and special patrols as directed.

Apart from the ever-present threat of landmines, as unarmed UNMOs we also occasionally faced hostile troops on both sides who seemed determined to thwart us performing our assigned role.

Daily we would listen on our common radios to our fellow UNMO across the border in Lebanon as they were hijacked, kidnapped and their



Observation Post 72 (OP72) situated on the 'B-Line' North Western Sector of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), Syria.

vehicles stolen in what was clearly a warlike situation.

At least one Australian UNMO, already a Vietnam veteran, returned so psychologically damaged from that experience, he succumbed far too early to the extreme effects of PTSD.

The most dangerous moment for me personally occurred when I drove past a car bomb placed opposite the Syrian Air Force HQ in Damascus seconds before it was detonated.

I escaped relatively unscathed, but it was close to where we lived and my wife had an anxious time until I eventually returned home.

Not exactly warlike, but certainly different from my previous posting in Lidcombe, Sydney, even then a suburb with strong Muslim and Syrian connections.

In November I reverted to UNTSO, living in Jerusalem from where I would work with the Observer Group Sinai (OGS), supporting the UN Emergency Force II (UNEF II), enforcing the buffer zone there between Egypt and Israel.

An armed RAAF helicopter flight was then posted to support UNEF II.

They are better placed to explain the difficulties and dangers under which they operated than me, though their duties often required them to fly through hostile air defence environments.

Although there were considerable challenges, the Sinai environment in late 1977, early 1978 could not have been described as "warlike".

Minefields however were an ever present hazard, particularly in the fine Sinai sand where the winds would cause mines to "swim" outside designated, marked minefields.

In March 1978 this all changed when Israel invaded Southern Lebanon after a terrorist attack, of which several Israelis were killed by Lebanese based terrorists.

After some days the UN Security Council authorised the raising of a new peacekeeping force, provisionally titled the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, UNIFIL.

Those UNMO on break in Jerusalem were recalled and allocated roles on the nascent HQ according to individual specialities.

I was appointed as the Signals Officer.

Infantry companies were detached from the Iranian Bn in UNDOF and the Swedish Bn in UNEF II.

France, Nepal, Denmark and Nigeria offered infantry battalions and the French logistics support.

Norway offered a hospital and helicopter support.

Canada provided a signals squadron.



WAS IT WARLIKE?

A US MP officer and I were tasked with drafting Rules of Engagement (ROE), since the deployment predated standing arrangements which now cover multiple eventualities.

They were quite robust, and the was some discussion whether they would be approved in New York. They were.

Still, individual International Contingents arrived with national ROE which conflicted with the UN approved ROE, which more than occasionally proved difficult.

As the Swedes crossed the Israeli-Lebanese border on day one, they came under intense fire.

They retreated to have their contracts rewritten to acknowledge the hostile environment.

On day two one of their vehicles hit a mine, killing the driver and seriously wounding the passenger.

An Australian UNMO, Captain

Robert Cooper demonstrated considerable personal bravery in that incident, though it went unrecognised then and remains so.

The Israeli Defence Force (IDF) senior medical officer personally conducted the helicopter casevac after stabilising the patient.

As I had been involved in a mine incident in the Sinai a few weeks before, I was tasked with briefing incoming contingents about the hazards.

The Danish Battalion CO, whose national ROE required him to gain clearance from Oslo before taking hostile action, became quite indignant when I asked what defence stores he had brought.

He insisted he was there to keep the peace, not engage in defensive or offensive operations.

When his Battalion was mortared two days later and everyone in Oslo seemed to be at lunch, he put in an

urgent requisition for defence stores.

The Nigerian Battalion lost seven soldiers while deploying south from Beirut.

The French Battalion, a famous ready reaction Parachute Marine Infantry Regiment, were in no doubt as to the dangers they were about to face.

They had two soldiers killed in the first week and their CO, ran the Battalion (Bn) as if it was warlike operations.

A decorated veteran of Algeria where he had lost an eye, he was later seriously wounded when he was ambushed while reacting to an incident involving his troops.

Later a three-star General and prolific author, he wrote that peacekeeping was in many ways more challenging and demanding than conventional operations.

French awards recognised service in UNIFIL as if it was war service.

On their withdrawal the French were replaced by a Fijian Infantry Battalion.

Then a member of the Commonwealth, some Fijian officers and soldiers were awarded Imperial decorations, including Military Crosses.

Obviously the UK honours organisation which approved such awards considered service in UNIFIL as warlike.

For a short period I was armed, with the approval of the force commander and the approval of the senior Australian UNMO, because the Canadian signallers wouldn't let me travel with them unless I was.

I remained uncomfortable with that arrangement because, even in the hostile environment of South Lebanon where virtually every male was armed, being an unarmed UNMO carried some authority.

Ultimately the compromise was to assign me an armed Canadian soldier bodyguard.

This is my very short story, but enough of my international compatriots have similar stories of warlike environments in which they served under the guise of peacekeeping.

By 1978 Israel had fought three wars – 1956, 1967, 1973 – during which Australian observers operated on both sides of those conflicts, in close proximity to combatants.



French Battalion Force Protection at Naquoura, Lebanon, 1978, UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL); during the visit of the UN Secretary General (UNSG) Kurt Waldheim (UNSG 1971-1981) to UNIFIL HQ.

Major George Mayes, a reservist from Mackay wrote of his experiences on the Golan Heights in 1973 in an article published in the Australian Defence Force journal.

Damascus-based UNMO stayed unrelieved for 17 days on OP while the battle raged around them, continuing to perform their role providing neutral reports to New York through Jerusalem on what was happening.

Two UNTSO UNMOs were killed in the same war as the Egyptians stormed their OP on the IDF Bar-Lev Line on the Suez Canal.

Australian UNMO serving with UNTSO have been present in every subsequent invasion of Lebanon.

In January 1988, Australian UNMO Peter McCarthy was killed when his vehicle struck a landmine.

He wasn't the first UNMO killed but he was the first Australian.

VETERANS ADVOCACY CENTRE ALSTONVILLE 2020 VAC MONTY CALANDER

Our latest fundraising initiative is our 2020 VAC MONTY CALANDER Only \$25 includes postage

Our staff, volunteers and veteran clients came together to bare it all for our calendar, we WARN you it may trigger laughter as it did during the photography.

If you have seen the movies CALANDER GIRLS and THE FULL MONTY then you need to purchase this.

Leading up to the making of the calendar we ask our Veteran's to bring along their service hats to cover their bits but some chose to wear their hats on their head instead. We have done our best to provide something tasteful and funny so a little Photoshop was required as those Navy boys can be naughty.

We thank all thee fellas that stepped up on the day and our lovely VAC ladies for stepping out of their comfort zone to fundraise once again.

At the VAC we take our work very seriously but laughter is the best medicine and that also we provide.

To order our calendar, Please email your name, address and phone number to

admin@veteransadvocacycentre.com

Bank Details to order

BSB: 637 000

Acc: 716 725 928 and include your name as reference

Calendars also available at the Veterans' Advocacy Centre

Suites 5-7 Main Street Alstonville NSW 2477

Thank you to all that purchase our 2020 VAC MONTY CALANDER

Paula Richards



Australian Peacekeeping Service Alliance (APSA)

'Veterans of Australian Peacekeeping Operations'

Mark Elm
Secretariat APSA

Throughout 2018 and 2019 discussions with key ex-service organisations relating to Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Australian Federal Police (AFP) peacekeeping veterans occurred. It was strongly felt that a combined and unified voice for the Australian Peacekeeper was urgently required, and that an alliance was required to tackle major concerns affecting our veterans. This lies in part due to the complex Commonwealth ministerial portfolios, legislation and governmental policies that overlap both ADF and AFP resulting in a lack of unity, parity, coverage and profile of the 'Australian Peacekeeper' and an inaccurate historical and contemporary viewpoint and narrative that has been miscommunicated by all levels of Australian Government since the advent of Australian Peacekeeping. Our success in navigating this complex political, legal, bureaucratic and social environment relates to our proven strength in advocacy to date, but with a unified position and the voice of the 'Australian Peacekeeper' at the heart of our decision making and advocacy.

On the 20th June, 2019 APSA was formed in our nations capital, and with its formation commenced a new beginning of collaboration with key stakeholders commenced with the aim of the collective voices of all ADF and AFP Peacekeeping Veterans are heard to ensure their wellbeing and interests become our nations priority.

Current member organisations of APSA are: Australian Commando Association (ACA), Australian Peacekeeping and Peacemaking Veterans Association (APPVA), Returned and Services League Peacekeepers Sub Branch (RSL), Soldiers of Peace International (SPIA) Oceania Region and the United Nations and Overseas Policing Association of Australia (UNOPAA).

Police Federation of Australia (PFA) and United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) are ex-officio members.

When matters arise that focus on specific issues, other like minded associations and groups may be invited to participate within sub committees to ensure appropriate independence and subject matter expertise is included and considered.

Mr Paul Copeland OAM was elected as the Convenor and Mr Mark Elm was elected as the Secretariat.

THE SCOPE OF APSA IS:

1. Alliance of like minded veteran peacekeeping & likeminded organisations
2. Advocating and representing the issues of Australia's Peacekeepers
3. Representation to Government of the collective voice of Australia's Peacekeepers
4. Recognise Commemorate the service, courage and sacrifice of Australia's Peacekeepers

The APSA National Executive is currently developing the top 5 Issues for Representation. To date the following top three issues for representation have been agreed to:

1). Recognition

- 1.a) Changes to antiquated policy and legislation through retrospective reclassification
- 1.b) Continual recognition of commemorative dates (eg 29 May IDUNP & 14 Sept APKD)
- 1.c) Medallic Recognition (e.g. AGSM -in a declared warlike service PKO & APKSM)

2). Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing

- 2.a) Equality in acceptance of liability for claims noting past precedence
- 3). Veterans Covenant

It is anticipated a further two issues for Representation will be developed

and refined by the APSA National Executive prior to December 2019.

Our collective commitment to the 'Australian Peacekeeper' is unrelenting and our success will be measured in our ability to never give up, and to never remain silent on issues that directly and indirectly affect the 'Australian Peacekeeper'. We look forward to your support as we support you.

About the Author:

Mark Elm is the inaugural Secretariat of APSA. He is an Australian Peacekeeping Veteran, having deployed in 2003 with the 11th Australian Police Contingent to East Timor under the UNMISSET Mandate as an AFP Station Sergeant. He is a retired NSWPF Senior Sergeant of Police having served for 27 years. He is the current National Police Liaison Officer and Project Officer for the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association. He is the current NSW Branch President of the United Nations and Overseas Policing Association of Australia; National Research Officer of the United Nations and Overseas Policing Association of Australia and Chair of the Recognition Standing Committee of the United Nations and Overseas Policing Association of Australia. He was also the founding President of the ACT Branch of the APPVA in 2006. He also performs other Not-For-Profit roles in a variety of spaces including wellbeing, Aboriginal, ceremonial & protocol and emergency and disaster management in Australia and abroad. He resides in Queensland.



NCH TORRENT

CUTTING EDGE OF THE PARTS WASHING INDUSTRY

Safer user experience, water-based solvent, high pressure cleaning. No harmful solvents or hazardous waste. Reduces costs and environmental impact.



CALL US
FOR MORE
INFORMATION
1800 753 143

www.nchtorrent.com

Australian Peacekeeping Day

David Smith MP

Member For Bean

**Address To Australian Peacekeeping Day
Commemoration**

Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Canberra

Saturday, 14 September 2019

Thank you to the Australian Peacekeeping and Peacemakers Veterans' Association for the invitation to attend and speak today. It's a pleasure to be here.

I would like to begin today by acknowledging the Canberra's First Nations people, the Ngunnawal people, on whose land we meet and pay my respect to their Elders both past and present.

I'd also like to acknowledge:

- Her Excellency, Mrs Martha Mavrommati, Cyprus High Commissioner to Australia
- Pat Conaghan MP, the Member for Cowper, representing the Hon Darren Chester MP, Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel
- Distinguished guests
- And all members of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Committee, and Australian Peacekeeping and Peacemakers Veterans' Association who are here today.

An important part of my working life was with the Australian Federal Police Association working with members before deployment, on deployment and after deployment.

I'm honoured to be representing the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Shayne Neumann, who sends his apologies and good wishes, and the Federal Opposition.

It's important to be able to honour the dedicated service of Australians on international peace operations on this National Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Day.

Through an event such as this we recognise the approximately 65,000 servicemen and woman who have been involved in over 50 peacekeeping operations worldwide since 1947.

Since Australia became involved in peacekeeping operations we have made an outstanding contribution, but tragically we have also seen 16 lives lost in service of our country.

Australian peacekeepers have served in some challenging and hostile environments, including operations in Kashmir, Cyprus, the Middle East, the Solomon Islands, East Timor, Cambodia, Rwanda and Bougainville.

I note this year is the 72nd anniversary of Australia's involvement in peacekeeping and also the 20th anniversary of INTERFET in East Timor, Australia's largest peacekeeping commitment and one of our most significant overseas deployments.

In recent times, peacekeeping has played an increasingly important role in Australia's defence force posture.

Indeed, we still have a number of service personnel deployed in peacekeeping operations around the world.



David Smith, MP, Australian Peacekeeper Day, Canberra.
APPVA.

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial here on Anzac Parade, where we are today, was inaugurated in 2017. As Mr Conaghan MP said it is appropriate that it is here on this parade of our history.

This is important chapter in our history because some former Australian peacekeepers feel they have been forgotten and their service has not been properly recognised.

As a grateful community, let there be no doubt – our peacekeepers have made an invaluable contribution to our national security over many years and our country salutes them.

It's vital that as a nation we honour all those who have died, been physically and psychologically wounded or suffered as a result of their service.

Significantly, this year we also reflect and commemorate the lives and suffering of those innocent civilians from all conflicts who have tragically been caught up in the turmoil inflicted upon their communities as a result of war, civil unrest, or social upheaval resulting in armed conflict.

Events like today's show that this service and sacrifice is now getting the recognition it deserves.

In closing, I want to acknowledge Brigadier Alison Creagh CSC (Retd) from the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Committee, as well as Mr Rob Woods JP, President and Mr Paul Copeland OAM JP, founding member of Australian Peacekeeping and Peacemakers Veterans' Association.

Thank you for your tireless efforts in raising awareness of the significant role of peacekeepers in Australia's military history and our Anzac tradition.

I also want to thank the APPVA for inviting me today and for organising this year's commemoration, and all members of the committee who volunteer their time.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that we are able to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of those brave Australians who have served on peacekeeping or peacemaking missions around the world.

Thank you.

Task Group Taji



Australian and New Zealand Defence Force soldiers and officers of Task Group Taji - Ten stand at attention at Robertson Barracks, Darwin.

TOP END FAREWELLS TASK GROUP TAJI

More than 100 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel deploying to Iraq were farewelled in Darwin on November 4.

The 10th rotation of Task Group Taji will be a landmark rotation, with the Iraqi School of Infantry leading the majority of training for the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Australian and New Zealand contingent, providing a mentoring function to the school.

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said since 2014, Task Group Taji had provided a major contribution to the training of the Iraqi Security Forces.

“The ADF has made significant progress in enhancing the capabilities of the ISF to defeat Daesh,” Senator Reynolds said.

“The ADF’s local partner, the Iraqi School of Infantry Non-Commissioned Officer II, is ready to deliver most of its training without the assistance of coalition partners.

“This progress means Australia is in a position to reduce our contribution from about 250 to 120 ADF personnel.

“Together with New Zealand, Australia has trained more than 45,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces, who have played an important role in combatting Daesh in Iraq.”

“As Minister for Defence, I am so proud of their efforts and on behalf of all Australians I thank them and the other 2500 servicemen and women who have served at Taji.

“Together with New Zealand, Australia has trained more than 45,000 members of the ISF who have played an important role in combatting Daesh in Iraq, and I was proud to see their work firsthand on my recent visit to Taji.”

Australia is committed to the US-led Global Coalition to combat Daesh and will continue to cooperate closely with international partners to ensure Daesh does not reconstitute.

Task Group Taji is a combined Australia-New Zealand military training force deployed under Operation Okra to build the capacity of the ISF.

Other elements of Operation Okra, including Australia’s support to the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service and the contribution of Australian air assets, will continue their operational activities for the duration of their deployment.



MORE THAN WEAPONS FOR TASK GROUP TAJI

The Australian and New Zealand contingent in Iraq – Task Group Taji – 9 – has extended its mission with the Iraqi Security Forces beyond the weapons range as the public affairs and advise, assist and enable (AE2) teams combined to deliver a different kind of training.

Iraqi Army media cell personnel travelled from across northern Baghdad to take part in a series of public affairs training courses at the Taji Military Complex with Australian Army specialists.

Second-in-command of the team, Captain Tim Glossop, said the training provided a unique learning opportunity for personnel from an important and growing section of the Iraqi Security Forces.

“The A2E team engages regularly with our Iraqi counterparts on a wide range of operational matters and they were keen to take part in the public affairs training,” Captain Glossop said.

“These courses have been a great success and it’s an area in which I’m confident we’ll leave a lasting impression long after we have returned to Australia.”

The training included imagery capture, post-production techniques, public affairs mission planning and media engagement.

Iraqi camera operators participated in theory lessons and practical exercises.

Army photographer Corporal Nunu Campos said the Iraqis had an excellent baseline knowledge and that the course allowed for a focus on finer details.

“Their enthusiasm to learn was infectious and to have the chance to be able to run these courses was a highlight of my deployment,” Corporal Campos said.

Independence in their sights



The Iraqi Army School of Infantry Non-Commissioned Officer II (SINCO II) took an important step towards full independent operating capability, after Australian instructors successfully led a heavy weapons training course.

Australian Defence Force instructors from Task Group Taji 9's dedicated specialist and heavy weapons training team – Training Team Sierra – mentored their Iraqi colleagues through the two-week activity at the Besmayah Range Complex, south of Baghdad, in early October.

SINCO II instructor, Warrant Officer Falah Hasan Hussain, said the live-fire practices on the .50-calibre heavy machine gun and Mk 19 Automatic Grenade Launcher taught his team a great deal.

“This training with the Australian Army was so important because it gave us a lot of information,” he said.

“Now we have our old ways and the new ways. When we mix this all together it is going to be something up-to-date and practical, especially relevant for this new generation of the Iraqi Army.”

Task Group Taji 9 mentor and trainer, Corporal Rhys Verrall, observed from the gun line during the training serials and said it was clear the Iraqi instructors have come far.

“The Iraqi soldiers are keen to learn, and their instructors are very knowledgeable. There is the odd occasion where we need to step in and provide a bit of assistance but they're well on their way to being fully operationally independent,” Corporal Verrall said.



“The Iraqi instructors have really stepped up in their roles and have been a lot more hands-on with the training, as well as the conduct of the live fire practices to the point where we have stepped back into a mentoring role.”

The Besmayah training also included dry training serials with 120 millimetre mortars, during which Iraqi personnel from the 21st Composite Brigade were put through their paces to coordinate and execute simulated fire missions.

SINCO II aims to announce full operating capability later this year.

Brothers reunite in Iraq

For most Australians, Iraq is probably the last place they'd expect reunite with a close family member.

But, that's exactly what happened for two brothers serving in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), when they recently met at the Taji Military Complex, 20 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Army Sergeant Scott Cowan and Royal Australian Air Force Squadron Leader Ben Cowan, from North Lakes, Queensland, last saw each other on Christmas Eve 2018 and subsequently deployed to Iraq on separate operations.

“I was excited to hear Ben was in the Middle East but didn't know where he was. Obviously I was keen to locate him and catch up if the opportunity arose,” Sergeant Cowan said.

Scott Cowan is deployed as trainer with Task Group Taji 9 as part of the international coalition's building partner capacity mission with the Iraqi Security Forces.

His brother Ben is a NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) embed at Forward Operating Base Union III in Baghdad (a short flight from Taji) as a training systems officer under the US-led Operation Steadfast.

“It's good to know we are undertaking different roles in separate locations to support the same mission,” Sergeant Cowan said.

Squadron Leader Cowan is on his second operational deployment, while Sergeant Cowan – who also served with Task Group Taji 2 – has deployed six times.

“I deploy less frequently than Scott and to be in Iraq at the same time has certainly made this deployment even more memorable,” Squadron Leader Cowan

“I know mum is a little stressed having both her sons in Iraq at the same time, but appreciates the importance of our work.

“It is easy to focus on the technical side of operations and the hectic



nature of what we do; but I find the human element of this experience to be the most rewarding.”

Sergeant Cowan said their grandmother would be feeling most sentimental about the dual deployment and for good reason.

“Our grandmother's father deployed to New Guinea with the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment in World War II, so she understands first-hand the important of service to Australia,” he said.

The future of power for defence

Optimal Group Australia to revolutionise power generation for the Defence Force

The demands for stealth, reliable and remote energy systems in the Defence Force are high. With options limited, and an ever evolving landscape, Optimal Group Australia have developed a world class, unprecedented solution.

As the New Zealand and South Pacific Partner for Capstone Microturbines, their award-winning generators produce electricity that is cleaner and cheaper than the grid.

Field Deployable

“Last year, in partnership with XKG, we were awarded a Defence Innovation Hub contract to undertake a Phase 2 Technology Demonstration of a field deployable DC microgrid power system for the Australian Defence Force (ADF)” explains Optimal Group’s CEO, Craig Dugan.

With Optimal Group’s skilled experience in developing large (>1MW) and small (<10kw) hybrid microgrids for the Oil & Gas and Electrical Utility sectors, they were ideally placed to meet the demanding and specialist requirements of the military.

“With the Defence Force’s ongoing commitment to operational tasks around the globe, there was a need for a reliable, remote energy solution. We immediately recognized that Capstone’s single rotating component power generation technology was ideally suited to this application.”

The key objectives for this system dictated that the provision of energy needed to be modular, scalable, source agnostic and resilient. Intelligent, plug and play, reliable, stealthy and fuel efficient were other mandated parameters.

Working with XKG, together the two companies developed a hybrid system based on DC architecture and

C65 microturbine power generation technology which was combined with waste heat recovery, renewable solar energy and a battery storage system to meet all of the objectives.

Achieving all of the ADF’s objectives

As part of the Phase 2 contract the CONOPS (Concept of Operations), the TMP (technology maturation plan) and simulator were developed. These successfully demonstrated that all of the ADF’s system objectives were achieved.

The system has plug and play architecture with a sophisticated intelligent energy management system (EMS) at its heart. The EMS provides connection management, load prioritisation, load balance, energy storage management, source dispatch, stealth mode and data management. For the ADF, this allows for rapid deployment and ease of operation, whilst maintaining efficient fuel usage to fully meet the deployment electrical and thermal power needs.

Its modular design means that the system can be scaled depending on requirements – from small field deployments, right up to large-scale bases. It is fully scalable from small (2kVA power – 48kWh daily energy) through to large microgrids (minimum 100kVA – 4,800kWh).

Stealth & secure

By using the Capstone Microturbine and battery storage hybrid, the energy system provides the Defence Force with the ability to run in stealth mode (no acoustic or thermal signatures) while continuing to supply full power.

The source agnostic objective, to ensure the inter-operability with existing ADF power assets, allows existing AC deployable generation assets to be seamlessly integrated into the microgrid.

To ensure resilience, the system components are dispersed through a base on a ring main system with redundant comms links – meaning that any one element can be removed without affecting the broader system’s operation. This damage

and failure tolerance is inherent in a DC architecture. The redundancy or ‘back-ups’ built into the system provide the Defence Force with resilience and power security that far exceeds their existing systems.

The result is a rapidly deployable DC microgrid system that is reliable, scalable and efficient, with a low total cost of ownership.

The Optimal PowerPlus

Optimal Group has also leveraged the technology it developed as part of the Defence Innovation Hub to develop a non-military version of the microgrid. Launched at All Energy in Melbourne in October 2019, the Optimal PowerPlus is a containerized fully integrated modular stand-alone power system.

Comprising Capstone microturbines, supercapacitors, bi-directional inverters and solar PV, the system is designed to maximize the utilisation of renewable electricity from the solar array. The provision of rapid, clean, fast charging supercapacitors using Capstone Microturbines powered by either LPG, CNG, biogas or in an exciting recent development, hydrogen - is an unparalleled development.

“The first Optimal PowerPlus system will be deployed by Western Power at Water Corporation in Ravensthorpe. The provision of grid power to remote areas of Australia continues to be extremely expensive and increasingly under scrutiny from the perspective of bushfire risk; with over 100,000 grid connected customers in regional Australia we believe this represents a significant opportunity for us and our Optimal PowerPlus,” said Dugan.

For further information on Optimal Group, head to their website optimalgroup.com.au






How do you get reliable power in the middle of nowhere?

PowerPlus – a modular, hybrid, remote power plant. A microgrid in a box that's ready when you are.

The Optimal Power Plus is a fully functional, robust, off-grid power supply that delivers reliable and versatile power when you want it, wherever you want it. Using a combination of solar PV, a supercapacitor, batteries, and the industry-leading Capstone microturbine, the PowerPlus can deliver reliable, hybrid power in the most remote environments. With an ability to take an incredible number of fuels, the Optimal PowerPlus is your reliable, versatile, off-grid power solution.

-  Gas, solar hybrid energy system for remote power
-  Reduces emissions for remote power
-  Reduced costs for remote power

POWERPLUS

P. 1300 678 476

optimalgroup.com.au



OPTIMAL
optimised energy solutions



Getting the Best out of the Festive Season

At Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling, we know that the festive season often brings with it a whirlwind of social activities and opportunities to get out and connect with friends, family and work colleagues.

Unfortunately though, for people without good social networks, the festive season can leave them feeling more lonely and isolated than at other times of the year.

Because social connections are key to a person's emotional, mental and physical wellbeing it's important to find connections that are right for you. People with strong networks are more likely to feel supported, confident and cared for when faced with difficult situations.

If you're wanting to expand your social circle, Open Arms has recently updated its website to include more resources for veterans and their

families focused on living well—including tips on being social. For suggestions on establishing and building social networks, ideas for volunteering and links to programs you can join, visit the 'Living Well' pages at openarms.gov.au/living-well.

The website also offers links to mobile apps designed specifically for serving and ex-serving ADF personnel, including High Res—which helps veterans and their families manage daily stress and On Track with the Right Mix—which can help with the management of alcohol consumption.

Open Arms also offers free and confidential counselling, peer support, self-help resources, crisis accommodation support, relationship retreats, group treatment programs and suicide intervention workshops.

Importantly, if you want someone



to talk to, Open Arms has a telephone counselling service available for you 24/7, 365 days a year by calling 1800 011 046.

As Australia's leading provider of high quality mental health services to our military community we understand Australian veterans and their families.

1800 011 046
OpenArms.gov.au



EST. 1915
by AIF


AAFCANS
Army & Air Force Canteen Service



AAFCANS (Army & Air Force Canteen Service) as a Commonwealth Agency and a member of the Defence family continues to invest in facilities and technologies to improve our products and services on base and on exercise.

Our organisation exists solely to provide Defence members with access to quality food and beverages and retail items and to support base welfare. AAFCANS gives back to Defence through welfare disbursements, price cuts and facility improvements.

Last financial year AAFCANS disbursed \$534,985 to Defence welfare.

If you would like more information about our organisation please visit our website www.AAFCANS.gov.au and make contact - we'd love to hear from you!





SUPPORTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

At Open Arms your wellbeing is our business.
We offer free:

confidential counselling for individuals, couples and families
group programs
transition workshops
peer networks
suicide prevention training
information, education, self-help resources, and more...

To get support or find out more call or visit:

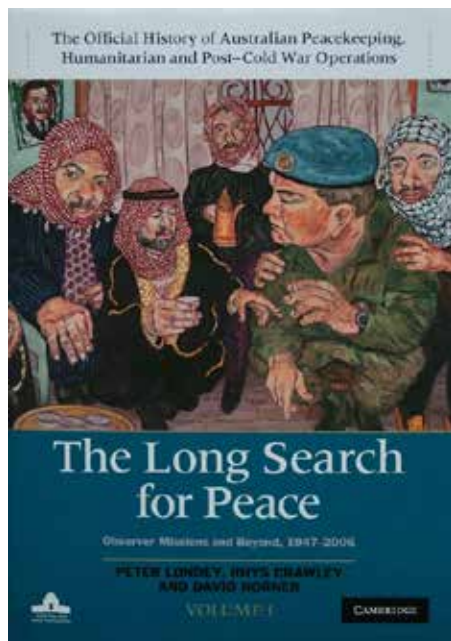
OPEN
Veterans & Families
Counselling
ARMS

1800 011 046
OpenArms.gov.au



Launch of Volume 1 of the Official History of Peacekeeping

**Speech By Dr Brendan Nelson AO,
Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 24th October 2019.**



Late on Tuesday afternoon, Anne came to me and said Lieutenant General Angus Campbell has just informed us through his office that he's now not able to come and launch this volume of Official Peacekeeping Histories, *The Long Search for Peace*, and I said, "Oh ok, I get that, he's a busy man, who are they sending?" And she said, "Oh, they can't find a rep." I said, "85,000 people in the Australian Defence Force and they can't find a rep." And Anne said, "Well, would you – me – consider doing it?" And I said, "Well, yes of course. I've got a bit on, and I don't know how much time I've got to actually read it between now and Thursday morning."

But I have actually gotten through a bit you'll be pleased to know, Peter. Not the whole volume. And then reflecting and you're saying, 'you wish the Chief of Defence was here', and we know of course why he's not here. He has tremendous pressure on his time. But I wish the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade were here to have heard what

you just said. Anne said that the first volume of the current official histories of East Timor has been written and been provided and I think some of the messages that you just conveyed, which I certainly am conveying on behalf of and in support of Professor Stockings and his team, certainly need to be heard by the Minister and Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

I arrived here on the 17th of December 2012, effectively arriving from Mars with no professional expertise nor understanding of museums and in particular that of the Australian War Memorial other than some experience with the military and veterans community and having grown in a family with a long history of military service, at least on my mother's side. And when I arrived, I arrived into a controversy. There were people who were pushing for peacekeepers, who are killed to be placed on the Bronze panels of the Roll of Honour. The military and veterans establishment at the time was firmly opposed to this concept. One very senior retired army person, a veteran, said to me privately and then publicly, 'Oh peacekeepers are killed in car crashes.' A very senior person then in the Australian Army said to me, 'Well, if I go to war, my wife knows that I may not come back. But if I'm peacekeeping, she knows I'll be back in six or 12 months,' and I corrected him in that view. I then met Sarah McCarthy, who was just a little girl when her father was killed. As you all know, it was documented here, Peter McCarthy was in our uniform, wearing a blue beret, a helmet, in Lebanon in 1988 he went over a landmine and was killed. And Sarah McCarthy asked me, 'Why can't I put a poppy next to my father's name?' Avril Clark is the mother of Jamie Clark, 3RAR, fully armed, looking for weapons

cache in the Solomon Islands in 2005. He goes down a mining shaft and is killed. His mother asked me, 'Why?' Pointing to the Vietnam Roll of Honour, she said, 'Why did my son's life and what he did for Australia worth any less than those.' In my meeting with the then Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, who prosecuting the argument for peacekeepers and their recognition as such, I said to him, and he of course through his father had studied leadership in Vietnam, very familiar with it, but I said to him, 'There are 520 names on the Vietnam Roll of Honour, there should be 521, but I'm going to fix that soon.' I said, 'You realise 106 died in the following circumstance; knife fights with South Vietnamese soldiers in bars, misadventure, suicide, alcoholic poisoning, six were murdered by other Australians – every one of them should be on the Roll of Honour.' That is the reflection of the Vietnam War. But don't tell me a man who was killed driving over a landmine as a peacekeeper, that in some way he should not similarly, or so be recognised along with his other peacekeepers and those that died in emergency relief operations and humanitarian disaster.

Ben Roberts Smith, Victoria Cross, Medal of Gallantry recipient, notwithstanding some of the pygmies in the media trying to tear him down, sitting in my office at the time we were contemplating this, and I said, 'Ben, what's your view of this peacekeepers going on the Roll of Honour.' He said, 'Well, you've got a bit of an idea what I do.' I said, 'Yes.' He said, 'I would rather do what I have done, and what I do, any day, than be an unarmed peacekeeper on the Golan Heights'

The Second World War had three major geo-strategic consequences for our country and what has happened since. The first is we knew we could



Dr Nelson at the Book Launch of the Final Volume of the Official History of Australian Peacekeeping Operations, Australian War Memorial, 24th of October 2019.

not rely on Britain any longer for our independence of our security. We went instead look across the pacific to the United States and formalised it in 1951 with our alliance, the bedrock of our own security and prosperity in our region. The second was that unconditional victory infused us with confidence and whilst not articulated as such, we knew that our future would lie to the immediate north in Asia and our region. But it was an emergent Asia of which we would be able to deal perhaps on equal and respected terms. And the third was, that it inaugurated that generational struggle against communism and democracy, which really shaped our outlook on the world for the best part of 40 years, and that Vietnam Roll of Honour, Malayan Emergency, Confrontation, Korea is a reflection of much of what is contained within these pages; a political and religious insurgencies to which Australia contributed in creating and maintaining peace.

When those four Australians and we were very early committers to the United Nations, as you all know, our commitment to multilateralism, which has waxed and waned at different periods through our various governments and some of the less impressive aspects of the United Nations, it has nonetheless remained steadfast. And in that first UN peacekeeping mission in September 1947, when we sent four Australians to the table, in those 72 years since there has been Australian peacekeepers, and observers deployed every single year since. Fourteen Australians

have been killed, including four police officers and nine Australians have been killed in emergency relief operations.

It's interesting that just before I came over here I popped my head into the media office at the Memorial. I knew what the answer to my question would be, but I thought I'd just check, I said 'how many media are attending the launch of the peacekeeper volume?' They said, one of them said to me, 'Oh, none, there's not much interest in this.' We had a huge media packed here in Anzac Hall on Wednesday morning Peter and they were here because we were receiving the medals – Military cross with two bars – of Alfred Youdale, one of only nine airmen in the First World War to be accorded the MC with two bars, and quite rightly, and understandably, there was immense media interest in that. It's a sad but cruel paradox that the Australian media currently engaged in a crusade to get access to information have apparently no interest in covering the release of an Official History, which has fearlessly been undertaken and written by three historians and also to tell the story to a broader audience of peacekeeping itself. In fact on that, in context, there are five things that really contribute to Post Traumatic Stress amongst peacekeepers and at the same time that the The Daily Telegraph, our leading tabloid in New South Wales is running a crusade on behalf of veterans who have taken their own lives, more than a few of them, who's service is documented in these pages.

The thing that contributes to that PTS amongst those peacekeepers is that sense of isolation as you know, being out in a remote place, being only one or two or three or four people at an observer post, a sense of mission ambiguity, not knowing exactly what the mission is and personified perhaps in the most extreme form in Rwanda, having to exercise extreme restraint in the face of extreme provocation, then there's meaninglessness, the fact that your country doesn't know, let alone care what you did, which is one of the reasons of course why we are about to have a significant expansion in our gallery spaces here and a major expansion of the peacekeeping story, and a permanent exhibition to explain what this country does to stop war in the first place, and to create, and to maintain peace. And as Kev Ryan said coming out of Namibia, 'It's as if we never were. I'm angry the country doesn't care.' And we at the memorial certainly have a responsibility to see that they do know, and that they do care. Then there's powerlessness, the sense that in large conglomerate, particularly of the United Nations, that you have no sense of power over what's happening to you and the operation that you're doing, and then of course there are the risks, the attendant risks that are undertaken by our peacekeepers, and within these pages, really, these are the stories of, as we've heard, from 1947 to 1982 those operations that commenced, and then we go up to 2006 where peace had already been negotiated for a particular conflict and these are Australians who've gone in usually under the auspices of the United Nations to then undertake, often in isolated places, as I said, foot patrols, vehicle patrols, to be at observer posts and do everything they can to observe and then perhaps at times intervene when violence and other things erupt and unless you have been doing what someone else has ever done you can never really understand, no matter how hard you might try but one of the things which I find a little difficult to adjust to is – Anne Bennie mentioned Matina Jewell in her the introductory remarks – and in 2006 I was the Minister for Defence. In mid-July, the Israeli Defence Force went across the Lebanon border, and they didn't just go in with a bit of



peacekeeping on their minds, they were at war with Hezbollah and I do understand certainly reasons why they were doing so, but they had infantry, tanks, artillery, fast jets ... We were more than a little concerned as I pored over intelligence briefings and what happened was that in 2010, quite rightly, the authorities [Defence], declared that that month became warlike service and conditions for those four Australian peacekeepers were quite rightly then commensurate with warlike service, and then out of the blue in February 2017 Matina Jewell receives a letter. Defence had changed its mind, it wasn't warlike. In my mind if an Israeli bomb comes in from a bomber and kills all your fellow peacekeepers – that is pretty 'warlike' to me. She subsequently sustained horrific back injuries in a UN vehicle manoeuvring at speed. So, if you could pass this back to various people, I'm very warlike on this matter, and I'll be taking it up. In terms of the book ... some of the patronising advice I give to young people as I go through my journey in life is never launch a book, unless you've read it. Someone presents you with this, late on a Tuesday afternoon, and you've a whole range of things between then and now to be covered, and I'll be honest, I haven't read the whole thing, but I have read a bit of it ... and I'd just like to read you some excerpts from the book which speaks for itself. As an example of the quality of the writing, you go to Australia's and the problem of Palestine, peacekeeping in the Middle East, 48 to 67. No problem has proved more intractable for the UN than that of the

former British mandate of Palestine. Seventy years after the organisation first dealt with [the] problem, Israel occupied the territory of one of its neighbours, has poor relations with others and has an unresolved relationship with the Palestinian state that was meant to have been born in 1947, but which is still not successfully emerged into the light. It is possible to argue that UN policy in this area has been wrongheaded from the start. Certainly, it's not been successful. Only Kashmir can rival its longevity in the UN agenda. Seven decades after the organisation took up the issue of Palestine there is no solution in sight. Israel and its neighbours represent the theatre in which Australian peacekeepers have engaged the longest. Through the activities of H.V. Evatt Australia was heavily involved in the discussions that produced the partition of Palestine and the creation of the state of Israel. And as an Australian, I am very proud in the role that we played in that.

Nevertheless, Australia's primary strategic focus after the Second World War was towards aid, where it saw itself as an important representative of Western interest. Earlier chapters have discussed Australia's role, diplomatic, as well as peacekeeping in Indonesia and Kashmir. There was, by contrast, little interest in contributing peacekeepers to the Middle East. However, the chance coincidence in 1956, when Australia's membership with the Security Council and a need for more military observers to serve in the UN truce supervision organisation led Australia to contribute service observers to UNTSO, a commitment

that has continued for more than 60 years. It is therefore Australia's longest single peacekeeping commitment just as UNTSO is itself, the UN's oldest continuing peacekeeping operation.

And then, Yemen. And, I did look at the photos, it won't surprise some of you to know, and there's a photograph here, and having been in Afghanistan, and seen the places it reminds me of some of the terrain in Afghanistan, but it's during 1963 Majors George Doherty and Norman James were deployed from UNSTO to Yemen, as part of the Yemen observation mission. Doherty is shown with members of a royalist tribe during a meeting to negotiate with the rebels. Doherty and the CMF officer from Tasmania. Then there's another photograph here that got my attention, as an illustration of what you and those whom you represent do and have done on our behalf. There's a black and white photograph here of Major Royce Skinner of the Australian Army and he's talking with the Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan about the UN imposed cease fire between Egyptian and Israeli forces in the Qantara control centre in July 1967 and Skinner served at UNSTO from January '67 to May '68.

And then another photograph, just a simple photo; it's obviously taken not by a professional photographer. It's a blue sign with white writing on it, it's got a crucifix at the top, it's on a, it looks like a farm fence and then some pretty rough terrain back behind it and the caption says, "The site in Cyprus where Sergeant Ian Ward, of the New South Wales police, was killed when his Land Rover hit a land mine on 12th November 1974. The

nearby memorial cairn, not visible in the photograph, marks the spot. Peter Londey, photograph, and the sign says, 'Killed in the service of Peace.'

And then over the page, and as you know Jack Thurgar was here last week with *The Courage of Peace*, his spirit is here, and as we heard Peter mention. Then you've got a photograph here of young men with mine detectors and it's clearing a path through an unmarked mine field that Jack Thurgar crossed to rescue Chrysostomos Seas, a Greek Cypriot farmer injured when his tractor hit two mines in the buffer zone on 9 October 1979. And as you know, he was awarded the Star of Courage for that. And then the Golan Heights to which Ben Roberts-Smith referred. Where possible the observers reoccupied the Golan observer posts but in many areas they now had to function as patrol bases with the observers mobile patrols to monitor the new front lines. Both sides were offered UNSTO the use of helicopters to assist the observers in patrolling Mount Hermon, the offer was refused. An Australian officer in Washington commented, 'It's an example of how both sides seek to make use of the UN in support of their positions.' The Israeli's wanted the UN to certify in affect, their patrol of the Mount Hermon area, and the Syrian's desire to validate their complaints of the Israeli post cease-fire advances. After an initial period of calm the war of attrition developed in the Golan with daily exchanges of artillery fire and air attacks. UNTSO observation posts were once again damaged. For the observers, travel around the area became dangerous, although fortunately no serious injuries occurred. The observers could also be subject to harassment by local forces. In one case on the 31st of May 1974 an American and Irish observer had been forced to stay in their post for an extra 24 hours owing to heavy shelling in the area. Around midnight, a lone soldier burst into the observer's caravan and threatened them with a submachine gun. The Irishman reached for a flashlight on the floor, at which the soldier became very aggressive, forcing the observers out of the caravan in their underwear and without shoes. Throwing rocks at them and firing off rounds in their vicinity, he forced them to walk four kilometres

to a Syrian peasant's house, where the woman gave them warm clothing before they were again forced on, running for several more kilometres to a platoon headquarters. Here, they were unable to convince the officer that they were not Israeli soldiers. Eventually, they were taken by truck to a higher headquarters where they persuaded a more senior officer of their identity. The troops turned out not to be Syrians, but Saudi Arabians who thought the operation observer post was an Israeli position.

And then, I'll finish up on this so, so we go to Lebanon. On the 12th of January 1988 an Australian UNTSO observer, Captain Peter McCarthy, was killed when his vehicle hit a land mine. He was the first Australian military peacekeeper to die since Lieutenant General Nimmo had died of natural causes in 1966 [at his post]. Nimmo as you know was in Kashmir. McCarthy was due to leave OGL in a few days but responded to a request to accompany a Canadian observer Major Gilbert Cote on a routine patrol after his planned patrol partner had been called away. They had driven up a hill overlooking the Mediterranean near the village of Chamaa, the hill was often used as a vantage point from which one could see as far as Tyre, 14 kilometres to the north and the Israeli border to the south. On the way up the hill, the pair were nearly forced off the road by Israeli armoured personnel carrier. Coming down early in the afternoon, they hit a landmine, McCarthy was killed, Cote seriously injured. McCarthy's wife and young daughter were living at Nahariya with other [Observer Group Lebanon] OGL families. McCarthy's body was returned to Australia for burial in his home town of Quirindi, NSW. The commander of the Australian contingent, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Jauncey, wrote later that he did not believe any of the belligerents were seeking deliberately to harm an Australian UNTSO and that hazard stemmed from the likelihood of an accident from a mistake by the ill-educated and ill-disciplined local forces, both Arab and Jew. Jauncey had been told that perpetrators of the incident who killed McCarthy considered it, and I quote, "A regrettable accident." McCarthy was the first UNTSO observer to die

in Lebanon in result of hostile action, since UNTSO's involvement began there in 1949. By contrast, more than 150 UNIFIL personnel had been killed since 1978.

Major Chris Wrangle, an engineer officer, was a member of the search and rescue operation. He located the incident site, immediately requested air and medical evacuation and coordinated the rescue operation. He was awarded a commendation from the Chief of General Staff of the Australian Army, which referred to Wrangle's leadership and initiative as one of the major factors in a successful rescue and treatment of the seriously injured Major Cote. Captain Tony Fraser, an Aviation Corps officer, received a similar commendation for assuming responsibility for the repatriation of Captain McCarthy's family. And of course just for momentary small excerpts, we get very much a number of important messages. First, to our political and military leadership is that these official histories are important. They are vitally important and that's where I correct Peter, in his remarks he said they are important. I say they're vitally important. And they're important for a number of reasons. One is that the men and women whose history, who have created this history, need to have their story told and told in their lifetime. It is a part of their journey of coming to terms with not only what they've done, but the impact that it's had upon them. It's also critically important that the factual history, the truth that speaks to power, is documented, recorded, and published, in a reasonable period of time, so that our decision makers in particular, can learn from the things that we have done well, and the things that we haven't. We will not ever continue to improve as a nation, whether it's politically, diplomatically, or militarily, unless we know our history and know what we do well and know what we don't. So, it's my privilege – I didn't expect it to be the case – but to officially launch the volume and in doing so pay tribute to the authors and David Horner for their superb professionalism and hard work.

COMPRESSION AGAINST DEPRESSION MC CHARITY FUNDRAISER FOR VETERANS' ADVOCACY CENTRE ALSTONVILLE



Riders are the Compression Against Depression Ride.

Sunday 3rd November the COMPRESSION AGAINST DEPRESSION motor cycle ride was organised by Nicky Ramone, event Founder/Coordinator. This ride, in its 10th year is a charity ride to raise awareness of mental health and this year proceeds going to the Veterans' Advocacy Centre Alstonville.

There were up to one hundred and fifty riders on the day with great organization for the safety of the riders. The ride commenced at Ballina with a sausage BBQ breakfast and registration of riders with COMPRESSION AGAINST DEPRESSION T Shirts for sale.

Our APPVA member VAC ladies were there selling Poppies and promoting THE VAC and their 2020 VAC MONTY CALANDER.

The ride commenced at 0930 at Ballina, Paula representing the VAC rode with Darryl Larkin President Northern Veteran's NSW Chapter MC.

The ride commenced at 0930 at Ballina, going up along the beautiful North coast through Lennox Head, then out onto the Pacific Highway turning into the scenic hills of Mooball and Burringbar Range then onto the first stop at the Mount Warning Hotel for refreshments and raffle prizes drawn.

Back on the bikes and more lovely scenery through the hills surrounding Uki, Nimbin, Dunoon, and on to the Channon Hotel for lunch which was provided as part of the registration and of cause refreshments and a \$1000 raffle prize along with other donated prizes.

Many of the riders were APPVA members, travelling from the Mid North Coast Veteran's MC from around the Coffs Harbour area.

The day was a huge success and we thank the organizers, the riders and all the businesses that provided raffle prizes.

The staff and volunteers of the VAC work very hard with not only providing Compensation and Wellbeing to all Veteran's, they also spend many hours outside those office hours fundraising. The support shown to us by outside organisations and ESO's is always appreciated as it will keep our service providing support to all Veteran's and their families.

Images courtesy of Jenny Noble and Paula Richards.

Paula Richards
Compensation Advocate VAC



Liz, Jenny, Di and Paula from the VAC promoting and fundraising



Darryl Larkin and Paula Richards prior to the ride.

AGM CANBERRA 13 SEPTEMBER 2019



Commander McTavish AGM

A number of APPVA members attended the conference and AGM in Canberra on the 13th September.

Guest speakers were Don Spinks AM Repatriation Commissioner and as a Member of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission for a period of five years until 2024 who spoke on DVA changes and was warmly received by the attendees.

Second speaker was Commander McTavish from the AFP and gave the attendees a good insight into the role of AFP on peacekeeping/peacemaking deployments into the future.

Minutes from the AGM are on the website in the members area (you need to be logged on)

QLD BRANCH



Randall New with Major General Mike Smith AO (Retired)

I attended an Event in the North Coast (Caloundra) for the United Nations Day with the UN & Overseas Police Association of Australia (UNOPAA) last week which included a Street March and Church Service. All up it was attended by approx. 150 people and I met again with the High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus, Her Excellency Martha Mavrommatis as I did in September at the Commemoration of Australian Peacekeeper Day at the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra.

Randall New
President
APPVA QLD Branch

COURAGE FOR PEACE EXHIBITION



Paul Copeland OAM, Dr Brendan Nelson AO, and David Vinen (Somalia War Veteran) at the Launch of the 'Courage for Peace' Exhibition, the Australian War Memorial, 17th of October 2019. Both Paul and David are Life Members of the APPVA.



Lead curator Margaret Farmer, military historian David Sutton and senior curator Melissa Cadden looking over exhibition.

**WHO BETTER
 TO COVER YOU
 WHEN YOU
 TRANSITION.**

We're here with great value health cover and tailored resources to help you navigate the health system and ensure a smooth transition for you and your family.

- ▶ Join within 2 months of discharge and you'll get a 10% discount for the first 12 months on hospital or combined cover from our mix and match range.
- ▶ If you're moving to the Reserves, you're still eligible for our great value ADF packages.

Get covered today. Call **1800 335 425** or visit **defencehealth.com.au**



Passion + Opportunity + Connection

At Clayfield College, we prepare young people for our ever-changing world, providing them with a place of nurture and rigor in which to thrive. When people ask "What's special about Clayfield?" the answer lies in our connectedness. Our big heart inspires girls and boys to live a life of purpose by instilling a love of lifelong learning, building self-belief and resilience, and prioritising kindness. And we have proudly been doing so for 88 years.

We help each child discover their role in the world by unlocking their passions and talents, and creating high impact learning opportunities which challenge deep thinking. Through our stimulating academic curriculum and comprehensive co-curricular program, girls and boys are able to pursue their interests in sport, the arts and service leadership.

As a small school with a big heart, we offer a place of belonging where

each child is valued and celebrated, and meaningful connections are nurtured. Isabelle Jardine, 2019 College Captain, says of her time at Clayfield, "When you walk through the gates you know the name of every student and teacher, and most importantly, they know you. No person goes unnoticed, and everyone genuinely cares about you. The fabric of Clayfield's strong and loving community will stay with me even after I graduate."

Our campus is centrally located within the inner-city suburb of Clayfield, easily accessed via the train and bus networks. And as a boarding school for girls from Years 5 to 12, we also offer a range of flexible boarding options to assist modern day family lifestyles and commitments.

We warmly welcome you to come and discover our small school with a big heart by booking a personal tour



via enrol@clayfield.qld.edu.au or 07 3262 0262. Further information about our daily, casual or weekly boarding options can be found on our website.

Flying a RAAF Super Hornet

- Just another day in the classroom for Mackillop College Students

Thirty-six students from MacKillop College in Port Macquarie put their books aside on Monday, October 28 to take part in the Royal Australian Air Force roadshow.

Students had the opportunity to 'fly' an F/A-18F Super Hornet simulator - as close as you can get to flying without leaving the ground.

Royal Australian Air Force pilot officer Elliotte Hyder said the simulator provides "a hands on insight into the operation of Australia's front-line fighters".

"We are hoping it will pique students interest enough for them to consider a career with the RAAF," she said.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in an air traffic control airport game and fly a PC-21 plane using virtual reality goggles.

Mackillop College engineering teacher Rhys Jones said it was a "fantastic opportunity".



"It takes them away from the text books to do something practical," Mr Jones said.

Year 11 engineering student Amelia Wilson described the experience as "amazing".

"It was such a great insight into what the RAAF do," she said.

Miss Wilson hopes to study chemical engineering at university.

The Royal Australian Air Force roadshow is a motivational program designed to give students a realistic glimpse into officer aviation roles within the Royal Australian Air Force.

www.portnews.com.au



She will.

A place of nurture for her to thrive.

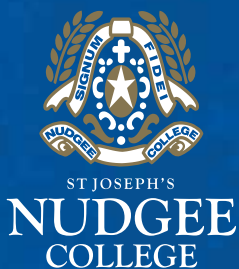
clayfield.qld.edu.au

Day - Girls: Pre-Prep to Year 12 | **Boys:** Pre-Prep to Year 6

Boarding - Girls: Year 5 to Year 12



Clayfield College



St Joseph's Nudgee College Boarding

The most important influence on your son's development is you.
The second most important is the boarding school you choose together.

Boys' Day and Boarding School Years 5-12

Contact Admissions on (07) 3865 0422 or admissions@nudgee.qld.edu.au

www.nudgee.com



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition
CRICOS Provider No. 00572G. Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia.

APK-02/NC19

WHAT IS THE DEFENCE TRANSITION MENTOR PROGRAM

The Defence Transition Mentor Program provides support to primary and secondary students of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families, particularly during their transition into and out of a school on posting or during parental absences due to deployment, exercises or courses.

Defence families can change location sometimes up to every 2-3 years and due to differences in curriculum, subject selections and intake age requirements there can be considerable differences in their educational program from one school to the next and particularly from one state to another.

Additional to these pressures, the Defence family is also required to re-establish community connections and create new friendships and support networks every time they are relocated. The move can also impact the spouse as they may have to change jobs/careers each time they relocate, with possible financial pressures adding to the stresses already placed on the family.

This program was implemented by the Department of Defence, through the Defence Community Organisation, as a commitment to support its members and their families. They recognise that the education of Defence dependants may be negatively impacted by their mobile lifestyle and so have sought to provide this innovative resource to facilitate a more supportive educational environment for mobile ADF families.

What does a Defence Transition Mentor do?

A Defence Transition Mentor provides assistance to students and their families. This may include:

- Co-ordinating appropriate welcoming and fare welling strategies for young people of Australian Defence Force families.
- Supporting students to develop their self-confidence and resilience.



(L to R) Six year old Clancy, eleven year old Ethan and seven year old Conner check out some of the crocodile information during the Defence Community Organisation Welcome to Katherine expo, February at the Katherine YMCA.

- Encouraging young people to explore options and make the most of opportunities.
- Assisting young people manage the challenges of transitions.
- Referring students where necessary to appropriate student support services.
- Identifying the issues and needs of individual students.
- Developing and implementing programs and resources that address issues and needs.
- Monitoring students' day to day social and emotional well-being.
- Supporting young people at school during times of parental absence from home for service requirements.
- Facilitating student participation in cultural, sporting, academic and personal development programs.

What is the Defence Community Organisation?

The Defence Community Organisation (DCO) offers a broad range of targeted programs and services to support ADF personnel and their families to balance the demands of military service with personal and family commitments.

Your local DCO is staffed by a Education Liaison Officer, Social Workers, Military Support Officers, Family Liaison Officers and administrative staff who are available to assist the members and family through the provision of:

- Support in the time of crisis
- Information on Defence matters in general
- Advice on community, recreational and interest groups
- Deployment support
- Mobility support
- Professional counselling for personal, relationship and family problems
- Various courses, information

Canberra
Grammar
School



READY FOR
THE WORLD

CELEBRATING

90
YEARS
1929 - 2019

ARE YOU RELOCATING IN 2020? CGS BOARDING HAS LIMITED PLACES FOR BOYS & GIRLS IN 2020

Canberra Grammar School, combining the best of city and country.
Find out more at CGS.ACT.EDU.AU/BOARDING

4 BOARDING AT CGS IS LIKE
HAVING ANOTHER FAMILY;
YOUR TUTORS BECOME YOUR
PARENTS, AND THE OTHER
BOARDERS BECOME YOUR
SIBLINGS. EVERYONE IS
SUPPORTIVE AND CARING. 7

– OLIVIA, YEAR 9 BOARDER

To tour Canberra Grammar School in
virtual reality visit CGS.YOUTOUR.COM.AU





Greg Grace a Defence School Transition Aid, works with 6 year old Sydney Fry in the library of Leanyer Primary School, Darwin.

sessions and support groups

- Specialist education advice and assistance
- Special needs recognition and review
- Employment assistance
- Childcare assistance

What is a Regional Education District Liaison Officer (REDLO)?

Regional Education Liaison Officers (REDLOs) are professionally trained teachers who understand both the different State and Territory education systems and the Defence lifestyle. They can advise Defence families and children on education issues, particularly related to relocating. REDLOs can assist with changing schools between the various State and Territory primary, secondary and tertiary education systems.

REDLOs provide the key link for families to access the type of support that meets the needs of their particular child. REDLOs are also linked to schools and education systems, working to raise the issues that affect Defence families and ensure that equity of educational opportunity is available

to all mobile Defence children.

Our recent relocation has impacted on our child's learning. Can I get education assistance?

If an ADF member moves to a new location and has school aged children, they may be entitled to 14 weeks of tutoring in any subject that has been identified by the school as representing a gap in the child's learning.

Please remember that this, as a rule, is only available within 18 months of your relocation date, so if you think your child could use some extra support please contact the school as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can contact your Regional Education District Liaison Officer. Paperwork will need to be completed and authenticated by the school prior to submission.

We will be relocating to another location. When should I notify the school?

It is advisable to check with the school and the conditions of acceptance that would have been signed at the time of your enrolment of your child/children. However, most schools will require one

terms notice.

Parent Meetings

A lot of schools will welcome parent involvement and are happy to arrange a meeting to discuss any aspect of the student's wellbeing and educational journey.



Flight Lieutenant Brendon Knopke of Defence Force Recruiting Darwin, with Kim Glazer, and their children Scarlett and Bailey, at the Defence Community Organisation Welcome to The Top End Expo, held at Darwin, NT

Businesses should turn to veterans for invaluable employees: Canberra cyber security company

Ben Whitham transitioned out of the Australian Army in 2007 after 15 years of service as a signals officer.

Despite the move, he remained committed to the defence force's mission and purpose; co-founding cyber security company 'Penten' in 2015 to serve the organisation and others.

In 2019, military veterans make up about 30 per cent of its 75 staff. Contrary to what Mr Whitham calls stigma about ex-servicemen and women being 'broken', he actively seeks them out for their unique skill sets.

"The word 'veteran' is sometimes synonymous with being broken mentally or physically ... but we can't think of many people who are necessarily in that circumstance," Mr Whitham said.

"Yes it occurs, it's important to address, and yes, you have to have those support structures in place, but not everybody who transitions from the military [fits that description]."

Veterans typically start civilian roles with a team-focused, 'fight to win' attitude, Mr Whitham said. While they may not have specific experience in line with a given job description, they adapt to titles and tasks with a focus on the 'end state'.

Penten project manager and former soldier, Bek Aarons, attributes veterans' versatility to time in the defence force.

I've been out of the navy for nearly five years and sometimes I sit in meetings and I say something, and I've got to look at people's faces and go, 'Do people use that term in the big wide world?'

"They are quite good at dealing with ambiguity, vague job descriptions, carving out their own job descriptions and working out where they can add value," Ms Aarons said.

"Often, once you get out the soldier trades, you're doing stuff you



never were necessarily taught how to do, like human resources, managing people, planning exercises and spending budgets.

"None of that is in the core training you did straight out of Kapooka."

Mr Whitham wants more businesses to recruit veterans, as Penten is one of 125 signed up to the government's Veteran's Employment Commitment nationally. The commitment sees 'supporters' promoted to veteran job hunters, with other ACT-based signatories including AMW Professional Services and Connect 3i.

Penten has introduced several initiatives to account for the needs of transitioning defence personnel, including 26 weeks paid parental leave for both mothers and fathers, unlimited sick and reserve service leave, and flexible working hours.

"Those ideas have come from people here; they have brought those ideas forward, and we're trying to listen," Mr Whitham said.

Deputy secretary of the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Charles McHardie, said the government was committed to improving the transition from service into civilian roles.

The Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program website included information for prospective

employers and employees, and from July 1, 2020, the department would offer additional support on resume writing, skills translation and interview preparation.

Mr McHardie transitioned out of the Royal Australian Navy in 2015 after 30 years.

"I've been out of the navy for nearly five years and sometimes I sit in meetings and I say something, and I've got to look at people's faces and go, 'Do people use that term in the big wide world?'," he said.

"It's good to have someone to help you through that process."

Ms Aarons said any additional support would be appreciated by the veteran community, as women in particular could find it difficult to not 'undersell themselves' to civilian employers.

Penten was named cyber business of the year at the 2019 Australian Defence Industry Awards last week. Nominations are open for the 2020 Prime Minister's Veteran's Employment Awards until October 22.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6415883/we-are-not-broken-employers-encouraged-to-recruit-veterans/>

Defence Force personnel

\$pecial discount

on tax preparation

QLD ONLY (EXCEPT TOOWOOMBA)



**PLUS
\$0 UPFRONT¹
on your tax
preparation**



**We'll get
you more²
in return²**



THE INCOME TAX PROFESSIONALS

☎ 1300 555 773

👉 itpqld.com

**INDIVIDUAL , PARTNERSHIPS, COMPANIES, TRUSTS, RENTAL PROPERTIES,
BAS**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. 1, SEE IN STORE OR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.
POSSIBLE RETURN FOR SALARY AND WAGE EARNING INDIVIDUALS IN 2019.

EXCLUDING TOOWOOMBA REGION.

2, ITPQLD PLEDGES TO FIND THE BEST
3, OFFER VALID IN QUEENSLAND ONLY,



MAKE THE FIRST

ROUND COUNT.

*Shown with optional 3x magnifier



Trijicon MGRS®

Significantly increase your first-round hit probability with the Trijicon® Machine Gun Reflex Sight. The MGRS® was designed specifically to aid the machine gunner in rapid target acquisition while maintaining situational awareness by keeping both eyes open. This non-magnified optic mounts to both M2 and M240 machine guns and provides enhanced accuracy and performance.

- Large objective lens with 3 in. x 2 in. viewing area allows users to rapidly acquire targets
- Interchangeable ranging dials for increased flexibility
- 35 MOA-Segmented circle with 3 MOA Dot for increased probability of first-round hits
- Forged 7075-T6 aluminum housing to perform in punishing conditions

View the technology
at [Trijicon.com/MGRS](https://www.trijicon.com/MGRS).



Brilliant Aiming Solutions™