

Australian Peacekeeper

WINTER 2020

MAGAZINE



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29 May International Day of UN Peacekeepers



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WHATS INSIDE

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

Cover

Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) Natalie Lockwood at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) medal parade hosted by Special Representative to the Secretary General Ms Hilde F. Johnson in Juba, Sudan.

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

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

Contributions should be sent to: chook126@bigpond.net.au



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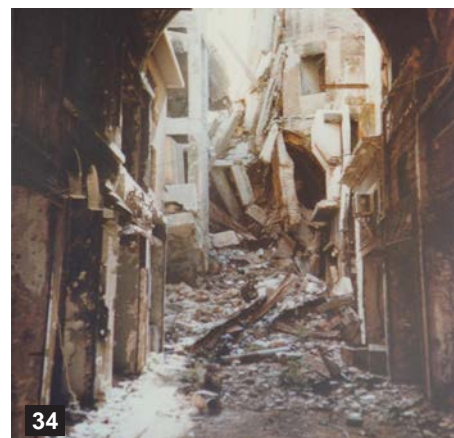
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello members,

I sincerely hope that this issue of 'Peacekeeper' finds you all well. As you are all very much aware Covid19 has impacted on our lives, more importantly it has taken its toll on our vulnerable community.

The Government has provided much needed stimulus relief to our community and the business sector. The 'lockdown' process has meant that we can no longer travel freely around our community and indeed across the nation.

These restrictions were applied to all Anzac Day commemorations across the country with many choosing to join the 'stand at your driveway' initiative, I participated in that process and was quite surprised that I felt so connected to the Anzac spirit and paid my respects.

I hope that you all were able to commemorate Anzac Day in your own way, whilst many of the restricted dawn services and 11am broadcasts were sent out so that we could all participate either via our televisions or on our mobile phones.

We all live to hear of each other's experiences and if you have photos of your Anzac Day, I encourage you to send them to our editor at editor@peacekeepers.asn.au so they can be potentially used in our next edition of 'Peacekeeper' and on our social media platforms.

The transition to our new APPVA Constitution 2019 continues to progress, and if you have a concern that you would like raised at the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table

(ESORT), then please send them to your respective Regional Coordinator. The items will be forwarded to me, so I can then take them to ESORT in Canberra.

DVA continues to hold a weekly ESORT teleconference on Covid19 briefings, and fortnightly teleconferences where the APPVA can raise issues with DVA. I will continue to provide outcomes from these meetings. If you do have a Regional Coordinator in your state, then my update will go via the Regional Coordinator. If there is no Regional Coordinator, then your update will come via our Secretary to you. The Regional Coordinators are:

Regional Coordinator NSW
Bruce Relph
nswcoord@peacekeepers.asn.au

Regional Coordinator QLD
Randall New
qldcoord@peacekeepers.asn.au

Regional Coordinator WA
Mike Romalis
wacoordinator@peacekeepers.asn.au

Currently DVA are working to hold the next ESORT 'face to face' meeting on 12 May by way of a ZOOM video conference. I will provide details from that meeting as soon as I can.

I encourage you all to contact your respective Regional Coordinators and provide any stories, photographs of your service or any activities that are undertaken in your area to be included in upcoming editions of 'Peacekeeper', remember this is your magazine and we want to hear about your service and experiences. If you do not have a Regional Coordinator, then please send to the Secretary.

I recently made an approach to DVA in relation to their announcement on 27 February 2020 by DVA Deputy Secretary Charles McHardie about the consolidation of the DVA Nominal Rolls website into a new single access portal at <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au>.

The new nominal rolls website was implemented on 5 March 2020. It continues to provide information on the service history of members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who served during World War II, the Korean

War and Vietnam War, consolidated in a single location.

I raised the issue that the DVA Nominal Rolls only list up to the Vietnam War and Korea, I wanted to know what was being done about other campaigns post-Vietnam War and what the time frame was for those records to be included.

The response I received via email on 21 April 2020 from the Director Capability & Governance was:

"Thank you for your email of 20 April 2020 requesting details of future updates to DVA's Nominal Rolls. We acknowledge and appreciate your efforts in seeking to connect with and support our Australian Peacekeepers.

DVA's Data & Insights (D&I) Branch is responsible for developing, researching managing and publishing the collection of reference materials relating to the department's nominal rolls. The remit of the D&I Branch currently includes all members of Australia's defence forces who served during World War Two, Korean War, Vietnam War and First Gulf War.

The veteran community are very connected to the nominal rolls and the support that is provided by the team. The challenge we currently face is balancing that passion with requests for expansion from privately-managed rolls, the inclusion of additional conflicts (e.g. Malaya / Borneo) and peacekeeping missions. The adoption of additional rolls represents a significant undertaking in terms of resourcing (i.e. staffing to verify primary evidence) and technology. While these requests cannot be immediately actioned, the D&I Branch has initiated a piece of work to investigate the feasibility of expanding the department's rolls.

I am the point-of-contact for this activity (Director Capability & Governance) and can be contacted via kate.tunks2@dva.gov.au. I am happy to provide you with updates as this activity progresses.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to acknowledging and commemorating the service and sacrifice of Australia's Peacekeeping community.

Yours sincerely"

EDITOR'S REPORT

The response does not provide an expected time frame nor the level of priority that DVA have placed on this very important maintenance of records of veterans. I will continue to pursue this matter with DVA as has Paul Copeland, who for many years has been vigorously lobbying DVA on this issue.

DVA have commenced the process for the first Gulf War, however, The APPVA will continue to lobby DVA for correct sequencing of the DVA Nominal Rolls post-Vietnam and the First Gulf War, thus missing 150 deployed soldiers deployed to Rhodesia in 1979, 604 Australian and New Zealand soldiers deployed to Namibia in 1989, perhaps to commence such recognition of service.

Paul has done an outstanding job on this subject over the years along with lobbying for reclassification of service and operations to recognise those who whilst deployed under a set of guidelines and criteria had their service exposed to far greater levels of threat and higher risk. The Government has for years, we believe relied on subjective, inaccurate and opinionated advice from within Defence on these matters and provided poor advice to the relevant Ministers over the same period of time.

I am asking that should you have a desire to assist in these representations currently underway and you are prepared to make the commitment to help please contact our Secretary.

I also encourage you to seek out any potential new members for the APPVA, we are always looking for people who can assist us in our ongoing mission of 'Looking After Our Own' into the future.

On behalf of the APPVA Executive and Committee, I wish you all the very best, stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely
R Woods



Dear Members and Readers,

I do hope that you enjoy this Winter Edition of the *Australian Peacekeeper Journal* which has included ANZAC Day Commemorations, along with the UN International Day of UN Peacekeepers under COVID-19 Conditions. Normally I would have been able to report from Europe on the latter, however we are in trying times in this world.

As we progress through 2020, we have seen some controversial issues raised concerning retrospective recognition of our servicemen and servicewomen from World War 2 up to recent conflicts including Beirut, Lebanon (1983-1984) and the Rifle Company Butterworth (1971-1989). The Morrison Government have the opportunity to right a number of wrongs in this area. Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean who not only shot down two enemy aircraft, but saved the lives of 49 of his mates, whilst knowing he was going to die is worthy of much more than a ship named in his honour. His service epitomises the courage and valour of our men and women at a time when our country was at it's greatest threat to date. He is surely worth the posthumous accolade of a much higher level.

Defence continues to attempt to shut-down debate on retrospective reclassification matters. The view of the Director General of the Defence Nature of Service Branch believes that warlike service, whilst being the highest level of service rendered, is only for those *"...Infantry who throw grenades at enemy infantry... and the tanks rolling over the barbed wire...those at the rear, sitting around not doing much should only be on Hazardous service..."*. This comment is bizarrely antiquated in its view and what warlike service is truly about. Clearly there is no understanding of the dynamics of modern warfare, let alone asymmetrical warfare within the Defence bureaucracy. It questions the service of tens of thousands who have served in some of the most dangerous places on the planet, particularly over the past 30 years. I am sure that this is not the view from the Service Chiefs or Minister, however there is

a recalcitrant approach being applied to a number of matters that seek retrospective reclassification.

Notwithstanding one's interpretation of what warlike service should be, the reality, as many of us know and have experienced, is much different. The Incurred Danger test has been the long held legal interpretation, particularly since 1988, as to the dangers of such warlike service that is rendered by individuals or collectively. Unfortunately, Advisor Briefs to the most Senior Levels in the ADF and to various Ministers seems to be at odds with what has been accepted over many decades in terms of Qualifying Service and warlike service not only morally but in contrast to Veteran Entitlement Law.

Peacekeepers remain the most mis-understood and under-recognised group of veterans that Australia has ever seen. The levels of effort that has been applied to change the narrative in Peacekeeper veterans remains a major challenge for our constituency. The Australian Peacekeeper Mental Health Study outcomes, in particular the high levels of demoralisation in our veterans remains a grave concern. It is time for political and bureaucratic strangulation to cease on such recognition, change the culture of "no" within the ADF (including the AFP) and strive for excellence in appropriate recognition strategies for this disadvantaged group of veterans.

An independent, impartial and unbiased review into retrospective reclassification of service and recognition is sorely needed for a fair and equitable approach to social justice.

This will be my last Edition as the Editor. I have been involved with this Journal since 2004 and have enjoyed the challenge, along with working with our great publishers, particular Kylie at Flight Publishing. I am re-focussing to research Australian Peacekeeper History, of which I can't afford the time that is needed in the Editor Role. You will see me to continue contributing to this great Journal.

Yours Sincerely,
Paul Copeland OAM, JP.

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Photo Story: Women on



Women have played a significant role in United Nations peacekeeping ever since the first mission was established in 1948. On the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, marked annually on 29 May, UN News pays tribute to the many different ways women are contributing to peace.

These two Swedish Marines were part of a community engagement team with the UN's peacekeeping operation in Mali (MINUSMA) in 2018. Sweden is among the leaders in contributing women peacekeepers to the UN.

UN Photo/Harandane Dicko



Medical assistance to local communities is one of many ways UN peacekeepers positively impact the lives of civilians and help to build trust. Here, South African military medics in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), administer first aid to a child.

UN Photo/Michael AI



In Liberia, women police serving with the Chinese Formed Police Unit, deployed to the UN peacekeeping operation UNMIL, which successfully completed its mandate, in 2018. They participated in long-range patrols, helped mentor Liberian police officers and conducted extensive outreach activities to the local community.

UN Photo/Albert González Farran



A Bangladeshi formed police unit arrives in Haiti in 2010 to serve with the former UN peacekeeping mission in the country, MINUSTAH. Bangladesh is among a handful of countries that have provided an all-women unit to UN Peacekeeping.

UN Photo/Marco Dormino

the front line for peace



Women peacekeepers have also been involved in the fight against the coronavirus, supporting national authorities and helping to protect vulnerable communities. Here, an Indonesian police officer in the Central African Republic, demonstrates to boys in Bangui how to wash their hands and prevent the spread of the virus.

MINUSCA/Indonesia FPU



The former mission in Haiti, MINUSTAH, also deployed corrections officers to train and mentor national counterparts. Here, a corrections officer from Rwanda talks to a detainee at the women's prison in Port-au-Prince.

MINUSTAH/Victoria Hazou



Civilians play an important role in UN peacekeeping operations around the world. In Mali, a UN human rights officer (centre) interviews a witness in the town of Menaka as part of an investigation into the killing of dozens of people by armed attackers.

UN Photo/Marco Dormino



More women in peacekeeping means more effective peacekeeping, with improved operations and performance. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was the first mission to have women simultaneously leading its civilian, military and police components. Here, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and the Head of UNFICYP, Elizabeth Spehar, and Force Commander Major General Cheryl Pearce, review the mission's deployment maps.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of a key UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which recognizes the importance of women's role to maintain and promote peace and security.

Courtesy of HER Documentary/Courtney Martin



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International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

By Mark Elm.

In 1960, Cyprus gains independence from Britain following a four year war. During this period, 80 percent of Cyprus are Greek and 20 per cent of Cyprus are Turkish out of a population of one million people. Violence, murders and savagery becomes common place and a civil war involving military forces from the two predominant nation groups occurs on the 20 July, 1974 when Turkish military forces numbering 60,000 under the auspice of Operation Atilla invaded Cyprus, following the Cypriot coup the Cypriot coup d'état on 15 July 1974, which was previously ordered by a military Junta in Greece and staged by the Cypriot National Guard in partnership with EOKA-B, a Greek paramilitary organisation. As a result of the Turkish military invasion, 140,000 - 200,000 Greek Cypriots and 42,000 - 65,000 Turkish Cypriots were displaced.

1. Tocci, Nathalie (2007). *The EU and Conflict Resolution: Promoting Peace in the Backyard*. Routledge. p. 32. ISBN 9781134123384.
2. ^ Borowiec, Andrew (2000). *Cyprus: A Troubled Island*. Greenwood Publishing Group. p. 2. ISBN 9780275965334.
3. ^ Michael, Michális Stavrou (2011). *Resolving the Cyprus Conflict: Negotiating History*. Palgrave Macmillan. p. 130. ISBN 9781137016270.

In 1964 the Cypriot government called for international assistance to quell the civil war between the Greek and the Turkish forces and on the 4 March, 1964 the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 186 (1964) and United Nations Peacekeeping Force (UNFICYP) was established and for the first time, the United Nations deployed a Police component as an integral part in the peacekeeping mission. The Commonwealth Police were the predecessor to the Australian Federal Police, and it fell to them to recruit from State Police Forces.



<https://unficyp.unmissions.org/unficyp-mandate>

Service in UNFICYP was not without risks. The following Australian Police Officers were killed in the service of peace:

- Sergeant Llewelyn John Thomas – died Saturday 26 July, 1969
- Inspector Patrick Mark Hackett – died Sunday 29 August 1971
- Sergeant Ian Donald Ward died on Tuesday 12 November, 1974.

In 1988, Sergeant Kathy Burlett of the Australian Federal Police, was the first Australian female to serve as a United Nations Peacekeeper. She was a member of both the 28th and 29th Australian police contingents. Since Sergeant Burlett served, many female police and military service personnel have joined their male counterparts in peacekeeping operations. We thank all of you for your moral and physical courage in challenging environments plagued by war, conflict, violence and savagery. Your service and the content of your character is noble.

www.afp.gov.au/sites/default/files/PDF/CyprusFoundationsOfPeace.pdf

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS MAJOR GENERAL CHERYL PEARCE AS FORCE COMMANDER.

On the 8 November, 2018, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres today announced the appointment of Major General Cheryl Pearce of Australia as Force Commander of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Major General Pearce has had a distinguished career in the Australian Defence Force, most recently as Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy (since 2017), which provides undergraduate and postgraduate education as well as military training and education for future leaders of the Navy, Army and Air Force. In 2016, Major General Pearce was the Commander of the Australian Joint Task Force Group in Afghanistan providing training, advice and assistance to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces as part of the Resolute Support Mission of The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). From 2013 to 2016, she served as the Australian Army Headquarters Chief of Staff and, from 2010 to 2012, as Director of Special Operations Support. She also held the positions of Commandant of the Defence Police Training Centre and Commanding Officer of the 1st Military Police Battalion. Major General Pearce was also the Australian Army's Provost-Marshal and a military observer with the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor in 2002.

unficyp.unmissions.org/secretary-general-appoints-major-general-cheryl-pearce-australia-force-commander-united-nations

www.cyprustodayonline.com/un-sg-appoints-major-general-cheryl-pearce-of-australia-as-force-commander-of-unficyp



Women in Peacekeeping – powerful mentors and role models.

By Sharon Bown, RN, MACN, BPsychSci.

As a Registered Nurse (RN), I conformed to a universally accepted gender role for women until, I became a United Nations' Peacekeeper.

Like many RNs, I chose to enter the profession because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. I did not want for fame, nor fortune, I simply wanted people's lives to be better, because of my involvement. Yet gaining my Bachelor of Nursing and working as an RN was not sufficient. My desire to help others nagged at me until it evolved to a fully global scale and at 23 years of age, I entertained the romantic notion that I had the knowledge, skills, and experience to save the world! – one disadvantaged person as a time.

So, I celebrated my 24th birthday

in a weapons pit at RAAF Base East Sale, undertaking Officer Training with the Royal Australian Air Force, and by my 25th birthday, I was on operations in East Timor, wearing the iconic blue beret of a United Nations' Peacekeeper.

My mother was dutifully supportive, but she secretly hoped that my time in East Timor would allow me to get this world saving fad out of my system and return home to "settle down." But it was as a UN Peacekeeper that I discovered that I was truly able to make a difference in the lives of others and that what I had to offer the world was far greater than my profession.

In East Timor I was confronted with a population that had limited access to healthcare and which, after 24 years of Indonesian occupation, had a mistrust of the healthcare system. With a

mandate to provide life, limb and eye saving care to the local population, I encountered a gratitude for my care that I had previously never known. High quality healthcare did not seem to be viewed by the East Timorese as an entitlement, nor did they seem to realise that it was it a basic human right that they had been denied. To them, the healthcare that we provided was unique and considered to be a true blessing.

My knowledge, skills, and experience really seemed to be "saving the world, one disadvantaged person as a time." But the unintended effect that I had, resulted from my mere professional involvement in a UN Peacekeeping Operation.

In my interactions with the local population and with other member states of the UN, I began to realise that whilst it was understood that women were nurses, it was not universally accepted that women could work alongside men to provide military capability. It was even more exceptional that women were permitted to leave their homes and families to serve overseas.

Women peacekeepers serve as powerful mentors and role models for women and girls in post-conflict settings in the host community, setting examples for them to advocate for their own rights and pursue non-traditional careers¹.

As a young woman, outside of Australia for the first time in my life, I realised that whilst my choices were not considered unusual for women in Australia, they certainly were not considered usual for women around the world. Inadvertently, and yet very proudly, I was acting as a role model for the women, and girls of East Timor. I also provided an alternative reality for the men and boys of East Timor, and for member states of the UN who denied such opportunity to the women



Flying Officer Sharon Cooper with children of East Timor 2000



Flight Lieutenant Sharon Cooper - East Timor 2004

and girls of their countries.

In recognising my influence, I relished the opportunity to provide English language tuition to two local women who worked for the UN as

interpreters. One went on to establish her own small business as a tailor/dressmaker and hired other local women as employees. The other, only 15 years old when I first met her, gave me the great honour of attending her Graduation Ceremony at Cornell University in the USA in 2013. She was the first East Timorese citizen to attain such an achievement and is now the Officer-in-Charge for Catalpa International in Timor Leste.

Ultimately, the women of East Timor, whom I had naively thought to be disadvantaged and in need of my salvation, demonstrated that they too could be significant role models for me. Our relationships were of mutual benefit, and as they now serve as role models to others, that benefit continues to ripple across the world.

I drew heavily upon the resilience, courage, and determination that I had witnessed among these women when in 2004, on my second UN mission in East Timor, I was involved in a serious helicopter crash. At just 29 years of age I lost my life as I knew it. I lost my health and fitness and faced the very real possibility of losing my career. With a severe spinal fracture and neurological damage, multiple

mandibular fractures, aviation fuel burns and a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder I faced the reality that life as I knew it was over.

My affection for the people of the world's newest nation, Timor Leste, allowed me to reconcile my sacrifice with its purpose. Their lived example of hardiness, audacity and resolve assisted me to make a conscious decision to be a survivor of my circumstances and never a victim. It allowed me to continue to serve for a further 11 years.

For me, peacekeeping became so much more than providing aid to those in need. I have witnessed and enjoyed powerful and equally valuable relationships across borders, cultures, and generations, which if achieved on a global scale, could ultimately and truly keep the peace. I guess I have not quite managed to get that world saving fad out of my system just yet!

Sharon Bown, RN, MACN, BPsychSci, is the author of "One Woman's War and Peace, A nurse's journey in the Royal Australian Air Force," a Member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial and Ambassador for Phoenix Australia.

¹. peacekeeping.un.org/en/women-peacekeeping

New captain blazes trail in Middle East

By Flight Lieutenant Chloe Stevenson

Sunshine Coast local Flight Lieutenant Hayley Moulds has soared into the history books becoming the first female pilot to captain an Air Force No. 33 Squadron KC-30A multi-role tanker transport while on deployment in the Middle East.

Flight Lieutenant Moulds recently completed her deployment on Operation Okra, which is the Defence Force's contribution to the international coalition against Daesh in Iraq and Syria.

"My role was to operate the KC-30A through the Arabian Gulf into Iraq to provide air-to-air refuelling to coalition aircraft," Flight Lieutenant Moulds said.

"We work with our own E7-A Wedgetail aircraft and provide fuel to the United States, France, Germany and other nations to help them achieve their mission in the Middle East.

"We are one tanker in a sky of multiple, but you are given the opportunity to work with numerous countries on a daily basis, all contributing to changing the outcome of the flight.

"It's rewarding as a pilot to be given that opportunity and especially as a captain."

The COVID-19 pandemic had changed the operating environment.

"COVID-19 has crumpled the aviation industry and the route we usually follow up the Gulf has become quiet," Flight Lieutenant Moulds said.

Flight Lieutenant Moulds' deployment was memorable in ways she didn't expect.

"It has highlighted the power of people banding together when times are tougher than expected and the resilience in individuals," she said.

The KC-30A aircraft plays an important role in military operations. It can remain 1800km from its home

base, with 50 tonnes of fuel available to offload for up to four hours.

In its transport role, the KC-30A is capable of carrying 270 passengers. It comes with under-floor cargo compartments, which can accommodate 34,000kg of military and civilian cargo pallets and containers.





**THE HON DARREN CHESTER MP
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE PERSONNEL
MEDIA RELEASE THURSDAY 28, MAY 2020**

RECOGNISING THE ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS

Tomorrow is the International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers, which provides an opportunity for all Australians to show their respect to those who have served and contributed to global peacekeeping.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, police and civilians have been involved in more than 50 multi-national peacekeeping operations for more than 70 years.

"Australian men and women have made a significant contribution to worldwide peace, with peacekeepers in the field with the UN since 1947, where in the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) they were part of the very first group of UN military

observers anywhere in the world," Mr Chester said.

"Tragically, 16 Australians have died while serving as peacekeepers striving for peace in regions around the world and tomorrow we will honour their memory and thank all those who have served in UN operations."

Over the past 55 years members of Australia's police services have also served in peacekeeping operations around the world.

"Peacekeeping operations in which Australia has been involved have lasted months, years or even decades, and have seen small to large deployments, often at short notice."

"I would encourage Australians to pause tomorrow on the International

Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, as we honour all peacekeepers and their contribution to making the world a safer place."

Australia has made significant contributions to peace operations, including commanding operations in Kashmir, Cambodia, the Sinai, Iraq and East Timor. Currently, Australians are deployed on operations in South Sudan, the Middle East and Cyprus.

To learn more about Australia's UN Peacekeeping history, go to the Department of Veterans' Affairs Anzac Portal <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/media/file/control-stories-australian-peacekeeping-and-humanitarian-operations>

**SENATOR THE HON LINDA REYNOLDS CSC
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
MEDIA RELEASE THURSDAY 29, MAY 2020**

HONOURING AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS

Today, on International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers, we pay tribute to peacekeepers, past and present, who have served on missions around the world to advance international peace and security.

This year's theme, Women in Peacekeeping – A Key to Peace, coincides with the 20th anniversary of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which recognised the impact of conflict on women and children, and encouraged women's participation across all aspects of the peace process.

Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC said Australia has made a significant contribution to worldwide peace operations in war and conflicts for more than 70 years.

"Since 1947, more than 50,000 Australian personnel have participated in peace operations under a UN flag or mandate," Minister Reynolds said.

"We recognise the Australian Defence Force personnel currently serving in UN peacekeeping missions in Cyprus, South Sudan and the Middle East, and honour the 16 Australians who tragically lost their lives on both UN and non-UN peacekeeping operations.

"As a strong advocate for the Women, Peace and Security agenda, Defence remains committed to supporting women's empowerment in addressing conflict and building sustainable peace solutions."

Defence has committed USD \$1 million to the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations, which aims to identify and overcome barriers

to women's meaningful participation in conflict resolution.

Defence also continues to meet the UN's Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy targets for women peacekeepers, and is working with the UN and Indo-Pacific partner nations to strengthen Australia's response to threats to international peace and security.

This includes through training, capacity building, information sharing, and supporting the deployment of peacekeepers through strategic airlifts.

Further information about Australia's contribution to UN Peacekeeping can be found at:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/peacekeeping>

A.I.S.P.
Association Internationale
des Soldats de la Paix



S.P.I.A.
Soldiers of Peace
International Association

*O.N.G. en statut consultatif (catégorie I)
auprès du Conseil Economique et Social des Nations Unies
Résolution I2-96(XLIV) de la Commission d'Attribution du Conseil Economique et Social de
l'Organisation des Nations Unies du 03 juillet 1995*

18th International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

Dear General Officers, Presidents, executives, members and Blue Helmets,

On this 29th of May 2020, we are celebrating the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers in order to pay tribute to all the women and men who have served as military, police or civilians for the reestablishment, the upholding and the construction of peace and the establishment of the United Nations Charter Principles.

This year, UN Peacekeepers are still facing several challenges, including this global pandemic.

We are also celebrating this year the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, who gave a greater role and contribution to women in operations.

The first UN peacekeeping mission dates back to the 29th of May 1948, when the United Nations Truce

Supervision Organization, or UNTSO, began operations in the Middle East.

Since this date, more than one million men and women have served in 72 UN peacekeeping operations. Today 13 operations are ongoing.

This International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers aims to gather all the Blue Helmets for peacekeeping in memory of those who died, in order not to forget those who have served and to support those who are deployed. We have to stay united in this great family of peacekeeping.

This Day will be celebrated in the UN Headquarters in New York. The Secretary General will lay a wreath to commemorate those who have fallen while serving for peace across United Nations Peacekeeping operations.

This year's campaign theme for the Day is "Women in peacekeeping". Indeed, women who serve in peace operations play an essential role in helping communities in the fight against Covid-19. They must be

a central part of all international, national and local responses.

The Dag Hammarskjöld will be awarded posthumously to the peacekeepers who lost their lives in 2019.

To finish with, some words of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres:

"Today, we honor more than one million men and women who have served as United Nations peacekeepers and the more than 3,900 who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

We also express gratitude to the 95,000 military, police and civilian personnel currently deployed around the world. "

United Nations Peacekeeping website: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en> AISP/SPIA website: <http://www.aisp.fr/?lang=en/>

AISP/SPIA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aisp.spia/>

2020 UN Secretary-General's Message

Today we honor more than one million men and women who have served as United Nations peacekeepers and the more than 3,900 who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

We also express our gratitude to the 95,000 civilian, police and military personnel currently deployed around the world.

They are facing one of the greatest challenges ever: delivering on their peace and security mandates while helping countries to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The theme of this year's observance – Women in Peacekeeping – highlights their central role in our operations.

Women often have greater

access in the communities we serve, enabling us to improve the protection of civilians, promote human rights and enhance overall performance.

This is especially important today, as female peacekeepers are on the frontlines in supporting the response to COVID-19 in already fragile contexts – using local radio to spread public health messaging, delivering necessary supplies to communities for prevention, and supporting efforts of local peacebuilders. Yet, women continue to represent only 6 per cent of uniformed military, police, justice and corrections personnel in field missions.

As we commemorate the 20th

anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, we must do more to achieve women's equal representation in all areas of peace and security.

Together, let us continue to wage peace, defeat the pandemic and build a better future.



Ecco Ripley opening doors for Defence families

As house prices in Sydney and Melbourne continue to skyrocket, the Queensland property market continues to be attractive to investors, particularly those who are eager to see their hard-earned cash go a lot further.

There has never been a better time to take advantage of one of south-east Queensland's fastest-growing regions, Ripley. Located just 15 minutes from the RAAF Base Amberley, Ripley is easily accessible via strong road connections and infrastructure and only 40 minutes' drive to Brisbane CBD.

Leading community developer and builder, Sekisui House, has a track record of delivering innovative homes and masterplanned communities across Australia and internationally. Sekisui House launched its vision for Ripley in 2014 with the masterplan including the \$500 million Ecco Ripley community and \$1.5 billion Ripley Town Centre. Together they will deliver diverse living options, parklands and seamless access to health, education, community and retail facilities.

Fast forward to 2020 and more than 1,000 residents now call Ecco Ripley home, or are in the process of building their homes in the only community in the Ripley region, and one of very few across Queensland, to be awarded a coveted 5 Star Green Star – Community Rating from the Green Building Council of Australia.

First home buyer, Melanie Muller said moving to Ecco Ripley was one of the easiest decisions she and her husband have ever made.

"We chose to live in Ecco Ripley because of its location and convenience to everything we needed. It's close to schools, shops and to Moogerah Dam where we spend many weekends."

"We love the community spirit and we feel safe here. There is something for everyone, from young kids to seniors, and our kids can safely ride their bikes in the street and to one of a number of parks."

"We also chose it because of its affordability and the convenience of having Ripley Town Centre on our doorstep," Melanie added.

What sets Ecco Ripley apart is choice and accessibility. Purchasers can choose a vacant block of land and build with a builder of their choice or they can buy a 2-bed ready-built home starting from \$308,500 and 3-bed options from \$329,000. There are options to suit buyers at every stage of life, and their specific lifestyle and affordability needs.

Sekisui House Queensland State Sales Manager, Scott Blaney, said the business was committed to providing potential buyers with a wide variety of quality housing options.

"It's been important for us to integrate the right product mix to ensure Ecco Ripley continues to become a thriving community, and a place where people feel a part of its inner circle. With new release land selling from \$165,000, house and land options, ready to move in terraces, duplexes, traditional homes, and two-bedroom homes from our Horizon Collection, buyers really are spoilt for choice." Mr Blaney said.



"Ecco Ripley is an ideal option for transient RAAF families who can purchase a home now and use it later as an investment."

Renowned for its connection with the outdoors, each home in Ecco Ripley's newest precinct, Lighthaven, is located within 200 metres of parklands. The extensive network of parklands and green open space, connected by walking tracks and running paths, offer something to suit all age groups with multiple playgrounds, sporting facilities, picnic areas, off-leash dog park and shaded barbeque areas.

Ripley Town Centre is situated on the doorstep of Ecco Ripley, putting excellent amenity within easy reach. It has been masterplanned across 10 interconnected areas providing seamless access to retail, healthcare, education, recreational facilities, commercial, community and sporting amenity.

Ripley Town Centre Senior Development Manager, Taku Hashimoto, said the Centre's \$1.5 billion masterplan vision caters to the projected growth of the region.

"Ripley Town Centre is forecast to produce 20,000 local jobs to support a projected population of more than 130,000 people over the next 20 years," Mr Hashimoto said.

"Our vision is to create a connected community that can be easily accessed by a network of pedestrian walkways, cycle paths and integrated transport options, including the proposed Ripley rail extension."

Ripley Town Centre will be a place where long-term sustainability and life -enrichment have been carefully curated for future generations to connect.

For more information about Ecco Ripley and housing options available, visit www.eccoripley.com.au or visit the Ecco Ripley Sales & Information Centre, shop 1/20 Main Street, Ripley. Open 7 days 9.30am-5pm.





Quite possibly Queensland's best front yard.

Live in the true urban heart of the Ripley region and enjoy a life that means being close to everything you could ever need. Ecco Ripley offers you inner circle living that's surrounded by parklands and green open space and the ever growing Ripley Town Centre all within walking distance, allowing you to enjoy all the best of modern, connected living.

READY TO
MOVE IN HOMES
FROM
\$329,000*

Inner circle living at eccoripley.com.au
Visit us at 1/20 Main Street, Ripley (Near Coles)

*Price effective February 2020. Subject to change and availability.

ECCO
RIPLEY *e*


SEKISUI HOUSE

ANZAC DAY 2020

By Don Hughes

Victorian Sappers commemorated ANZAC day 2020 in a new and unique way. Unable to conduct the traditional services and march, Sappers across the State remembered previous sacrifice at their individual driveways, decks or balconies.

On behalf of our President Bill Van Ree, and Secretary Jim Davis, Graeme Lambert laid a wreath at the Ringwood Clock Tower Memorial. Graeme said, *"It was critically important to ensure that Victoria's Own Sappers were able to visually commemorate the sacrifice of our servicemen and women"*.

In Warrandyte, WO2 David "Rhino" Ryan, as President of the Warrandyte RSL, conducted a remote ANZAC day service. The service was streamed live by the local newspaper - *The Warrandyte Diary*. The service was conducted by WO2 Ryan, Chaplain Andrew Fisher, SGT Warwick Harvey (Middle East veteran) and CPL Lionel "Horrie" Aldenhoven (Vietnam veteran) - all at a safe distance.

The RAE Association of Victoria provided three wreaths to the local Warrandyte Scouts. They were placed at the magnificent Stone Memorial overlooking the Yarra River - but before the ceremony commenced. Rhino said that; *"the remote service was a great success – we were still*

able to conduct a wonderful, moving service using technology that is now readily available".

To honour our fallen Police Officers, our Vice President Don Hughes and Zeus, laid a specially made wreath at the Bridge of Remembrance & Sappers Memorial, in Sappers Lane, at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Don and Zeus also laid a wreath on behalf of the RAE Association Victoria for all Sappers. The Memorial was designed by 203rd Works Section and built by 105th Construction Squadron just last year.

The Sapper's Lane Memorial is located at the entrance to the hospital and opposite the Veteran and First Responders Rehabilitation Centre.

THE TRUE MEANING OF ANZAC DAY

When on United Nation's Peacekeeping & Demining operations in Africa in 1994/5, I had the unique and pleasant opportunity, to spend a few days on leave at the spectacular Victoria Falls.

Going for a pre-dawn stroll, on ANZAC day in 1995, to pay my respects, I came upon three fellow visitors to this magnificent natural wonder.

The first was a tourist from Japan, we exchanged cordial pleasantries. Next, was a robust and jovial German on his first trip to Africa - we thoroughly enjoyed each-others company. Finally, I bumped into an outgoing & friendly South African Boer, who was visiting the amazing Victoria Falls for the first time.

It made me reflect deeply - as these men were all former enemies of Australia.

It made me reflect on the mammoth task of trying to rid a country (Mozambique) of the nasty remnants of war (landmines).

It took 20 years for Mozambique to be the first severely landmine affected country in the world to be declared "landmine free".

How long does it take to declare ourselves free of the other effects of war?

Just before Sir "Weary" Dunlop, the great Australian Prisoner of War Doctor, passed away in 1993, I had the honour of hearing him speak at a formal Dinner at Oakleigh Army Barracks in Melbourne.

He spoke with reverence and sincerity, of the need to forgive past enemies.

Despite witnessing horrendous atrocities during the latter Campaigns of the Second World War, he had come to the understanding - that forgiveness is probably the greatest of human attributes.

War is the result of deep divides in society, and it is peace, where we heal those divides, that our true spirit lives.

ANZAC: THE STORY OF "TURKISH" CHARLIE RYAN

I thought I knew the ANZAC story well but recently stumbled upon a new insight - the story of Charlie Ryan. He was born at Killeen Station just north of Melbourne in 1853. The son of a grazier, Charlie dedicated his life to medicine and the care of others. He graduated as a surgeon from the





Charles Ryan Portrait with Great Granddaughter Siobhan Ryan.



At the launch of the Charles Ryan book; Turkish Ambassador Karakoc, myself, Siobhan Ryan and authors John Gillam, Yvonne Fletcher and illustrator Lillian Webb.

University of Edinburgh in Scotland in 1875.

Seeking adventure, Charlie sought medical experience with the Turkish Army in Constantinople (now Istanbul). However, the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-78 broke out and Charlie found himself in the Balkans at the siege of Plevna (Islamic calendar 93) as a young military doctor. Despite his brave caring of the wounded, he was eventually captured by the Russians.

After the war, Turkey honoured

Charlie's distinguished service with the Order of Medjidie (4th class) and the Order of Osmaneth (second highest order in the Ottoman Empire). A hero to the people of Turkey, he returned home to Melbourne in 1878 to become a successful civilian doctor.

He still liked Army life and continued as a Captain in the Volunteer Medical Service. In 1880 Charlie was the Doctor who tendered the wounded bushranger Ned Kelly, and after his execution – declared him deceased.

At the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, Charlie enlisted as the senior doctor for the 1st Division, Australian Imperial Force (AIF), and landed in Egypt just after his 61st birthday. Clambering up the steep cliffs of Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, Charlie and the ANZACS landed on the peninsula to face the Turkish commander, Mustafa Kemal and his troops. By 19 May, fierce battles had raged and thousands on both sides were dead or wounded.

Both armies wanted an armistice to tend their wounded. A stalemate ensued, but several Australians volunteered to attend their wounded and dead under the Red Cross flag. Similarly, Turkish volunteers raised their Red Crescent flags. Over the next two days, a complete armistice was negotiated.

Charlie Ryan carefully attached his Ottoman Medals and, armed with only a box camera, proceeded to direct his medical staff tending the wounded. Some Turks became seething, thinking he had stolen the decorations.

In an unused Turkish voice of 40 years, the distinguished looking doctor was able to placate the situation. All stopped their gruesome tasks. Time seemed suspended. The Turks remembered the **“Hero of the battle of 93” - Charles “Plevna” Ryan!**

Shortly after this infamous armistice, Charlie contracted dysentery and typhoid. He recovered and was knighted by the King in 1916 and appointed the senior doctor of the Australian Army until 11 November 1918.

Charlie was the hero of two countries. Major General Sir Charles Snodgrass Ryan KBE, CB, CMG, VD, died on 23 October 1926.

Turkish Charlie Ryan: Canakkale's Anzac Hero written by John Gillam and Yvonne Fletcher, and beautifully illustrated by Lillian Webb, was published in 2018.

It is a wonderful book straddling this defining story of a little-known hero for both countries and it is a story every Australian should know, and cherish.

A copy of the book, as well as a special package for teachers can be purchased from www.friendsofgallipoli.org

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There's a wide range to choose from when you're looking for medium to high risk cut protection. The NXG™ Cut D Lite stands head and shoulders above the crowd and represents outstanding value for money.

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Cut Level D that feels like a much lighter glove

The perfect combination of higher-level cut resistance and 18 gauge super lightweight feel with 360° breathability. Meets the new EN388:2016 Cut Level D cut protection standard.

Superior cut resistance, much more than most other gloves

The new EN388:2016 standards mean that Cut Level D is a far superior product that takes cut resistance to the next level. The ability to withstand force of 15N – 22N means you could get up to twice the cut resistance of Cut Level C gloves with some cut level D gloves.

Comfort with dexterity for high performance

Delivered in a lightweight, perfectly ergonomic design that allows the user to do their job safely, with no compromise on safety.

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Effective, easy-to-wear protection delivered by innovative knitting technology, combined with a breathable nitrile coating, ensuring comfort and safety for the whole shift.

Reinforced thumb and forefinger and touch screen compatibility

Strengthening of key areas lengthens the life of the glove. Touch screen compatibility means there is no need to remove a glove in the field to access screens.

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SHAPED**



**REINFORCED
THUMB AREA**



**VENDING
PACK AVAILABLE**

SafetyMate

Recent National Emergency Medal Determinations

By Mark Elm.

The National Emergency Medal is an operational service medal which recognises significant or sustained service to others in a nationally significant emergency, for example, the bushfires in Victoria in 2009 and the floods and cyclone in Queensland in 2010 and 2011.

The National Emergency Medal was established by Her Majesty The Queen by Letters Patent and National Emergency Medal Regulations 2011, approved by The Queen on her visit to Australia in October 2011.

The National Emergency Medal is awarded to members of identified organisations or individuals who rendered a minimum duration of service during specified dates in specified places in response to nationally significant emergencies within Australia (sustained service); or to persons who rendered extraordinary service in response to such emergencies (significant service), that did not satisfy the minimum duration of service required to constitute sustained service.

The National Emergency Medal complements the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal, which honours members of eligible Australian groups for humanitarian service overseas in hazardous circumstances.

The National Emergency Medal (NEM) is administered by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat at Government House which provides a Secretariat to the National Emergency Medal Committee (the NEM Committee).

SUSTAINED SERVICE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Victorian Bushfires 2009

Service recognised during this nationally-significant emergency will be recognised through the clasp, 'VIC FIRES 09'. The National Emergency Medal Committee determined the following criteria:

- service must be in the protection of lives and property, or in the service of interests, that are not their own, in direct response to the emergency, including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response;
- the geographical area is the State of Victoria;
- the qualifying period begins on 28 January 2009 and ends on 5 March 2009; and
- the minimum duration of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify for sustained service is:
 - paid service on 14 days, including at least two days in the period beginning on 7 February 2009 and ending on 14 February 2009; or
 - unpaid service on 7 days, including at least one day in the period beginning on 7 February 2009 and ending on 14 February 2009.

Queensland Floods 2010-11 and Cyclone Yasi

Service performed during the Queensland Floods and Cyclone Yasi will be recognised through the clasp, 'QLD 2010-11'. The National Emergency Medal Committee determined the following criteria:

- service must be in the protection

of lives and property, or in the service of interests, that are not their own, in direct response to the emergency, including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response:

- the geographical State of Queensland;
- the qualifying period begins on 21 December 2010 and ends on 14 February 2011; and
- the minimum duration of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify for sustained service is:
 - paid service on 28 days; or
 - unpaid service on 14 days.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL NEW DETERMINATIONS:

Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017

Service performed during Tropical Cyclone Debbie 2017 will be recognised through the clasp, 'TC DEBBIE 2017'. The National Emergency Medal Committee determined the following criteria:

- service must be in the protection of lives and property; or in the service of interests, that are not their own; in direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response).
- the geographical areas in



Australia consist of the following local government areas, as at 25 March 2017. New South Wales: Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield, Tweed. Queensland: Banana, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Burdekin, Central Highlands, Charters Towers, Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Gold Coast City, Goondiwindi, Gympie, Hinchinbrook, Ipswich, Isaac, Livingstone, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Mackay, Maranoa, Moreton Bay, Noosa, North Burnett, Palm Island, Redland, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim, Somerset, South Burnett, Southern Downs, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville, Western Downs, Whitsunday, Woorabinda Aboriginal.

- the qualifying period begins on 25 March 2017 and ends on 10 April 2017; and
- the minimum duration of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify for sustained service is 5 days.

North Queensland Floods 2019

Service performed during North Queensland Floods 2019 will be recognised though the clasp, 'NTH QLD 2019'. The National Emergency Medal Committee determined the following criteria:

- service must be in the protection of lives and property; or in the service of interests, that are not their own; in direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response).
- the geographical areas in Australia consist of the following local government areas, as at 25 January 2019. Queensland: Aurukun, Barcoo, Boulia, Burdekin, Burke, Cairns, Carpentaria, Cassowary Coast, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Cook, Croydon, Diamantina, Douglas, Etheridge, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, Hope Vale, Kowanyama River, Lockhart River, Longreach, Mackay, Mapoon, Mareeba, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa, Napranum, Northern Peninsula, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Richmond, Torres, Torres Strait Island, Townsville, Whitsunday, Winton, Wujal Wujal, Yarrabah.

- the qualifying period begins on 25 January 2019 and ends on 14 February 2019; and
- the minimum duration of service that a person is required to have completed to qualify for sustained service is 5 days.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL IMPENDING DETERMINATION

Operation Bushfire Assist 2019-2020

On 26 January 2020, the Honourable Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia announced that Australian Defence Force members may be eligible to receive the National Emergency Medal in recognition of their service and sacrifice during the 2019-20 bushfires. APPVA will advise once the National Emergency Medal Committee had determined the criteria for the clasp.

ADF MEDAL NEWS

Defence action on the National Emergency Medal:



Replacements for Medals Lost or Destroyed in Bushfires



Replacements are available for medals lost in the recent bushfires across Australia.

Apply online: <https://www.defence.gov.au/medals/Content/ApplyOnlineInstructions.asp>

Australian Operational Service Medal – Special Operations



The medal recognises the service of Australian Defence Force members on special operations as declared by the Chief of the Defence Force from 1 November 2019. Further information: <https://www.defence.gov.au/medals/Australian/Since-1975/AOSM-Special-Operations.asp>

Meritorious Unit Citation for Rwanda



The resilience and bravery displayed by Australian Service Contingents 1 and 2 during Operation TAMAR between 25 July 1994 and 8 March 1996 is being recognised by the Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC).

Readers are also advised that the MUC has been awarded to a range of units serving within Peacekeeping/Peace Enforcement Operations as per the following:

Cambodia. Posted to the Force Communications Unit (FCU) of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), between the period 15 March 1992 to 7 October 1993. 30 days qualifying time.

- 3 Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment – 25 March 2000
For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations of the Special Air Service Regiment of the Response Force for Operation Warden.
- No. 2 Airfield Defence Squadron – 25 March 2000
For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations in support of the International Force for East Timor on Operations Operation

Warden and Operation Stabilise.

- Task Group 645.1.1 – 25 March 2000

For sustained outstanding service in warlike operations in support of the International Force for East Timor during Operation Stabilise.

- 10th Force Support Battalion – 26 January 2002

For sustained outstanding service in the provision of logistic support to warlike operations in East Timor

- No. 3 Squadron RNZAF – 15 November 2002

For sustained outstanding service in the support of the peacekeeping operations whilst deployed in East Timor.[9]

- 5th Aviation Regiment – 27 November 2007

For sustained meritorious service during warlike and peace support missions in support of Operation Warden, Operation Tanager and Operation Slipper.

Further information is available at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/medals/Hon-Decs/Gall-Dist/Meritorious-Unit-Citation.asp>

Gallantry of Australian Far East Prisoners of War recognised



The awarding of the Commendation for Gallantry to 28 servicemen who were killed while escaping or following recapture during World War II has been approved by the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd).

For further information: <https://www.defence.gov.au/medals/GeneralInfo/FEPOW.asp>

Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal

25 November 2019

On 30 January 2019, the former Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) declared a further three natural disaster operations in which the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal can be awarded. Both current and former Defence members are eligible for



recognition under the following two operations:

- Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines – qualifying period of service is any 14 day period between 8 November 2013 and 16 December 2013.
- Tropical Cyclone Pam, Vanuatu – qualifying period of service is any 10 day period between 13 March 2015 and 1 April 2015.

Current members are not required to submit an application. Medals will be dispatched to the address listed on PMKeyS. Ex-serving members and the families and next-of-kin of eligible deceased members do need to apply and can do so via the application form.

Republic of Korea War Service Medal

31 October 2017



The Republic of Korea War Service Medal was introduced by South Korea in 1951 to recognise the assistance provided by members of the United Nations forces in combatting communist aggressions in Korea.

www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Foreign/Republic-of-Korea-War-Service-Medal.asp

Canine Operational Service Medal

8 June 2017

The Australian Defence Force is the first defence force in the world to implement recognition of Military Working Dogs. The Canine Operational Service Medal recognises



the contribution Military Working Dogs make whilst serving on operations. The Medal forms part of Defence's internal recognition scheme and is not part of the Australian Honours and Awards System. Link to Canine Operational Service Medal page.

G20 Citation - Queensland Police Service



Army Remembrance Pin

The Army Remembrance Pin, a gift from the Chief of Army, is a symbol for the families of all Army members who have died while in service, both domestically and on operations, since 3 September 1945.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal with Clasp 'AFGHANISTAN'



Following the completion of the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) at the end of 2014, a new follow-on NATO-led mission called RESOLUTE SUPPORT was launched on 1 Jan 2015 to provide further training, advice and assistance for the

Afghan security forces and institutions. Once approved for wear, The NATO Medal with Clasp AFGHANISTAN, may be worn with the approved NATO Medal with clasp ISAF.

www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Foreign/NATO-AFGHANISTAN.asp
Source: www.defence.gov.au/Medals/

RCB Recognition – Ray Fulcher’s personal appeal to DHAAT

By Ted Chitham MC, and Ray Fulcher:

RCBRG Comment. *Ray is a legally trained person and an RCB veteran who has forensically examined the government’s own documents discovered under Freedom of Information and the public release of 130 ex-SECRET and one TOP SECRET documents, and others obtained from international sources. Note his extensive use of reference sources.*

This is only a summary. The detailed and related analysis exposes the Deception and the need for an independent of government judicial inquiry. Follow this search for truth that takes you where the evidence will lead you. READ ON

“On 4 June 2019 I submitted an appeal to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT) appealing the decision of Defence Honours and Awards that I was not eligible for award of the AASM. The full documents that form my appeal are here.

For those not wanting to read the full array of documents I have provided below a summary of the section of my original appeal that deals with the *Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act 1962 (SOS Act)* which was the Act that covered the bulk of our deployments. DHAAT has advised that there will be a hearing in early 2020.

I contend, and shall demonstrate below, that the Department of Defence’s (Defence) position that RCB service between 1970 and 1989 (including my period of service) is peacetime service is contrary to law and not supported by the evidence. As a result, the Minister has made an *unlawful* decision by not awarding *warlike* service to RCB service and determining it to be peacetime service instead, thereby denying me medallic recognition commensurate with my service and the law.

Defence, through the Nature of Service Branch (NOSB)^[1], correctly

states that “*All nature of service reviews are considered in the context of the legislation and policies at the time of the activity or operation under review.*”^[2] For RCB these are the *Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act 1962 (SOS Act)*, which was in force until 22 May 1986 when it was repealed and replaced by the *Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA)*.

The *Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act 1962 – Legal and Factual Errors by Defence*

Defence contends that: “*Special overseas service (which is equivalent to warlike service) was achieved when three conditions were met: that a special area has been prescribed; that the personnel were serving in the special area; and that personnel were allotted for special duty within the special area.*

Special duty is defined in the Act as: “*...duty relating directly to the warlike operations or state of disturbance by reason of which the declaration in respect of the areas was made...*”^[3]

It is uncontested that there was no prescribed area and that RCB personnel were not allotted for special duty within the special area. I contend that that is not the end of the matter as Defence seems to believe. **The question to be asked is not ‘does RCB service meet these three administrative criteria’ but rather ‘should RCB service have been prescribed and its personnel allotted at the time, given the facts revealed since’.** As Mohr J said in the *Review of Service Entitlement Anomalies in Respect of South-East Asian Service 1955-75*:

“*There has been no single topic which has affected so many possible anomalies as the matter of “allotted” or “not allotted”.*”^[4]

The reason for non-allotment at the time was not an oversight or lack of knowledge as Mohr J alludes to above. Rather it was deliberate policy arising from diplomatic and domestic sensitivities that Defence has never addressed.

Documents of the time speak of the sensitivities of the Malaysians to the presence and activity of foreign forces at Butterworth. For instance, in a 1972 paper discussing security improvements at Butterworth it was said that: “*Taking into account Malaysian sensitivities, our security measures should be relatively unobtrusive. To meet the situation security should be based on: effective local security which includes good observation; and a quick reaction capability.*”^[5]

Domestically, the Whitlam government had been elected on a platform of withdrawal of all Australian combat forces from South East Asia, replacing ‘Forward Defence’ with ‘Fortress Australia’ and so any continuing presence of Australian ground combat forces in the region could potentially embarrass the government. This was confirmed by the Vice Chief of the Defence Force (VCDF) in a letter to Ms Cathy McGowan, AO, MP dated 26 April 2019. The VCDF advised Ms McGowan:

“*Due to the sensitivities at the time in relation to the deployment of Australian land forces overseas for the purposes of forward defence of Australia, the Minutes state that the deployment of the infantry unit could be presented publicly as being for training purposes.*”^[6]

However, due to Australia’s commitment to the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) and its primary role in the Integrated Air Defence System, we were not able to withdraw the RAAF presence from Butterworth and had to provide security to the base. This is highlighted by concerns discussed at the time which highlight that although the Malaysians had nominal responsibility for defence of Butterworth, their actual capacity to do so was lacking. This elevated the importance of providing an Australian infantry company to bolster the defence capability of the base:

The Malaysian lack of capacity

to effectively provide for their role in the security of Air Base Butterworth is a cause for serious concern, and is prejudicial to the security of ANZUK installations and equipment.¹⁷

Fortunately for the government of the time the Defence Committee in 1973 provided them with a solution that would allay Malaysian sensitivities and neutralise the potential for uncomfortable domestic questions. At its 11 January 1973 meeting, the Committee proposed that:

“When the Australian Battalion is withdrawn from Singapore the requirement for a company for security duties at Butterworth will be met by providing the unit on a rotational basis from Australia. This could be presented publicly as being for training purposes”¹⁸

The Australian High Commissioner in Malaysia advised the government that the Malaysians themselves urged the use of the ‘training camouflage’ for the company:

“Zaiton muttered about the presentational difficulties and maintained that the only raison d’être could be the furthering of training.”¹⁹

The refrain is the same, that the deployment of an infantry company to Butterworth was for base security but that needed to be camouflaged and the Malaysians were in on the subterfuge for their own reasons.

Defence has never examined the implications of this evidence on why RCB was not allotted to a prescribed area. It would have been impossible to maintain the necessary camouflage had the proper administrative procedures been followed so that the troops met the three administrative criteria for special overseas service under the SOS Act.

It must be said that Defence does not just rely on the administrative “conditions” contained in the SOS Act to claim that RCB service was not “special duty”. They refer to Cabinet Directive 1048 of 7 July 1965¹⁰ which sought to clarify for the ADF how the SOS Act was to be implemented, it said:

“...that the Services be directed that allotment for “special duty” should only be made at a time when the personnel are exposed to potential risk by reason of the fact that there is a continuing danger from activities of hostile forces or dissident elements; in

the present circumstances, allotment should therefore be confined to personnel specifically allotted for duty in relation to Indonesian infiltrators or communist terrorists in circumstances where there has been a specific request for the assistance of Australian forces and where the task has been clearly defined...”¹¹

Defence go on to say that:

“ADF service at RAAF Butterworth from the end of confrontation in 1966 to the end of the infantry rifle company’s quick-reaction role in December 1989 does not meet the essential criteria for allotment for special duty in a prescribed area for the purposes of the Act. There were no requests from the Malaysian Government to the Australian Government for military assistance after 14 September 1966.”¹²

With respect, these examples of the approach taken by Defence set Cabinet Directive 1048 on its head. It elevates the subordinate clause dealing with a particular situation (“in the present circumstances”), that occurred well before RCB deployments, above the directive on how “allotment for ‘special duty’ should ... be made” under the Act. It raises the subordinate clause to the level of the governing principle of when allotment can be made. This was clearly not the intent of the Cabinet. Nor was it the view of Clarke J who does not mention the subordinate clause.

Accordingly, the question that Defence should be asking is not ‘was the correct paper work done’ or ‘did Malaysia request our presence’ but rather ‘were RCB troops exposed to potential risk by reason of the fact that there was a continuing danger from activities of hostile forces or dissident elements’ in accordance with Cabinet Directive 1048.

Fortunately, Defence has answered that question in the affirmative many times over, both during the deployment and more recently during various reviews, but unfortunately without comprehending the import of their findings, for example:

“There is a potential threat to the base from the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM), the Communist Terrorist Organisation (CTO), and related communist subversive

organisations, whose aim is the establishment of a communist state in Malaysia Singapore ultimately by “armed struggle”- widespread guerrilla/military action- and who have an estimated 1,800 to 2,000 terrorists in the Thai Malaysia border area.”¹³

The law, while not simple, is well established and does not require a high level of threat, or for an attack to occur, or even be imminent, for the threat to meet the threshold. The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (DHAAT) has previously summarised this understanding in a 2009 inquiry into SAS counter-terrorism duties.¹⁴

RCB faced potential risk from armed Communist Terrorists in Malaysia up until the signing of the peace accord between the Communist Party and the Malaysian government in December 1989, which coincidentally was when RCB’s Quick Reaction Force (QRF) role ended. Defence concedes as much and as such they must comply with the law which, although complex, may at times be simple to determine:

“To establish whether or not an ‘objective danger’ existed at any given time, it is necessary to examine the facts as they existed at the time the danger was faced. Sometimes this will be a relatively simple question of fact. For example, where an armed enemy will be clearly proved to have been present.”¹⁵

Conclusions

I have demonstrated that Defence, especially the Nature of Service Branch, has erred in both law and fact in determining the nature of service of RCB 1970-1989, including my service in 1979.

I have shown that Rifle Company Butterworth service met the requirements (bar the administrative requirements) of both the Repatriation (*Special Overseas Service*) Act 1962 and the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986.

I have demonstrated that a war and emergency existed at the time that Australian rifle companies were sent to Butterworth to guard the air base and to **“meet the communist terrorist threat”**.

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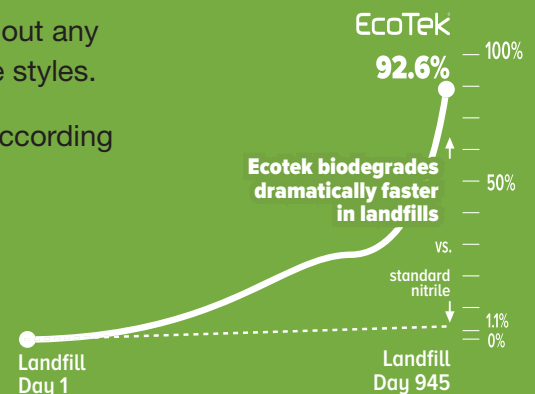
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BCB are the current suppliers of the three-colour compact camouflage cream issued to the British Armed Forces across the world.

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BCB's camouflage face paint was first worn by British Soldiers during the Falklands conflict in 1982.

BCB produce over half a million units of camouflage face paint each year and is standard issue to many armed forces worldwide.

Its camouflage face paint is currently in service with the UK, Canada, Norway and many other European and NATO countries.

CAM CREAM: HOW IT'S MADE?

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A preservative is then added, so that the mixture has a longer shelf life for field use.



Hydrophobic thickener is then added to help achieve the correct consistency.

All these ingredients are then heated at a high temperature until thoroughly mixed.

Pre-made plastic camouflage cream packs are added to an automated carousel, then the heated mix is then injected evenly into each pack.

The finished product is then added to a vibrating conveyor belt. This helps remove any air bubbles from the paint and evenly distributes the mix.

Each pack is visually inspected before being labelled, boxed, then shipped to the customer.

WHY DO SOLDIERS USE CAMOUFLAGE FACE PAINT?

Due to natural oils within the surface of the skin, combined with sweating, the sun's shine can become reflected upon your face, and in turn this means you could be spotted by the enemy.

Camouflage cream is used to prevent reflection from the surface of the skin and it also helps break up the shape of the face.

Some also suggest it has a psychological effect that helps to unsettle the enemy.

HOW DO YOU APPLY CAMOUFLAGE FACE PAINT?

Use the correct colours of camouflage paint for the area that you will be operating in.

Using a small amount of lighter-coloured camo paint, rub evenly into the hands and apply a thin layer to your face, neck, ears, back of the hands and any other exposed areas of skin not covered by uniform.

Then, using medium-coloured paint, apply to the shiny areas of your face – around the eyes, side of nose, forehead and creases of the ears.

With a dark colour, add irregular patterns to help break the shape around the jaw-line, nose, mouth and ears.



Walking with veterans and families on the road to recovery

Open Arms—Veterans & Families Counselling (Open Arms) has expanded their Community and Peer Program nationally, so veterans and their family members can now connect with a national network of Community and Peer Advisors (peers) who understand the military experience and mental health recovery journey.

Peers within the program have served in the Australian Defence Force—or have family members who served—as well as having accessed mental health services for their own wellbeing.

The peer team are key to breaking down barriers to care, building relationships with community groups, and reducing the stigma for veterans seeking help for mental health concerns since it was first piloted in Townsville in 2017.

The Open Arms National Community and Peer Team is currently led by Andrew Dyer—a veteran who served in the Australian Army for 25 years, including a six month deployment as part of the

United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda in 1995. Andrew's role in Rwanda was to provide security to the UN wing of the hospital, barracks, convoys and medical activities.

“As a young soldier on my first Operational Deployment, there were a lot of new sights, sounds and smells. It was a completely different environment and a new experience. I believe your first deployment has the most significant impact on your life. It changes you forever”.

Andrew was attracted to the Mental Health Peer Worker role at Open Arms following his time serving in Townsville—supporting soldiers undergoing rehabilitation and experiencing mental and physical health challenges.

Andrew's own mental health issues—post operation adjustment, depression, personal injuries and transition out of Defence—have made him passionate about providing support to veterans and their families. He has also navigated his way through many non-military experiences

including divorce and raising a child with special needs and is able to draw on these experiences when he works with clients.

Like Andrew, all Open Arms peers have been through their own challenges and are driven to support others who may be struggling.

With this level of understanding and determination it is easy to understand why the Community and Peer Program has been so effective in helping veterans and their families on their road to recovery.

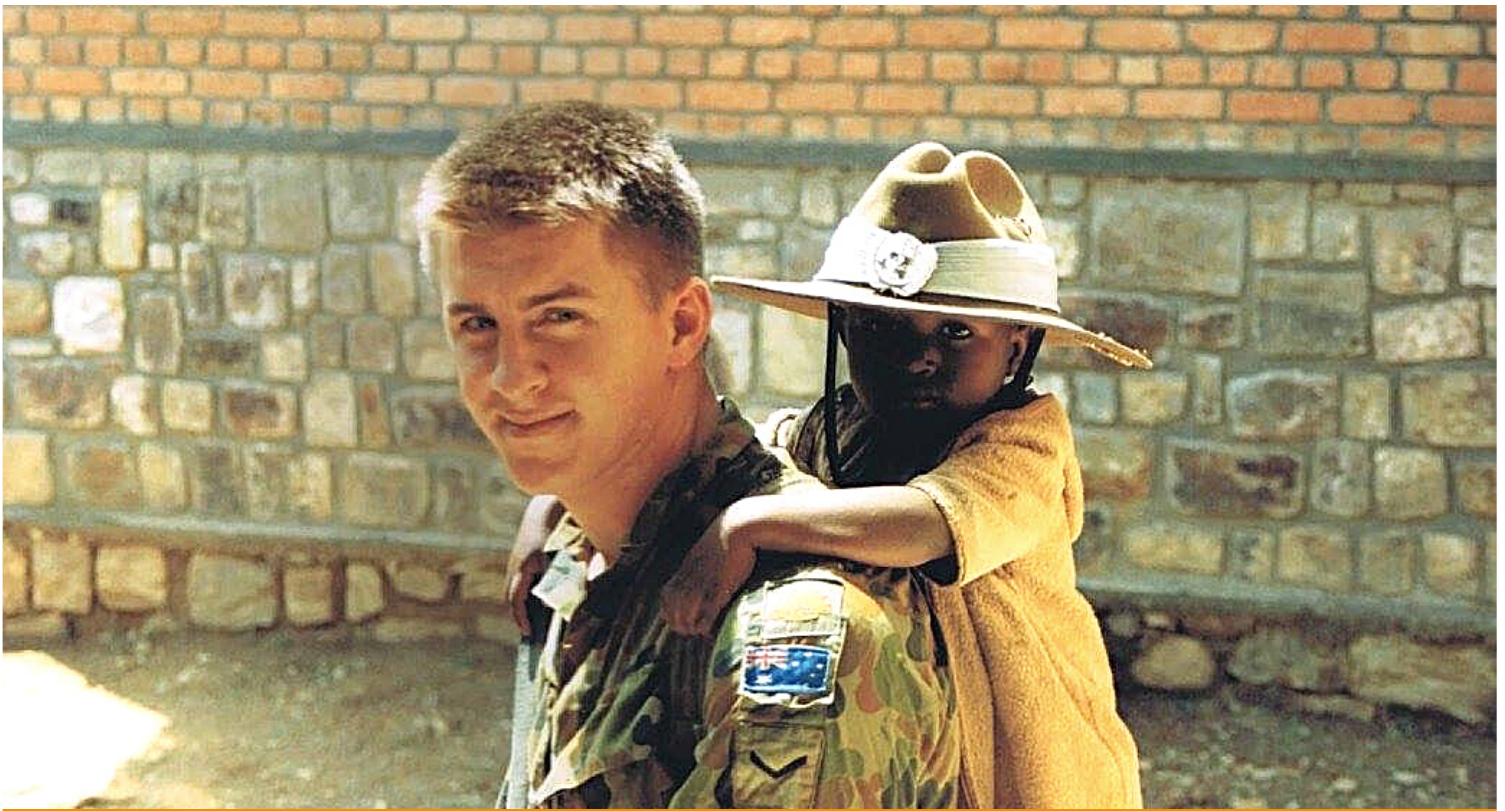
Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling is Australia's leading provider of mental health support services for Australian veterans and their families. If you or someone you know needs support call Open Arms 24/7 on 1800 011 046 or visit www.openarms.gov.au.

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US planning to cut troops from Sinai Peacekeeping mission: Report



Defense officials say Secretary Mark Esper thinks military effort in northern Sinai is not worth risk to US troops.

State Department and Israel reportedly oppose cuts because they threaten observer mission in insurgency-wracked region

The United States is reportedly planning to withdraw troops from Egypt's restive Sinai Peninsula, where Washington heads an international peacekeeping force and Cairo is battling the local chapter of the Islamic State (IS) group.

The Wall Street Journal, citing anonymous US officials, reported on Thursday that Secretary of Defense Mark Esper thinks the military's efforts in northern Sinai aren't the best use of department resources or worth the risk to troops stationed there.

The report comes a day after two Washington-based think-tanks described Egypt's counterterrorism efforts as "ineffective."

The Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED) and the Center for International Policy (CIP) quoted Congressman Tom Malinowski, one of the leading critics of Cairo in Washington, as saying that the Egyptian military is "utterly, disastrously incompetent".

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials told the Journal that the possible withdrawal is part of a cost-cutting review to take stock of US military operations around the world.

The US currently has more than 400 American troops stationed in

the Sinai as part of a 13-country Multinational Force & Observers (MFO).

The Journal said that the proposed drawdown has already been met with opposition from the State Department and from Israel, which both fear that a US withdrawal may lead to a crumbling of the peacekeeping mission at a time when IS activity in the area is flaring up.

A series of deadly attacks have targeted Egyptian forces in recent weeks, including the bombing of an Egyptian army vehicle in Bir al-Abd, in which 10 Egyptian soldiers were "killed or injured," according to an army spokesperson.

CURRENTLY ASSESSING

The US military first said back in 2016 that it was reviewing whether to reduce troop presence by automating aspects of the MFO operations via remote surveillance technology. At the time, the US had 700 personnel stationed with the MFO, compared with today's 400.

The peacekeeping force was originally implemented during an American-brokered peace deal signed by Israel and Egypt in 1979. It operates from two main bases in the Sinai, a heavily fortified post in the north near the IS insurgency, and another in the tourist hotspot, Sharm El Sheikh.

The Trump administration has in recent years, shown great interest in cutting US support in terms of money and personnel to a variety of international initiatives, from withdrawing US forces from Syria and to reducing them in Iraq, cutting US funding for some UN initiatives and the World Health Organisation, among other moves.

Defense officials said they think Esper feels the US military effort in the northern Sinai is not worth the risk to US troops or the money Washington spends, since Egypt and Israel have maintained peace during the past four decades.

"The US Mission to the MFO is

one of many missions [the Defense Department] is currently assessing," Pentagon spokesman Navy Commander Sean Robertson in a statement to the WSJ.

The MFO didn't respond to a request for comment on the situation. Egyptian officials also declined to comment on the proposed American withdrawal, as did Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The State Department did not immediately respond to Middle East Eye's request for comment.

BATTLING THE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP

For the last decade, the small MFO force has been caught in the middle of the IS insurgency in the Sinai. Fighting in the area has killed hundreds of people, both tourists and locals. The insurgency persists despite Egypt's heavy-handed military campaign that has forced tens of thousands of Sinai residents to flee their homes.

The State Department has recently indicated that the IS insurgency in the Sinai remains of great importance to both countries, announcing on Thursday that it had approved a possible \$2.3bn sale to refurbish 43 Apache attack helicopters for Egypt specifically earmarked for its Sinai operation.

"Egypt intends to use these refurbished AH-64 helicopters to modernize its armed forces to address the shared US-Egyptian interest in countering terrorist activities emanating from the Sinai Peninsula, which threaten Egyptian and Israeli security and undermine regional stability," the State Department said in a statement.

While US forces are not directly engaged in Egypt's fight against the IS group in the Sinai, the US-led MFO is the only independent observer group in the region able to monitor Egypt's operation.

By MEE staff in Washington
www.middleeasteye.net

US on track to withdraw thousands of troops from Afghanistan

An agreement, signed in February, confirmed the number of American personnel would drop to 8,600 from about 13,000 by mid-July.

The United States is on track to withdraw thousands of troops from Afghanistan, despite continuing violence in the country.

The Taliban and the Afghan government have also failed to begin peace talks.

An agreement, signed in February, confirmed a plan to reduce the number of American personnel from around 13,000 to 8,600 by mid-July.

An initial withdrawal of hundreds of US military service members began in March.

However, the following month, the Taliban warned the peace deal with America was nearing a breaking point, accusing the US of carrying out drone attacks on civilians

The group also criticised the Afghan government for delaying the release of 5,000 Taliban prisoners as promised in the agreement.

US officials are sticking to their promise to reduce troop levels in Afghanistan by more than 4,000, with all American and allied forces set to have left the country completely by Spring 2021, ending America's longest war.

The withdrawal of all remaining



Soldiers assigned to the 101st Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade load onto a Chinook helicopter to head out and execute missions across Afghanistan, Jan. 15, 2019. *US Dept of Defense*

forces, however, depends on the Taliban meeting certain counter-terrorism conditions, assessed by the US.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, meanwhile, says his government is going back on the offensive against the Taliban after a series of devastating attacks on civilians.

The conflict in Afghanistan has continued for more than 18 years, and at one point saw 100,000 troops on the ground.

There are currently around 1,000 British Army troops based in

Afghanistan as part of the NATO mission in the country.

Britain ended its combat role in Afghanistan in 2014, but personnel remain deployed to the country in non-combat capacities.

It has proven to be a difficult war for America, but one that Donald Trump vowed he would end during his presidential campaign.

In 2017 he sanctioned a troop surge at the request of then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

www.forces.net

The Courage For Peace Exhibition

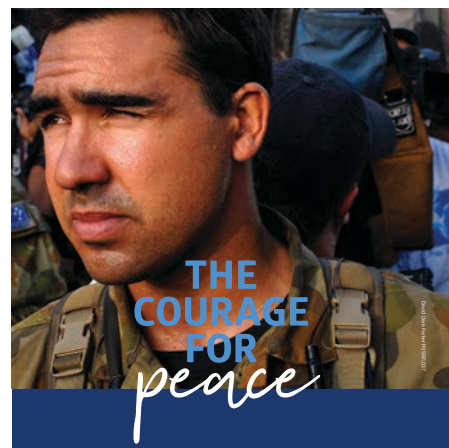
The Courage for Peace temporary exhibition at the Australian War Memorial which, since opening in October 2019, has been met with a wonderful public response.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Memorial closed to the public on 24 March 2020 and as a consequence, it has brought forward some Development Project works that will unfortunately necessitate the early closure of The Courage for Peace exhibition.

The world-class exhibition had not had the opportunity to be displayed for the full term anticipated. In response, however the Memorial will produce a

form of virtual tour experience of the exhibition. The experience will be made available via the Memorial's website as well as the existing exhibition film and promoted through social media. The experience will focus on the remarkable objects on display complemented by the expertise of Memorial curators, historians and Director Mr Matt Anderson PSM who will provide added context given his diplomatic presence in some of the featured countries during these operations. This experience is currently in production and will be available online in the coming months.

The experience will encourage



both new and established audiences to explore and reflect on what it is that Australia does to make, shape and keep peace for itself and in the world. www.awm.gov.au

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Painting a poignant reminder



A painting of Corporal Cameron Baird VC MG painted by artist George Petrou.

A portrait of Corporal Cameron Baird, VC, MG, has been unveiled at Camp Baird, Australia's main operating base in the Middle East.

Serco Defence Contracts Director Logistics Andy Maclean presented the commissioned portrait to Commander Joint Task Force 633, Rear Admiral Mark Hill, during a Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11.

The painting is displayed in the 'Sands' recreation and meeting room.

"As one of only four recipients of Australia's highest award for wartime bravery in Afghanistan, Corporal Baird has an iconic place, not just in the Australian Defence Force, but the whole of Australia," Mr Maclean said.

"Serco had been considering for some time how to honour those who died in war, when the opportunity arose to purchase this painting from the Australian National Veterans Museum.

"As soon as we saw the painting by artist George Petrou, we immediately recognised how skillfully he had portrayed Cameron's likeness and enduring spirit."

Rear Admiral Hill said it was an honour to accept the painting and expressed his gratitude to Serco for its gift to the Australian Defence Force.

"The Sands is a significant place at Camp Baird because it's where all deployed members receive their final briefing before flying to Afghanistan or Iraq," Rear Admiral Hill said.

"So the painting of Corporal Baird will be a poignant reminder to all those going forward of the ultimate sacrifice Cameron and 42 other Australians made serving our country."

Corporal Baird was killed in action during operations in Afghanistan on June 22, 2013.

Rhodesia: 1979 - 1980

New Zealand troops arrived in Salisbury, Rhodesia – now Harare, Zimbabwe in 1979. All members of the New Zealand Contingent deployed to the African nation as part of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force.

Its mission was to monitor the ceasefire agreement between the Rhodesian Security Forces, and the Patriotic Front. The latter had two factions: ZIPRA (Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army) and ZANLA (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army).

The Patriotic Front wasn't keen at first on New Zealand's participation in the CMF. It believed the New Zealand Government, because of its acceptance of sporting contacts with South Africa, was unsympathetic to the indigenous struggle.

There was a change of heart however when the contingent's large number of Maori (about 25 percent) was pointed out.

No one deployed below the rank of corporal, and the team members were selected against a wide range of trade and skill sets which allowed them to be prepared for what might

eventuate. Prior to their departure they had very little idea of what they might be required to do and how they might be received.

The Rhodesian War had been crippling the country for 14 years, with atrocities on all sides, but by 1979 the Rhodesian Security Forces had reached a stage where they were losing ground and a ceasefire was warranted. The Patriotic Front had a strong hold, particularly in rural areas.

The various factions in the conflict had waged guerrilla warfare, with a wide variety of small arms, heavy machine guns and some surface to air missiles.

After many months of discussion the United Kingdom-brokered Lancaster House Agreement was finalised in late December 1979 and the Commonwealth troops were rapidly deployed from home locations to monitor the fledgling peace.

The Commonwealth Monitoring Force had about 1400 members – most of them British personnel, with detachments from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Fiji and Kenya. The New Zealand contingent comprised

about 76 Army personnel and was commanded by Colonel David Moloney.

Within two weeks of the New Zealanders arriving more than 20,000 guerrillas from the Patriotic Front's two factions had emerged from the bush to gather and then be moved to designated Assembly Places. The Kiwis had processed between 4,000 to 5,000 Patriotic Front personnel by the end of their deployment.

The intent was to create collection points, known as RVs, for the Patriotic Front, and move them to Assembly Places where they could be disarmed and reintegrated into their tribal homelands prior to the elections.

The reality was that there were insufficient collection points so more were created shortly after the New Zealanders arrived.

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Captain Tom Moore: Army Veteran

'Delighted' With Knighthood



Captain Tom was appointed an honorary colonel in time for his 100th birthday last month. MOD

Captain Tom Moore is to be knighted, Downing Street has announced.

The Second World War veteran raised more than £32 million for the NHS, ahead of his 100th birthday last month.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson recommend Sir Tom be exceptionally honoured by the Queen, who has approved the honour, Number 10 said.

An investiture ceremony will take place at a later date.

Captain Tom captured the nation's hearts by setting off on 6 April to complete 100 laps of his garden to raise £1,000 for NHS Charities Together, which supports staff and volunteers caring for COVID-19 patients.

He initially pledged to raise £1,000 by his 100th birthday, but the donations soon turned into millions.

Captain Sir Tom Moore said he was "overawed" to hear that he will be knighted.

"I must say it's rather different," he told BBC Breakfast.

"I mean, to get this honour is so outstanding that I really can't say how different I feel, but I certainly feel I've been given a very outstanding honour by the Queen and the Prime Minister.

"I thank them all very much.

"I'm certainly delighted and I am overawed by the fact that this has happened to me."

Posting on his Twitter account, Captain Tom said: "This started as something small and I've been overwhelmed by the gratitude and love from the British public and beyond.

"We must take this opportunity to recognise our frontline heroes of the



National Health Service who put their lives at risk every day to keep us safe."

In addition to his fundraising, the veteran even landed a number one single, a cover of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' with singer Michael Ball, which also featured the NHS Voices of Care Choir.

Mr Ball said he "couldn't be more thrilled and proud" of his charity single colleague, adding the knighthood was a "fitting honour for a true British hero".

Captain Tom's knighthood comes just weeks after he was appointed the first Honorary Colonel of the Army Foundation College in Harrogate.

As he is an honorary colonel, under the Ministry of Defence protocol his official title after the investiture will be Captain Sir Thomas Moore.

Calls began for the British Army veteran to be knighted last month, including an online petition being launched.

Captain Tom enlisted into the Eighth Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (8 DWR), an infantry unit that was converted to operate Churchill tanks as part of the Royal Armoured Corps (RAC).

In 1940 he was selected for officer training and rose to the rank of captain, later being posted to 9 DWR in India.

He also served in Myanmar during the Second World War.

After the war, he returned to the UK and worked as an instructor at the Armoured Fighting Vehicle School in Bovington, Dorset.

He lived in Kent for many years before moving to Bedfordshire to be with his family in 2007.



JAF0: A Canadian Observer Remembers 36 Years on

By: Captain Lawrence Williams (Retired), Canadian Forces.

PREFACE

In this short article I do not intend to delve deeply into the whys and wherefors of the theory of peacekeeping, or spend much time on the politics of UNTSO. Each has been dealt with, in detail, by those eminently more qualified than I. My aim, in true military fashion, is to relate one Canadian's experience as an unarmed observer in the Middle East. I have not included the names of those with whom I worked, as the article would then become a subject of historical debate, in as much as my notes and diary entries are my perceptions only. To those who were there, you will recognise yourself and probably others; to those who were not, it just plain doesn't matter.

I chose the title of JAF0 (Just Another F----- Observer) on purpose. It was lifted from a police helicopter program popular at the time and a title we proudly hung on ourselves. The program expired after less than one season but we JAF0s, for the most part, carry on.

A GOOD IDEA

At some point during the summer of 1982, I volunteered to go on the International Standby List. This was the military source for manpower to provide observers and staff officers for employment with the various United Nations missions and other single augmentation taskings to outside organisations. I received confirmation that I had been accepted and would be attached to the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization as a military observer in June 1983.

Contrary to the opinion of a now famous Canadian general, I wanted to know everything possible about UN operations, especially the observer missions and the countries in which I might be working. Little in the way of information was fourth coming through the military chain. Information

on the mission and my part was gained through talking to several officers who had been so employed. Their input was of little help as it usually pertained to the amount of monies that could be accrued on a tax free basis. It appeared that all the volunteers might not do so out of professional motives but rather those of a more altruistic nature.

Academic resources were also limited at the time as peace keeping had not gained the profile it has today. Searches of the public library and that at the University of Western Ontario yielded little in the way of living or cultural conditions, expectations of operational requirements or indeed anything that might assist me in transitioning to a foreign culture. My best source was back issues of National Geographic found in the Base Barbershop.

I had little success in tracking down any definition of Peacekeeping as it was being practised at the time but did find some of the underlying concepts. These were the ideas of impartiality, consent and the limited use of force. In my mind impartiality was easy, I did not speak either hebrew or any of the various arabic dialects and therefore could be totally impartial. Consent was not a factor as the mission had been in place since 1948 and I considered that this was sufficient time for even the most bureaucratic of nations and organizations to get things straight. The use of force wasn't much of a consideration, as, according to my peers, this was a quiet area where one enjoyed fresh oranges and had little interface with the locals, so there was no need for force. Also we were Canadian, unarmed and UN people, and those reasons in themselves were thought to give us immunity from any threat of violence. This rather naive notion faded rapidly.

Some two weeks prior to deployment, I was summoned to Ottawa and given what was to be the only briefing prior to my tour. Nothing in the way of "country" briefs

were given. The majority of the time was spent in reviewing pictures of foreign nationals, usually female, who were suspected of attempts at subversion of Canadian officers and the receipt of dire warnings to avoid these unsavoury folks at all costs. Should I be approached, I was to report this through the national chain of command to the desk officer in Ottawa. No further explanation was offered.

My last two days in Canada consisted of waiting the arrival of my green passports with the appropriate visas for Israel, Syria and Egypt. These arrived less than six hours before my scheduled departure and were accompanied by a set of dire warnings from the officious bureaucrat making the delivery that I was not to give them up for any reason, nor was I to mix them. I gathered that we were issued two sets of documents to facilitate entry into the various countries. The Israelis did not like Arabic franking and vice versa. It gave one pause, how did international business work?

I had not met with any of the other officers posted to UNTSO and consequently had had no chance to develop any form of support network. I became aware of one of my colleagues only on boarding the ELAL flight to Israel and then only because he had opted to travel in workdress uniform.

JERUSALEM AND UN BUMPH

Prior to departure, I had made arrangements to be met at Ben Gurion airport by a fellow Royal who was posted to CANLOG. All Canadians were to check in through the Canadian support element to confirm pay arrangements and draw theatre related clothing items.

On landing, I discovered that my baggage had mysteriously disappeared. We had been warned that this might happen, as some Israelis took umbrage to the fact that other military forces were present

in "Eritz Israel" and delighted in obstructing their arrival. The baggage appeared almost a week later.

We left the airport and reported to CANLOG rather late in the day. A good meal and a nights sleep set us up for our inclearence and the drive through the Dead Sea valley to Jerusalem. We arrived on a Friday and quickly became victims of the religious practices predominant. Friday was the Muslim day of rest, Saturday the Jewish and Sunday the Christian. Needless to say little was achieved, beyond visits to various sites in the old city and a tour to Massada until Monday.

The Massada visit was an eye opener. I had run across the story at home but actually seeing the ground and getting an only slightly exaggerated account from our sabra guide made it that much more real. On the return from the Dead Sea we passed an Israeli mixed column of self propelled artillery and tanks. Our guide, a reservist, suggested rather strongly that we not look out the window as she had obviously made us as military of some nation or another. That only heightened our interest and we gawked at the parade. The next morning we read in the Jerusalem Post that an artillery duel had been fought near Mount Hermon. No wonder we shouldn't look out the window. Another incident of note was the confirmation that I was highly claustrophobic. We were on a tour of the Old City and offered the chance to walk through one of the underground aqueducts that fed the city during one of its many sieges. I got in about thirty feet and had to back out. I spent the next half hour attempting to explain to the Arab gatekeeper that I would not require a refund, but he should open the gate and allow me to proceed on the surface.

Inclearence to UNTSO was a relatively painless matter as the functionaries were all in place and gave the appearance of wanting to provide the maximum service to those in the field in the most painless way. This was my first exposure to the UN Field Services. Briefings on the mission area were conducted but these contained little usable content beyond that that generally impacted on the operation. We were detailed to our first duty station and told that at



The destruction of Beirut during the Civil War, which saw the Australian Embassy Evacuated on 10 February 1984. The Embassy did not return until 18 July 1996, when the period of hostilities receded.

Editor's Comment: The Australian Government, contrary to other Allied Nations, says that this was not a War Zone, where two Australian Army UN Military Observers had served at the worst of this conflict during January to February 1984.

the halfway point of our tour we would be moved to another location. This was done to negate the possibility of boredom and an over familiarity with the local conditions.

In Jerusalem. I met the senior Canadian United Nations Military Observer in the headquarters, who assured me that my White (United Nations) Card number was below 6000 and how hard he had worked to achieve this. He stated that a certain cachet was attached to those with lower numbers as it indicated that the holders were the veterans. I also was invited to the home of one of my old company commanders. I was surprised to find that he had his wife and family in location. In my briefing in Ottawa I was told that this was not on and that the Canadian government would not recognise or provide support to families. He stated that he had brought the family over at his own expense and that his UN pay more than off set the cost. I consequently found out that the majority of our officers had done the same thing as the perception was that this was a "swan" mission and there was little danger in having the comfort of, at least, your wife in theatre. As events were to prove, this was a dangerous assumption.

TIBERIAS- COOKING AND LOOKING

In late June 1983, I arrived in Tiberius. Observer Group Golan was my first duty station. A sponsor had been detailed and I had the luck to be allocated to a Canadian UNMO who had a car, a reasonable apartment and had been warned that he would be soon appointed to a staff position. Additionally, he and his wife were gregarious by nature and I enjoyed my first weeks in the Mission Area. In briefs were rudimentary considering the Area of Separation had been established and manned since 1972. They consisted, in the main, of the sharing of recipes and information on who you wanted to avoid as an OP mate. Interestingly, the majority of this information was wrong. Internal UN politics were rife, even at the outstation level.

Our AO consisted of static Observation Posts on both sides of the Area of Separation that had been established post the 1972 war between Israel and Syria. Interestingly enough, we were only one of two UN forces operating over the same ground. UNTSO supplied observers for fixed Ops outside the demilitarised zone and verification



of arms present in the various zones of military occupation that stretched back from the cease-fire line. The United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF) was charged with the actual patrolling inside the Area Of Separation. Their presence was demonstrated through a Cyprus like use of team houses and foot patrols. The cease fire line stretched from Mount Hermon and the Lebanese boarder in the north to the junction of the Syrian- Israeli-Jordanian boarders in the south. The entire area had been fought over heavily and the remains of war were still on display.

All the Observation Positions were numbered, not necessarily in any logical order. My first was 53 and I took my duties seriously. On arrival, the senior of the two incoming UNMOs took over the OP from the outgoing team and we were locked in a small compound, our home for the next seven days. We shared the compound with an Israelie Defense Force liaison team, who were tasked to keep us up to date with Israeli goings on and provide direct communication with IDF Area HQ should that be required. Usually one of the team spoke, at least, a rudimentary english, however I had little confidence in the system.

We shared the duties on a daily rotation, one cooking and doing the required maintenance and house hold chores; the other observing the assigned area and making reports on unusual incidents or any violation of the edge of the Area of Separation by either side. Violations were common

as Syrian Druze shepherds took their flocks down to water in the morning and back to the village in the afternoon. Each of these excursions were dutifully logged and reported. Israelis did not have access to the AOS, with the exception of the various workparties involved in the creation of the now famous Security Zone, immediately inside the fence.

One of the more enjoyable tasks was the daily maintenance drive of the OP escape vehicle. When I first arrived, these were vintage Chevrolet $\frac{3}{4}$ ton vehicles. They had a manual transmission, cranky electrical systems and were absolute bears to drive on the rutted trails in the Golan. My earlier experience with our own fleet of venerable $\frac{3}{4}$'s now paid dividends as I was invariably allowed the honour of conducting these daily tests. These trips were supposed to be tightly controlled by the liaison team, permission must be requested in advance and a team member always accompanied the UNMO. I learned the majority of my six words of Hebrew on these forays. A new IDF team made life difficult as they stuck to the precise regulation, directly from the compound to a predetermined road junction and back. Others, with more seniority allowed some flexibility and I sometimes got an interesting tour of the battle sites of the 1972 war, conducted by a tank commander of one of the units first involved. At 1800 hours we conducted the daily radio check with our HQ in Tiberias, supper was served, the liaison team departed and the workday ended. The BBC overseas service anthem became the taps and reveille on the Golan.

The only differences in the OPs were the fields of observation and the proximity to the minefields. Both sides, at various times in the fight for the Golan, had laid extensive and varied minefields. Most had been identified and their perimeters marked but neither side was completely sure of the content, mixture or dispersal pattern or if they were, they were not disposed to share this information with either the Observer mission or the members of UNDOF, who patrolled the AOS on foot. From our point of view, the compounds were safe, but nothing can ruin a perfectly serene sunbath than an antitank mine and its supplemental booby trap charges

cooking off in the heat of the day, usually less than a hundred meters away from the bathee.

Days off between Ops were dedicated to leave, teaching at the unofficial UN school and doing the myriad of duties that accompany any military force. However, on a monthly basis an inspection was conducted in both Israel and Syria. This was to inventory the military hardware deployed in the various belts extending rearward from the AOS. We were allegedly permitted to go anywhere and count anything but that was not the case. In several heavily defended locations, especially on Mount Hermon, we were denied access and a long standing ritual was then played out. We asked, the commandant bridled, we asked again, he allegedly contacted his commander who always said no. At the time it was funny and as we became more recognised by the IDF commanders more ludicrous. We asked, sat and drank tea and smoked cigarettes and left after exactly 30 minutes. Hind sight being what it is, I now realise that these two positions were gathering approximately 90% of the ELINT originating in Damascus and that most of the technology was American in manufacture, a fact the Israeli government did not wish to have confirmed. These inspections also allowed us free access to all areas in the occupied Golan. The game was for the Israeli commanders to attempt to hide tanks and artillery and ours was to find it and report it. The best illustration of the futility of these operations was the team that counted the tanks in a reserve column moving away from the Zone. In actual fact they were not leaving but deploying to another area that would place the IDF in contravention of the Cease Fire Agreement should the vehicles be noticed. Luck was on the side of the UN when another team taking an unplanned side trip through the IDF brigade training area noticed new vehicles and their tac signs. The violation was duly reported to Jerusalem and nothing further was heard.

Each inspection team was accompanied by a member of the IDF. My favourite was a reservist who had lived in Toronto and now managed a hotel in Tiberias. His

duties were to provide translation and answer what questions he could as to the status and locations of the various units deployed in the Golan. On our first trip, he offered to act as a guide and to show us the easiest way around the inspection area. We soon discovered that rather than taking us to the formations he was actually steering us away. When confronted with the fact that both the Canadian and the Australian were competent map readers, he confessed that this ploy usually worked and considerably shortened the work day. Needless to say we were late making our report, but neither side harboured any ill will.

Occasionally, we were tasked to cross the boarder and assist in an inspection on the Syrian side. This was a much easier day as much of the equipment and many of the vehicles were incapable of moving or being moved. The Syrian commanders were invariably polite, offering coffee in china thimbles or tea in clear glasses. One quickly learned to ask for tea, as you could usually see what was in the glass and thereby avoid swallowing many interesting additions. Cigarettes were the universal ice breaker. I actually developed a taste for Syrian tobacco, a trait that did not endear me to my OP mates but allowed an empathy to develop especially with the junior, and consequently poorly paid and equipped, members of the Syrian Army.

During the remainder of the summer and into the fall reports from Beirut were growing steadily worse with the withdrawal of the IDF from the city. The UN reaction was to increase the size of the existing Observer Group by siphoning off trained observers from other areas in the Mission. Friends steadily departed Tiberias. Few wanted to go, but all went, the nature of the military beast.

As I was nearing the half way point in my tour, I requested transfer to Observer Group Beirut. This request was granted and I made ready to enter my first real war area.

DAMASCUS INTERLUDE

Having gotten all my personal administration completed in Tiberias, including the closure of Maple Leaf Villa, my apartment overlooking the Sea of Gallilee and steps away from the UN Villa. I finally made my last

visit to CANLOG and after receiving the congratulations of my friends and ensuring that all was well for my passage to Damascus, I was ready to go. Just prior to departure the Canadian Finance Officer asked if I would take some requested funds to several of the Canadian UNMOs in Beirut. Ever wanting to assist, I agreed and was handed an envelope and a nominal roll. Considering the seniority of the recipients and the time for which they were owed, it was considerable and in American dollars. As a final goodbye, the Fin O stated that if I were to be challenged by anyone, I should give up the money but only with witnesses. To this date, I'm still not sure whether he was serious or not.

Through lucky happenstance, I was allowed to pass the Israeli gate at 0800 hours and didn't have to pass the Syrian until almost 1100 hours. Gate timings were negotiated in advance and neither side was interested in facilitating any movement, to sit in the AOS was not unusual. This allowed me to spend some time with the Canadian Signals Detachment located in Quinatra, approximately half way between the two sides. We had talked to them on a regular basis as they facilitated all communications on the Golan, contrary to the opinion of the UN Field Service Technicians, however we had never met.

The visit was a huge success as I had received an early Christmas parcel from home including a tin of Tim Horten's coffee. We were shown around the Detachment and around the adjacent town or at what remained after the intense fighting in 1972 and the Israeli demolitions post the war. Buildings that had escaped the bombardment by both sides had been dynamited by the Israelis, ostensibly to eliminate them as potential hideouts and bases of operation for insurgent elements. The most vivid memory was the remains of an Arab graveyard that had suffered intensely under the bombardment. Disinterred bodies were strewn helter skelter, even now, some eleven years later. A frightening indication of what was yet to come. The Signallers were not overly bothered by their surroundings as they were isolated and could not be interfered with by prying NCOs without warning.

Passing through Damascus was a treat. I had intended to stay one night and continue on to Beirut the next day. However the UN works in strange ways and Jerusalem had decreed that I would stay for two nights. The first day and evening was spent in the company of one of the senior observers and his wife who ensured that I had seen the sights and bought the T shirts. The second was spent in a rather rowdy assemblage at the UN Villa hosted by the Scandinavian contingent. Great party but the next morning was pure hell, however I did remember to pickup my envelope from the FSO prior to departure.

The reader must remember that the Damascus- Beirut highway had been closed for nearly two years. First by the IDF invasion force and later by an ever shifting number of groups ranging from recognised members of the Lebanese Army through whomever had an AK and the essential log to provide the rather symbolic block. To circumvent this blockade, there were three ways of entering the city. The first and easiest was by air on the resupply helicopter direct from Israel to Beirut International Airport, but space was always limited and usually allocated to senior officials or members of their entourage bent on visiting the "Paris of the Orient." Secondly, one could fly to Cyprus and then book passage to the port of Jounieh and thence by taxi to the MAC House or Headquarters, Observer Group Beirut. This was the usual route for wives as they could not legally ride in UN vehicles. Thirdly, one could leave Damascus, in the company of a team from OGG(D) and be delivered to the major grocery store in Chtaura in the middle of the Bekaa Valley. Once delivered a team from OGB would take charge and drive over the Massif to Beirut, using ever changing routes based on weather conditions and who controlled what road. This last was my method of travel.

Part One went well and we arrived in Chtaura in the middle of the morning, however the OGB team had encountered some unforecast "Bandit" activity on the selected route and were subsequently delayed. Finally the connection was made and I was handed over to OGB. The senior of the two was a rather grumpy

Australian who's normal duty was the Operations Officer, But he had wanted a day out of the office and was getting it. During our trip from the Bekaa to Beirut, I saw little as there was a dense ground fog at the higher elevations. Thank goodness a Finn was driving as the roads were icy, potholed, unmarked, and new checkpoints had sprung up. Bluffing through these quickly became a game and we arrived in the early evening, just in time for a party hosted by the Australian elements. The party was excellent as all the staff was present with the exception of the two night patrol units. The nearby impact of several rounds of 122 mm high explosive did little to dampen the spirit but gave me a whole new take on "getting bombed."

Shortly after our arrival, the Australian, who had met me, went through a bizarre ritual of removing some US dollars from a hiding place in his boot. Sensing my question he told me that recently the roadblocks were becoming more aggressive and all personnel travelling hid the majority of their cash to prevent its seizure. I turned several shades of green and hurried off to rid myself of the envelope. The Canadians were delighted with the cash and the Australian amazed at my naiveté.

In mid December, I moved into shared accommodation with my old OP mate from the Golan. The mixture of Australian and Canadian was exotic to say the least. We quickly agreed on a division of household chores and economic issues, thankful that we were not next door in the UN approved slum. The best advantage of our apartment was its view of the harbour and of downtown Beirut. Also the security was great as a senior member of one of the more powerful clans lived two floors down. Once his security detail recognised us, we experienced little in the way of interference and benefited through his ability to ensure the building electricity was on slightly more often than elsewhere in the city.

BEIRUT- MY WAR

In clearance to OGB was relatively informal. An initial interview with the Chairman, a senior French officer, a visit to the Field Service Office to confirm my address and another to

the UN Medical Officer for my second dose of Gamma Globulin. For those having experienced this, the memory is painful. For those who haven't, its akin to the injection of a cold golf ball into one's buttock. This was followed by a drive around the city of Beirut, at least the parts of it not actively being contested that particular day.

The city was divided by the old Green Line running roughly north-south from the harbour to Kalda Junction in the south. The northern end was probably one of the most contested areas of the world to that time. To attempt to explain the factions present is well beyond the scope, but I have added an annex that comes close to listing the major players and their allegiances. The eastern portion of the city was predominately Christian and the west, predominantly Islamic. This description is rough as families usually held property on both sides of the line, further muddying the waters. To say the situation in any particular area of the city was confusing was an understatement, due to our inability to gather any form of intelligence or to attempt to codify and correlate the events and people we saw. Further confusion was caused by the presence of the Multinational Force in the west and the Syrian Army in the east, of which more will be said. For our purposes, the city was divided into four patrol areas and a series of known report points were used as locators as we conducted mobile patrols within our assigned sectors.

I think the experience that remained with me from this small introduction to the mission area was my first walking patrol through the Sabra/Chatilla camp area. This was the area, along with the adjacent sports arena, that had been ethnically cleansed by the Israeli supported Christian Lebanese forces and this before the term had gained its present popularity. Hundreds had been murdered and left in open graves or where they fell. Although the actual massacre had occurred almost a year before, its aftermath was still very much in evidence in the eyes and faces of the remaining survivors. As we walked through the area, we were bombarded with questions and demands for information on family members. As one approached the southern boundary, the smell became

ominous especially in the warmth of the day. Allegedly all those interred in the mass graves had been recovered, but our noses told us different. Later we found out that the area was currently being used as a dumping ground for the casualties of those caught in religious, political or family disputes. No wonder the ICRC had pretty much thrown in the towel and ceased its identification efforts.

On the 21st of December, I worked my first real patrol day. Learning time was over and the piper was about to be paid. At about 1600 hours a car bomb was detonated near one of the French MNF positions and as I was teamed with a French officer we naturally responded within minutes of the explosion. The smell of cordite and of something akin to a Bar B Cue gone badly wrong remain with me to this day. One French trooper was killed and several others wounded. Civilian casualties were difficult to ascertain as many were immediately removed by family who were not bound by investigations as there was no police presence. Less than an hour later, an estimated 30 kilogram charge was detonated in Pickwicks, an english style pub preferred by the younger expats and the staff of various embassies. Two killed and many wounded. Later in the evening a heavy fire fight took place in the Schouf near Souk El Garb. At the same time, the stores and homes in the Christian areas were decorated for Christmas and people were dying in the west and the mountains. The disconnect was huge.

On the 22nd of December, the French and American Forces were ordered, by Amal, to leave Beirut post haste or "... the world would shake under their feet..." No reaction from them or indeed from Jerusalem after this fact was reported. Little wonder, the locals were angry with everybody. The concept of UN impartiality was long gone and both the Americans and the French were actively and overtly involved in training, equipping and supporting the Lebanese Army. Fire missions with up to 16-inch naval guns were conducted in support of LAF operations in the Schouf and in varied attempts to interdict Syrian and Syrian backed intervention from the Bekaa Valley. I must state that the long range missions created some

interesting holes in Lebanese real-estate, but achieved little tactical or strategic good. Covert assistance to some of the anti-Syrian groups was suspected but could not be definitively proved.

The major participative sport of the locals was sniping at the MNF, especially the Americans at the airport. On his fourteenth birthday, a young Lebanese boy was given the usual party and presents and normally received an AK 47, a couple of basic loads of ammunition and some rudimentary introduction to marksmanship. The sniping was wide spread until the Americans started to reply in kind and ceased almost completely when the response was upped to 105 mm high explosive.

Christmas came and went, with little in the way of good cheer except that each day was one day closer to Canada. On the 27th, I was observing the gun play near the Arab University and was targeted with several rounds of RPG fire. I immediately relocated the OP to the remains of a fortress monastery, not much overhead cover but those twelve foot thick walls give one a real sense of security.

We had three basic types of people in the Mission. The Rambos, who obviously had some form of death wish as they would venture where angels would not tread and when asked why would respond that that was their job, to find out everything; the chickens who would not venture off the main roads; and the rest.

The Rambos and the chickens were difficult patrol partners, but the rest were generally very good to excellent. All brought at least some survival skills. Most were long service combat arms folks who, like myself had never fired a shot in anger, but had some idea of the possible ramifications of rash actions. Others were reservists who brought their civilian skills as many were teachers or professional people. My best mate was a Finnish Air Traffic Controller, a reservist. I knew the risks of military action and he had counselling and listening skills that got me through several incidents. Running the gauntlet to get him to the airport and his sanity check in the tower was worth it. The airport didn't even have to be open, just the familiarity of the place was enough.

It was on one of these runs that I experienced the feeling of helplessness veterans of various wars talk about when being taken under indirect artillery fire. Without noticing it, we had ventured out into an area where the streets were empty of all life. Granted it was about six AM, but usually there were some out and about. The first impact was some 200 meters away. We quickly reversed and dove under one of the few remaining spans of the old elevated airport highway. After some twenty rounds impacting near us, the fire mission was over and we crept away eventually reaching the airport by a more circuitous route. Later, over a beer, we discussed the rapidity of our reaction and the relative sanity of hiding under a roadway and the lesson that if there was no one visible then something evil was in the offing. The locals appeared to have a well developed sixth sense about this sort of thing.

Early in the new year, I got to drive out to Chtura. An interesting trip as we decided to leave early and visit the famed Cedars of Lebanon. We stopped at Yarzi at the Lebanese Army HQ to ensure we had the correct directions. Over the next six or so hours we saw lots of Lebanon, some of it beautiful and some just plain ugly, but despite the allegedly accurate directions we never did find the Cedars. Some years later, I read an account of a similar trip by Robert Fisk. He experienced similar trials but actually got to see the famed grove, or at least what was left of it.

The latter part of December and most of January were quiet due to a reticence on the part of all parties to commit mayhem in the rain. Other than the normal sniping and cars blowing up seemingly at random, there was little to report. However a sense of impending doom had engulfed the Mission and to attempt to lighten the mood I had a small Native Canadian doll in full regalia sent to me. She became a bit of a touch stone as it seemed that if the Duty Officer touched her hair, it would rain with the predictable cessation in fighting. She remained in the Ops Centre even after the reduction less than a month later. This was one of the mechanisms that were used to lighten things up and ease the stress.

Because of the rumours on the street, my flat mate and I decided that we should stock pile sufficient supplies to last us about two weeks. The bodyguards of the August Person downstairs thought that this was a good idea as their Boss had booked passage to Cyprus for his entire family and retainers the next day. This was as a direct result of the Amal announcing their intention of taking the entire city.

For the first week in February we reported an increase of armed forces in the southern areas of the city and there was a definite increase in the number of rounds lobbed into the city by all the various contestants. On the evening of the 7th of February, heavy fighting erupted in the south and quickly enveloped the entirety of the Arab half of the city. We stayed in the apartment as our telephone that usually didn't work, did and allowed us contact with the duty staff at the HQ in the East and our balcony allowed a perfect view of the goings on. Reminding myself of another Canadian observer who had watched too closely, I prudently used a very long telephoto lens to capture the theft of all the UN vehicles parked at the hotel next door.

The barrage ended just before lunch and my mate and I decided to venture out. We headed for the local Smith's, the Beirut equivalent of Sobie's, only to find that Amal fighters had gunned down several of the help and managed to set fire to a rather large stockpile of alcohol. I tried to check in with the Canadian Embassy, only to find out that the majority of the staff had been withdrawn to Cyprus and the doors were closed. I will leave my opinion of the staff and their trials and tribulations out of this narrative. The Australian Embassy staff had been reduced but those remaining offered the two of us a hot shower and several appreciated cans of Keith's.

By this point there was little remaining of any coherent peacekeeping effort. The Observer force was split and usually out of contact with our HQ as all our radios had been stolen with the vehicles. Only a small rear party of the French portion of the MNF remained, hunkered down in one of their enclaves. No heat, no lights, no water, a lonely feeling indeed. We started our Siege Beards,



vowing not to shave until we were out. We also considered that appearing scruffy might allow us to blend with the locals much better. When you are six foot two inches tall and blond this is a slim hope at best.

Two of the Canadian UNMOs and their wives got out to Cyprus. They went on leave as nothing short of the full scale outbreak of nuclear war could upset a UN plan. The story of their trip and return has been told elsewhere and I will not repeat it here.

By the middle of the month, peace had seemingly broken out all over. Several International Red Cross relief convoys got through and I even got a little personal mail, no letters, just fliers and newspapers. Never have I enjoyed junk mail so much. Rumours as to our disposition were rife. Options actively considered ranged from a total pullout, to a reduction to a caretaker force, through maintaining the status quo and in usual UN fashion serious consideration was given to actually expanding the force. As I was trapped in Ras Beirut, I was not privy to the discussions or submissions made, however it was finally announced that we would all withdraw to the east and then the Mission would subsequently be reduced to some ten observers and no families.

Our telephone actually worked and we received the word... We pull out to the east early the next morning. Emphasis was placed on not letting the locals in on the secret, but true to the Middle East, the morning newspaper announced the withdrawal, as we

were packing and loading. The trip was had its moments of both joy and terror. The joy was being asked by the August Person's apartment sitter if he could have my collection of house plants and his obvious elation at having something alive in the midst of the carnage. The terror was having the convoy stopped in the middle of No Man's Land, someone had forgotten to advise the Army that we were coming. We settled into a house overlooking the panorama of the city. My Australian mate and I were joined by a Kiwi and two Irish UNMOs. We thought we had a great deal on real estate until the shelling started. Our villa was on the direct line between the factions controlling the Schouf and a large concentration of Lebanese Army resources and sites. Gunners on both sides were not really careful what charge bag was loaded. Little wonder the landlord wanted six months rent in advance.

I was warned that my next duty station would be Cairo. I left Beirut with mixed and often conflicting emotions. Happiness at having survived and done my job in a professional manner, sad at the lack of progress on the part of the various factions but mostly empty. The emptiness I recognised as that exhibited by veterans of various wars with whom I had talked. It was something that words cannot express, that time will not cure or fade, that can really only be spoken about with someone with a shared experience. Now I knew why the majority of vets drank but only in the company of other

vets and it frightened me. How would I react to some fresh faced officer or NCO spouting the infantry cant of the day, how would I react to being in a society that has all its freedoms intact and takes them very much for granted, who could I talk to about these and other fears. All difficult questions of which some remain unresolved even today.

CAIRO- RESPITE

The move from Beirut to Cairo went as planned. My Tiberias sponsor and his wife greeted me and allowed to bunk with them until I found a suitable apartment, no mean feat in overcrowded Cairo. However, American dollars talk and I obtained a palatial suite with a view of the pyramids. But only on a clear day and those I found were non existent due to the ever-present fug from charcoal cooking fires and millions of ill tuned vehicles. The pace of the mission was considerably slower than Beirut. Teams of two or three were stationed at various points in the Sinai desert and charged with mobile patrols throughout the area of responsibility. Again, the domestic chores were shared day on, day off. The biggest difference was the relative freedom to wander about. The Rover could go just about anywhere as the patrol routes were not formalised and the Cook could walk about the local village, make small purchases and generally attempt to assimilate as much of the culture as he desired.

Our AO was the entirety of the Sinai peninsula. We had five established OP sites, four in the actual dessert and one on the Egyptian side of the Suez Canal at Ismalia. As the Russian and American observers could not cross the canal for political reasons, they manned Ismalia in an interesting test of brotherhood. Again, we shared the AO with another UN mandated force, the Multinational Force of Observers. Its military elements manned a static line on the Israeli boarder and contracted civilians conducted equipment verifications within the Sinai.

Patrolling the desert is a challenge. The opponents are the observer and the sand, no quarter asked, none given. Most observers chose to patrol to either the Mediterranean coast or

to Ras Muhamud on the southern tip of the Sinai. These trips were on hard, paved roads and had a low danger quotient as these arteries were tourist routes and kept clear of mines and other debris. Others chose to invade the MNF area along the boarder with Israel. During my tour the Colombian unit in the central area was usually under provisioned but had extraordinary supplies of coffee, needless to say the cross boarder trade was booming. The American unit in the south was extremely easy to get along with. Both forces had standing policies of no encroachment into the area of the other for whatever *raisons d'etat* that might offered. But the Americans had learned from Beirut and were more than willing to trade information on the situation in the Sinai and Egypt for hot dogs and Coca Cola. These visits were unreported by mutual agreement and conducted on a relatively regular basis. I became friends with several of the officers and NCOs of the American contingent, all of whom were killed in the Gander air crash the following Christmas.

For the Canadian UNMOs at El Arish, in the north, the MFO with its Canadian contingent made access slightly easier and somewhat more approved. As far as most of the observers were concerned El Arish was the plum OP. It was on the coast, near a resort town with the usual amenities and actually had a defined task. The Duty UNMO acted as liaison at the boarder check point every time a UN shipment of people or supplies crossed and as this was a regular event, had real work for several hours a day.

My personal favourite was Saint Catherine's, a three man Op in the south of the Sinai. With three observers, life was good and as those who wished could bring their families, it was more of a resort than a working OP. Visits to the Abbey and the compulsory climb of Mount Sinai were de rigour. I tended to wander off on my own and during one of these solo forays, was introduced to the Bedouin culture.

One of the unwritten laws of the desert is that if you are mobile you offer a lift to as many of those requesting as you could cram into a Jeep Cherokee. I had picked up several travellers on the outskirts of Suez City and when

they indicated that we had reached their destination, I was offered lunch with their family. Having read Lawrence of Arabia and like volumes, I declined, not realising that this was a polite way of saying yes. Finally giving in, we drove some fifteen kilometres further into the desert to their camp of the day. The meal was not the feast I had expected, no goats eyes or other delicacies, just dates, figs, nuts and flat, unleavened bread, accompanied by endless cups of tea. Several of the younger tribesmen spoke some English and a rather convivial hour was passed. As I was leaving, I asked permission to take several pictures of my host and his family. This, I quickly gathered, was forbidden, however I was allowed to photograph the encampment from a distance. On my return to Cairo, I found that this visit was a rare privilege accorded to few, and in all likelihood was allowed as I had done tribal members a service and my blond hair and moustache was a curiosity.

But as all good things do, this rather idyllic time of my life was drawing to a close, Canada was calling. Out clearance through both Jerusalem and CANLOG were relatively painless, considering I had contracted malaria at some point, and an intestinal bug, named Bertrum, both of which accompanied me home. Bertrum was evicted shortly after landing in Toronto and the malaria has not acted up for several years.

HOME AGAIN

My return flight was a thing of beauty. Tel Aviv to Italy, a transfer to CP Air and then direct to Toronto. The first leg was normal second class travel, but the second leg was spectacular. As one of four or five passengers in the First Class area of a 747 aircraft, the cabin crew appeared to take extra care of me. When asked why, they explained that my uniform indicated I was military and one of the stewards had served with the UN force in Cyprus prior to joining the company. A good time was had by all, especially when I was allowed to visit the flight deck. Clearing customs in Toronto was a snap, again one of the agents was ex military and had served with a UN mission. I was starting to realise that I had joined an elite fraternity.

On exiting into the main terminal

area, I must have presented a rather particular sight to my mother, father and brother, who had come to meet me. I was dressed in a sweater and heavy jacket, this on a day that was in the low 80's and they were all suffering from the heat. Once the explanation that usual day time temperatures in Egypt ranged from 38 to 41 degrees was made, they quickly chose to overlook my oddities. Every attempt was made to make me feel welcome, an overdue Christmas party, visits with friends and generally relaxing.

I attended a debrief in Ottawa, where the officer in charge appeared more interested in the return of my two passports than gaining any information with which to brief others and after less than a day, I journeyed off to my new posting, considering my days as a Peacekeeper over.

POST SCRIPT

Some sixteen [now 36] years have passed since my return and I am writing this essay as a sort of catharsis and as a kind of list of the problems which I faced prior, during and after my stint.

I gather that the CF has now instituted a pre-deployment training package for Observers and the UN has acknowledged and legalised families in certain of the Mission Areas, both positive steps.

The training package actually gives an observer some insight into the culture and language of both the UN and the country in which he will be working. Again positive steps, but I noticed that negotiation skills are taught in a most rudimentary fashion, being covered in some eight training periods. This might be as a result of time constraints or of a perception that these skills are not as important as having one's SISIP briefing.

I beg to differ. As an example, I was the Duty Driver transporting the day shift from Ras Beirut to the HQ in the East. We usually crossed the Green Line at the Gallerie Samain crossing and had experienced little in the way of delay or hassle. On this particular morning, there were two Canadians, two Scandinavians, a Belgique and an American in the vehicle. We had just pulled up to the Amal barrier when a youth stuffed his AK in through the window and demanded whether there were Americans with us. He was told

no and I started to move forward as No Man's Land was better than this. The distinctive klick-klack of the action of a poorly maintained AK47 being cocked froze all movement and indeed, time. The Swede in the co-driver's seat decided to bully the young man, which upset him further and increased my attention on his firing finger. The Belgique then attempted the military approach. He demanded to speak to the Officer commanding the site, further increasing the angst on both sides. The Finn, a reserve schoolteacher, then started to reason with the youngster and succeeded in gaining our safe passage. During the period the American had been rapidly and surreptitiously transformed into a Canadian and partially hidden in the rear seat area. Some skills in negotiation on the part of all the

observers might have defused this situation well before it reached near critical mass.

In the eminently more complex type of mission being experienced today, these skills must not only be given in classrooms, but also be practised and polished before an observer ever enters a Mission Area. The other so called military skills will come with time, but to deploy our military without extensive schooling in methods of negotiation coupled with an in-depth knowledge of the culture or cultures with which he might be dealing, borders on the criminal.

As UNTSO was and continues to be considered a soft mission, little study has been undertaken as to the effects of service on the observers employed therein. This fact became increasingly obvious when several governmentally

sponsored questionnaires were circulated requesting information on peacekeeping exposure. Many questions were asked on operations post 1992, but none on previous missions. When the study group co-ordinator was contacted, she expressed disbelief that Canadians had been exposed to trying conditions prior to the Gulf War or operations in the FYR. Granted the numbers are small, but consideration must be given these officers and indeed to their families who were also exposed to the violence.

As I stated earlier, I now consider myself a member of a world class elite, those who have served in the search for peace. Would I do so again? Most certainly. Would I prepare my self differently? Most assuredly.

UN announces first 2 deaths of UN peacekeepers from COVID-19

United Nations (AP) — Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday announced the deaths of the first two U.N. peacekeepers from COVID-19.

He made the announcement at a ceremony marking the International Day of U.N. Peacekeepers, saying both peacekeepers, who died Thursday and Friday, were serving in Mali. The U.N. said one was from Cambodia and the other from El Salvador.

Guterres said the coronavirus pandemic has changed almost everything, but not "the service, sacrifice and selflessness" of the more than 95,000 men and women serving in the 13 U.N. peacekeeping missions around the world.

According to the U.N. peacekeeping department, there have been 137 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in U.N. peacekeeping operations, with the greatest number by far — 90 cases — in Mali.

There were 21 cases in the U.N. mission in Congo, 17 in Central African Republic, three each in South Sudan and Cyprus, and one each in Lebanon, the U.N.-African Union mission in Sudan's Darfur region, and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in the Middle East.

Mali has been in turmoil since a 2012 uprising prompted mutinous soldiers to overthrow the president

of a decade. The power vacuum that resulted ultimately led to an Islamic insurgency and a French-led war that ousted the jihadists from power in 2013.

Insurgents remain active in the region and Mali is under threat from a number of extremist groups affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic State movement. The extremists have moved from the arid north to more populated central Mali since 2015,

stoking animosity and violence between ethnic groups in the region.

More than 3,900 U.N. staffers have lost their lives since 1948. That includes more than 100 U.N. peacekeepers killed in Mali since 2013, when the mission began in the aftermath of the French-led military operation that ousted Islamic extremists from power in the major towns across northern Mali.

apnews.com



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

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

Defence rejects Tribunal recommendation that Sheean be awarded VC



By Contact Air Land and Sea

In the interests of full disclosure, CONTACT acknowledges we are late to the party on this issue, because we've been fully engaged in preparing the next issue of the magazine for publication

Defence has issued a statement backing the government's recent announcement that Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean not be posthumously granted a Victoria Cross.

Despite a 2019 Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal recommendation that a VC be awarded to Sheean, Defence recently issued a statement saying they stand behind the government's position.

"Defence's view on the 2019 review conducted by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal, is that it presented no compelling new evidence nor any evidence of manifest injustice," a Defence spokesperson said.

Those words were repeated by the Minister for Defence in the Senate and by the Prime Minister in public.

Speaking of the Prime Minister – in the video below, he tells Alan Jones that Keith Payne VC wouldn't support this – yet Keith Payne VC told the same radio jock that he definitely would...

Senator Jacqui Lambie has also made public a letter from the Chair of

the Tribunal accusing the Minister of misrepresenting the Tribunal.

Other media outlets have also reported that the PM may reconsider his position.

Defence's position is essentially that they like and support the 2013 findings of the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal, which wasn't specifically about Sheean, but don't like or support the 2019 recommendations of the same 'independent' Tribunal, which was specifically about Sheean.

On 23 July 2019 the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal decided to recommend to the Minister for Defence Personnel that:

- a) The decision by the Chief of Navy to refuse to recommend the award of the Victoria Cross for Australia to Ordinary Seaman Edward Sheean in respect of his actions in HMAS Armidale during a Japanese aerial attack in the Timor Sea on 1 December 1942 be set aside.
- b) The Minister recommend to the Sovereign that Ordinary Seaman Edward Sheean be posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia for the most conspicuous gallantry and a pre-eminent act of valour in the presence of the enemy in HMAS Armidale during a Japanese aerial attack in the Timor Sea on 1 December 1942.

The members of the Tribunal who considered and endorsed these recommendations were Chair of the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal Mark Sullivan, former Regimental Sergeant Major of the Australian Army David Ashley, former Commandant of the Royal Military College Duntroon Brigadier (Retd) Mark Bornholt, and Nadia Isenberg who has a long legal background at a senior level in both the Commonwealth and NSW governments, and the private sector – and is a serving lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve.

The full report of the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal can be found here.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Minister Chester's words and apparent attitude expressed shortly before the Tribunal heard submissions seem at odds with the government's current stance, thought would appear from Jacqui Lambie's info that Mr Chester was in favour of both the review and its findings, but was vetoed.

Furthermore, a thorough reading of the Tribunal report, especially in light of the rejection of the Tribunal's finding's, leaves me with a whole new, unflattering opinion of the current Chief of Navy.

I am also left with an overwhelming feeling that "something else is going on here", of which I am sadly ignorant.

Dear Bruce.

A few short lines to explain the impact Bruce has already had on my life is surprisingly difficult. Not because I'm struggling to find things to say, but because the effect Bruce has had on my day-to-day life, in just four weeks, has been so vast.

I won't bore you with my personal details, but when I first applied for the Defence Bank's Community Dogs program I was not in a good way.

Then I met Bruce. Suddenly, it all became easier knowing I had someone who never criticised, never judged, and would stick by me no matter what.

I'm getting back into fitness, as Bruce loves his exercise. I'm engaging in conversations more readily, because the focus is almost always on Bruce rather than me. I'm actively trying to find ways to better myself, because I want the best possible life for Bruce.

That's not to say I don't still struggle sometimes. But when I do, guess who's first in line for a cuddle and to let their presence reassure me things will turn out okay?

My name is Thomas, and the Defence Bank's Community Dogs program has almost certainly saved my life.

Thanks to Bruce.

Thomas



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defencebankfoundation.com.au.

Veterans take home their assistance dogs

An important step forward in supporting veterans and their families has been reached with the first two dogs, Zuma and Leon, provided to veterans under the Federal Government's Psychiatric Assistance Dogs program.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said the Government has listened to veterans, ex-service organisations and the wider ex-service community about the role psychiatric assistance dogs can play in improving the lives of veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"This program will change lives and it will save lives, and I have no doubt Zuma and Leon will make a difference to their new owners and help them to manage their mental health and wellbeing," Mr Chester said.

"The dogs will now begin their next phase of training together with their owner and within their own environment, and importantly, as part of the veterans PTSD management plan.

"This is just one of the ways we are putting veterans and their families first, and I look forward to seeing more eligible veterans signing up to experience the difference an assistance dog can make to their mental health and to their overall quality of life."

The first two dogs handed over are from one of the approved providers

based in Queensland, Smart Pups, which is supplying eligible veterans nationwide with trained psychiatric assistance dogs through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) program.

"The program is available to eligible veterans who have a diagnosis of PTSD and forms part of their PTSD management plan, along with financial assistance from DVA for the upkeep of the dog," Mr Chester said.

"Since the program was announced in September 2019, there has been more than 130 requests from veterans interested in adding an assistance dog to their treatment plan.

"The psychiatric assistance dogs are specially trained to perform tasks that contribute to the clinical recovery goals of their handler (veteran), including detecting signs of distress in their handler and performing specific tasks to help alleviate those symptoms.

Australian Army veteran Andrew Glebow was one of the first to receive his dog and said that when he met Leon, he knew he was the right dog for him.

"I got a good vibe from him straight away, so I know that we're going to have a good relationship together. I'm really excited about him being a part of my life now," Mr Glebow said.

"So from this point, having Leon as



a part of my life is going to give me first and foremost companionship. It's going to ease my anxiety and my depression a lot having him around. And he already has!

"The DVA and Smart Pups process up until now has been really easy to understand, straight-forward, and with a person such as myself suffering from PTSD I've had no problems at all, it's been great."

Mr Chester said that as part of DVA's program, participating veterans are encouraged to be involved in an evaluation process designed to understand the individual program benefits experienced by veterans living with complex mental health conditions.

"I encourage veterans who are participating in the program to provide their feedback so that we can continue to improve what we are doing and meet the changing needs of the veteran community," Mr Chester said.

Veterans currently accessing treatment for PTSD are encouraged to speak to their mental health professional in regards to gaining access to a psychiatric assistance dog, or for more information about DVA's Psychiatric Assistance Dog program visit the DVA website.



PROTECTING OUR HISTORY AND SECURING OUR FUTURE

2020 has seen regular advances in the use of technology and the application of strategic planning to sustain APPVA operations.

The most important initiative has been the implementation of a secure email and file storage capability with business grade Office 365 and SharePoint security now performing both functions. In the past significant amounts of APPVA knowledge was stored on personal computers and sent by private email; both of which were open to accidental loss and hacking.

Now, our emails are sent with encryption, and logons and email accounts cannot be cracked unless a committee member's mobile phone is prised from their body! All is now protected by Multifactor Authentication which means that changes can only be made after a member's mobile phone receives a code, and that same code is entered into a computer or mobile device. In the future as committee members change; they will pass on their APPVA email address

and that will maintain our corporate email history.

The same can be said about documents that were once stored on a member's private computer. Now all APPVA documents are stored in SharePoint (in the cloud) and they are backed up once a day by Microsoft a second time by Datto Backup, so we have double redundancy protecting our corporate history. Committee members can use mobile phones to gain access to email and stored documents and can do the same on tablets and computers.

We also implemented a system of business planning known as the Rockefeller Habits and this has given us direction, routine, and ability to monitor our progress by using a business planning tool called Align.

Align colour codes tasks and allows us to be totally in control of all aspects of APPVA business.

Lastly, Zoom has allowed us to meet virtually anywhere at any time and we started using it well before the pandemic necessitated it. We



can talk and share documents, and this gives us all a greater insight into discussions at general meetings to committee meetings and individual discussions.

We are very thankful to Microsoft for allowing significant discounts on software to not for profit organisations, and also to a number of charitable donations that facilitated these advances and are funding the next stage of the APPVA Secure Information Systems Environment.

Ian Lindgren, Vice President

Priority Progress

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Protect our Trademarks	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Information Technology Support	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Commemorative Activities are being Managed	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Develop Regular Media Coverage	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Implement Align to Exec	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Implement SharePoint to Committee	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Implement Team Up to Committee	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
Implement 0365	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Implement Policies and Procedures required to operate	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Monitor Progress of Trademarks through IP Australia	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
All Exec clear on the purpose and conduct of Exec and C...	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Red

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 20/21

Just an update on the membership renewal or joining process for members.

Existing members will be contacted directly to confirm their membership status and payment option when they signed up to the website in 2019.

For those that selected automatic renewal and your card has not expired or been changed then there is nothing you need to do apart from check your bank statement that the \$30 subscription has been deducted on the 30 June 2020.

For those that paid by direct

deposit or selected non automatic renewal the membership officer or treasurer will advise of direct deposit details or raise an invoice via Stripe for credit or debit card payment that will be emailed to you for the annual \$30 subscription fee.

Remember for those members that renew their membership the new APPVA cloth sewn or iron on badge will be mailed out to you with the next magazine.

For those members experiencing financial hardship please contact your regional coordinator in the first

instance for assistance for your membership fees.

A reminder that if you don't pay your subscription by the 31st July 2020 your membership will automatically lapse.

For new members there is a \$10 joining fee and process to go through to be considered as a member of APPVA and that can be found via this link <https://peacekeepers.asn.au/register/>

Membership Officer, Enquiries to:
membershipAPPVA@peacekeepers.asn.au
treasurer@peacekeepers.asn.au

LIST OF OPERATIONS

Operation	UN Mission	Other Missions	Location	Start	Finish
	UN Good Offices Commission (UNGOC)		Dutch East Indies	01-Aug-47	01-Jan-49
	UN Commission For Indonesia (UNCI)		Dutch East Indies	01-Jan-49	30-Apr-51
	UN Military Observer Group In India And Pakistan (UNMOGIP)		India/Pakistan	13-Aug-48	1985
	UN Commission On Korea (UNCOK)		Korea	09-Jun-50	23-Jun-50
	UN Command – Korea (UNC-K)		Korea	01-Jul-50	19-Apr-56
	UN Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC)		Korea	28-Jul-53	Ongoing
OP PALADIN	UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)		Syria/Jordan/Lebanon/ Egypt/Israel	1956	Ongoing
	UN Observer Group In Lebanon (UNOGIL)		Lebanon	11-Jul-58	09-Dec-58
	UN Operation In The Congo (ONUC)		Congo	01-Aug-60	28-Feb-61
	UN Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA)		West New Guinea/West Irian	03-Oct-62	30-Apr-63
	UN Security Force (UNSF)		West New Guinea/West Irian	03-Oct-62	30-Apr-63
	UN Yemen Observer Mission (UNYOM)		Yemen/Saudi Arabia/ UAE	04-Jul-63	04-Sep-64
	UN Peacekeeping Force In Cyprus (UNFICYP)		Cyprus	01-May-64	30-Jun-17
	UN India-Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM)		India/Pakistan	20-Sep-65	1966
	UN Disengagement Force (UNDOF)		Syria/Jordan/Lebanon/ Egypt/Israel	03-Jun-74	Ongoing
	UN Emergency Force Two (UNEF II)		Israel/Egypt	25-Oct-73	31-Jul-79
OP AGILA		Commonwealth Monitoring Force, Rhodesia (CMFR)	Rhodesia/Zimbabwe	01-Dec-79	02-Mar-80
		Commonwealth Military Training Team, Uganda (CMTTU)	Uganda	18-Mar-82	24-Mar-84
OP MAZURKA		Multinational Force And Observers (MFO)	Israel/Egypt	09-Feb-82 06-Jan-93	28-Apr-86 Ongoing
				06-Jan-93	Ongoing
	UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG)		Iran	12-Aug-88	28-Feb-91
	UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG)		Namibia	18-Feb-89	10-Apr-90
OP SALAAM	UN Mine Clearance Training Team Peshwar (UNMCTT)		Afghanistan/Pakistan	16-Jul-89	31-Dec-93
OP DAMASK I & II	UN Resolution 665	First Maritime Interception Force (MIF I)	Persian Gulf/Iraq/Kuwait/ Oman/Saudi Arabia	02-Aug-90	16-Jan-91
	UN Resolution 678	Multinational Forces In Iraq – Kuwait (MNF (I-K))	Oman/Saudi Arabia/ UAE/Persian Gulf/ Kuwait/Iraq	17-Jan-91	28-Feb-91

OP HABITAT	UN Resolution 688	International Kurdish Relief Operation	Iraq/Turkey	01-May-91	30-Jun-91
OP GOODWILL	UN Advanced Mission In Cambodia (UNAMIC)		Cambodia/Thailand/Laos	20-Oct-91	31-Mar-92
OP GEMINI	UN Transitional Authority In Cambodia (UNTAC)		Cambodia/Thailand/Laos/Vietnam	1991	1993
OP CEDILLA	UN Mission For The Referendum In Western Sahara (MINURSO)		Western Sahara/Algeria/Morocco	05-Sep-91	25-May-94
OP BLAZER	UN Special Commission (UNSCOM)		Iraq	01-May-91	30-Jun-98
OP JURAL		3rd Country Deployment	Iraq	30-Jul-91	12-Jan-03
OP PROVIDE COMFORT		3rd Country Deployment	Iraq	11-Aug-91	15-Dec-96
OP BOLTON		3rd Country Deployment	Iraq/Saudi Arabia/Kuwait/Turkey	31-Aug-92	12-Jan-03
OP SOUTHERN WATCH		3rd Country Deployment	Iraq/Saudi Arabia/Kuwait/Turkey	31-Aug-92	12-Jan-03
OP NORTHERN WATCH		3rd Country Deployment	Iraq	01-Jan-97	12-Jan-03
OP DAMASK III	UN Resolution 665	Second Maritime Interception Force (MIF II)	Persian Gulf/Arabian Gulf/Red Sea	01-Mar-91	15-Jul-03
	UN Protection Force In Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina And Macedonia (UNPROFOR)		Croatia/Bosnia-Herzegovina/Macedonia (former Yugoslavia)	12-Jan-92	31-Dec-92
OP IGUANA	First UN Operation In Somalia (UNOSOM I)		Somalia/Ethiopia/Kenya/Djibouti	17-Oct-92	04-May-93
OP SOLACE	Unified Task Force In Somalia (UNITAF)		Somalia	21-Dec-92	21-May-93
OP IGUANA	Second UN Operation In Somalia (UNOSOM II)		Somalia/Ethiopia/Kenya/Djibouti	05-May-93	30-Nov-94
OP BANNER	United Nations Military Liaison Team	Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC)	Cambodia/Thailand/Laos	08-Oct-93	04-Oct-99
	UN Military in Haiti (UNMIH)		Haiti	1994	1994
OP LAGOON		South Pacific Peacekeeping Force (SPPKF)	PNG - Bougainville	04-Oct-94	21-Oct-94
OP TAMAR	UN Assistance Mission to Rwanda (UNAMIR II)		Rwanda/Uganda/Zaire (Congo)/Burundi/Tanzania	25-Jul-94	08-Mar-96
OP CORACLE	United Nations Operation In Mozambique (ONUMOZ)		Mozambique	12-Jul-94	31-Mar-02
	United Nations Verification Mission In Guatemala (MINUGUA)		Guatemala	13-Feb-97	12-May-97
OP CRANBERRY		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	01-Aug-97	16-Jul-06
OP DIRK		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	01-Sep-97	31-Oct-97
OP PLES DRAI		PNG & West Irian Drought Relief	PNG/West Irian	01-Sep-97	31-May-97
OP BEL-ISI I		Pacific Nations Truce Monitoring Group	PNG - Bougainville & Buka Islands	20-Nov-97	30-Apr-98

OP BEL-ISI II		Pacific Nations Peace Monitoring Group	PNG - Bougainville & Buka Islands	30-Apr-98	26-Aug-03
OP STANHOPE		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	03-Feb-98	06-Mar-98
OP POLLARD		US led Coalition Force - Multinational Military Deployment	Kuwait	15-Feb-98	01-Oct-01
OP MISTRAL		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	01-Aug-98	30-Jun-06
OP ALLIED FORCE	UNSC Resolution 1244	NATO Force In Kosovo (KFOR)	Kosovo	15-Apr-99	03-Jun-99
OP JOINT GUARDIAN	UNSC Resolution 1244	NATO Force In Kosovo (KFOR)	Kosovo	11-Jun-99	Ongoing
OP FABER	UN Advance Mission In East Timor (UNAMET)		East Timor	19-Jun-99	15-Sep-99
OP SPITFIRE	UNSC Resolution 1264	International Force In East Timor (INTERFET)	Indonesia/East Timor/Australia - Darwin	06-Sep-99	19-Sep-99
OP STABILISE	UNSC Resolution 1264	International Force In East Timor (INTERFET)	Indonesia/East Timor/Australia - Darwin	16-Sep-99	23-Feb-00
OP WARDEN	UNSC Resolution 1264	International Force In East Timor (INTERFET)	Indonesia/East Timor/Australia - Darwin	16-Sep-99	10-Apr-00
OP TANAGER	United Nations Transitional Administration In East Timor (UNTAET)		East Timor	20-Feb-00	19-May-02
OP LOROSAE	United Nations Transitional Administration In East Timor (UNTAET)	1 RAR Battaloin Group	East Timor	25-Oct-00	25-Apr-01
OP PLUMBOB		International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT)	Solomon Islands	04-Nov-00	28-Feb-03
OP TREK		International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT)	Solomon Islands	04-Nov-00	28-Feb-03
OP HUSKY	United Nations Mission In Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)		Sierra Leone	15-Jan-01	28-Feb-03
OP POMELO	The United Nations Mission In Ethiopia And Eritrea (UNMEE)		Ethiopia/Eritrea	15-Jan-01	21-Feb-05
OP TEEBONE		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	01-Mar-01	31-Mar-01
OP CELESTA		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	01-Aug-01	31-Jul-06
OP RELEX		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	03-Sep-01	13-Mar-02
OP SLIPPER		International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)	Afghanistan/Pakistan/Persian Gulf/Kuwait/Iraq/Diego Garcia	11-Oct-01	31-Dec-14
OP SUTTON		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	25-Jan-02	19-Feb-02
OP RELEX II		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	14-Mar-02	16-Jul-06
OP CITADEL	UN Mission Of Support In East Timor (UNMISSET)		East Timor	20-May-02	19-May-04

OP BASTILLE		International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)	Afghanistan/Pakistan/Persian Gulf/Kuwait/Iraq/Diego Garcia	01-Jan-03	31-Mar-03
OP FALCONER		ADF contribution to US-led Military Operations To Remove The Threat Of Iraqi WMD	Iraq	18-Mar-03	22-Jul-03
OP PALATE	UN Assistance Mission In Afghanistan (UNAMA)		Afghanistan	18-Apr-03	05-Jul-04
OP CATALYST		ADF contribution to US-led Multi-National Force to secure and stabilise Iraq	Iraq/Kuwait/bahrain/Qatar/UAE/Saudi Arabia/Persian Gulf/Strait of Hormuz	16-Jul-03	31-Jul-09
OP ANODE		Regional Assistance Mission To The Solomon Islands (RAMSI)	Solomon Islands	24-Jul-03	01-Aug-13
OP GEMSBOK		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	29-Aug-03	03-Oct-03
OP SPIRE	UN Mission Of Support In East Timor (UNMISSET)		East Timor	20-May-04	25-Jun-05
		AFP - Timor Leste Police Development Program	East Timor	01-Jul-04	Ongoing
OP PALATE II	UN Assistance Mission In Afghanistan (UNAMA)		Afghanistan	26-Jun-05	Ongoing
OP AZURE	UN Mission In Sudan (UNMIS)		Sudan/South Sudan	10-Apr-05	09-Jul-11
OP CHIRON	"UN Special Political Mission to Timor-Leste UN Office in East Timor (UNOTIL)"	ADF contribution - Defence Cooperation Program (DCP)	East Timor	20-May-05	11-May-06
	UN Office in East Timor (UNOTIL)	AFP contribution	East Timor	20-May-05	11-May-06
OP ASTUTE		ADF contribution to the Multi-National Security Force to stabilise and maintain peace in support of the Government of Timor-Leste	East Timor	25-May-06	27-Mar-13
OP SERENE		AFP support to Government of Timor-Leste in conjunction with ADF	East Timor	28-May-06	31-Dec-06
OP TOWER	UN Integrated Mission In Timor-Leste (UNMIT)		East Timor	17-Jul-06	31-Dec-12
OP RESOLUTE		ADF contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests	Australian Exclusive Economic Zone	17-Jul-06	Ongoing
OP QUICKSTEP		ADF operation to ensure the safety of Australians and approved Foreign Nationals In Fiji	Fiji	31-Oct-06	22-Dec-06
OP QUICKSTEP TONGA		ADF response to assist the Government of Tonga with the restoration of law and order	Tonga	18-Nov-06	30-Nov-06
OP COMITY		AFP support to PNTL following attempted assassination of President Jose Ramos-Horta & Prime Minister Xanana Gusamao	East Timor	01-Feb-08	30-Apr-08

OP KRUGER		ADF contribution to the provision of security and support for the Australian Embassy and its staff In Iraq	Iraq	01-Jul-08	09-Aug-11
OP RIVERBANK	UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)		Iraq	21-Jul-08	25-Nov-13
OP HEDGEROW	UN and African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)		Sudan/Darfur	28-Jul-08	31-Aug-09
OP ASLAN	UN Mission In South Sudan (UNMISS)		South Sudan/Uganda	23-Sep-11	Ongoing
OP MANITOU		Australia's contribution to support international efforts to promote maritime security, stability and prosperity in the Middle East Region	Arabian Sea/Gulf of Aden/Persian Gulf/Red Sea/Strait of Hormuz	30-Jun-14	Ongoing
OP HIGHROAD		ADF contribution to the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission In Afghanistan	Afghanistan	01-Jul-14	Ongoing
OP OKRA		ADF contribution to the Iraq and Syria crisis - Daesh/ISIL	Bahrain/Qatar/Iraq/Jordan/Kuwait/UAE/Persian Gulf	01-Jul-14	08-Aug-14
			Albania/Bahrain/Bosnia and Herzegovina/Bulgaria/Croatia/Cyprus/Czech Republic/Estonia/hungary/Iraq/Jordan/Kuwait/Montenegro/Poland/Qatar/Romania/UAE/ Persian Gulf	09-Aug-14	08-Sep-15
			Iraq/Syria	09-Sep-15	Ongoing
OP ACCORDION		ADF contribution to the International Coalition Against Terrorism	Bahrain/Qatar/UAE	01-Jul-14	Ongoing
OP AUGURY		Supporting the ADF's understanding of Islamist terrorist threats to Australia and the Region	Jordan	04-Jul-14	Ongoing

APPVA OPERATIONAL NOMINAL ROLLS PROJECT

By Mike Romalis

Most APPVA members are familiar with the advocacy work the Association conducts with individuals, assisting them with their personal DVA claims. The Association also undertakes advocacy at a higher level, lobbying and working with federal and state governments and other institutions including the Department of Defence, Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and the Australian War Memorial (AWM). Examples of this advocacy include our participation in the DVA Ex Serving Organisation Round Table (ESORT), the inclusion of Peacekeepers in the Roll of Honour on the walls of the AWM in 2013, and the dedication of the national

Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on the 14th of September 2017.

Another activity the Association routinely engages in is the verification of ADF and AFP Operations, whether they were Warlike or Non-Warlike, their dates and locations, and who participated in them. Both the Australian Defence Organisation and DVA see the Association as an independent subject matter expert for peacekeeping and it regularly receives enquiries. To improve the coverage and accuracy of its own records, the Association has embarked on a project to review and update its list of over 100 discrete Operations and Missions and their associated Nominal Rolls.

The first step in the Operational Nominal Rolls Project is to confirm the list of Australian Peacekeeping and Peacemaking Operations and Missions. Readers are requested to review the following list and if you identify an omission, please email the Project Officer Mike Romalis on wacoordinator@peacekeepers.asn.au by the 31st July 2020. The key information that is sought at this time is:

- Operation Name (if known/applicable)
- Mission/Activity Name and short description
- Location • Start Date • End Date
- Reference/Source for the above information. E.g. Posting orders, Unit History, website, etc.

Clayfield Primary: the perfect start to their lifelong learning journey

Clayfield Primary is a place where young learners experience the joys of childhood while developing the foundations to flourish in school life and beyond. We provide a nurturing environment that builds their confidence and independence, and enables young minds to explore their world through curiosity and creativity.

A co-educational offering from Pre-Prep to Year 6, our Primary School curriculum is student-centred, rather than subject-centred, recognising that students learn differently from one another. As a small school with a big heart, personalised learning and student wellbeing are always our top priorities.

Introducing our new Head of Primary in 2020

Mrs Audrey Fellowes joined the Clayfield team in April 2020 as the new Head of Primary. Audrey is a visionary educational leader who has worked in leading independent schools and universities throughout Australia, North America and the United States. Most recently, Audrey was the Head of Preparatory of 300 Prep to Year 2 students at Redlands in Sydney and was also Acting Head of Campus of 800 students. Prior to Redlands, she was the Deputy Head of Junior School at St Hilda's School on the Gold Coast. Audrey also has experience as an Associate Lecturer in Education at Griffith University.

In a recent interview, Audrey shared

insight into her extensive experience, her passions and her aspirations for our Primary School students.

What motivates and drives you as an educational leader?

"I am passionate about the entire educational journey of our young people and have experience working within Primary, Secondary and tertiary environments. Through my experience, I understand what children need in their Primary years in order for them to flourish later in school and beyond."

"I am also passionate about academic excellence and an holistic education. I firmly believe that learning never stops for anyone, including myself. The opportunities of the twenty-first century to continually develop are exciting and empowering."

"I have a strong desire to see each child's unique gifts shine, build their resilience and courage, and of course, focus on their well-being."

What attracted you to Clayfield College?

"I wanted to come home to my family in Queensland and I had previously worked at St Hilda's School so was well aware of Clayfield College's outstanding reputation. I also wanted to continue working in a co-educational environment and I love that Clayfield is a smaller school so I can authentically know each child and help them to let their light shine."



What are you most excited about achieving at Clayfield College?

"Firstly, I look forward to getting to know all the students, families and the broader community of Clayfield College."

"Providing an environment where students are excited and happy to attend. At Primary School age, students should be jumping out of bed to come to school!"

"Continuing to strive for rigour and academic excellence in the Primary School whilst making sure we provide a space where the well-being of our students is nurtured."

Come and visit us

We warmly welcome you and your child to come and explore our Primary School and meet Mrs Audrey Fellowes by booking a personal tour via enrol@clayfield.qld.edu.au or 07 3262 0262.

Intake within our Primary School is at Pre-Prep, Prep and Year 5, although applications for all year levels will be considered subject to availability of placement.

Further information about our Primary School can be found on our website.

clayfield.qld.edu.au

At Clayfield, we inspire our boys and girls to lead happy and purposeful lives by helping them to discover their role in the world. Proudly, we develop young learners who are bold, imaginative and reflective.

Co-ed: Pre-Prep to Year 6 | Girls: Pre-Prep to Year 12 | Boarding for Girls: Year 5 to Year 12.





Co-educational Pre-Prep Program

A place where early learners experience the joys of childhood while developing the foundations to flourish in school life.

Part-time (five day fortnight) and full-time places.

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Clayfield College

STAYING CONNECTED

For Defence families posting from one place to another, it's important to make sure you have a supportive network wherever you are. It's not just for emergencies but for all the good things they can offer too.

Support networks give you the opportunity to connect to other people who have experienced similar ups and downs. They may have been through it before, or are on the same stage of the journey and can empathise in ways that other people might not be able to.

They also provide practical support during times of crisis, and recognition of the effort and hard work that it takes for the whole family to ensure that things run smoothly.

There are many ways to make sure you stay socially connected. Here are just a few!

ATTEND A FACE-TO-FACE SUPPORT GROUP

Support groups can give you a space to share stories about your family, check in on how you are coping, and offer strategies for dealing with difficult situations.

Support groups will often also run social activities or family fun days, and they are a great place to learn about new resources, like where you can get funding for therapy or special equipment for those families that have dependants with special needs.

JOIN AN ONLINE OR TELEPHONE SUPPORT GROUP

You don't always have to meet up face-to-face. For people who are moving a lot or who aren't on a regular schedule, a telephone or online support group can be a better option.

Before you join, check that the group has a moderator or a plan for dealing with members who may inappropriately comment. This will keep the space helpful and supportive so that you can share whatever is on your mind.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteering can be a great way to build connections in your local community. If you have children, it helps you to have regular contact with other adults, and develop an identity other than a partner, parent or caregiver.

Defence has a wide range of community groups it supports especially for ADF families or you could find one that's all about something you're passionate about and make new friends outside of the military.

SET UP A SHARED DROPBOX OR SOCIAL MEDIA

If you are travelling a lot you can create a shared private Dropbox or set up albums in Facebook or Instagram account. Everyone who has access to this account can view and share pictures with each other. You can see what fun things you have all been up to, how the children have



Collecting their Defence Community Organisation information bags are (L-R) Meelis Argote, Candice Smithenbecker and Isabelle Smithenbecker Duntroon.

grown, and share e-cards and birthday and holiday wishes.

SEND A CARE PACKAGE

Be a god support person when you can. Send a care package or a small gift to a friend you have been thinking of.

You could make an agreement with a circle of friends to send a small gift to each other once per month. It doesn't have to be something expensive—a funny card, a drawing or a fridge magnet can be enough to brighten someone's day.

ASK "HOW ARE YOU, REALLY?"

The next time that you catch up with a friend, ask them how they are and tell them that you really want to know the answer. When someone asks how you are doing, let them know the real answer. You could try something like "You know, usually I say I'm fine, but actually this week has been really hard!" It's surprising how often this can open the door to a genuine connection.

NEED HELP MAKING CONNECTIONS?

We know Defence families are strongest when they are connected with their local communities.

Defence Community Organisation provides a number of support and information services to help you connect with and contribute to your community. There's also funding for local Defence community groups and a range of social and information events hosted by the local office.

You can get information, assistance, support or referrals and time from the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608. Follow Defence Community Organisation on social media or see the website for what's on near you

<https://www.defence.gov.au/dco/>



MacKillop.

We're a Catholic school for all.



MacKillop

St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

A large, co-ed secondary school in Tuggeranong, ACT.

Web: www.mackillop.act.edu.au
 Phone: (02) 6209 0100
 Email: info@mackillop.act.edu.au

St Mary MacKillop College: a Catholic school for all

As Canberra's largest secondary school, St Mary MacKillop College can stay true to its mission to be a Catholic school for all, providing all kinds of students – who possess a range of talents, interests, and backgrounds – with a Catholic pathway for Years 7-12.

MacKillop has all the advantages a large school can provide: lots of different people to be friendly with, a wide range of curriculum options, extensive facilities, great teachers, and a huge range of sport and co-curricular choices.

From day to day, however, the two-campus structure means students enjoy a learning environment where they are known, understood, and can navigate their way through the adolescent years with encouragement and support.

MacKillop's Principal, Mr Michael Lee, said his school seeks to welcome all different kinds of students and their families into its community.

"The gifted and the challenged are well represented in our classrooms, and all different faith, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds find success here," Mr Lee said.

"MacKillop students are able to succeed because the school is highly strategic in its staff recruitment. Our teachers are passionate about the school's vision, well-qualified, come from a range of backgrounds, and firmly believe that each student has a right to learn, to be challenged intellectually, and to be given opportunities



that broaden their experiences and perspectives. The best thing about MacKillop is its teaching staff."

As a co-educational school, MacKillop can truly be a school for all. Boys and girls learn together, promoting collaboration, a mutual respect for gender difference, and a learning community that best reflects the society its students belong to and are being prepared to lead.

St Mary MacKillop College is based in Canberra's Tuggeranong Valley and welcomes students from Canberra's south and the surrounding regions of New South Wales.

If you are interested in enrolling a student at MacKillop, please visit www.mackillop.act.edu.au for more information.

Supporting at-risk veterans transitioning to civilian life

Programs supporting younger at-risk veterans and veterans transitioning to civilian employment are set to expand to hundreds more people as part of a significant funding boost from the Morrison Government.

An extra 170 young and vulnerable veterans leaving the Australian Defence Force annually will get guidance and a single point of contact with 10 additional case coordinators backed by a \$4.8 million investment in the Coordinated Client Support program that already helps around 1,200 veterans facing difficult circumstances. The investment means the entire high-risk cohort of veterans leaving the ADF will now be covered under the Coordinated Client Support program.

The Government will also boost the resources of the Personalised Career Employment Program by \$5.6 million and will expand its eligibility to another 1,600 ADF members each year looking for career development and job placement support as they set up for civilian life.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his government was backing younger veterans facing tough challenges as they transitioned out of the ADF.

"We'll show the same commitment and duty to those veterans who have served us that they have shown our country," the Prime Minister said.

"Research shows veterans under 30 who are involuntarily discharged as being at higher risk of suicide than the general population so we want to ensure they get the support they need as they navigate the range of government services on offer.

"These programs are about reaching out to those veterans who

need our help to ensure they get it."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester said under the Coordinated Client Support program, DVA works closely with Defence to identify veterans at risk before they transition out of service and provide them with a single point of contact.

"We are committed to putting veterans and their families first and by providing those most at risk with a single client coordinator it ensures a seamless continuation of support as they leave the ADF, assists them to access appropriate health treatment as well as the finalisation of their DVA claims," Minister Chester said.

"Currently the PCEP supports those aged between 17 and 24 who have served less than four years by providing them with greater opportunity for job placement within the civilian community. The investment announced today will extend this to those up to 30 years of age, meaning a further 33 per cent of transitioning members can now access the program in Townsville alone."

Minister Chester said the Government was also delivering on a 2019 election commitment with a \$15 million investment to roll-out employment-related programs for veterans through a one-off grants package for Soldier On, Team Rubicon Australia and the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL National).

"To further support veterans seeking employment, Soldier On, Team Rubicon Australia and RSL will assist those who find the transition to the civilian workforce challenging through tailored employment-related

programs," Minister Chester said.

"You only need to look at the mobilisation of Team Rubicon Australia to assist in the recent response to the bushfires to know the results will be promising. I look forward to seeing the ongoing results of this important program."

Member for Herbert Phillip Thompson welcomed the further announcements, particularly the potential benefits to members of Townsville's veteran community.

"Townsville has a strong military and veteran community, with around 750 transitions from the ADF here every year, and having served in the ADF, transitioned into civilian life and having watched my mate's transition I know how important it is to get it right," Mr Thompson said.

"DVA and Defence have been working hard to improve the transition process and the additional support outlined today will go a long way to supporting those most in need.

"As a government we have done a lot, which I know is appreciated by the ex-service community, but we know there is still more to do."

The Government has made promoting the valuable skills of ADF personnel and veterans a high priority, including through the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program and Veterans' Employment Awards.

The Government invests a record \$11 billion to support 280,000 veterans and their families each year, is reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs with more work underway, has cut waiting times for claims and has also launched the Australian Veterans' Card and Lapel Pin, so veterans can be appropriately recognised, including by businesses who want to offer special discounts and offers to veterans.

Transition Seminars

At the time of print, all seminars until October are postponed pending alternate delivery mode.

Transition Seminars recommence with Wagga Wagga on Wednesday 7th October, to be held at the International Hotel Wagga. However all Transition Centres are still operating.

www.defence.gov.au/DCO/Transition/YourTransition/seminars.asp





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