

# Australian Peacekeeper

AUTUMN 2022

MAGAZINE







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20 AUTUMN  
22 EDITION

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

**Cover: RAAF Medical Assistant, Corporal David-John (DJ) Howarth from No 1 Expeditionary Health Squadron at RAAF Base Amberley.**

**This page: An ADF medical team from Camp Baird in the Middle East heads to a Royal Australian Air Force C130J Hercules aircraft for a trip to the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai, Egypt.**



## Chairman's report



The APPVA has transitioned to its new entity as a company limited by guarantee, this provides stability and direction for the association to be able to continue to move forward in the coming years.

Planning has commenced for Peacekeeper Day 14th September 2022 in Canberra and hopefully throughout the country. Your committee is focussed on making this year's event special as we commemorate 75 years of Australian Defence Force, Police, Government agencies and non-government organisations sending people abroad to bring peace and stability to some of the most hostile environments in the world.

It was great to see peacekeepers and families gather around the country for a BBQ to celebrate Australia Day 2022. I'm sure everyone had a great day; I encourage everyone to consider holding similar events in the coming year to come together and enjoy the spirit of togetherness.

The first Ex Service Organisation Round Table with DVA is on 28 February 2022, should you have an issue with entitlements or have ideas that would make things easier for veterans please let us know by way of your state or territory representative or to Mark Horner at mark.horner@peacekeepers.asn.au.

It is great to see member stories being published and again I encourage everyone to consider telling your

experiences whilst deployed and share your story with photographs of your time in the service of peace.

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

Should you have an interest or passion for issues that confront our veterans every day, I encourage you to let us know and if you are able become an active participant in helping us to serve you better.

The APPVA continues to work with other organisations and groups in a positive way, building relationships to provide support to our members and other like minded ESO's which in turn, better serve the veteran community and their families.

Yours sincerely,  
**Rob Woods, JP**  
**Chairman**



APPVA Australia Day BBQ Canberra

## Vice Chairman's report



My role in the Association is to advise on and drive strategy at the board level and to make recommendations on approaches that support that change. Like most of us I also have a role at the day to day level of business level and find that I am faced with a continual tug of war as to where to direct my efforts to achieve our strategic outcomes.

This is a challenge right now because the Association is growing rapidly, and I am particularly focussed on our audience. Since our new Facebook page was established in early February 2022, we have had a growth of 100% in visits to the page at an average of 400 a day climbing to over 600 last week for around 2,222 visitors this month. I anticipate that this will be over 1000 a day by end February.

What's really important are measurable benefits to veterans and their families, and we are working with DVA to have the claims statistics published because like anything if you are transparent then you are trusted. It is best to publish the data warts and all and in a way that is readable by anyone.

We are also about a month away from establishing a "relief valve" for veterans when their claims have exceeded a reasonable time sitting at DVA. More detail to follow on



Results

Facebook Page Reach ⓘ

2,222 ↑ 100%



this, but the few proof of concept cases we have delivered to DVA have been given a priority level that was more applicable to them and perhaps just as importantly gave the veteran a good idea at the progress of the claim.

This is causing a great level of work, so we are establishing a team of three to four volunteers to work on issues and do research because it is too much for one person. Their work is now being made available on our new website at this address: <https://peacekeepers.asn.au/pages/current-issues>.

None of this means anything if we cannot resource it to get it done, and our state representatives, including our new Acting Northern Territory Representative, Paul

Walker, are involving themselves at the DVA Forums in each state and participating in every way with members and the Committee.

This work is reaping rewards and I feel the wide variety of peacekeepers' personal stories that are in this Australian Peacekeeper Magazine demonstrates the variety of people who feel that the APPVA supports them in many ways.



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# Getting Australia's defence capability right in time to deter a future enemy

The 2020s have begun a period of rapid change for Australian defence planners. The government's 2020 defence strategic update and accompanying force structure plan refocused strategic and operational priorities to the Indo-Pacific. They highlighted the growing risk of major-power war and the outdated assumption that we would have 10 years of strategic warning time for a major power conflict. The AUKUS agreement followed and further upended our traditional policy settings. Suddenly Australia was getting nuclear-powered submarines. These changes have come fast and the defence organisation must keep up.

So, what might 2022 bring? Hopefully, a concerted effort to close the yawning disconnect between the government's recognition of a rapidly worsening strategic outlook characterised by a rising challenge from a hegemonic China and the Defence Department's relatively relaxed approach to major capability acquisition.

A fast and meaningful review of key projects is required to ensure they'll be fit for purpose in a much more dangerous future. We also need new thinking on how to get major capabilities quickly—in years, rather than decades.

Sailing on an assumption of calm waters and accepting a two-decade acquisition cycle are no longer appropriate. While it's undeniable that major defence projects take time—a frigate can be built only so fast—a parallel approach is needed to rapidly acquire new capabilities concurrently with slower projects.

The first step must be to identify capabilities to be acquired quickly, through collaborative development under AUKUS or via military off-the-shelf acquisition, to bulk up the Australian Defence Force's long-range strike capabilities. That's where the greatest capability gap lies.

The process must begin by ensuring that capabilities match our strategic and operational priorities. A good start would be for Defence to review its capability context scenarios

to ensure they're relevant to the ADF's future defence strategy, capability development and force posture.

There should be a debate over an expanded approach to the traditional 'defence of Australia' task that embraces long-range power projection and prioritises advanced long-range strike weapons at the centre of ADF capability. Projecting forward defence in depth based on long-range strike and emphasising advanced space, 'near space' and cyber operations should be our next step in getting ADF capability right to deter a possible aggressor.

It's here that we run into some challenges. Now, there's a mismatch between the capabilities we acquire and the likely nature of operations in which they'll be employed.

In August 2021, the ADF announced that it intended to join the US-led Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) program to develop new land-based missiles that can strike surface targets and ships up to 500 kilometres away. These missiles would be launched from the High Mobility



United States Marine Corps M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems during the firepower demonstration, at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland, during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2021.





An F/A-18F Super Hornet from No. 1 Squadron takes off with its payload of inert ordnance from RAAF Base Darwin for Exercise Arnhem Thunder 21.

18Fs carrying LRASMs may not have the luxury of support from airborne refuellers inside an adversary's A2/AD envelope that continues to expand.

A potential solution to the ADF's long-range strike gap is to use AUKUS to acquire B-21 bombers from the US—what ASPI's executive director Peter Jennings refers to as 'Plan B-21'—in lieu of acquiring nuclear-powered submarines that probably won't appear until the late 2030s. A B-21 solution, if it could be realised quickly enough, would give Australia the ability to deliver advanced missiles such as LRASMs and JASSM-ERs, and ultimately hypersonic weapons.

Another option would be sea-based antiship ballistic missiles based on a navalised PrSM, launched from the navy's Hobart-class air warfare destroyer or the planned Hunter-class frigate. That would emulate, ironically, China's approach to the development of a sea-based anti-ship missile that can be launched from its Renhai-class cruiser. The challenge is that the navy doesn't have enough ships, and the Hobarts and Hunters have too few vertical launch system cells to accommodate what would likely be a new and quite large missile system.

Also, the Hunter class is unlikely to appear before the mid-2030s. ASPI's Marcus Hellyer has highlighted the possibility of new offshore patrol vessels that are missile armed and additional Hobart-class destroyers that could carry missiles including TLAMs and an antiship ballistic missiles.

The third option would be reconsideration of PrSM from a capability with a range of 500 kilometres to a high-end medium-range or low-end intermediate-range capability of around 3,000 kilometres. That could enable the army to deploy advanced land-strike and antiship ballistic missiles from the Northern Territory, dramatically extending the ADF's ability to strike an enemy at much greater range.

**Malcolm Davis** is a senior analyst at ASPI. He is on Twitter at @Dr\_M\_Davis. *Defence images.*

Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). As I noted in an earlier article:

A 500-kilometre-range precision strike missile could form an inner layer for an anti-access and area-denial (A2/AD) system along Australia's north and northwest coasts into the sea-air gap. Given that the system is based on HIMARS, a forward-deployed capability would enable the army to contribute to sea denial in support of expeditionary operations.

This sits well alongside decisions reannounced under AUKUS for Defence's acquisition of AGM-158C long range, precision-guided anti-ship missiles (LRASMs) and AGM-158B joint air-to-surface standoff missiles—extended range (JASSM-ER) for the air force and BGM-109E Block V Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles (TLAMs) for the navy's Hobart-class destroyers. This is in addition to Australia's involvement with the US in the SCIFiRE Program to develop hypersonic weapons.

Yet, for Australia's operational requirements, 500-kilometre-range missiles are limited. If based in northern Australia, near key defence facilities such as Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal, a 500-kilometre-range PrSM system could only respond to threats immediately

offshore from Darwin. That's fine for a last-ditch defence against a force off Australia's northern coastline, but it does little to hold at risk an adversary within maritime chokepoints like the Makassar Strait, or to contribute to coalition operations in a Taiwan conflict scenario.

The PrSM capability represents a significant boost in long-range firepower for the army, compared to outdated towed artillery, or even the new K-9 Huntsman self-propelled artillery pieces. But it represents in microcosm a macro challenge for the ADF in that all the planned long-range strike capabilities fall short of the vast geographic scale of the Indo-Pacific region. And they could not penetrate deeply into China's A2/AD envelope.

Given the serious strategic challenges Australia faces, it's sensible to develop the ability to strike an adversary's naval forces a long way away.

New antiship systems such as air-launched LRASMs and ship-based Block V TLAMs enhance our ability to achieve this, but only in an environment in which aircraft and naval vessels can penetrate and survive. As ASPI senior fellow Andrew Davies notes, it will become increasingly challenging for large and complex naval surface combatants to survive advanced A2/AD. In the air, platforms such as the RAAF's F/A-



# Peace monitoring group Op Bel Isi Bougainville

Personal experience story by Chris Lawrey



Chris Lawrey at Torokina hospital.

I felt very fortunate to be selected to be part of the Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) in Bougainville from November 2001 to March 2002, following the 1988 to 1998 civil war, and it gave me an opportunity to satisfy two long standing desires - to assist overseas and for adventure.

We had two weeks in Bamaga (far north Queensland) to acclimatise, for language and cultural training, outdoor skills and working with the military. Flying into Bougainville, we were all struck by the beauty of Bougainville with the dense forest all the way to the beautiful beaches. On land, we drove past the signs of the conflict and it was deeply moving and sad to see the destruction of the power station, power lines, heavy machinery, shops and once grand

buildings such as Kieta hotel, the government building.

The civilian peace monitor's role was to go into villages each day, by 4WD or helicopter, and talk with local people, chiefs, ex combatants, church leaders, health workers and women's groups etc about the peace process and the importance of handing in weapons. We also obtained information about how people were feeling about the peace process and whether weapons would be likely to be handed in. We wrote a report each day which went up the line and then to the governments of the countries involved: Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Vanuatu. Some of the men knew about the Howard Government's gun buy-back scheme and asked whether they would be paid to hand in their weapons; they were not going to be, so we stressed the importance of not having guns in the community and that the Independence Referendum was conditional on weapons being handed in. I was there when the first weapons were handed in which was a privilege.

One day, the women asked me to run a patch work session. I contacted friends in Australia who sent cartons of fabric. A very successful sewing day was held and some lovely creations made. As it was December, schools were having their end of year ceremonies and I gave inspirational talks in Pijin about education and peace and presented awards. A feast of wonderful food followed; we were treated like dignitaries, eating first, which I never got used to.

Op Bel Isi was 'dry' but that did not affect Christmas Eve in our teams, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve which were all great – maybe even better sans alcohol. It meant more than I thought it would to receive the Salvation Army care package at Christmas.



The civilian peace monitoring group.



Opening of the newly reconstructed church at Togerau.





Weapons being handed in.

I found the people of Bougainville to be very lovely people who are at heart peaceful, resilient and very focussed on reconciliation. A few differences stood out. Bougainvilleans are very interested in family and asked about mine; when I said I had 4 sons, I thought I detected a recurring pattern of pity. When I asked someone about it, and they said that yes, they felt sorry for me as with no daughter 'my line is over'. Bougainville is matrilineal. In public you saw groups of men, or women and children but never males and females together. There were a few instances where a young man had committed a misdeed such as stealing. This brought the families together for a meeting that lasted many hours to reach reconciliation and decide the compensation payable by the family of the young man – there was no 'he did not do it – you can't prove it'. There are a lot of children in Bougainville, and in my 4 months I did not ever hear a baby or child cry, children fight, or an adult raise their voice or in any way reprimand a child – the mothers and children were simply calm.



Beautiful Bougainville coast.

It was hard to leave Bougainville. I was able to visit the villages that I had previously been at to say goodbye, and it was very sad. I asked the women what they needed – the said clothes, kids clothes, spectacles and bras. On my return to Australia, I went to Op shops and bought clothes and spectacles, and I put a call out for 'Bras for Bougainville' on a women's forum I was on. Bags and boxes of bras would arrive by post and I bundled up all the goodies sent them on the Hercules a number of times. Once the PMG withdrew, I could no longer do this.

I learned a lot including things I did not expect to learn from the people of Bougainville and also from living with the military, about relationships, leadership, the importance of story telling and messaging and there really is a nicer way to live together. Once home, it was a long time before I could shop for myself - looking in my cupboard and knowing what they did not have, it was hard to say I need more shoes, tops, etc .....

I still miss Bougainville and think everyone who went to as part of the PMG probably left a bit of their heart there.



Woolworth Shopping Centre Arawa destroyed after decade long civil war.



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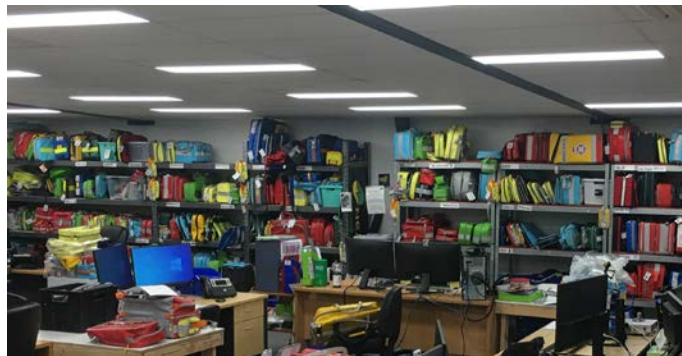
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Walk 96km in 31 days to help  
prevent veteran suicide

# Australia to continue support for Vietnam's Peacekeepers

Australia will continue to provide airlift support for Vietnam's Peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in 2022, Defence has confirmed.

Minister for Defence Peter Dutton confirmed this commitment in discussions he had late last year with his Vietnamese counterpart, Minister of National Defence, General Phan Van Giang.

"Australia is pleased to continue its support for Vietnam's Peacekeepers as part of our deepening defence cooperation," Minister Dutton said.

"This support reflects the strength of our strategic partnership, and our shared commitment to an open, inclusive and resilient region that actively supports global security."

Australia provided strategic airlift to Vietnam's three previous rotations to UNMISS, the first in October 2018, the second in November 2019, and the third earlier this year.

Australia also supported these rotations through specialist Peacekeeping and English language training.

Earlier this year, Australia supported Vietnam's contribution to the UNMISS by airlifting Vietnamese military personnel and equipment.



Australian Ambassador to Vietnam Robyn Mudie and Defence Attache COL Paul Foura with Senior Vietnamese military officials to farewell rotation 3 of Vietnam's Level 2 Field Hospital to South Sudan in front of a RAAF C-17A Globemaster III. *Def image.*

A RAAFC-17A Globemaster provided the airlift during late March and late April 2021, allowing Vietnam to rotate its UNMISS Level-Two Field Hospital contingent.

Over those two months, the airlift transported more than 120 passengers and over 55,000 kilograms of cargo between Vietnam and South Sudan.

The cargo included medical and dental equipment, pharmaceuticals, electrical equipment, food stores and cold chain.

The Chief of Joint Operations Command, Lieutenant General

Greg Bilton, said at that time that the Australian Defence Force's work alongside Vietnam demonstrates the close ties between the two countries.

"Vietnam is an important partner for Australia in the Indo-Pacific, and I am proud the ADF has supported their deployment to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan," Lieutenant General Bilton said.

"The Peacekeeping partnership between our two countries is a key element of our defence relationship. It highlights our shared vision of a peaceful, inclusive and resilient region actively supporting global security."

## Australia donates Peacekeeper training equipment to Vietnam

A ceremony to hand over peacekeeper training equipment donated by the Australian Department of Defence to the Vietnam Department of Peacekeeping Operations was held in Hanoi on December 14.

The equipment included a set of interpretation devices with 100 headsets, 15 cardioverter defibrillators and 20 sets of handy talkies.

Speaking at the event, Director of the Vietnam Department of Peacekeeping Operations Maj. Gen. Hoang Kim Phung said the equipment

will be used for international seminars and conferences held by the department as well as for training staff members for level-2 field hospital No. 4, the engineering corps No.1 and its other units, contributing to improving Vietnamese Peacekeepers' capacity.

The donation of the equipment demonstrated effective cooperation between the Vietnamese Ministry of National Defence and the Australian Department of Defence, he said.

Bridget Collier, Political Counsellor at the Australian Embassy in Vietnam,



expressed her hope that the devices will help Vietnam improve the training quality and better prepare the force, thus meeting the United Nations' requirements for humanitarian purpose in peacekeeping missions.



# Team an anaesthesia to challenges

Navy medical officer Lieutenant Commander Lin Hu is currently deployed with his triservice colleagues to the only role 3 hospital in the Iraq area of operations.

He is embedded with the US Army's Task Force Med 9 at the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Centre.

Born and raised in Fairfield Western Sydney, Lieutenant Commander Hu, an anaesthetist, is providing specialist surgical and medical support to US, coalition, Iraqi Security Forces, Department of State personnel and 23 outlying stations within the region.

"Our team is responsible for neurosurgical, head and neck, orthopaedic and trauma surgical care, as well as the management of critically unwell COVID-19 patients," Lieutenant Commander Hu said.

"For the past four months, my main roles have been to provide anaesthesia to anyone requiring surgery at the role 3 hospital, immediate review and management of trauma patients and intubation of various severe COVID-19 patients needing additional respiratory support and management.

"I've also participated in all trauma simulation exercises and the provision of medical education."

Signing up for reserve service in 2007 as a final-year medical student, Lieutenant Commander Hu said the deployment on Operation Okra had

been both unique and enjoyable.

"Working in the Australian Surgical Team and in partnership with our US and coalition colleagues, the immersive deployment experience of life on base – the culture, food, entertainment, morale and teamwork – has been so rewarding," Lieutenant Commander Hu said.

"A good team can make or break any deployment or experience, and seldom is it more evident in an adverse environment like Iraq where we are all far from home.

"We have become the stand-in family for each other – the fun, the support and the motivation."

Despite the rewarding nature of the deployment, Lieutenant Commander Hu said the temperature was initially a major challenge.

"Nothing in my experience had prepared me for what 50 degrees Celsius would feel like – other than my kitchen oven," Lieutenant Commander Hu said.

"We quickly acclimated, but it was novel to notice that I never got sweaty in the early days, because the sweat would evaporate straight away."

Posted to the Directorate of Navy Health and specialising in trauma care in his civilian role, Lieutenant Commander Hu joined the Navy seeking a sense of service, identity and patriotism.

"Growing up, I always saw national representation and patriotism as the



Navy medical officer Lieutenant Commander Lin Hu is an anaesthetist with the Australian Surgical Team at the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Centre in Iraq. *Defence image.*

domain of elite sportspeople, of whom I was not," Lieutenant Commander Hu said.

"It left me searching for a sense of connection and a meaningful career, which I have grown to find in the ADF through service to the nation.

"As such, my ongoing service is an important part of my identity and link to my country.

"There is a very special sense of pride that comes with putting on the Navy uniform, with the word Australia emblazoned across the shoulder."

## Arunta departs for three-month deployment

HMAS *Arunta* sailed from her home port of Fleet Base East on January 28 for a three-month regional presence deployment.

This is the first regional presence deployment for 2022.

While deployed, the ship will undertake a number of navy-to-navy activities with Australia's regional partners, as well as participate in various maritime exercises.

Commanding Officer *Arunta* Commander Samuel Woolrych said

the ship's company was well-prepared for the various tasks the ship would be assigned over the next three months.

"We are well-trained, confident in each other, know our ship, and are ready for any possible task," Commander Woolrych said.

"During the deployment, *Arunta* will have a number of opportunities to increase our interoperability, and deepen our understanding of a complex region by working alongside regional partners through various

navy-to-navy activities.

"We expect to build on the respectful and trusting relationship that have been built over many years between Australia and other like-minded nations in the region."

For Seaman Jonathan Hannant, this deployment represents a milestone in his fledgling naval career.

"This is my first deployment since joining the Navy, so I'm looking forward to the challenges it will present," Seaman Hannant said.

# OPV show of strength

The first of 12 Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels (OPV) – NUSHIP Arafura – was launched at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia in December.

First Assistant Secretary Ships Division Sheryl Lutz said the Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels was one of the foundation projects in the 2017 Naval Shipbuilding Plan.

“Luerssen Australia is contracted to build 12 offshore patrol vessels – two at Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia and 10 at Henderson Maritime Precinct in Western Australia,” Ms Lutz said.

Building the first two OPVs in South Australia enabled experienced shipbuilders from the Hobart-class destroyer to be retained and then transitioned to the new Hunter-class frigates, setting the foundation for a continuous sovereign naval shipbuilding industry.

The 80-metre long OPVs will primarily undertake constabulary missions and maritime patrol and response duties.

They will incorporate state-of-the-



Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessel, NUSHIP Arafura, at Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia.

art sensors and command and communications systems, improving operational capability alongside Australian Border Force vessels, other ADF units and Australia’s regional partners.

Minister for Defence Peter Dutton said the functions undertaken patrol boats were becoming increasingly important.

“As we enter a period of unprecedented regional instability and uncertainty, we again forge ahead

with this new capability and with new confidence,” Mr Dutton said.

“By 2030, the shipbuilding workforce will grow to over 2000 here at Osborne as part of the 15,000 workers directly employed under the government’s Naval Shipbuilding Plan.

“These numbers speak obviously of our commitment to building our Navy’s strength to develop our sovereign industrial capabilities and to grow our Naval Shipbuilding Enterprise.”

# Seabin not a waste

Sussan Ley, Minister for the Environment, is shown how a Seabin functions by CEO and Co-founder of the Seabin Project, Mr Pete Ceglinski at Garden Island Sydney. Photo: LSIS David Cox

Trials of the Seabin Smart Technology at Sydney Harbour Defence sites have removed 2920kg of plastic, fuels and detergents from Sydney Harbour in the past 12 months.

The Garden Island seabin has been removing 140kg of waste per week, including one item of plastic every 40 seconds.

Minister for Defence Industry and Minister for Science and Technology Melissa Price said the Defence trial exceeded all expectations and three

permanent units would be maintained at Garden Island.

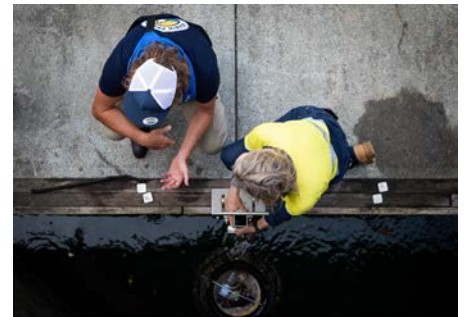
“Over a two-week period, the Seabins captured 6198 items of waste from Sydney Harbour, including 3500 microfibres and microplastics, and 2000 unidentifiable pieces of plastic waste,” Ms Price said.

“This is Australian technology which costs as little as \$1 a day to run and which can have huge dividends for the environment.”

Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley visited Garden Island on January 13.

“We can’t keep putting plastic in our oceans and it starts by getting our waste into the recycling bin where it belongs,” Ms Ley said.

Wentworth MP David Sharma said



the project would have benefits for beaches across the harbour’s east.

“Sydney Harbour is one of the world’s great waterways and this technology is an important sign of our commitment to keeping it that way,” Mr Sharma said.

“Defence has always been a part of the harbour landscape, both through current sites like Garden Island and our former Defence sites now managed through the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.”



# Integrating a solution for Australian soldiers: Land 125 phase 4

Land 125 Phase 4 is a programme to deliver an integrated soldier system to Australian Defence Force troops, using technology sourced from local suppliers. Berenice Healey talks to two of the downselected teams about their bids.

In September 2018, Australia's Morrison Government approved a project to enhance and continuously improve the equipment used by the Australian Defence Force (ADF). The project, valued at up to AUD1bn over 13 years, aims to deliver an integrated soldier system (ISS) of components to be carried or worn by ADF soldiers, supporting operations of up to 72 hours without resupply.

Four teams were downselected for the tender process in June 2021: Babcock Australasia, Rheinmetall Defence Australia, Elbit Systems of Australia and Team Sabre, which consists of Safran, Australian consultancy Nova and BAE Systems. We caught up with Babcock and Rheinmetall to find out more about their bids.

## INCORPORATING LOCAL INDUSTRY

A key component of Land 125 phase 4 is Australian Industry Capability (AIC), a government policy that calls on contractors to actively seek out Australian solutions, stimulate local industry and provide opportunity for capability to grow locally.

Babcock's making a conscious choice not to make any of its own products for the Land 125 Phase 4 programme.

Babcock Australia head of customer solutions, (defence & security) land Craig Schwartz explains that it's also about recognising the capabilities within the local landscape and being able to share that capability internationally as well where possible.

"In terms of how we're going



Private Eric Cull from 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment scans the Enoggera Close Training Area for enemy role players during Exercise Ram Strike. *Defence image.*

to attract and bring together that capability, Babcock's making a conscious choice not to make any of its own products for the Land 125 Phase 4 programme," he says.

"There's enough capability out there already; why would you go out and then try to find another version that somebody else makes when you can access what we call best of breed across a range of categories, and provide that to the customer in a way that is aligned to their requirements?"

"We believe that the Australian industry is supported by capable international organisations as well, so we can pull together a solution that meets the requirements today, but then also has flexibility."

Rheinmetall general manager electronic solutions Andre Neumann says that the company is also committed to enhancing Australian sovereign capability for defence.

Rheinmetall has a strong, dedicated AIC team, with leading local companies, developers and innovators in this space.

"The approach to Land 125-4 will deliver an Australian-vendor-first solution that leverages best ISS technologies delivered by Australian SMEs," he says.

"Rheinmetall has a strong, dedicated AIC team, with leading local companies, developers and innovators in this space. Our approach to Land 125-4 is to provide a vendor solution that leverages best of breed technologies delivered by Australian providers."

One of the reasons that the ADF isn't looking to adapt an extant soldier system is due to the unique challenges of Australia.

As Schwartz says: "Look at the size of the country; from Perth to Sydney is London to Moscow. From



Land 125 phase 4 aims to deliver an integrated soldier system to be carried or worn by ADF soldiers to support operations. *Babcock Australasia*

the northernmost tip in far north Queensland to the southernmost point in Tasmania, we're very close to the equator and then below the Tropic of Capricorn in terms of climate and climatic conditions, and also within the changing operational context as well."

However, he concedes that while Australia operates in a particular way, ADF requirements have a degree of overlap with allied countries.

### INTEGRATING SOLUTIONS

Working to integrate solutions from a number of providers through the AIC will create challenges as well as opportunities. Neumann explains that Rheinmetall's approach is to work collaboratively to provide open architecture solutions, which leverage the strengths of Australian industry and the company's previous experience in delivering ISS.

"SMEs will be invited to provide their technology for inclusion into the programme. Rheinmetall will assist in all facets of support, development and integration where it's required," he says. "Our approach seeks to identify the best Australian solutions through a comprehensive evaluation of system components."

Schwartz says AIC is a worthwhile approach as no single entity has all the answers to the questions ADF is asking.

"As soon as you can suspend that inherent desire to say 'right, cover it all' you suspend that hubris," he explains. "You realise that you need to collaborate, whether they're international or local partners and combinations that are in between."

### HIGH-TECH METHODOLOGIES

Babcock plans to use virtual reality and digital prototyping to accelerate the integration process.

"We can look at a large number of combinations and permutations of soldier systems, helmets, armour and other accompaniments that they need to carry.

"When you look at each capability in isolation, they might look impressive, but when you put them all together, you might find that you're five kilos too heavy, or that you are unable to carry out certain actions or mobility like jumping out of the back of an infantry fighting vehicle," Schwartz explains.

Similarly, Rheinmetall plans to exploit the technology at its Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in

Queensland. It hosts a range of technical services to support AI, autonomous and emerging technology vehicle enhancements, and delivers effector and detector services to current programmes including Land 121 MAN trucks and Boxer.

"The facility is the site of a broad range of R&D activities, including the development of the Lynx Combat Support Vehicle," adds Neumann.

### ISS COMPONENTS

The specifics of what will be included in a delivered tender for each proposed ISS are yet to be determined, but the ADF has stated that the tenders will need to define an architecture for the system and to translate it into engineering terms.

"The Commonwealth has been very clear in identifying the areas of the soldier system they want to improve upon," says Schwartz.

"But they also want industry to help understand how you characterise a soldier; so there's an individual, they have a weapon, they talk, they use hand signals to work with other teams and colleagues, and there's a supply chain. We will identify the solutions to the physical products we'll need from the partnerships, and the capabilities once we get through that process."

For Rheinmetall's approach, Neumann says: "Rheinmetall is committed to providing a support service for the existing ISS, as well as a broad range of digital battlespace technology. All of this will be designed to provide overmatch in operations, as well as full integration of existing in-use technology."

All four bidders will submit their tenders by the end of April 2022. The Commonwealth will then evaluate and downselect one or more parties to go through the next phase, known as offer definition and improvement. That will lead to a series of evaluations that will ultimately lead to a contract, potentially during the second half of 2023.

[https://defence.nridigital.com/global\\_defence\\_technology\\_dec21/australia\\_land\\_125](https://defence.nridigital.com/global_defence_technology_dec21/australia_land_125)





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Tidal Volume	50-2000 mL ±10% + 4 mL
Inspiratory Pressure Limit	11 to 60 cm H <sub>2</sub> O ± 2 cm H <sub>2</sub> O or 10% whichever is greater
Inspiratory Time	0.3 to 4 ± 10% sec
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Oxygen Mix (FiO <sub>2</sub> )	21% to 95% ± 5% O <sub>2</sub>
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Pressure Support Limit	11 to 50 cm H <sub>2</sub> O above PEEP ± 2 cm H <sub>2</sub> O
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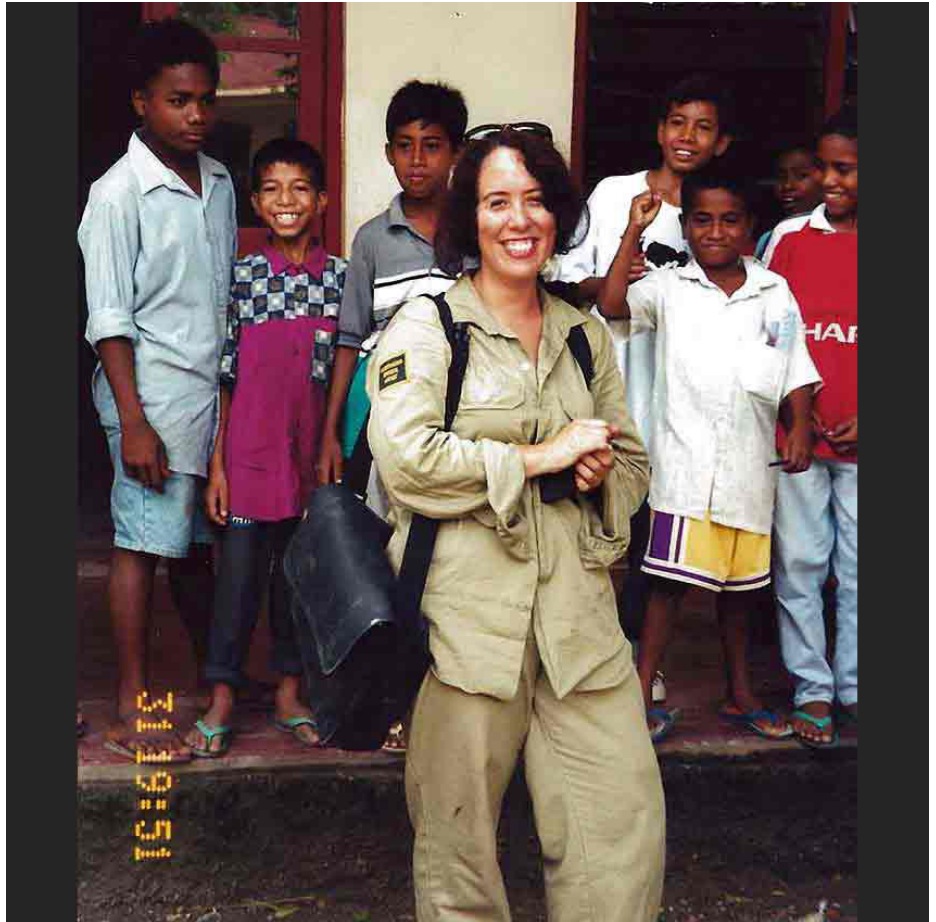




# Wendy Sharpe: Official war artist in East Timor

The idea of women being appointed as official war artists still raises eyebrows. The typical response to the suggestion that women might work as war artists is: “are there any?” War and art are still viewed as a man’s thing, ruled by issues of propriety about what women should and should not witness, and spatial zones they ought not transgress.<sup>[1]</sup> War, even modern-day techno-war, still employs an older style language of “the front” where battles take place, while the home front is supposedly a safe zone, even though front-line battles take place in towns and villages where women and children live. The language and geography of wartime space are deeply gendered.<sup>[2]</sup> Yet women artists have always engaged with issues surrounding war and conflict. Gay Hawkes’s mocking portrayal *Saddam Hussein on a Rhinoceros* (1990) comes from the days of the Gulf War; while Barbara Hanrahan’s biting *Poppy Day* (1982), showing war widows attempting to put a brave face on their plight, is informed by the anti-war sentiment of the Vietnam War era.<sup>[3]</sup> Commentary of this kind has been done at distance, and from the safety of the home front.

Even today people still have to be reminded that three Australian women artists, Nora Heysen, Stella Bowen and Sybil Craig, were appointed to the position of official war artist during the Second World War. All were required to work in-situ, reflecting the view that war artists typically need to observe what is going on to work effectively. Nora Heysen’s subjects were principally women in the Pacific, so she worked in New Guinea and northern Australia; Stella Bowen’s subjects were Australian servicemen in the main in the Air Force in Britain, so she was based in three British air stations; while Sybil Craig worked on the home front in munitions factories in Melbourne.<sup>[4]</sup> These three women



Wendy Sharpe with Timorese children. *Wendy Sharpe*.

were out-numbered, though, by the 47 male artists who were official war artists during that war.

Another 54 years passed before Sydney artist and Archibald Prize winner Wendy Sharpe became the fourth woman to be appointed as an official artist in 1999. This was the time of the horrific East Timor conflict and she originally refused the offer to work there, only agreeing when conditions improved. Rick Amor, who was also appointed, went in September, and Sharpe spent three weeks there in December 1999. Both marked a new era for war artists. It was the first time male and female appointments have been equal in numbers. Also, Sharpe was not required to join the

defence forces as were two of her three predecessors, Nora Heysen and Stella Bowen, who were each appointed at the rank of Captain in the AWAS (Australian Women’s Army Service).

By 1999, much of the red tape which delayed their appointments in 1943–44 had vanished. Sharpe was simply a defence civilian attached to the Army History Unit in Dili; her dress was plain khaki and a patch on her sleeve identified her as an Australian official artist. She was not restricted in her movements, as was Heysen, and travelled all over East Timor under the protection of two armed soldiers. None of the clashes between the army and artist, which so frustrated

Heysen, occurred. Times have changed. Sharpe carried her own army pack and art materials. She is a prodigious drawer and, as she says, drawing all day long she looked busy, and the army likes busy people!<sup>[5]</sup>

In 1999 East Timor, which had been occupied by Indonesia since 1974, was the site of intense brutality against the local people who fought until they achieved Independence. Sharpe was there during the period of transition from 'war' to peace, but the evidence of atrocity was everywhere.<sup>[6]</sup> Australian and other Interfet peacekeepers were assisting the people to return home and recover their families, their sense of safety and their land. One of Sharpe's drawings shows children standing by a wall on which they scrawled in charcoal "Interfet we love you", while *Girls in Suai* shows children in their frilly, colourful clothes displaying a mix of relief and apprehension and clutching toys given to them by the soldiers. *Refugees returning to Dili* oozes with the fear and uncertainty the old and young felt, clinging to their few belongings and returning to see if their homes were left unscathed. As the artist commented, from "the look on their faces I can't even begin to think what they have been through".<sup>[7]</sup> Their fear and anxiety was compounded by tales told to them in West Timor of what Interfet would do to them.

A remarkable painting completed back in the studio, but based on drawings in situ, is *Midnight at Suai Cathedral* (2000). On Christmas Eve in Suai, Sharpe and a small group of Australian soldiers attended midnight mass which was held outside the cathedral. During the conflict the cathedral had been the scene of a horrific massacre and months later the local people refused to enter the building. After the soldiers had sung some Christmas carols, the East Timorese astounded the onlookers by re-enacting the brutal massacre in which 300 of their fellow Suai people lost their lives. As Sharpe recounts: "It was narrated in English. They were acting it out and saying, 'Now they are killing the nuns and



Wendy Sharpe, *Midnight at Suai Cathedral*, 2000, oil on canvas. *Australian War Memorial collection*

priests, now the militia are raping the women - and now Interfet are here".<sup>[8]</sup> This cathartic and ritualised way of thanking Interfet informs her haunting painting *Midnight at Suai Cathedral*, in which a group of East Timorese show their attempt to come to terms with their memories. The blackened cathedral stands behind them like a gruesome reminder of evil, while the residents' eerie faces lit by their luminous green tapers suggest they have been to hell and back.

Like Stella Bowen before her who probed the emotional psyche of airmen engaged in daily bombing raids over Germany in 1944, Sharpe portrayed the softer side of the soldiers as peacekeepers. Her *Soldier with Refugees*, Dili shows one assisting a group of local people by holding their baby: but his position as peace keeper, not victim, appears to be an accident of history. This compelling image of a soldier wracked by anxiety points to how the soldiers themselves felt working in a country where appalling acts were

performed. Sharpe was also in East Timor for a tour-of-duty concert and a number of works show singers and dancers performing for appreciative soldiers and celebrating their efforts in rebuilding a nation. Kylie Minogue and her troupe are shown in their gaudy stage clothes including black fishnet stockings strutting their stuff in *Kylie and Co., Tour of Duty Concert, Dili*. Their exuberant, physical performance almost jumps off the canvas.

Women now form an integral part of the military landscape: Sharpe shows them playing cards, cleaning their rifles and even engineering risqué self-portraits. The light-hearted rendition of *Corporal Alicia Carr, Darwin*, dressed only in her army boots and hat came about when the sitter suggested to the artist that it would be fun to send a nude pin-up image to her boyfriend, also based in East Timor. This in itself makes for an interesting change of the rules of who supplies the pin-ups for soldier's quarters.



Defence Force personnel

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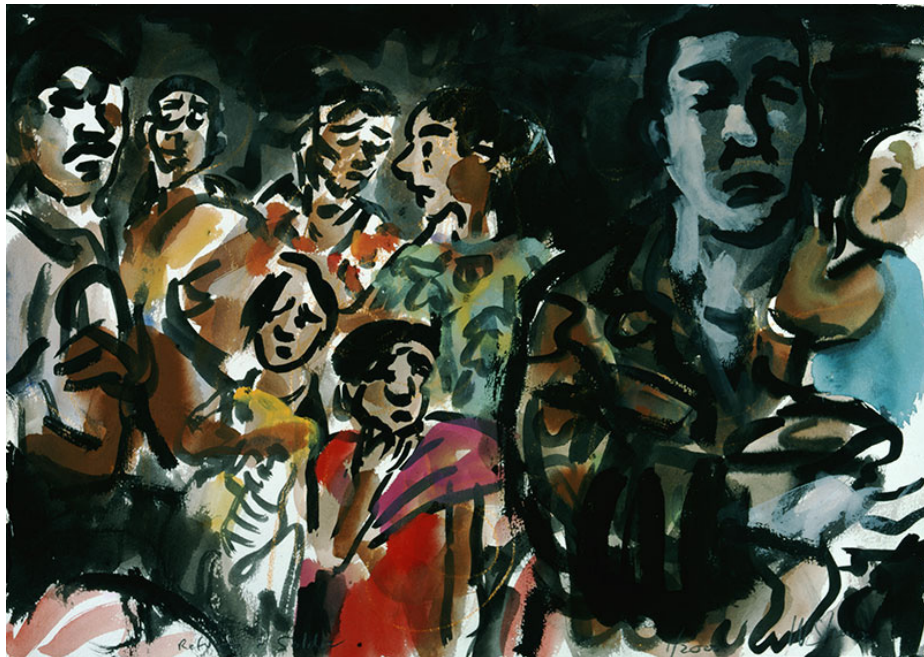
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Working as a war artist is tough, as Hans Heysen warned Nora Heysen. Sharpe, like Heysen before her, felt challenged by her new life and while on a troop ship heading for East Timor commented that she “felt like a bohemian flower that’s been thrown onto a war zone”.<sup>[9]</sup> Months later and the experience still fresh, she said she would never be the same again, having seen the worst and best of what humans are capable of. Both Sharpe and Amor had a short, intensive period in the field, followed by an equally intensive period in their studio completing their work. For Sharpe, back in her inner Sydney studio when her East Timorese experience was still fresh, she was “dreaming about being there, and working every day, it almost felt like I was still there”.<sup>[10]</sup> Just a few months after her appointment ended a large exhibition of 64 works, appropriately titled *New Beginnings – East Timor* was held at the Australian War Memorial. Sharpe’s vibrant, warm and expressive art shows the human side to rebuilding after conflict.

If only her appointment were the last and the need to appoint war artists, male or female, vanished. It hasn’t, and Peter Churcher was appointed to go to the Persian Gulf, Diego Garcia and Afghanistan in 2002;



Wendy Sharpe, Corporal Alicia Carr, Darwin, 1999, gouache on paper. Australian War Memorial collection



Wendy Sharpe, 2000, Soldier with Refugees, Dili, gouache and crayon on paper. Australian War Memorial collection

Lewis Miller covered Iraq in 2003; and Lyndell Brown was appointed along with Charles Green to go to Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq and Afghanistan in 2007. Jon Cattapan was based in East Timor in 2008, and eX de Medici was sent to the Solomon Islands in 2009, while Shaun Gladwell and Ben Quilty have been in Afghanistan in 2009 and 2012 respectively. Even in appointments today of leading contemporary artists to the position of official war artist, there are still very few women. Only Lyndell Brown and eX de Medici have followed on from Wendy Sharpe. Women, war and art “up-close-and-personal” is still a zone to watch out for.

1 See Margaret Higonnet, ‘Not so quiet in no-woman’s land’, in Miriam Cooke and Angela Woollacott (eds), *Gendering War Talk*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1993, pp. 205–8.

2 On geography and space see Irit Rogoff, *Terra Infirma: Geography’s Visual Culture*, Routledge, London, 2000, pp. 20–28.

3 Australian involvement in the Gulf War was limited to a small naval fleet so the Australian War Memorial decided to acquire contemporary artwork produced in response to the conflict: Anne Gray, ‘Gulf War art’, *Art and Australia*, vol. 31, no. 2, 1993, pp. 208–9. No women were appointed as war artists during the Vietnam War.

4 See Catherine Speck, *Paintings Ghosts*:

*Australian Women Artists in Wartime*, Craftsman House/Thames and Hudson, Melbourne, 2004, chapters 7–10.

5 Wendy Sharpe, ‘New Beginnings Floor Talk’, Australian War Memorial, 4 July 2000.

6 War was never actually declared.

7 Wendy Sharpe interviewed by the author, 4 July 2000.

8 Wendy Sharpe quoted in Rebecca Lancashire ‘The War Artist’, *The Age*, 14 January 2000, p. 11.

90 Wendy Sharpe quoted in ‘Images of war’, *The Australian Women’s Weekly*, March 2000, p. 56.

10 Wendy Sharpe interviewed by the author, 4 July 2000.

**Catherine Speck is Professor of Art History at the University of Adelaide, and coordinator of Postgraduate Programs in Art History and Curatorial and Museum Studies at the Art Gallery of South Australia / University of Adelaide. She has published widely on gender and art.**





# Tongan disaster highlights lack of coordination in regional response

US Indo-Pacific coordinator Kurt Campbell observed on 11 January that the Pacific islands might be the part of the world ‘most likely to see certain kinds of a strategic surprise—basing or certain kinds of agreements or arrangements’. He went on to say that the US has ‘a very short amount of time, working with partners like Australia, like New Zealand, like Japan, like France, who have an interest in the Pacific, to step up our game’.

Campbell’s comments highlight that partner states are increasingly looking to cooperate in response to heightened geopolitical interest in the ‘crowded and complex’ South Pacific. But security cooperation in the region is best described as a patchwork, rather than a coherent architecture, which can lead to challenges of targeting and overcrowding, but also may allow for agility and creativity.

The nature of security cooperation has been tested by two recent crises: the riots in Solomon Islands in November 2021 and the volcanic eruption and tsunami in Tonga earlier this month. Both have underscored

several features of regional security cooperation.

The first feature is that there’s no regional institution for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, nor has the Pacific Islands Forum played a prominent role in coordination. New Zealand was the first to respond to the Tongan disaster under the FRANZ Arrangement, while the Australian-led deployment to Solomon Islands has occurred under the auspices of the 2017 Australia – Solomon Islands security treaty, rather than under the Pacific Islands Forum’s 2000 Biketawa Declaration.

This reflects the second feature: the often unspoken ‘rule of thirds’ between the major partners: that Australia should lead crisis responses in Melanesia, New Zealand in Polynesia, and the US in Micronesia.

Australia led the response in Solomon Islands by deploying police and defence personnel. New Zealand and Fiji supported the Australian response with peacekeepers, and Papua New Guinea deployed separately under a bilateral agreement.

New Zealand was first to send a P-3 Orion surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft and has since sent three naval vessels and a C-130 Hercules with supplies to Tonga. Australia’s contribution includes two P-8A Poseidons, a C-17A Globemaster and a C-130, as well as HMAS Adelaide, one of the Royal Australian Air Force’s two landing helicopter dock ships. This reflects a third feature: while New Zealand and Australia are considered the primary security providers in the South Pacific, New Zealand can’t match Australia on military capability to mount substantive crisis responses.

However, a Covid-19 outbreak on the Adelaide en route to Tonga signal a fourth feature, the ‘wild card’ of the pandemic. Overall, the nature of partner assistance is evolving to be less hands-on. Border closures have necessitated contactless aid delivery and highlighted the importance of a locally led disaster response. This dynamic was already evident in the response to Cyclone Harold in Vanuatu in 2020.

The Tongan response also reflects a fifth feature: overcrowding. This is most clearly demonstrated by the range of actors and responses, which, in a non-pandemic context, would raise questions about the host country’s absorptive capacity. For instance Japan has sent two C-130s and a vessel to assist, the UK sent supplies on Australia’s LHD, and Fijian engineers are ready to be embedded with the Australian Defence Force. France has deployed two patrol boats with emergency aid. The US has deployed USS Sampson to assist with damage assessment and supplies and has offered support through its closest relationship with Tonga, the Nevada National Guard. While Australia is coordinating its response with New Zealand and France under FRANZ, it’s unclear



whether Fiji, Japan, the UK and the US are de facto coordinated under the arrangement. This brings us back to the first feature: the absence of overarching regional coordination.

A sixth feature of cooperation is how 'traditional' partners such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and the US will respond to China's increasing involvement.

In December last year, Solomon Islands accepted a Chinese offer to send police personnel and equipment after the Solomon Islands government declared an 'urgent need to strengthen Royal Solomon Islands Police Force capability and capacity to respond to future unrest'. Given that Australia led (with support from New Zealand and Pacific island states) a substantial capacity-building program for the RSIPF during and after the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, it's unclear how Chinese police officers will build upon that work.

China has sent assistance and reportedly offered to help rebuild parts of Tonga destroyed by the tsunami. Tonga accepted a loan from China for reconstruction costs after riots in 2006 destroyed much of Nuku'alofa, which has generated substantial commentary in Australia and the US about the geopolitical consequences.

What role Australia (particularly through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific), the US, Japan and the UK (which have all signalled their interest in greater infrastructure investment in the region) will play in financing the longer-term reconstruction effort in Tonga will be a test of their commitment to the region and of their intent to deepen cooperation.

This raises the final, and most important, feature of security cooperation: the question of how well the agency of Pacific island states and peoples is recognised and respected by partners. While much of the language used by partners during the Solomon Islands and Tongan crises has recognised that affected states and peoples must drive the nature and delivery of the response, there are questions about the



'accountability gap' in the provision of security assistance generally.

The question of who is accountable to whom in the provision of security assistance is important when the interests of partner states, Pacific island governments and Pacific peoples are not necessarily aligned.

For the moment, there's agreement about the need for urgent disaster response in Tonga. But, as Campbell's comments signal, once the reconstruction phase gets underway, geopolitical concerns will

again rise to the fore and it remains to be seen whether partners will cooperate or crowd the region.

**Joanne Wallis** is a professor of international security in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Adelaide.

**Henrietta McNeill** is a PhD candidate at the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University.

**Anna Powles** is a senior lecturer in security studies at the Centre for Defence and Security Studies at Massey University. Image: NZ Defence Force/Facebook.



# ADF surges aged-care support



Navy planning officer LCDR Tom Miller talks with Mr Glen Bradley from the Department of Health's Aged Care Taskforce in Canberra. *Defence image.*

Australian Defence Force personnel across Australia are gearing up to further support the aged-care sector, following a request from Emergency Management Australia.

The Australian Government announced Defence is expanding its contribution to the whole-of-government support to aged-care facilities by 200 personnel, with up to 1700 ADF personnel available to provide support across Australia.

Commander ADF COVID-19 Task Force Rear Admiral Robert Plath is leading the planning and coordination team at the Department of Health to support the aged-care sector as part of Operation COVID-19 Assist.

"A 17-person planning and coordination team is already integrating with the Department of Health team in Canberra," Rear Admiral Plath said.

"We will work with the Department of Health to understand how Defence can best further support the aged-care sector.

"Defence is committing up to 1700 personnel and they will be used to augment existing health response teams, we will also create our own 10-person standing force teams, and the bulk of ADF personnel will support high-priority facilities around the country."

The 10-person ADF standing force teams will initially support aged-care facilities in Queensland,

Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, with other states to follow. These teams will include team leaders, registered and enrolled nurses, and supporting personnel. The Department of Health will decide where to place the teams.

LTCOL Anne Oliver is part of the planning and coordination team at the Department of Health in Canberra.

"I'm really happy to be part of the team within the Department of Health supporting their response to COVID-19 in aged-care facilities," Lieutenant Colonel Oliver said.

"Coming from Army Headquarters enables me to understand what Defence support is available in a given region to further support our on-the-ground teams and to support the broader effort."

Around 200 ADF personnel are currently completing induction training in Brisbane, Adelaide and virtually in preparation for the surge in support.

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# ADF delivers specialist training in Vanuatu

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) partnered with the Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) to deliver specialist training in Port Vila, Vanuatu last month.

Supported by the Vanuatu-Australia Defence Cooperation Program, the three-week program focused on delivering training aligned with VPF priorities. This included leadership development, vehicle maintenance, armourer training, fitness, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) planning, and public affairs and photography skills.

ADF Mobile Training Team Contingent Commander Major Zach Lambert was proud of what the ADF and VPF had achieved together during the training.

“The training not only provided opportunity for the ADF to share knowledge and skills with our ni-Vanuatu family, but also learn from the VPF, especially their experience in



RAAF Corporal Kieren Whiteley (centre), from the ADF Mobile Training Team, flies a drone with Sackrine Kaman (left) and Constable Junior Borenga (right) of the Vanuatu Police Force during the Public Affairs Course in Port Vila, Vanuatu. *Defence images.*

disaster management and response,” Major Lambert said.

A contingent of 22 ADF members, primarily from the Australian Army’s 7th Combat Brigade, formed the Mobile Training Team delivering the training to over 102 members from across the VPF.

Acting Commander Vanuatu Mobile Force Lieutenant Colonel Kalshem Bongran commented that the training was critical to supporting the Vanuatu Mobile Force and broader police force.

“This training has assisted in further developing the key skills and knowledge needed, including leadership and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief planning, to deliver key tasks outlined in Vanuatu’s National Security Strategy.

“This training is also an opportunity for VMF and ADF soldiers to work collaboratively and share their experiences and I am very proud of them,” said Lieutenant Colonel Bongran.

Commander Deployable Joint

Force Headquarters Major General Scott Winter said the training activity built on Australia and Vanuatu’s close partnership and friendship.

“We continue to work closely with Vanuatu to deepen our strong and long-standing security partnership, promoting our shared interests and connections between our people,” Major General Winter said.

“Partnered training opportunities like this enhance our ability to work with the VPF on future activities or potential operations in response to natural disasters, and complement other key Vanuatu-Australian security initiatives currently underway.”

These activities include the Cook and Tiroas Barracks Redevelopment, upgrades to RVS Mala Base Wharf, the Vanuatu Government National Emergency Radio Network and other training opportunities.

The health and safety of our ni-Vanuatu family remains the number one priority and all ADF members complied with Vanuatu and Australia’s COVID-19 protocols and measures during the deployment.



Vanuatu Police Force Corporal Jonathan Tebi conducts a casualty drag with Australian Army Sergeant Craig Cole during a battle physical training session.



# Box Hill Institute to deliver skills training for ADF

The Australian Department of Defence (DoD) has awarded a \$35.86m (A\$50m) contract to Victorian education and training provider Box Hill Institute.

Under this award, Box Hill Institute will deliver specialist skills training for Australia's Army, Air Force and Navy work force.

The education and training provider has signed a five-year contract extension to continue providing technical and trade training.

This training will be delivered through the Defence Command Support Training Centre (DCSTC).

DCSTC operates at several defence bases throughout Australia.

Australia Defence Industry Minister Melissa Price said: "We know that our sailors, soldiers and aviators must have the best training support available, both now and into the future.

"We are facing a deteriorating strategic environment where the challenges we face are constantly changing.

"This means our training must be cutting edge and adaptable to ensure we are ready to deal with the threats at hand, and I am extremely confident that this contract will ensure that happens.

"The Morrison Government is proud to invest in programmes that



Director General Training and Doctrine Brigadier Glenn Ryan, CSC and Bar (2nd from right), and the CEO of Box Hill Institute, Ms Vivienne King (3rd from left), with Army and Box Hill Institute personnel at Simpsons Barracks, Victoria. *Defence image.*

further strengthen defence's industry partnerships.

"The Box Hill Institute has considerable experience working hand-in-hand with military instructors and I am confident that it will continue to provide highly effective training."

About 35% of the trainees to receive the training are new to defence, while the remaining are current serving personnel returning for 'career development or progression training' in their trade.

According to a ADF statement, the contract will adapt to the future learning requirements of defence.

Furthermore, the new contract also includes music training for ADF musicians to generate the band capabilities of the three services.

Since 2014, the Box Hill Institute has been training the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army, Royal Australian Air Force, Australian Public Servants and other military members of foreign nations.



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# Australian warheads introduced into service

Sovereign sustainability has taken a leap, with No. 81 Wing accepting and successfully expending the first Australian manufactured BLU-111(AUS)B/B.

The 500lb high-explosive warhead was delivered to No. 3 Squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown last year, where it was configured by armament technicians as a Paveway II laser guided bomb before being loaded onto the F-35A Lightning II for a training sortie.

The BLU-111(AUS)B/B is designed as a direct replacement for the older-generation Mk82 500lb warheads, delivering comparable performance while improving safety characteristics.

AIR6000 Weapons Project Engineering Manager, Squadron Leader Ryan Kell said once fully introduced into service, the BLU-111(AUS)B/B would be used as the go-to 500lb high-explosive warhead for Air Force during operations and training exercises.

“The BLU-111(AUS)B/B is intended for use in both Paveway II laser guided bombs and the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) family of guided bombs,” Squadron Leader Kell said.

“The development and production of the BLU-111(AUS)B/B has been an ongoing collaboration between the United States Government, Defence and Australian industry, specifically the manufacturer, Australian Munitions.”

Sovereign production of the BLU-111(AUS)B/B commenced after the success of BLU-126(AUS)B, 500lb low-collateral bomb which first demonstrated Australian ability to produce reduced sensitivity warheads using locally manufactured ingredients for the explosive fill.

Squadron Leader Kell said a key benefit of sovereign production was the ability to continue improving safety



Armament Technician, Corporal Andrew Johnston from No. 3 Squadron, assembles a Guided Bomb Unit (GBU-12) using a new Australian manufactured Bomb Live Unit (BLU 111) at RAAF Base Williamtown. *Defence image.*

and performance of weapons to best meet Air Force’s needs.

“The design is based on the US manufactured BLU-111B/B, but has been tailored to meet Australian production methods while providing improved safety characteristics,” Squadron Leader Kell said.

“Aircraft bomb warheads have been produced in Australia for a number of decades, but the BLU-111(AUS)B/B warhead represents a generational change in explosives manufacture and safety technologies through use of a polymer-bonded explosive fill and design features which reduce the likelihood of the warhead detonating in the event of a safety incident.”

While initial use of the BLU-111(AUS)B/B is primarily by the F-35A, future use of the BLU-111(AUS)B/B is likely to extend beyond No. 81 Wing to include Hawk 127 lead-in fighter, F/A-18F Super Hornet and future

platforms such as the MQ-9B Sky Guardian, which will employ 500lb-class weapons.

Air Force Director Combat Capability, Group Captain Guy Adams said this warhead represents the next step in Australian defence industry supplying sovereign manufactured weapons for use by current and future air combat platforms.

“Having 500lb bombs produced in Australia increases our self-reliance and resilience of our air-combat platforms and the warfighting capability they provide,” Group Captain Adams said.

“As a future line of effort, the ability to act as a second line of supply to allied nations could see Australia providing warheads for use by allies during operations or training, which would greatly enhance international relationships and interoperability.”

By Flying Officer Bronwyn Marchant



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# My Peacekeeping Career

## Acting NT Representative Paul Walker



In 1996 I joined the Australian Army at 20 years old. In my last week at the 1st Recruit Training Battalion, I was selected to join the specialised field of electronic warfare (signals intelligence) as a result of prior aptitude tests in morse code. I graduated with a Signals Corps badge on my slouch hat, and the recipient of the Fifth Battalion 'Most Improved Soldier' Award. I then went to the ADF' Joint

Telecommunications School for a year-long training before posting to a field unit, the 7th Signals Regiment (EW).

During my time at the Regiment I went to Bougainville in 1998 on Operation Bel Isi as part of the Peace Monitoring Group at the end of its 10 year' civil war and truce with Papua New Guinea. In 1999 I became para-qualified to support SF regiments and the 3rd Parachute Battalion. By this time I had also learnt five languages and possessed highly specialised skills as a light electronic warfare operator. In August 2000 I went to East Timor on active service to Operation Tanager as part of the Peacekeeping Force under the United Nations Transitional Administration (UNTAET). It was an important period after the vote for independence by East Timor continuing on from earlier campaigns as a multinational force deployed to maintain stability in the region.

A few months into my deployment, on 1 December 2000 I was involved in a hostile contact with said militia,



Fatuklaran ET 2000.

playing a vital role in the evacuation of a fellow Australian soldier who was shot in the leg. This incident was known as "the ambush." It was a situation which counted on me making all the right decisions under great duress. Unknowingly this would change my life forever. You can read my recollection and 'Statement To Australian War Memorial' to be held in perpetuity. See [www.paulwalker.com.au/statement-to-australian-war-memorial](http://www.paulwalker.com.au/statement-to-australian-war-memorial)

In 2003 at 27 years old, I was medically discharged with PTSD and depression. Soon after I moved to Darwin to start a new life out of the military. I became a Customs and Border Force Officer at the Darwin International Airport but my mental health continued to severely impacted my work. I had no idea what I was dealing with. It was then that I really started to bury my head in the sand, I left there in 2005, moving away from uniform roles of which I'd known for so long.

Over the years since then, I had endeavoured to help others through community work. Today I speak



Paul Bougainville 1998.





Paul Bougainville 1998.



Paul East Timor 2000.



NORFORCE.



Paul, Clementino & Pedro - East Timor 2000.

to others from all walks of life about mental health. I began advocating awareness and breaking the stigma, casually sharing my personal insights into mental health from a military perspective with community groups and organisations, schools, and to our NORFORCE cadets in the Army Indigenous Development Program.

Most recently as “the occasional speaker” the importance of mental health advocacy has been acknowledged as a 2022 Australia Day Council NT Ambassador, 2022 Australian Of The Year Local Hero NT finalist, and 2021 NT Mental Health Week Coalition Awards ‘recognition for significant contribution to the mental health sector’ nominee. I believe in some ways that talking about my lived experiences has given me a renewed sense of purpose and meaning in my life. It has also motivated me to become a fundraiser for the Timor Leste Children’s Fund.



## Have you got a story

Contributions by way of articles and photographs are invited from readers of Peacekeeper in the interest of promoting the Association. Contributions should be sent to: editor Kris Milne by email at [communicationsmanager@peacekeeper.asn.au](mailto:communicationsmanager@peacekeeper.asn.au).

The APPVA reserves the right to edit all articles submitted for content, length or format.



# First in best prepared

Often the first to arrive during operations, Air Force's No. 37 Squadron is also now first to comply with new Defence-wide training regulations.

All Defence flying units are required to revise the training of their technicians under the new Defence Aviation Safety Regulation (DASR) 66/147 guidelines, which are closely aligned with internationally recognised standards.

In the past two years, No. 37 Squadron has revised the courseware it uses for training technicians to work on the C-130J Hercules transport aircraft.

In November 2021, No. 37 Squadron was the first Defence flying unit to be marked as compliant with DASR 66/147 regulations by the Defence Aviation and Safety Authority (DASA).

Commanding Officer No. 37

Squadron Wing Commander Anthony Kay said it was a great achievement for the squadron's Technical Training Flight.

"The introduction of DASR 66/147 compliance means we're producing graduates who are far more advanced in their skills when they are released into the squadron," Wing Commander Kay said.

"This will further improve an already high-performing maintenance system, translating into increased aircraft serviceability and enhanced airworthiness assurance that maintains safe outcomes.

"The transition to the new courseware was also carried out whilst maintaining the No. 37 Squadron training schedule, with no additional funding or personnel, and during the COVID-19 pandemic."

No. 37 Squadron has operated a fleet of 12 C-130J Hercules from

RAAF Base Richmond since 1999, and provides airlift support around the world.

"The squadron is relatively unique because it delivers its technical training with uniformed personnel for the whole maintenance workforce," Wing Commander Kay said.

"While the Hercules is a well-established platform for the squadron, Defence relies on us to sustain operations away from home, often at short notice and for sustained periods.

"Our away-base operations require a particularly proficient technical workforce, which this new courseware will help us to secure, well into the future."

The No. 37 Squadron Technical Training Flight instructs avionics technicians and aircraft technicians who have graduated from the RAAF School of Technical Training.

Avionics technicians complete



Avionics Technician, Aircraftwoman Chelsea West, furthers her studies in the No. 37 Squadron, Technical Training Flight, at RAAF Base Richmond, NSW. *Defence image.*



No. 37 Squadron Technical Training Flight at RAAF Base Richmond, NSW. *Defence image.*

a 13-week course to work on the C-130J Hercules, instructing them on the aircraft's electrical, avionics and defensive systems.

Aircraft technicians meanwhile undergo a 10-week course that qualifies them on the C-130J's engines, hydraulics and associated systems.

Prior to DASR 66/147 compliance, the courseware at No. 37 Squadron was entirely theoretical, with students completing practical elements as part of 'on the job' training after their graduation.

The new DASR 66/147 guidelines required the revised courseware to have at least 50 per cent 'practical on course' elements addressed.

Warrant Officer Wayne Francis, a Technical Training Flight Sections Commander with No. 37 Squadron, said the revised courseware now included 70 per cent all practical elements, and had used some innovative new methods to enhance the scope of technical training.

"The changes also required the creation of local instructions and

processes to meet new regulations," Warrant Officer Francis said.

"We've been able to include more practical elements within our training in the school house using 3D printing to create a broader scope of training aids."

The DASR 66/147 also requires technicians to be licenced to work on their respective aircraft type, bringing them closer into line with aircraft international licencing standards.

"Air Force did not have that before – you were just authorised by Defence to work on that specific aircraft type – whereas now, there's a licencing requirement for us to work on these aircraft," Warrant Officer Francis said.

After graduating, brand new technicians are required to complete a workbook that logs their experience with real-world maintenance tasks.

Warrant Officer Francis said there had been a lot of hard work conducted to get the new courseware delivered without interrupting courses over the past two years.

"Part of being the first is setting the standard for other units to follow, and

we're going to other Defence units now to show how we've made this transition," Warrant Officer Francis said.

**Eamon Hamilton**



Mr Damien Bowley, an instructor at No. 37 Squadron, Technical Training Flight, delivers a theory lesson to Air Force and Airbus students. *Defence image.*



# Courses back in WA a sign of the times

Army Reserve recruit and Specialist Service Officer (SSO) training was held in Western Australia for the first time in about two decades late last year.

The five-week recruit and nine-day SSO courses took place at 13 Bde's Irwin Barracks, rather than at Kapooka or Duntroon, across November and December.

Almost 50 trainees started on the part-time recruit course, which included range days at Campbell Barracks and field phases in Bindoon.

Rec Matthew Randall, a rowing coach and university student from Perth, said the first week was a bit of a shock.

"It was all about never being idle, doing everything to the best of your abilities and looking after your mates," Rec Randall said.

The last WA-based general entry reserve recruit courses were run in the late 1990s, before training was centralised at Kapooka.

With continuing border closures, Army needed to build greater training resilience by offering alternative options, such as regional or remote learning.

This aimed to reduce travel time, optimise time on the tools and time with family – elements driving transformation to help future-proof the system.

Rec Randall will now become a cavalry scout with 10LHR after completing his training close to home.

"Having the flexibility to do recruit training in WA and not have to account for the two weeks of quarantine, meant a lot more people were able to make the course," he said.

A trainee on the SSO course was Lt Mike Salib, whose first encounter with Army was when soldiers evacuated him and others from the path of Cyclone Trevor in 2019.

His experience with the soldiers and aviators involved was front of mind when he saw an email at his civilian workplace promoting job opportunities with Army.



Specialist Service Officer course trainees conduct weapon familiarisation training. *Defence image.*

A technical engineer and project superintendent for BHP, he was interested in a more hands-on role in Army and joined as a civil engineer officer.

"There are a lot of expansions going on with 13 Bde and there's a shortage of people in Kalgoorlie where I'll parade," Lt Salib said.

"It's great that I can contribute to reducing their workload."

The SSO module introduced part-time officers to military life, with physical training in the morning and classes during the day.

"Coming from a civilian life, doing marching and drill was a bit of a struggle because I'm nearly 40 and I was a bit shy with saluting at first," he said.

Lt Salib is set to attend RMC in Canberra next year to finish his training.

"My management line within BHP supports the training requirements associated with this program, as I'll take away a lot from Army as well – it's a winwin situation," he said.

The Reserve courses were trialled in WA as part of a Future Ready Workforce initiative, aimed at testing ways to enhance the part-time workforce.

In addition to providing regional and bespoke training options, the

SSO trial in particular was about fast-tracking recruitment through partnering with industry.

Total Workforce Manager – WA Maj Sylvia Anstee spoke with all 155 people who initially expressed interest in taking part in the courses.

With vacancies in critical skills and other trades looming, she said Army benefited from gaining qualified people, such as Lt Salib.

"The BHP partnership with Army is a new way of exploring and growing capability focused on what we can do better to attract professionals to 13 Bde and Army," Maj Anstee said.

"If someone has a skill set in the civilian world, how can we use their skill set and experience in Army?"

BHP Defence liaison Amanda Negus described the partnership as a "great collaborative success".

"BHP values the additional skills that this opportunity provides its employees," Ms Negus said.

"Our emergency management teams are bolstered by having a group of employees within our workforce that are Defence-trained."

Ms Negus said based on the success in WA, they hoped to expand the program to BHP Queensland, with 6 Bde supporting training across Bowen Basin sites.

**Maj Megan McDermott**

# Living the dream as a UNICEF Ambassador

When Corporal Kbora Ali first encountered blue-clad UNICEF workers handing out school supplies, she saw a future role for herself.

Her family fled Afghanistan to Pakistan when she was two, but they didn't finally reach Australia until Corporal Ali was nine.

"We'd always refer to UNICEF as the 'Australians' or the 'foreign people' who've come to help us," she said.

"But as I got older, I realised where they were from."

Almost 20 years – and an Australian Army career – later, Corporal Ali will soon don a blue shirt as a UNICEF Young Ambassador.

"People tend to say they're 'living the dream' loosely, but when you actually get to live it, it's a phenomenal feeling. Especially when it's something you've wanted to do for so long," she said.

After excelling in school, Corporal

Ali joined the Australian Army as a Gap Year recruit in 2016.

"We had to flee our motherland. Australia welcomed us and now we're citizens, and, as citizens, we have a duty to do what we can," she said.

Normally an Army clerk, Corporal Ali recently worked as an interpreter on Operation COVID-19 Assist helping those Hazara community members evacuated from Afghanistan in the second half of last year to stay informed about COVID-19.

"When you come to a foreign country, you always look for a familiar face or someone who can understand you," she said.

"One day I was talking to a girl on the phone and we both started crying because we realised we both had a similar journey."

Corporal Ali came to prominence when she was featured in the Australian Women's Weekly and on

SBS as the first Afghan woman to join the Australian Army.

"I think a lot of Hazaras I talked to knew who I was because of the SBS interview. They never questioned the role I was in. They'd say, 'Oh, I know about you'."

Corporal Ali repeatedly checked the UNICEF Australia website, waiting for Young Ambassador applications to open.

Not being able to sleep one night while on Operation COVID-19 Assist, she checked again, saw applications were open and spent the next day applying.

UNICEF Australia Young Ambassadors meet with children, find out what matters them and then raise these issues with Australia's key leaders in Canberra.

The program started in November 2021, with face-to-face training beginning in February.

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# Prehospital Interventions to Improve Outcomes from Traumatic Brain Injury

Ben Bobrow, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston

## What is Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

TBI occurs when external mechanical forces impact the head and cause either an acceleration or deceleration of the brain within the cranial vault. TBI is a leading cause of death and disability and approximately 5.3 million affected Americans require long-term assistance with their daily activities<sup>1</sup>. TBI occurs as a primary brain injury at the time of injury and can also have a secondary brain injury component occurring in the minutes and hours following the primary injury<sup>2</sup>. Early goals to resuscitating the injured brain include:

1. Avoiding and rapidly correcting hypoxia: Over 55% of patients with TBI suffer from prehospital hypoxia while more than 50% of patients suffer from hypoxia before or during intubation<sup>3,4</sup>. Hypoxia can be critical as multiple studies have shown that a single non-spurious oxygen saturation of less than 90% is independently associated with doubling of mortality<sup>4</sup>
2. Avoiding and rapidly treating hypotension: Data from multiple studies have shown that a single episode of systolic blood pressure (SBP) decreasing to less than 90 is independently associated with at least a doubling of mortality<sup>5</sup>
3. Avoiding or rapidly correcting hyperventilation: Hypocapnia with end tidal carbon dioxide (ETCO<sub>2</sub>) less than 30 millimetre of mercury (mmHg) occurs in two thirds of cases while ETCO<sub>2</sub> less than 25mmHg occurs in remaining cases<sup>6</sup>.

## Excellence in Prehospital Injury Care (EPIC)

The EPIC project was a statewide collaboration with more than 130 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) throughout Arizona, United States of America. The project collected and linked prehospital and hospital outcome data on approximately 22,000 major TBI cases and conducted studies that measured the incidence of TBI and

process of care to determine the impact of the prehospital TBI guidelines.<sup>7</sup> The EPIC project resulted in approximately 93% of TBIs state-wide receiving care by EMS agencies that were trained and certified in the EPIC protocol<sup>7</sup>. The project had 600 master trainers state-wide with over 11,000 trained prehospital providers that were trained in aggressively preventing and treating hypoxia, hypotension, and hyperventilation<sup>7</sup>. Project requirements included TBI guideline training for trainers, implementing guideline-based treatment approaches, and providing prehospital data<sup>7</sup>.

## EPIC Project Design

The study had three phases, phase 1(P1) preimplementation, phase 2 (P2) training (initiation to completion), and phase 3 (P3) postimplementation. Using data from the Arizona State Trauma Registry with data on patients treated at level 1 trauma centres (TCs), electronic and paper-based records from included patients between January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2015 were collected<sup>5</sup>. Patients were included in the study based on the following criteria<sup>7</sup>:

1. Transported directly to or transferred to a TC
2. Diagnosis consistent with TBI
3. Met at least 1 of the definitions of United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Baresell Matrix-Type 1<sup>8,9</sup>
4. Abbreviated Injury Scale Score (ISS)-Head of at least 3

## EPIC Project Treatment Protocol

The EPIC project treatment protocol included the following steps<sup>7</sup>:

1. Treatment of hypoxia by administering high flow oxygen early (at 15 litres/min through non-rebreather masks). Hypoxic patients with oxygen saturation of less than 90mmHg received assisted bag-valve-mask (BVM) ventilation at 10 beats per minute

(bpm), and intubation was only done if BVM was inadequate, high risk of respiration, or if the patient was on air transport to far from a TC.

2. Prevention of hyperventilation through rapid identification and aggressive treatment. While the guidelines indicate SBP less than 90mmHg, in the EPIC project, intravenous crystalloids were administered if SBP approached 90mmHG or was trending downward. This treatment would be continued until SBP increased over 90mmHg. To avoid hyperventilation, a ventilation-emergency medical technician was assigned to monitor ventilation rates. Target ventilation rates were:
  - a. Adults over 15 years of age - 10 bpm
  - b. Children between 2 - 14 years of age - 20bpm
  - c. Infants - 25 bpm
3. Avoidance and treatment of hypotension by infusing isotonic fluids<sup>10</sup>

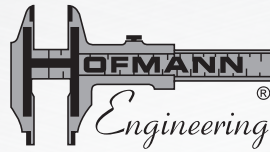
## EPIC Project Results

The study cohort had 21,852 patients who met the inclusion criteria for the project with 15,228 patients cared for by agencies in P1 and 6,624 cared for by agencies in P3<sup>7</sup>. Patients included in the study were 70% with severe TBI ISS 3-4, 20% critical TBI ISS 5-6, and 10% moderate TBI ISS 1-2<sup>7</sup>.

The primary analysis showed an adjusted odds ratio (aOR) of 1.70 (95% confidence interval (CI), 1.38-2.09; P < .001) for survival to admission and an aOR of 1.06 (95% CI, 0.93-1.21) for survival to discharge which was nonsignificant (p=.40)<sup>7</sup>.

Meanwhile, the secondary analysis showed the effects of intervention on survival in different injury categories such as moderate, severe, and critical TBI. It was found that in patients with severe TBI, the odds of survival to hospital discharge doubled (Figure 1a)<sup>7</sup>. Patients with severe TBI that required positive ventilation had 3.5 times higher odds of survival to





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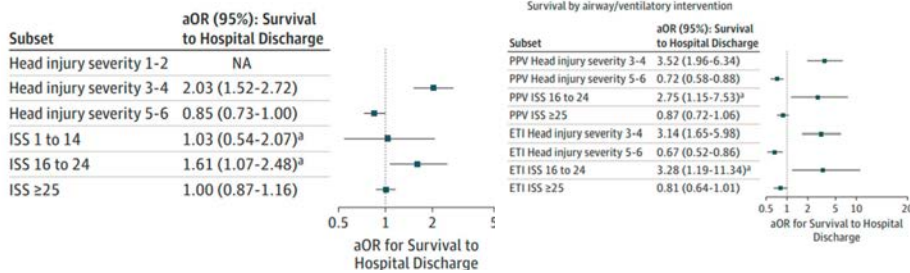


Figure 1a(left) and 1b(right) showing secondary analysis results of EPIC study. (Image on left) patients with severe TBI had twice the odds of survival to hospital discharge and (image on right) patients with severe TBI that required positive pressure ventilation had 3.5 times the odds of survival to hospital discharge<sup>7</sup>.

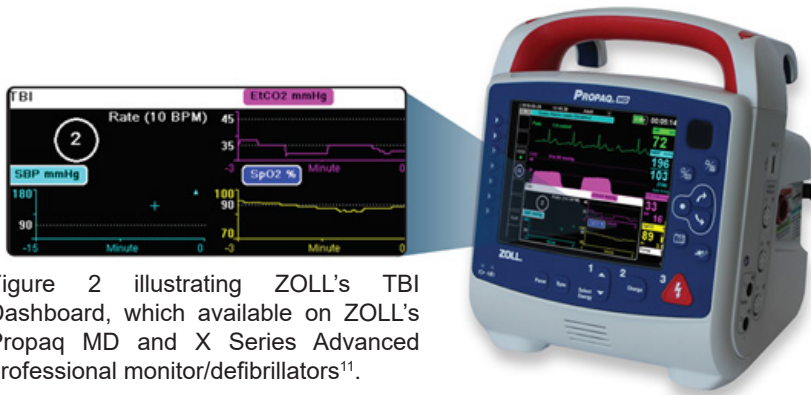


Figure 2 illustrating ZOLL's TBI Dashboard, which available on ZOLL's Propaq MD and X Series Advanced professional monitor/defibrillators<sup>11</sup>.

hospital discharge as seen in Figure 1b<sup>7</sup>. This showed that implementing the prehospital TBI treatment guidelines was beneficial and results in the tripling of survivors for the severely injured TBI cohort<sup>7</sup>.

Implementation of the EPIC project was also associated with the following:

1. Lower rate of intubation
2. Greater hypoxia reversal
3. Greater likelihood of receiving a fluid bolus patients that were hypotensive and near-hypotensive
4. Lower rate of hypocapnia

### Conclusion of EPIC Project

EPIC found that when prehospital providers implemented the TBI guidelines, it was not associated with improved overall survival rates for moderate, severe, and critical TBI<sup>7</sup>. However, in patients with severe TBI, survival rates doubled while in those with severe TBI who received positive pressure ventilation or intubation, survival rates tripled<sup>7</sup>. This prehospital intervention holds tremendous promise to improve TBI patient outcomes.

[www.epic.arizona.edu](http://www.epic.arizona.edu)

ZOLL's TBI Dashboard on the X Series® Advanced monitor/defibrillators, as seen in Figure 2, is able to support effective management and quick treatment of TBI patients<sup>11</sup>. ZOLL's TBI Dashboard allows medics to have access to real-time display of comprehensive data on hypoxia, hypotension, and hyperventilation which enables them to make appropriate medical decisions to treat each patient<sup>7,12</sup>. The TBI Dashboard also triggers an alarm as threshold levels for hypoxia, hypotension, and hypotension are reached and again if they are crossed to help medics provide timely care to patients<sup>11</sup>. In addition, ZOLL's Real BVM Help can also assist medics to provide real-time audio and visual feedback on BVM parameters to ensure that patients are not over-ventilated as ventilation is a component of TBI management<sup>13</sup>. Subsequently, the feedback obtained can be used in post-event briefings to improve the quality of care provided to TBI patients.

The webinar was very informative and shared the value of the EPIC project and the results obtained from it. It also

showed how ZOLL's X Series Advanced professional monitor/defibrillator, which features a dashboard for managing TBI, along with real-time audiovisual feedback on BVM ventilation, can better support pre-hospital EMS personnel in managing TBI patients. A recording of the webinar may be found here: <https://vimeo.com/539351134/4a4a47accf>.

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# The vital role of Mates4Mates clinical services for veterans impacted by service

Mates4Mates is actively changing lives, one connection at a time. They provide a way forward for current and ex-serving Defence Force members and their families experiencing service-related physical injuries, mental health issues and isolation.

Support and recovery looks different to everyone, and Mates4Mates offers many pathways through their holistic clinical services. Last year, over 7,600 individual appointments were made with Mates4Mates psychologists and exercise physiologists, improving the mental and physical health of the Australian Defence Force community.

Targeting all aspects of health and wellbeing is important for recovery. A **Mates4Mates psychologist** can provide a safe, non-judgmental space for Defence Force members and their family members to share and be heard through a variety of evidence-based therapies that can make a real difference. For those living with an acute or chronic injury, a **Mates4Mates exercise physiologist** can provide tailored exercise programs to offer further support through recovery.

With face-to-face and telehealth appointments available, a Medicare or DVA referral will provide a veteran or family member impacted by service access to a Mates4Mates psychologist or exercise physiologist.

The Mates4Mates clinical **Skills for Recovery Programs** have also been designed to provide veterans and their families with opportunities to develop relevant skills and strategies that will help them better manage their health and wellbeing now, and into the future. Facilitated



by a member of their clinical team, each program is offered in a safe and inclusive environment for participants to connect with others.

The Skills for Recovery Programs are offered at various times throughout the year, as well as at different locations across Australia, including occasionally online, ensuring that accessibility isn't a problem for those in need of support.

For support or to find out more information about the clinical services and the online and in-person Skills for Recovery programs available at Mates4Mates, reach out today. Call **1300 462 837** or visit **mates4mates.org**.

## \$3.5 million on offer to ex-service and community organisations through *Saluting Their Service* grants

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the Australian Government had committed an extra \$10 million to the ongoing program, offering more support for more organisations.

"The *Saluting Their Service* program has seen hundreds of worthy projects across Australia funded in recent years, to help local communities pay tribute to Australians who have served during wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations," Minister Gee said.

"Almost every city or town I travel to has some form of memorial, shrine or commemorative project, and many have received funding through our different grants programs.

"The *Saluting Their Service* program ensures Australia's wartime history is preserved and the sacrifice of those who have served is remembered.

"I strongly encourage all those passionate community

groups right around the country to check the guidelines and see if they have a local project eligible for a *Saluting Their Service* grant."

"Funding is available to support a wide range of projects, from new memorials and refurbishment costs, to exhibitions, digital resources and publications."

*Saluting Their Service* is a national grants program. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for community-based commemorative projects and activities, while Major Grants up to \$150,000 are for initiatives that are significant from a national, state, territory or regional perspective.

The 2022-23 *Saluting Their Service* Program opens on 9 February. Assessment of applications is divided into three batches: applications submitted between 9 February and 9 June 2022; between 10 June and 11 October 2022; and between 12 October 2022 and 7 February 2023.

**[www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants](http://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants)**



# Association of Veteran Surfers – North Coast and our Association with the APPVA

This is the story of my journey that began when I found that younger veteran membership to, and active volunteer engagement with community associations was falling. It is my journey and the determination of other veterans which has seen the Association of Veteran Surfers - North Coast buck the trend as our membership grows. It's a journey that has seen me become a member of the APPVA, and this is significant because I never felt I would join a major ex-service organisation.

I don't surf but was asked by Hunter-Coast AVS President Phil Overton if I knew a surfing veteran that would be interested in starting a chapter in my location, the far north coast of NSW. I looked around and could see a need to fill a social support gap in the local contemporary veteran community who had nothing to bring them together. Surfing, ocean-based therapy and family friendly social engagement and activities are the conduit or the catalyst for the more important mission of reducing suicide and supporting each other through the battles we often face alone when transitioning from defence. Based on my own lived experience of a medical discharge with PTSD and depression from the ADF I felt I had something to offer.



I agreed to at least try and with the help of now Vice President Luke Stewart, who, with a massive amount of humility shelved his own similar organisation "Coastal Veterans" to make this happen. We also had a lot of help from Rachel Kerrigan of Invictus Australia. Nine months later and despite Covid we are a registered charity, have about a dozen members physically active and engaged members, and 66 online vetted

group members. We have developed a supportive network of veterans ranging in age from 20 years old to over 60.

I started becoming associated with the APPVA in 2011 because it was doing a lot to recognise contemporary ADF operations. I don't always agree with the position taken by the APPVA, but I am not going to disassociate from a group just because I don't agree. It's healthy to have alternative points of view for balance because we all know what organisations of "yes men" can do.

What has really impressed me about the APPVA was that on a Friday I alerted The Vice Chairman, Ian Lindgren about a serving veteran in a vulnerable mental health position. Ian and Chairman Rob Woods went in to assist the serving veteran at the highest levels in DVA and the ADF, and by the following Tuesday the situation was resolved. Neither I nor the serving veteran were members of the APPVA. This is totally different approach to other ESOs and I know that advocacy for younger veterans



is not just something that APPVA leaders such as Ian Lindgren and Kris Milne talk about. They talk the talk and walk the walk and will be “followed” for being a true advocates.

I like that management members of APPVA have reached out for actual engagement with myself and the younger veterans I represent. Most recently the APPVA provided financial assistance to AVS – North Coast for our Australia Day BBQ. This was greatly appreciated as it allowed us to have another reason to gather, have a laugh about those things only veterans and their families would understand.

I still can't surf but somehow am the president and a director of a veterans surfing charity. I benefit from the feel good chemicals I get when I can actually help a veterans in need, and they help me just the same way when I'm having a bad day. Tim Dalli. President AVS – North Coast and APPVA member.

All photos have been supplied by Taylah Wallace - AWOL Photography. [www.facebook.com/AWOL2939/](http://www.facebook.com/AWOL2939/).



## How much should you insure your house for?

If the worst happened, would you have enough home insurance cover to start from scratch? This is particularly important for those Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and veterans living in areas such as northern Australia, which are at high risk of cyclones and other natural catastrophes.

If you don't, you're not alone. Most Australians have inadequate protection, with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission stating that up to 80% of homeowners are underinsured.

Eligible veterans and serving personnel can now receive an online quote for their home building insurance through DSH Insurance's online quoting tool and check if they are underinsured or can compare rates with their existing policy.

The tool helps customers determine how much their home

be insured for, reducing their risk of underinsurance in the event of an unforeseen incident. This new online tool will help remove some of the stress that can be associated with this important risk assessment - providing accurate estimates in minutes.

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DSH Insurance is committed to putting ADF members, veterans and their families first. We offer no excess on claims (other than for earthquake and some accidental damage) including flexible payment options not offered by many. Plus, we'll repair your home if it's damaged or destroyed by an incident we cover including temporary accommodation for those covered incident should your home become



unliveable while being repaired.

Administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), DSH Insurance doesn't exist to make a profit, but rather the revenue generated from premiums is invested back into DSH Insurance. This allows DSH Insurance to provide high quality insurance products and services at a competitive price.

For more information on **DSH Insurance products**, visit [www.dsh.gov.au/insurance](http://www.dsh.gov.au/insurance) or call 1300 552 662.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

# 1999: Australian Peacekeepers secure Dili

First published in *The Age* on September 21, 1999

## Troops get a grip on Dili

### In hostile territory, but not a shot fired in anger

Dili, Monday - The thugs disappeared quickly from Dili's streets. When the first Australian soldiers arrived today in full combat dress, their rifles at the ready, the militiamen pretended they were the very refugees they had terrorised for weeks.

Some of the killers, rapists and looters walked in small groups along debris-strewn streets waving at the Australians who began arriving shortly after dawn in huge cargo planes from Townsville and Darwin in what will probably become Australia's most significant military operation since World War II.

But the militia no longer carried the rifles given to them by the Indonesian armed forces or brandished their machetes, knives or home-made pistols. A couple were confronted by heavily armed New Zealand soldiers on Dili's docks but handed over their pistols without argument.

"They are basically cowards," said Irish journalist Robert Carroll, who has spent the past nine days hiding in Dili and the town's surrounding mountains. "They ran away when real soldiers arrived."

The night before, the militia had emptied their rifles into the air as they had every night since the United Nations announced that 78.5 per cent of eligible East Timorese rejected Indonesia's rule and voted to become the world's newest independent state. They set alight or trashed the few buildings still habitable in the town, from which 70,000 people have fled.

But as hundreds of foreign troops arrived, tense and ready for action,



Australian peacekeeping soldiers keep a watch as East Timorese refugees are moved from Dili Airport to the safe haven of the stadium in Dili. AP POOL.

the bullies disappeared and the fires were burning themselves out.

Major Chip Henriss-Anderssen, of Townsville's Third Brigade, said when he arrived this morning on Dili's wharf that genuine refugees appeared frightened and remained in small groups.

"But after a while they came up, one or two at a time, and shook our hands," he said. "The little kids were saying, 'Hey mister!' Perhaps after a while we will be able to teach them to say 'G'day'."

The scene at Dili's airport today was surreal. Shortly after dawn, crack Special Air Service troops based in Perth were among the first Australians to arrive in screaming Hercules planes. They ran across the dusty tarmac, securing the perimeter. But waiting and watching were a few dozen Indonesian soldiers, representatives of a humiliated, embittered force that is leaving East Timor in disgrace.

Indonesia has never in its history suffered so great a humiliation: the world's fourth most populous nation, rejected by people who had suffered 24 years of repression, most of whom are now homeless and still living in terror.

The few dozen Indonesian soldiers who stayed around to watch wave after wave of soldiers arrive didn't seem too fussed. Asked about the destruction and looting, one said: "This incident happened before we arrived." He declined further comment.

Major-General Peter Cosgrove, the Australian commander of the multinational Peacekeeping force, described the reception his soldiers received as "benign".

"We have had a cordial reception from the TNI (Indonesian armed forces)," General Cosgrove said.

Nobody mentioned the fact that it was the Indonesian armed forces who through their proxy militias have destroyed most of what Indonesia





CPL Ian 'Bones' Brady in front of a Rhodesian anti-mine vehicle Nissan 'Puma'

claimed was its 27th province, and stood by and watched mass killings and almost unbelievable atrocities.

General Cosgrove was not underestimating the risks as more than 1000 of his troops sat under the few trees with shade at the airport. "It is still, from my point of view, a very risky environment beyond the sight of the nearest Australian soldier," he said.

I was among a group of 40 journalists who were ordered not to leave the airport after we arrived from Darwin in a crammed Hercules.

The first soldiers who went into the now wrecked departure lounge found the place smeared with excrement. Red and white banners, the colours of Indonesia's flag, still hang outside the airport's VIP lounge, one of the few buildings in Dili not wrecked.

Tonight we will be escorted under armed guard to the Turismo, the waterfront hotel from which many of us fled in fear of our lives. The place is trashed but we will set up a makeshift

camp in the mosquito-infested garden where only a couple of weeks ago Australia's former Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Tim Fischer, and an Australian delegation of ballot observers sat and enjoyed cold beers and talked confidently of the birth of a new nation.

There is some good news, though. The UN compound where we spent six long and scared days before being evacuated has not been burnt and much of the UN's equipment is untouched.

But a UN official who has been staying at the fortified Australian consulate, not far from the airport, said: "It's a pretty horrific picture, overall. There are thousands of people dying up in the hills without food or water. They need urgent help. There is nothing left in the town for people to return to."

Robert Carroll, the Irish journalist, said he has seen young children with bloated stomachs and families

with nothing to eat but small portions of rice. "People have been told the Peacekeepers are coming but they don't believe anything any more," he said.



Lieutenant Ivana Gorlin, the first female Australian Black Hawk Pilot. *Defence image.*





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- Pop down to the **Lagoon Bar** and relax on the deck, or if you're staying with us, make the most of the swim-up bar and rooms! You won't need to leave the water to enjoy the laidback tropical atmosphere!  
To find out more about Darwin's ultimate entertainment destination, visit [mindilbeachcasinoresort.com.au](http://mindilbeachcasinoresort.com.au) or search [@mindilbeachresort](https://www.instagram.com/mindilbeachresort) on social media.

# UN will use technology and medical capacity to improve Peacekeeping

At the Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial December 7, ministers from around the world would discuss the technology and medical capacity building of UN Peacekeeping.

The gathering in Korea of more than 700 people from 155 countries, including foreign and defense ministers, heads of international organizations, academics, and journalists.

The two-day event is the latest in a series of meetings at the head of State, Government or ministerial level since 2014. The last was held in 2019 in New York.

Speaking to journalists, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, said that peacekeepers "are facing increasingly daunting challenges."

"They need support from the Secretariat and they need support from our Member States and that's really what we expect from the Seoul meeting", he explained.

Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support Atul Khare, added that the complex environments in which the missions operate require creative and agile solutions.

"Technology can make our missions and camps 'smarter,' more integrated, efficient, effective, safer and allow for end-to-end service delivery and operational support while minimizing environmental footprint", he explained.

In this area, the Ministerial will draw on the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping.

Technology can also help provide timely and quality medical care to peacekeepers.

"We have made important progress in addressing the gaps in medical support in peacekeeping missions, but much more needs to be done", Khare said.

During the event, he expects



Member States to contribute to several initiatives, such as a new Casualty Tracking System, a Mental Health Strategy for uniformed personnel, and a Public Health Surveillance System.

Women, Peace, and Security, which has been a key focus of previous Ministerial meetings, will have a dedicated side event.

The Under-Secretary-General highlighted the "urgency" of accelerating this agenda, saying "gender parity is a non-negotiable priority, and it's more than a numbers issue".

"There is abundant evidence that shows how women's participation improves peacekeeping performance", he explained.

As reducing the carbon footprint of peacekeeping missions is a key environmental objective, Mr. Khare hopes to see Member States discuss opportunities to curtail its impact.

Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance Catherine Pollard pointed to efforts that would strengthen the accountability of peacekeepers.

Against the backdrop that the UN lives with the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse wherever it operates, she described it as "one of the most serious issues of accountability" for the Organization, adding that it is "a particularly insidious breach of trust to

those we are mandated to serve and protect".

Pollard said that the UN will recall to Member States, techniques to manage exploitation risks, including by training commanders who will be deployed in the field.

"We will particularly use the occasion of the Ministerial to advance our approach to addressing paternity and child support claims that arise from allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, which are difficult claims with very human consequences", she stated.

The event is a follow-up conference to the UN Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in 2015, which was co-hosted by former President of the United States Barack Obama and former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

UN Peacekeeping helps countries torn apart by conflict to create conditions for lasting peace.

Its unique strengths include legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe – integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates.

**Over the past 70 years, more than one million men and women have served under the UN flag in more than 70 UN peacekeeping operations. — UN News**



# Hanwha Defense to help transform Australian artillery

The South Korean defence company will provide custom-made AS9 howitzers to the Australian Army. Norbert Neumann talks to Hanwha Defense about the details of the contract.

Hanwha Defense Australia signed a contract to supply the Australian Army with its Huntsman AS9 self-propelled artillery system. The ₩932bn (\$785m) contract was announced earlier in December by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in in Canberra.

Hanwha Defense is the first Asian prime contractor succeeding in a major Australian defence bid. The deal is part of Defence project Land 8115 phase 1, an effort that will see the acquisition of 30 AS9 Huntsman and 15 AS10 armoured resupply vehicles.

The vehicles will be manufactured at a new Hanwha facility that is set to be constructed in Victoria, Australia. The new vehicles will contribute to the transformation of the Australian Army's artillery capability. Hanwha Defense Australia managing director Richard Cho tells us more.

**Norbert Neumann:** This is the first major defence acquisition by Australia from an Asian defence contractor. How important is this project for Hanwha Defense?

**Richard Cho:** The win is key in our developing approach to be more actively involved in the Five Eyes community. It will also position Australia to have a greater role in the Global K9 supply chain. We also envisage working closely with the Australian Army to add additional capabilities to the platform, such as automated logistics and networked UGS support systems.

**The AS9 Huntsman was specially developed for Australia. How does the AS9 differ from the South Korean K9 and the K9 that**



The AS9 Huntsman, the Australian version of the K9 self-propelled howitzer. *Hanwha Defense.*

## Norway uses? Why were these modifications necessary?

The AS9 is the fourth-generation SPH based on the venerable K9 pedigree. The K9 and K9A1 (General one and two respectively) were for the Republic of Korean Army. The third-generation was the K9 Vidar for Norway and NATO.

The differentiators of the Huntsman are an increased protection package for both active and passive systems such as, configurable kinetic energy systems, upgraded mine-blast protection, mobile camouflage systems and hybrid slat fencing to name a few.

The self-protection is enhanced through greater digital situation awareness systems and a remote weapon station, and the mobility capabilities are upgraded to accommodate the increased mass.

Perhaps the greatest difference between first and fourth Generation K9s is the digitisation of the platform from the command, control,

communications, computers and intelligence architecture through to the overall situational awareness, which further enables crew operations.

The Huntsman FOV is also joined by the C2 variant accommodating eight command post operators who can comfortably stand in the back whilst working and enjoy the same protection and mobility characteristic of the rest of the SPH battery. This new variant is built upon the AS10 armoured ammunition resupply vehicles chassis.

## Why is the AS9 Huntsman the best choice for the Australian Defence Force?

The K9 and K10 fleets are now one of the most widely used and operationally proven systems in the world. The K9 has gone head-to-head with the world's best SPH systems and has proven itself over and over again. Australia will benefit from the extensive global user community and significant upgrade and development pathway that has been set for the

fleet. The K9 and K10 set of vehicles represent a systems approach to the high operational rates of fire and agility that modern indirect fire systems need to survive on the modern battlefield in a peer-on-peer engagement.

**The construction of the new Hanwha factory in Australia is set to begin in 2022. Will the factory use local or South Korean workforce mainly? Why is it needed to build a new facility instead of using existing ones?**

The factory is a key part of the HDA plan to create a sovereign and self-reliant Armoured vehicles business in Australia. The workforce will be Australian based and will utilise an Australian based supply chain with select integration with some of our key technology partners. As an example, we have already positioned a key Australian supplier to work with a South Korean-based company for the supply of parts into the South Korean Army supply and upgrade programmes.

To achieve this, and also to support our ambitions to grow

the company both globally and in Australia, a new purpose-built facility was essential. The facility will house a research and development (R&D) centre, a training centre, a systems integration laboratory, and room to accommodate our growing Australian and international business partners who choose to locate with us.

We have created an Industry Development Unit which will coordinate activities across workforce skilling, growing Australian industry capability, and engaging with Australian R&D institutions, to ensure we have a viable and long-term approach to advanced manufacturing in Australia.

**The production of the AS9 Huntsman will begin at the end of 2024. When do you expect to start delivering the howitzers and when do you expect to deliver the last of the 30 AS9 vehicles?**

The first AS9s are scheduled to be delivered to the Commonwealth in the second quarter of 2025. These initial vehicles will then be subject to a rigorous acceptance process before

they are introduced into service. The last of the AS9 vehicles are scheduled to be delivered to the Commonwealth in the second quarter of 2027.

**Is Hanwha Defense planning to contribute to the Defence project Land 8116 in any other ways?**

We have already begun to develop a set of automation proposals for consideration by the Australian Army. We are also working to ensure that the Australian Army get the full benefit of any future work we do for any other customer. We plan to ensure that in the medium- to long-term we are positioned to offer the advantages of AI and automation across the full set of requirements for Joint Fires. We are working on this in the areas of logistics, counter-crewed aircraft systems, local protection and digitisation upgrades with our partners. We intend to be fully involved with the SPH howitzer capability for the life of the type of the programme and all other phases.

**Norbert Neumann**  
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Australian Army soldiers from the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, stand with Hanwha Defence Australia Redback Infantry fighting vehicle (left) and Rheinmetall Lynx KF4 Infantry Fighting Vehicle (right), during user evaluation trials at Puckapunyal, Victoria. *Defence image.*





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# Teamwork pays dividends for most improved

LAC Nicholas Catling is building a special relationship with his Belgian malinois military working dog Ben.

The pair was awarded the most improved team of Basic MWD Handler Course 0016 at the RAAFSFS, RAAF Base Amberley, in November.

“The bonding we enjoyed and the most-improved award were not all my doing,” LAC Catling said.

“I was surprised and happy that I was chosen to receive the award and grateful that our hard work – Ben’s and mine – was recognised.

“We’re only at the early stages after the course and my goal in the coming months is for us to progress with Ben so that we can excel in our role and we’re both fully deployable.”

LAC Catling grew up in Redcliffe on Brisbane’s bayside where he attended St Patrick’s College in Shorncliffe and played as a junior for the Redcliffe Dolphins Rugby League Club.

He joined the Air Force in 2019 after being prompted to investigate career opportunities in Defence by a friend who was joining the Navy.

“None of my family have been in the Defence force, but I looked into what Defence had to offer because of my mate’s experience joining the Navy,” he said.

“I joined as Air Force security and, when I was posted to Perth, I got to meet a lot of dog handlers and saw what their job entailed so I chose to specialise as a dog handler.

“I grew up with dogs as part of the family. “My uncle had many dogs and my mum also kept smaller dogs – I’m definitely not a cat person.

“But what stood out for me was the way dog handlers not only had to uphold and take responsibility for themselves, but also for their dogs, who they had to train and maintain every day. “Bonding with your dog isn’t



something that happens overnight and, although Ben and I started bonding on the course, I’m very new to the role and that’s something we’ll be working on now at 3SECFOR at RAAF Base Pearce.”

# Paws to keep memories alive

RAAF Dog Handlers Association members Ray Thomas and Kim Hodgeo add another member’s name to the RAAF Dog Handlers Association wall of remembrance at the RAAF Security and Fire School, RAAF Base Amberley. Photo: LACW Emma Schwenke

CO RAAFSFS WGCDCR Craig Nielsen, Patron of the RAAF Dog Handlers Association (RDHA) GPCAPT Guy Burton, members of the RDHA, SFS staff and graduates of the basic MWD course session 0016 all attended the unveiling of the wall on November 24, 2021.

WGCDCR Nielsen said the wall was a fitting tribute to former dog handlers.

“The wall features paw prints with the names of fallen military dog handlers engraved inside and is a fitting tribute to the companionship experienced by dog handlers with their respective dogs throughout their careers,” WGCDCR Nielsen said.

Located in the foyer of the school’s training building, the remembrance



wall is the culmination of four years’ work by former president of the RDHA and military working dog handler of 25 years, Ray Thomas.

“The remembrance wall replaces a board we used to have that was running out of space with a permanent honour that will be there for years to come,” Mr Thomas said.

“Handlers form a strong bond with their dogs over the years and I have great memories of Sabre and Chan,

both of the dogs I worked with during my years in the field.

“Patrolling the flightline during the night, there’s just your dog for company, so you become really good mates. “You can tell your dog absolutely anything and it’ll even smile at a bad joke. “I’m grateful for the work of FLTLT Portia Cooper and SQN WOFF Steven Voll for helping us realise this project.”

FLTLT Julia Ravell



# Relics Reimagined

**Ex-Avionics Technician Zachary Briggs is bringing art, sustainability and cultural preservation together to breathe new life into historic planes previously destined for the scrap heap.**

When Zachary Briggs - ex avionics technician in the Royal Australian Air Force - was stationed at Amberley, he would drive past an aviation museum each day on his way to work.

The sight of the historic planes rusting away in the grass intrigued him and when the planes disappeared one day, he knew he needed to find out what had happened to them.

After visiting the museum, he discovered that the planes were being discarded.

"The idea that these planes were being sold for scrap was so sad to me," says Zachary.

"They were pieces of history that needed to be preserved."

Zachary was studying industrial design at the time and saw an opportunity to combine this with his aviation experience and an interest in sustainability.

"I went back to the museum with a presentation on how I could repurpose components of the aircrafts into products that would celebrate their unique history," he says.




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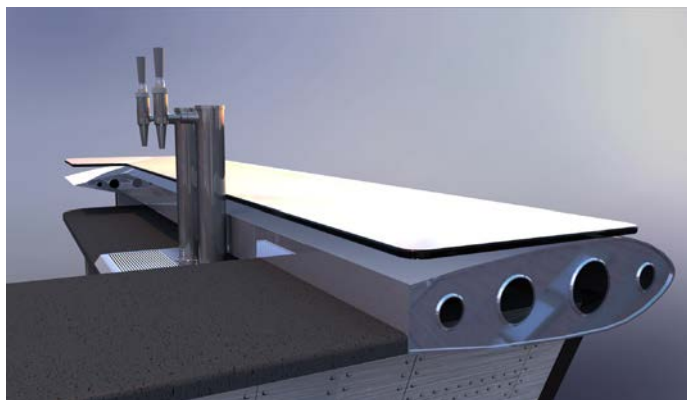
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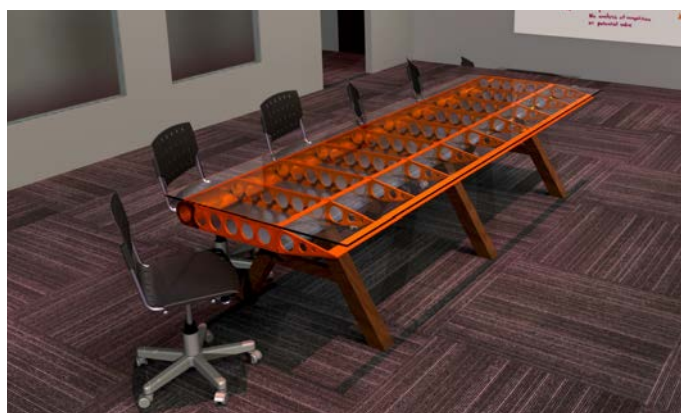


The museum was sold on the idea and told Zachary he could take any of the items destined for scrap. With that, Relic Design and Craft Co was born.

Relic Design and Craft Co is staffed by industrial designers, aircraft and aircraft structural technicians who have served a combined 30 years in the Air Force and Army.

By utilising aircraft parts that would otherwise be consigned to the scrap heap, the team creates one-off sculptures and pieces of furniture with a nod to aviation history.

While the COVID-19 crisis has impacted sales, Zachary says he is able to continue designing and creating these unique pieces solo in his workshop and is currently working on a conference table made from the wing of a RAAF Aermacchi plane for the Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre.



In his spare time, Zachary also volunteers at the Australian Aviation Heritage Centre on the Sunshine Coast. He encourages other veterans in the area with an interest in aviation history to join him, saying the increased social connection with other like-minded people is helpful. Find more information at [aaahc.qld.gov.au](http://aaahc.qld.gov.au).

Although taking to the skies might be on hold right now, Zachary dreams of seeing a Relic Design & Craft Co piece in the Brisbane Airport departure lounge.

“When I can fly to visit my family again, I would love to see my work displayed in Australian airports and being enjoyed by the public,” he says.

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# Ejecting - transitioning from the ADF

**Christian ‘Boo’ Boucousis explains how he successfully transitioned from the Royal Australian Air Force after his career as a pilot was cut short by adversity**



My career in the ADF flying F/A-18 Hornets, and on exchange flying Tornados in the UK, was to this day, one of the most rewarding periods of my life. It was also a career cut short after the diagnosis of an autoimmune disease called Ankylosing Spondylitis, a big name for a degenerative condition that robs you of mobility and sets you up for a life of pain management and medication. So began the start of my transition from the RAAF into business and the beginning of a comfortable relationship with transition and change — a relationship I unwittingly developed as a fighter pilot.

Now you'll need to bear with me for a little bit, I'm going to talk about myself, something fighter pilots tend not to do. However, as this is a story about life transitions, especially transitioning out of the ADF, it's a very personal and emotional one, so I need to set the scene for you.

I was one of those pilots who always dreamed about becoming a fighter pilot. I don't recall any other career aspirations as a child. I think I read every book ever written about fighter pilots in WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam before I left high school. My

sole focus and purpose was to make it into the cockpit of a single seat fighter, specifically the RAAF's F/A-18 Hornet.

I was lucky to have this focus! I wasn't a particularly academic kid, preferring to focus on sport and to be honest, dream about a future of life in the cockpit. The time I should have spent in academics, was time spent washing aircraft at my local airport for pocket money, studying aviation at TAFE, and learning to fly at the Aero Club — I lived and breathed aviation. Without that aviation focus, I'm not sure what I would have done with my life in those formative years. I was also applying to join as a pilot with the RAAF, Army and Navy whilst studying at school, initially to join the academy, where the ADF demonstrated great insight and knocked me back, informing me; "You don't seem to be motivated about a degree, it seems you just want to fly". Yep, spot on! So, I joined as a direct entry pilot.

A few years ago, I accessed my personnel file to renew my security clearances and I encourage every ex-ADF member to do so! It was a fascinating journey down memory lane, where every action I took or decision I made was forensically examined and critically assessed. Reading through this 20-year-old documentation, I was surprised by what those assessing me had to say.

I was only 19 when I joined, however one of the traits mentioned during my officer selection panel was the "degree of maturity" I exhibited. I hardly felt mature at the time! This conclusion was reached based on the commitment I had shown to becoming a pilot, to quote, "Boucousis exhibits the determination and commitment to become a pilot by holding two jobs working seven days a week to fund his flying".

Did I mention I dropped out of university after six weeks? I couldn't

figure out how a degree in mathematics was going to help me and I was only doing the course because I watched a video where an F-111 pilot had a degree in mathematics. There were two motivators for this decision, the first, I wasn't very good at maths, the second, the hours I spent in the lecture theatre were hours not spent in the cockpit or earning money to fly.

Needless to say, my pre-RAAF life wasn't the most glamorous. Mowing lawns and landscaping during the day, and working in a pub as a general hand at night and on the weekends. In between I found the time to squeeze in a few hours of flying, ultimately self-funding my private pilot licence around the time I was selected for pilot training.

The pilot training machine for the RAAF is a work of art. Reflecting on a 16-year career in business, there is nothing as sophisticated, focused, and reliable in turning out top-notch aviators — I'd go as far to say the best in the world. I believe Australia is uniquely placed to learn from big peers in the US and UK, yet be small enough that everyone knows everyone.

When you're "in", it feels like it's a little over the top, the organisation may be a little disorganised and for some reason, you don't get every posting you want! However, compared to how other organisations run, it's a well-oiled machine!

I don't remember much of the specifics between joining up and starting work in the Squadron as a newly minted D-Cat fighter pilot. I do remember how it felt, the people, the professionalism, and the environment. It was second to none, efficient, and aligned in purpose and execution.

Now I may look back with rose-tinted glasses, the same way an-expat always talks up home, thanks to my early discharge. I don't believe that though. Today, I am an entrepreneur, I've been able to indulge my dreams



the skills and knowledge to contribute within the field you are transitioning into.

The key lesson here is, it's not the technical skills you learn in Defence, it's the way of working, the way of thinking and most importantly the calibre of person you are. Don't take for granted the system that recruited you, they know what they are doing! You were recruited because you are an outstanding individual with the traits required to be successful.

This is where the recurring themes of successful people start to become obvious. Success doesn't care if you came from a military background, started on the streets or from a privileged background. I've seen success and failure in places you wouldn't expect to find them.

### What are these themes?

1. **Focus** – You must find something you can commit to mind, body and soul. Don't transition for money. Spend time researching what it is you want to transition into.
2. **Commitment and consistency** – Show up everyday and jump through all the hoops. Just like the ADF, a lot of what you do won't make sense at the time. Fortunately, you've been trained to just do it!
3. **Never give up** – When you transition into anything, you start again, right from the bottom. The good thing is though, with the skills you're naturally equipped with, you have the ability to accelerate your journey to the top.

As a fighter pilot, I was always taught to deliver on three objectives with every mission, no more. To me these three objectives are the top three recurring themes I see in successful people. Being successful isn't about winning big all the time. It's about committing to the small wins each day, that ultimately lead you to the life you want to live.

Christian 'Boo' Boucousis, lead speaker and coach, Afterburner Australia

<https://afterburner.com.au/>

and ambitions, to lie on the greener grass on the other side. You know what? It's not that green! Maybe for a day or two, however, it's really just the same.

Maybe I should step back quickly, to the year I was discharged and transitioned into the "real world" as a 30-year-old man with zero skills beyond flying jets at speed. This was a period of soul searching and exploration. I spent a little over a year ground bound filling a posting at the Australian Defence Force Warfare Training Centre at Williamstown.

A magnificent posting in hindsight. I had no concept of how complex it was running a country! Here I learned about the many Defence and non-Defence players involved in defending our country and how it integrated into the Australian government's agenda.

It set me up with skills I still apply to this day. It was during this time we'd just finished operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. I'd come to learn a little more about NGOs, the UN and the private sector's role in fulfilling the agenda of government and non-government agencies. So, with my discharge processes, I set up my first business with a very good friend I had made in the UK and we both jumped on a flight to Kabul and established a business, helping anyone who needed help!

The short version of a very long story goes like this. The business succeeded beyond our wildest imaginings, we soon developed a

reputation for integrity, getting the job done and always surpassing expectations. Attributes and traits instilled in me as a member of the ADF, just applied slightly differently. From Afghanistan it was over to Perth to build the world's tallest prefabricated hotel, setting records for construction speed through the application of innovative construction techniques. I also transitioned into publishing, converting a paper magazine into an online global publication.

Today, I have the amazing opportunity to tap into my past, helping companies grow using the same techniques and skills I learned as a fighter pilot. Possibly the most rewarding transition I've made, where I see the value of a career in Defence, applying my lessons learned there into the private sector. The success didn't come easily though and there are certainly elements of the story where success was elusive. The successes were always the sum of the same parts. I've learned over time, some would say "the hard way", that when you transition into anything, from anywhere, it's harder and takes longer than you'd think. We always see the end result first.

Whether it be a transition into a corporate role, a small business owner or directly across into the civilian workforce. What we aren't so good at is preparing for the bit in between — the three years of sweat and tears expended as you equip yourself with

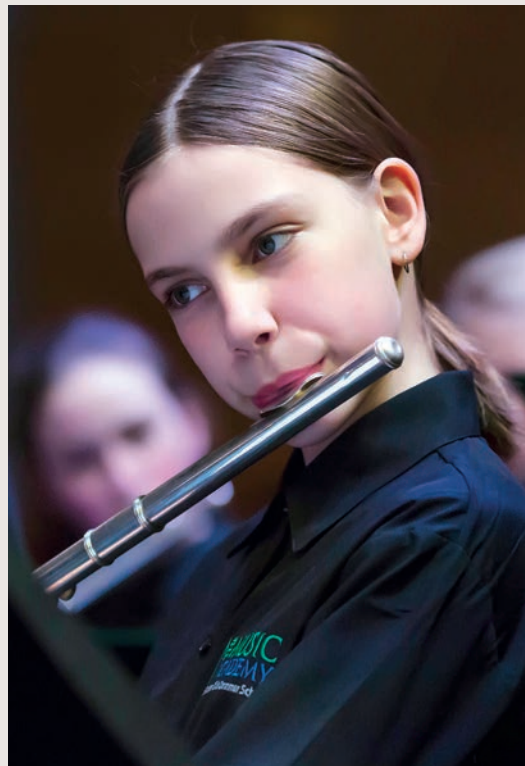




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CGGS has an extensive Defence community across its campuses. This not only includes students from Defence families but also many teachers and staff who have a personal connection or lived experience with the Defence lifestyle.

CGGS offers a comprehensive induction program for Defence students. Led by a dedicated Defence School Mentor (DSM) with a deep understanding of the challenges of the service lifestyle, students can forge meaningful connections with other Defence students and the broader community. This includes regular age-appropriate lunchtime activities, excursions and one-on-one



time with the DSM. These programs are designed to help children build new and positive connections and encourage the students to make the most of the opportunities available at CGGS.

Jodie Hutchison, the CGGS Defence School Mentor says, "The CGGS school values of inclusion, courage and integrity correlate strongly with those of the service community who have dedicated their lives to work in roles that also have these values at their core."

To maintain stability in the event of postings or deployments, senior school students can also take advantage of CGGS' short and long-term boarding options at its safe, supportive and centrally located Boarding House.

Lucinda Collins, a current CGGS Defence parent of Isabella (Year 7) and Grace (Year 4), is grateful for how the Defence Transition program has supported her daughters at CGGS. "The Defence families program at the school has been an amazing support for both of our daughters. It provides a pathway to integrate into both the

Defence and school communities. It creates a supportive and fun network for students and their families - including starting at a new school easier and providing extra family support if a parent is on a posting," Mrs Collins said.

With a 96-year legacy of leadership and service, as well as a range of distinguished sport, music and co-curricular programs, CGGS is a place where young children and women can find their passion and build independence.

CGGS is a proudly independent and non-selective Anglican school located in the heart of Canberra. The school is co-educational from Early Learning to the end of Year 3 and girls only from Years 4 to 12.

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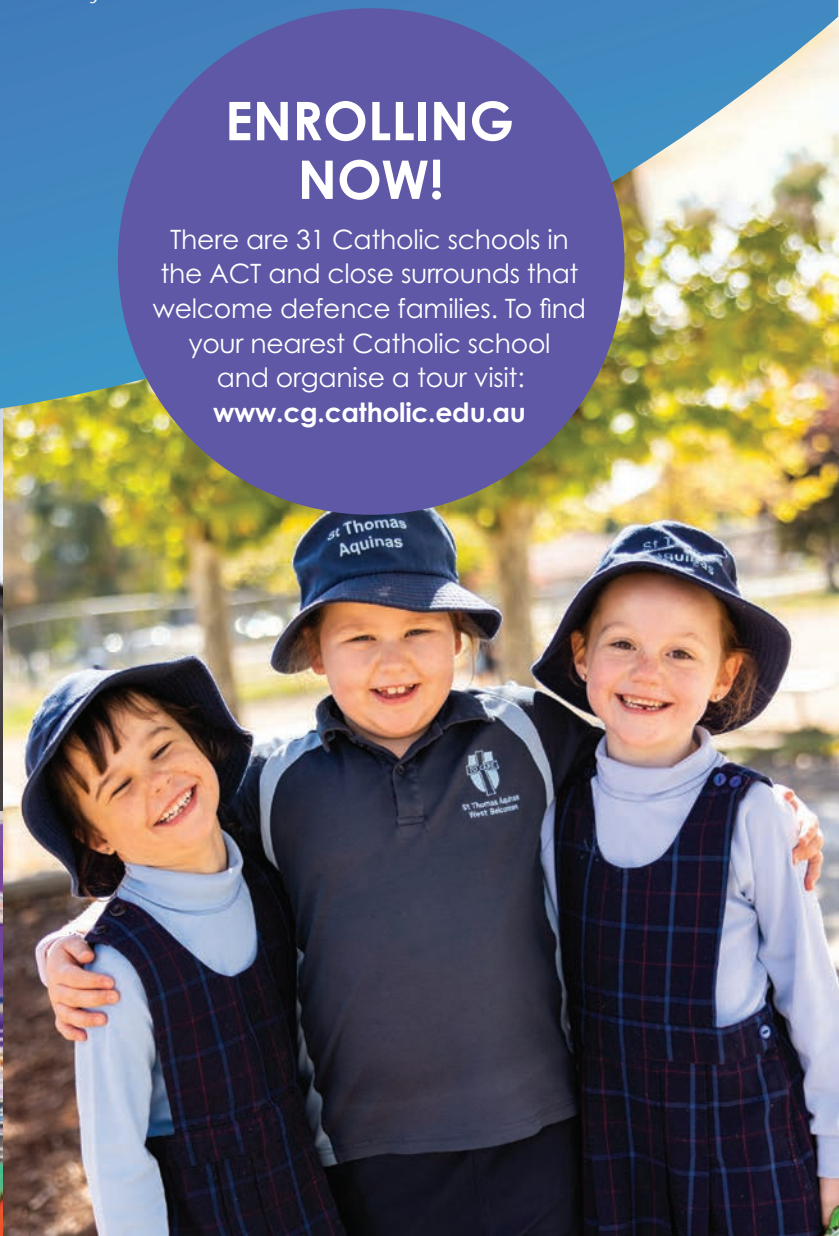
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# Catholic Education - an education for life

Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn serves 56 Schools and 8 Catholic Preschools from Pambula on the south coast, to Crookwell in the north, through to Lake Cargelligo in the west, traversing 88,000 km spanning ACT and NSW borders.

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Some Catholic schools have a particularly high number of defence families, like St Thomas More's Campbell where around half of their students are from defence families.

St Thomas More's Principal Luke Donnelly said the school had a long and proud association with the defence forces and even has a dedicated Defence School Mentor, Lisa Holl, who supports families who are transitioning into or out of the school.



"We know for our defence kids that they are more likely to attend different schools throughout their education compared to other kids so we offer additional support to those children," Mr Donnelly said.

"Lisa works really closely with all of our defence families to support them. She will work with families that are preparing for postings, she offers additional learning support to our students. Lisa also runs programs to build stronger connections between the students."

St Thomas More's has also honoured its association with the defence forces through the introduction of new sporting houses - Legacy, Honour and Valour.

Mr Donnelly believes that because St Thomas More's is a small school they have been able to create a community where families can come together and support each other.

"At St Thomas More's, defence families will be among families who are similar to themselves. We also have a number of teachers who are defence force spouses, so we can certainly relate to the unique life experiences of our families," Mr Donnelly said.

"One sign that we are a good school for defence families is the fact that many families leave us but then

return to St Thomas More's when they complete a posting. That's something that we are really proud of."

Catholic education prioritises the fundamentals such as literacy, numeracy and science. Catholic schools are well resourced, innovative, stimulating environments that prepare students intellectually, spiritually and emotionally.

Catholic schools are welcoming communities where all are inspired to grow to their potential. They are inclusive, and families are respected, nurtured and supported regardless of religion or background.





# St Margaret Mary's College - Townsville

## Give her the best opportunity for success

What makes St Margaret Mary's College, Townsville's largest girls-only secondary school, stand out from the crowd? Consistently high academic performance, a diverse extracurricular program and a reputation for graduating community leaders, professionals and businesswomen there are many reasons parents and students seek out St Margaret Mary's College.

Highly regarded for delivering a well-rounded, holistic education, the college repeatedly performs well across its four pillars of academic, culture, service and sport. Students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including STEAM, volunteering, debating and public speaking, performing arts, sports and more.

Principal at St Margaret Mary's

College, Kathy Park said the single-sex environment is an undeniable educational edge, one which encourages competition and risk-taking, removes gender stereotypes and supports girls to be less self-conscious and more confident.

### ACADEMIC SUCCESS

St Margaret Mary's College offers a broad range of subjects, delivered by dedicated teaching staff, and supported with modern facilities.

Numerous studies have shown girls' schools deliver stronger academic results than co-ed counterparts and foster more favourable attitudes towards science, technology, engineering and maths.

Recognising the many pathways to fulfilling careers, St Margaret Mary's College supports students to discover various options, from university to



vocational education and training, and map out a clear path.

### SERVICE SUCCESS

True to the story of the Good Samaritan,



## Enrol now for 2023 and 2024

### St Margaret Mary's College

1-9 Crowle St. Townsville Qld 4812 [smmc.catholic.edu.au](http://smmc.catholic.edu.au)



the college inspires and inspirits its students to be people of hope, who live compassionately and justly.

### CULTURAL SUCCESS

The benefits of engaging in culture and the arts extend beyond creativity to include memory and concentration skills, risk-taking and building resilience. St Margaret Mary's College students engage in a vibrant cultural program including drama, dance, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking and languages.

### SPORTING SUCCESS

St Margaret Mary's College has long fostered a strong sporting tradition.

The college offers a robust collection of sports, with niche sports also available on request.

While the college's sporting accomplishments are too many to list, recent achievements include: first place in Division A of the Townsville Interschool Swimming Carnival; Junior and Senior teams in the Championship Division, Champion Basketball Schools Queensland (CBSQ); finalist in the Open Vicki Wilson Netball and participating in QISSN in Division One; current NQ Junior and Open Touch Football champions; and current (and fifth-time) winner of the John Melton Black Girls' Sporting Shield which

recognises excellent results across athletics, swimming and cross country.

"Our many sporting accomplishments are diverse, and recognise the calibre of our teachers and the commitment of our students to achieve their best," Ms Park said.



## Supporting kids to support kids

Did you know that Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS) provides funding to over 250 schools around the country for the Defence School Mentor (DSM) program?

The program helps schools where Defence children are enrolled to engage a DSM. Mentors are employed directly by the schools in which they work. They use a variety of methods to build relationships with Defence kids.

Mentors work to minimise the impact of mobility on children's education and build the capability of the school in supporting Defence students and their families. They provide support through on-site, direct and flexible assistance to students, parents, teachers and other support services.

Lisa Hill is employed by Kirwan State High School in Townsville as their DSM. She has done a lot of work to engage with Defence kids, including getting them involved in charitable activities.

For the last five years, Lisa and Debbie Downie, the schools Youth Health Nurse, have involved interested students in a campaign that is designed to bring dignity to girls and women around the world. Initially, the students were making dresses, but they've expanded to include shorts.

"We started by teaching students to sew in our own time and after school," said Lisa.

"Together with members of the community, they have made over 800 dresses and shorts for kids.

"Initially, the outfits were sent to orphanages in Africa, but they now also go to schools in Papua New Guinea, Cape York communities and local women's shelters.

"Over the years, the students have been so keen, and really excited to be involved. They feel like they are helping other little children in the world. Each session we hear comments such as 'I love that I am giving hope to another little girl and that I am learning valuable skills to sew and create my own little masterpieces'."

"This is a weekly workshop which helps Defence students build resilience, confidence and coping skills. All of these things are valuable tools



for Defence families, and in fact all families."

Jason Good | Defence Families Matters

**"OVER THE YEARS, THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SO KEEN, AND REALLY EXCITED TO BE INVOLVED. THEY FEEL LIKE THEY ARE HELPING OTHER LITTLE CHILDREN IN THE WORLD."**





P: 02 6260 9400 | E: enrolments@stcc.act.edu.au | www.stcc.act.edu.au

## St Clare's College

At St Clare's College, we are always looking forward with the intent to prepare students for twenty-first century citizenship and employment. Our strategic intent – Seek Wisdom frames our commitment to becoming a Visible Learning School. Facilitating the use of researched based teaching practices in all classrooms helps to ensure that every student is engaged, challenged and experiences at least one year's growth as a learner each year.

St Clare's College provides outstanding pastoral support for students through their Pastoral Care (PC) teachers. The College is comprised of outstanding educators from an array of learning areas who are committed to supporting students.

Defence Service families have the added support of our Defence School Mentor who provides pro-grams and services to support the individual

needs of Defence students. These include:

- Welcoming new families and students to our College and supporting their integration into the College community.
- Providing support to students during parental absences.
- Organising regular social events for students.
- Excursions for students that encourage leadership, initiative and teamwork. These excursions are often combined with other ACT schools which run a Defence School Mentor program this allows students to socialise across the broader ACT Defence community.
- Coordinating the whole school ANZAC Day Ceremony and Remembrance Day activities. Also providing opportunities for students to represent the College at local external ceremonies.



- Providing the Pastoral Care team and teachers support and information to assist defence students.

Enrol today to secure your daughter's future in a secondary College that offers excellent academic re-sults; a partnership between students, parents and teachers; support in navigating the teenage years. Enrolments are now open for 2023 via our online application form on our website [www.stcc.act.edu.au](http://www.stcc.act.edu.au)

# Coping with student transfers interstate

Defence recognises that some children may experience disruption to their education each time they move for a posting. We have a range of services and resources that can assist with the transition between schools and education systems, and to provide support for the unique needs of Defence students.

This support includes:

- Specialised staff, Education Liaison Officers, in each state and territory to advise families and schools on education issues and Defence student wellbeing,
- Funding to schools to allow the employment of a Mentor, to assist Defence students integrate into a new school and provide them with support,
- Financial assistance for some education costs incurred as a result of relocations, and
- Regional education information to inform families about the major differences between the state and territory education systems.

## EDLOs

Education Liaison Officers, or EDLOs, give education support to Defence families as they move around the country, providing information, advice, referral and specialised assistance.

This includes:

- Informing, preparing and empowering families about local schools and education systems, and working with parents, students and teachers to manage the transition when relocating to a new school,
- Linking families with education providers, resources or support agencies according to their children's individual needs (including students with special needs),
- Working with schools to ensure a supportive educational

environment and to raise awareness of issues facing Defence children, and

- Informing families about Defence support services available, including financial assistance entitlements under the Education Assistance Scheme.

## Defence Mentors

DMFS recognises that Defence families often turn to schools for help when mobility affects education through frequent moves, long periods of separation, isolation from extended family support networks, and operational deployments.

The program provides funding to eligible schools in order to engage a Defence School Mentor. Mentors work to minimise the impact of mobility on education and build the capability of the school in supporting Defence students and their families.

Mentors are based within primary and secondary schools across Australia for the purpose of providing support to the children of Defence families through on-site, direct and flexible assistance to students, parents, teachers and other support services.

This may include:

- Assisting new children and their families to integrate into the school and local community,
- Monitoring the social and emotional wellbeing of Defence students,
- Assisting students develop self-confidence, self-reliance and resilience,
- Referring students to services, or school and community programs that meet their needs,
- Enhancing awareness and appreciation of the unique Defence lifestyle in schools and communities, and
- Providing support to children during times of parental absence.

## Funding and eligibility

The Defence School Mentor program is funded annually and is only able to provide support to schools as funding allows. Eligibility criteria determines the level of funding that can be offered. Potential applicants should refer to the Program Guidelines for details.

The following will be considered when determining the eligibility for the support of a Defence School Mentor position within a school:

- The available annual program budget,
- The number of students enrolled who are dependants of full-time serving Defence members,
- The number of Defence students who are impacted by parental absence due to their ADF service, including deployment, training exercise and any other extended service related absence,
- The number of Defence students who are impacted by mobility due to an ADF posting, and
- Whether or not a school is located in a remote location as per Defence's definition outlined in its Pay and Conditions Manual.
- Schools that are approved for funding must:
  - Be a primary, secondary, middle years or foundation to year 12 school,
  - Demonstrate an ability to deliver innovative programs/services to support Defence families,
  - Demonstrate an ongoing commitment to strategic partnerships between education authorities and Defence, and
  - Demonstrate commitment to the program and compliance with the governance requirements as detailed in the Program Guidelines.

If you would like any information about the Defence School Mentor program email [dsm.program@defence.gov.au](mailto:dsm.program@defence.gov.au).



# Overcoming the challenges of frequent relocation

Australian Defence Force (ADF) families often have to relocate every few years, which can be both an exciting and a daunting prospect – some big decisions need to be made, the most important one being where you're going to live. Children's education, distance to work for both the member and spouse/partner, home insurance and lifestyle preferences are all factors to be considered.

RAAF partner for more than 20 years, Michelle Hoare believes that Defence families need to be well informed and should try to plan their move.

'Our first move was a bit of a blur for me,' she says. 'Luckily my husband grew up in a military family and knew how to manage it all. Once we had children, it added more complexity than when we moved as a couple.'

Planning and being organised weeks prior to moving decreases the anxiety associated with the many deadlines looming. Michelle suggests starting to run your fridge and pantry down to avoid wasting food in the final packing at the end.

'The less you have to move, the less you have to unpack. We have a bit of a rule that if you haven't used it in the last posting it's time to let it go.'

'The hardest moves for us were when our daughters were younger. Long travelling days often create very tired children. And adults. Ensuring everyone remained well fed was key to happy children in unfamiliar surroundings. I'd collect small toys and card games to provide the girls with entertainment on short notice.'

ADF partners face a number of challenges balancing their careers with the demands of military life. A recent survey of ADF families reported 58% of civilian partners found it difficult to re-establish their own employment following relocation.



'With frequent relocations, sometimes the resume of an ADF partner can be lengthy and varied. I think it's good to consider the transferable skills gained from managing relocations. Skills such as versatility, resourcefulness and adaptability make ADF partners effective project managers. These types of skills are invaluable to a potential employer.'

Over the years, Michelle has learnt the art of balancing career with the demands of frequent relocation.

'I managed to secure a job in Sale, Victoria and then we were reposted to Canberra. Assuming my employer would decline my request, I asked to work remotely. But she agreed and we trialled working remotely for three months. It pays to think outside the box because I ended up working for that

organisation from Canberra, Townsville and Canberra again for eight years.'

## So what is the easiest part of the move?

'Updating our insurance policies', says Michelle. 'Before we discovered DSH Insurance, we were with a few other providers over the years. After a discussion with my father-in-law (who is a Vietnam veteran), we discovered that DSH Insurance was also available to us. It's now a lot easier just to change our address with the same organisation each time we move.'

## Moving home?

Getting your home and contents insurance sorted can be stressful – DSH Insurance is here to assist [dsh@dva.gov.au](mailto:dsh@dva.gov.au) | 1300 552 662.



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