

Australian Peacekeeper

SPRING 2020

MAGAZINE





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20 SPRING 20 EDITION

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

Cover pic: Lieutenant Patrick Omodei, of 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, calls out enemy target indications during the Infantry Regimental Officers Basic Course. Contents pic: Australian Army Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, cross-load stores at the Replenishment Point at Townsville Field Training Area, during Exercise Brolga Run, August 13, 2020. Defence images

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President's report



Greetings members,

I hope this message finds you all well and coping with the new environment we are living in. In particular I want to extend my sincere thoughts to our Victorian members who have been subjected to the worse that Covid 19 can bring.

The APPVA continues to welcome new members, our member retention for this financial year was extremely good and this to me confirms that we are on the right track in supporting our members and the veteran community.

During the month of August, we commemorated the end of World War 2 and Vietnam Veterans Day, whilst we could not attend ceremonies around the country I watched televised commemorations. I know you will join

me in thanking those brave men and women who served in these theatres of war for their service and sacrifice to our country.

The AGM is fast approaching as is Peacekeeper Day 2020, the Committee has been working hard behind the scenes to ensure these events go ahead including electronic means to be able to connect with you all.

The APPVA has selected a new Patron for the APPVA, the formal notification will be released very soon, I believe that you will all be very happy with the selection.

I trust that members have all received the cloth patches that were included in our last edition of Peacekeeper. If you have not or would like another one these can be purchased via our website or by emailing our Secretary

This year's AGM includes all Committee positions being declared vacant in accordance with our APPVA Constitution 2019. Should you be unable to attend then I ask that you consider lodging a proxy or postal vote, more information on this can be found on our website.

I am looking forward to the AGM 2020 and Peacekeeper Day in Canberra on 14 Sept 2020, I hope to see as many members as possible turn out to commemorate our day and pay our respects to those that made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of 'Peace'.

Lastly, I want to thank you our members for without you we would not have an association. We have been through some rough times together in the past and we made it through together. Your support is very much appreciated by me, it is this that drives me to work harder for you, our members.

Should you have a story or your own experience you would like to share with us, please send your story with any hi res images to editor@peacekeeper.asn.au. I want to emphasise that 'Peacekeeper' is your magazine and any suggestions you have that may improve the publication, please do not hesitate to forward them to Kris our editor.

**Yours sincerely,
Rob Woods**

Vice President's report



We have experienced a lot of change this past year since the adoption of our new constitution and it is pleasing to see continuous improvement being supported by all so the Association remains relevant in 2020 and beyond.

What worked in the past does not necessarily work in the future and therefore we have proposed a change to our constitution to position the association to be relevant now and in the next ten years. This was

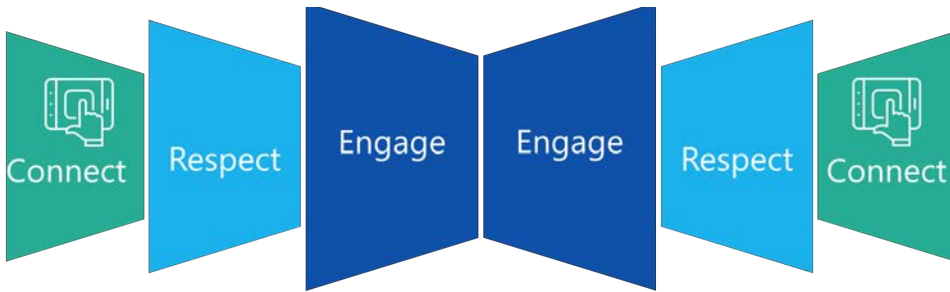
essential when it became clear that veterans and their families were very appreciative of the advocacy they received from the APPVA, however they were very unsure of our purpose. The same could be said of most of the stakeholders we are working with, and if we also asked ten of our members what it is that we do; we would receive 10 different answers. Our purpose is now very clear when you read the following sentence.

The Purpose of the APPVA is to support the transition, health, wellbeing, and integration into society of all participants in modern operations, and their families, so that they are valued and can attain happiness after service.

Concurrently we also found that younger veterans felt disconnected

from the 14 established Ex-Service Organisations that have direct access to DVA through the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT). Despite a further seven veteran organisations participating in the Younger Veterans Contemporary Needs Forum we found that younger veterans also felt that there was no way for them to contribute and have their voices heard. This is very evident when you consider that there are anywhere between 1500 and 3000 veteran support organisations in Australia.

It is important that all veterans have the opportunity to belong, feel respected and can contribute to their own wellbeing and this is a major reason behind the definition of our



core values:

- **Engage.** To engage with like-minded organisations so their collective voice is heard by the Commonwealth and states.
- **Respect.** To respect the contributions made by participants in modern operations and demonstrate this by appointing young veterans to representational positions.
- **Connect.** To connect all stakeholders through services that are purpose built to give professional care, locally and nationally, and to disseminate information from the Commonwealth and states through a two way exchange.

Our approach to engage, respect and connect has commenced and we have mutually exchanged information and concerns with Wandering Warriors, Solder On, Mates4Mates and the Veteran Community Business Chamber (VCBC). We've actually

done quite a lot with the VCBC and it is for that reason it features within this edition of the magazine.

On a non-related topic it should be known that DVA has approved the use of Ketamine Infusion treatment to assist with PTSD, anxiety, depression and a number of other related illnesses. I have actually been participating in the treatment and have found that

while the rest of the world has a 75% success rate with Ketamine Infusion, the treatment DVA has approved has a 92% success rate in Australia.

The treatment is being developed by prominent psychiatrist, Dr Alexander Lim, at the ZedThree Specialist Centre in Canberra together with a number of other like minded medical professionals. The initiative is known as Revive, and you can read more about Ketamine Infusion treatment at www.reviveketamine.com.au.

We will release more on this treatment through our social media channels with the assistance of Region Media who will be interviewing Alex in the next month.

Ian Lindgren



Editor's report



Editorial Handover to Acting Editor

View to modernisation

As an era comes to an end, I would like to begin this editor's report by thanking the outgoing Editor Paul Copeland. Paul has been a long time servant not only of the publication, but the Association as a whole. Paul has

provided a voice for the Association within this publication but also for the wider veteran community. We wish you all the best moving forward Paul your attitude and our gratitude should not go unnoticed.

Paul leaves quite large shoes to fill and until successful election at the AGM, as per the APPVA constitution, I will be conducting the role of acting Editor. Whilst serving for 14 years I conducted 3 deployments to Timor with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australia Regiment and 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. I have an extreme passion for Veterans and the Veteran welfare space and believe that this publication is a great starting point to create change and awareness of the current climate

for all Peacekeepers. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out on the below details.

Along with a new Editor comes an opportunity for growth and along with growth comes modernisation. This will be a really big aspect of the publication moving forward. I would like to engage with some of our younger readers and bring some of their stories into focus. I want the young Veteran community to feel that this is a publication not just for the old and bold, but for those younger veterans that want a voice. This does not mean we will be forgetting the stories that brought us to this point, but the more we invest in our future now, the more longevity the association and publication will experience.



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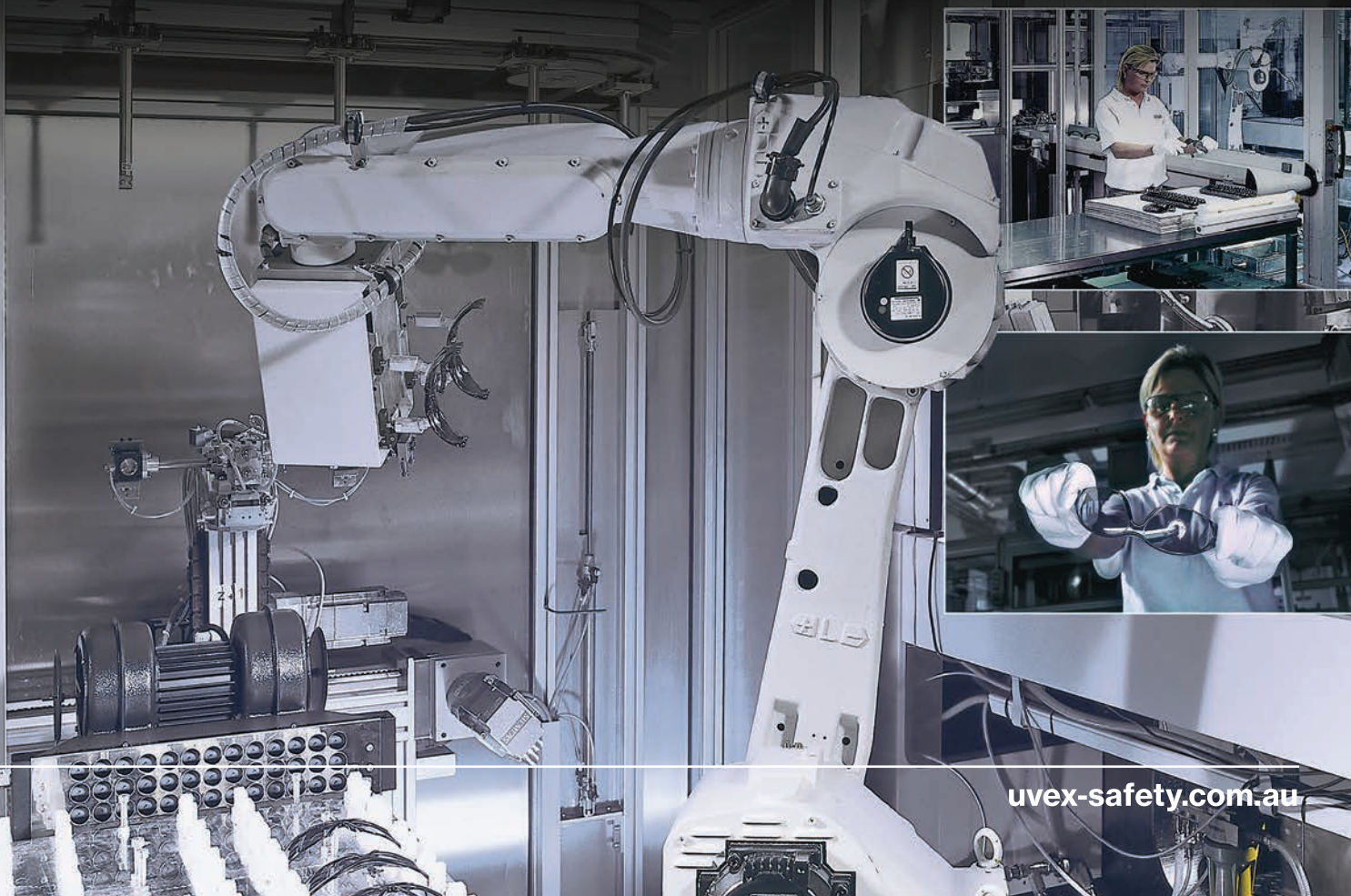
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New: uvex i-5 and uvex megasonic

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UN Peacekeeping and the protection of Civilians in the COVID-19 Era

May 22nd, 2020 by Namie Di Razza

Last week, 24 women, children, and babies were slaughtered in a maternity ward in Kabul. Women were “all on their own,” as hospital policy prohibited them from being accompanied in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had major disruptive effects globally, but has not stopped such atrocities from being committed, despite United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ call for a global ceasefire to fight the disease’s spread. As significant resources are being diverted to respond to the health crisis, many actors continue to engage in violent attacks and abuse against civilians.

In Mali, on April 24, gunmen attacked several villages and killed at least a dozen of civilians near Bandiagara. “What is killing us,” said the local mayor, “isn’t coronavirus, but war.” The following day, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 17 people were killed in an ambush in Virunga National Park, which has been closed since March due to COVID-19 concerns. Early in May, ten attacks against humanitarian organizations were recorded in only nine days in the northeastern town of

Ndélé in the Central African Republic (CAR), in which 27 people were killed, 56 injured, and 2,000 displaced .

Protection threats are expanding and aggravating in the time of the pandemic. COVID-19, and the measures put in place to limit its propagation, exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, create new protection needs, and hamper the capacities of protection actors operating in conflict zones. UN peacekeeping operations, in particular, have to quickly adapt and find creative solutions to fulfill their protective functions in the field.

The Uptake in Violence, Abuse, and Tensions

Ignoring calls for a global ceasefire, many warring parties and armed groups have increased activities, used the health crisis to gain power and control, and continued to threaten civilians. Some armed groups have openly attacked hospitals and COVID-19 health centers, while others have taken advantage of the pandemic and the reduced presence of state and international actors to operate and strengthen their stronghold, like in CAR and Mali. In sub-Saharan Africa, violent attacks rose by 37 percent

between mid-March and mid-April, and violent extremist groups have indicated their intent to use COVID-19 as an opportunity to further their agenda, fulfill state functions, and gain the confidence of local communities.

Some state actors have also perpetrated abuse, with allegations of excessive use of force while enforcing curfews and emergency measures, and more generally, concerns over increased repression and abuse in contexts of state-imposed lockdowns. In South Sudan, for example, security forces reportedly beat and shot at civilians accused of spreading COVID-19.

COVID-19 has also fueled community tensions in many countries, as minorities and specific groups are being blamed for the pandemic. In CAR, Muslims are reportedly portrayed as “virus-spreading outsiders,” and armed groups have blamed internally-displaced persons for the outbreaks and forced them to return to their places of origin.

Furthermore, peace processes and mediation and reconciliation initiatives, as well as the implementation of critical confidence-building measures like disarmament and reintegration processes, are being delayed. This will likely further fuel tensions and feed frustration among parties to conflict and communities. In CAR, a possible review of a constitutional amendment to extend the term of the president and parliamentarians is facing strong opposition and may trigger social unrest, while in Mali, political engagement in the center of the country has scaled down. In Abyei, grassroots consultations based on Joint Community Peace Committees have been impacted by travel restrictions and reduced participation from both UN and community members.

The constriction of economic opportunity also puts civilians at greater vulnerability and risk of radicalization



UN mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) peacekeepers held a meeting with internally displaced persons, chiefs, and notables in Bujombo. *MONUSCO/Force*

and recruitment by armed groups. In addition, governance deficits and constrained state capacities have sometimes led to the improper implementation of containment measures aimed at controlling the virus. In DRC, more than a thousand detainees were released from detention at the end of March to limit outbreaks, and inadequate verification processes led to the release of key actors implicated in violent conflicts.

More Constraints on UN Peacekeepers

UN peacekeepers are mandated to protect civilians from physical violence in DRC, CAR, Mali, South Sudan, Darfur, Lebanon, and Abyei. The COVID-19 crisis is not in itself a threat of physical violence, which is the key determinant that defines “protection of civilians” (POC) in peacekeeping. However, the spread of the virus and mitigation measures are having direct and indirect consequences on POC risks, and on the ability of missions to protect.

Over the last two decades, peacekeeping missions have progressively adapted their protection strategies, embracing a holistic approach that involves coordinated military, police, and civilian interventions. This entails using force to ensure the physical protection of local populations from any threat of violence, as well as pursuing dialogue, engagement, and other activities contributing to establish a “protective environment.” As one of the most visible embodiments of a “people-centered” UN, peacekeeping missions closely work with communities to document human rights violations, assess protection needs and threats, design local protection plans and early warning mechanisms, and strengthen dialogue and mediation to defuse tensions.

With COVID-19, the feasibility of protection strategies based on such extensive contact with local populations is being challenged. In support of mitigation measures, UN missions are being pushed to revamp their strategies, operational activities, and ways of working, in line with the

UN’s do-no-harm principle. They have to fulfill two concurrent expectations: the duty to ensure business continuity and deliver on their POC mandates, especially in light of threats newly-induced or aggravated by the pandemic; and the need to prevent harm and protect the health of UN personnel and local communities, including through social distancing and support to governmental strategies.

These expectations have created a fundamental dilemma for peacekeeping operations, as containment strategies raise new challenges for the effective delivery of protection mandates. For example, missions have reduced their footprints to prevent the spread of the virus. Most have scaled back patrolling and in-person engagement, which has greatly reduced their capacity to deter violence and physically intervene.

In Mali, battalions in the UN mission (MINUSMA) reported cases of COVID-19 and had to isolate and confine, which has hindered the operational capacity of the UN military component. As MINUSMA is considering strategies enabling minimum to no-contact with local populations, the military component is prioritizing aerial patrols, and UN Police had to scale down patrols to mechanized patrols.

In Darfur, the UN-African Union mission (UNAMID) has reduced patrols and engagement with locals to a minimum due to movement restrictions. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has curtailed its POC exercises, and suspended outreach or operational activities requiring physical contact with communities and Lebanese armed forces. The UN interim force in Abyei’s (UNISFA) ability to enforce a weapons-free-zone through patrols and checkpoints is also far more limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. In all these missions, the resulting security vacuums can easily be filled by violent actors.

In addition to curtailed military footprints, the absence of civilian staff from some field offices is reducing capacities for mediation, analysis of protection threats, and alert mechanisms. Human rights monitoring has decreased in CAR, for

example, where travel and movement restrictions led to a reduction in assessments and protection missions, and UN civilian staff face great difficulty in accessing communities to evaluate abuse. In DRC, the facilitation of some intercommunal dialogues was postponed until further notice.

As the UN suspended troop and police rotations, maintaining the same contingents in challenging environments for an uncertain period of time is raising many concerns over potential drops in performance and efficiency. The same concerns apply to civilian personnel, staying on lockdown in hazardous, hostile, and challenging conflict areas with limited resources and means of communication.

Additionally, peace spoilers have intensified messaging against the UN, fueling an already fragile popular trust towards peacekeepers. In most mission contexts, there seems to be an enhanced anti-UN and xenophobic sentiment. Misinformation campaigns against MINUSMA, state forces, and international forces are instrumentalized by extremist groups suggesting that the mission is spreading the virus. In the Bandiagara area, for example, a discontented women’s group blocked MINUSMA’s patrol and threw rocks at UN personnel.

Anti-UN discourses have been reported in DRC, CAR, and South Sudan as well, with staff worrying about risks of civil unrest and protests against the UN. This can significantly erode population’s confidence in the UN as a protection actor, and trigger declines in the use of early warning mechanisms established to receive alerts and adequately protect local communities, such as the toll-free number recently established by MINUSMA in Mopti.

Finally, the diversion of funding places an added weight on the capacity of missions to maintain protection activities. In the UN mission in CAR (MINUSCA), UNIFIL, and UNAMID, programmatic and Quick Impact Projects funds have been redirected to support efforts of local and national institutions to contain the spread of COVID-19. Although sensitization and awareness-raising projects indirectly contribute to protection efforts by

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UN Peacekeepers from Morocco patrol a village in North Kivu province, Democratic Republic of Congo, 9 May 2020. MONUSCO

reducing COVID-19-induced POC risks, they have also taken resources away from other protection projects. At the global level, funding for peacekeeping also risks to be further diverted to address the COVID-19 crisis, which would add to an already precarious financial situation for UN operations.

Reinventing Protection in a Pandemic Context

Although COVID-19 is creating many new challenges, it is not the first time that UN peacekeeping operations have had to adapt and consider changing protection strategies in light of a crisis. Peacekeepers had already been called to innovate with community engagement in non-permissive contexts like Mali, where liaising with the population can put them at risk of collateral damage or retaliation by extremist groups. The latest POC policy issued by the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) emphasizes do-no-harm and civilian harm mitigation as core principles for peacekeepers implementing protection mandates.

There has also been increased attention for transition contexts, including Darfur and possibly DRC, where the peacekeeping missions will eventually have to leave despite continuing threats against civilians. Following the closure of MONUSCO's

bases in Walikale, or the reduction of team sites in Darfur, the necessity to continuing to support protection in absentia in the vacated areas appeared to be a core issue. MONUSCO is already considering the use of communication tools and drones to monitor security developments remotely, and mobile teams to reach hotspot areas where a constant presence is not possible.

Also, this is not the first time UN peacekeeping operations have had to consider its role in an epidemic. The scandal of the spread of cholera by UN peacekeepers in Haiti, or the challenges of fighting Ebola while protecting civilians in Eastern Congo, already offer many lessons. An important one is to bolster strategic communication and to carefully work on public messaging to counter hate speech, rumors, and misinformation. Informing the public about COVID-19, and being transparent about how the mission is affected and constrained by the virus is key.

Missions are already being very active in prevention efforts through sensitization and awareness-raising about the pandemic, and have enhanced outreach through their radios and public information tools. This will be particularly critical as COVID-19 cases start to be reported in POC sites managed by the UN mission in South Sudan and in UN military bases in Mali.

As COVID-19 reveals the fundamental fractures and societal deficits in many countries, UN missions will also have to focus on the “establishment of a protective environment,” especially where containment measures constrain their ability to provide physical protection. Although in-person engagement has to be reduced or carried out differently, dialogue should continue, and remain a core tool in peacekeeping operations’ protection strategies. Missions can engage with many actors to address conflict drivers, negotiate ceasefires, facilitate voluntary returns of internally displaced persons, and promote human rights. UNAMID, for example, has put in place a “COVID-19 rights watch” to monitor whether containment measures in Darfur are compliant with human rights and protection norms and standards.

If ever, now is the time to make sure UN peacekeeping operations are pursuing political strategies that put protection at the core of their engagement and activities, including capacity-building initiatives and support to national stakeholders. Echoing the call of Secretary-General Guterres, all missions should work with regional, national, and local actors for a cessation of hostilities and violent acts, and to advocate for protection-oriented responses to the pandemic.

SCHIEBEL PACIFIC TEAMS WITH RAYTHEON AUSTRALIA FOR AUSTRALIAN ARMY'S LAND129 PHASE 3

Australia, Nowra, 27 July 2020 – Schiebel Pacific and Raytheon Australia have teamed up for the LAND129 Phase 3 Tactical Unmanned Aerial System (TUAS) project for the Australian Army. The tender response was submitted last week.

The teaming couples Schiebel's proven and world-class CAMCOPTER® S-100 UAS with Raytheon Australia's 20 year pedigree as a trusted, prime systems integrator across multiple domains. Together, the companies will deliver a solution that provides a highly capable, low risk offering that is intended to establish an enduring sovereign TUAS capability.

Schiebel Pacific has extensive experience in working with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and local industry. The Royal Australian Navy operates several systems at 822X Squadron, Nowra, New South Wales.

Fabian Knechtel, Managing Director of Schiebel Pacific, said: "We are very confident that the capability of the CAMCOPTER® S-100, together with the proposed integration into existing ADF systems, is the best solution for the Australian Army. Additionally,



Raytheon Australia's pedigree and experience in sovereign complex systems integration makes them the perfect partner and our teaming will assure efficient and timely delivery to the ADF. We are fully committed to the Australian Government's policy on Australian Industry Capability (AIC) and have already started the 'transfer of knowledge' to our local entity and our partners. Over the next several

years, Schiebel Pacific will become known as a highly capable Australian UAS provider."

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About Schiebel Pacific:

Schiebel Pacific Pty Ltd (SPL), the Australian subsidiary of the Vienna-based Schiebel Group, demonstrates a commitment to local industry and is backed by Schiebel's international reputation for quality defence products and exceptional after-sales services. The Australian base focuses on contract management, service provision, production and maintenance of the revolutionary CAMCOPTER® S-100 Unmanned Air System (UAS), providing the Pacific region with a permanent and comprehensive





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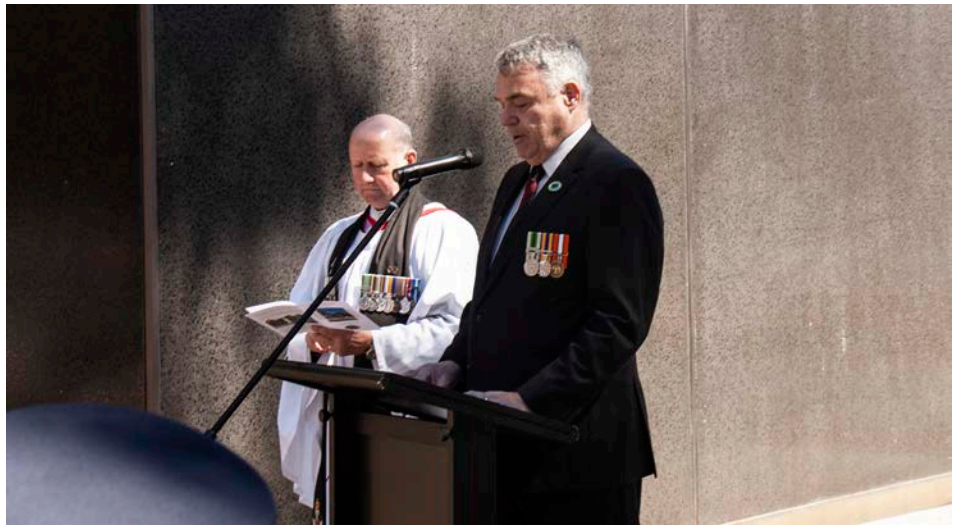
Australian Peacekeeper Day 2020

One of the most important days on the calendar for the Association, Australian Peacekeeper Day, took place at the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on 14 September 2020.

The COVID Pandemic did not stop the 73rd Anniversary of Australian peacekeeping operations being commemorated. 15 official guests including the High Commissioner for the Republic of Cyprus and the Hon Alex Hawke, MP Assistant Defence Minister, and another 45 attendees meant the service was recognised as an event of significance.

Symbolisation was high on the agenda with the theme of 'past, present and future', and women in peacekeeping. APPVA members took an active role in the service with a DFAT peacemaker, a retired AFP officer representing overseas policing, a retired ADF member as well as a young veteran representing the future of the organisation.

The Guest Speaker was Commissioner Georgeina Whelan, AM, CSC and Bar, the Commissioner of the ACT Emergency Services Agency who delivered a moving speech that centred around both her own experiences as a peacekeeper, but also the past 12 months that have seen our nation move to a state of uncertainty through fires and now the pandemic. Commissioner Whelan reminisced on her time in Banda Aceh where she saw various services and organisations working hand in hand on a road to recovery, and subsequently likening it to the times we are experiencing on our own soil today. We as a peacekeeping entity are all too familiar in working towards a common goal whilst in foreign countries during times of uncertainty, hearing Commissioner Whelan discuss the current state of Australia made it all too clear that boots on the ground in our own country are just as important.



Chaplain Steve Neuhaus, RFD and Ian Lindgren



MAJGEN Tim Ford, AO placing a wreath.





Commissioner Whelan talking with Ms. Louise Aubin Regional Representative for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Dr George Gittoes, AM after the service

WE WANT



YOU!

We have several regional coordinator positions vacant and while these are open to all members.

New people bring new ideas and we are focussed on younger members taking up positions of leadership withing the Association.

We are looking for regional coordinators in QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, TAS, NT and the ACT.

What would you be doing?

You would be the regional (State) point of contact for the APPVA and a member of the APPVA Committee. With the help of other members:

- represent the APPVA at regional consultative forums and state veterans' minister's office, Open Arms, DVA etc,
- organise regional social events.
- organise regional commemorative activities such as the APPVA contingent for ANZAC Day and other veteran commemorations as the



- representative of the APPVA,
- provide monthly regional updates and the needs of the members in your region, and
- source regional articles for Peacekeeper Magazine and APPVA social media,

Expressions of Interest for the positions will be called for in the next two weeks.

What is it Like as a Young Member in the APPVA?

Ask Kris Milne by emailing: editor@peacekeepers.asn.au



Kris Milne speaking to WIN TV on Peacekeeper Day

Recognising Peacekeeping - Marking 73 years in the field



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04315.024

An ASLAV conducts a patrol through the burning streets of Dili, as part of Australia's deployment with the International Force East Timor in 1999. *Stephen Dupont*

On 14 September 1947, four Australian military observers entered the field as part of the United Nations Good Offices Committee to Indonesia. Since then, not a day has passed without an Australian serving in a peacekeeping operation somewhere in the world. Australia has made more than 40,000 individual deployments to more than 60 peacekeeping operations in over 30 countries and disputed zones.

From Somalia to Solomon Islands, Bosnia to Bougainville, Australian servicemen and servicewomen have deployed in roles as varied as election monitors, signallers, negotiators, observers, and air traffic controllers. They have carried out humanitarian demining, delivered aid, provided logistic and communications support, and been attached to medical teams. To this day, they continue to fulfil a wide variety of roles in order to help prevent conflict and human suffering.

The diversity of the peacekeeping experience is reflected in the Australian War Memorial's National Collection. A washing machine, ingeniously improvised by Australian personnel from spare parts in Somalia highlights the tough environment crippled by water shortages. The original red paint of a Honda All Terrain Vehicle is evident below the camouflage colour scheme spray painted by members



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

MSU/94/0034/07

Australian Medical Support Force nursing officer Captain Annette Owtrim with local Rwandan mother Kurusumu Mukanyarwaya in Kigali Central Hospital. Owtrim holds a sample of baby products donated for critically ill and injured mothers in Rwanda. Kurusumu sustained a shrapnel wound during a bomb blast at the Kigali markets whilst seven months pregnant. October 1994, *Geoffrey Fox*.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08637.099

Australian tent lines at an observation post in a palm oil plantation in the Teterere region of Solomon Islands, 2009. *Glenn Campbell*

of the Australian Special Air Service Regiment before the vehicle's use in East Timor. The extreme conditions of the Golan Heights on the Israeli-Syrian border is reflected in the worn and weather-beaten United Nations flag flown over Observation Post 71 during Australia's participation in the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation. Each object has a story.

On the 73rd anniversary of Australia's first peacekeeping deployment, it is important to reflect on the service and sacrifice of so many Australians. We encourage current and



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P01735.510

Warrant Officer Class 1 Bill Bowyer, Counter Intelligence Detachment (1RAR Battalion Group), of the Unified Task Force in Somalia, uses the improvised washing machine, March 1993. George Gittoes, P01735.510.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P04382.001

Extreme conditions on the Golan Heights. Australian peacekeepers have served there as part of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation since 1956. *Paul Gregory Wilmot.*

former service personnel to continue telling their stories as we expand our collection to better tell the story of Australian peacekeeping into the future.

The Australian War Memorial's Development Project will be sharing the stories of a new generation of Australian men

and women who have served our nation in recent conflicts, and on peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. To share your story email: development@awm.gov.au.

By Alice Evans
AWM

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Beirut blast could lead to another civil war in Lebanon

12 Aug 2020 | Shlomo Ben-Ami

Last week, a warehouse stocked with nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate blew up, laying waste to the port of Beirut and ripping through much of the rest of the Lebanese capital. At least 200 people were killed, thousands were wounded, and hundreds of thousands were rendered homeless. For a country that was already roiled by political and economic crisis, the challenges ahead just became more profound. Even with the resignation of the country's government, the only chance of overcoming them lies in root-and-branch reform of Lebanon's political system and regional alliances.

According to Beirut's governor, total economic losses from the blast may reach US\$15 billion. Yet the Lebanese state is already on the brink of bankruptcy. And, with an incompetent kleptocratic regime running the country, no international lender, including the International Monetary Fund, is willing to offer it loans.

To be sure, in the wake of the latest crisis, Lebanon will receive considerable international aid. Already, donors have pledged nearly US\$300 million in humanitarian assistance at a virtual summit, in order to support healthcare, food security, education and housing.

That money doesn't come for free. To keep it from falling into 'corrupt hands', as French President Emmanuel Macron has put it, the aid will be routed through the United Nations, international organisations and NGOs, rather than the Lebanese government. They know that, if the country's current rulers are in control of the finances, their contributions will only perpetuate corruption and crisis. Alas, this is just a temporary financial palliative that cannot address the root causes of Lebanon's maladies, and could indeed relieve internal pressure on the country's political class.



Yes, international donors are calling for political and economic reform. But the sad truth is that overcoming Lebanon's powerful vested interests—including both its domestic ruling class and the external powers, such as Iran and Syria, that wield considerable domestic influence—will be next to impossible. Lebanese President Michel Aoun, a Hezbollah puppet, would not even agree to the call for an international inquiry into the port blast, claiming that this could 'dilute the truth'.

Lebanon's polity reflects the country's permanent sectarian strife. All that stands between relative calm and violent chaos is a fragile power-sharing system encompassing competing ethnic and religious groups, including Maronite Christians, Druze and Sunni and Shia Muslims.

But that system has long depended on massive capital inflows, which allowed the sectarian elite to entrench itself through patronage. A sudden stop to inflows last year shattered the system's foundations, spurring widespread protests and shaking Lebanon's delicate peace.

Yet Lebanon's internal dynamics can hardly be separated from regional

developments. Lebanon's sectarian politics have enabled foreign powers to gain a strong foothold in the country, turning it into an integral part of the Iran-led 'axis of resistance' against Israel's and America's regional designs.

Iran's lavish support for Hezbollah has enabled the Shia political party and militia to become what is probably the world's most powerful non-state actor, with military capabilities that dwarf those of Lebanon's army. It is telling that, when Macron visited Beirut after the port explosion, crowds chanted, 'free us from Hezbollah'.

But Hezbollah enjoys broad-based support among Lebanon's Shia, who comprise almost one-third of the country's population and form the most powerful sect, politically and militarily. Perhaps more important, Lebanon's sovereignty continues to be subverted by Iran, which is committed to using Hezbollah to advance its own strategic priorities. When the Beirut blast occurred, a United Nations-backed special tribunal was days away from issuing its verdict in the trial of four alleged members of Hezbollah for the 2005 murder of former Lebanese



Prime Minister (and Saudi Arabia's man in Beirut) Rafik Hariri.

Of course, Iran's regional designs have spurred resistance: the spectre of an Israel-Hezbollah war has lately been growing. The Beirut blast's

silver lining may be that it averts—or at least forestalls—such a conflict, in which Israel would destroy Lebanon's infrastructure to neutralise the 150,000 missiles that Hezbollah has concealed among the civilian population before they devastate Israel's vulnerable home front.

Lebanon's distress makes it more difficult for Israel to conduct such a pre-emptive attack on Hezbollah's military capabilities and discourages Hezbollah from antagonising Israel. But whatever mutual deterrent exists is fragile, at best. If Hezbollah (with Iran's help) develops precision-guided missiles, all bets will be off.

Even without such weaponry, the international community's hope of using aid as leverage to bring about change—a hope shared not only by Western powers like France, but also potentially by Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states—is unlikely to bear fruit. As Macron himself reportedly told US President Donald Trump, sanctions against Hezbollah play into the hands of those they are meant to weaken, including Iran.

That said, Lebanon's vibrant and well-developed civil society has forced change before. After Hariri's assassination, the Cedar Revolution—a series of demonstrations under the motto of 'freedom, sovereignty and independence'—forced the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

But Lebanese civil society faces far stiffer opposition today than anything the embattled Syrians could mount in 2005. Over the last 15 years, Iran has spent lavishly to turn Lebanon into its strategic playground. As a result, Hezbollah is more powerful and Lebanon more subservient to external powers—including Iran, Syria and Russia—than ever.

These powers will not sit back and allow a reform of the political system that has made Lebanon such a crucial link in their regional strategy, even at the price of turning the country into another Libya. Far from a new Cedar Revolution, efforts to push reform could lead to a conflict much like the civil war of 1975–90, in which foreign powers and rival local militias join forces and tear Lebanon apart. aspistrategist.org.au



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MOUNTAIN VIEWS AND COMMUNITY HALLMARKS OF TOWNSVILLE'S ELLIOT SPRINGS

Townsville's stunning new residential destination, Elliot Springs, is experiencing exciting growth with community milestones reached in 2020 including the launch of its Whites Creek address plus the opening of the central café and garden nursery. And there's plenty more to come.

Located just 15 minutes from Lavarack Barracks, Elliot Springs is Townsville's largest master planned community and ideal for first home buyers, families and investors alike. Murray Sports Complex and Fairfield Central are just a short drive away.

Elliot Springs is the perfect place to come home to after a busy day on the base and the perfect place for you and your family to live, with plenty of opportunities to grow and make lifelong friends.

As the master plan comes to life, the community will offer residents the opportunity for an active, outdoor lifestyle where you can walk children to school, cycle to the shops, or spend time with friends and family in the park or at Bindal Ridge.

With more green spaces, 360-degree mountain views, big backyards and a diverse choice of homes at affordable prices, Elliot Springs is set to become one of region's most popular neighbourhoods.

Whether you're dreaming of easy, open plan living, a large family home or a low maintenance block near parkland, this community has a site to suit. Buyers can choose to custom build or select one of the many house and land packages available. Housing guidelines offer ideas to make the most of building for the Townsville climate and lifestyle.



More than one third of Elliot Springs will be open space with an expansive network of playgrounds, landscaped parks, sporting fields, bushland corridors and native habitat sanctuaries linked together by walking and cycling paths.

Located on the city side of Billabong Sanctuary just moments from Alligator Creek, Elliot Springs sits cradled between the Muntalunga Range to the east, Mount Jack to the west and The Sisters Mountains to the south, with panoramic views to Mount Stuart and Mount Elliot beyond.

Award-winning Wadda Mooli Park is the community's first district park and a major drawcard for families. The all-abilities playground that's been designed as a destination for Townsville, offers a wide range of activities, equipment and obstacles to ensure children never get bored of climbing, riding or swinging.

Within the park you can also take an exercise class, kids can join the soccer

club, enjoy mountain bike and walking trails or you can sit at The Hub café perfectly positioned within the park to provide a place to relax with family and friends.

With up to six schools planned, including two high schools, plus childcare centres and community business facilities, learning will be open to all ages.

Construction is expected to commence on the first service station at Elliot Springs with food outlet and small retail offering, plus the at the entry to Elliot Springs you'll find a Visitors Information Centre for Townsville Enterprise Tourism.

Visit the display village at Elliot Springs for plenty of home inspiration and to talk to the builders about designing and building your new home. Explore thirteen homes from twelve of Townsville's best builders in one great location; the inspiration for design, layout and styling is endless.

Current record low interest rates, plus government incentives, mean it's never been a better time to buy and build a new home at Elliot Springs.

Speak to Meryl at the Elliot Springs Sales and Information Centre, 28 Vista Place, Julago. Call 1800 881 091 or visit elliotsprings.com.au or follow us at facebook.com/elliotspringstownsville.



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Driving into the future

Young soldiers' computer skills are paying off for members of 7th Combat Service Support Battalion, whose battle simulation system (BSS) has paid dividends in training drivers how to safely operate protected mobility vehicles in an artificial environment.

From the safety of Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane, the troop commander uploaded a driving scenario that included all the complexities of operating in the Middle East – civilian pedestrians, animals, threat forces and the possibility of encountering an improvised explosive device.

The BSS provides the battalion with a means to visualise logistical patrols, conduct drills, practise intra-vehicle communications and respond to orders.

The simulators also deliver cost savings on operating heavy military vehicles and allow for the replay of events for enhanced learning.

Through the immersive system, the user feels closer to a real-world environment, proving to be effective in honing driver skills in a safe and efficient way.

Corporal John Goodwin said the system had great advantages.

"While there's no substitute for real driving, it makes people visualise their training in a realistic scenario so they can practise their communication between vehicles and hone their drills," Corporal Goodwin said.

"It also eliminates all the admin work of booking a range - being in the heart of Brisbane we don't have immediate access to large training areas."

Corporal Goodwin highlighted the positive reaction from the new generation of soldiers posting into the battalion.

"Soldiers have responded well to the training as it gets them out of the transport yard and into a relaxed

environment to practise," Corporal Goodwin said.

"Newer soldiers in particular are more familiar with computer games so it resonates with them."

Information Technician Signaller David Locke had significant involvement in setting up the existing systems, and was looking forward to newer versions arriving in the near future.

"There's a project to replace the current driver simulator," Signaller Locke said.

"The new system will have a gun ring on the back of it and will run training for the Bushmaster, HX77 trucks and the Hawkei vehicles.

"As we go forward we expect the simulations to become more realistic, where users will feel more like they're inside the vehicle."

By Captain Taylor Lynch



Jungle trial for new infantry officers



Lieutenant Patrick Omodei, of 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, calls out enemy target indications during the Infantry Regimental Officers Basic Course. *Corporal Brodie Cross*

By Major Carrie Robards

For the first time in a generation, infantry lieutenants on their Regimental Officer Basic Course have completed jungle operations as a part of their package.

The course took advantage of the air mobility provided by two of 5th Aviation Regiment's CH-47 Chinook helicopters, airlifting the officers from Lavarack Barracks to the Tully training area.

The two-week jungle operations package allowed students to learn how to work with other capabilities such as combat engineer search teams to conduct realistic training scenarios in complex warfare.

School of Infantry instructor Captain Michael Jack said the activity was the culmination point for the course, designed to test students on how well they could conduct operations in challenging conditions.

"In North Queensland, we have access to the jungle environment, which is complex due to the vegetation and the concealment," Captain Jack said.

"It allowed students to conduct lessons, learn from these lessons and apply the knowledge ... preparing them for their future appointment as infantry platoon commanders in their battalions."

Course participant Lieutenant Patrick Omodei, of 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, said he enjoyed applying his knowledge to a difference training environment.

"The jungle environment affords a number of new considerations that we have to take into account," Lieutenant Omodei said.

"We'll apply this knowledge in our future operations as infantry platoon commanders."

Commanding Officer of School of Infantry LTCOL James Smith said the significant redevelopment of this course better prepared lieutenants for command than ever before.

"Students have tested themselves in a range of environments," Lieutenant Colonel Smith said.

"They've needed to develop their quick appreciation skills and make decisions under pressure. This takes resilience and mental and physical fitness.

"Our training is tough, but it mirrors the demands of command in conditions they may well find themselves fighting in, in future conflicts."

Many of the officers have now moved onto the Mechanised Regimental Officer Course with the School of Armour before returning to their battalions as qualified infantry platoon commanders.

Powering Australia Through the Tough Times

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to Australians and Australia's businesses. Many businesses have had to take significant measures to the way they provide customer service, communicate with stakeholders and conduct overall business operations to keep everyone safe. One such business that has adapted to these new COVID-19 safety measures and continues to focus on customer service is R&J Batteries.

Australia's fastest growing battery and lubricant distributor, R&J Batteries provide battery solutions for all applications including: automotive, commercial, motorcycle, marine, deep cycle, solar and industrial. The 100% Australian owned battery importer & distributor has 24 branches and a footprint of more than 8,000 stockists and distributors throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, R&J Batteries has already had an eventful year providing power solutions to essential businesses and workers throughout Australia and New Zealand. Mid-year, R&J Batteries opened its 24th branch at 45 Macleod Street, Bairnsdale in Victoria through the acquisition of Wilsons Batteries and Lubes. The acquisition not only enables R&J Batteries to service communities in the East Gippsland region of Victoria but also keeps locals employed amidst the recession.

This year, R&J Batteries has also added two new exclusive battery brands, Koba Batteries and ALLiON Batteries, to its already extensive portfolio of world class brands. Koba Batteries are long lasting sealed, maintenance free automotive batteries. They provide reliable starting power



and are suitable for all automotive and commercial applications. ALLiON Batteries are lithium-ion deep cycle batteries that last four times longer than comparable lead acid batteries. Provided with a range of benefits including Bluetooth technology, BMS protection and greater usable capacity, ALLiON Batteries are due to hit the shelves at all R&J Batteries branches and distributors in Australia and New Zealand in mid-September 2020.

In addition to Koba and ALLiON Batteries, R&J Batteries' product range includes renowned brands such as ACDelco, Delkor, Fullriver, Hardcore, Motobatt, Optima, Predator, BAE Solar Batteries, Fuchs and many more. Each brand's unique application-specific technology and features allow R&J Batteries to supply battery solutions for almost any operation. Well known for their high-quality automotive batteries, they also supply motorcycle, RV & leisure, solar, marine and commercial batteries.

Being Australian owned, R&J Batteries understands the need for batteries that are suited to Australia's harsh operating conditions, especially within the commercial market. The company's heavy-duty commercial battery range features advanced technology and high cycling ability (some models only), capable of

withstanding extreme temperatures, varying terrain and large electrical loads. These have been tried and tested in many heavy-duty applications such as transport, mining, agriculture and earth moving.

Currently, the battery distributor is busy with preparations for the 2020 Virgin Australia Supercars Championship. Since July, R&J Batteries has joined forces with Brad Jones Racing to sponsor popular racing drivers Todd Hazelwood and Nick Percat. Todd Hazelwood was sponsored for the BP Ultimate Sydney SuperSprint, BetEasy Darwin Triple Crown and CoreStaff Darwin SuperSprint whereas Nick Percat will be sponsored by R&J Batteries for the remainder of the Supercars Championship season. The company has taken an active interest in motorsports throughout the years at all levels from grassroots and junior levels right up to the long association with the Supercars Super 2 series.

As R&J Batteries continues to power Australia through these difficult times by supporting essential businesses and workers, creating and retaining jobs and injecting money into local economies. It has proven time and again as to why people, service and products form a core part of its values.





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Defence recruiting soars as Australians look for work amid downturn

The number of Australians looking to join the military has surged since the COVID-19 outbreak began.

Recruitment applications to the Australian Defence Force are up by 42 per cent compared to last year.

Women and people from the aviation and tourism industries comprise a larger proportion of applicants than usual.

The rate of female applicants has skyrocketed by 78 per cent when compared with the same period in 2019.

Women have been disproportionately affected by the so-called "pink recession", which has seen predominately female industries and casual employment roles heavily impacted.

Applications for the Navy are up by 54 per cent compared to the same period last year, applications to join the Air Force have increased by 43 per cent, and applications for Army jobs are up 41 per cent.

"The global financial crisis is when we saw a similar surge," Defence recruiting director Jan Noonan said.

But Defence figures show the spike has been much more sudden in the wake of the pandemic than it was during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis.

"After the GFC it was about four months before that spike in applications came through," Captain Noonan said.

"But really we saw this as soon as coronavirus hit.

"There's been a lot of impact on Australians throughout the last five or six months — it's been really tough.

"We can provide security of jobs for a range of people, whether they're high school graduates or people with professional degrees and qualifications."

Pilots, chefs and



Applications to join the Defence Force have soared since the COVID-19 pandemic began. *Defence image*

logisticians

The most requested roles related to industries that have been particularly hard hit, Capt. Noonan said.

"The airline community are definitely part of that, in tourism we've seen chefs wanting to join, and a lot of people in administration and logistics roles also keen to join Defence at this turbulent time," she said.

"We've seen an increase in applications from every state except Tasmania, and that's really ramped up from March onwards, when coronavirus hit."

The greatest increase in applications were in the Northern Territory (43 per cent), Western Australia (38 per cent) and Victoria (24 per cent).

Some 7,300 extra applications have been received in Queensland, with about 600 Queenslanders joining the ADF recently.

The ADF had already seen an 18

per cent increase in potential recruits from December until the start of the pandemic, which Defence attributed to the more visible role the military had in the community during the summer bushfires.

The Defence Force is one of few Australian employers expanding its workforce during the pandemic, with the Federal Government announcing this week that an extra 650 jobs would be added to the Navy over the next 10 years.

Military enlistment often rises during economic downturns, while recruitment has been more difficult during times of economic growth, such as the mining boom.

On average, 80,000 people apply to work in the ADF annually, about 8,000 of whom are accepted each year.

'Game changer for recruiting'

Townsville's senior military recruiter, Major Steven McNaughton, says



Jan Noonan says people are turning to Defence for employment during turbulent times. ABC News: Luke Stephenson

Queensland has always been a strong source of people wanting to sign up to the ADF.

High-profile domestic ADF operations during the 2019 Townsville floods, as well as the more recent bushfires have boosted recruitment in the north of the state for both full-time and reservist roles.

“We’ve seen a decent increase since December,” Maj. McNaughton said.

“COVID has been the catalyst for many.

“A lot of people have lost jobs, obviously with the industries that have suffered through COVID, and people are looking for stable employment and Defence definitely offers that.

“A lot of candidates that we see through the doors have always had an interest in Defence — now they’ve taken that step.”

Defence has been forced to adapt its recruiting process, replacing face-to-face recruiting with virtual information sessions and counselling sessions.

That means people from remote and regional areas no longer need to travel to a metropolitan recruiting centre to apply.

“That’s been a game changer for Defence Force recruiting,” Maj. Noonan said.



The ADF has seen an increase in the proportion of women applying to join the military. Defence image

James Cook University labour market researcher Riccardo Welters says people flock to higher education or public sector employment during recessions.

“When you think stable employment, you think public sector, and when you think public sector, you think Defence,” he said.

“The Federal Government has already said it’s not going to let Defence

go down, so it gives you many hours — and it’s good pay as well.”

Dr Welters said Defence could also expect more school-leavers and graduates to walk into the recruiting office, with youth unemployment typically higher than the overall unemployment rate.



The Australian Navy is expected to grow by 650 personnel over the next decade. Defence image

Navies hone warfare skills

The Royal Australian Navy joined the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, South Korea Navy and United States Navy for three days of warfare exercises, involving 1500 personnel, eight ships, a submarine and aircraft.

HMA Ships Stuart and Arunta are participating in Exercise Pacific Vanguard off the coast of Guam as part of the Navy's Regional Presence Deployment through the Pacific and South-East Asia.

Commanding Officer Stuart Commander Luke Ryan said the exercise on, September 11, was focused on the ability of the combined forces to respond to contingencies in the Indo-Pacific.

"Exercise Pacific Vanguard is an excellent opportunity for our four navies to refine our skills operating as an integrated force ready to respond to a changing and complex maritime environment in the region," Commander Ryan said.

"Promoting greater levels of

defence cooperation among key regional partners increases our coordination, understanding and communication when exercising and operating together."

During Exercise Pacific Vanguard, forces are practising a wide range of naval competencies, including combined manoeuvres, surface warfare, live-fire exercises, anti-submarine warfare and replenishments at sea.

Japanese Ships Ashigara and Ise, and South Korean Navy Ships Chungmugong Yi Sun-sin and Seoae Ryu Seong-ryong are also taking part.

From the United States, USS Barry, USNS John Ericson, a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine, and P-8 Patrol squadrons are also participating.

This is the third iteration of Exercise Pacific Vanguard.

Commanding Officer Barry Commander Christopher A. Gahl said Pacific Vanguard was a good opportunity for the combined forces to refine their skills.

Promoting greater levels of defence cooperation among key regional partners increases our coordination, understanding and communication when exercising and operating together.

"The United States, along with allies and partners, is committed to preserving stability and freedom of access to the global commons," Commander Gahl said.

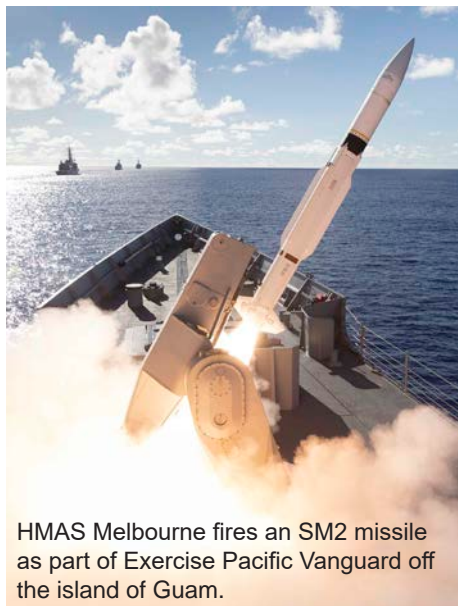
"Participation in Pacific Vanguard provides realistic, relevant training that fosters each nation's abilities to plan, communicate and conduct complex maritime operations together, at sea."

Commodore Maritime Task Squadron 71 of South Korea, Navy Captain Kim Sung Hwan, said he looked forward to seeing the enhancement of combined operational capabilities during the exercise.

"It will serve as an opportunity to strengthen joint response capabilities for various security situations by building up the friendship and

Royal Australian Navy, Republic of Korea Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and United States Navy sail in formation in waters off Guam during Exercise Pacific Vanguard 2020.





HMAS Melbourne fires an SM2 missile as part of Exercise Pacific Vanguard off the island of Guam.

Underwater medicine clinicians graduate

Graduates of course 21 of the RAN Underwater Medicine Clinician course celebrated the completion of seven months of training with a small gathering outside the Submarine Underwater Medical Unit at HMAS Penguin on September 3.

Underwater medicine is a specialist area of military medicine that requires expertise that is not generally available from civilian organisations.

The training provides an advanced level of skills and knowledge, which can only be gained through experience within the navy submarine and diving-medicine environment, in combination with appropriate post-graduate training.

In addition to the provision of hyperbaric therapy, underwater medicine clinicians are skilled in diving and submarine medicine to the ADF and providing health care for all ADF diving personnel, including emergency recompression for diving accident victims, monitoring and maintaining health standards for ADF diving and submarine personnel, personnel

training in underwater medicine and treatment, and advice and support in times of emergency.

Leading Seaman Medic David Bell said graduating had been a career highlight.

“It has been a challenge to get here and I am looking forward to getting out there and doing the job,” Leading Seaman Bell said.

During the graduation, Director of Fleet Health Captain Amanda Garlick commended the graduates for their achievement and highlighted the importance of their role.

“The Underwater Medicine Clinicians course provides a vital capability to support the diving and underwater community in the ADF,” Captain Garlick said.

Graduates will post to locations to provide immediate support to their respective units with their newfound skills.

The Submarine Underwater Medical Unit is co-located near the ADF Diving School.

Lieutenant Anthony Martin

coordination system between participating nations,” Captain Hwan said.

Commander-in-Chief Self Defense Fleet Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, Vice Admiral Yuasa Hideki, concurred.

“It is truly invaluable that the navies of four countries get together again in Guam to participate in Pacific Vanguard under the difficult time we all face during COVID-19,” Vice Admiral Hideki said.

“I strongly believe that our enhanced cooperation will certainly contribute to peace and stability in the Western Pacific as well as furthering our partnership.”

A five-ship task group departed Australia on the Regional Presence Deployment in July to conduct maritime exercises with other nations in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

Commander of the Australian Task Group Captain Phillipa Hay said Exercise Pacific Vanguard provided a significant opportunity to work with regional partners on complex warfighting skills.

“The exercise strengthens an already solid relationship between the Royal Australian Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, South Korea Navy and United States Navy, increasing our ability to contribute to the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific,” Captain Hay said.

Lieutenant Tanalee Smith



Director Fleet Health Captain Amanda Garlick, right, presents a course certificate to Corporal Naomi Lang during the ceremony at HMAS Penguin, Sydney.

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– MAJGEN Ian Gordon, AO (Retd)

My time as the Patron of the Association came as our Nation had just experienced a very busy time in Peacekeeping - Middle East, Namibia, Western Sahara, Cambodia, Rwanda, East Timor, Bougainville, and Sudan. Some of these Missions continue and there are now others .

Hopes had been growing that Peacekeeping, UN and others, would start to do much more to ease international and interstate tensions. There have been successes but also many disappointments. Sadly that's the reality faced by Peacekeepers.

It's been really satisfying to see how the attitude of the Australian community has changed for the better. Our Association has done much to achieve this. Especially, it has worked for greater recognition for the work of Peacekeepers, for their welfare, and for the sacrifice of their families. The Association gave fantastic support to the Committee that worked for many years to create a Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra. That Memorial is a reminder to the whole nation of the importance of Australia's contribution to Peacekeeping. It also tells the Peacekeepers that their work, their noble enterprise, will never be forgotten.

I'm frequently reminded that our Peacekeepers are still overseas, still doing the work that I know to be difficult and often dangerous. These young Australians are usually isolated and always worried about their families at home. I've seen them taking their training and values to the international Missions they serve.

The Executive of the APPVA, past and present, deserve our thanks and congratulations for their many achievements and for overcoming so many challenges to establish the Association as a respected voice in the Veterans community.

I am enormously proud to have served our Nation as a Peacekeeper, and to have represented our Association as its Patron. I'm also grateful that Colonel Brandy has stepped in to continue the support the Association deserves.

I wish you all well in these trying times.

Major General Ian Gordon AO (Retd.)
September 2020



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Our new Patron

- Reflections on the Role of Patron

- Colonel Mary Brandy, CSM (Retd)

I was recently approached by the Vice President to take on the role of Patron of the Peacekeepers Association. Whilst I was hesitant in the initial instance to accept the role, I realised that my aspirations aligned with the core values of the Association – Engagement, Respect and Connection. I am therefore pleased

and privileged to accept the offer of my patronage.

I have often reflected on the large number of disparate groups trying to help veterans of all age groups and the inability of the different groups to meet the needs of the individuals, in particular, younger veterans. Like their predecessors they have also strived

to make the world a better place, travelling into countries in conflict in the hope that they can make a difference for people in need. I was fortunate to witness this compassion and support for humanity whilst serving in Rwanda.

Throughout life I have had the opportunity as a military member and as a civilian to work in some challenging environments, nationally and internationally. Fortunately, the support has always been there when needed, be it family, friends, or professional personnel. I am confident that the Association can be the sounding board for all Peacekeepers – Military, Police, or Civilians – and assist in equipping them for the challenges ahead as they return to their normal work environment. As the needs of the younger veterans change, the Association will be equipped to continue evolving and ride the curve with them.

In addition, I have had the benefit of being married to a long serving member of the Defence Force. Our service, and post service life has been enriched by the mutual understanding we have of 'what it takes' to manage the joys, the tensions and the rewards of service life. We realize that this is not always the case, and it is this understanding of the challenges veterans confront that has inspired me to offer my services to the APPVA.

Colonel Mary Brandy, CSM (Retd)
September 2020



Colonel Brandy with husband Ron Brandy



Pte Samuel Williams operates a Javelin missile launcher during a force protection exercise in HMAS Canberra.
LS Kieren Whiteley



Skills on point

When Pte Houston Bodenhamer was deployed on Regional Presence Deployment 2020, he didn't think he would need to use his French skills.

While on operation in the Pacific, the 2RAR soldier came face-to-face with three Micronesian mariners stranded on a remote island.

Pte Bodenhamer was part of a resupply operation to the mariners and tasked with translating a message.

"The message said we had aid from the ADF and asked them not to worry as a ship was coming to take them home," Pte Bodenhamer said.

"I read the letter to them in French and asked if they were alright and if they understood what I'd said. They were in high spirits and their morale was good.

"It was rewarding to see my studies pay off like this. French is just a hobby, I never expected to use it for work."

HMAS Canberra was passing through the Federated States of Micronesia enroute to Townsville when aircraft spotted "SOS" spelled-out on a beach.

The Navy flagship had just completed exercises with vessels from the United States, Japan and Indonesia.

The Micronesian search-and-rescue task was an unexpected break from training for Pte Bodenhamer and more than 100 2RAR soldiers embarked in Canberra for the deployment between June 22 and August 13.

CO 2RAR Lt-Col Judd Finger said it was the first time his bat-talion had prepared a contingency force to sail on a landing helicopter dock (LHD).

"They were busy training so they remained sharp," Lt-Col Finger said.

"They made sure their skills were at a standard that, if they were called upon, they were ready to go."

As well as adapting urban tactics for operating on the ship, LCpl Aaron Hiesberger said time was devoted to integrated training with Navy and attachments from 10FSB, 3CSSB and 3CER

"It was about sharing knowledge," LCpl Hiesberger said.

"We got lessons on Bushmaster basic maintenance from transport, and tactical combat casualty care from the medics.

"We put on combat shooting lessons demonstrating drills and techniques to use the EF88 more effectively, which culminated in a live-fire practice on the flight deck."

Soldiers and sailors also conducted training to bolster the ship's defences using specialist equipment, such as Javelin missiles.

2RAR Javelin operator Pte Ryan Knowles said the anti-armour weapon could be easily integrated.

"The ship has decent 25mm cannons, but we could provide that extra fire support, if requested, as well as battlefield commentary," Pte Knowles said.

"We had snipers and Javelin teams on the ship's bridge to develop SOPs as well as teams with F89s and a grenade launcher attachment at each corner of the ship.

"The Javelin can lock on to rotary wing aircraft or fire in direct attack mode; having the option within force

protection greatly enhances the capability of the ship."

2RAR's success in the amphibious role could be attributed to Army and Navy's ongoing integration, according to Lt-Col Finger.

"Land forces have a lot to provide maritime forces," he said.

This included integration of combat aid and medics into Navy's medical system, tactical recovery of aircrew, small boats, the Army beach team and their landing craft.

LCpl Hiesberger, who first embarked in HMAS Adelaide in 2016, believed the Army-Navy relationship had come a long way since 2RAR began amphibious operations.

"At the start it was more about getting from A to B. Now we are trying to develop the joint capability with Navy and provide as much value as we can," he said.

"It's a work in progress because people post in and out of the unit and the LHD crew changes every two years.

"The more we integrate into the amphibious role the more effective we are as a fighting force."

Pte Jacob Joseph | Army News



Soldiers from 2RAR deliver food and supplies to a group of stranded mariners from the Federated States of Micronesia. *LS Kieren Whiteley*



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Australian cyber companies collaborate on online training program for Defence Force

A group of Australian sovereign cyber companies are claiming an Australia-first collaboration to create a successful pilot of a fully online, collective cyber training program for the Australian Defence Force.

The companies - Cydarm, Elttam, Penten and Retrospect Labs - each with expertise in niche cyber technology, came together to tailor a solution for the ADF on FifthDomain's cyber training platform.

The fully online training program was conducted from FifthDomain's headquarters in Canberra, and was delivered remotely to Navy, Army and Air Force personnel across the country over a three-week timeframe.

The companies say the aim of the Accelerated Defence Cyber Training (ADCT) Program "echoes the current need for remotely accessible training programs while also addressing the requirement to rapidly increase cyber skills across Defence and industry".

The program included a "highly realistic" virtual environment with simulated exercises, with the trainees grouped into virtual teams to remediate vulnerabilities and respond to simulated and real threat actors.

On the final day of the pilot, Major General Marcus Thompson, Head of Information Warfare Division, ADF, visited FifthDomain's office within UNSW's Launch Precinct to connect virtually with over 50 program trainees and congratulate the Australian consortium partners for their achievement.

"Building home-grown cyber capabilities is a team effort. In Defence, we're developing our capabilities in an increasingly connected world - which extends to the battlefield. The collaboration of local SME's to support the training progression of ADF cyber operators gives me great confidence that we're on the right track. I commend our partners Fifth Domain, Penten, Cydarm, Elttam and Retrospect Labs for contributing to the acceleration of



Head Information Warfare Major General Marcus Thompson (seated, front left) and Joint Cyber Unit personnel talk to participants of the Accelerated Defensive Cyber Training program run by Fifth Domain in Canberra, on 14 August 2020.

ADF cyber training," said Thompson.

Michelle Price, AustCyber CEO, said "this is a real-world demonstration of the strength of Australia's cyber security ecosystem".

"Seeing five sovereign cyber businesses come together to provide a virtual training platform for Defence is a great example of the strong cyber security sector in Australia and shows that Australian cyber businesses can provide the solutions Defence needs. A strong domestic cyber security sector is critical for Australia's competitiveness and reputation as a trusted place to do business."

The pilot saw Cydarm, a Melbourne-based business, deployed their case management platform and dashboard as a command and control system to coordinate team activities and provide oversight for the mentors, enabling trainees in the cybersecurity operations teams to collaborate on responding to incidents while the mentors continually assessed their progress.

Vaughan Shanks, CEO of Cydarm Technologies said "developing home-

grown expertise is a key objective of the Australian government as it focuses on building sovereign cyber capability to generate jobs, defend Australia and export these solutions to the Asia Pacific region and around the world".

Elttam, an independent Australian security company which specialises in high-quality offensive and defensive security services, played the role of cyber threat actors for the ADF trainees.

"We were proud to tailor realistic adversarial scenarios for Defence based on industry experience. It was a pleasure to collaborate with the partnering Australian companies as part of the ADCT Program," said Matt Jones, Director and Co-founder of Elttam.

CEO Matt Wilcox of FifthDomain - the training project lead and provider of the platform, and an Australian specialist cyber operations workforce development and management development company based in Canberra - said: "We are proud to

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be leading this sovereign capability to deliver this unique solution for Defence. FifthDomain's cyber ranges benefit by being able to integrate niche technologies from our partners to provide Defence the best of breed Australian cyber innovation. And within the context of COVID-19 limitations, the sovereign, remotely accessible platform enables Defence to overcome travel and supply chain challenges to successfully achieve this goal."

Ben Whitham, Founder and Director of Canberra-based technology company Penten said "this is another example of sovereign capability and what we can achieved when we collaborate".

"Although this is only the first step working together, the combined solution of additional realism and automation will enhance the training outcomes, reduce the time taken to create the environments and improve the repeatability."

Retrospect Labs is building a cyber security exercise platform that it says takes the burden out of conducting cyber security exercises, with the platform making exercises easy to design, execute, and evaluate, so that organisations can continually practice - and perfect - their response to any cyber incident.



CEO of Fifth Domain Matt Wilcox talks to Head Information Warfare Major General Marcus Thompson (centre).


Jason Pang, CEO of Retrospect Labs said "What we did, together, showcases the awesome home-grown talent boutique Australian companies have to offer, and their ability to work so closely together in a way that rivals, and in many ways outshines, the offerings of many established, traditional cyber firms."

The companies say delivery of the

program closely aligns with Australia's Cyber Security Strategy 2020, released in early August 2020, which commits \$1.67 billion investment over 10 years, and outlines a range of initiatives including the growth of the country's cyber skills pipeline as one of its key recommendations.


Peter Dinham
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Black Tot Day: the end of The Rum Ration

It has been 50 years since the end of daily rum in the Royal Navy

Sailors the world over will raise a toast to mark the moment a 230-year old Royal Navy tradition came to an end when they observe the 50th anniversary of Black Tot Day – marking the date that the official daily rum ration was scrapped.

What Is Black Tot Day?

The commemorative day is a salute to the historic practice of issuing sailors with a daily tot of rum.

Black Tot Day itself became an annual tradition when, in 1970, the centuries-old custom was ended as part of a modernisation of the Royal Navy.

While many sailors lamented the decision, it had been felt that drinking high-strength spirits was no longer appropriate for crews handling complex multi-million pound weapons, systems and machinery of the modern age.

Royal Navy sailors, however, love their customs and ceremonial rituals, so Black Tot Day was born ... a final salute with a tot of rum which has since become a once-a-year tradition to commemorate the end of the historic daily tradition.

Black Tot - The Last Consignment

Former Royal Navy Commodore Alistair Halliday said it had been a sad day when the custom ended back in the Seventies.

A young man at the time, Alistair recalls the day the daily rum ration came to an end and remembers it as a bleak day for sailors.

He remembers how, while attending the Royal Tournament, which was once the world's largest military tattoo and pageant until it ended in 1999 following a Strategic Defence Review, sailors presented a sombre display



Royal Marines and bluejackets are served rum rations on HMS Royal Oak. IWM Q 17966

that felt like reading the last rites to the rum tradition.

He said: "They had a display that was a gun carriage with a rum barrel on it. It was like a funeral."

From then on, July 31 became known as Black Tot Day as an annual final salute to the rum ration. Alistair added:

"It seems it was a dark day for the Navy."

Rum Rations In The Royal Navy

Rum rations had been issued to sailors as far back as the 1600s but Admiral Edward Vernon made the practice a formal daily practice in 1740 – ordering that half a pint of rum diluted down to one-part rum, four-parts water, and divided into two servings, be issued to ratings every day.

For centuries, sailors had gathered together between 1100hrs and 1200hrs for 'Up Spirits' – the serving of their allocated tot of rum.

It was roughly an eighth of a pint.

Rum was not only given as a reward for the hard manual labour sailors

endured on board ship, but acted as morale boost, and pertaining to the age – a medicine.

In the early days of the rations, rum was laced with lime juice to help keep scurvy at bay.

The tradition developed over the years, later becoming a daily tradition in which junior sailors were served a ration mixed with water, known as 'Grog' while seniors were served it neat.

Sailors were not allowed to share their rum allowance, but there were rumours of sailors hoarding rum to drink in the evenings.

There had been a few occasions in the 19th century where the tradition had almost come to an end but the daily tot survived the ages.

In the Seventies, MP Christopher Mayhew questioned the compatibility of rum rations with the modern role of a Royal Navy sailor.

The Admiralty conceded that there was no longer any official need for daily rum and so the tradition came to an end.

Alistair said: "There was lots more sophisticated systems and perhaps less of the really hard manual graft. I think it was decided that it should be scrapped."

Sailors had often been under supervision when they were served their rum – which was a very high-strength blend at about 55 percent alcohol.

Now, the Royal Navy's preferred spirit, Pussers Rum, comes in at about 40% proof and this is the spirit chosen for the annual Up Spirits including this year's 50th anniversary Black Tot Day on July 31.

Alistair told how, back in the 1980s while in Gibraltar, he was able to try some of the rum that was left over from the original rations and he said it was "absolutely delicious".

Sailors are these days permitted to buy up to three cans of beer in lieu of the historical rum, to drink while off duty.

Rum can still be issued under order of commanding officers to reward sailors for work well done and



Rum Ration Aboard HMS King George V, 1940. IWM A 1777

hard graft – something which Alistair recalled doing when he was Captain of HMS Manchester.

Other navies around the world soon followed the Royal Navy in ending the

daily rum ration tradition, with the Royal Canadian Navy abolishing the official serving in 1972.

The Royal NZ Navy carried on the custom right up until 1990.





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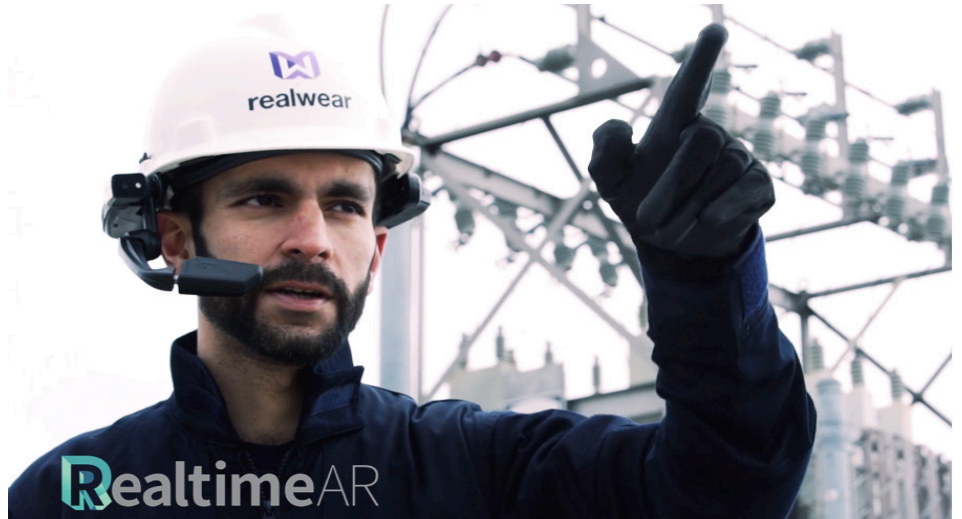
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Putting troops on the frontline of pandemics, natural disasters means less time to train for war

If you asked any Australian in a bushfire-hit or flood-ravaged town what they felt when soldiers in uniform turned up to help them, they would usually say relief and reassurance.

Over the past year, images of soldiers clearing felled trees, sandbagging homes, feeding burnt and injured wildlife, and guiding airport arrivals into hotel quarantine have become routine on our televisions.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has never been busier on home soil.

And while these images reinforce the idea that the armed forces are always available to step in and help when needed at home, the constant call-outs come at a cost.

There is growing disquiet in Defence circles about ever-increasing demands on the military to help when domestic disasters strike, as well as calls for a new national approach to dealing with such crises.

Time not spent training for war

Between the summer bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, 10,000 ADF personnel have been deployed around Australia on domestic operations.

That number continues to rise, with several hundred troops from Townsville's 3rd Combat Brigade set to head south to assist with the coronavirus response.

But every time troops are sent in to aid state agencies dealing with disasters, that's time not spent training for what they are meant to do — fight wars.

"We're facing demands for domestic operations on a scale that has not been seen for a generation," John Blaxland, professor of international security and intelligence studies at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at ANU, said.



A soldier fires a Javelin anti-tank missile on a training exercise near Townsville. WO2 Neil Ruskin, Defence image

"At the same time, we're facing challenges abroad which require the ADF to be deployed at short notice [including] the prospect of more concerning and risky clashes that might arise in Australia's neighbourhood."

Dr Blaxland said training had a direct impact on the ADF's capability.

"That's been disrupted in the last year or so by the tempo of activities with fires, with pandemics and disasters," he said.

"People ... miss out on the opportunities to have their skills honed, have their experience improved, and have their skills tested."

A major war-gaming event, the biennial Exercise Hamel, was cancelled this year.

The 3rd Combat Brigade, for example, is engaged in fighting drills this month, but the exercise is scaled down and only involves local troops.

Brigade Commander Brigadier Kahlil Fegan said it was due to become Australia's "ready brigade" by the end of the year — the next in line to be sent overseas, potentially to war-like operations.

"The end state for us is having a particular combat team that's certified to conduct high-end war-fighting in a complex environment," he said.

"Normally we'd love to be able to have a bit more of a joint flavour, particularly our Air Force elements."

"Also the 6th Brigade, which is dispersed around Australia but predominantly in south-east Queensland, have some specialist, niche capabilities which we love to work with whenever we can, and we've been unable to do that on this exercise."

More work but no more funding

So why is the load on the ADF so heavy, and what can be done to balance it against the need to train for battle?

Disaster relief is primarily a state responsibility, but the military is increasingly being leant on to help out.

The Defence strategic update, delivered by the Morrison Government at the start of July, outlined the likelihood of more domestic disaster duties for



Australian Army soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, provide security for battle casualties during Exercise Long Khanh in Townsville Field Training Area. *Defence image*

the ADF in the future. However, there is no budget allocated to Defence for this kind of work.

Marcus Hellyer, senior analyst in military capability and economics at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), said Defence did need to plan to support civil authorities in providing disaster relief — both in Australia and in the region.

"But when you look at the sorts of things it's spending money on in that plan, there's nothing stated, there's no funding going to supporting those kinds of capabilities," Dr Hellyer said.

Using Defence assets is costly.

"The cost of using an army helicopter, for example, is about \$25,000 an hour," Dr Hellyer said.

"The cost of a normal civilian helicopter of the kind the Rural Fire Service charters to fight bushfires might only be a couple of thousand dollars an hour."

The Federal Government would have to mandate domestic disaster response as a core ADF responsibility for the Defence Force to be able to restructure itself to cope with that broader remit.

Reshaping to deal with deluge of disasters

"There's a natural inclination for politicians and senior military commanders to want to offer assistance to the community. That's because it's good optics," Dr Blaxland said.

"But they do come at a price, and that's really the concern I have — the prospect of us doubling down on assisting the local community with the Defence Force instead of posturing ourselves as a nation for this as the new normal."

Suggestions are being made to reshape the Defence Force to dedicate Army Reservists to domestic disaster relief and avoid using regular troops on those types of operations.

"If you want the ADF to do those sorts of roles you should bite the bullet and say, 'OK, we are going to turn part of the Defence Force — maybe the Army Reserve or maybe you set up a new part — we're going to prepare it specifically for those sorts of roles'," Dr Hellyer said.

But others warn against restricting reservists to disaster relief.

Key points:

- Australia's Defence Force has been stretched by flood, fire, and pandemic responses
- More than 10,000 troops have been deployed to help with this year's bushfire & COVID-19 crises
- There are calls for reservists to take on domestic tasks so regular troops can focus on war training

"That's not their primary purpose, they are actually designed to protect Australia in extremis — much as we've experienced in wartime in the past," Dr Blaxland said.

"We don't like to dwell on this fact, but the bottom line is we have a defence force to fight wars."

Dr Blaxland is proposing the creation of a new organisation aimed at recruiting young Australians to contribute voluntary service to bolster state emergency services, in return for incentives including HECS-debt relief.

By Siobhan Heanue
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Adaptable Satellite Communications are key to Australian Defence

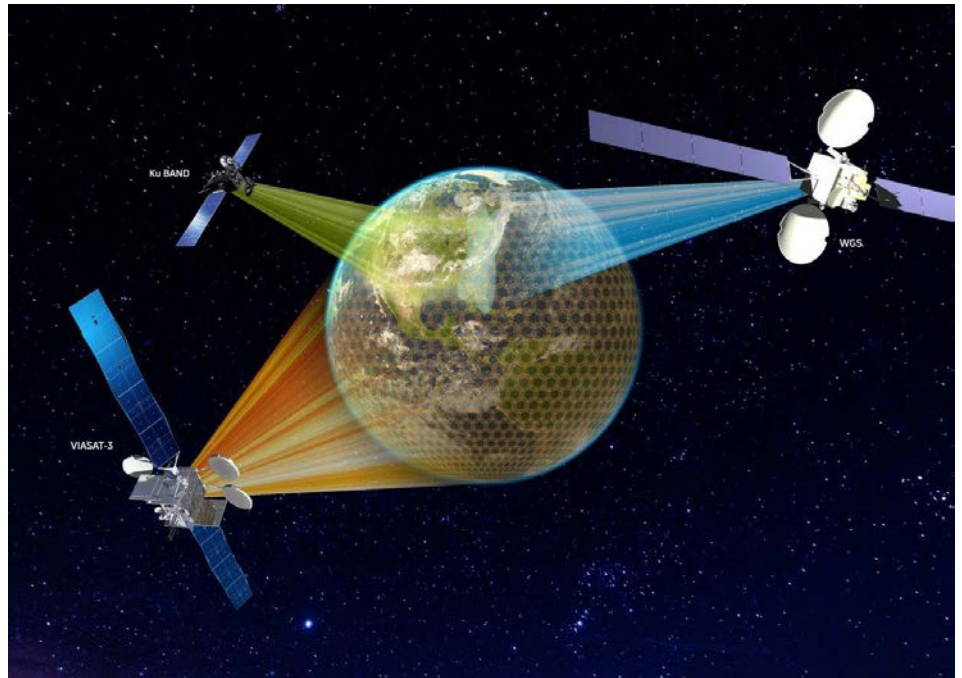
When it comes to satellite communications (SATCOM), Australia faces a dilemma.

Operating across a continental landmass is challenging enough. But Australian Defence Force (ADF) units have operated across the globe, most especially in the Southwest Pacific region that is Australia's strategic backyard. For security and peacekeeping operations across vast expanses of ocean and sparsely developed land, SATCOM that can cover a wide area is a necessity.

On the other hand, military operations often concentrate large numbers of forces in a small geographic area. This means that a SATCOM system must be capable of instantly focusing a massive amount of communications capacity into a narrow area as needed.

That's a tough set of requirements for the JP 9102 program, Australia's next-generation satellite system. Also known as the Australian Defence SATCOM System (ASDSS), the project aims to provide secure, resilient satellite communications wherever the ADF needs to operate. Whether it is aircraft, ships in distant waters or special operations forces in remote locations, the goal is to create a communications system that can generate sufficient capacity within minutes rather than days. At the same time, the technology must function under hostile conditions such as jamming.

But the question is how to get there. One particularly promising approach is to combine government and commercial systems into an integrated whole. The hybrid adaptive networking (HAN) concept allows military users to seamlessly switch between government and commercial networks, depending on whichever system offers the best capacity at the time. HAN is already used by the U.S. government, including senior leaders who rely on adaptive networking to maintain communications while airborne.



In the commercial world, customers expect their mobile service to automatically route their calls without the user needing to fiddle with their phones to find the best network or the closest cellular tower. "You never think about manually selecting networks on your smart phone," says Ken Peterman, president of Government Systems at satellite communications provider Viasat, which has pioneered the HAN concept.

HAN offers the same convenience to military customers by using automated network analysis software that examines the type of data being sent – whether it's bandwidth-heavy camera imagery from a reconnaissance aircraft, or targeting data, or just voice communications – and chooses the best available network to handle it.

HAN also addresses the problem of capacity density. In the past, "capacity was spread across a wide geographic coverage area," Peterman says. "But when military forces concentrate in a particular area, that capacity becomes insufficient."

Viasat's HAN system, which combines network analysis software with the advanced capabilities of the

new ViaSat-3 satellite constellation, solves that problem by instantly focusing large amounts of capacity into a small area.

The HAN-ViaSat-3 combination also offers another advantage: protection against jamming. To jam a satellite beam, the jammer must be in the footprint of each specific beam. "Because we have designed the satellites with thousands of beams – a grid of small-diameter beams covering an area – it creates unprecedented resilience against jamming," Peterman says. "And even if a jammer does affect a beam, we can null that jammer so service is not disrupted."

HAN's open architecture also enables customers to receive the latest advances in communications and cybersecurity, rather than being locked into a single vendor who may be slow to upgrade their technology. "Your family could have five phones made by five different manufacturers," says Peterman. "But all those appliances run seamlessly among networks. As new technology becomes available, it is seamlessly bolted on to the HAN architecture."

viasat.com/whats-next-pk

Government to recruit 500 more reservists in \$1 billion accelerated defence spend to support jobs

The Morrison government is accelerating and repurposing defence spending in a A\$1 billion boost to support about 4,000 jobs and assist small and medium-sized businesses in the defence industry supply chain.

In several workforce initiatives worth about \$80 million, up to 210,000 more days will be available to give supplementary employment to Australian Defence Force reservists, some of whom have lost civilian income. There are 27,000 ADF active reservists.

Five hundred more reservists will be recruited, which could help people with part time employment who have lost their primary employment due to businesses closing and the restrictions.

The ADF will slow or delay the transition of personnel out of the force for medical reasons, subject to medical advice. There will also be support for ADF partners to find work.

A \$300 million “defence estate” program, supporting up to 2,200 jobs, will speed up work scheduled for defence facilities around the country.

Some of the areas to benefit suffered in the bush fires.

The program will take in the RAAF bases East Sale, Pearce, Wagga and Amberley, as well as Jervis Bay and Eden, the Albury Wodonga Military Area, and Blamey Barracks. This builds on an announcement made in May.

About \$190 million will be invested in bringing forward seven infrastructure projects in the Northern Territory, involving Robertson Barracks, RAAF Base Darwin, Larrakeyah Defence Precinct, and the Delamere Air Weapons Range.

Another \$200 million will be spent on “sustainment of existing capabilities and platforms” including the upgrade of Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles, modernisation of ADF uniforms, and extra C-27J maintenance. The last will provide work for 23 former Qantas engineering and technical workers, and 14 ex-Virgin technical personnel.

The uniform modernisation will speed up the delivery of “a

contemporary, practical Navy uniform”.

Accelerating various projects to develop and deliver capability will cost \$200 million and give work in the areas of manufacturing, construction and high tech.

About \$110 million will be allocated to defence innovation, industry grants, skilling and micro credentialling and cyber training.

Scott Morrison, who will formally announce the package on Wednesday, said that like other parts of the economy the local defence industry was “doing it tough”.

“Supporting our defence industry is all part of our JobMaker plan – especially high-paying, high-skilled jobs that ensure we are supporting a robust, resilient and internationally competitive defence industry,” he said.

“We will also support our ADF members and families, particularly any reservists who are doing it tough because of COVID-19.”

Michelle Grattan,
University of Canberra
The Conversation



Reservists of 10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment, prior to their departure to Mount Gambier. *Defence image.*

Past informs future: recognising 80 years

It was 1940 and World War II was in full swing. Realising it didn't have adequate resources to maintain the Royal Air Force (RAF) in the impending air war in Europe, the British government put forward a plan to jointly establish a pool of trained aircrew including pilots who could then serve with the RAF.

Under the scheme, Australia agreed to provide 36 per cent of the total number of proposed aircrew — 28,000 aircrew over three years.

Across Australia, seven RAAF schools were established to support the Empire Air Training Scheme, including No. 1 Bombing and Gunnery School at Evans Head on the NSW north coast.

Reportedly the largest RAAF training facility in the southern hemisphere during World War II, the aerodrome was distinguished by its

four runways, associated taxiways and aprons and 17 Bellman hangars.

Extensive bombing and gunnery ranges were established to the north and south of the aerodrome as well as a sea leg to the south.

More than 5500 air force personnel passed through No. 1 Bombing and Gunnery School's training programs, including the famous Australian actor 'Chips' Rafferty and flying hero Leonard Fuller, DFC.

At its peak, the school had some 70 Fairey Battle single-engine light bomber aircraft as well as extensive bombing and gunnery ranges in active daily use to the north and south of the of the Evans Head township.

August 26 marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of No. 1 Bombing and Gunnery School and while many historical events have

occurred since that date, one thing remains certain – the bond between Air Force and the Evans Head community remains strong.

"When I was a boy, the airfield was still an aircraft graveyard," Dr Richard Gates recalled.

"It was our playground.

"We made sailing boats out of aircraft parts before the aircraft were stripped"

Dr Gates, a retired neuroscientist, spent his childhood at Evans Head, before moving away after his father, the local chemist, passed away in 1959.

He returned in the 1970s to find that while much had changed, a lot remained the same for the holiday destination that boasts pristine beaches, national parks and a quiet river.



No. 1 Bombing & Gunnery School under construction in January 1941 with Fairey Battles lined up for Movietone News as PR for the RAAF and the 'war effort'. *Defence image.*



RAAF F-35A Lightning II A35-019 aircraft flies over the Evans Head Air Weapons Range in Northern NSW. *Defence image.*

"I have vivid recollections of the airfield because my father was a pilot under the Empire Air Training Scheme and he loved watching aerobatics," Dr Gates said.

Now the president and life member of the Evans Head Living Museum, Dr Gates has undertaken extensive research into the history of the Evans Head aerodrome and recalls numerous significant historical events.

Every time an aircraft goes out, that's a working recognition of the men and women who served there.

In late 1941, with Japan entering the war, nine gun pits equipped with .303 calibre Vickers machine guns were constructed on and around the aerodrome as a defensive measure.

In 1942, Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force members arrived to fill vital roles where there was an acute shortage of men.

On a tour to raise funds for the War Loan in October 1943, the first Lancaster Bomber to fly in Australia, 'Q' for Queenie, piloted by Peter Isaacson, overshot the runway, coming to a stop in a ditch, ending the tour.

In December 1943, having supplied sufficient training for the war effort, No. 1 Bombing and Gunnery School was disbanded and No. 1 Air Observers School relocated from RAAF Station Cootamundra to Evans Head.

Approximately 630 aircrew passed through this school, flying mainly Avro Anson and CAC Wackett aircraft until it, too, was disbanded in 1944.

In 1949, the weapons range south of the Evans Head Township was officially designated as a bombing, air-to-ground gunnery and rocket firing range and the north range became Broadwater National Park.

Since then, the Air Force has continued to utilise the southern range as a primary training area for honing the skills of aircrew flying numerous military aircraft, including the Bristol Beaufighter, Canberra Bomber, F-4E Phantom, F-111C, F/A-18F Super Hornet and, most recently, the F-35A Lightning II.

Today, the site of the Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

Dr Gates said that almost 3000

letters were written in support of the aerodrome being added to the State Heritage List in 2002.

"That shows how well all the veterans worked together to make sure the aerodrome would be preserved," Dr Gates said. "They want it kept as a working airfield."

"Every time an aircraft goes out, that's a working recognition of the men and women who served there."

As Officer in Charge of the Evans Head air weapons range, Flight Lieutenant Jason Van Rysbergen, from No. 23 Squadron Combat Support Group, is proud to be living in a town rich with Air Force history.

"The Evans Head air weapons range has been and will continue to be a vital training asset for Air Force," Flight Lieutenant Van Rysbergen said.

"The graves of 22 airman that died during training are here."

"We're very lucky to have strong community support for the range and our small team feel extremely privileged to represent Air Force in such a unique location."

Evita Ryan

Defence Force personnel

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Hawkei set for full rate production

Army's new Australian-designed and built Hawkei protected vehicle is ready to enter full-rate production at Thales' Protected Vehicles facility in Bendigo, Victoria.

Under Land 121 Phase 4, 1,100 Hawkei vehicles and 1,058 associated trailers will be delivered, with the full rate production vehicles expected to commence delivery from mid-2021.

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said the vehicle has performed exceptionally well throughout comprehensive ballistic and blast testing.

"This is a highly effective capability being delivered in partnership between Defence and industry that builds on Thales's iconic Bushmaster, which has been highly successful on operations overseas and exported around the world," Minister Reynolds said.

"The Hawkei is a significant enhancement to existing land capability that will provide superior mobility, survivability and communications,

while protecting the lives of our soldiers when operating in increasingly lethal and complex environments.

"This is yet another example of Defence and defence industry managing business practices in a COVID-19 safe manner to continue delivering ADF capability."

Senator for Victoria, Sarah Henderson said the vehicle's production is a welcome boost to the Victorian economy.

"Approximately 50 vehicles per month will be manufactured out of the Thales Protected Vehicles facility in Bendigo until mid-2022," Senator Henderson said.

"The Hawkei's production will sustain around 210 jobs in Thales' workforce in Bendigo, and around 180 additional jobs nation-wide as part of Thales's supply chain.

"For many small-to-medium enterprises, work on the Hawkei has provided business continuity and enabled investment in people and

facilities, as well as diversification into other Defence projects and adjacent industries."

Eighteen of Thales's key 25 suppliers are based in Victoria, including:

- Albins Performance Transmissions, based in Ballarat, for the vehicle cross drive, steering rack, castings and shafts;
- Flexible Drive Agencies, based in Oakleigh, for the wiper and gear selector assembly;
- Thomas Warburton, based in Dandenong South, for fasteners and hardware; and
- Gough Transport Solutions, based in Noble Park, for the pneumatic system.

Defence says it plans to fit a quantity of the Hawkei protected mobility vehicles with the Electro Optic Systems Remote Weapon Stations.

The CEATAC radar, designed and built by CEA Technologies in Canberra, is also capable of being fitted onto the Hawkei utility vehicle and trailer.



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supported and assisted to achieve their goals.

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Gives families flexibility to make school work around other life commitments. These include full-time boarding, weekly boarding, overnight boarding and late afternoon collection.

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or enrol@clayfield.qld.edu.au.





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EVERYMAN'S WELFARE SERVICE

The President/Treasurer,

Australian Peacekeepers & Peacemaker Veterans Association

My name is Jeff Greene, assistant National Relations Manager for *Everyman's Welfare Service (EWS)* who have proudly been serving our troops and their families since 1940. I would like to thank you on behalf of *Everyman's* for publishing our article 'EWS Fire Deployment' in your Autumn 2020 magazine, it is a privilege to be part of your magazine and greatly appreciated. *Everyman's* is not government funded but a registered 'Not for Profit Charity', our Reps not only work on Australian soil but also overseas. They donate their time unpaid, believing their greatest benefit to the Australian Defence Force is the time and genuine care they give. *Everyman's* in the process of seeking

trustworthy, reputable organisations such as 'APPVA' who may be interested in partnering with us as a registered sponsor of our *Brew Truck Fleet*.

As an *Everyman's* Rep I visit RSL Sub-Branches, to keep them updated on how we continue to care for our Defence members and their families. Time after time at these meetings some wonderful Veteran has come up to me afterwards and shared their own interaction with *Everyman's*, which on many occasions has easily outranked anything I could ever hope to share! One such story has its beginnings at our *Everyman's* store held a few years ago at the Avalon AirShow. An elderly Vietnam Vet was wandering past and saw our emblem. He came over to say the last time he saw our name was in Vietnam. He was so thrilled to see we were still around supporting the military, and then he shared his story... **"His battalion was to be airlifted by choppers out of a village, but after arriving at the village they were informed the Airvac had been moved, meaning they had to walk another 6 plus hours to the new uplift site. Upon arriving at the new Airvac zone hot, exhausted and frail, they saw our *Everyman's Brew Truck* all set-up, ready and waiting for them. A smile came over his face as he recounted; 'The first thing I**

saw as I got over that hill was the *Everyman's Brew Truck* parked down the bottom, just waiting for us.' He explained 'It was a sight to behold, they gave us hot tea, coffee, food, kind words and cold drinks, all free of charge! The timing was perfect!' He then called his wife over who was standing watching in the background. When she arrived, he looked at the AirShow *Everyman's* rep, pointed a finger his way and said, 'You are responsible for her as well you know'... After a pregnant pause leaving everyone to wonder what on earth was coming next, he cracked another big smile saying 'The *Everyman's Rep* running the *Brew truck* in 'Nam also gave us a pen and paper, I wrote home to my darling sweetheart and married her on my return, and here she is!' He burst out half laughing and crying, as did we all!

The *Everyman's* story is an amazing one, which has ensured the name of '***Everyman's Welfare Service***' has become well-known and respected amongst our past/present serving military. At the end of the day our troops just love our Brew Runs!

We are offering space on our Brew Trucks showing '***Australian Peacekeepers and Peace Makers***' as one of our valued sponsors, if you would like to discuss this sponsorship re costings etc or have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have also taken the liberty of attaching our latest *Everyman's Welfare Service 'On Patrol Magazine'* for your perusal. Our web address is www.everymans.org.au

Also, if you know of any other organisation who may be interested in this offer, please do not hesitate to pass on my contact details. Kindest regards

Jeff Greene
Asst National Relations Manager
jeffgreene@everymans.org.au
0421 013 924
15 July 2020



VETERAN FAMILY ADVOCATE APPOINTED

In a significant step towards promoting better outcomes for veterans' families, Ms Gwen Cherne has been appointed as the first ever Veteran Family Advocate, representing their perspectives in ongoing policy and decision making across Government.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester congratulated Ms Cherne on her appointment and said that her passion and experience in supporting the ex-service community would ensure the Government continues to put veterans and their families first.

"Ms Cherne has an impressive resume in roles relating to defence personnel and veterans' families at both a national and international level, but she also brings with her a range of lived experience — as a defence spouse, a war widow, and the mother of a current serving Australian Defence Force member," Mr Chester said.

"By directly engaging with the families of veterans of all generations, Ms Cherne will draw on their advice to help shape the design of programs, policy and services, with a focus on building on our understanding of the factors that can enhance or detract from the mental health of veterans and their families, particularly during transition from service."

The establishment of the Veteran Family Advocate will be undertaken through the existing Repatriation Commission structure enshrined in the Veterans' Affairs legislation, so it can be established immediately.

Ms Cherne said as a single mother



with two young children at home, and having lost her husband to suicide, she was acutely aware of some of the challenges that Defence families face.

"I am proud to be appointed the Veteran Family Advocate and am looking forward to building on the important work that has been done to better support veterans' families in the last few years," Ms Cherne said.

"The department has made some significant and positive changes for veterans and their families, and I am very cognisant of the responsibility I have to ensure that work continues and that the voices of veterans' families are heard."

Ms Cherne's background includes service to the veteran community as a board member on the NSW War Widow's Guild, as an Ambassador for the Commando Welfare Trust and working with DVA on issues facing widows and families through her appointment to the Council for Women and Families United by Defence Service. In recent years, she has also served on the Council of the Australian War Memorial and as an ambassador for the 2018 Invictus Games.

A merit selection process to appoint the Veteran Family Advocate was undertaken in accordance with the APS Merit and Transparency Policy. Ms Cherne will start in the role on Monday, 24 August 2020

The Hon Darren Chester MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel.

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK ACTIVITIES

Veterans and their families are being encouraged to keep socially connected as part of Veterans' Health Week, with \$200,000 in funding available to community groups and ex-service organisations to assist with activities.

Veterans' Health Week will be held from Saturday, 24 October to Sunday, 1 November 2020 and communities are being encouraged to get creative to ensure events can still take place, with organisations able to apply for \$720 in funding to support their activities.

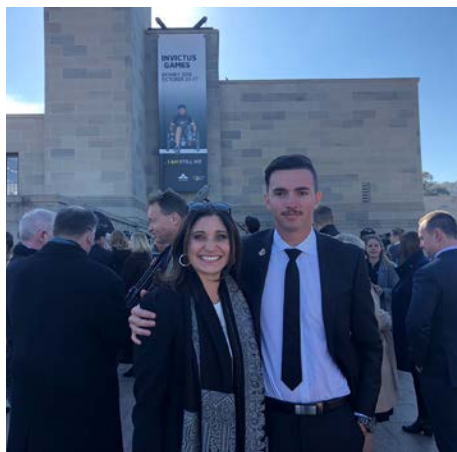
Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the global coronavirus pandemic had made it difficult for many people to physically see each other and finding ways to socially connect with one another was now more important than ever, particularly for the ex-service community.

"Social connection is one of the most important aspects for your mental health and wellbeing, and as part of Veterans' Health Week this year we are encouraging those in the ex-service community to remain socially connected, with family, friends and local community," Mr Chester said.

"This year we're asking organisations to come up with more innovative ideas for hosting events, to get creative and create new opportunities to connect, either in person where possible or virtually over the phone or internet.

"This could include a fitness challenge or session, community meditation or yoga, community catch-ups or arts and crafts workshops to name a few — all either in person, or virtually. Ex-service organisations can also look to partner with other local community organisations to deliver their chosen activity.

"Veterans' Health Week is a chance to remind veterans and their families to stay in touch with their local communities and participate in community events and remain socially connected."



Each year the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides \$200,000 in funding to assist community groups and ex-service organisations to host events for Veterans' Health Week. Applications are now open and organisations can apply to receive \$720 to support their Veterans' Health Week activity. To apply for funding visit www.dva.gov.au/vhw

"Supporting the mental health of veterans and their families is a key priority for this Government and Veterans' Health Week is one way we can spread more awareness about the importance of social connection within local communities across Australia," Mr Chester said.

"I encourage veterans and their families to look out for a Veterans' Health Week event hosted in their community, and to stay safe, but connected."

For more information on Veterans' Health Week and the funding available, visit the Veterans' Health Week page on the DVA website. You can also call 1800 555 254 or email vhw@dva.gov.au.



VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK

Event Ideas

Below are some event ideas based on the theme of social connection (and consider holding some events like these online):

- Arrange a movie night
- Arts and crafts workshops

- Bingo and trivia games
- Morning or afternoon tea
- Community meditation or yoga event
- Fitness challenge or session
- Community music or singing lessons
- Hold a training session on how to use smart phone, Zoom and online resources e.g. Open Arms portal



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



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First responders and ADF Veterans are the most effective people for civilian jobs

Kris Milne served in the Australian Army for 14 years. Despite the toughness and fortitude required to go on deployment to places such as East Timor, the most difficult thing he's done is leave the army and adjust to life in a civilian job.

He knew the minute he left the army he would lose his security clearance and have to reapply all over again if he wanted a job which required one. That narrowed the job market. After so long in the army, he looked at his resume and wondered what civilian employer would need a man with weapons training, parade ground marching and bush survival techniques.

Now an account executive at recruitment firm Effective People, Kris helps people translate their military acquired skills into a civilian resume, along with providing career advice and mentoring enlisted Australian Defence Force (ADF) veterans who want to transition into a civilian role.

"I look at an ADF resume and immediately I can see whether a person has leadership skills, administrative skills, strategic thinking and so many other talents that are desperately needed in the civilian workforce," says Kris.

"What I want to do is specialise in helping enlisted ADF veterans, first responders, paramedics, firefighters and police to get a job in the civilian workforce, and help with their resume, help with interviews and place them with employers who genuinely appreciate the skills that a military or first responder career gives you."

Kris is calling for all veterans and first responders to register with him to receive help and job opportunities through Effective People, which focuses on a holistic program to help people into a civilian role.

"I also want to make sure employers who offer jobs to our first responders and veterans understand PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] and other mental health issues associated with



serving your country," he says. "With all the talk about mental health at the moment, now is the time for people to truly understand what PTSD is and what it is not.

"We need to educate the community – and employers – about PTSD. Some of the most successful people you see in business have PTSD or a diagnosed mental illness, but you wouldn't know. It's a manageable condition. Part of the solution is having a job where you feel useful and genuinely appreciated for your skills. We believe we can provide that through the employers we have on our books.

"This year, we're planning on doing a lot more education on PTSD and the advantages of employing an ex-ADF veteran or a first responder."

Effective People is one of the largest suppliers of staff to the ACT Government and has the ability to sponsor security clearances through its affiliate company PayMe Australia, which will help enormously for ADF veterans looking to exit the service and begin a civilian job, says Kris.

"If you have a current security clearance, doors open at the Department of Defence, which is always looking for contractors with clearances," he says.

"We are at the start of our program to assist veterans and first responders into civilian jobs, and it will develop and expand during the next year. Anybody who wants to start the transition to a civilian job and lifestyle should contact me. As a veteran myself, I understand the challenges and I'm here to help.

"Employers need to know it's a badge of honour to employ a veteran or a first responder. Their skills are as good as, if not better than, most candidates, and they have much more self-discipline, attention to detail and they always finish the job they started. And they've served our country, whether in an armed forces capacity or as a first responder. These are the people we owe our current way of life, and our survival, to."

If you are a first responder or Australian Defence Force veteran seeking a civilian job and want help with the transition, contact Effective People on 1300 946 471.



Plan your transition

The pathway to civilian employment can look different for every veteran. One thing that will set you up for success is making sure that you prepare for the next step in your career.

The Veterans' Employment Toolkit has been developed to assist you to prepare for your transition to civilian employment. Tips below for transition.

Plan early

Defence has a comprehensive transition program to support ADF members and their families, prior, during and for up to 24 months post-transition. The Defence Community Organisation (DCO) delivers the Defence Force Transition Program through nationally located ADF Transition Centres. The Defence Force Transition Program provides a range of transition services to support ADF members and their families to prepare for their transition to civilian life.

This includes:

- ADF Member and Family Transition Seminars - providing ADF members and their families with access to one day seminars across Australia at any time in their Defence career
- Job Search Preparation workshops for ADF members and partners at any time in their Defence career
- a transition coach for ADF member and their family to assist in navigating the transition process
- specialist assistance with preparing for civilian employment
- access to funding for training and

professional financial advice

- paid leave whilst serving to participate in transition related activities.

The ADF Member and Family Transition Guide will assist you and your family to better understand the transition process, administrative requirements, employment assistance services and other support available to assist transition.

Talk to your transition coach about accessing the Defence Force Transition Program.

To get your military training and skills recognised and aligned with the civilian equivalent, contact the Australian Defence College who run the ADF Civil Recognition for Transition Project.

Prepare for the challenge

Transitioning to civilian life from the ADF can be a challenging time for some. Some tips to help prepare are:

- talking to friends or family who have made the transition
- connect with informal support groups on social media set up by veterans
- connect with an ex-service organisation (ESO), they are an excellent resource for you
- seek professional assistance services tailored for transitioning veterans.

A great online tool is Engage, a Defence online portal that you can use to find ESO, welfare and employment

services and other support for your transition.

Engage is for current, transitioning, and former ADF members, as well as their families, and/or those involved in their support.

Reach out to your networks

Chat to your military contacts and personal networks to let them know you're preparing to leave the ADF.

Many veterans find the next step in their career through their existing networks.

Think about the right career for you

Consider what you want your next career to be, and research how to get there. You might not land there first, but you can take the necessary steps towards your end goal.

The Job Search Preparation workshops can help you refine your civilian career goals and you don't have to be leaving Defence to participate.

There are a number of recruitment agencies across Australia specialising in finding jobs for veterans. They can help you find the best job that suits your skills from your previous career in the ADF and may be able to assist you into these roles.

Self-employment is a career option that some veterans choose. While there are risks involved in this employment option, many find it rewarding and a great way to use and build on skills obtained during



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their time in the Defence Force. New Business Assistance with NEIS provides accredited small business training, mentoring and support to help you start your new business.

Set realistic expectations

It's a good idea to research the salaries in the industry you are interested in, to get an idea of what they offer. You may not get the same salary as you did while serving. The benefits and allowances that you received whilst serving may not apply to your new civilian job.

Financial advice

You might be interested in learning more about managing your money or talking to a financial adviser. The ADF Financial Services Consumer Centre has a range of resources to help you and your family achieve greater financial security at any time. This includes information about getting financial advice and finding a reputable financial adviser.

If you're in the process of

transitioning, talk to your ADF Transition Coach who can provide you with information on getting assistance towards your financial advice.

Find a mentor

To help you transition to civilian employment, a mentor may be able to provide advice, guidance, share expertise and networks to assist finding employment or adjusting to the civilian workplace.

A good mentor would be someone who has transitioned themselves. You can find a mentor through your employer, ex-service organisations, your networks or professional organisations.

Consider the impact on your family

When you begin the transition process, consider the impacts on your family. Some questions you may wish to think about include:

Will your work/caring responsibilities change?

Where would you like to live – is this a good place to find the type of work you would like to do, for the kids' schooling, and access to support?

How will your change of career affect the family income and how will you and your family adapt to a possible reduction in salary when you first leave Defence?

Do you need to consider changes to your housing when leaving Defence?

Use support services

Open Arms - Veterans & Families Counselling is a national, free and confidential counselling service that specialises in helping veterans and their families 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

They can help you with a wide range of issues relating to employment, relationships, past trauma, wellbeing, transition to civilian life and more.

Founded by Vietnam veterans and now for all veterans and families, Open Arms also offers training programs and workshops, peer support and crisis accommodation.

For further information:
www.veteranemployment.gov.au
www.openarms.gov.au/

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Health insurance you can depend on

For more than 65 years, Defence Health has been providing great value health insurance, specially tailored for Defence families.

Defence Health has always been not-for-profit and all for members. As a Members Own Health Fund, Defence Health delivers better service, has more satisfied members and gives more back in benefits.

Because management expenses are kept low, around \$0.91 of every \$1.00 of premium revenue is returned to members in benefits.

But what many serving men and women don't realise is that their extended family is eligible to join Defence Health too.

That means mum and dad, brothers, sisters – and of course partner and children – can take advantage of the great value cover at Defence Health.

Private hospital cover gives people access to timely medical treatment, by a doctor of their choice. Instead of months on the public hospital elective

surgery waiting list, private patients get the treatment they need almost immediately.

And extras cover helps fund the important general treatment – such as dental, physio and optical services – that Medicare does not cover.

Our optical network delivers more value for members. Optical network providers give Defence Health members the choice of no-gap glasses from a wide range of fashionable frames.

The Defence Health ADF Total Package Gold is firmly focused on valuable benefits and affordable cover for ADF families. Children can receive one no-gap mouthguard, custom-fitted by a dentist, every year until they turn 21. And unlike other funds, there's no lifetime limit on the benefits paid for orthodontic treatment.

The premiums are very competitive too – with the added bonus of national pricing for ADF families. Plus there's a 10% discount for 12 months for discharging personnel.



Defence Health has a range of hospital cover for extended family – from Basic Plus through to Gold. And people under 30 can take advantage of a Youth discount on selected covers – up to 10% off if they join before age 26.

If you're looking for a health insurer you can trust, it makes sense to check out Defence Health.

SWITCH TO GREAT VALUE HEALTH INSURANCE TODAY

Who can join Defence Health?

- ▶ Current or previous members of the Australian Defence Force
- ▶ Current or previous employees of the Department of Defence
- ▶ Extended family members of those listed above – parents, partners, children, grandchildren and siblings

Get a quote online at defencehealth.com.au or call 1800 411 747



Veterans Community Business Chamber

Veteran Community Business Chamber - Empowering veterans through entrepreneurship

Transition is an ongoing process for any person but for the veteran community the scale of the change can be extremely dramatic. From the first shift into the military, to the life changing separation which can redefine a person's sense of purpose and sense of self-identity. Regardless if the transition is forced through a medical discharge or a personal decision, it can be a time of great uncertainty with many challenges.

The immediate concern for many is employment. Whilst the majority will seek paid employment, or a job, there are many who are called to the path of entrepreneurship, looking to carve their own path and seek self-employment. For those who choose this path, the road less taken, there are distinct challenges but abundant opportunities ahead.

The Veteran Community Business Chamber (VCBC) seeks to ease these challenges and is a purpose designed organisation to develop existing businesses and provide a pathway to self-employment. Founded and operated by veterans for the veteran community.

The VCBC aims to release the full potential of veterans and their families through entrepreneurship and will operate around four pillars;

1. Education. To bridge the gap between military skills and business



The VCBC works in close partnership with the Prince's Trust; a world leader in entrepreneurial thinking for veterans and military families.

- acumen through an education program which leverages existing providers and internal expertise.
- 2. Community. Provide a framework so every member of the community can share their experiences, learn and support each other.
- 3. Identification. A formal process of branding as a veteran community-owned business and supporter so a conscious choice can be made to 'shop veteran'.
- 4. Digital transformation. Ensuring every business within the community has a digital footprint which enhances the brand, lead generation, and sales process.

Veteran Community-Owned Businesses are a large industry yet rather unnoticed and unheard as a community. The VCBC is here to change that. We believe there to be over 20,000 businesses in Australia and want to bring this to the attention to the Australian public.

Importantly self-employment is also a viable path for partners and spouses of both serving members and veterans and the VCBC is deliberate to include this important part of the community in the organisation. Spouses and partners have demonstrated the same level of commitment and service as they juggle to manage families, careers, social networks and their own sense of purpose during their time supporting the service member. The VCBC believes that entrepreneurship is a viable option for spouses and partners to take back control and provide the flexibility that is often required.

Flexibility, control and the ability to geographically relocate as required are all tempting reasons to pursue self-employment. The ability to be responsible for your own decisions, carve out your own path, create your own impact on the world and provide jobs and livelihoods to others can lead to a powerful sense of new purpose and identity.

www.vcbc.org.au



Regular Podcasts give members the opportunity to share experiences



VCBC Co-CEOs Matt Moseley and Pete Liston



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RELOCATING

At this time of year, many ADF members and their families will be relocating. This means many additional tasks to fit into an already busy time of year. Making a 'To-do' list can help you plan what needs to be done and keep track of your progress. Here are some tips to make the move a bit smoother.

Entitlements

The first step to a successful move is to know what your entitlements are. The Toll Defence Relocation Guide and the DHA Tenant Handbook will help you navigate this process and alert you to helpful services like fast disconnection and reconnection services for your utilities.

Reconnaissance

You, or your spouse, may be entitled to a house hunting trip to visit the new posting location to find a Service residence or home for which rent allowance is payable.

An advance visit also gives you a chance to check out schools, recreation and other local facilities.

Be aware that if, after receiving a house hunting allowance, you reject a reasonable offer of service residence or rented home, you must repay any money received for the house-hunting trip.

Moving out costs

Defence will cover the cost of packing and moving your household contents and larger items like motor vehicles. Running down things like food, cleaning products and toiletries means you'll have less to move and less wastage. Any money you save could be put towards restocking at the other end.

The property you're leaving, including gardens and other outdoor areas, must be left clean and in an acceptable condition. It's up to you whether you do this yourself or pay someone to help you. If the DHA property has carpet, you will be charged for carpet cleaning after you move out. You may also be charged for things like repainting and garden

maintenance for issues not considered fair wear and tear.

If you disagree with an assessment DHA has a complaints resolution process, see the DHA Tenant Handbook for details.

Moving in costs

The cost of living in your new location may be higher or lower than your current location, especially if you are moving between a capital city and a regional area, in or out of Darwin or other remote area. If you are moving into somewhere particularly hot or cold, consider the impact cooling or heating will have on your utility costs.

Now might be a good time to reassess your current budget and make adjustments so that you are better prepared financially for the move.

If you've had items in storage that are moving with you, chances are they'll need a good clean. Furniture like lounges or mattresses may benefit from a professional clean.

Houses come in different sizes and layouts so you may need to buy new furniture to better fit the space. Consider selling what you don't need and using the money to purchase items you do need.

Restocking your pantry, cleaning supplies and other things will increase your costs initially, however a larger allowance is available to help with these costs.

Family

Arriving in a new location means finding new healthcare providers. If you have private health insurance your insurer may have lists of appropriate providers in the new area.

If you have children with special needs or health conditions, talk to the new school to make sure care or health plans are in place.

If you're travelling with your family, you'll need to factor in additional costs of food while you're on the road. You'll receive

an allowance, but staying within that allowance can be hard if you haven't planned ahead.

Also consider the cost of posting Christmas presents to family and friends. It may be more cost effective to shop online and have items delivered directly.

Pets

If you have pets, find out the registration requirements in the state you're moving to. Be aware of any additional costs you may incur above your entitlement for things like extra kennelling or quarantine. Be aware also of state restrictions on pet ownership, e.g. some suburbs have cat containment areas and rabbits are not allowed as pets in Queensland.

Cars

If you move states and take motor vehicles with you, you'll need to register them in the new state. In some states this will require a roadworthy certificate. If you are driving an older vehicle it may actually be cheaper to sell your current vehicle and buy another one when you reach your destination. Research your options before making any decisions.

Insurance

You'll need to notify your car and home contents insurer(s) that the location of your insured possessions has changed. Your insurance premium may go up or down as a result of the move. If it goes up you will have to pay extra. If your premium goes down, you should get a refund.

Connect

Defence Families Australia is a community of people who understand, and have experience, of what Defence families go through. Connect with other families in your new posting location to share your experiences and get tips from others to make resettling a little easier on you and your family.

Good luck with the move!

adfconsumer.gov.au/relocating/

COPING WITH MILITARY LIFE

The Australian Defence Force has special requirements that are accepted by ADF members as conditions of service, but families are also directly affected by the challenges of military lifestyle and increased deployment commitments.

Defence knows these military commitments sometimes impact as much on the family as they do on the serving member.

Some of these expectations include:

- Conforming to a regulated lifestyle
- Being physically and medically fit
- Adhering to the military structure
- Being trained and qualified for the job
- Being ready to serve anywhere, anytime
- Abiding by military law and regulations

Separation and relocation are key features of a military lifestyle. Defence knows that members perform at their best when they are confident that life at home will run smoothly while they are away. The best way to achieve this is by planning ahead about family requirements during separations and relocations, and having access to appropriate support services.

Family readiness is just as important for single members. Informing and involving parents, siblings, friends and other people who are important to you when preparing for relocations, separations and the unique demands of military service, are critical to sustaining these relationships.

Without the emotional and practical support of their families, ADF members simply could not do the job they are required to do. An ADF member has to be confident that their family is healthy and happy before they can wholeheartedly commit to doing their job well. A series of group programs that help Defence families manage stressful situations such as deployment, parental absence from home, and moving house have been developed.

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

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

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

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

and meet new friends when they move to a new posting location.

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

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

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

Sessions are once a week for 1 to 1.5 hours per session and all children receive a story book to take home. Contact the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 for more information or to sign up for a program.

Defence's in-school Aides and Mentors are positioned in schools across Australia to provide support to the children of mobile Defence families.

Aides are positioned in primary schools and Mentors in secondary schools. Aides and Mentors are funded by Defence but are employed by the local state or territory department of education.

The Aides and Mentors' activities include:

- Assisting children and families to integrate into the new school and local community.
- Coordinating welcome and farewell community activities for relocating families.
- Smoothing the transition between schools and different education systems (including minimising the impact of relocation on children's learning outcomes).
- Monitoring the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of Defence students.
- Helping students develop self-confidence, self-reliance & resilience
- Directing students to programs, services or opportunities that suit their needs.
- Enhancing awareness and appreciation of the unique Defence lifestyle in schools and communities
- Providing support to children during times of parental absence.

The Aides and Mentors can provide extensive support to Defence children but are not teachers and do not work with one child on a long-term basis.

To find out which schools have in-school Aides or Mentors in place, visit the DCO website at www.defence.gov.au/dco or contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608





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