

Australian Peacekeeper

WINTER 2022

MAGAZINE



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING



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Cover: Australian Army officer Captain Natasha James (right) is deployed to Lebanon as part of Operation Paladin stands with one of her United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation colleagues. This page: Captain Katherine Higgins prepares for deployment as a United Nations Peacekeeper on Australia's Operation Paladin.

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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.

Chairperson's report



Greetings members, I trust that everyone had a great day commemorating those who paid the ultimate price in war and peacetime operations. Anzac Day 2022 dawn services and marches took place around the country and the world. For veterans and their families this day is of great significance and for some the day is one that brings challenges to them. Please reflect on your day but also check in on your mates to ensure they are ok.

The APPVA continues to move forward and embracing the change to a company limited by guarantee, our revised logo and the distribution of our new banner to each state and territory has been completed. The success and timely distribution of the banners was achieved with the effort put in by Mark Horner so that they would be in place for Anzac Day 2022. It was great to see photographs of members with the new banner and this magazine contains some of the many photographs sent in.

After much deliberation and strategic moves by Ian Lindgren

on behalf of the APPVA, DVA has come onboard to arrange and resource the Australian Peacekeeper Day 2022 in Canberra which we will commemorate 75 years of Australians in Peacekeeping roles, the first deployment in the world to the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) on 14 September 1947.

The strategic planning continues for PK Day with Ian being a part of the strategic working group with DVA to ensure the day is both successful and relevant to the Peacekeeping veteran community.

Ian Lindgren was invited to appear at the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide last month and provided an insight to the Commissioners of the complexity of the claims process. In particular he highlighted that the claims process is so poor that it would not be accepted by a state workers compensation insurance scheme, and that the greatest risk to the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations is that the Commonwealth will not have put in place a governance entity capable of holding to account all those responsible to implement the recommendations.

I want to welcome back Mr Richard Kelloway to the APPVA as our Senior Advocate, Richard is an experienced Level 4 Compensation Advocate and a Level 2 Wellbeing Advocate with a wealth of military and advocacy experience. Welcome Richard and we look forward to your guidance and advice in the advocacy space.

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 new editor Paul Walker 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 better serve our veteran community.

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

Yours sincerely,
Rob Woods, JP
Chairperson



Vice Chairperson's report



75th ANNIVERSARY AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPING Australia Remembers 2022

This edition of the Australian Peacekeeper Magazine leads all readers to the 75th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeeping on 14 September 2022. Close to this text I have placed the logo that has been adopted for the day by the Stakeholder Consultative Committee for 75th Anniversary of Australian Peacekeepers. The design is consistent with that of the Australian Peacekeeper Memorial Project and previous anniversaries, and we thank the Department of Veterans' Affairs for making the graphic design adjustments to the late Denis Percy's original design.

I encourage everyone to book early to attend Australian Peacekeeper Day because we are anticipating over 500 attendees and already the Official Guest List includes the current and former Governor Generals, the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, many members of the upper and lower houses of parliament and the cross benches.

We will be encouraging everyone attending to let us know of your accommodation arrangements because DVA have kindly funded busses to pick everyone from the major hotels and drive direct to the

Australian Peacekeeping Memorial. Likewise, they are offering a single trip back from the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial at a time to be advised after the service. These will not be "Cook's Tours", travelling between hotels; instead, they will pick up once from your hotel at a single specified time and travel directly to the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial. They will return you to your hotel the same way after the service. More detail to follow on that

We have asked for expressions of interest for two company director positions and expect to fill these in the coming weeks and formally appoint the new directors at the Annual General Meeting. We are thankful to the many who have expressed an interest from both the serving and the ex-serving veteran communities.

Lastly, I hope you enjoy the many articles by former and current peacekeepers. These together with images of our first peacekeepers and those from the longest peacekeeping mission, UNTSO, showcase Australia's contributions to world peace and round out this special 75th Anniversary Edition.

Ian Lindgren
Vice Chairperson



75th Anniversary of Australians on Peacekeeping Operations Commemorative Events

Australia was the first nation to deploy peacekeepers under a United Nations mandate and did so 14 September 1947 when it sent four military observers to the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) during the independence struggle. Since then, Australia has deployed uniformed peacekeepers and peacemakers continuously from the Australia Defence Force and the Australian Federal Police (state and territory police officers under the auspices of the AFP). Additionally, Australia has extended its reach to diplomatic and support arrangements through the utilisation of non-uniformed civilians from DFAT and from a great number of public and private organisations to make up Australia's commitment to global peace building efforts.

Events and Organisation

We have six events that leave up to Australian Peacekeeper Day on 14 September 2022 and these are depicted below.

29 May 2022

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers



12 September 2022

Corporate Golf Day Federal Golf Club, Red Hill



13 September 2022

Lunch at midday Ainslie Football Club



13 September 2022

**Annual General Meeting
1:30pm Ainslie Football Club**



3 September 2022

**Commemorative Dinner
6pm Ainslie Football Club**



14 September 2022

Australian Peacekeeping Day



Light in Dark Places

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

If you happen to go for a walk along ANZAC Parade in Canberra you will come across the Australian Peacekeepers Memorial. This Memorial has a number of elements - the first is the two black monoliths representing the belligerent parties in a dispute. These monoliths stand for darkness, hate, conflict, etc and are separated by a passage of light depicting peacekeepers bringing light, peace and hope to the affected population and place. They are like the light shining in the darkness and through the dedication of the peacekeepers over the last 75 years that light which originates from the goodness of God has not been overcome.

The verse above comes from the Gospel of John in the New Testament in the Bible. John recorded much of what Jesus did on earth and linked how He and God were the one and same person. Jesus was a person who demonstrated to us how to live a life of peace and compassion.



Regardless of how spiritual a person you may be, peacekeepers may still be affected by the trauma or situations faced; a darkness can creep across your soul bringing blackness to heart and mind, this darkness can cause depression, anxiety and a raft of differing emotions and pain. This is where, by allowing the source of light - Jesus to come into your life can bring healing as no darkness can overcome his light, His Light can shatter the darkness that strives to

bring bondage to the soul enabling us to continue to walk through life.

As King David in Psalm 23 stated - Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

May the God of peace be with you today, shining His light on your pathway enabling you to walk confidently.

Steve Neuhaus
APPVA Honorary Chaplain
0403 060 369 | steve@eaglerest.net.au



The First United Nations Peacekeepers

- The United Nations Good Offices Committee Indonesia (UNGOC)

This issue of the Australian Peacekeeper Magazine is dedicated to Australia's first four peacekeepers, and it is hoped that readers will find their careers extraordinary. Sadly, there is little written the work these individuals undertook and almost nothing on Major D.L. Campbell. However, perhaps a reader might take up the challenge to assist us here so we can include his details next issue.

In mid-1947, the fledgling United Nations had responded to a call from Australia and India to step in to try to resolve the two-year old bloody conflict between The Netherlands and part of its previous colony, Netherlands East Indies (today's Indonesia), which had declared its independence from The Netherlands two days after Japan surrendered. The Security Council of the UN established both a Consular Commission at Batavia (today's Jakarta) to report on the situation, and a Committee of Good Offices (UNGOC) to help resolve the situation.

The Consular Commission requested each of the member states represented on the Commission provide military officers to support the work of both the Commission and the UNGOC. These officers were referred to as 'observers' but today would be regarded as 'peacekeepers'. The term peacekeeper was not applied to such missions until many years later.

Australia became involved in the mission in August 1947 when locally based diplomatic staff were seconded to the GOC to assist in the delineation and supervision of the ceasefire and repatriation of Dutch forces to the Netherlands.



The UN's and Australia's first peacekeepers are welcomed by Indonesians in Jogjakarta. Chesterman is on far right, partially obscured, with Dyke looking at camera, Spence (centre) shaking hands and Campbell behind him.

Later in August, four more Australians joined the mission as military observers and the commitment increased to 15 when the GOC became UNCI in 1949. The Australian force was withdrawn in April 1951. Their first leader, Brigadier Lewis Dyke, had commanded Timor Force, which accepted the Japanese surrender on Timor in 1945. Commander Henry Chesterman, a naval officer, had been decorated by the Americans for his role as a liaison officer in the Pacific, while RAAF pilot Squadron Leader Lou Spence had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in the Middle East and the fourth member of the party was another army officer, Major D.L. Campbell.

After such distinguished wartime careers, service in peacetime might have smacked of anti-climax. But now they were flying to the Netherlands East Indies to take up a posting as "military assistants" for the United Nations (UN), at a time when enormous hope was invested in that young organisation. The four officers may have shared the widespread optimism that the legacy of the war would be a new, more peaceable way of dealing with conflicts. What they could not have known is that, as the very first UN peacekeepers, they would be the start of a proud tradition for Australia and for the world.

Sources: The Australian War Memorial, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Graham Rayner

Brigadier Lewis Dyke, CBE, DSO



Lewis Glanville Howard Dyke (1900-1984) was born on 6 August 1900 at Fort Glanville, Adelaide. LGH Dyke was educated at the Collegiate School of St Peter. While not academically inclined, he excelled at cricket and Australian Rules football. He left at 17 and was indentured to a solicitor. Service as a gunner in the Citizen Military Forces possibly influenced him towards a military career. He entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Federal Capital Territory, in March 1919. On graduation in December 1922, he was described as being 5 ft 10½ ins (179 cm) tall, of dark complexion with brown hair and eyes, and as having achieved an average performance in both military and academic subjects.

Dyke's first posting as a lieutenant, Staff Corps, was to Fort Queenscliff, Victoria. During overseas training with a Royal Artillery field battery in 1926-27, he saw service in India and China. He returned to Australia in 1928 to a succession of appointments with responsibility for the training and administration of Militia artillery units in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. He was promoted to captain in 1930 and major in 1938.

Following the outbreak of World War II, Dyke was seconded to the Australian Imperial Force on 13 October 1939 as a battery commander in the 2/2nd Field Regiment. He arrived in the Middle East in May 1940 and was second-in-command of the regiment during the 6th Division's advance to Benghazi,

Libya, in January-February 1941. A man of military mien, he was quick to react and somewhat explosive at times. Active, energetic and practical, he gave clear orders and delegated well. He was interested in and stood up for his troops. They returned his loyalty and called him 'Gunner Dyke'.

In April 1941 the 2/2nd took part in the Greek campaign and the subsequent withdrawal to Crete. There the regiment fought as infantry until, in the face of overwhelming odds, the survivors were evacuated to Egypt. Dyke was acting commander of the 2/2nd until appointed Australian liaison officer at Creforce headquarters early in May. For his calmness under fire and 'profound sense of duty' during these trying days, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and mentioned in despatches.

Return to Egypt in June 1941 brought promotion to temporary lieutenant colonel and command of the Artillery Training Regiment in Palestine. In November 1943 Dyke was appointed commander, Corps Royal Australian Artillery, II Corps. He arrived in New Guinea as the corps was pushing the Japanese from the Ramu Valley, clearing the Huon

Peninsula and advancing to Madang. With the completion of this phase, he returned to the Atherton Tableland, Queensland, in May 1944.

For his work in ensuring the best use of artillery support and his 'outstanding devotion to duty' during this campaign, he was appointed CBE (1945). The months that followed involved the resting, refitting and retraining of the artillery units of the corps (now redesignated I Corps) before deployment to Morotai to provide fire support for the landings and operations during the final campaigns at Tarakan, Labuan and Balikpapan, Borneo.

The capitulation of Japan saw Dyke take the surrender of Japanese forces in Timor in September 1945. As commander of Timor Force, he was responsible for the recovery of prisoners of war, the disarming and concentration of Japanese troops, the welfare of the civil populace, and liaison and negotiation with the Portuguese authorities in East Timor. Dyke tackled these problems with his usual drive. In April 1946 he was appointed brigadier (later director), Royal Australian Artillery, at Army Headquarters, Melbourne.



11 September 1945 showing Major Minoru Shoji, the Chief Of Staff of Colonel Kaida Tatsuichi of the Imperial Japanese Army, signing the Instrument of Surrender during the surrender ceremony aboard HMAS Moresby at sea off Timor

Wing Commander Louis Thomas Spence, DFC and Bar



Wing Commander Spence as commanding officer of No. 77 Squadron in the Korean War, August 1950

Wing Commander Louis Thomas Spence, DFC and Bar (4 April 1917 – 9 September 1950) was a fighter pilot and squadron commander in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). During World War II, he flew with No. 3 Squadron, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), and commanded No. 452 Squadron, receiving a Mention in Despatches. He led No. 77 Squadron in the opening months of the Korean War, and was awarded a bar to his DFC, the US Legion of Merit, and the US Air Medal, for his leadership.

Enlisting in the Royal Australian Air Force on 6 March 1940, Spence trained as an air cadet at Archerfield, Brisbane, and at Point Cook, Victoria. He was commissioned in August. Two months later he received his wings and was posted to No.25 Squadron, at Pearce, Western Australia. In August he was sent to the Middle East. Having completed operational training in Khartoum, Sudan, he joined No.3 Squadron, RAAF, with which he flew Kittyhawk fighters. One daring exploit, on 26 January 1942, involved landing his aircraft to rescue a colleague who had crash-landed in the Western Desert; the two of them

crammed into his one-man cockpit and returned safely to base. A brave and vigorous pilot, Spence won the Distinguished Flying Cross for leading numerous raids and destroying two enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Spence returned to Australia in September 1942. He spent almost fifteen months as an instructor at No.2 Operational Training Unit, Mildura, Victoria. In January 1944 he was given command of No.452 Squadron, a Spitfire unit based in Darwin. He was promoted acting squadron leader in the following month. During March his unit was ordered to fly urgently to Perth: for his inspiring airmanship on this long flight through cyclonic weather, he was mentioned in dispatches. In February 1945 he was posted to No.8 OTU, Parkes, New South Wales, as chief instructor. He was demobilized from the RAAF on 19 November.

Refusing to return to his job with the bank, Spence worked in

Canberra as aviation correspondent for the Commonwealth Department of Information. On 17 October 1946 he accepted a commission in the air force. He was appointed senior administrative officer at Fairbairn air base, Canberra. In September 1947 he was attached to the United Nations military mission in Java to help to supervise the cease-fire in Indonesia. Returning home in November, he was chosen by Air Commodore (Sir) Valston Hancock to command the Cadet Squadron at the newly formed RAAF College, Point Cook.

On 20 February 1950 Spence was promoted wing commander and placed in command of No.77 Squadron, at Iwakuni, Japan. The unit formed part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. On 25 June the Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea invaded the Republic of (South) Korea. Spence immediately readied the squadron for action. Following the Menzies



Squadron Leader Spence (right, kneeling) briefing pilots of No. 452 Squadron near Darwin, late-1944. *AWM*.

government's agreement for the 77th to be committed in support of UN forces in Korea, he personally led his pilots on many more operations than a commanding officer would normally have been expected to do.

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Wing Commander Lou Spence, commanding No. 77 Squadron, prior to a mission over Korea, August 1950

supervise the cease-fire in Indonesia. Returning home in November, he was chosen by Air Commodore (Sir) Valston Hancock to command the Cadet Squadron at the newly formed RAAF. College, Point Cook.

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Spence's workload rose as other allied forces were relocated at Iwakuni. He also had to receive an increasing number of important visitors. Under his leadership the morale of No.77 Squadron remained high. On 9 September 1950 he led four Mustangs in an attack on storage facilities at An'gang-ni, South Korea, which had recently been captured by the communists. While he was operating at low level because of

poor visibility, his aircraft failed to pull out of a steep dive and he was killed when it crashed into the centre of the town. His wife, and their son and daughter survived him. He had been appointed to the American Legion of Merit (1950) and was posthumously awarded the American Air Medal and a Bar to his DFC. Lieutenant General George Stratemeyer, Commander of (American) Far East Air Forces, praised him as 'one of the noblest and finest officers of any service' he had ever known.



Flying Officer Spence with a dog that attached itself to No. 3 Squadron in Libya, January 1942. *AWM*.

The United Nations' first naval peacekeeper



Image courtesy Chesterman family

On 14th September 1947 Commander Henry Swinfield Chesterman RAN deployed into eastern Java, Indonesia, as part of the newly formed United Nations' first peacekeeping mission. This mission was to help resolve the bitter and bloody conflict between The Netherlands and part of its pre-war colony of Netherlands East Indies which had declared itself the Republic of Indonesia.

He was accompanied into east Java by Major David Campbell of the Australian Army, whilst two colleagues, Brigadier Lewis Dyke and Wing Commander Louis "Lou" Spence RAAF deployed into west Java. These four Australians were joined in the following days by officers from the military forces of the UK, France, Belgium and the US. Commander Chesterman was to be the first member of the Royal Australian Navy to be sent on peacekeeping duties to Indonesia, but he was to be an influential member of the initial team.

2022 is the 75th anniversary of that deployment, and this article looks at the life and service of CMDR Chesterman, who was also a founding member of the RAN's Fleet Air Arm and Australia's first qualified Observer (aircrew).

An early member of the RAN

Henry Chesterman entered the Royal Australian Naval College as a cadet midshipman in 1915, a month before his 14th birthday. The 1915 intake was the third intake for the college and the first to begin their careers at the newly built college facility in Jervis Bay, later commissioned as HMAS *Creswell*. The previous two intakes had begun their training at the College's temporary facility in Geelong, Victoria. By 1915 the fledgling RAN had grown from just over 200 personnel when it was formed in 1907 to more than 4,000, most of whom were engaged in The Great War.

The first world war had ended by the time that Henry graduated 5th in his class of 28, and there was some boyish disappointment amongst the class of not having had the chance to "be in it", however, for Henry and some of his classmates that disappointment would be assuaged within a year. As was normal practice at the time, he and his colleagues were all sent to the UK on loan to the Royal Navy to complete their junior officer training and gain their first seagoing experiences with the RN. In May 1919 Henry joined his first ship, the battleship HMS *Ramillies*, which was part of the battle squadron assigned to guard the German High Seas Fleet which had surrendered after the Armistice and was being held in Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands. Henry joined *Ramillies* in time to witness the scuttling of the fleet by its crews on 21st June 1919. The following year HMS *Ramillies* made two deployments to Constantinople and the Black Sea in support of British interests in the Greco-Turkish war and the Russian civil war, both catalysed by the First World War. As well as bombarding Turkish nationalist positions in various coastal towns, the *Ramillies* sent armed parties ashore, which sometimes included Henry, to defend parts of the towns, or to simply

"show the flag". During the ship's visit to Russia (the Crimean peninsula) there was no actual fighting involved, however, and notwithstanding that WW1 was over, these actions meant that Henry and his colleagues were awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

After two years on the *Ramillies* Henry was posted to a destroyer, HMS *Sorceress* for a few months before attending training courses at the Royal Naval College Greenwich (during which he was promoted to lieutenant) and the RN Gunnery School near Portsmouth.

Henry returned to Australia in August 1922 and during his subsequent posting to the cruiser HMAS *Adelaide*, he indicated a desire to specialise in aviation and so he was sent to RAAF Point Cook in Victoria to be trained as an air observer. The Navy was anticipating taking over from the RAAF the responsibility of providing aircrew for aircraft embarked on its new warships, and in 1922 the RAAF conducted its first training courses for naval officers as pilots and observers. Henry was in the initial intake for the "short" observer course and because he completed the course one week ahead of his fellow course member he became the first naval officer to receive any observer qualification.

The new warships were however, delayed and so in 1923 Henry was posted to Navy Office (then in Melbourne) for a year before joining HMAS Brisbane for a six-month deployment to the British China Station. On the ship's return to Australia most of the crew, including Henry, were transferred to sister ship HMAS Melbourne which was heading to the UK for attachment to the Royal Navy.ⁱⁱ So, once again Henry headed for The Old Dart. The year was 1925.

During his posting to Brisbane, Australia had announced its intention of acquiring a seaplane carrier and the Navy was therefore in the process of training suitable officers to be aircrew for the aircraft embarked on the carrier. Furthermore, the Navy wanted

its aircrew to be interchangeable with those of the Royal Navy, and therefore arranged for Henry to undertake the “long” observer course run by the RAF for the Fleet Air Arm.ⁱⁱⁱ Henry was the only RAN officer on his course, the other nine being from the RN, and in fact he was the senior officer on the course. Henry completed the course in early 1927 and was posted to the British aircraft carrier HMS *Eagle* for consolidation training. On completion he became fully qualified as a naval observer and posted as such to HMS *Furious*, another British carrier. Whether he was aware of it or not, Henry became the Royal Australian Navy’s first fully qualified air observer:

“This gives us [the RAN] our first observer, who will be properly qualified and experienced by the time we need him in the carrier.”^{iv}

In 1928, near the end of his period onboard HMS *Furious*, Henry married a British woman, Evelyn Lansdown, before returning to Australia and



In full ceremonial dress for presentation to King George V at St James Palace 15 March 1927. His invitation was on the basis of his being a founding member of the fleet Air Arm. *Chesterman family*

joining the new RAN carrier, HMAS *Albatross*. He was to remain on board this ship for three of the four-year service-life of the ship^v, during which time he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

In late 1935 Henry was posted ashore, holding a number of staff-officer roles in the Sydney area. Tragedy struck in December 1938 when his wife and young son were tragically killed falling from cliffs in Sydney. A year later he married Charlotte Lawrie.

At the outbreak of the Second World War Henry was staff officer (operations and intelligence) to the Captain-in-Charge (NSW) and in September 1940 he was posted as Staff Officer Operations and DEMS^{vi} at HMAS *Melville*, what is today the Darwin Naval Base, with the rank of acting Commander. It is in this role that he experienced the Japanese bombing raids all through 1942.

In late September 1942 Acting Commander Chesterman was posted to Brisbane and assigned as a senior staff officer on the operational staff of the Commander Allied Naval Forces, South West Pacific, then Vice Admiral Carpender USN and later Vice Admiral Thomas C Kinkaid USN. He was to remain in this position for the rest of the war, and so impressed Admiral Kinkaid that in early 1945, after approval from Washington and Canberra, he awarded Henry Chesterman the US Legion of Merit, one of only 25 RAN officers to receive the award during the war.^{viii} The citation for the award reads:

“For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Naval Liaison Officer with the Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, and as Member of the Staff of the Commander, Allied Naval Forces, Southwest Pacific Area, from September 1942 to November 1944.

A brilliant counsellor of keen foresight and broad vision, Commander Chesterman applied a comprehensive understanding and sound, unbiased judgement to the maze of problems confronting Allied



As Senior Observer on HMAS *Albatross* in August 1931. *RAAF image*

Naval Forces in the planning and execution of combined large-scale operations. His tactful and wise handling of the varied and complex details incident to his assignment furthered the harmonious relations between the United States and Australian Navies and his particular knowledge and advice in matters concerning the control and protection of shipping were important factors in the continued safe movement of Allied ships over long supply lines. By his outstanding professional ability untiring energy and splendid co-operation throughout a prolonged period of intense combat operations he made a real contribution to the successful prosecution of the war at sea.”^{viii}

Commander Chesterman’s award was widely reported in the Australian press at the time.

He was to remain based in Brisbane for the remainder of his naval career first as Chief Staff Officer to the Naval Officer-in-Charge Brisbane (NOIC), then as NOIC himself which was later re-named Resident Naval Officer Queensland.

Meanwhile, in September 1947....

Indonesia and the UN

The end of the Second World War saw the opportunity of many nationalist movements across the world to assert their country’s independence from



CMDR Chesterman between ADML Kinkaid USN (left) and RADM Thomas Combs USN (right) after the award of the US Legion of Merit on 6th July 1945. Kinkaid had just been promoted to full admiral and RADM Combs had just been appointed Kinkaid's chief of staff. *Dept of Information Services (WW2)*

their imperialist colonial powers. The islands of the Indonesian archipelago had been under the colonial power of The Netherlands for over a century, and with the invasion of the Japanese in 1942 the administration of the Netherlands East Indies (as colonial Indonesia was known) had withdrawn to Australia and had no further influence over the archipelago until after the Japanese surrender.

On 17 August 1945, just two days after the Japanese surrender and without any opportunity for the Dutch to re-assert its authority, the Republic of Indonesia was proclaimed by the nationalists. The Dutch did not recognise the republic and re-occupied the archipelago as soon as possible, which resulted in violent armed conflict between themselves and the republicans; and to a lesser extent, the British who maintained an armed presence in the islands until the Dutch returned in force.

Although attempts were made by both parties to determine a solution to the situation, eventually the Republicans appealed to the fledgling United Nations for help. The Dutch did not support the UN's intervention.

In August 1947 the UN's Security

Council ordered that both the Dutch and the Republicans immediately order a cease-fire and work towards settlement of the dispute. To assist in this endeavour, the Security Council established a "**Consular Commission at Batavia**", which was to determine the situation around the archipelago and report back to the Security Council, and a "Committee of Good Offices" (referred to as the UNGOC), which was to help resolve the conflict between the warring parties.^{ix} The Consular Commission comprised the consul-generals of all UN member states represented in Indonesia – Australia, the USA, the UK, Belgium, France and China^x. The UNGOC was a three-person committee of an august individual from one country nominated by the Dutch, one from a country nominated by the Republicans and a third from a country agreed by both the Dutch and Republicans. The Dutch chose Belgium (which nominated a recently retired Prime Minister, Paul van Zeeland), the republicans chose Australia (which nominated a serving judge of the High Court of NSW, Sir Richard Kirby), and both agreed on the USA as the third country,

which nominated a highly regarded university educator, Mr Frank Graham.

At its first meeting on 2nd September 1947 held in Batavia (now Jakarta), all members of the Consular Commission agreed that they needed the support of military officers to help gain an appreciation of the situation in the country and to observe the cease fire ordered by the Security Council. All consuls agreed to request 4 observers from their respective countries, and all complied with the requests, with the first (the Australians) arriving in-country within 2 weeks.

Australia's Consul, Group Captain Charles Eaton RAAF (retired), made his request for Australian military observers via cable on 2nd September to his line management in the Department of External Affairs. The Secretary of External Affairs, John Burton, immediately relayed the request to the Secretary of Defence, Frederick Shedden, who discussed the situation with the service chiefs. Shedden, having briefed the Minister for Defence, John Dedman, and received his approval, replied to Burton later that day (3rd September) that officers would be provided, and their names would be provided as soon as possible. Also on the 3rd, Shedden wrote to the service chiefs confirming arrangements and requesting the names of the officers be relayed directly to External Affairs as soon as they became available. The names of the four officers were later handwritten onto a copy of this memo, but exactly when they were identified is not known.^{xi}

The circumstances under which nominating any Australian officers for secondment to Indonesia were difficult. Australia had wound down its military after the end of the Second World War, and at the time of Eaton's request, all three services were re-adjusting to a "peace" environment. Great debate was occurring within the armed forces, the parliament and the public on how the armed forces would be re-structured for peace and it would take a number of years to resolve. In the meantime, there was

great pressure to reduce the cost of any defence force. The situation might best be summed up in the words of Mr Charles (Bill) Falkinder DFC & bar, DSO CBE, Liberal member for the seat of Franklin in Tasmania, and retired Group Captain RAAF:

“Five hundred and seventy thousand ex-service men and women have been discharged from the armed forces....[post WW2].....Undoubtedly, our defences are in a poor condition. We have practically no operational air defence at all; our Navy is not what it might be, and our Army is in worse straits than the Navy.”

Falkinder to House of Reps 6
May 1947

Falkinder’s assessment may have been a little harsh, but the situation was causing concern. All full-time members of the army had been transferred to an “Interim Army” on 30 June 1947 after the disbandment of the Second Australian Imperial Force, with about 10,000 personnel operating in Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force and a further 20,000 on duties around Australia. The peacetime Australian Regular Army, which was formed on 30 September 1947, was aimed to be approximately 20,000 in total.^{xii}

The projected 20,000 in the “Interim Air Force” however, did not materialise and the service suffered a mass exodus of trained people. At war’s end there were 173,622 men and women in the Air Force. By November 1946 numbers had fallen to 13,238 and continued to decline over the next 12 months to below 8,000. Retired Air Vice Marshall Bostock RAAF CB DSO OBE described the air force as in a “ruinous state”.^{xiii}

The Navy’s drop in numbers was not as dramatic as the Air Force’s, but the circumstances still stressed those who remained. Of the nearly 40,000 in the RAN at the end of 1945 just over 7,000 remained by the end of 1948.

Into this turmoil Charles Eaton made an urgent request for four suitable officers to act as military observers to a cease-fire order from

the newly established United Nations, without any idea on how this might be accomplished. Unfortunately, no evidence has yet been found to shed any light on how the forces decided on their chosen officers.

So how might Chesterman’s name have come up? At the end of the war Chesterman had been posted to a relative backwater in naval terms, that of staff officer to the Naval-Officer-in-Charge Brisbane. However, notwithstanding that he was living and working a long way from the centre of naval power (Navy Office in Melbourne) his long relationship with the US and UK in the HQ of Allied Naval Forces in SW Pacific; the fact that he would have had much interaction with RAN headquarters during this time; and the acknowledgement by the US of his “outstanding service” in this role arguably made him an obvious choice for Navy. He was an experienced senior staff officer with extensive organisational and interpersonal skills. On the one hand he had all the right credentials, and on the other he could be spared from his Brisbane role for a few months. But this is conjecture.

Chesterman in Indonesia

Much of the following was taken from a report that Commander Chesterman submitted to the Commonwealth Naval Board shortly after he returned to Australia in early 1948. The report is held in the National Archives.^{xiv} The report was circulated to Board members but was not acted upon in any way – the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, RADM Burrell, simply proposing “NFA” – no further action, stating that “quite possibly, the other two service representatives have reported similarly^{xv}. [and] The Department of External Affairs would not be interested as they hold the official files containing the full story.” The Chief of Naval Staff agreed. This suggests that the RAN was not really interested in supporting such a deployment.^{xvi} The RAN did not post another naval member to Indonesia.

Henry departed from Brisbane on 10th September 1947 travelling

to Melbourne where he joined his fellow Military observers: Brigadier Lewis Dyke, Squadron Leader Lou Spence and Major David Campbell. The group departed Melbourne in the early hours of 11th September, arriving in Surabaya mid-afternoon the next day where they were joined by Australia’s Consul-General, Group Captain Charles Eaton, and hosted by the Dutch authorities.

On the 13th September the group and Eaton flew to Batavia (today’s Jakarta), the seat of the Dutch government, where they were met and again hosted by the Dutch authorities. Opportunity was taken to meet with representatives of other countries sending observers (who had not yet arrived) and a plan for the initial work of the Australian team was discussed.

On the 14th September the group flew to Jogjakarta to meet the president of the declared Republic of Indonesia, Sukarno^{xvii}, after which they received a briefing of the current situation from the republican nationalist army.

On the 15th September the Australian team of military observers split into two groups: Dyke and Spence remained in Jogjakarta to conduct observations within the Republican-held territory whilst Chesterman and Campbell flew to Surabaya to review the situation in East Java with the Dutch. After 10 days visiting four sites to the south and north-west of Surabaya, and two on the island of Madura, Chesterman and Campbell re-joined their colleagues in Batavia. This was the first opportunity Henry had of meeting some of the other military observers from the other five nations.

The Security Council had requested that the Consular Commission report on the situation in Indonesia by the end of September. However, there had been insufficient time for the Commission and its military observers to both visit areas of interest and interview appropriate people and then prepare a collective opinion amongst the six national groups, notwithstanding the language difficulties.^{xviii} Indeed, the US contingent of military officers did not



Henry Chesterman (left) with, from left, Charles Eaton, Lewis Dyke and David Campbell. AW: P03531.002

arrive until the end of September and insisted on conducting its own field surveys and reporting back to the US Consul only. The Commission had to make an interim report to the Security Council without input from the US other than the US Consul himself.

Those early weeks were times of rapid appreciation of the situation, not only of the conflict between the Republicans and the Dutch, but of the mechanisms of working in a multinational group to support a unified goal. In addition, the Committee of Good Offices (UNGOC) had begun its work outside the country, meeting in Australia before arriving in Batavia on 27th October 1947. It was made clear by the Security Council on 1st November that the Consular Commission and its military observers were to support the work of UNGOC.^{xix}

By the time of the arrival of the UNGOC three of Australia's four military observers had returned home. Spence had returned on 3rd October suffered debilitating illness and Dyke and Campbell had returned on 11th October. It is not clear, but it appears that Australia's deployment of the four

officers had only been for one month! Henry was retained in Indonesia after the Consul, Charles Eaton, had submitted a request to Canberra that Henry be seconded to External Affairs to support him directly. This request was referred to the Naval Board which approved his retention in Indonesia as a military observer for a maximum of 3 months. Clearly, in the space of a few weeks Henry had impressed Eaton, and over the period 11th-15th October Henry and an official in the Consul's office looked after affairs whilst Eaton was absent visiting Dilli in Timor. On the 15th October the Consular Commission's report to the Security Council was signed.

Henry's attention was then focussed on helping Eaton prepare for the arrival of the UNGOC and support for its work. The committee members arrived in Batavia on 27th October and commenced its initial round of meetings with the Dutch in Batavia and the Republicans in Jogjakarta. One of the first negotiated agreements was a decision on the venue for formal face-to-face meetings of all parties. Ultimately, an offer by the USA of the use of a US Navy ship was accepted and subsequently the USS *Renville* arrived and anchored off Batavia on 2nd December.

In the meantime, Henry, as the senior (and only) Australian military observer met with the senior military observers of the other five countries, and with the staff of the UNGOC to establish how they would all work together. UNGOC established a structured arrangement with several sub-committees advising the three principals, including one focussed on security to which the group of senior military observers were to report.

On 9th November the senior observers from all countries submitted a unanimous report to the Consular Commission containing military proposals to implement the latest Security Council Resolution (36 of 1st Nov).^{xx} This resolution was passed in consideration of the Consular Commission's report on the situation in Indonesia and exhorted all concerned to work together to find ways to enforce the cease-fire agreement. Resolution 36 was also the first resolution of the Security Council (or the General Assembly) to make reference to military observers/



USS Renville. US Archives: USN 1044187

peacekeepers supporting the Security Council's, and thereby the United Nations' endeavours.

Resolution 36 prompted the Australian delegate to UNGOC, Justice Kirby, to request Canberra for more military observers, and in response, Major David Campbell was promptly sent back to Batavia for a month. Kirby also requested another officer, of equal rank to the other countries' senior observers (colonel). The Army responded by sending Brigadier Ted Neylan who arrived in Batavia on 9th December – the day that Campbell left for home.

Meanwhile, Henry had been appointed as a member of the Communications sub-committee of UNGOC. He replaced 27-year-old External Affairs officer Mr Alfred Brooks who would be appointed as the first Director General of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service only 5 years later. Henry accompanied the Belgian delegate on UNGOC, Paul Van Zeeland, and a US Marine Corps observer to Makassar in the province of South Sulawesi with a view to both impart what UNGOC was attempting to do and to understand a little more of the situation in the broader northern islands of the archipelago through representatives of the parliament of the area.

Back in Batavia, Henry was appointed to a sub-committee charged with making the necessary arrangements for the substantive talks between the UNGOC, the Dutch and the Republicans on the yet-to-arrive USS *Renville*. This was the main focus of Henry's time over the coming weeks; and later to support the formal discussions themselves. He was joined on 5th December by Squadron Leader Lesley Kroll RAAF just before formal discussions got underway on *Renville*, and on the 9th December Brigadier Neylan arrived and became the senior Australian military observer.

Both the Dutch and the Republicans wanted UNGOC to investigate alleged breaches of the cease fire agreement reached in response to the Security Council's request. Henry became involved in



Mr Paul van Zeeland, the Belgium representative on UNGOC, addressing the opening session meeting onboard USS *Renville* on 8th December 1947. The other members of UNGOC are Australia's Justice Richard Kirby (2nd on Zeeland's right) and the US's Mr Frank Graham (2nd on Zeeland's left). *Netherlands National Museum of World Culture TM-60042227*

one such investigation on the island of Madura off east Java where the Dutch claimed many breaches with the Republicans accused of using artillery and armoured vehicles. He, together with Kroll, one Belgian and four American observers and diplomats from Australia, the US and Belgium visited a number of towns across the length of the island over 15th-18th December. They did not agree on a unified report, with the Belgians submitting one report and the Americans and Australians submitting another. They were submitted to UNGOC later that month.

Henry spent the rest of December in meetings concerning the Truce Plan developed by the "Committee of Three" as Henry referred to the UNGOC (Justice Kirby, Paul van Zeeland and Frank Graham). However, in early January 1948 Henry was once again involved in an investigation, this time into an accusation against the Dutch for murdering over 400 Indonesians in the village of Rawagede in response to allegations of Republicans beheading people who would not support their cause. Henry's involvement was confined to Batavia where he interviewed various

people including one Indonesian who had been partially beheaded for refusing to join a Republican gang. Ultimately the Rawagede incident, which did occur, drew outrage from around the world, but it wasn't until 10th March 2010 that the Dutch King Ferdinand formally apologised to the people of Indonesia during a visit at the invitation of President Yudhoyono.

Henry's final weeks in Indonesia in 1948 were spent supporting discussions of the Truce Plan and the Madura "report", culminating in the signing of the Truce Plan onboard the USS *Renville*. The plan then became "The *Renville* Agreement" which, albeit flawed in many ways, was the first step under the aegis of the United Nations towards the settlement of the Indonesian independence conflict. The conflict formally ended on 2nd November 1949 when both parties signed The Hague Agreement whereby the Netherlands agreed to transfer full sovereignty to the Republic of Indonesia by the end of 1950. Both the *Renville* and Hague agreements were brokered by the UN and its intervention into the conflict must be regarded as the UN's first major success.



The Round Table Conference on 2 November 1949 – the signing of the Hague Agreement. *Netherlands National Archives; item 903-6873*

On 18th January 1948, the day after the Renville Agreement was signed, Henry left Indonesia and returned home. He had been the lynchpin of Australia's initial military observer group helping not only support the work of the Consular Commission at Batavia and the UNGOC but also to set the groundwork on how military officers from around the world would work together towards a common goal in support of peacekeeping and peacemaking.

After completing and submitting a report of the events since mid-September 1947 Henry returned to duty in the office of the resident naval officer in Brisbane where he was to serve for the remainder of his naval career, first as Naval-Officer-in-Charge Brisbane, then (through name changes) Resident Naval Officer Brisbane and finally Resident Naval Officer Queensland. Henry, known to his friends and colleagues as "Chesters", retired in 1957 just after



Office portrait as RNO (Queensland)

being made an Officer in the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire **"in recognition of [his] long and distinguished service in the RAN"**.

Henry Chesterman was a founding member of Australia's Fleet Air Arm, the first Australian to be fully qualified as a naval Observer, and Australia's and the United Nations' first peacekeeper drawn from the navy.

Who was the RAN's next peacekeeper/military observer?

The RAN only deployed one other member to Indonesia – Commander Alan Clive Mather – between Aug 1948 and Feb 49, believed to have been sent to monitor Dutch blockade activities. Since then, the RAN's involvement in UN missions has been primarily via the provision of ships, aircraft and shore logistics personnel in support of those ships (Korea, Operation Damask, Kuwait, Somalia, etc..) The ships have been involved in land attack (Korea only), logistics and blockage duties in support of peacekeeping missions. The RAN has also provided clearance divers to help make ships and harbours safe, naval officers to senior positions such as the Australian representative to the UN Military Armistice Commission (Korea); and RAN medical personnel in support of peacekeeping missions

in the field. Only a relatively few members of the RAN have been deployed as peacekeepers in the role of military observers; to places such as Egypt, Bougainville and the Middle East, but it is not known exactly when the RAN deployed its next observer/peacekeeper after Henry Chesterman returned to Australia in January 1948.

About the Author: Graham Rayner is a naval architect and was a career federal public servant. As well as two universities, he is a graduate of both the Joint Services Staff College and the Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies. After retiring from the Department of Defence he joined the committee organising the design and construction of Australia's national memorial to peacekeeping in Canberra. He currently gives talks on aspects of military history to members of the ACT branch of the Australian Military Historical Society and the University of 3rd Age.

- i. The Australians were the first to arrive and be deployed into the field, and whilst this is true it was only by one day. Two majors and two captains from the UK arrived in Indonesia on the 14th September (see minutes of Consular Commission meeting 15th Sep 1947) but it is not known when they first deployed into the field.
- ii. The RAN did not have sufficient funds or manpower to constantly operate its larger warships and so 'rotated' them between the active and reserve fleets.
- iii. At this time the Fleet Air Arm was a unit of the Royal Air Force. When responsibility for naval aviation was transferred to the Admiralty in 1939 the FAA was re-named the Naval Air Branch of the Royal Navy. It later reverted to the name Fleet Air Arm.
- iv. NAA: MP124/6 415/201/432 p59. Handwritten note added to telegram from London advising Chesterman's acceptance on RAF Observers Course. The note, dated 7th May 1926 and written by unknown author, is addressed to "ACNS" which is taken to be Assistant Chief of Naval Staff. The carrier he mentions is Australia's future seaplane carrier HMAS Albatross.
- v. In 1933 *Albatross* became a victim of the financial crisis of the times and was decommissioned and put into the reserve fleet. In 1938 it was given to

- the UK as part payment for the new cruiser HMAS *Hobart*, whereupon it was sailed to the UK and handed over on 9 September 1938.
- vi. DEMS – Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships – as the name suggests this was a program to arm merchant ships with weapons to provide some defence against aircraft and submarines.
 - vii. Pfenningwerth, Ian; *Bravo Zulu – honours and awards to Australian naval people. Volume 1 1900-1974*. Barralier Books West Geelong, 2016
 - viii. NAA: A3978, Chesterman HS
 - ix. Security Council Resolutions 30 and 31 made on 25th August 1947.
 - x. The Republic of China – China was in the throes of a civil war at the time, in which the communists won power. The government of the ROC withdrew to the Chinese island of Formosa (Taiwan) where it remains to this day.
 - xi. NAA A5954, 2278/4, ID=731052 various documents
 - xii. Grey, J; *Australian Centenary History of Defence Vol 1: the Australian Army*, pp161-168, OUP 2001
 - xiii. Stephens, D; *Australian Centenary*

- History of Defence Vol 2: the Royal Australian Air Force*, p179, OUP 2001
- xiv. NAA: MP1049/5, 1877/17/63 *Report by Cdr H S Chesterman RAN on duties as Military observer on the Staff of Australian Consul General Batavia Sept 1947 Jan 1948*
 - xv. No-one checked? A search of the archives has not revealed a report written by Dyke or Spence or Campbell. At the time of Chesterman's report, Dyke's replacement, BRIG Neylan had only recently arrived in Indonesia. Chesterman's report was effectively a report by the senior officer of the initial group of Australian observers.
 - xvi. The Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Louis Hamilton RN was in the last days of his tenure and was most likely looking forward to his return to England and retirement in two-week's time. RADM Burrell however would later become CNS in 1959.
 - xvii. Given the name Kusno Sosrodihardjo after his birth, his name was changed to simply Sukarno after surviving a serious illness in his childhood. In later life he was awarded 26 honorary doctorates

- from universities around the world and would then be referred as "Dr Sukarno".
- xviii. The primary language used appeared to be English. Although this was not specifically mentioned in reports, it was noted that the five officers from China (and the Chinese aircrew who flew them into the country) all spoke perfect English.
- xix. Security Council Resolution 36 of 1st November 1947
- xx. The military observers from all countries were beginning to act cooperatively as a collective, rather than as individual national groups. Whilst they would continue to have disagreements over issues, the desire to cooperate was evident.
- xxi. At the time, the Indonesian archipelago was divided broadly into three areas with all islands east of Borneo and Java collectively known as the Great East. A parliament had been established at Makassar with representatives drawn from the diverse populations around the Great East.



Continued RAN involvement in Peacekeeping.

Chief Petty Officer Signals Yeoman John Perryman, a crew member of RAN heavy landing ship HMAS Tobruk. Australian War Memorial
 Crew of HMAS Tobruk unloading supplies, Somalia, 1993 (photo by George Gittoes).

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superior to the industry standard in that each model has a double coating on both sides of the lens rather than a single coating on just one side.

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Bollé Safety's top seller for first responders, Silium+ has a unique design with straight flat, ultra-flexible temples designed to be comfortable when worn under helmets. Available in smoke or copper lens, both with Bollé Safety's anti-fog, anti-scratch coating.

Silex+



Silex+ has no metal parts, and the ultra-wraparound frame gives the wearer a panoramic field of vision. Bi-material, flex 160° temples allow for maximum comfort and superior fit. Available with a clear lens as well as smoke or copper lens, all with Bollé Safety's anti-fog, anti-scratch coating.

Tryon



Tryon has a sporty design with its half-frame and wraparound lens. It comes with a soft-touch finish for a sophisticated look. Bi-material, flex 160° temples increase comfort by reducing pressure points and allow the glasses to adapt to different head shapes.

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Helping out our friends

A Royal Australian Air Force C-17A Globemaster III aircraft flew to Hanoi, Vietnam, to airlift the first group of Vietnam People's Army personnel and equipment to Juba in South Sudan in late-April 2022. The Vietnam People's Army personnel are the fourth rotation supporting the UN mission to South Sudan (UNMISS), where they provide a Role 2 field hospital. The Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, Ms Robyn Mudie, said Australia was proud to again support Vietnam conduct its relief in place for the UN mission in South Sudan. Australia and Vietnam share a commitment to global security and peacekeeping and the Australian Defence Force support for the Vietnamese mission contingent is a practical demonstration of our partnership. The RAAF C-17A Globemaster will transport the first group of personnel and equipment to Juba and return to Hanoi with those Vietnamese personnel deploying home from the mission. A second airlift will be conducted in May 2022 to transport the remaining Vietnamese military personnel deploying to South Sudan.



Above: Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, Ms Robyn Mudie, and Colonel Paul Fura, Australian Defence Force Attaché to Vietnam, farewell Vietnamese peacekeepers on board a Royal Australian Air Force C-17A Globemaster III aircraft in Hanoi, Vietnam, prior to them deploying to the United Nations mission in South Sudan.

Below: President of Vietnam, Mr Nguyễn Xuân Phúc (centre), and Ms Robyn Mudie (centre right), Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, Left to right: Ms Caitlin Wiesen-Antin (white scarf), United Nations Acting Resident Coordinator for Vietnam; Senior General Phan Văn Giang, Vietnam's Minister for National Defence; President Nguyễn Xuân Phúc; Ms Mudie. *Defence images.*



AFP The United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET)

Dr Martin Hess (AFP rtd) and former UNCIVPOL member UNAMET 1999

Part 1 of 2 – Part 2 will cover the Return to Timor Leste in 2019

Introduction

In late August and early September 2019, a small group of former Australian Federal Police (AFP) members of the UNAMET mission to East Timor in 1999, returned to the new nation of Timor Leste.

The group of AFP UNCIVPOL members who returned to Timor Leste is a unique group of people whose service history spans almost 50 years of combined police and military service including with the Special Air Service Regiment in South Vietnam in 1971 to service with the AFP and DFAT in Afghanistan 2007-2014. In fact, David Savage AO was the subject of an attack by a 12-year-old suicide bomber in Uruzgan Province Afghanistan in 2012, and is confined to a wheel chair as a result of this attack. His return to Timor Leste in 2019 was particularly brave and poignant.



AFP UNAMET members National Peacekeepers Memorial ANZAC Day 2021

After UNAMET in 1999 he left the AFP and returned to East Timor with UNTAET as a War Crimes investigator and then worked all around the world in this capacity until returning to Australia and working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It was in this capacity that he was attacked and injured in Afghanistan in 2012. A number of these members had served in Cyprus, Cambodia, Mozambique, Haiti, and Bougainville, and some went on to serve in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Solomon Islands. One member was in Jakarta when the Australian Embassy was bombed by Jemaah Islamiyah in 2004. Some had previous military service as reservists with the Royal New South Wales Regiment and the Far North Queensland Regiment. In short, it was a very experienced group of individuals with a significant amount of combined service.

For most, it was the first time they had stepped foot in Timor since their departure twenty years earlier

as the province was engulfed in civil strife, bordering on civil war, as a result of the UN sponsored ballot of the East Timorese concerning their political future, and the violent reaction by pro-Indonesian militia groups and elements of the Indonesian security forces.

Whilst the majority of acknowledgement of Australia's involvement in East Timor rests with the Australian-led military mission known as INTERFET, very few ask why this mission was required in the first place. It was in fact due to the widespread outbreak of murderous violence unleashed by Indonesian-backed militia groups in the wake of a United Nations conducted ballot of the people of East Timor as to their political destiny. There was no international military contingent, as the security agreement only allowed for a small number of unarmed United Nations Civilian Police (UNCIVPOL), as primary security rested with the Indonesian National Police (POLRI).



UNAMET plaque



made by the Australian Government on strong advice from the AFP. Whilst this decision may appear counter-intuitive, particularly when deploying onto a known hostile environment, the consensus amongst UNAMET UNCIVPOL, is that this was a wise decision. The basic rationale is that police would have been out-gunned by their opponents, and as unarmed UN representatives, unarmed police pose a less intimidating or threatening presence than would be the case had they been armed.

The pro-Indonesian militia groups emerged in late 1998 and early 1999. They were supported by elements of the Indonesian special forces. They were violent and many had access to military weapons. The old adage that 'you don't take a knife to gun fight' applied to this situation. There is no doubt that these militia groups would have murdered armed police for their weapons, which would have been standard police issue Glock pistols. As such any armed police would have been outgunned. Being armed would also have provided a pretext for aggressive action by militia groups by allowing them to claim that the armed UNCIVPOL member was reaching for a weapon and thus any armed reaction by the militia was justified.

UNAMET June-September 1999

Numbering 52 AFP members formed the largest single national contingent of the 270-member strong UNCIVPOL element of UNAMET. This group of international police assembled and deployed at very short notice through the assembly location at the RAAF Base in Darwin. The first international UNCIVPOL to arrive in Darwin were from New Zealand, followed by Britain, Eire and Spain, and then other police as they became available. They deployed in several tranches to Dili where upon arrival they were almost immediately deployed either singly or in small groups of two or three, into the remote and regional areas to establish a UN presence.

Due to the haste with which the mission was established, there was very little in the way of support and there was no common briefing. They just deployed and commenced their mission which was to advise the Indonesian National Police in their duties related to a UN ballot and to secure the ballot material on ballot day, namely to and from the polling places. There was no medical facility, no medevac capacity, no rations, no communications, no maps and no armed military Quick Reaction Force. Security was entirely in the hands of the Indonesian National Police, most of whom were subservient to the Indonesian military, particularly the

Kopassus special forces, which in turn controlled the militia in an attempt at plausible deniability for actions it could not pursue openly.

UNAMET was an electoral mission and 400 UN Volunteers from all around the world, provided the backbone of the administration of the Popular Consultation. They formed small electoral teams and generally one UNCIVPOL member was assigned to each team. The actual ballot process, including registration, voter education and the ballot itself as designed by the Australian Electoral Commission.

All UNCIVPOL members were unarmed, as a result of a decision



Members of the United Nations Mission East Timor (UNAMET), observers and locally employed staff, gathered around a sealed ballot box prior to the start of voting on the referendum for East Timorese independence in the village of Poetete. Identified, left to right: unidentified Australian civilian observer; Wayne Corbett, New Zealand Police Officer and others



There was no effective Indonesian police force to conduct a competent investigation and the general public was so cowed by their previous experience over two decades that reliable witnesses to such an event would have been a rarity. The fact that UNAMET was an unarmed mission also allowed the inclusion of police from countries whose police are not routinely armed such as New Zealand, Great Britain and Eire which enhanced the integrity and credibility of the UNCIVPOL element.

The security situation was confused. In the immediate post-Suharto era, the move towards democratisation in Indonesia was growing. This included calls for the separation of the police from the military. Thus, a new Indonesian National Police was established on 01 April 1999, less than two months before the arrival of the first UNAMET police. The UN-brokered security agreement, finalised on 05 May 1999, placed this newly-formed Indonesian National Police as the sole guarantor of security for the ballot. The INP, supported by police mobile brigades (BRIMOB) were essentially para-military and were very much a second cousin to the Indonesian military. On most occasions the Indonesian police could not or would not intervene in militia activity. It was the Indonesian National Police which was the major area of interface with UNAMET

UNCIVPOL advisers.

The Popular Consultation process was essentially a referendum of the East Timorese on their political future. The choice was between remaining within the Republic of Indonesia, or pursuing a path towards full independence. The process included voter registration, voter education, campaigning, a cooling – off period and finally the actual ballot. This took place on 30 August after being postponed once due to militia violence.

The ballot result, whereby 78.5 per cent of registered voters rejected the Indonesian offer of autonomy was announced on the morning of 04 September 1999. This triggered an immediate reaction by pro-Indonesian elements. An already tense province erupted into chaos as a scorched earth policy was implemented. Villages were burned, there were evacuations of Indonesian military and police families, as well as the forced deportation of an estimated 250000 East Timorese against their will, to a very uncertain future in camps in West Timor.

Due to the level of harassment, intimidation and violence, and the attendant high-risk, international UNAMET staff were deliberately withdrawn from their remote field locations and corralled into two locations, Dili and Baucau, which, not accidentally, were the two

centres with airfields large enough to take C130 aircraft for anticipated evacuations. There is little doubt this was an intentional strategy to remove competent international witnesses to what was to come.

On occasion, militia groups targeted international staff, including UNCIVPOL but their primary targets were pro-independence East Timorese. UNCIVPOL members often stood between the militia predators and their intended pro-independence prey. On several occasions they came under fire from both militia groups and Indonesian security forces.

As they withdrew from the field to Dili, many were forced into the UN Compound, where over-crowding and sanitation became a serious issue. An Indonesian machine gunner near the front gate of the UN Compound was firing bursts of tracer at targets of opportunity as some East Timorese fled into the hills to escape the turmoil and violence taking hold in Dili. The high school next to the UN Compound was a place of refuge for many East Timorese fleeing the civil strife which was engulfing Dili. There were many families huddled close to the walls of the buildings. A group of Indonesian soldiers entered the grounds of the high school and discharged a number of rounds. This panicked the already frightened Timorese who attempted to seek refuge en masse to the UN Compound itself. The school and the compound were separated by a stone wall topped by razor wire. Some threw their children over the wall, in the hope getting them to safety. Some became entangled on the razor wire, incurring some severe lacerations.

Eventually the small gate between the school and the compound was opened and a stream of Timorese entered the compound. At the same time, an Indonesian machine gunner near the front gate of the UN Compound continued firing over the compound at some Timorese fleeing into the hills immediately behind the compound.

Those who had entered the compound were taken into the auditorium where they sat on the floor in family groups. Wounds were



wore only plain blue T shirts with the UN and UNAMET badges stencilled on them. On a number of occasions, UNCIVPOL from the United States offered their shirts to their Australian counterparts as a form of protection. Surely this must be the only occasion in which the Australian National Flag attracted more hostility than the Stars and Stripes.

The evacuations, co-ordinated by Australia, was known as Operation Spitfire. The author ended up meeting the pilot of the RAAF C130 he evacuated on and still maintains contact. Many UNAMET UNCIVPOL refused to evacuate until the Indonesians made a decision to allow the East Timorese in the UN Compound to evacuate to Darwin with them. This was finally achieved and UNAMET eventually withdrew almost completely on 14 September 1999, leaving a very small contingent based at the Australian Consulate.

UNAMET withdrew completely by 14 September 1999 under ADF Operation Spitfire and INTERFET deployed 19-20 September 1999. In the intervening period an estimated 1600 East Timorese independence supporters and their families were murdered and an estimated 250000 East Timorese were forcibly deported by the Indonesian military to a very uncertain future in West Timor.

attended to and small amounts of food were distributed. A baby was born in the compound during this time. The machine gunner continued firing tracer over the compound at the fleeing Timorese and it was only a matter of time before he saw the well-lit auditorium as a target. The lights were lowered and some candles were lit. The scene took on an almost biblical atmosphere, as the Timorese huddled on the floor with a low moaning of fear permeating everything except the gunfire and grenade blasts just outside the compound.

It was at this time that a young East Timorese girl who had been employed by UNAMET as Locally Engaged Staff (LES) calmed everybody down by standing at a table lit by two candles and sang Ave Maria and said The Lord's Prayer in Tetum. This had an immediate calming effect as those frightened people huddled on the floor accompanied her as she sang and prayed. Her name is Anastacia, but she goes by the name of Tata. The author had the opportunity to meet this remarkable young woman when he returned in 2019. More on this in part II.

The presence of so many people, both international UNAMET staff and over a thousand East Timorese in a small compound, created an immediate problem in relation to food and water, and most importantly in relation to sanitation. Makeshift latrine trenches were dug and attempts to obtain food and water from warehouses near the port, several

kilometres away were repelled by armed and violent militia groups who were roaming at will through the chaotic streets of Dili.

Evacuation of UN International Staff commenced via a ballot process. This commenced on 06SEP99 and continued until 14SEP99. Many UNCIVPOL members, including several Australians, refused to leave unless the local East Timorese in the UN Compound came with them. After lengthy and exhaustive negotiations, this was begrudgingly agreed to by the Indonesians.

Australian UNCIVPOL were specifically targeted and were readily identifiable by the Australian National Flag on the left sleeve of their shirts as required by the UN. As a result, the Australians removed their shirts and



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ELLIOT SPRINGS

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living

Elliot Springs draws defence couple back on home soil

Defence couple Nick and Vicky Guion are back on home soil, planting solid foundations for their family's future in Elliot Springs, moving back to Townsville to start a new life in the thriving masterplanned community.

Drawn to the community's natural landscapes and connected defence community, the couple and their two teenage sons are excited to build their dream home in Elliot Springs, ready to unpack their travel bags for good.

"My first posting was at 3CSR Lavarack Barracks, we had spent many years in Townsville and our children have grown up here. We love the weather and exploring North Queensland," said Nick.

"After trade transferring and training in Wagga Wagga and Oakey, we knew that we wanted to get back to Townsville again. I now work at the RAAF Base in Townsville at 5 Aviation Regiment as an Avionics Technician.

"The RAAF Base is only a 15 minute drive out of town and I get to live in a home surrounded by hills and nature. We haven't found anywhere that offers such beautiful landscapes as close as Elliot Springs. Vicky is working at Lavarack Barracks so she is looking forward to a quick commute up the highway."

After a busy day on the base, Nick and Vicky are looking forward to experiencing a relaxed, laid-back lifestyle, connected to other military couples in the Elliot Springs neighbourhood.

"We wanted to build and not buy as Elliot Springs is part residential, part bush land and we enjoy those types of surroundings and views. The area is just the beginning of a much larger development. We are drawn to the future plans for the area and the community it will build," said Nick.

"We are looking forward to living in an area that has a strong defence presence. We have friends that have already finished building in Elliot



Nick and Vicky Guion are thrilled to start their new life at Elliot Springs.

Springs and others that are currently in the middle of the building process."

A future base for our defence community

Elliot Springs is growing at a rapid rate, with residents now living in two neighbourhoods; Aspect and Whites Creek, the opening of the community's first BP service station, The Hub café and the district's award-winning playground, Wadda Mooli Park. There's a choice of affordable home and land packages that can include spacious backyards, 360 degree mountain views and planned infrastructure that will set Elliot

Springs up as one of the region's most popular neighbourhoods.

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

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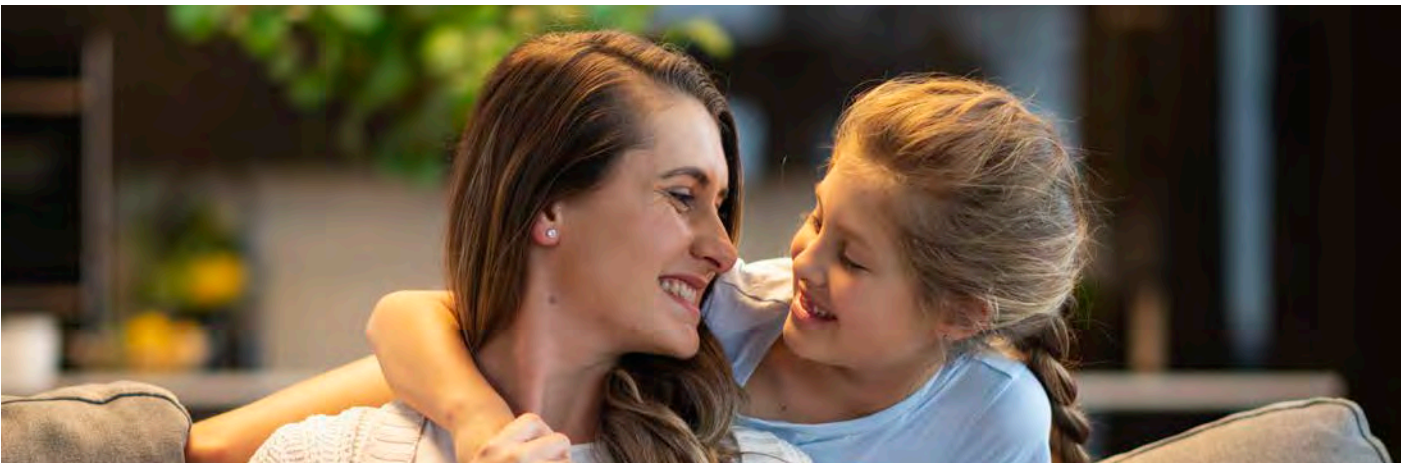
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Observers help keep the peace in Golan

Keeping an eagle eye is more than just a saying for United Nations Military Observer Captain John Whiteley.

A member of Team Eagle working in Golan on the Israeli-Syrian border, Captain Whiteley is one of nine members who conduct mobile patrols and static operations as part of Operation Paladin, the ADF's contribution to the UN Truce Supervision Organisation.

The teams watched for any activities that are, or could lead to, a violation of the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israel and Syria.

"There are numerous civilians in the villages we monitor, which enables us to observe the pattern of life in the area," Captain Whiteley said.

"When something changes, it allows us to quickly focus in and see if it is anything we need to report.

"The situation in the Golan is relatively calm, but it can change at a moment's notice.

"For example, in February, rockets were fired from the Israeli Golan side into the Syrian side, destroying numerous buildings within a village."

Patrolling anywhere from 50 to 200km a day, the military observers work in teams of a minimum of two from differing countries to maintain impartiality.

There are numerous patrolling sectors, with each made up of different areas that the Israeli Defence Force operate out of. This covers both permanent and temporary facilities, where training and operational activity is conducted.

"As a patrolling team, we move freely through all the different sectors," Captain Whiteley said.

"Should we observe any presumed violations we are able to increase the observation and therefore the awareness for the commanders on the ground.

"An example is any military



equipment that is unauthorised to be in the area of limitation, such as surface-to-air missiles, which are a violation of the 1974 agreement."

The patrol vehicles are white to increase visibility, marked with large United Nations initials and carrying a UN flag to identify their purpose in the area.

Outside the vehicle the military observers wear headwear and vests with UN markings, again to increase visibility.

At the end of the patrols, a report is completed and any presumed violations are sent to the Force Commander of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

On average, each Team Eagle

member will do three weeks of the month on the road, or in observation post 53.

The Australian personnel are deployed on Operation Paladin for six months.

A medical corps general service officer, Captain Whiteley joined the team at the start of the year.

"I have been really able to incorporate my navigation skills, my planning ability, with being able to plan the patrol and taking into account what the Israeli Defence Force are training for," Captain Whiteley said.

"It is important we are here to ensure, as an impartial party, that the terms of the agreement are adhered to, to prevent any further conflict between Israel and Syria."

Awash with terror

Anzac response to a Boxing Day tragedy

By Don Hughes

The Aceh River flows down mountainous rainforests that form the backbone of the Island of Sumatra and then into the tropical Indian Ocean. Nestled on this pristine coastline, on the western tip of the islands of Indonesia, lies Banda Aceh the epicentre of the tragic Asian Tsunami of Boxing Day 2004.

Out of the aftermath of this terrifying event, an ANZAC Hospital emerged to care for thousands of sick and injured.

The ANZAC spirit helped overcome this international tragedy.

Banda Aceh - Sumatra

An idyllic and historically significant Muslim centre of excellence, culture and education, Banda Aceh is a wondrous enclave encircled by majestic rainforest covered mountains and a glorious coastline. It has often been called the "Port of Mecca", traditionally providing a maritime embarkation point for pilgrims from all over Indonesia launching on their spiritual journey.

Stately sultanate palaces, enchanting canal systems and hundreds of mosques combined with magnificent sandy white beaches and a tropical climate gives the city a nearly mystical quality.

Centrally placed between the Strait of Malacca to the north and the Indian Ocean to the south and west, the province of Aceh is a pivotal location within South East Asia. This has historically given rise to protracted conflict with the Portuguese, Dutch, British, Japanese and more recently the Indonesian Government.

The Free Aceh movement (Gerakan Aceh Merdeka, GAM) violently opposed Indonesian rule and had waged a separatist struggle since the mid-1970s resulting in a resistance campaign that resembled East Timor.

Struggles in Aceh had been largely ignored unlike the western world response (led by Australia) to the East Timor dilemma in 1999. That was to change when the Boxing Day tsunami crashed into its coastline. (Fennell, p306)

The Tsunami – World's Deadliest Natural Disaster!

Nature dealt Banda Aceh a nasty hand. With devastating record force, an undersea earthquake shook the region producing up to a 30-metre wave that barrelled inland obliterating buildings, vegetation and people in its path. Interestingly, many mosques survived the terrifying onslaught -

perhaps due to their spherical shape and large openings allowing water to swirl past and through them.

A huge 2,600 tonne floating ship, the *PLTD Apung 1*, acting as a floating electrical generating power station for the city, became a giant 63m long bulldozer blade that ravaged everything in its path as it was propelled sideways by the wave into the city for 3 kilometres. The ship finally came to rest as the powerful waters continued inland for a further 5 kilometres.

The Indian Ocean region had experienced one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. Banda Aceh the closest major city to the epicentre suffered severe casualties, with 167,000



Commander Joint Task Force (CJTF) Brigadier David Chalmers AM, CSC, ADC (right rear), and Lieutenant Colonel Jaka Santosa of the Indonesian Air Force, talk to troops from 1 Combat Engineering Regiment (1CER) on HMAS Kanimbla before going ashore in Banda Aceh to support tsunami relief and reconstruction operations.

people perishing. This ship is now a permanent memorial.

International Response - World's Largest Shopping Centre!

The world responded rapidly. Aid from around the globe began to arrive in abundance. This created a mammoth task within itself, just to co-ordinate the arrival of both National and International military and civilian disaster response organisations, along with the storage and distribution of donated emergency relief food, medical supplies and equipment. Vast warehouses were brimming with generators, tentage, medical supplies and food combined with clothing, toys and utensils of every description.

Despite these kind gestures from the international community, the city was now inundated with aid. Later I pondered the irony that the world's largest shopping centre, Singapore, was just a short voyage across the straights, and yet goods and supplies had travelled from all around the globe to reach Aceh!

What was really needed, were people and organisations that can get things done. Australia's recipe for providing this type of humanitarian assistance, has been well tested and improved upon over generations.

Included in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) contingent was Major David Moon as part of Australia's emergency response. His task was to help facilitate coordination and cooperation between the international militaries, United Nations (UN) and Non-Government Organisations (NGO), along with National agencies assisting the Government of Indonesia (GOID) and local communities. An experienced military engineer, he had gained enormous experience on similar operations in Papua New Guinea, Bosnia and the Solomon Islands along with assisting in evacuations from East Timor. As the Civil and Military Cooperation (CIMIC) officer for the ADF, his task was to help coordinate the massive response:

"At their peak, there were over 250 international non-government organisations (NGO) in Banda Aceh – ranging from little "Mum & Pop" NGOs just wanting to do good, up to those really larger UN agencies and NGOs delivering a smorgasbord of relief supplies and capabilities."

Planning and implementing a coordinated response was often hampered by political imperatives to be seen as a good international citizen along with competition between agencies to deliver various relief supplies and capabilities. One vital resource however, highlighted by Major Moon:

"was the Army Engineers water point team from the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment who along with the RAAF medical teams arrived on 29 December. The small team deployed into the city and was critical in producing and maintaining clean water to the survivors until other military and NGO water purification teams arrived."

Operation Sumatra Assist – ADF to the Rescue

Defence played a vital role in the Australian government's national humanitarian relief effort to Indonesia (Operation Sumatra Assist). Spearheaded by HMAS Kanimbla (a Landing Platform Amphibious ship, with Sea King helicopter and LCM-8 landing craft capability), the ever faithful 'work horses' the RAAF C130 Hercules transport planes, and the extremely agile and flexible 'utilities of the sky', our Iroquois helicopters from the Army's 5th Aviation Regiment, all responded quickly.

Also deploying quickly were the Army Engineers from the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment based in Darwin who mobilised with all their plant and equipment along with the Army's "consulting engineering capability" 19th Chief Engineer Works who undertake difficult projects in some of the most remote and hostile environments worldwide. Captain Michelle Wynn (later Colonel Michelle

McCormack), an Army civil engineer, was one of the first to deploy into Aceh:

"We observed complete and utter death and devastation. Thousands of houses had been razed to the ground for as far as the eye could see and then, every few hundred metres, a random double-storey house would be standing all by itself." (Tyquin p.130)

A huge priority, and the most gruesome task, was collecting and burying the dead. Major Moon explains:

"the survivors of the tsunami were very pragmatic about what was required. 'Collect the dead and bury them as quickly as possible'. The use of mass graves with no religious ceremonies was critical in the tropical environment. The high proportion of dead compared to the injured meant the treatment case load for medical support was large but not absolutely overwhelming."

Major Moon was able to apply critical lessons learnt from previous disaster relief operations. The use



RAAF Chaplain Andrew Knight leads pallbearers carrying the caskets of RAN and RAAF members killed in the 2 April helicopter crash into a C-130J Hercules for return to Australia. *Defence image.*

of international military rotary wing aircraft was absolutely vital to keep supply lines open to remote areas. Later, he would reinforce these lessons in Afghanistan and as a result of Typhon Haiyan in the Philippines. He is now retired but recently volunteered for drought relief operations (Aussie Helpers) in Australia.

Medical Support (ANZAC Angels)

Daunting work still lay ahead. As well as restoring basic infrastructure (water, sanitation, power and removing debris etc) natural disasters are ultimately about caring for people. The medical team was made up of 154 personnel (Regular and Reserve) from the 1st Health Support Battalion who were joined by a contingent of additional specialist doctors and nurses drawn from around Australia and sailed on HMAS Kanimbla. They were a critical resource in this terrifying humanitarian disaster.

From the onset, the Australian medical contingent was joined by a team from the New Zealand Defence Force. Ultimately, the aptly named **ANZAC Hospital** was established, working alongside other international medical staff to provide for immediate emergencies and care. Tetanus and aspiration pneumonia were the maladies most commonly treated and were made particularly difficult to treat due to inhaled pollutants from the floodwaters. The delivery of babies continued at the normal rate.

Despite extensive previous humanitarian medical aid experience, for the commanding officer of the hospital, Lieutenant Colonel Georgeina Whelan (later Brigadier Whelan AM, CSC and bar and Commissioner of the ACT Emergency Services Agency), it was a life changing event. Soon after arriving in Aceh, she discovered that the local doctor she had been working with for the previous week had lost his entire immediate family in the tsunami...

"He still felt that his role was to try and salvage what was left of the hospital and continue treating the

70-odd thousand of the 300,000 that weren't killed.....You catch your breath and you start realising it's not all about you."

The coastline too, away from the international focus of destruction in Banda Aceh, had been decimated for hundreds of kilometres. Working alongside AUSAID and OXFAM (UK,) as a contractor for Tasmanian Environmental Solutions restoring sanitation, our small team had enough systems supplied by the Tasmanian Government, to eventually serve 29,000 internally displaced persons.

The Fishing Village & The Miraculous Elephants

The team leader, Rob Patterson, provides a vivid account:

"The initial focus for the Tasmanian team was on providing basic sanitation facilities in a village some 80 kilometres from Banda Aceh. A traditional fishing village, the fishermen were all at sea when the tsunami struck. They all survived as they were well out to sea away from the Tsunami.

The Tsunami struck the village on a Sunday morning. The women and children were mostly on the beach. 15 minutes before the Tsunami struck the sea waters suddenly receded. Fish were stranded and trapped in rock pools and shallows. This encouraged the villagers to rush into the pools to gather the fish.

The village owned six elephants that provided work as required. When the waters receded, these elephants had a sixth sense of the impending danger. The elephants broke their chains and headed for higher ground.

Miraculously, on their way to higher ground two of the elephants seized a child each to take them to safety. The children's screams however, alerted their mothers who thought the elephants had gone mad. Sixteen women and children chased the elephants onto higher ground before the 10 metre Tsunami struck the shore.

Sadly, the village population after

the Tsunami was the 700 fishermen who had been at sea, and only the 16 women and children saved by the elephants. The rest had perished!" (Patterson p.1)

Sanitation is Critical - you need more than just a hole in the ground!

With the village decimated and traumatised, International aid agencies had erected temporary tented accommodation and basic (long-drop) pit toilet facilities. These measures were rapidly needing an upgrade.

Part of the solution required to prevent fly borne disease from long drop toilets, was to install a lightweight, easily constructed, septic-tank based system designed years earlier by Rob Patterson, a Tasmania Environmental Health officer. Utilising sewerage grade liners and basic plumbing fittings it replicated the function of a standard Australian septic tank based on the age old anerobic process. An Australian standard ground absorption trench completed the treatment.

This simply installed Field Septic Tank system broke down the effluent safely and therefore protected the village from further disease. Instinctively, the people of the village could see the benefit and set about installing their new sanitation facilities. Young Indonesian civil engineering students helped supervise following the age-old humanitarian assistance adage: *do not just give a person a fish - teach them how to fish!* It became a restorative exercise in rebuilding a community.

Good Neighbours

Despite the influx of modern western technology to assist in the disaster, age old methods involving humans (a Digger on the end of a shovel or a Nurse providing loving care), or animals (elephants providing great lifting capacity in the most awkward of places) remind us of the critical emotional element of such a disaster. To come to the aid of our neighbours



The Shark 02 Memorial at Russell Offices, Canberra.

in a time of need, has a powerful healing quality, and is never forgotten.

After the initial flurry of disaster response comes the long road of the recovery process. As witnessed in our own disasters at home, this can take years, or even decades.

The Aftermath – ANZAC Spirit Lives On

Shocking the Australian people on 2nd April 2005, a Royal Australian Navy Sea King helicopter “Shark 02” crashed on the island of Nias resulting in the tragic loss of nine Australian Defence Force personnel. Providing humanitarian assistance as a result of subsequent earthquakes, this was a tragic reminder of the danger of these types of missions. Lieutenant Fenn Kemp, a Naval Reservist on board HMAS Kanimbla (and later the Director of Naval Information), would write:

“only two survived the crash of Shark 02. HMAS Kanimbla’s crew grieved for the nine lost friends but finished the job they had come to do. Operation Sumatra Assist saw countless people do remarkable things. For the people of Sumatra this was a time of unparalleled suffering – over 1000 ADF personnel made

that suffering a little easier to bear.” (Louys p.11)

With Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) soldiers alongside Australian service personnel, a full military ceremonial service honoured the lives lost. It was a solemn moment of solidarity between nations before the nine Humanitarian Warriors began their final journey home.

All nine were awarded the *Indonesian Medal of Valour* and the *Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal*.

As Australia and indeed the world, grapples with the ongoing effects of tragedy and disaster, the timeless synergy of the power of the human spirit should never be forgotten. The ANZAC spirit lives on.

Lest We Forget

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Editor’s note:

Rob Patterson OAM and Don Hughes formed the team deployed to Sumatra by Tasmanian Environmental Services to assist in restoring sanitation. Both are Standby Army Reserve officers with extensive experience in humanitarian assistance projects around the world. Rob is an environmental health officer and winegrower from Tasmania, Don is a builder and military engineer from Warrandyte.

Message to Australian Peacekeepers from George Gittoes, AM

George Gittoes, AM is an Honorary Member of the Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association and the photographer who took the iconic peacekeeping image of Trooper Jonathon Church at the Kibeho refugee camp on 22 April 1995.

George is currently covering the war in Ukraine, and this is one of his messages to keep us abreast of the situation.

The message reads: Saturday, 9 April 2022. Mines in Kyiv

Wherever the Russians have been they have spread mines. These photos were taken today within Kyiv City at the furthest point the Russians reached - virtually the middle of the CBD.

I am devoting much of my time over the next week to documenting minefields. Mine clearance and mine victims in the hope this can assist in making the case for sending Australian Mine Clearance Teams to assist.

I spoke to a Ukraine Officer at one of the sites and he broke into tears at the suggestion that this Australian help could materialise. His theory is that the Russians are doing this as a strategy to force Ukraine Army Engineers away from the frontline fighting to clear civilian areas. This would be a big loss to the battle front and handicap Ukraine and its chance to succeed against the Russian Army. The Officer said, "There could be nothing more helpful and all Ukrainians would be forever grateful to the Australian people for this."

George G

Editor’s Note: In arrears we know that Australia provided other assistance.

A testament to bravery

POIS Lee-Anne Cooper visited a little-known, but poignant, WWI memorial in Israel.

How brave must someone be to charge on horseback at night when the ground can't be seen?

A clue to the answer lies with an Australian Light Horse memorial tucked away inside Kinneret Academic College grounds, near where the Australians' sacrifice at the Battle of Semakh during World War 1 is honoured.

Lt-Col Chris McKay is with United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East, serving with Chief Observer Group Golan –Tiberias.

His duties have allowed him to visit the memorial, where he reflected on the bravery of the Australians during the battle.

"I'm cavalry, and not knowing it was there before posting to Israel,

I had mixed emotions visiting the memorial the first time," he said.

The scale replica of the railway car, with aeroplane propeller engine.

“It’s a heroic episode in the history of the Australian Army. This was one of the last cavalry charges in modern warfare.”

On September 25, 1918, men from the 11th Light Horse Regt and one squadron of the 12th rode for two hours with the orders to Semakh junction, the strategic gateway to the whole of Galilee, positioned on the Damascus railway line.

At 0430 the force advanced in absolute darkness and as the enemy opened fire a squadron commander

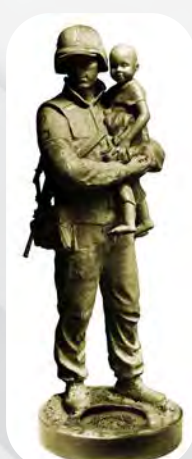


The scale replica of the railway car, with aeroplane propeller engine.

shouted, “What orders, colonel?” “Form line and charge the gun,” Lt-Col John Parsons replied.

In response, the light horse did the unthinkable and charged towards the flashing muzzles before them.

Adding to the danger, the Germans had added machine gunners to the small Turkish garrison, with the guns concealed in railway trucks and carriages at the station.



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The Figurine is based on the Trooper Jonathan Church photograph taken by George Gittoes AM (APPVA Life member).

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Peacekeeper Commemorative Coin 2

\$22.00

Availability : In stock (220)

These are 46mm in diameter metal based with enamel 3d coins with on the main side being the image of Australian Veterans assisting locals on operations and on the observe the APPVA logo.

Comes in a clean plastic PVC pouch





Lt-Col Chris McKay at the memorial for the Battle of Semakh, at Kinneret Academic College, Israel. Defence images.

Entrenched in the stone buildings of the station house, the enemy had orders to hold the position at all costs.

Witnessing the melee were the villagers, peering through windows as the night air was filled with the sounds of neighing horses, battle cries and the screams of the wounded.

As dawn neared, hand-to-hand combat took place at the last stronghold – the station house.

By 0530 it was over. Horses lay scattered across the battlefield and the dead were lined up in rows covered in Army blankets. Fourteen Australians were killed and 29 wounded, with 61 horses dead and 27 injured, a loss of nearly half the horses.

Some 98 enemy were killed and 364 captured, of whom 150 were German.

The memorial at Semakh was designed by Australian artist Jennifer Marshall. It depicts an Australian Aboriginal trooper, Jack Pollard, of the 11th Light Horse Regt, tending to

the grave of a fallen mate.

The 20th reinforcement contingent of the 11th Light Horse Regt was made up mostly of Aboriginal personnel.

The Council for the Preservation of Heritage Sites in Israel and the Kinneret Academic College built and maintain the area.

“Ziv Ofir and a group of volunteers look after it and they are passionate about it,” Lt-Col McKay said.

“You can see the amount of effort and funding that goes into the development and conservation of the site.”

In early April a new exhibit was unveiled – a replica of a railway car powered by an aeroplane propeller engine.

“I have never seen anything like it before,” Lt-Col McKay said.

In 1918, Jewish inventor Baruch Katinka was tasked with developing a small rail car that would enable pilots to travel to Haifa.

The engine that Katinka received

was 160 horsepower – far exceeding that needed for a small rail car. On its maiden voyage, the rail car reached speeds of more than 80km/h.

With minor modifications to change the drive, three more were commissioned.

The story is told that after the Germans retreated, Australian pilots heard there was an abandoned plane engine-powered rail car with propeller propulsion, and decided to investigate.

“You can just imagine it. These Australians finding it and deciding to see how fast it could really go,” Lt-Col McKay said.

Taking the rail car for a joyride, the Australians soon discovered there were no brakes. As it hurtled around a curve on the track, the rail car apparently flipped.

The replica is to scale, measuring 460cm long and 210cm wide.

Australia needs a bigger Defence Force

Can I let you in on a guilty little secret? The Australian Defence Force is too small. It must grow, which will cost money, political will and a sea change in thinking. That change will not come from within Defence but is a matter of political leadership.

There are 61,468 uniformed personnel in the permanent ADF, and they work with 16,695 civilian public servants in the defence organisation. That's 78,063 in a population of 26,068,792—a rounding error in statistical terms. Reservists add another 21,390, the equivalent of about 5,000 full-time personnel. Most have other jobs and duties, many of which are essential during times of national need (think rural firefighting or medical personnel).

But the range of things this small number of Australians has been doing domestically, regionally and globally in the past three years has been extraordinary: support to the 2019–20 bushfire crisis, mask production, quarantine hotel management, house-to-house COVID checks, aged care home cleaning, Tongan volcano recovery work, COVID vaccination assistance with Australian colleagues in the South Pacific and a return to the Solomons to help with security and stability there. Prime Minister Scott Morrison appointed Lieutenant General John Frewen to turn around a flailing vaccination rollout. Most recently, ADF men and women have been deployed to help with the flood crisis in New South Wales and Queensland. I'll have missed a few things here; it's just the highlights that have been in the public eye.

And then there's the logistical and materiel assistance Australia is part of with our US and NATO partners in the heat of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.

That's all in addition to Defence's 'day job': growing Australia's military power with the rising budget successive

governments have entrusted it with since 2014, running the business enterprise that acquires and operates complex systems and weapons, and doing all the training and exercising that being able to use lethal force in our more dangerous world requires. It's also been doing demanding and challenging daily work with our regional security partners to demonstrate presence, power and resolve in the face of an increasingly belligerent and overconfident People's Liberation Army directed by Xi Jinping. The Chinese guided missile destroyer that used an offensive military laser against a Royal Australian Air Force patrol aircraft off our coast last month is just the most recent, closest, graphic demonstration of this new normal.

The problem is obvious. The ADF is too small to meet these rolling, simultaneous and growing demands on its skilled people and on the expensive, complex machines and systems that it buys and operates while doing what it must to succeed in war. It's being corroded and torn apart by overuse of small groups of valuable skilled people, many for tasks their highly developed military abilities aren't really relevant to.

Defence leaders are making this even more acute by the structural position they take to doing anything other than preparing for and conducting military operations involving lethal force—war. Defence's mantra for decades has been that 'Defence structures for war and adapts for peace'. National and regional 'assistance' is to be provided with the people and machines acquired for the 'core task' of warfighting. To do anything differently, the mantra goes, is to distract the military from its core mission and dilute the force.

That's a compelling logic, except that it pretends the military can be an island to itself, funded by the Australian people and elegantly preparing for or

doing the single most critical thing it is needed for—deterring or prevailing in war—while politely refusing other demands that get in the way. Even amid the horrific physical demonstration by Putin that wars are not historical anachronisms, our military simply cannot just structure for war and adapt to do anything else that a government and our nation requires.

That's because rolling national and regional disasters and events—pandemics, fires, floods and regional instability—are growing in intensity and frequency. And when a crisis strikes, any Australian Prime Minister (and more and more often multiple premiers, chief ministers and governments in our region) see a role for the ADF—regardless of Defence's desires to protect its 'preparedness and readiness' for core military operations. The Government made clear in its 2020 Defence strategic update that it sees these tasks as core Defence business. Whatever internal pressures and preferences there may be inside the Russell Hill complex, Defence doesn't say 'no' when the Prime Minister asks.

Defence has caught itself in a dangerous spiral of denying that its structure, size, equipment and training are insufficient to meet its growing military and non-military tasks while being unable to convince political leaders it can't do what the nation requires—whether that's a public health emergency, bushfire, flood or regional disaster.

Defence would prefer that 'somebody else' do these things. And that's absolutely right—Australia needs to invest in greater resilience in multiple parts of government and private sector operations to deal with the disrupted future we know is already here.

But the empirical fact is that even if other agencies, organisations and people step up in crises, there's still a growing gap the military will need



to plug. Because the essential value that ‘sending in the ADF’ brings to any prime minister—and the Australian public—is that it is a disciplined and trained body of men and women who can be ordered to do things rapidly and relied upon to do new tasks intelligently and well. Turning up fast and getting to work effectively has a value all of its own when it comes to reassurance, resilience and recovery. There are few other levers and tools available to our national leaders that have these attributes.

A new ‘civil disaster assistance organisation’ would need to build a separate support system and enterprise—including training, contracting, sustainment, facilities and logistics arrangements—instead of just blistering onto Defence’s larger business enterprise. That would be expensive, duplicative and slow, and the result would not be an immediately deployable, disciplined group of people able to be ordered to do what is required like the ADF.

So, the answer is a sea change in assumptions about what Defence is resourced, scaled and structured to do—and what it buys and trains to operate. Radical shifts in mindset

come from an openness to admit that key assumptions behind what you’re doing have changed. Failure comes from doing the same thing when the environment you’re operating in has changed.

Germany’s Chancellor Olaf Scholz is an example of someone who has realised this in a big way over a matter of days, not years. He announced radical changes to decades-long policy and budgeting directions for Germany’s military days after Putin began his war in Ukraine. Scholz understood that ‘we are living in a new era, and the world afterwards will no longer be the same as the world before’. We should be encouraged by his and others’ willingness to change when the times demand it.

The time is right for an Australian political leader—the Prime Minister or Defence Minister—to make the case to give Defence new funding, to be used only to grow a new part of its organisation with a core mission of helping Australia cope with the increasing number of domestic and regional crises our disrupted future environment has in store for us.

That will mean recruiting people for this new mission, acquiring different

(cheaper, less complex, commercial-standard) equipment like helicopters and even ships (along the lines of the Pacific support vessel already planned), all while recognising the sense of purpose that people recruited for these essential tasks will feel.

The result will be a Defence Force that can provide options for assistance in times of national and regional need to this and future governments, without corroding the increasingly urgent efforts to have a more powerful military able to both deter others from war and, with our partner and allies, to prevail in war should deterrence fail.

I doubt there would be anything but celebration and relief from the broad Australian public if funding for a new ‘national and regional assistance command’ is provided in the next budget. Once it starts to operate, those officials and military personnel who’ve defended the now broken ‘structure for war, adapt for peace’ mantra might be thankful. Because they’ll be able to do what the nation demands without being torn in two, or failing, while doing so.

Michael Shoebridge is Director of the Defence, Strategy and National Security program at ASPI. He is on Twitter at @michael_ASPI. Images: Department of Defence.

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An UNTSO Military Observer

by Lyndsay Freeman

The group of four in my convoy were sitting in a chicken sandwich shop in South Lebanon. A bright yellow Hezbollah flag was waving across the street. It was myself, being an Australian mother-of-two and proud Army Officer. A Trinidadian UN civilian and a dedicated Grandfather of six who has worked for the UN for 33 years. A Canadian Naval Officer who has two young children the same age as my own. And an easy-going Russian Army Officer with a dry sense of humour (like us Australians!) who is on his third deployment with UNTSO, and is hoping to settle down soon to start a family.

We spoke about what the traditional chicken sandwich in our respective countries, but all of us unanimously agreed that the sandwich we were eating was one of the best. After 8 months serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), I felt sadness that I had 15 days left in the mission. I will miss these little interactions; unremarkable but powerful moments where the globe becomes small and the conversation is simply human.

I am deployed as a United Nations Military Observer on Operation PALADIN. This operation is Australia's contribution to UNTSO, a mission that has been running for 73 years. These 'military expert on mission' roles see Australian Defence Force women and men attached to the peacekeeping forces in the area: the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Israeli-Occupied Golan and in Syria tasked with maintaining the ceasefire between Israel and Syria in the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. And the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) assisting the Government of Lebanon in maintaining peace and security by preventing hostilities between the Litani River and the Blue line. This



line is a demarcation line between Lebanon and Israel and Lebanon and the Golan Heights published by the UN in the year 2000 to determine whether Israel had fully withdrawn from Lebanon.

After serving in Observer Group Golan in Tiberias, I was selected as the Plans Officer in UNTSO Headquarters, Jerusalem. As part of that role, I am required to conduct Inspector General Inspections to all UNTSO outstations and liaison offices. I am currently conducting this inspection in Observer Group Lebanon (OGL) where the team here observes, monitors and reports on any violations of the security council resolution which is in place along the southern boundary between Lebanon and Israel. This sees them working closely within a team of ten military observers, made up of a diverse range of personalities and experiences from 17 different nationalities deployed here in OGL.

Their daily routine typically consists of mobile patrolling up to six hours in an armoured vehicle along the boundary, and on occasion, they have the unique opportunity to conduct helicopter patrols visiting the villages in the south part of Lebanon,

engaging with the local community, and maintaining a presence here which helps ensure the stability of the region.

In addition to the Headquarters and outstations, UNTSO has liaison offices in Beirut (Lebanon), Cairo (Egypt) and Damascus (Syria). The liaison offices for Israel and Jordan are based at UNTSO Headquarters in Jerusalem. These officers coordinate the regional liaison visits of UNTSO's Head of Mission and the Mission Leadership Team to Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Israel respectively.

As part of the inspection I am currently conducting, I met with the Chief of the liaison office in Beirut - a highly-regarded Bhutanese Officer who passionately described the nuances, complexities, and importance of maintaining good relationships with the Lebanese Armed Forces, Government departments, and all the different UN entities in the region. Cultural practices and hospitality aside, his words reminded me that all of these interactions were human to human. No matter your rank, race, or background - it was men and women sharing tea, sweet pastries, and their ideas around a table

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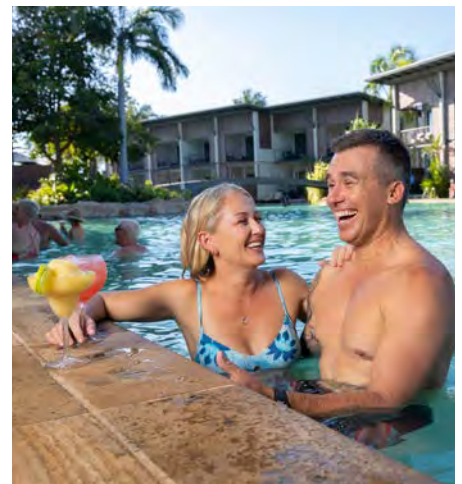
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The life of an UNTSO Military Observer



MAJ Rebecca Polonski

I could hear the jackals calling out into the night like a bunch of rowdy teenagers. Their howling pierced the silence. They were somewhere in the disused bunker system, in the middle of an anti-tank mine field, just to the west of our Observation Post on Israeli-Occupied Golan. It was pitch black in that direction. On the horizon to the south I could make out the glittering lights of Jordan. In front of me to the east, on the other side of the Technical Fence, dots of light formed a small Syrian farming village. From somewhere in the forest next to the village, another family of jackals answered. It was haunting and surreal, it was also my first night on an Observation Post.

It was early February, windy and very cold. I was wearing the Army green puffer jacket and matching puffer pants I had been issued but thought I wouldn't need. I had arrived in Israel a few weeks before; coming from an Aussie summer into a proper winter. I had been selected to deploy

as a United Nations Military Observer (UNMO) and join the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), the UN's first and oldest peacekeeping mission. UNTSO was established in 1948 to monitor the truce between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Over a million people have served under the UN flag, and now I was one of them. I had completed over a month of training conducted by the Australian Defence Force in Australia, then undertook collective training with my diverse and multi-national cohort at UNTSO Headquarters, Jerusalem. Following more specific training for my assigned outstation, being Observer Group Golan – Tiberias (OGG-T), I was finally serving on an Observation Post.

I am part of Team Eagle, one of three observer teams in OGG-T. Our team is unique in that we occupy one OP, as opposed to two like the other teams. Instead the team is responsible for car patrols in the Area Of Limitation (AOL). The AOL is an 80 kilometre long, 25 kilometre wide stretch of land along the Golan, on the west side of the Area of Separation (AOS). It is bordered by Lebanon in the north and Jordan in the south. From Observation Post 53, the team observes into the AOS, across into Syria and the area of Israeli-Occupied Golan directly surrounding the Observation Post. However, when conducting a car patrol the team exercises 'Freedom of Movement' and are able to travel the length

and breadth of the Israeli-Occupied Golan. This involves observing and reporting on activities that may be in violation of the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement.

Whether we are conducting static or mobile observations there is always a minimum of two UNMOs from two different countries to ensure impartiality and objectivity if a violation is reported. Across the mission there are 27 countries represented. In Team Eagle we currently consist of UNMOs from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, Chile, Canada, and of course Australia. The team has duty periods of around seven days at a time, either observing and reporting from Observation Post 53 or conducting car patrols from the Patrol Base in Camp Ziouani. Over the last five months I have had the privilege of working and residing with a group of interesting and experienced UNMOs. I have enjoyed learning about their culture through food, music and movies, using Google Earth to see where they live and perhaps doing a virtual trip to their local bar!

I am honoured to be part of the legacy of UN Peacekeepers. The work we are doing makes a difference. As my tour of duty comes to an end, I will take fond memories of my time on the Israeli-Occupied Golan, along with the stories told by my international colleagues, the laughs shared, and of course those cold nights when the only sound heard was the howling of jackals.



The International Day of the United Nations Peacekeeper 29 May 2022 – Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Canberra



Mr Damian Cardona Onses, Director United Nations Information Centre to Australia

Message from the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, 29 May, offers a chance to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization and to honour nearly 4,200 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 135 last year.

The theme for this year's Day is "People. Peace. Progress. The Power of Partnerships."

Peacekeeping has helped save countless lives and brought peace and stability to many countries over the decades. But UN peacekeeping cannot fully succeed on its own in creating the necessary conditions to end conflict and secure lasting political solutions. It's partnerships with Member States, civil society, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and other parties are fundamental to bringing tangible improvements in the lives of ordinary people, in areas such as economic development, the rule of law, women's



First Secretary Samuel Soares & Chief Supt Hermenegildo da Cruz 3. Representing Her Excellency of the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste

rights, human rights, health and education.

Since the first UN peacekeeping mission more than 1 million women and men have served in 72 UN peacekeeping operations, directly impacting the lives of millions of people and saving countless lives. Today, UN Peacekeeping deploys more than 87,000 military, police and civilian personnel in 12 operations.



Australia's contribution to the South Sudan

Colonel Mark Coyle handed command of Operation Aslan, Australia's contribution to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), to Colonel Tom Nairn on December 4. The ADF contingent in South Sudan comprises up to 20 personnel from the Navy, Army and Air Force who fill key military liaison, operations, aviation and logistics support positions. Colonel Nairn said he was looking forward to his nine-month deployment.

"It is an extraordinary privilege to be able to command a dedicated group of Australians who have made, and continue to make, a significant commitment to building peace and stability in a fragile and complex region," Colonel Nairn said. "I'm also looking forward to working not just with Australians, but a committed multi-national team of military, civilian and police members to address the challenges that South Sudan faces." Colonel Nairn praised Colonel Coyle for his 12 months of outstanding leadership.

"Colonel Coyle and his team have clearly achieved a great deal and made a truly significant contribution," Colonel Nairn said.



Colonel Mark Coyle, left, and Colonel Tom Nairn in South Sudan.

South Sudan became the newest country in the world in July 2011 after a six-year peace process ended more than 20 years of conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. Colonel Coyle said he was proud to have had the opportunity to command Operation Aslan.

"While any deployment is rewarding, this deployment has

special meaning," Colonel Coyle said.

"Serving in the youngest nation in the world to help them realise the dream of independence and democratic rule cannot be understated."

Colonel Coyle said those who wore the UN blue beret had a common bond.

"What they do is made extraordinary by the fact they volunteer for something that others either cannot do or will not do. It's truly amazing," Colonel Coyle said.

"For those who served in UNMISS, they can all leave with a sense of accomplishment and with full knowledge that their actions, either as a staff officer or a military observer, saved countless lives and forged a foundation on which the fledgling country is building a true democracy."

Operation Aslan began in September 2011 when ADF personnel transitioned from Operation Azure that was a part of the former United Nations Mission in Sudan.

UNMISS helps protect the people of South Sudan through the monitoring of human rights and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

By Major Kris Gardiner Defence News



Captain Stephanie Palfrey-Sneddon, with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and school children look at a copy of Young Voices of South Sudan which includes their photographs and quotes.

Peacekeeping in South Sudan: it's a race against time for the UN

A notable consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been the near-complete breakdown of what was already a deeply fraught relationship among the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Unsurprisingly, the war has also drawn diplomatic focus and media attention away from a depressingly long list of other crises facing the world body.

Efforts to overcome divisions and find common ground among key Council members on conflicts in places such as Syria and Mali have effectively ground to halt, giving way instead to a further sharpening of power rivalry and competition.

Considering these developments, the Council's decision on 15 March 2022 to renew the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) stands out as a major achievement.

Russia and China abstained in the final vote on mandate renewal. However, the decision ensures that the mission in South Sudan maintains its existing troop ceiling of 17,000 peacekeepers and 2,100 police officers for one more year.

The mission, which was first established in July 2011, will continue its focus on four major tasks:

- protecting civilians
- supporting the delivery of humanitarian aid
- assisting the peace process
- monitoring violations of human rights.

The mandate extension grants South Sudan's Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity much-needed time to complete the implementation of a peace agreement reached in 2018.

The agreement brought about a major reduction in violence arising from the civil war that started in 2013, two years into South Sudan's independence.



Troops under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan on patrol in Juba. *Albert Gonzalez Farran/AFP via Getty Images*

As part of a transitional period, President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar formed a coalition government in February 2020.

The transitional period was expected to culminate in "free, fair and peaceful elections" in early 2023.

However, the realism of this ambition - given the many challenges and unresolved issues that lie ahead for South Sudan - is looking ever more questionable. That's because the implementation of the peace agreement's key provisions has stalled. It is now significantly behind schedule.

The roadblocks

Among the major concerns are a lack of progress on the writing of the constitution. There is also the coalition government's failure to agree on the details and the timetable for elections. This includes clarity around the UN mission's precise role in supporting the electoral process.

Aside from the technical and

logistical arrangements required for credible elections to go ahead, there is a more formidable challenge. The country needs to establish a political, civic and security environment that is conducive to competitive electoral politics. This environment doesn't yet exist.

Further, levels of local, sub-national and communal violence remain high and are increasing in parts of the country. Some eight million people are facing severe food insecurity, and nearly two million remain internally displaced.

Even as it renewed the South Sudan mission's mandate and acknowledged signs of progress over the past year, the UN Security Council expressed "deep concern regarding the political, security, economic and humanitarian crisis" in the country.

Signs of progress

However, the UN mission's record in tackling multiple and interacting challenges should not be dismissed. The mission has responded in proactive ways to instability and

persistent levels of violence in South Sudan.

It has reduced static peacekeeping deployments in favour of creating more temporary operating bases. These have been set up near conflict hot spots. Combined with extensive patrolling, they have enhanced the peacekeeper's mobility and ability to respond in a timely fashion to threats against civilians.

The mission has also encouraged community-level dialogue and supported the negotiation of numerous local peace agreements. This has helped build trust among communities and contributed further to the protection of civilians.

However, despite these achievements, the larger picture remains bleak.

The fundamentals of South Sudan's political economy of conflict and its militarised form of governance have undermined the UN's limited capacities to control violence, let alone support the move towards more inclusive forms of governance.

In late 2020, an independent strategic review of the South Sudan mission requested by the Security Council concluded that:

achieving durable and inclusive peace in South Sudan requires addressing deeply entrenched power dynamics and political systems

that have primarily fuelled violence rather than served to protect citizens and create conditions for them to prosper.

Those power dynamics and systems have not been broken.

The country has a long-established pattern of shifting political allegiances among well-armed ethno-political factions. This has resulted in defections and splintering. Power-sharing arrangements are often short-lived, creating a constant threat of wider breakdown and an upsurge in violence.

In January 2022, President Salva Kir struck an agreement on military leadership with two opposition commanders who broke away from Vice President Riek Machar. This deal is symptomatic of this pattern.

Why the elections matter

Against the backdrop of a deteriorating geopolitical environment – and with less than a year to go before the end of the transitional period – the preparations, conduct and aftermath of the elections in South Sudan will prove critical to the prospects for peace and stability.

In theory, post-conflict elections are meant to confer domestic and international legitimacy on fragile, post-war governing structures. They

are meant to encourage the growth of non-violent politics and support societal transformation towards durable peace.

In reality, introducing electoral competition into war-torn and deeply divided societies has often had the very opposite effect. It has sharpened and exacerbated conflict rather than mitigated it.

The 'winner-takes-all approach' to politics and elections makes this a real danger in South Sudan. As Nick Haysom, head of the UN mission in the country, noted in 2021, unless technical and political preparations are in place, the elections:

could be a catastrophe instead of a turning point.

Yet, the time for preparation is short.

From a political perspective, a formula for power sharing, irrespective of who wins, should be worked out before elections are held.

Also, the mission's role in brokering local peace agreements and supporting non-military forms of civilian protection through its field offices will become more critical as the elections loom.

Last, but not least, mobilising and actively engaging neighbouring states, key regional players and organisations – specifically the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union – in support of South Sudan's peace process have become even more important. This follows the geopolitical fall-out from the war in Ukraine and the deepening of tensions within the UN Security Council.

The proposed 2023 elections may be postponed, as they have in the past. However, Security Council politics make this less likely.

If the elections were to go ahead resulting in increased violence or even a return to full-scale civil war, there is no guarantee that the Council will again renew the UN's presence in South Sudan.

Mats Berdal
Professor and Director of Conflict, Security and Development Research Group, King's College London
The Conversation



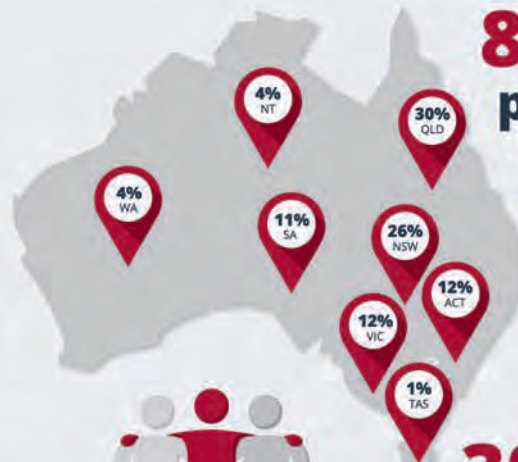
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10 Year ANNIVERSARY **SOLDIER ON**

Operation Mazurka - anniversary of the Multinational Force & Observers Peacekeeping Mission

Australian Defence Force personnel deployed on Operation Mazurka took part in a ceremony at South Camp in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on Thursday, 28 April 2022, to mark the 40th anniversary of the Multinational Force & Observers peacekeeping mission supervising the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. The 40th anniversary ceremony brought together Multinational Force & Observers personnel for a parade, a moment of silence and concluded with the laying of wreaths to honour those who have fallen during the peacekeeping mission. The Multinational Force & Observers (MFO), headquartered in Rome, is an international peacekeeping organisation, created by agreement between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the State of Israel. The mission of the Multinational Force & Observers is to supervise the implementation of the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty of Peace and employ best efforts to prevent any violation of its terms.

Following in footsteps of Anzacs in Egypt

While deployed in Egypt, Sgt Daniel Patterson has delved into the history of Australia's involvement in Egypt during WWI, unearthing the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Sgt Patterson is deployed on Operation Mazurka as a member of the Multinational Force and Observers on the Sinai Peninsula.

For Anzac Day, the combat engineer volunteered to share a glimpse with the Australian and New Zealand contingents on Operation Mazurka of what life was like for the Anzacs.

"The Anzacs did not just show up in Gallipoli; there was a process to get there," Sgt Patterson said.

Unknown to some, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was originally destined for Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, in southern England. Because of overcrowding and



Army officer Lieutenant Colonel David Evans.

insufficient infrastructure, the decision was made to shift their staging position.

"It was decided to train in Egypt over winter and then it was extended," Sgt Patterson said.

The AIF set up camp within 10km of Cairo around the pyramids, which was immortalised by the iconic photograph taken of 600 soldiers at the Great Pyramid of Khufu.

Over a relatively short time, the AIF underwent intense training and studied new equipment.

"The soldiers had never seen a grenade – or a 'bomb' as they called it," Sgt Patterson said.

Six days a week they were drilled, marching through the sand and digging, and it was here they formed into the ANZAC Corps.

One of the things that most interested Sgt Patterson was trench warfare.

"It was a relatively new concept and was not a focus during their training. Not a lot of information was coming back from the front line on it," Sgt Patterson said.

An unsavoury part of the Anzac history was an incident in which 2500 New Zealand and Australian troops rioted in the Haret Al Wassir red-light district of Cairo's Ezbekieh quarter.

"It's an ugly part of the history but it happened," Sgt Patterson said.

"We need to remember that a lot of the soldiers were just young men – teenagers really."

Egypt played a significant part in the history of the AIF and the evolution of the ANZAC Corps.

"I think Anzac Day is important to Australia for our heritage, understanding that people sacrificed their lives for us and future generations," Sgt Patterson said.

"I have been fortunate enough to see the pyramids and the sphinx, and to stand where the Anzacs stood."



Army engineers strengthen ties with Timor-Leste

The first mobile training team for the 2022 series of international engagement activities in Timor-Leste has strengthened Australia's longstanding ties with the nation.

As part of the Australian Army's support to the Timor-Leste Defence Force (F-FDTL) through the Defence Cooperation Program, mobile training team Alpha has been on the ground since early March.

Contingent commander Major Matthew Mandl said the partnership between Australia and Timor-Leste was an important one.

"Timor-Leste is one of our closest neighbours and one of our most

important regional partners," Major Mandl said.

"The mobile training team's role is to support training to the Timor-Leste Defence Force. We've done that by supporting basic combat engineer, first aid and logistics courses, and we've also designed and handed over a basic driver training course for the Timorese to use.

"We're supporting the delivery of training by Timor-Leste Defence Force instructors so they will be proficient in training their new recruits, enabling their soldiers to operate across multiple disciplines.

"It's also been a good opportunity for us to provide support through

our expertise in signals and ICT, like helping to network their computers, conduct transmission maintenance and restorations to infrastructure."

It's easy for Major Mandl to see the benefits of working alongside the Timor-Leste Defence Force, some of which stem from challenges that commonly arise when working with a foreign force.

"Deploying to Timor-Leste is an excellent opportunity for Australian Defence Force personnel to experience how to operate in restrictive environments," Major Mandl said.

"Restrictive in the sense of difficult terrain, limited infrastructure and



Australian Army soldier Corporal Harley McIntyre and Corporal Christopher John (right) from 1st Combat Engineer Regiment assist Timor-Leste Defence Force engineers demonstrate practical engineering methods during an engineering course in Timor-Leste.



Australian Army soldier Corporal Harley McIntyre and Corporal Christopher John (right) from 1st Combat Engineer Regiment assist Timor-Leste Defence Force engineers demonstrate practical engineering methods during an engineering course in Timor-Leste.

connectivity, challenging supply chains and language barriers.

Timor-Leste is one of our closest neighbours and one of our most important regional partners.

“While we are training and providing support to the Timor-Leste Defence Force, they are assisting us to become familiar with their country and our northern region, should we need to operate here together in the future.

“Tetum and Portuguese speakers are key to navigating the language barriers.

“Interpreters are critical for effectively deploying MTTs, and as 1st Brigade’s closest international neighbour, improving our knowledge in Timor-Leste’s official languages enhances interoperability.”

For Sergeant Cory Lahz, from 1st Combat Service Support Battalion,

having the chance to learn the basics of a new language is just one of the advantages of working in Timor-Leste.

“It’s really good seeing that development side of things. You see the progress of individuals and teams from day one until the day you leave and it leaves you feeling proud,” he said.

“We’ve picked up similarities and differences between our forces, we’ve seen the development of ourselves, breaking down language barriers and other challenges.

“It’s important to do this, it helps to build the relationships.”

This year’s program of activities will include the deployment of another two mobile training teams, supporting a suite of courses and on-the-job mentoring. The partnership will culminate in the annual multilateral Exercise Hari’i Hamutuk in August.

“Mobile training teams providing support to the Defence Cooperation Program is key for them to achieve success in Timor-Leste,” Major Mandl said.

“The infantry and engineer relationship between the ADF and Timor-Leste Defence Force is already very established.

“Logistics play a critical role in conflict and there is great opportunity to bolster existing mentoring with engagement more focused towards combat service support and logistics for the Timor-Leste Defence Force.

“The Timor-Leste Defence Force is an incredibly professional and skilled defence force.

“Our work continues to foster our enduring relationship with Timor-Leste and further interoperability between our two nations and defence forces.”

Australian Federal Police plays a valuable role in Australian diplomacy

The Australian Federal Police's international collaboration efforts have long been the crown jewel of the nation's law enforcement engagement. The AFP's international liaison network is the most visible and operationally successful element of these efforts. It is, however, a highly diverse endeavour that involves an array of bi-, mini- and multilateral initiatives. This significant work, which directly contributes to community safety at home, is now at risk because the geopolitical environment in which cooperation with some crucial jurisdictions occurs is becoming increasingly complex.

Active, ongoing and consistent formal and informal engagement in the international law enforcement community has been an AFP hallmark. While this work may occasionally include diplomatic talkfests, it has a sharp operational focus that has resulted in tangible results with international partners, including China. AFP officers serving overseas make substantial contributions to disrupting transnational serious and organised crime. The performance

statistics speak volumes about their success. For example, AFP officers aided overseas police in 2020–21 in seizing 19.4 tonnes of illicit drugs.

With staff positioned in 33 countries in 35 posts and on seven development missions, the AFP has a substantial international presence and global reach for a national agency.

The AFP's presence is further enhanced and enriched through participation in multilateral cooperation through international government organisations like Interpol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The AFP has established itself as a partner of choice with various regional organisations, including Europol and ASEANAPOL.

It has also been a critical advocate for law enforcement multilateralism, albeit unknowingly, by championing the Five Eyes Law Enforcement Group. Comprising the law enforcement agencies from the Five Eyes countries, the group uses and leverages its members' collective capabilities to address transnational criminal and national security matters.

The AFP's international commitments fall into four basic categories: capability development, police-to-police cooperation, formal mutual assistance cooperation and intelligence exchange. Most of its work on transnational serious or organised crime efforts transitions between two or more categories.

The AFP conducts capability-development activities throughout the Pacific and Asia, including training and mentoring and case-specific, police-to-police cooperation involving the exchange of intelligence. These relationships are almost always transactional and have a tactical focus.

In comparison, police-to-police cooperation between the AFP and law enforcement agencies in New Zealand, the UK, Canada and the US tended to be much more strategically focused until quite recently. Increasingly, this engagement is undertaken at the committee level, through formal strategic intelligence exchange activities and with the exchange of tactical intelligence. At the tactical and operational levels, officers exchange information formally and informally.

Tribalism, so often a challenge in law enforcement at the national level, appears to be far less of an issue at the international level. This is partly because of the separation of national security and policing roles in the Australian national security framework. For example, while the US's Drug Enforcement Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation have national security connections and roles, the AFP remains focused on law enforcement and transnational serious and organised crime. The AFP remains engaged within the international law enforcement community from a unique perspective focused operationally.

Outside of the Five Eyes countries,





Australian Army Corporal Charley Gledhill from Joint Task Group 637.3 and officers from the Australian Federal Police and RSIPF during a multi-agency policing patrol at the Port of Honiara, Solomon Islands on 15 December 2021. *Defence images.*

the AFP's success has been built on hard-earned police-to-police relationships that, in many cases, like that with the Indonesian National Police, have withstood the ups and downs of tumultuous diplomatic relations. In other instances, the AFP has had to carefully navigate sensitive issues and ethically challenging impediments to information sharing, including the use of the death penalty by some of its partners.

Until recently, the AFP had even been able to avoid the impacts of the changing nature of the Australia–China diplomatic relationship. It has had permanent liaison officers in Hong Kong, Beijing and Guangzhou for many years. Through financial investments in activities such as joint training, the AFP has established a privileged relationship. One notable result was Taskforce Blaze, a collaborative effort between Australian and Chinese police focused on stemming the flow of ice to Australia. The taskforce was only possible because of Australia's

long-term investment in building trust between the AFP and Chinese police.

Today, the Chinese Communist Party is making numerous efforts to disrupt the stability of multilateralism. The Australian government is, in contrast, actively promoting multilateralism. For the AFP, bilateral police-to-police cooperation has long been the most effective means of disrupting transnational serious and organised crime. It can avoid the trap of being seen to be acting inconsistently with Australian foreign policy by promoting its tiered approach to bi-, mini- and multilateral engagement based on functionality.

The AFP's relationship with Chinese police also provides the type of backroom communication channel so often used between Moscow and Washington to defuse tension during the Cold War. Australia should be careful not to cut off this important line of communication.

There's also an increasing frequency of reported human rights

abuses by Chinese police, as well as in Hong Kong. Of course, the AFP and its officers deplore such actions. Still, there are good law enforcement and diplomatic reasons for continuing these relationships. In the first instance, police-to-police cooperation with China disrupts organised crime. But police-to-police cooperation requires a two-way flow of information, which isn't without risk. However, this is a familiar challenge and comparable with the challenge of cooperating with jurisdictions—like China—that apply the death penalty.

In 2020–21, the AFP's international work resulted in reducing \$7 billion of harm through international drug seizures. This vital work must continue, but achieving these kinds of results seems set to get harder not easier.

John Coyne is head of ASPI's Northern Australia Strategic Policy Centre and strategic policing and law enforcement program. He is on Twitter at @johncoyne14.

From self mastery to national power

THE BACKGROUND

Per Ardua Ad Astra. Through adversity to the stars. This blog will explore why self-mastery is of utmost importance and will give the Royal Australian Air Force the performance edge. The Air Force Senior Leadership Team have stated that our workforce has reached its maximum capacity for employment within our current resources and budget. Compared with the United States Air Force of 300,000 personnel, the Royal Australian Air Force has a substantially smaller force of 15,000 permanent personnel and 5,500 reserve personnel. Noting the disparity between these figures, it is clear that we have to maximise the potential and readiness in our people.

Skills such as personal growth and self-mastery, failing forwards, high-performance habits, leadership and interpersonal skills are of paramount importance, now, and into the future. Having individuals who are focused on

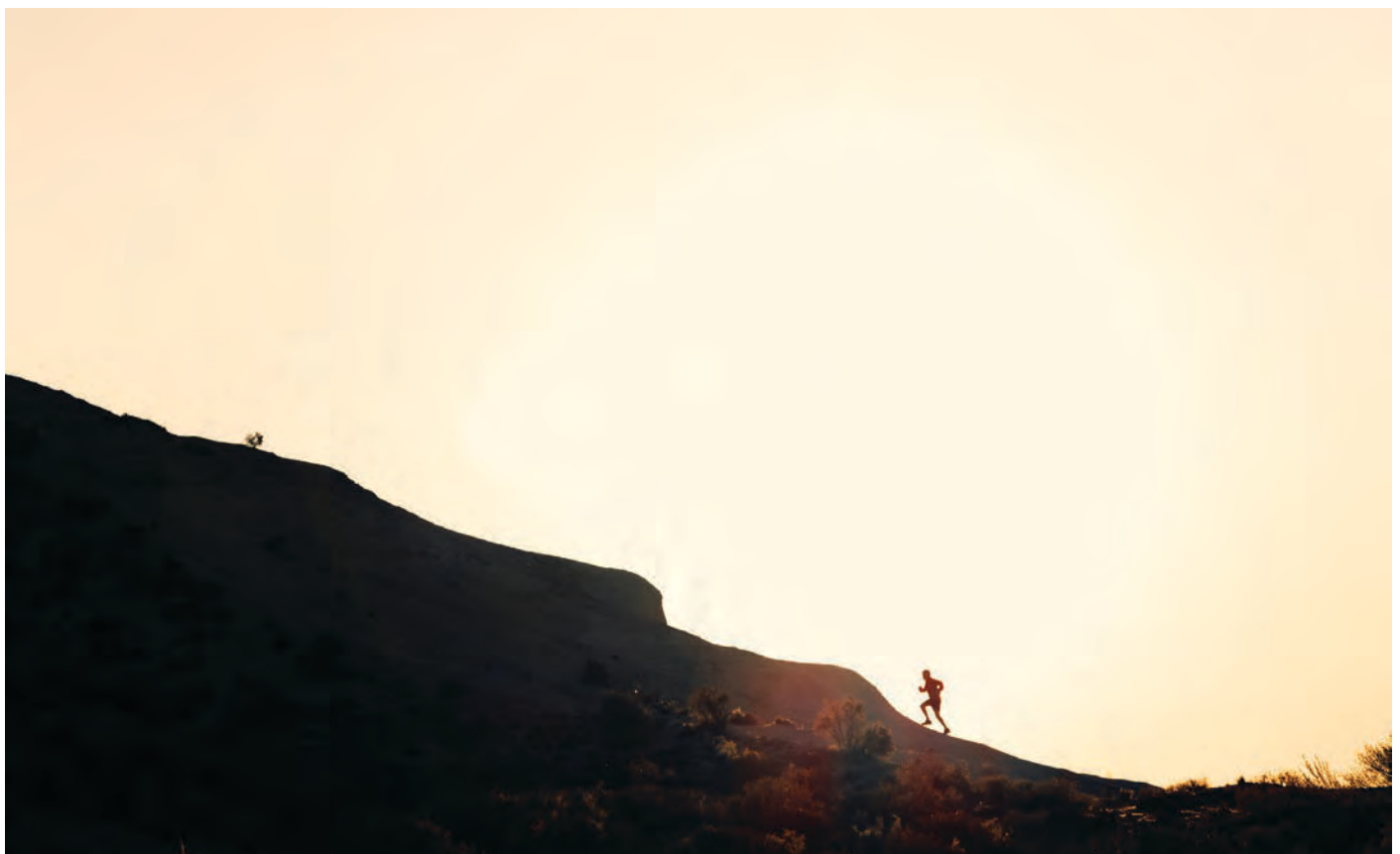
self-mastery enables success in each concentric circle of their influence. This improvement in individual preparedness of our people across the Air Force subsequently supports the whole of government approach to National Power. The Air Force five lines of effort; delivering air and space power as part of the joint force, develop an intelligent and skilled workforce, deepening relationships, strengthen engagement, evolving Air Force culture and having an agile and coherent governance all stem from individual performance.

THE PROBLEM

At the turn of the decade, 2020, the world became unprecedentedly complicated and the complexity of these problematic, multi-faceted areas are growing exponentially. With the rapidly increasing threats of the climate crisis, natural disasters, human-made pollutants in the air, sea, land and

space, pandemics, overpopulation and resource shortages, it seems natural that geopolitical tensions are increasing across the planet. This substantiates an evolution in the way the Royal Australian Air Force and the wider Australian Defence Force needs to operate. The way war is conducted continues to evolve, and so must we. With the birth of the internet on 01 January, 1983 came a new platform that the world uses, including the Defence Force, with varying levels of intent.

With the escalating innovation of drones, space force, cyber warfare and other areas of innovation and threat, Australia is exposed to a multitude of factors that must be considered now, and in the future. As an air force, and as a joint Defence force, we will be asked to raise our performance in responding to humanitarian aid, natural disasters, and security threats more frequently, in shorter timeframes and with greater agility. The success of every operation



begins with self-mastery. We need to master our minds and our decision-making to evolve and adapt to how quickly this new world is changing and presenting more challenges. This is what will give the Royal Australian Air Force the performance edge.

THE SOLUTION

Self mastery - is vitally important with the upsurge of global, environmental and social issues. We need to be constantly evolving into better versions of ourselves to deliver a greater output as a small air force. For us to evolve at a higher rate, we must use our strengths and work on our insecurities and weaknesses. We all have areas to improve and it is up to us as individuals to dive deep into our consciousness and confront those things, nurture them and allow them grow into one of our assets. Your success is infectious. It will rub off on others and inspire them to become better versions of themselves, influencing their teams, sections and task groups. Self-mastery will grow a culture of high-performance across the Australian Defence Force, and it all starts with you.

The common thread between the problems listed above is the human factor. Your self-mastery is the first step in changing this world. The more you work at becoming a better version of yourself today than you were yesterday, the more capacity you have to create change and influence success. It all starts with you and your decisions. Once we have continual personal growth more heavily embedded in the Air Force culture, we can more effectively contribute to military power with smarter, healthier and more team-oriented individuals. And it's ok to regress and fail! Do it. Do it a thousand times, but do not stop moving in a forward direction, and have the tenacity, grit and persistence to just keep turning up.

MY PERSONAL EXAMPLE

In June 2021, I had a brainwave. This thought was of a personal project that would not only push me to become a better version of myself but to support the environmental community and



motivate my peers to become better versions of themselves too. This idea was to run 5km a day, every day, for 50 consecutive days to raise \$5,000 for Greenpeace. I resented running and I thought, what a great way to improve in this area, so I completely immersed myself. It was a long slog but I did it. My first 5km run was 33.00 minutes, I ran a personal best of 24.07 minutes and I raised \$4,140. There were so many unexpected benefits to conquering something within myself which I saw as a weakness. I was fitter, healthier and more confident which subsequently improved my performance at work. I raised a substantial amount of money for an organisation that I believe is making progress in moving our planet towards a greener future. My new found confidence supported me to take greater risks and fortunately for me, it paid off for both myself and the Air Force. I was selected to participate in the inaugural Leadership Enrichment Program in 2021 and was fortunate enough to be further selected to pitch my innovation ideas in CAF's boardroom later that year. I pitched an idea to stand up a green team, an environmental sustainability and innovation award to shape the culture of the Air Force, and to create biodegradable sonobuoys.

From this opportunity I received 6 months of support and \$50,000 to start rapid prototype testing a solution

for my green initiative. I have also been selected to collaborate with the University of Sydney and their Aeronautical Engineers on this exciting project. This is an example of what can happen and how much you and the organisation can benefit when you dedicate yourself to self-mastery. I've had peers, friends and colleagues tell me how much I inspired them to start running and improve themselves. It all started with one thought that I put into action that moved me a step closer toward self-mastery.

THE SUMMARY

The effectiveness of the Air Force and the Defence Force starts with your choices, your actions, your attitudes and your hunger to become a better version of yourself. Master yourself and Australia will have a stronger Defence Force with team-oriented individuals that are more hardworking, fit, intelligent and empathetic leaders. Your self-mastery will inspire others in a ripple effect across the Air Force and Defence community. Self-mastery allows us to do the best possible job of executing government-directed objectives and protecting Australia and its national interests to advance Australia's security and prosperity.

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Albury War Memorial. Matt Burke, OAM with Guest speaker Captain Lorinda Carlin RAN, CSC, CSM



Brisbane Contingent with the new Banner



David Lee and colleague - Dawn Service at Riverton RSL Western Australia



Burnie Tasmania Contingent with Mark Horner holding the Banner



Some of the Canberra Contingent including Christine Lawrey (Bougainville Peace Monitor), Rohan Titus (DFAT) and David Windsor (DFAT)



Justin Barndon from Forrestfield WA commemorates in a personal way

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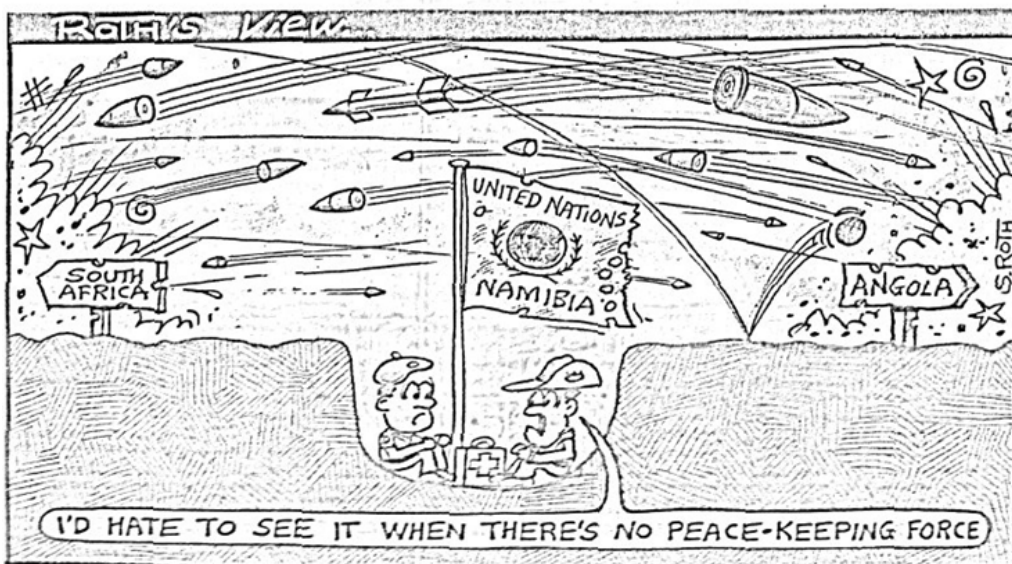
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Images of Australians on Peacekeeping Missions over time



The photo is from a 2005 Peace & Reconciliation Ceremony at Tetera Village on Guadalcanal Island, Solomon Islands. Pictured are Supt Gwen Ratu (RSIP Provincial Policing), Chief Superintendent Peter Auronisaka (RSIP PPC Provincial Policing) and his Advisor AFP Team Leader Shaun Young (PPF Team Leader Guadalcanal) in front of the “Tetera Tank”. This was a bulldozer stolen from the Gold Ridge Mine on Guadalcanal during “The Troubles” and converted to a tank.



Fred Smith DFAT Peace Monitor plays to children – Op Bel Isi



Claire Pearson Bor, South Sudan – UNMISS 2016



Major Tim Glover, part of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, assists the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with locating Afghan Australian visa holders at the congested Abbey Gate at Hamid Karzai International Airport, later the scene of a deadly Islamic State attack. *ADF Media*



South African Buffel infantry mobility vehicle used by in Namibia by UNTAG 1989

Defence Abuse

Final month to apply for reparation payment

Under the Defence Reparation Scheme, individuals who served in the Australian Defence Force, and experienced serious abuse before 30 June 2014, can report this abuse to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. You may be eligible for a reparation payment but you must act by 30 June 2022.

You must send the Commonwealth Ombudsman either a report of your abuse by midnight 30 June 2022, or an email stating your intent to report the abuse – email DefenceForce.Ombudsman@Ombudsman.gov.au by midnight 30 June 2022 AEST. Your email notification of intent to report will enable you to report up until midnight 30 June 2023.

For full details of the scheme and the forms to use for reporting, go to the ombudsman.gov.au website.

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Vale Paula Richards

- Life Member APPVA

Paula Jean Richards (Formerly Pauline Mackzowiack)
F2103710 Lance Corporal

Paula joined the ADF as a Reservist in 1982 and served for approximately 15 years in The Royal Australian Corps of Transport (RACT) much of her service was dedicated to cadet training, with many of her cadets pursuing a distinguished career in the ADF and maintaining contact with her during their careers. She was highly respected.

Paula joined APPVA around 20 years ago and was an avid supporter and participant. It was through this membership, she commenced Compensation Advocacy training. Initially providing advocacy to veterans from a converted room in her home. In a short time her client numbers increased and as a result she co-founded the APPVA Welfare Outreach Centre in northern NSW (later to become the Veterans Advocacy Centre) with two other APPVA members to offer better outcomes for veterans.

Becoming an accredited Level 2 Compensation Advocate and Mentor, Paula provided mentorship to 3 new trainees. Paula was involved in her local community and sought a grant to refurbish her local small town's War Memorial and conducted ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services. These were the first in town for over 50 years. She also brought in regular VIP guest speakers to talk to community groups on veteran issues, school presentations, ongoing fundraising events, and initiating a veterans' pantry. Pauline spent much of her time also on the road to meet veterans far and wide.

Paula was also a local coordinator for Overwatch Australia. In 2018 on Australia Day she was awarded the Soldiers of Peace International Oceania Silver medallion and certificate for promoting the interests of APPVA for the recognition of her work for promoting the interests of APPVA. Paula was a caring, competent, honest Advocate, she demonstrated her excellence in the volume of success she had for veteran DVA claims. She was much admired



Paula Richard (left) with good friend Liz Hill on being presented with Life memberships to the APPVA

by all those whom she came into contact with.

In her final years Paula purchased an old church, a "dooer upper" she called it. She felt an honour to call her church home, especially due to its military connection as services for local WW1 veterans had been held prior to their departure to war of which none returned.

The veteran community have lost a beautiful soul a caring advocate and friends to many. I have lost my best friend.

We salute you for your dedication and service to the veteran community, you never gave up!

Rest In Peace my best friend, Paula Jean Richards.
Passed Away - 6 January 2022.

Liz Hill, JP
APPVA Volunteer Wellbeing Advocate





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Father Paul Hart



WAGGA WAGGA

Relocating

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

Entitlements

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

Reconnaissance

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

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

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

Moving out costs

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

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

garden maintenance for issues not considered fair wear and tear.

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

Moving in costs

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

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

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

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

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

Family

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

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

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

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

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

Pets

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

Cars

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

Insurance

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

Connect

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

Good luck with the move!

Buddies in the Hunter Community

The Defence community is a rich and vibrant one. There are associations, organisations, community groups, social groups, and playgroup networks across the country.

And it's no different in the Hunter region of New South Wales. The area has a long established history with Defence and, as a result, there is a consistent influx of new residents and people seeking to connect with their local communities.

This is all made a little easier by a group of volunteer Defence partners affectionately known as 'Buddies in the suburbs'. The group provides social support to ADF partners during the sometimes nerve-racking and challenging task of establishing a new support network by running social activities to connect families.

The volunteers have varied lived experiences and backgrounds but all

share the common goal of wanting to make it a little easier for ADF partners to meet new people and establish their support system in the area. There are sub-groups in Newcastle, Nelson Bay, East Maitland and Raymond Terrace.

Kay Elliott is the longest serving 'buddy', and has volunteered with the program for just under five years. Her family is nearing the end of their Defence journey, with her ADF partner now close to retirement. The couple are excited to be establishing themselves in Medowie for good. Kay, however, is not planning on slowing down anytime soon and is looking forward to continuing her volunteer work within the ADF community.

At the other end of the spectrum, Newcastle 'buddy', Dayna Launer and her partner are relatively new to managing the mobile Defence lifestyle as a couple. Her partner joined the Air

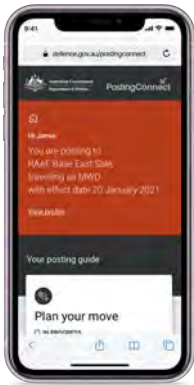
Force in 2009 and RAAF Williamstown is the couple's first posting. They initially established their social connections through work and their shared love of fitness. They are both enjoying the active, outdoor lifestyle the Hunter provides and Dayna is proud to share what the area has to offer with other ADF partners.

Following a posting to Tindal, Air Force partner, Katie Walters re-connected with the network upon returning to the Hunter. Having enjoyed a positive experience previously, she didn't hesitate to connect with the group again.

"The Buddies have been a great source of information, friendship and support to me over the years," said Katie. "They have helped me to establish a network of friends who have become like family."

Mel Kirkpatrick. | Defence Families Matters

Providing a simpler posting experience



PostingConnect is an on-line platform designed by Defence to streamline the posting process for ADF members and their families.

It is available for eligible ADF members and families to assist them with their domestic postings. It connects to a range of other posting services, including Toll and Defence Housing Australia (DHA), and allows families to manage all their posting requirements from a central location.

After going through several rounds of testing and feedback, the PostingConnect platform has been improved and new features added to better serve members and their families. Following a pilot of the platform with a small group of posting members, it's now being progressively rolled out to Defence members undertaking postings.

Serving member Alex Vella was involved in the initial pilot and feedback sessions.

"Since I have only been posted a couple of times, it's all a bit daunting trying to figure out what to do and who to contact," said Alex.

"PostingConnect is a user-friendly system that will make the posting process more efficient—it's definitely made it easier for me. It provides a checklist and allows me to tick tasks off and make sure that I'm not missing anything along the way."

Having seen the platform evolve through its multiple iterations, Alex acknowledged the numerous improvements that had been made.

"The new tasks and information is great, especially for families and partners who may not understand the process or language used within Defence."

The refinement of the platform and the introduction of new features were also noticed by other participants who provided valuable feedback.

"I can see the changes made based on all the feedback I originally gave, which is great," said Alex.

PostingConnect is being progressively released to posting members. Eligible members will receive an email on the Defence intranet inviting them to use the online platform for their posting, shortly after their posting order is issued.

ext.defence.gov.au/postingconnect

\$13.7 million to support our defence kids

More children of Australian veterans and Defence personnel will receive additional support thanks to a new \$13.7 million investment in the successful Kookaburra Kids 'Defence Kids' mental health program.

This new investment comes as Kookaburra Kids celebrates its 20th year of providing services. It builds on our Government's investment of \$2.1 million for a pilot of the Defence Kids program in 2016 and \$7.7 million to expand the program in 2018.

The additional funding will see the program expanded to more regional areas: Wagga Wagga, Albury/Wodonga, the Mornington Peninsula, Bendigo, Ballarat, and Geelong.

For the first time, services will also be available for children in north and south Tasmania.

The Prime Minister said the Defence Kids program was making a massive difference to the lives of children of Defence families, and the funding would ensure it could reach even more kids and families.

"Being a kid can be tough enough, and there can be added challenges for kids from Defence and veteran families," the Prime Minister said.

"Often, our Defence kids have to move away from friends, they change schools and they deal with a parent being away for extended periods of time or who may be facing mental health challenges.

"The Kookaburra Kids Defence Kids program helps kids to manage these challenges, and brings them together with others facing similar experiences.

"We want to give our Defence kids



as much support as possible, and give our veterans and Defence members the confidence that their families are well looked after. The extension of this program will ensure just that.

"I also congratulate Kookaburra Kids on their 20th anniversary. From their start in the Shire, to now reaching out across the nation to help thousands more kids, it's truly great work."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the additional funding would grow the program across the regions and provide access to even more kids.

"The Kookaburra Kids program has already had more than 4,300 engagements with children in the Defence and veteran community, and this significant additional investment will see more children reap the benefits," Minister Gee said.

"Kids aged 8-18 years old can get involved by attending camps and

activity days where they develop coping skills and resilience, building up their mental health while understanding their unique experience.

"The program delivers tailored, evidence-based, age-appropriate education, prevention and early intervention mental health services.

"Prevention is key in supporting our Defence kids and providing them with the help they need to thrive. I'm extremely supportive of anything that supports our Defence families."

The funding will also see face-to-face services continue in all mainland capital cities as well as the regional centres of Townsville, the Hunter, Wollongong, Shoalhaven and the NSW South Coast.

To find out more about the Kookaburra Kids 'Defence Kids' program visit: <https://kookaburrakids.org.au/our-programs/defence-kids-activities/>



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

Mates4Mates is one of Australia's leading veteran charities actively changing the lives of current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families, impacted by service.

One connection at a time, Mates4Mates is actively changing lives. 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 can 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**.



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