

BATTLE FOR IRON KNOB

Hamel's ultimate warfighting test pushes soldiers to their limits, Cpl Sebastian Beurich reports.

IRON Knob is usually a quiet town near Whyalla in South Australia.

On July 9 it was anything but, as Australian, New Zealand and US soldiers from 1 Bde's Battlegroup Tiger, supported by Battlegroups Lion and Griffin, fought tooth and nail to uproot enemy forces from the township.

Shortly after the sun rose, two Tiger ARHs from Battlegroup Griffin strafed the enemy command post with simulated Hellfire missiles.

Then, emerging from the darkness on the southern side of the town, Battlegroup Tiger stormed in.

CO Battlegroup Tiger Lt-Col Paul Shields said the battle presented a unique opportunity for the allied forces.

"Battlegroup Tiger, which included a company from both the New Zealand Army and US Army, worked together as combined arms specialists to 'break-in' to a developed position," Lt-Col Shields said.

"We conducted an air-mobile insertion, as well as a foot insertion with Battlegroup Lion in support.

"It's quite confronting to work through a large township with a range of stakeholders, including enemy forces from 7 Bde and the civilian residents of the town.

"The three-dimensional nature of the environment in Iron Knob and a threat that could manifest quickly made it a challenging environment to work through."

As they worked their way through the town, the soldiers of Battlegroup Tiger encountered a number of different enemies.

Enemy forces simulated mortar attacks, anti-armour weaponry and a number of other small arms using coloured smoke grenades and by relaying their targets through the attached observer trainers.

Engineers from 3CER had also spent the past day rigging key points of the town with simulated improvised explosive devices.

2Lt Matt Wylie, of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regt, said the attack was a valuable opportunity to learn and practise coalition techniques.

"It has been a learning curve to pick up each other's tactics, techniques and procedures, but it has been a valuable experience, given the likelihood of us deploying on operations together," 2Lt Wylie said.

"The attack was pretty chaotic as a whole – there was a mix of insurgent-type enemy as well as conventional military being engaged by our soldiers.

"The ultimate complexity for a soldier is determining what level of threat a person poses, then making a split-second decision based upon that information.

"It required a lot of initiative for the soldier to make a decision on the spot and escalate force appropriately."

Battlegroup Lion, formed around 1 Bde's ACR, moved into position on the eastern flank of the town under the cover of darkness.

When the sun rose, they provided support to the dismounted soldiers in the township.

"Battlegroup Lion was providing suppressive fire to not only prosecute enemy who were withdrawing, but to suppress them in place while the dismounts conducted the attack," Battlegroup Tiger's Lt Steven Cross said.

"The enemy had armoured vehicles as well but, by using the urban terrain to our advantage, we were able to overcome that obstacle with our anti-armour weapons."

As Iron Knob locals watched the action unfold from their front verandas, role-players bombarded Battlegroup Tiger's soldiers with a number of scenarios.

A key scenario was the use of a role-player riding around the battlefield on a bicycle. At first glance, a civilian getting an up-close look at the action – until he detonated his simulated suicide vest.

"This kind of training – in a real urban environment with actual civilians – adds another layer of complexity," Lt Cross said.

"Soldiers don't know if the civilian who is walking up to them is friendly or an enemy, so there is an air of caution. It's a great learning experience."

Lt-Col Shields said the Australian, New Zealand and US soldiers worked closely as a team to get the job done.

"It's an excellent opportunity to come through a town like this. We appreciate the opportunity for a realistic training environment, which represents the challenges we may face on operations," Lt-Col Shields said.

"I'm sure the Iron Knob locals got an interesting display as 1 Bde conducted a brigade-level advance and attack through their town."

Iron Knob resident Allan Clarke said the wait for the battle had paid off in the end.

"This is a pretty quiet town, not a lot happens," Mr Clarke said.

"To actually hear some of these weapons go off was terrific. I was hoping some of the tanks might have rolled through the town, but unfortunately that didn't happen.

"The soldiers have all been great; they've all been really nice guys and have offered to help around the town where they could.

"It's been an interesting experience and hopefully some of the soldiers learned something that could keep them alive one day."



5RAR soldiers push forward during the Battle for Iron Knob. Photo by AB Chris Beerens



A US soldier engages the enemy during the Battle for Iron Knob. Photo by Cpl Dan Pinhorn



A soldier takes aim during the Battle for Iron Knob. Photo by AB Chris Beerens



A soldier from 1RNZIR drags a role-playing wounded enemy to safety. Photo by AB Chris Beerens



A Tiger ARH flies overhead during the Battle for Iron Knob. Photo by AB Chris Beerens



An Australian soldier provides covering fire while a New Zealand soldier reloads his weapon. Photo by Cpl Nunu Campos



M1A1 Abrams tanks scan for enemy at Iron Knob. Photo by Cpl Dan Pinhorn

Engaging with the community on Ex Hamel

Cpl Sebastian Beurich and Capt Avital Terkowski

MILITARY training activities on the scale of Exercise Hamel – for the first time in the Cullina Training Area – was a daunting prospect for the locals.

As a result, Army held open days to showcase personnel and equipment to the residents of Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie on June 24.

Commander 7 Bde Brig Anthony Rawlins said the Hamel enemy forces were integrated closely with local communities.

"It's really important we get out and engage with locals and allow them to connect to the brigades, which are involved in the force generation cycle," Brig Rawlins said.

"It allows these communities to understand what capabilities Army brings to the population."

In Port Pirie, Battlegroup Griffin brought a CH-47F Chinook and a Tiger ARH, along with a section of infantry, to show the town what was based at their local aerodrome.

Port Pirie Mayor John Rodhe said Battlegroup Griffin soldiers had made a lasting impression on the town.

"To see the soldiers in our town engaging with the community and purchasing from our stores has had a great impact on the residents," Mr Rodhe said.

CO Battlegroup Griffin Lt-Col Hayden Archibald said it was great to get involved in the community in which they were based.

"We've had an amazing welcome from the people of Port Pirie. The local council has been great, they've helped us out in a number of ways," Lt-Col Archibald said.

"The local bakery even jumped on board, bringing their vehicle out and selling hot food to the soldiers, who loved it."

In Whyalla, residents got a surprise as John Schumann, the songwriter of *I Was Only 19*, performed on stage with his band.

Brig Rawlins said Army relied on

the public to support them during exercises like Hamel.

"The Army is drawn from communities like these and when we are integrating into and leveraging off of them, it's important they understand why we are doing it," Brig Rawlins said.

"We set up a number of displays that showcase our equipment, and a number of bands played throughout the day."

Port Pirie resident Bianca Belliferni said she hadn't had much contact with the Army.

"We didn't really know what to expect with the open day, but it's been great," she said.

"It's been fantastic hanging out with the locals, having the kids all through the vehicles and showing them how they operate," 2/14 LHR (QMI)'s Tpr Jake Mouritz said.

On July 13, after the exercise had concluded, D Coy, 6RAR, went back to Iron Knob – the township they had been operating in for Hamel – to hold a barbecue for the residents.

"We couldn't have asked for a more helpful town; they were very accommodating in looking after us," OC D Coy Maj Alastair Robinson said.

For WO2 Shane Thornton, the barbecue presented more than an opportunity to thank the locals.

"I moved up here to Iron Knob eight months before I joined the Army," WO2 Thornton said.

"It felt good to be among the people of the town, visit family and catch up with old friends."

Lt Brad Jasch was among the personnel from 1 Fd Regt who visited the Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre and Stuart primary and high schools as part of Army's community engagement program during Hamel.

"When I was a kid, the Army came to my school and I got to play with the equipment, and I remember thinking it was really cool," he said.

"It's probably what influenced me to join the Army."



Above: LCpl Matt Webster shows a local school boy an ASLAV during the Hamel open day in Iron Knob.

Below: Soldiers from 1 Avn Regt show locals a Tiger ARH during the open day in Whyalla. Photos by Cpl Dan Pinhorn





Army

The soldiers' newspaper

A pair of Tiger ARHs from
1 Avn Regt operate in
support of 1 Bde during
Exercise Hamel 2016.
Photo by Cpl Sebastian Beurich



AVIATION BATTLEGROUP

SPECIAL 4-PAGE LIFT-OUT

TAKING TO THE SKIES



FACTS AND STATS

Length with rotors operating: 30.14m
Max speed: 302km/h
Cruise speed: 291km/h
Max gross weight: 22,680kg
Mission radius: 370.4km
Useful load: 10,886kg

A CH-47F Chinook from 5 Avn Regt lands on HMAS Canberra while the ship is alongside in her home port of Sydney. Photo by LS Helen Frank

Boost to Chinook capability ahead of schedule

Cpl Mark Doran

ARMY has taken delivery of an additional three CH-47Fs Chinooks. The Project Land 4502 Phase 1 rapid foreign military sales delivery was two-and-a-half months ahead of schedule. The addition of three CH-47Fs to the existing fleet significantly enhances the capability of Army's battlefield medium-lift helicopter in the areas of air mobile, air assault, aeromedical evacuation and amphibious operations, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The additional Chinooks are straight off the Boeing production line and are fitted with the latest US Army technologies, including updated avionics and next generation self-protection systems. As the original acquisition was on schedule and under budget, it was a major accomplishment for the ADF, although there are still busy days ahead for the Cargo Helicopter Management Unit (CHMU). XO CHMU Maj Michael Hansen said Army decided to improve its capability by expanding the fleet of seven Boeing CH-47F Chinooks to 10 in December last year, following the initial success of the medium-lift helicopter project. "Government approval for a new foreign military sales case was granted in March," he said. "Achieving delivery of three new aircraft inside four months demonstrates highly effective and coordinated project acquisition between VCDF Group, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group and Army aviation elements." Maj Hansen said Army's first seven CH-47F Chinooks under the AIR9000 Phase 5C project reached their initial operational capability in April. "Work is continuing towards the full operational capability of the CH-47F," he said. "We have a large commitment within CHMU to achieving first-of-class trials on the RAN Canberra Class Landing Helicopter Dock ships in August and September." Watching the aircraft flying with C Sqn, 5 Avn Regt, in Townsville may be the most visible outcome of the project, but the major success is in logistics. The commonality of many parts of the CH-7D and CH-47F means millions of dollars were saved through a detailed disposal plan keeping many serviceable parts in use. Work is also continuing on the Cargo Helicopter Capability Alignment Program, which aims to keep the Australian Chinooks logistically supportable with the US Army, as well as assure the Chinook remains a viable capability throughout its life through the incorporation of improvements and modifications. "It will ensure the Australian aircraft avoid the obsolescence issues often plaguing small independent fleets and will maximise interoperability with US," Maj Hansen said. "This program is expected to go to government for approval in 2017." The Chinook has more than 50 years of flying history and evolution. While there are efficiencies in the basic design of a tandem helicopter, the changes to the new model and the foreign military sales acquisition will deliver cost benefits to the ADF. Maj Hansen said the CH-47F in their service with the US Army had proven significantly cheaper to operate. "The removal of mechanical analogue instruments and replacing them with

Army's helicopter force adds an important dimension to any battlespace, Cpl Sebastian Beurich reports.

HELICOPTERS are one of the most impressive pieces of equipment Army owns; they never fail to draw a crowd when they are around. Beyond their ability to draw a crowd, helicopters such as the MRH-90 Taipan, S-70A Black Hawk, CH-47F Chinook and the Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) add a dimension to any battlespace. "The threats we face on a modern battlefield demand the use of the third-dimension – aviation manoeuvre that allows us to bypass obstacles that restrict ground forces," CO Battlegroup Griffin Lt-Col Hayden Archibald said. "Modern operations are held in the air-land environment, so our focus has been on improving integration. "We are able to rapidly move soldiers and cargo around a battlefield and posture over terrain that ground forces may find restrictive. "The Tiger ARH's precision fires contribute to ground operations in the battlespace." Behind the scenes of Battlegroup Griffin, members from all over Army

and elements from Air Force have combined to keep the aircraft in the sky. "We're a formation that draws upon the whole of Army, as well as the joint space," Lt-Col Archibald said. "We have elements from 1 and 5 Avn Regts and HQ 16 Bde. "1 Sig Regt controls our signals, 6 Bde and members of Air Force work in our intelligence area, while ICER and 2CER provide our emergency response capability. "Soldiers from 5RAR, as well as Air Force members from 3 Security Forces Sqn, provide security for our airfield, and 17 CSS Bde provides both catering and medical support. "We have a broad snapshot of Army and Air Force capabilities with us to enable operations in the aviation environment." Along with all of the enablers attached to the battlegroup, the Aviation core trades are essential to maintaining operations. "Mission support soldiers run our command post and communications nodes; they manage our mission support networks and push information into the aircraft, allowing pilots to con-

duct their business," Lt-Col Archibald said. "Refuelling is one of our priority needs, so our operations just wouldn't occur without the aircraft support soldiers who do a great job in the forward arming and refuelling points," he said. Command post supervisor Cpl Ceara Tyrell said during Exercise Hamel she assisted with all of the planning stages up until the aircraft lifts off of the ground. "We receive the task order for the mission, then assist the pilots and aircrewmembers during their planning," Cpl Tyrell said. "We ensure the aircraft has all of the communications equipment it needs, then communicate with the aircraft during their mission and pass on any mission reports." "Being under the rotors of a helicopter while it is turning and burning is a daunting experience for anyone, however, the aircraft support soldiers who run the forward arming and refuelling points do it routinely. "Hot refuelling increases the risk of what we are doing, especially in a tactical environment," Tpr Laura

Wakeling said. "It's a lot harder trying to perform a hot refuel with only cyalumes. When we are on a hard-standing we can switch to white light if we need to, but in the bush it's cyalume only." Tpr Matthew Overton said the best part of the job was working with ordnance. "For the Tiger, we load Hellfire rockets and the 30mm cannon," he said. "The other aviation regiments only load the minigun and Mag-58. Working with Tigers gives us a bit of pride because it's such an expensive piece of equipment." Keeping multi-million dollar aircraft flying requires a lot of work behind the scenes by the aircraft and avionics technicians who service and repair them. Cfn Logan Curtis said aircraft technicians worked on the engines and structure of the aircraft, while avionics technicians worked on the electronics and instruments. "In the field, we have a set mission, and timings to meet. We take pride in the fact that we are on time and on station when needed," he said.



A Tiger ARH fires at a target during Exercise Jericho Dawn held at Puckapunyal, Victoria, in March. Photo by Cpl Oliver Carter

TIGER'S FUTURE

INITIAL steps have been made towards integrating the Tiger with unmanned aerial systems (UAS) in manned and unmanned teams (MUM-T). 1 Avn Regt and 20 STA have developed tactics, techniques and procedures for sharing target information and allowing Shadow UAS to laser designate for the Tiger. MUM-T procedures have been practised in simulation and will continue to develop through the joint land series of exercises. Following the successful integration of MRH-90 in the 2015 Sea Series amphibious exercises, the Tiger has begun its journey to amphibious integration with flight deck handling trials in June and first-of-class flight trials scheduled for early 2017. The Tiger ARH should be fully integrated into the Sea Series of exercises by mid-next year.

Taipans will get you home

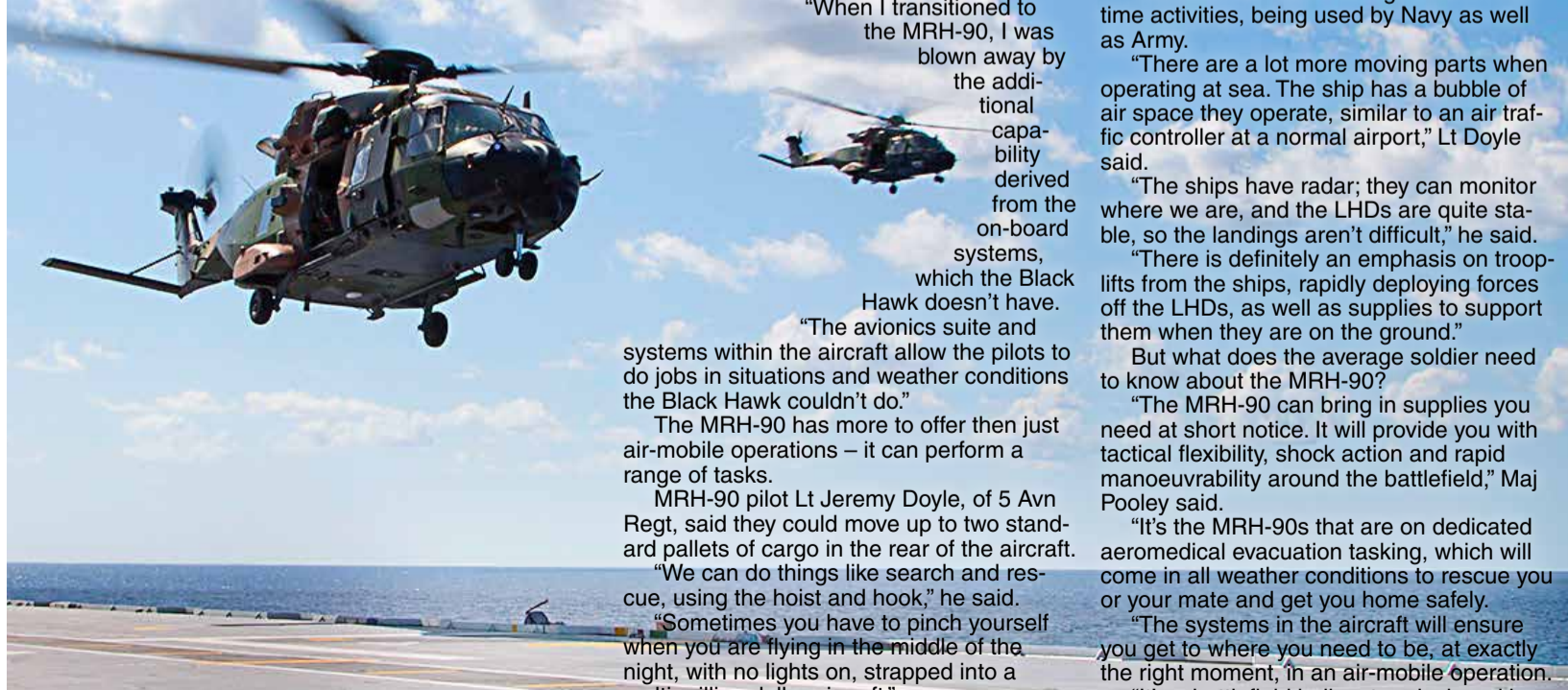
Cpl Sebastian Beurich

AT A GLANCE

Type: multi-role helicopter
Length: 16.13m
Height: 5.23m
Weights: 6400kg empty / 10,600kg max take-off
Speed: 300km/h
Range: 800km
Crew: two pilots, two aircrew

FOR the MRH-90 Taipan, the name tells you everything you need to know. Employed as a multi-role helicopter, the MRH-90 is capable of a great many things. OC B Sqn, 5 Avn Regt, and MRH-90 pilot Maj Julian Pooley transitioned from the Black Hawk in mid-2015 and hasn't looked back. "The MRH-90 brings helicopter capability into the modern age by incorporating the latest technology," Maj Pooley said. "The Black Hawk was an outstanding aircraft, extremely capable and excellent at its primary roles. "When I transitioned to the MRH-90, I was blown away by the additional capability derived from the on-board systems, which the Black Hawk doesn't have. "The avionics suite and systems within the aircraft allow the pilots to do jobs in situations and weather conditions the Black Hawk couldn't do." The MRH-90 has more to offer than just air-mobile operations – it can perform a range of tasks. MRH-90 pilot Lt Jeremy Doyle, of 5 Avn Regt, said they could move up to two standard pallets of cargo in the rear of the aircraft. "We can do things like search and rescue, using the hoist and hook," he said. "Sometimes you have to pinch yourself when you are flying in the middle of the night, with no lights on, strapped into a multi-million dollar aircraft." He said everything they did was based on trust. "I trust the aircrewmembers are clearing everything I can't see," he said. "They trust I am doing the right thing in the pilot's seat and will get them home

safely – things like hovering over the edge of a cliff, under night-vision, while the aircrewmembers hoist from the rear of the aircraft." The aircrewmembers, previously known as loadmasters, form an integral part of the MRH-90 team and help the pilots in different ways. "We're responsible for passenger and aircraft security in combat zones, as well as any kind of equipment we operate," Cpl James Ryan said. "We also help the pilots do their job better. If we need to land in a place on a battlefield that is surrounded by trees, we act like rear-vision mirrors. We've done terrain flying – 17m off of the ground – while we travel at 100 knots (185km/h) around different areas." The MRH-90 has a strong basis in maritime activities, being used by Navy as well as Army. "There are a lot more moving parts when operating at sea. The ship has a bubble of air space they operate, similar to an air traffic controller at a normal airport," Lt Doyle said. "The ships have radar; they can monitor where we are, and the LHDS are quite stable, so the landings aren't difficult," he said. "There is definitely an emphasis on troop-lifts from the ships, rapidly deploying forces off the LHDS, as well as supplies to support them when they are on the ground." But what does the average soldier need to know about the MRH-90? "The MRH-90 can bring in supplies you need at short notice. It will provide you with tactical flexibility, shock action and rapid manoeuvrability around the battlefield," Maj Pooley said. "It's the MRH-90s that are on dedicated aeromedical evacuation tasking, which will come in all weather conditions to rescue you or your mate and get you home safely. "The systems in the aircraft will ensure you get to where you need to be, at exactly the right moment, in an air-mobile operation. "It's a battlefield helicopter, designed by looking at the effect it needs to provide, then reverse engineering it to provide the systems to enable that effect. "In the hands of our Defence pilots, with support from our aircrewmembers, the MRH-90 is an aviation capability second to none."



Two MRH-90 helicopters from 5 Avn Regt land on HMAS Canberra during the Sea Series of amphibious exercises last year. Photo by LS Helen Frank

FAREWELL

WITH all the benefits of the new model and success of the acquisition, it is inevitable to farewell the workhorse CH-47D from Army service. Tail number A15-106 has returned to the Air Force (being a former Air Force CH-47C) and will become a permanent part of history at RAAF Museum Point Cook. A15-104 will commemorate the CH-47D's service in the Army as a permanent display at the Museum of Army Flying, Oakey, while A15-152 will continue its training role as a ground training platform for special forces. A15-151 will meet a similar fate to its sister, repurposed as a training platform for ground forces, and A15-201 will continue to serve Army Aviation, repurposed as a maintenance systems trainer at the RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School training the next generation of tradesmen. A15-202 has been donated to the Australian War Memorial to commemorate the CH-47D's contribution to the Afghanistan campaign.

solid-state, digital equivalents brings far greater reliability and an equal reduction in maintenance hours," he said. "By employing the foreign military sales strategy the ADF also leverages the benefits of being part of a much larger fleet, which is growing to almost 500 CH-47Fs flying with the US Army. "Not only does the ADF see the benefits of scale in the initial purchase price, but the ongoing cost of consumable and repairable items is greatly reduced."

A story of innovation and commitment

FIGHTING CAPABILITY

ARMY'S Tiger ARH is equipped with a roof-mounted sight incorporating daylight TV, thermal imaging, laser range finding and a laser target designator. The Tiger's payload can be configured according to the mission and can include any mix of up to eight AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, 52 70mm Rockets, 450 30mm rounds for the off-axis automatic cannon, and extended range fuel tanks. A recent enhancement to Tiger's capabilities is the advanced precision kill weapon system laser-guided rocket, which converts the existing 70mm rocket to an extremely accurate precision weapon out to beyond 4km. Archibald said. "Lift aircraft can extend the Tiger's operating radius by projecting a forward arming and refuelling point deep into the battlespace." Brig Pricor said the Tiger incorporated a range of features to allow it to survive on the contemporary battlefield, including low-detection technology, damage-tolerant composite structure and a roof and helmet-mounted sight and display system to allow high levels of manoeuvrability. "With a 250km useful radius of action and the ability to move across the battlespace at more than 200km/h, the Tiger can develop a situation, reinforce success, exert influence through presence and assist friendly forces in need in a way no other Army capability can achieve," he said. CA DECLARED Final Operational Capability (FOC) for the Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) on April 14. The achievement of FOC represents both the maturing of the platform in Army service and the other elements that comprise an operational capability. 1 Avn Regt's eight-year journey to FOC has been a story of innovation and commitment by thousands of people from the ADF, APS and industry. Commander 16 Bde Brig Michael Pricor said the path to FOC had been as much about the people and supporting systems as it has been about the Tiger. "Army has had to grow several generations of combat leaders, operational planners, pilots, mission support, ground support and maintenance personnel in order to deliver Tiger troop, squadron and regiment-level capabilities," Brig Pricor said. "Since the beginning of the Hamel series of exercises in 2010, the Tiger has been committed in steadily increasing levels of capability. "In the early years, the aircraft was limited to troop-level deployments with significant limitations on night operations. "By 2013-14, this had increased to a squadron-level commitment with full night-fighting capability. By 2015, the capability had increased to 1 Avn Regt providing the framework for Battlegroup

Tried, tested, tough

Black Hawk pilots and aircrew passionate about their platform

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

AFTER 28 years of service, the S-70 Black Hawk helicopters, flown by 6 Avn Regt, are still as spry as the day they were purchased.

Of the three aviation regiments, 6 Avn Regt has the responsibility to provide Australia's special operations rotary wing capability. As such, the unit requires all of its Black Hawk pilots and aircrewman to maintain a special operations qualification.

OPSO Maj Brad Stoker said the Black Hawk was an exceptional aircraft that members of the unit were passionate about.

"More importantly, the personnel in the regiment are most passionate about the special operations aviation capability and ensuring that we achieve our mandated mission," he said.

"The Black Hawk is purpose designed, operationally tested and presently provides an appropriate base platform for us to achieve our required tasking.

"By using strategic airlift, the speed at which we can deploy a Black Hawk is unmatched by any other rotary wing platform, or unit, within Defence."

So what are the advantages of the Black Hawk?

"The Black Hawk is a highly capable, robust and agile aircraft that is proven to be able to insert and extract a ground force within a complex non-permissive environment while providing organic fire support from the aircraft," Maj Stoker said.

"Due to its relative size, the Black Hawk provides flexibility when operating in complex environments, such as urban and maritime targets."

For the aircrewmen, the layout of



AT A GLANCE

The Sikorsky Black Hawk is a utility helicopter ideally suited to its primary role of providing air mobility for troops and equipment in the battle zone. Black Hawks can also carry out aerial reconnaissance, observation, direction of artillery fire, casualty evacuation and aerial fire support.

A soldier rappels from a 6 Avn Regt Black Hawk during training.

the cabin gives the Black Hawk the upper hand.

"The Black Hawk accommodates a separate crew station for the aircrewmen, which means a weapon system can be fitted to the aircraft without interfering with the doorway,"

Regimental Standards WO WO1 Tony Young said. "It's a reliable aircraft that just gets the job done."

WO1 Young said it was vital every member of the aircraft's crew understood the current situation during special operations.

"The dedicated crew station has a great field of view and from it we can operate our weapon systems during all phases of flight, including during various insertion techniques," he said.

"The Black Hawk is able to safely and aggressively decelerate in the

latter stages of an approach, due to the tail wheel at the rear of the aircraft, which allows us to rapidly insert soldiers onto target.

"As someone who is asked to operate in inherently dangerous environments, two of the major features of the Black Hawk – the ballistic protection and crashworthiness – put my mind at ease."

Because of its unique role within Army aviation, Black Hawk pilots and aircrewmen have been to some unique places.

"There are many memorable moments flying Black Hawks," Maj Stoker said.

"These include maritime counterterrorism operations off of the Australian coast, domestic counterterrorism operations within Australia, and conducting operations offshore.

"6 Avn Regt's tasking is always interesting, diverse and challenging."

As with all Army operations, circumstances can change quickly depending on the situation.

"The design work in the Black Hawk cabin over its period of service has allowed the aircrewmen to remain flexible throughout missions and even change our configuration during flight," WO1 Young said.

"We can rapidly change from a support-by-fire task using snipers and the door guns, to inserting a reserve assault team by fast rope, to a suspended caving ladder extraction of the same team.

"The Black Hawk has been tried and tested and withstood the test of time.

"I'm proud to call myself a Black Hawk aircrewman. Even though our aircraft are now aging, I still feel safe and confident in its abilities."



Capt Jay Ruddell stands in front of an MRH-90 Taipan before an aid flight to Ovalau, Fiji, while deployed on Operation Fiji Assist.

Photo by Cpl Dan Pinhorn

MRH-90 Taipan on operations

MRH-90s played a key role in Operation Fiji Assist earlier this year as the ADF helped the people of Fiji get back on their feet following Tropical Cyclone Winston, which devastated parts of the country on February 20.

Using MRH-90 helicopters, landing craft and Lighter Amphibious Resupply Cargo vehicles, aid was moved from HMAS Canberra to the outer islands.

Lumber, concrete, corrugated iron and water tanks were just some of the material being delivered as Australian Army

engineers worked closely with their Fijian Army counterparts to restore essential infrastructure.

During the operation, an MRH-90 crew also evacuated two patients, including a seriously injured Fijian local, off the coast of Vanuabalavu Island, about 290km north-west of Suva, Fiji.

The crew was responding to a separate aeromedical (AME) evacuation request from the island when the injured local came to their attention.

The MRH-90 crew and AME team transferred the patients to the mainland where they were

received by a team of New Zealand Defence Force medics and taken by ambulance to Suva's Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

The 600km round trip was conducted entirely over water and without a refuel, demonstrating the Taipan's extraordinary reach and endurance.

5 Avn Regt's MRH-90 helicopters were critical to facilitating personnel movement to and from Vanuabalavu Island, as well as delivering seeds and other initial disaster relief stores as part of the operation.



Army

SPECIAL FEATURE Western Front Centenary

The soldiers' newspaper

Photo by Sgt Janine Fabre



AN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER
OF THE GREAT WAR
19TH-20TH JULY 1916

Soldiers gather in France to honour thousands of their forebears who fought and died in the Battle of Fromelles a century ago



**LEST WE
FORGET**

ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

Thousands head to Fromelles to mark the 100th anniversary of a battle that has been called 'the worst 24 hours in Australia's history', *Claudia Harrison* reports.

THERE was a solemn mood as a crowd of about 2500 people attended a commemorative service and headstone dedication at Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery in Fromelles, France, on July 19.

A smaller, more intimate commemoration at VC Corner took place later that evening to officially mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles.

The Battle of Fromelles was fought from July 19-20, 1916, and was the first battle fought by Australians on the Western Front.

Australian casualties numbered 5533, including 1917 killed.

Australia's Federation Guard provided a catafalque party for both services. Members also laid wreaths and raised the Australian and French national flags, while soldiers from 31/42RQR paraded the 31 Bn Colours.

Brisbane's Voices of Birralee choir and the Australian Army Band also performed at the commemorative events.

CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell attended both events in Fromelles as the senior ADF representative and said it was important for today's ADF to continue to recognise and remember the service personnel of 100 years ago.

"In WWI our nation sustained loss of life and injury on a catastrophic and unprecedented scale," Lt-Gen Campbell said.

"Barely a home or a family in Australia was untouched by loss or grief."

"The Australians who served on the Western Front – those who gave their lives together with those who returned home – helped shape not only the course of world history, but also our sense of nationhood."

"One hundred years on, their service continues to resonate with today's sailors, soldiers and airmen and women."

"The nearly 300,000 Australians who served on the Western Front continue to hold a special place in Australia's history."

The ADF contingent was joined by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac Dan Tehan, as well as Warren Snowdon representing the Leader for the Opposition.

NSW Governor and former CDF Gen David Hurley (ret), South Australian Governor Hieu Van Le and Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey also attended to honour the sacrifice on the Western Front.

Australian Ambassador to France Stephen Brady, French Secretary of State for Veterans and Commemorations Jean-Marc Todechini, Military Governor of Lille Gen Bernard Maitrier and other dignitaries also paid their respects.

The ceremony at Pheasant Wood included a headstone dedication and roll call of six newly identified soldiers: 2Lt James Benson, Pte Justin Hercules Breguet, Pte Clifton Sydney Brindal, Pte Sidney Broom, Pte William Burke and Pte Robert Thomas Maudsley.

In May, Army confirmed the identification of these six Australians from the 250 Australian and British WWI soldiers recovered from a mass burial site at Pheasant Wood in France in 2009, by the Fromelles Project Identification Board.

Descendants and relatives of four of the six newly identified soldiers were present at the ceremony.

As a soldier's biography was read

The Australians who served on the Western Front – those who gave their lives together with those who returned home – helped shape not only the course of world history, but also our sense of nationhood.

– Lt-Gen Angus Campbell, Chief of Army

out, a local school child and a uniformed member walked out to the named soldier's headstone and removed the shroud. A rose was then placed on the grave by the child.

As each headstone was unveiled and the crowd listened to the soldiers' stories, the significance of the event was undoubtedly realised by every person present.

Lt-Gen Campbell said the identification and the headstone dedication honoured not only their service, but the service and memory of all Australian soldiers, and contributed another important piece to the history of the Army in the Great War.

"The six men, who were until now among the thousands of Australians on the Western Front with no known grave, can today have their final resting place honoured," CA said.

"It is my privilege to call the roll of honour and unveil the inscribed headstones of these men, honouring their sacrifice and hopefully going some way to providing solace to their families."

The national commemorative service at VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial was equally solemn and honoured the unknown soldiers buried there.

VC Corner is the one cemetery in France that contains only the graves of Australians and is the final resting place for 410 soldiers who are buried in a mass grave.

Their bodies were found on the battlefields but could not be identified – it was decided not to mark individual graves, but to record their names on the VC Corner memorial.

Three unknown Australian soldiers were also reinterred with full military honours at Pozieres British Cemetery on July 23, when the Centenary of Anzac commemorations on the Western Front concluded with a commemorative service for the Battle of Pozieres.

See the next edition of *Army* for full coverage.



ADF personnel commemorate the Battle of Fromelles with a service at Pheasant Wood Military Cemetery on July 19. Photos by Sgt Janine Fabre



We found the old no man's land simply full of our dead ... the skulls and bones and torn uniforms were lying about everywhere ... the wounded could be seen everywhere raising their limbs in pain or turning hopelessly, hour after hour, from one side to the other.

– Charles Bean, Australia's official war historian

BLOODSHED

THE Western Front was a crucial theatre of WWI.

Between 1916 and 1918, some 290,000 Australians served on the Western Front, where about 47,000 Australian lives were lost and more than 130,000 wounded.

For more information about the six newly identified soldiers, visit www.army.gov.au/Our-work/Unrecovered-War-Casualties-Army/Fromelles/Remains-Identified-2016

Further information about the Fromelles Project is available at www.army.gov.au/Our-work/Unrecovered-War-Casualties-Army/Fromelles



CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell and Military Governor of Lille Gen Barnard Maitrier lay wreaths during the service at VC Corner.



Musn Liz Cherry, front right, sings a hymn during the service at VC Corner.

Spirit of generosity

Claudia Harrison

CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell and RSM-A WO Don Spinks met with some of the 150 Belgians who tend the graves of Australian servicemen during their trip to France and Belgium for Western Front centenary commemorations.

CA and RSM-A met with Sgt Real Desmaret, of the Belgian Army, his wife Marianne Wullepit, as well as friends Katherine Massain, Anny Beauprez and her husband Francois Mackelberg, at the "Plugstreet 14-18 experience" museum in Comines-Warneton, Belgium.

Sgt Desmaret said he cared for the Commonwealth graves because he knew the descendants of the Australian soldiers who fell, cannot.

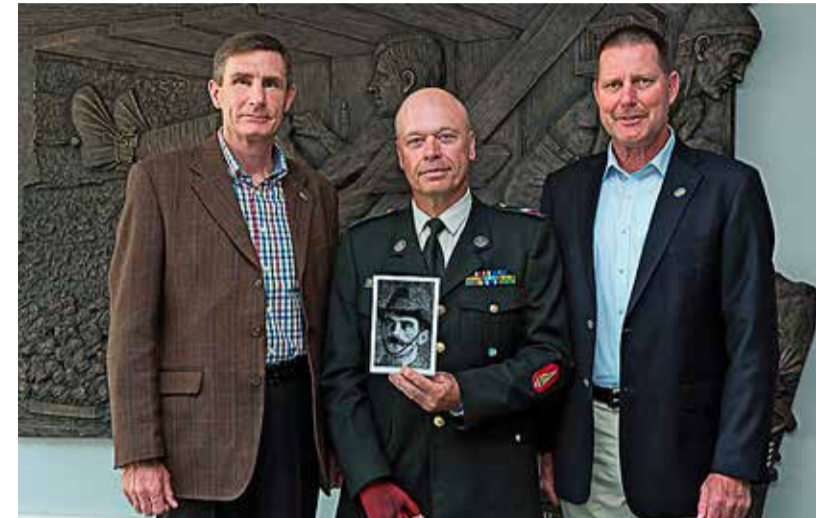
"It is a great privilege to do this and honour the memory of your fallen soldiers," Sgt Desmaret said.

"We feel it is our obligation to respect the soldier."

Children from the local schools also conduct 'adoption' ceremonies where classes adopt one of the graves and look after it. Sometimes they have a photo of the soldier, other times they don't.

Sgt Desmaret said the children also placed flowers on the graves and conducted special tributes on certain days.

"The teachers in the local schools are very passionate about teaching the children about the history of the war and what



CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell, left, and RSM-A WO Don Spinks, right, meet with Sgt Real Desmaret, of the Belgian Army. Sgt Desmaret is among the locals who tend the graves of Australian WWI fallen.

took place in their home towns," he said.

"Farmers still find ammunition from WWI every day – sometimes still with gas in them. We find and destroy ammunition on a regular basis. The large artillery shells are disposed of in the sea."

Lt-Gen Campbell said it was special work.

"I thought it was important for me to come and meet you all today and to offer my thanks on behalf of the Australian Army for your compassion, and for you

continued service to our fallen soldiers," he said.

"I can see that what you do is also a very hard job, too. I would like to thank everyone for their spirit of generosity. It is not only an act of friendship, but one of kindness and respect."

After the meeting Sgt Desmaret took the time to show Lt-Gen Campbell some photos of the graves and their soldiers, and the group walked around the museum together.

I found the whole experience a very moving, emotional and inspiring part of our military heritage and history.

– Gnr Josh Knight, AFG catafalque party

When you look across at the potato and barley fields that are growing around this cemetery, it is such flat ground that you just wonder how anyone would have survived the battle here.

– Cpl Leigh Morris, AFG wreath orderly



Gnr Josh Knight and Cpl Leigh Morris, of Australia's Federation Guard, help plant crocheted poppies at the Australian Memorial Park in Fromelles on July 17.

Carnage on the Somme

Army historian Roger Lee explains how Australian troops fought and died at Fromelles and Pozières.

AT 6PM on July 19, 100 years ago, the first waves – about 6000 men – from the 5th Australian Infantry Division attacked the German front line near the small village of Fromelles in northern France. Four days later, at 12.30pm on July 23, 4000 infantry from the Australian 1st Infantry Division attacked Pozières. Both attacks were part of the enormous Allied Somme operation and both battles were extremely costly in terms of casualties. However, for many Australians, especially today, Fromelles was a disaster while Pozières was a famous victory. Why are two battles of essentially the same period and of similar scale remembered so differently?

Fromelles was the first formal battle undertaken by the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on the Western Front. Like the rest of the AIF, the men of the 5th Infantry Division had little or no prior combat experience, were struggling to assimilate new tactics, new doctrine and new weapons systems and were largely unfamiliar with the battlefield on which they were fighting. The division had been in France less than a month. While the battle was part of the overall Somme campaign, it was not fought on the Somme itself.

Fromelles was an action intended to pin enemy forces in place to prevent them being sent south to the Somme as reinforcements. Two divisions, one British and the 5th Australian, were tasked to capture the enemy front line trenches and thus threaten the strategically significant city of Lille. It was intended to be a strictly limited action: the objective was the enemy's front trench system only.

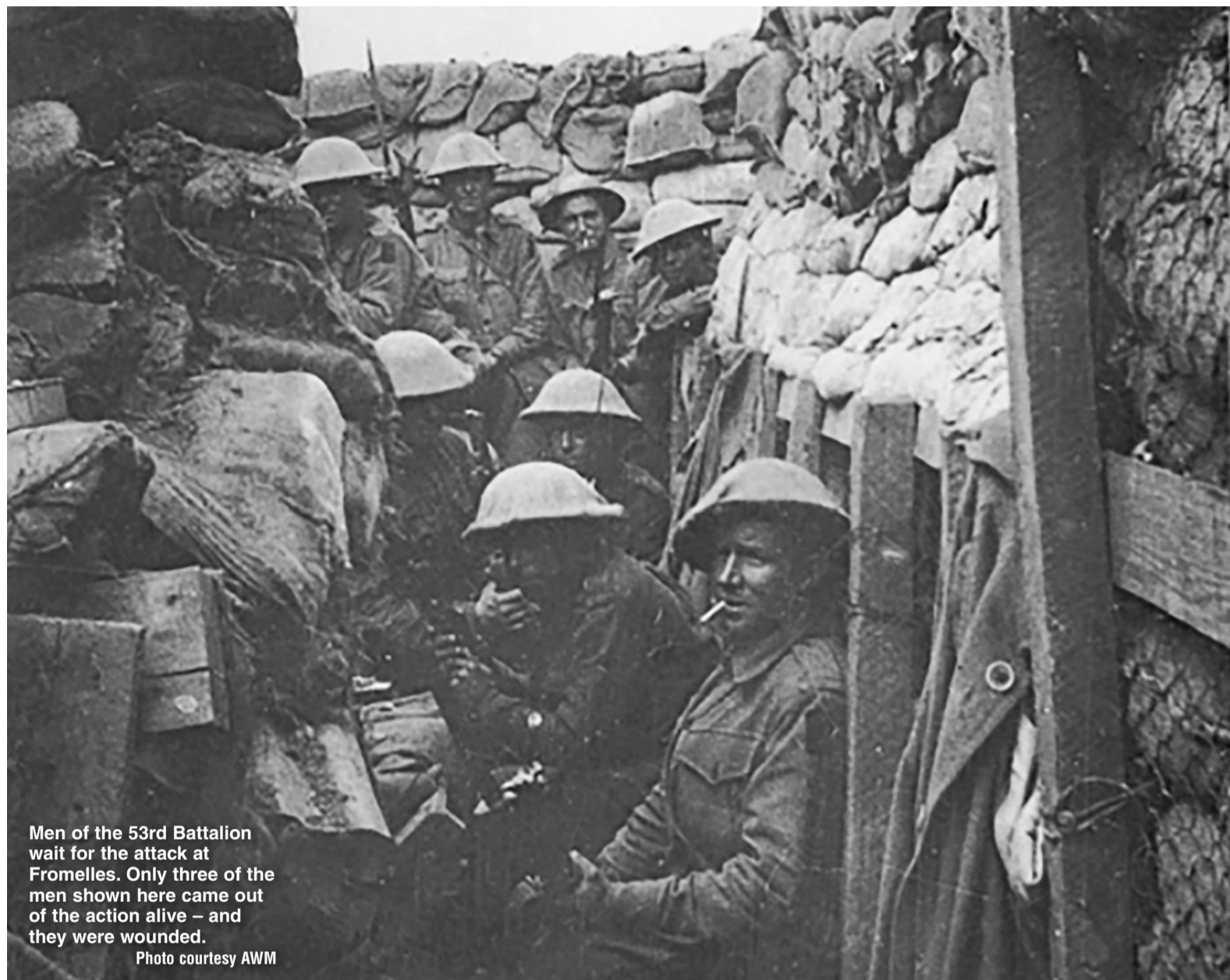
Capturing a front line trench was not particularly difficult – the difficulty was either breaking through then out of the trench zone into the enemy's rear areas, or holding the trench system against enemy counter-attack.

Fromelles demonstrated that for untrained troops, even allegedly simple tasks are never easy. As the main attack on the Somme was devouring troops at an alarming rate, additional troops were unavailable so at Fromelles, both divisions attacked with all three brigades, rather than the usual two, to cover the ground. This increased the casualty rate for each and meant there were no immediate reinforcements available to cover losses.

High casualties effectively doomed the attack before it began. The combination of observers on the high ground, Allied inexperience betraying positions through movement and noise, and experienced German gunners who knew the ranges involved with precision as they had been in the area for more than a year, meant the attackers suffered heavy casualties as they moved up to the start line and into No Man's Land for the attack.

The British (including the AIF) gunners' failure to neutralise the German artillery, cut all the barbed wire or destroy or completely suppress the enemy infantry defending the front line, meant many attackers were held up by obstacles, taken in the flanks by enfilading machine gun fire or in places confronted manned enemy defences. Heavy losses for the 15th Brigade on the right flank of the attack, where the key German defensive position – the Sugar Loaf salient – remained fully effective, meant the attackers failed to even reach, let alone enter, the enemy trenches.

The other two brigades, the 14th in the centre and the 8th on the left flank, had more success. No Man's Land was narrower in their area so was a shorter



Men of the 53rd Battalion wait for the attack at Fromelles. Only three of the men shown here came out of the action alive – and they were wounded.

Photo courtesy AWM

crossing and both brigades broke into and captured the front line trench system. Parties of the 14th unintentionally penetrated the rear zone to depths of 500m because they were trying to find their objective – the third trench of the forward system. Unfortunately, aerial photo-interpretation was in its infancy and the planners had mistaken a drainage ditch for an enemy trench line.

The challenge for both brigades was to consolidate and hold their gains. Unfortunately, the heavy losses, combined with enemy interdiction of No Man's Land, prevented reinforcements reaching them. They were too few in number to form a linked, supporting defensive line. Too many men carrying essential stores, such as sand bags and shovels, had been lost, preventing the construction of a strong protected defensive position.

The enemy, who knew the ground very well, immediately launched coordinated counter-attacks. They infiltrated through the gaps in the line as well as flanking the defenders. By early morning, the position was recognised as hopeless and the decision was made to withdraw to the original trench lines. Even this order was hard to issue, with many versions being lost as runners were killed distributing it. Eventually, by 7.30am on July 20, the attackers were back in their own lines and the enemy regained possession of their trenches.

The Australian cost was more than 1700 killed, hundreds taken prisoner, with a total casualty count of 5500.

Much of this loss was directly attributable to inexperience and tactical error on the part of the assault troops. There has been much debate about whether the battle was futile,

pointless or simply unnecessary. Its purpose was to stop German troops from the area going south to support the Somme defence. After the battle, there were no more reports of troops from the Lille area appearing on the Somme. Indeed, the German commander (von Falkenhayn) stated in his memoirs that they anticipated another attack at Fromelles. By these measures, the battle was both justified and achieved its aim – but at an enormous cost.

In marked contrast with Fromelles, the battle for Pozières was central to the Somme campaign and fought

France long but had a higher proportion of experienced men and the advantage of a longer period of acclimatisation in front line trenches.

For both divisions, however, new tactics and doctrine, new weapons and a new and much more capable enemy all added to the challenge of the coming battle.

Preparation for the Pozières attack was almost as rushed as it was for Fromelles, though more effective. Jumping-off trenches were dug into No Man's Land that enabled the attackers to pre-position themselves within 50m of their objective.

the German second line of defence. It enabled the British Fourth Army, to the south, to continue their advance which, several months later, hastened the German April 1917 retreat to their new defensive line – the Hindenburg Line.

As with Fromelles, the success at Pozières was at an enormous cost in human life. The 1st Division suffered 5285 casualties by July 27 while the 2nd experienced 3500 in the single action on July 27.

Fromelles largely disappeared from military and public consciousness after the war, only coming back into focus after the discovery of the remains of 250 soldiers from the battle that were overlooked in the post-war reinterment program.

Pozières never faded from public memory in the same way. The participants in the Pozières battles chose that as one of their battle honours, whereas none of the battalions at Fromelles wanted an honour for that action.

Many honours have been awarded for defeats and military failure, as well as for successes that cost many lives. The likely explanation is that the diggers at Fromelles did not consider they had performed competently enough to warrant recognition, unlike the successful performance at Pozières. Some 5th Division soldiers went on to win the highest accolades for their actions later in the war: perhaps they themselves believed Fromelles did not represent their finest hour.

To read more about Fromelles, see the Army History Unit Campaign Book on the battle. A campaign book on Pozières is currently being written.

The Australian cost was more than 1700 killed, hundreds taken prisoner, with a total casualty count of 5500...

almost in the middle of the Somme theatre of operations. Pozières had been a day one objective of the British but the assault had become bogged down in the intricate defensive trench and strongpoint system the Germans had established.

Pozières village sat atop the highest ground on the whole Somme battlefield and, by late July, was threatening the successful British advance to its south. By July 20, the British had advanced their front lines to within metres of the village.

The 1st Australian Infantry Division was given the responsibility to capture it with an attack on July 23. Like the 5th Division, the 1st had not been in

Like Fromelles, an exceptionally heavy artillery barrage preceded the attack but, unlike Fromelles, the more experienced gunners in this sector managed to neutralise the defenders. The attack went in at 12.30am on July 23 and was brilliantly successful. Many of the German 117th Division defending the village were killed or captured, though the complete occupation of the village took two more days. Exploiting this success, the Australian 2nd Division then pushed on and captured the highest point on the Somme battlefield – a hill called the Windmill by the Australians and Hill 160 by the German defenders.

The capture of Pozières broke open



Army

Edition 1378

July 28, 2016

The soldiers' newspaper

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SPECIAL LIFT-OUT

- Aviation battlegroup demonstrates its strength
SPECIAL LIFT-OUT

ADF members march down the Avenue des Champs-Élysées in Paris to commemorate French National Day on July 14.

Photo by Sgt Janine Fabre

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Close bond on

ADF leads French National Day parade in historic first

Claudia Harrison

FOR the first time in the 136-year history of the French National Day parade, the ADF led the parade down the Champs-Élysées in Paris on July 14 after the French Foreign Minister invited Australian troops to be the guest of honour.

The pride at participating in the French National Day parade was replaced by sorrow later in the day at the killing of 84 people in the French city of Nice when a truck was driven through crowds at a Bastille Day fireworks display.

VCDF VAdm Ray Griggs, who was in France for the French National Day parade and Western Front centenary commemorations, expressed deep sympathy for the victims and their families.

"On behalf of ADF members in France for the parade and the WWI ceremonies, our hearts go out to all impacted by the awful attack in Nice," VAdm Griggs said.

Contingent commander Lt-Col Jim McGann said the ADF personnel had been profoundly moved by the appalling attack.

"We honour the victims and our thoughts are with their loved ones. We stand as one with the people of France at this time of immense suffering and grief, just as our two nations stood together 100 years ago during WWI," he said.

French National Day commemorates both the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, and the Fête de la Fédération, which celebrated the unity of the French people on July 14, 1790.

"As contingent commander, I am very proud to have led the ADF in the parade," Lt-Col McGann said.

"They have done a wonderful job; they represented their country extremely well. I am very proud to be an Australian."

He said the last time the Australians marched down the Champs-Élysées was in 1918.

"I am very proud of what we have achieved in today's parade," he said.

The ADF contingent comprised 80 Army personnel, 30 Navy and 30 Air Force members.

ADF contingent RSM WO1 Ken Bullman said after the initial nerves, and practising numerous times, there was a certain expectation within the contingent as they marched up the Champs-Élysées to the dais with the French President and the Australian Governor-General watching.

"But we did an exceptional job," WO1 Bullman said. "My job was to ensure that the reputation of the ADF was upheld and that is what we did."

Soldiers from 2 Div made up most of the Army contingent, parading 20 Regimental Colours and 20 Queen's Colours.

The Regimental Colours were emblazoned with each of the participating unit's battle honours, while the 40 Colours were from 13 units that all have direct lineage to units who fought in France in WWI.

The Colours returning to France was symbolic of the journey undertaken by thousands of Australian's from 1914 until the present in the service of our nation, and reminds us of those who did not return home.

Lt Rowan Jarvie, of 9RQR, was proud to be one of the 80 members of the Australian Army contingent marching in the parade.

He said marching down the Champs-Élysées with the crowds cheering, flags being waved and music playing was incredible.

"I still cannot believe I am here. It was such an honour to march for my country after being invited by the French to take up the 'position of honour'," Lt Jarvie said.

Lt Jarvie's great-grandfather, James Gerald Kennedy, served with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and landed at Gallipoli in the second wave.

"I am proud to say that my great-grandfather was a corporal when he went over to fight, but he left having been promoted to lieutenant for his service during that time," he said.

"He took a leading role in the Battle of Pozières almost losing his leg and was shot at twice. It was after this that he met my great-grandmother, a British war nurse, while recovering in hospital.

"Being here in France with the Army contingent for French National Day brings home to me the sacrifice he and so many others made."

Sgt Stephen Oberg was the junior escort for the 31/42RQR Regiment Colours.

"I had a shiver up my spine today as we marched off down the Champs-Élysées, with the crowd watching, the music and all the other French troops there as well," Sgt Oberg said.

"It was a privilege to represent the ADF in the memory of our troops who fought on the Western Front 100 years ago."

2 Div was raised in Egypt on July 26, 1915, and deployed to Gallipoli later that year. It went on to become the first Australian Army division to join the battle on the Western Front in 1916.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the AIF in France, with the AIF joining British and French troops in the Fromelles attacks during July 1916.

The ADF's participation in the French National Day parade tied in with the ADF's involvement in Centenary of Anzac commemorations at Fromelles and Pozières and the reburials of several AIF personnel from July 19-23.



“It was such an honour to march for my country.”

– Lt Rowan Jarvie,
9RQR



The ADF contingent marches down the Avenue des Champs-Élysées in Paris to commemorate French National Day on July 14. Inset above: Lt Courtney Griffiths stands at attention ahead of the parade.

Photos by Sgt Janine Fabre

show in Paris

“ I had a shiver up my spine as we marched off.

– Sgt Stephen Oberg, 31/42RQR

“ It was a great opportunity to do what our soldiers, who fought and died, never got a chance to do 100 years ago.

– WO2 Owen Trevorrow, 31/42RQR



The Army contingent prepares to march down the Avenue des Champs-Élysées in Paris to commemorate French National Day. Inset below: Soldiers uncase the Colours before marching.



WO2 Owen Trevorrow

Sgt Stephen Oberg



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Amphibious skills put

2RAR ready and raring for Rimpac live-fire

Flt-Lt Loretta Webster

SOLDIERS from 2RAR have left Pearl Harbor for advanced training and are preparing for the live-fire range package after embracing the integrated training opportunities during the harbour phase of Exercise Rim of the Pacific (Rimpac).

Following instructional and practical training on amphibious assault vehicles operated by the US marines and Australian Zodiacs, focus shifted to shallow water egress training, urban operations and ground-to-air integration.

The Amphibious Ready Element departed Pearl Harbor on July 11 on board HMAS Canberra for advanced training on the Hawaii "Big Island" for training with US and international partners.

Under tuition from American instructors, Australian soldiers and US marines undertook shallow water egress training, which uses an individual seat-type device to introduce water submersion.

OC Combat Team Alpha Maj Jonathan Wick said the shallow water experience aided water confidence.

"This training is critical in rehearsing drills for ditching into the water and, just as importantly, getting the soldiers to grasp the proper use of emergency breathing systems, as well as learning how to operate flotation devices," Maj Wick said.

"Gaining competency in the water is a vital skill and we've certainly learned a great deal from working with the US marines."

Capt Robert Mueller, of 2RAR, said this part of the harbour phase was about getting familiar with the various amphibious vehicles.

"The main effort was vehicle integration with the US marines using their amphibious assault vehicle, which is quite a capable platform," he said.

"The marines concentrated on getting their personnel familiar with the Zodiacs used by 2RAR's Small Boats Pl.

"Opportunities to work with coalition partners don't arise too often, so the soldiers all enjoyed themselves. It was pretty choppy out on the water but they all did really well."

Small Boats Pl Section Commander LCpl John Lambrinakos said the surf conditions in Hawaii offered a testing environment for the Australian soldiers.

"It's a lot more challenging here in Hawaii," he said.

"Unfortunately, where we are in Townsville there's not a lot of surf, so to get out here and train in different conditions is awesome."

"It's a great opportunity to be able to hone our skills and drills. Training in unfamiliar environments provides a bit more of a challenge."

Maj Wick said he was very happy with the level of training and integration his team had achieved so far.

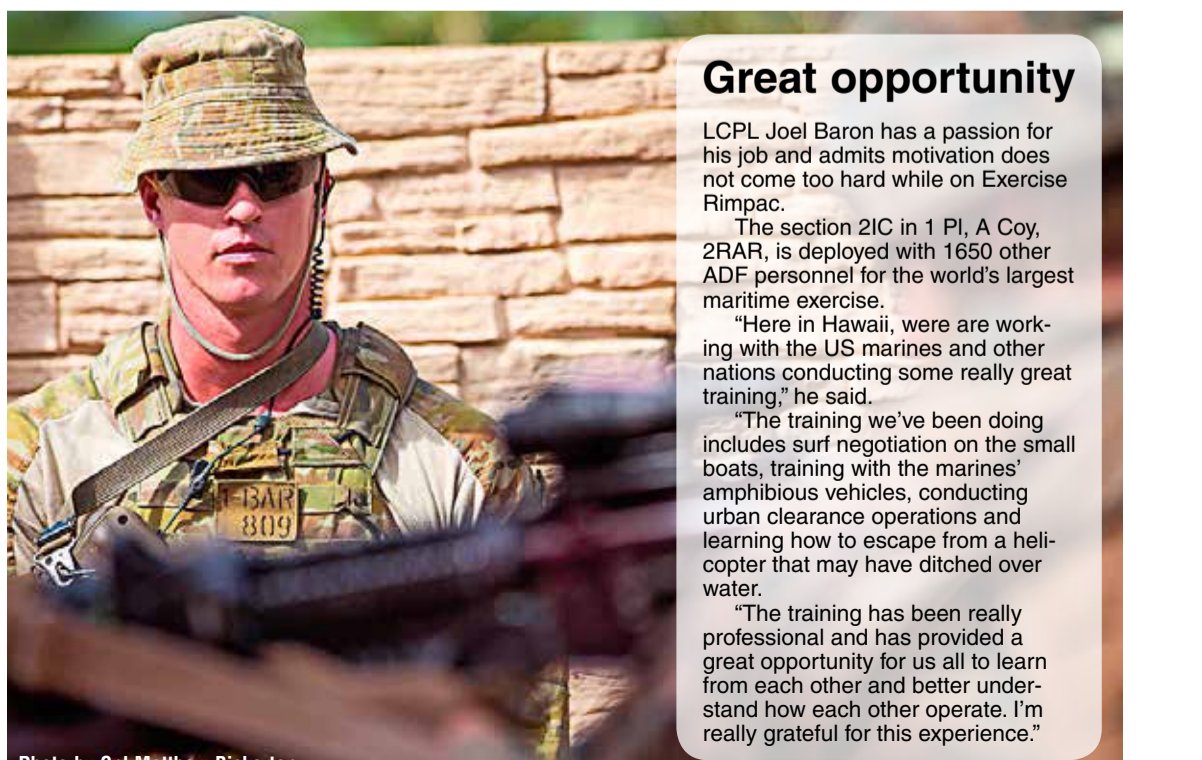
"As we transition from the harbour phase to the tactical phase, I believe it's going to be a successful evolution for us and a rather enjoyable training evolution for all concerned," he said.

Rimpac finishes on August 4 and is the world's largest maritime exercise enhancing Australia's relationship with the host nation, the US, and contributing nations.

It is aimed at strengthening international maritime partnerships, enhance interoperability and improve the readiness of participating forces for a wide range of potential operations.

The theme for Rimpac 2016 is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners" and provides a key opportunity for land forces to test their interoperability within the multinational amphibious readiness group.

Check out the next edition of Army for a full wrap-up of Exercise Rimpac or watch video of troops in action here: <http://video.defence.gov.au>



Great opportunity

LCPL Joel Baron has a passion for his job and admits motivation does not come too hard while on Exercise Rimpac.

The section 2IC in 1 PI, A Coy, 2RAR, is deployed with 1650 other ADF personnel for the world's largest maritime exercise.

"Here in Hawaii, we are working with the US marines and other nations conducting some really great training," he said.

"The training we've been doing includes surf negotiation on the small boats, training with the marines' amphibious vehicles, conducting urban clearance operations and learning how to escape from a helicopter that may have ditched over water."

"The training has been really professional and has provided a great opportunity for us all to learn from each other and better understand how each other operate. I'm really grateful for this experience."

Photo by Cpl Matthew Bickerton



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to the test on Rimpac



Above: LCpl Natasha Sant, of 2RAR, uses an emergency breathing device during shallow water egress training.
Photo by Cpl David Said

Left: US marines dismount an ASLAV before assaulting an urban operations training facility during Rimpac.
Photo by Cpl Matthew Bickerton

Sense of duty to serve

KEEPING track of 400 soldiers is just one of the challenges for Pte Kim Hoang, of 2RAR, on Exercise Rimpac.

Working in an operations administration role sees her control and process company or battalion administration while in the barracks and extends to personnel tracking and monitoring allowances when on exercises or deployments.

"When we go on exercises it can become quite complex tracking movements of all the personnel and ensuring the right people are in the right place, doing the right job," Pte Hoang said.

"Here at Rimpac, we have more than 400 personnel from Australia, New Zealand and Tonga, so keeping track of them all can provide some obstacles, but it has been a perfect opportunity to network with people from other services, units and countries.

"I love the constant challenges of working at 2RAR and the high tempo of the unit. It's always busy, which I really enjoy."

Deciding she wanted to gain experience in a challenging field, test herself and her fitness, Pte Hoang joined the Army in 2014 and said she felt a desire to serve her country.

"I feel a sense of duty towards Australia as my parents fled Vietnam in the early 1980s and have been given great opportunities," she said.



Photo by Cpl David Said



Above: ASLAVs from 2 Cav Regt at Marine Corps Base Hawaii during Exercise Rimpac.
Photo by Cpl Matthew Bickerton

Left: A 2RAR soldier practises using an emergency breathing device during shallow water egress training with amphibious reconnaissance marines.
Photo by Cpl David Said

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Training the trainers in

▶ Instructors help Iraqis hone their skills to assist them in the war against terrorism

Capt James Hook

ARMY instructors in Iraq have taken time out from the rifle range to put their handicraft skills to good use.

"We made a head-and-shoulders ghillie suit to present to the Iraqi Army student of merit," Cpl Matt Benn said.

"We scrounged an old camouflage shirt, and cut it off below the breast pocket and the sleeve pocket.

"Then we glued on squares of material and threaded through the scrim – torn up old undershirts, cam shirts, sandbags – any sort of material that will break up the outline of a person."

Cpl Benn, of 7RAR, has deployed on active service to Iraq to help train the Iraqi Army to defeat Daesh.

"We were training the trainers from the Baghdad Fighting School at the Taji Military Complex," Cpl Benn said.

"We started off with the theory of marksmanship, then went out to the range for a week to zero the weapons and shoot at various targets under time pressure."

The Iraqis were using the Dragunov 7.62x54mm sniper rifle and a variation of the Steyr HS .50, a precision heavy calibre weapon system with an effective range about twice that of the Dragunov.

WO Ali, of Tikrit, 140km north of Baghdad, was the student of merit and the recipient of the ghillie suit.

"Naturally, as a military person I am

already trained in marksmanship," he said, speaking through an interpreter.

"The Australians helped me to improve my skills, particularly breathing correctly, and teaching me patience and control.

"I tried to learn as much as I could in order to pass on the knowledge to our young soldiers."

Five warrant officers and senior NCOs of the Iraqi Army were trained in marksmanship to a high standard.

"We have chosen our best soldiers to train under you," Baghdad Fighting School XO Col Mohammed Khalil said.

"We thank the Australian Army, the Australian Government, and the Australian people for helping us in the fight against Daesh."

OC Training Team Maj Nathan Cooper said six Australian NCOs and one officer delivered the training package.

"Our intent was to certify Baghdad Fighting School NCOs from the weapons company to run their own marksmanship courses," Maj Cooper said.

"The end result was three Iraqi NCOs qualified to run basic marksmanship packages.

"One of those NCOs is now helping us deliver the advanced marksmanship course back at the Baghdad Fighting School.

"Success for us means the Iraqis do more instructing, and we do less."



Cpl Matthew Benn congratulates student of merit, Iraqi soldier WO Ali, who is wearing the sniper's ghillie suit handmade by Australian instructors.

Photos by LS Jake Badior

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Baghdad



Cpl Stefan Pitruzzello makes a scope adjustment on a variant of the Steyr HS .50-calibre rifle while training Iraqi Army personnel in advanced marksmanship.



Cpl Ross Ockenfels briefs Iraqi soldiers on a variant of the Steyr HS .50-calibre rifle during an advanced marksmanship training course at the Baghdad Fighting School in Iraq.

The Task Group Taji Training Task Unit flag flies proudly outside the HQ building at the Taji Military Complex in Iraq. The flag is based on the AATTV's shield and crossbow combination from the Vietnam War.



Baton passed to diggers in Iraq

Capt James Hook

THE legacy of a legendary Australian Army unit from the Vietnam War lives on in Iraq.

The Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) was the longest-serving and most highly decorated Australian unit of the Vietnam War.

All four Victoria Cross recipients from the war – Kevin Wheatley, Peter Badcoe, Ray Simpson and Keith Payne – served with the AATTV.

The unit's mission was to train, advise and occasionally lead local Montagnard and territorial forces, as well as battalions from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

Now the baton has been passed into Iraq for the second time.

First there was the AATT-Iraq, which served in Iraq from 2004 to 2008 as part of Operation Catalyst.

Now Training Task Unit (TTU) of Task Group Taji is training the Iraqi Army to defeat the Daesh terrorist group as part of Operation Okra.

CO 8/9RAR Lt-Col Jim Hammett was CO of the TTU during the second rotation of Task Group Taji earlier this year.

"When we completed our pre-deployment training, I took the unit up to Canungra to see the AATTV Memorial Grove," he said.

"I made the point that we would be in their immensely large footprints, and it was appropriate that we should adopt their motto – persevere.

"I emphasised that while it was unlikely we would be in frequent contact with the enemy, the verb 'persevere' is still as apt as it ever was.

"The key theme I tried to impress was that during the deployment we would all have our patience, tolerance and self-discipline challenged.

"The moral of the story was that if anyone felt overly pressured by anything we would face, then they should spare a thought for the men who persevered in

Vietnam, and to follow the example they set despite far more difficult and more dangerous circumstances."

Lt-Col Hammett said the event and the homespun philosophy were well received by the soldiers.

"On arrival in country, I figured that as we had an unofficial motto, we may as well have an unofficial badge," he said.

A design was struck, based on the AATTV's shield and crossbow combination.

It replaced the loaded crossbow with crossed AK-47s, added the task group's boomerang and fern leaf emblem, and included an Arabic translation of persevere, pronounced 'thaber'.

"My greatest fear was that we would be seen as a group of Johnny-come-lately wannabes who were bludging off the history of AATTV," Lt-Col Hammett said.

"However, the feedback from the AATTV Association was positive.

"The trainers in Iraq now have an unofficial motto on their patches."

The 8/9RAR-based teams completed their six-month deployment at the end of May and handed over to trainers drawn largely from 7RAR.

John Gibson served with the AATTV at Phu Cat in Binh Province in 1971-72, and is now the Queensland state president of the AATTV Association.

"We're thrilled to bits that we have someone carrying on the team's traditions," he said.

"A thousand men served with the team in South Vietnam, including 10 Kiwis.

"There were 33 who didn't come home, and our numbers are now down to about 500.

"We're not going to be around forever, so it's great that this affiliation is in place."

As well as the four VC recipients, the AATTV contained many legendary warriors, among them George Chinn.

Chinn was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for leading South Vietnamese troops in a battle against the Viet Cong in 1965.

Personnel to train Iraqi police

THE ADF will expand its training role in Iraq to include law enforcement agencies.

The government has also authorised the deployment of an additional 15 ADF personnel who will provide a counter rocket, artillery and mortar capability at Taji, which is currently being provided by another coalition member.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Defence Minister Senator Marise Payne announced the changes on July 19 following a request from the US government and Iraqi Prime Minister for additional assistance.

Senator Payne said Australia supported coalition efforts to build on the recent military momentum against Daesh.

"We particularly welcome recent announcements of expanded contributions – including from the US, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Italy, Spain, Denmark and Norway," she

said. "Australia continues to make one of the largest contributions to the counter-Daesh campaign."

The contribution includes:

- 300 personnel with the Building Partner Capacity mission at Taji, training Iraqi Army personnel;
- an 80-person Special Operations Task Group providing advice and assistance to the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service; and
- 400 personnel to the Air Task Group, which is conducting airstrikes against Daesh in Iraq and Syria, and providing airborne command and control and refuelling capabilities.

"Our Building Partner Capacity mission at Taji has to date been limited to training Iraqi Army personnel, but as more areas are liberated from Daesh, strong and effective policing and enforcement to maintain security is required," Senator Payne said.

With this in mind, she said

Australia had agreed to expand the mandate of its training mission to include Iraqi law enforcement agencies.

"Iraq's law enforcement agencies – including the Iraqi federal and local police and border guard forces – will have a key role in defending, holding and stabilising areas liberated from Daesh," she said.

"Helping train these law enforcement agencies to hold and stabilise territory will assist Iraq to take responsibility for its own security and provide security for Iraq's citizens as they return to their cities."

She said Australia would also increase the flexibility of its mission to enable our forces to conduct training at other secure coalition locations, as the need arises.

The changes were formalised by Senator Payne at the Counter-Daesh Defence Ministers meeting in Washington DC on July 20.

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Survival of the fittest

Soldiers support search-and-rescue exercise

Capt Anna-Lise Rosendahl

AS SEARCH-and-rescue scenarios played out over the Coral Sea and Townsville field training areas, a small but potent Army force helped Exercise Angel Reign run smoothly from June 27 to July 7.

The two-week bilateral joint personnel recovery exercise involved troops from the Combat Survival Training School (CSTS) who helped create and deliver the scenarios, as well as members of 35 Water Transport Sqn and the Army School of Transport-Maritime Wing, who provided a Landing Craft Medium 8 (LCM8) and Shark Cat during water serials.

CO CSTS Sqn-Ldr Ashley Hill said the Army played a critical role in the exercise.

"Without the support of 35 Water Transport and Army personnel embedded in CSTS, we wouldn't have been able to achieve the outcomes we got during this exercise," he said.

CSTS WO1 Gregory Hains said the exercise was good training for the school's teachers.

"It gives us a good look at what will actually happen overseas should one of our aircraft be shot down or crash for any reason," he said.

It gives us a good look at what will actually happen overseas should one of our aircraft be shot down or crash for any reason.

– WO1 Gregory Hains,
Combat Survival Training School

"That way we can ensure we are teaching our air crewmen, when they come here as students, the most up-to-date procedures they're most likely to face if they deploy overseas."

Australian and US Air Force personnel worked through six different search-and-rescue scenarios, from downed aircraft in the Coral Sea to mass casualties from an improvised explosive device in hostile territory.

"These activities have been based on what really could happen – real-life scenarios they could face overseas," WO1 Hains said.

"The aim is to ensure any aircrew who become isolated personnel are fully recovered."

Marine Supervisor Cpl David Anderson, of the Army School of Transport-Maritime Wing, helped

with the LCM8 and Shark Cat during the water serials and said watching the rescues unfold gave him confidence in the military's ability if he was caught in a similar situation.

"Whether you're ADF or civilian, you see the way military members are able to react and liaise with civilian counterparts to get out in the water in a hurry and evacuate people, whether it's for medical or other purposes," Cpl Anderson said.

He said the highlight was watching the US HH-60 Pave Hawks in action over the water.

"They were only a couple of metres off the water line," he said.

"They had people jump into the water and assist personnel in life rafts – it looks quite dramatic, although it's very safe."



A US Air Force pararescueman drops from a HH-60 Pave Hawk search-and-rescue helicopter to retrieve an 'isolated person' from a life raft off Rattlesnake Island near Townsville during Exercise Angel Reign.

Photos by Cpl Steve Duncan



Cfn Mark Lennox, Pte Matt Hasson and Cfn Lewis Sweeting retrieve parts of a mock air sea rescue kit deployed from a C-130J Hercules.

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New minister takes the reigns of Defence industry portfolio

A NEW minister has entered into the Defence fold following the swearing in of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's ministry.

Christopher Pyne has been appointed to the new role of the Minister for Defence Industry.

He joins Minister for Defence

Marise Payne and Minister for Defence Personnel Dan Tehan – who was previously the Minister for Defence Materiel – in the Defence portfolio.

Mr Pyne will be responsible for delivering the \$195 billion worth of investment in Australia's defence capabilities outlined in the Defence White Paper.

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Pte Jack Thomson enjoys his flight in a Pilatus PC9/A near Townsville.



Right: Pte Jack Thomson, left, and Flt-Lt Michael Kearney, of No 4 Sqn, prepare for the flight.
Inset: Pte Thomson's view of North Queensland and the other PC9/A during the flight.
Photos by Pte Jack Thomson and Cpl Mark Doran

Medic on a high

► Digger rewarded for dedication

Cpl Mark Doran

HAVING a good bedside manner and being a proficient health carer paid off big time for a medic from 1CHB, 17 CSS Bde.

Pte Jack Thomson enjoyed the thrill of flight as a reward for his dedication and professional skills during Exercise Black Dagger in April.

Pte Thomson was working at RAAF Base Townsville when he was invited to fly in a Pilatus PC9/A by a member of No 4 Sqn, which is based at RAAF Base Williamtown near Newcastle, NSW.

It was his proficient health care and his ability to build a positive rapport with his patients that resulted in the 1.5-hour flight.

After completing a medical assessment for flying and attending the safety briefs, he was fitted with a flying suit and was ready to soar in the North Queensland sky.

Pte Thomson said the pair of PC9/As flew from Townsville to Ingham and returned via the tropical islands off the coast.

"We did a few acrobatic loops and spins during the flight – it was an awesome experience," he said.

"I was a bit scared when the pilots gave me a familiarisation of the aircraft and warned me about the ejection button, but they were very experienced and definitely knew what they were doing.

"I was very excited and also managed to take some good photos."

Pte Thomson has only been posted to Townsville for three months and said he was enjoying his time in 1CHB.

"We have a great team at Lavarack Barracks and we are very busy," he said.

"I have been working closely with 2RAR, 3RAR and 4 Regt RAA during their exercises and have been offered an opportunity to experience life on the streets for a few weeks with paramedics of the Queensland Ambulance Service.

"After that I will be getting more experience by working at the Garrison Health Centre before we head out field for the Exercise Brolog Run series."

Exercise Black Dagger trains personnel to coordinate close air support and focuses on training joint terminal attack controllers.

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The photograph of the Anzac Day dawn service on Mount Charandaz overlooking Camp Qargha on the outskirts of Kabul and, right, the painting done by Jillian Oliver.

Painting helps charity

**WO2 Andrew Hetherington
and Cpl Max Bree**

A PHOTOGRAPH taken during the 2016 Anzac Day dawn service on Mount Charandaz in Afghanistan inspired a retired NSW police officer to use her artistic skills to recreate the image in a painting.

Jillian Oliver saw the photograph of the dawn service overlooking Camp Qargha on the outskirts of Kabul on Facebook.

"I thought it was just beautiful," Ms Oliver said.

"I've always been a keen supporter of our diggers. I thought I'd just give the painting a go and see what happened."

Ms Oliver's career in the police force came to an end about six years ago following a car accident while on duty, in which her vehicle rolled 175m down a mountain.

She emerged with PTSD and impaired use of her right hand, which was badly injured.

"From the accident to now I've learned to do everything left-handed," Ms Oliver said.

"I took up painting as a bit of therapy to cut out stress.

"I believe if I couldn't paint I wouldn't be here."

After contacting the Australian contingent at Camp Qargha, Ms Oliver generously donated her painting to be raffled off, with the proceeds to be

I thought it was a beautiful painting, so I bought 10 tickets.

— Pte Luke Andreassen,
Bushmaster crew commander
with 8/9 RAR

donated to a local Afghan charity.

Australian senior national representative at Camp Qargha Lt-Col Stephen Jenkins said Ms Oliver's painting captured the significance of their Anzac Day service.

"All of us at Camp Qargha were deeply touched by Ms Oliver's story and her amazing efforts to capture what was such a significant service to all who were there," Lt-Col Jenkins said.

"Ms Oliver was extremely generous and selfless in her desire to support deployed soldiers and, given her own challenges, all of those deployed are truly grateful and thankful for her efforts and support.

"Her story was an inspiration to all of us."

Deputy senior Australian representative at Camp Qargha Maj Cameron Elston said the raffle raised about

\$1000. He said more money was raised for the charity with their coalition colleagues by taking part in games and physical competitions.

Ms Oliver's painting was won by Pte Luke Andreassen, who is a Bushmaster crew commander with 8/9RAR at Camp Qargha.

"I thought it was a beautiful painting, so I bought 10 tickets," Pte Andreassen said. "I thought it would be a really special memento to take home from deployment."

He said the win was a pleasant surprise.

"When the person I was sitting next to in the mess was told he would be the person to draw the winning ticket, I jokingly said to him that he'd better pick my ticket out," Pte Andreassen said.

"When the raffle was drawn I was not there, and he came running down to me laughing and telling me I'd won.

"I didn't believe him. He said 'Yes, you've won!' And we've joked about it ever since."

Mr Kushan, one of the directors of the charity, said they were grateful for the support from Australian and coalition troops.

"We like the Australians – they are very kind to us," Mr Kushan said.

"They have left their families in Australia and come to Afghanistan to help my people. We intend to put the money from the painting raffle towards purchasing educational books, a computer and a whiteboard to help educate the people we care for."



Maj Cameron Elston presents a cheque for the money raised from the raffle to Mr Kushan, a director of a local charity.

Photo by WO2 Andrew Hetherington



Pte Luke Andreassen at the site on Mt Charandaz depicted in the painting he won. Photo by WO2 Andrew Hetherington

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Riding for PTSD vets

A FORMER SASR soldier riding from Hanoi to Sydney to support veterans suffering from PTSD will be joined on the next five legs of his epic ride by other SASR veterans.

Laurie Sams, 67, who served with the SASR in Vietnam in 1970 before losing a leg in a parachute accident in 1995, left Hanoi on May 12 aiming to reach the steps of the Sydney Opera House six months and 10,000km later on November 20.

So far he's ridden his trusty Trek 2500km through the steamy jungles and paddy fields of Vietnam in intense wet season humidity, dodging potholes, motorcycles, buffalos and lumbering lorries and has had the ride featured on Vietnam's English language TV channel VTV4.

Mr Sams will be joined by former corporal Troy Lockyer and ex-trooper Giles Beresford-Peirce for the 1490km leg from Ho Chi Minh City to Bangkok and the Thai border town of Surat Thani, where former SASR WO Matt Brown will take over co-rider duties for the 1220km leg to Singapore via Kuala Lumpur.

"These guys are younger than me and they're super competitive, so I'm going to have to pick up the pace a bit from here on," Mr Sams said.

"We fly from Singapore to Perth but then there's the Nullarbor and beyond."

A world champion parachutist, Mr Sams was awarded Australia's Star of Courage in 2001 for saving his tandem parachute student in the 1995 accident.

Since learning to walk with a

prosthetic leg he has completed charity bike rides around Asia, especially in Vietnam.

He said he set his sights on "the long ride home" to Australia as a friendship initiative between Australia and Asia and to support wounded veterans.

"I'm blown away at the number of vets suffering from PTSD and other injuries," Mr Sams said.

"We're passing through some amazing countryside and I'm working with the support team to provide regular video updates available at www.thelongridehome.com.au/blog or www.facebook.com/thelongridehomeaustralia."

Sponsors are still being sought for the ride and anyone interested in contributing can do so by opening the donations page on the ride website at www.thelongridehome.com.au.

Long service honoured

Inspiring future generations of intelligence personnel

MAJ-GEN Stephen Meekin (ret'd) was the guest of honour at the official building naming ceremony of the Defence Force School of Intelligence's (DFSI) main instructional facility in June.

He and his wife, Jenny Nicholson, attended Kokoda Barracks, Canungra, for the dedication of the building, which has been named the Major General Stephen Meekin AM Building.

The ceremony was held to honour a distinguished career in ADF intelligence and recognise Maj-Gen Meekin's service, which laid the foundation of professional intelligence education and training.

Maj-Gen Meekin had an extraordinary career in Defence intelligence, notably serving as CO of the DFSI (then the School of Military Intelligence).

He also held a number of senior intelligence positions on operations and in the Defence Intelligence Organisation, Australian Signals Directorate and Australian Geospatial Intelligence Organisation.

Maj-General Meekin's last permanent position before retirement this month was Deputy Secretary Intelligence and Security.

CO DFSI Lt-Col Arran Hassell praised Maj-Gen Meekin's attributes during the ceremony.

"Maj-Gen Meekin embodies the values we strive to instil in our



Those honoured at the naming ceremony were, from left, Lt-Col Graeme Clark (ret'd), Maj-Gen Stephen Meekin (ret'd), WO1 Lea Nimmo and Brig Matthew Hall.

trainees – leadership, teamwork, excellence and respect," Lt-Col Hassell said.

"The name plate and plaque of dedication are appropriately placed so everyone who enters will read his

name and learn of and from Maj-Gen Meekin's achievements.

"It is our sincere hope that these modest embellishments will serve to inspire future generations of soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen

and officers as they walk towards the inception of their careers within Defence intelligence," he said.

Maj-Gen Meekin said the honour was a humbling experience.

"I am thankful and humbled," he said. "Fundamentally, it's not about the name of the building or my name. It is about the enviable reputation of the school.

"This is a wonderful institution that has always focused on learning from our experiences, both in peace and in war," Maj-Gen Meekin said.

Other intelligence professionals recognised on the day were WO1 Lea Nimmo, Lt-Col Graeme Clark (ret'd) and Brig Matthew Hall, who had rooms and areas named in their honour.

School Warrant Officer WOFF Greg Tafe said it was an honour to coordinate the ceremony, and a privilege to speak to Maj-Gen Meekin and other contributors to ADF intelligence training.

"This ceremony brought together past, present and future members of the Australian Defence intelligence community to publicly recognise those who have had a strong, positive influence on the capability, to be inspired and to reaffirm our commitment to excellence in intelligence support to the defence of Australia and its national interests," he said.

DFSI instructs foundation-level career and specialist skills intelligence courses for Army, Navy and Air Force.

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Defining the new

Army's new dress uniforms reflect our proud history while embracing the future.

IN RECOGNITION of the Centenary of Anzac, Army is introducing a new dress uniform that recognises our heritage while incorporating modern textile and garment enhancements.

SO1 Sustainment Lt-Col Andy Harrison-Wyatt, of AHQ, said as part of the continual improvement of ADF uniforms, a modernised service dress uniform was being progressively rolled out to personnel across the country.

"The redesigned uniform, using a better quality brown khaki fabric, will provide the wearer with improved comfort and functionality," Lt-Col Harrison-Wyatt said.

"The colour is also reflective of the traditional shade of khaki and is closer to the khaki colour of the slouch hat."

The colour change is based on the results of an Army-wide survey, the results of which indicated overwhelming support for a change in colour.

"Army personnel can also look forward to receiving new service dress and 'pollies' in an increased sizing range, which has been modernised to feature specific male and female designs," Lt-Col Harrison-Wyatt said.

"We have also improved the quality of the fabrics and created a modern fit that enhances comfort while maintaining the traditional uniform appearance."

Lt-Col Harrison-Wyatt said Army was going through an exciting period of its history.

"The uniform that an Army wears defines a generation," he said.

"WWI and II saw the use of battle dress; Korea and Vietnam the adoption of fatigues; East Timor and Iraq the adoption of DPCU; and, more recently, the transition to multicam combat uniforms. Each generational change in combat uniforms saw a parallel change in dress uniforms.

"When khaki was adopted by the Army in 1901, the shade chosen had a darker and green hue and was reflective of the khaki used by a number of the Commonwealth countries of the time.

"Before WWI, the khaki colour evolved as it was mass produced to a darker brown khaki, with this shade

FF

Army personnel can look forward to receiving new service dress and 'pollies' in an increased sizing range, which has been modernised to feature specific male and female designs.

– Lt-Col Andy Harrison-Wyatt,
SO1 Sustainment, AHQ

remaining in use throughout the two world wars. Variations of the uniform colour did appear, however, especially with soldiers serving in temperate climates."

He said, as a result, two types of service dress uniforms appeared – a light coloured khaki and the original darker brown khaki.

The light coloured khaki service dress evolved over time to a light olive drab khaki. These uniforms remained in service until the mid-1990s when the darker brown khaki service dress was withdrawn.

The roll-out began in June. Soldiers are encouraged to go through their chain of command for further information.



SERVICE DRESS ROLL-OUT

- DCA Directive 04/16 dated May 4, 2016, articulates the roll-out plan for introduction into service of the new Army Service Dress Uniform. It also articulates the Basis of Issue dependent on region and role.
- The roll-out started in the Canberra region in June and will conclude in Western Australia during the third quarter of 2017.
- The basis of issue for the new service dress uniform will be split in line with the varying climatic conditions experienced within Australia and the requirement to represent the Army overseas.
- As part of the roll-out, all regular and reserve members will be issued either trousers or slacks.
- Service dress jackets will be issued to members in the following locations: ACT, NSW, SA, Tas, Vic and WA.
- Post roll-out, service dress uniform items will be available at clothing stores for purchase. This includes a skirt option.
- All embroidered insignia associated with the service dress uniform and general duty dress (polyesters) will be replaced with insignia in a colour to match the new service dress uniform.
- There will be a period of transition for personnel to change the insignia applied to shirts to the new colour insignia. Due to the fragility of shirt material, the removal of insignia may cause unrepairable damage. As such, all personnel will have a transition period (sunset clause) not to exceed two years from the date the roll out commences in their unit to either procure new shirts or have existing shirts altered.

SERVICE DRESS ACCOUTREMENTS

- The new dress uniform ensemble will retain the current in-service slouch hat.
- The new uniform will also retain current parade (RM Williams) and court shoes.
- The short- and long-sleeve shirts will remain the same colour as the current shirts. However, they will undergo gradual development over the next couple of years. Shirts are not part of the new dress uniform roll-out.



generation

SERVICE DRESS JACKET ACCOUTREMENTS

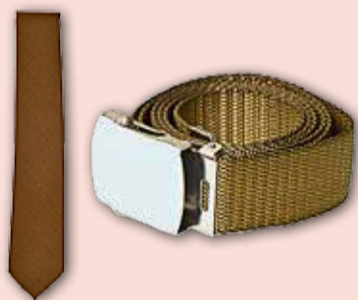
- The new service dress jacket is an off-the-shelf garment.
- The fabric has been updated to feature a 2x2 twill weave fabric in military khaki colour.
- The fabric has enhanced stretch properties for easier movement and heightened breathability.
- A lighter fabric is now used in the lining of the jacket.
- The garment has been rebalanced and realigned for increased comfort, while the sleeve width has been reduced.
- The jacket shoulder has been adjusted for enhanced balance with chest-waist-hip ratio an improved fit.

SERVICE DRESS TROUSER, SLACK AND SKIRT ENHANCEMENTS

- These new items have been designed to replace both the service dress uniform and the general duties dress.
- The new dress trousers, slacks and skirts have also been designed using the new military khaki twill weave fabric featured in the new service dress jacket.
- The trousers include an invisible elastic waist adjustment, which has been incorporated to provide an improved fit and increase wearer comfort.
- The front pleat has been removed while the leg width has been reduced and rebalanced to remove the amount of excess fabric from the rear.
- Slacks and skirts also feature invisible elastic in the waistband to provide more comfort to the wearer.
- In the slacks the leg width has been rebalanced to remove excess fabric from the rear.
- The skirt now has front side pockets and is tapered towards the hem to provide cleaner lines.
- All lowers include a shirt grip to secure service dress shirts.

SERVICE DRESS TIES AND BELTS

- To align with the new service dress jacket, trousers, slacks and skirts, the service dress ties and belts will also be featured in the new military khaki colour.
- The tie has also been redesigned using the same twill weave fabric as the dress jacket.



SERVICE DRESS ACCOUTREMENTS

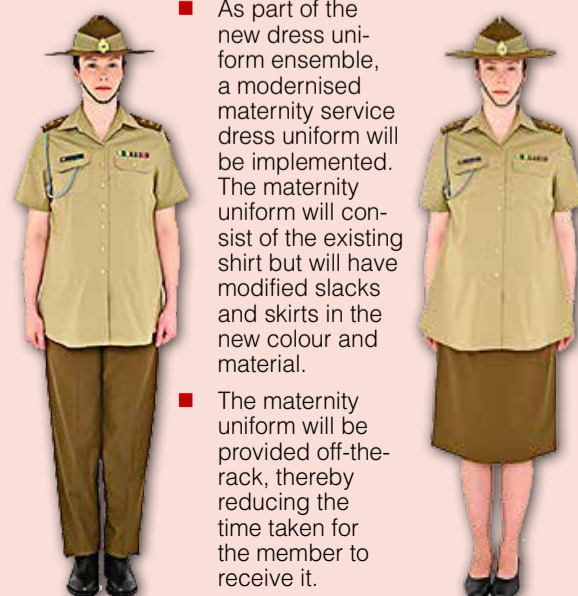
- The accoutrements accompanying the new service dress will also be featured in the new military khaki colour.



This is an exciting time for Army. As well as the introduction of a new combat uniform, the roll-out of a new service dress will enhance our image as a professional and contemporary military force, both nationally and internationally.

– Brig Cam Purdey,
Director General Logistics–Army

MATERNITY DRESS



- As part of the new dress uniform ensemble, a modernised maternity service dress uniform will be implemented. The maternity uniform will consist of the existing shirt but will have modified slacks and skirts in the new colour and material.
- The maternity uniform will be provided off-the-rack, thereby reducing the time taken for the member to receive it.



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The soldiers' newspaper

A soldier prepares a Bushmaster at the evacuation handling centre in Whyalla during Exercise Hamel. Photo by AB Chris Beerens

1 Bde set to take over as the ready brigade after successful Exercise Hamel

READY TO RUMBLE

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Tough test on Hamel

Soldiers' tenacity impressive on Exercise Hamel 2016, Cpl Sebastian Beurich reports.

EXERCISE Hamel has wrapped up for another year, presenting some unique challenges.

1 Bde, as the blue (friendly) force, faced a modern enemy, heavily integrated into the local population and displaying aggressive, hybrid tactics.

7 Bde faced an unfamiliar training area, as well as a different climate to what they are used to exercising in.

Director General Training and Doctrine Brig Mick Ryan said traditional warfighting was the most demanding activity a soldier could do.

"Planning and conducting these activities develops sound and effective collaborative planning skills," Brig Ryan said.

"It develops the capacity to control movement, reconnaissance, joint fires and the logistic support of a force before and during contact," he said.

"In the Battle for Iron Knob, we had Australian, US and New Zealand soldiers involved. We had ground units, Army aviation and Air Force aviation.

"So it develops the interoperability between all involved as well, both the air-to-land aspects and the joint air-to-ground collaboration."

Chief of Staff HQ 1 Bde Lt-Col Andrew Love said he was surprised by the soldiers' tenacity.

"The way soldiers receive training is positive – they enjoy being soldiers, away from the barracks and doing the job they're trained to do," Lt-Col Love said.

"The brigade is almost overfamiliar with the Cultana Training Area at this point, which wasn't necessarily to our advantage during the exercise.

"We tried to shift our tactics and be a bit sneaky and deceptive during the exercise, to mask our movements and hide the things the enemy was looking for.

"As a brigade, we are now assured that we are brilliant at the basics and have every confidence in force generating troops for overseas operations."

Bringing together about 9000 people meant soldiers got an opportunity to look at what other trades did in the field.

"When we do military policing activities, we only get to see the small part that we do," 1 Mp Bn's Pte Mark Ross said.

"When you're an exercise like this, you see the whole Army and what different call-signs do."

Commander 7 Bde Brig Anthony Rawlins said playing the enemy force meant they could research and adopt contemporary operating procedures from around the world.

"We played the role of a fictional enemy force as the 92nd Motorised Bde of the Kamarian Military Forces, bringing two battlegroups to the party," Brig Rawlins said.

"We had a conventional battlegroup, based on 2/14 LHR (QMI), and an unconventional force, which replicated some of the hybrid threats we have seen recently around the globe, like those that were used in the Ukraine, based upon 6RAR," he said.

"We were also enabled by armoured elements from 2 Cav Regt in Townsville, so we had M1A1 Abrams tanks simulating Kamarian T-90s, ASLAVs, which simulated BTRs, and M113s, which simulated BMPs.

"We also had a number of air defence weapons and offensive fire support in the form of multiple rocket launch systems and field artillery."

6RAR's Maj Alastair Robinson said living in Iron Knob was a different experience to a normal exercise.

"Being an enemy force inside an urban town waiting for 1 Bde to attack allowed my soldiers to understand the use of population in an asymmetric force," Maj Robinson said.

The tactics and equipment used meant the red force had to be adaptable and innovative.

"Our soldiers went out and produced some high quality, visually modified products to replicate our simulated air defence," RSM 3 Bde WO1 Ian D'Arcy said.

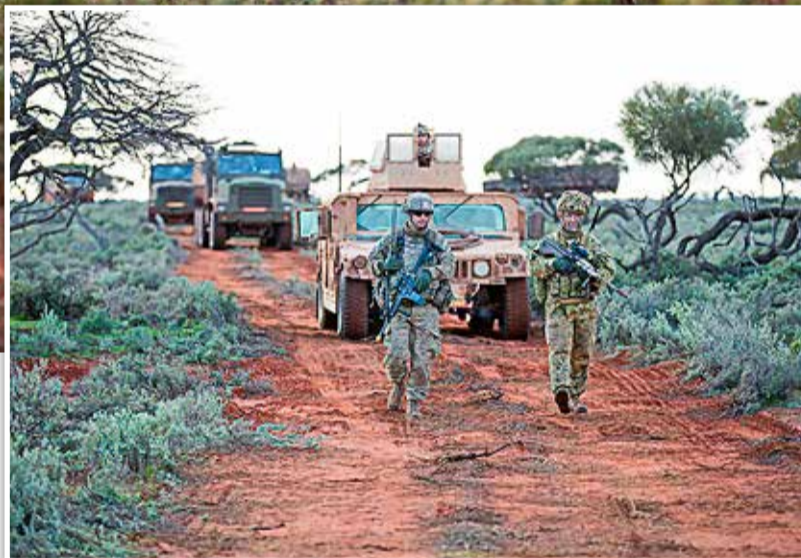
"It's all about adaptability – we're used to operating in semi- and densely vegetated undulating terrain, but Cultana has an open terrain set with very little room for concealment," he said.

"It forced us to adapt and evolve different procedures to achieve a better tactical outcome."

Brig Ryan said geography was one of the key challenges faced during the exercise.

"This year, Hamel has been very different to previous iterations we have run in Shoalwater Bay. The geography is very different and many of the participants haven't been to Cultana before," Brig Ryan said.

"We have also had live and a virtual components of the exercise – where a



large part of the exercise is done in real time, but another part is simulated.

"The weather has been challenging at times, but it has taught our soldiers we're not always going to be in hot, dusty conditions.

"We met all of our exercise objectives early and have achieved some additional goals as well.

"Whether it was the certification of the ready battlegroup, or the evaluation of 1 Bde, which will be the ready brigade post-Hamel, we have met all of our exercise objectives."

Main: A 5RAR soldier identifies enemy positions during the Battle for Iron Knob.

Above: A US officer and Australian officer lead US Marine Corps vehicles into an assembly area at the Cultana Training Area at the beginning of Hamel.

Right: A soldier from 2 Cdo Regt parachutes into Whyalla at the start of the exercise.

Photos by AB Chris Beerens



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Securing the population

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

INEVITABLY, when a nation is destabilised, civilians are the first to be affected.

When people are forced from their homes, they congregate into internally displaced persons camps, which is what the 1st Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (1RNZIR) soldiers and members of the Australian Civilian – Military liaison (CIMIC) team found on July 7.

OC A Coy, 1RNZIR, Maj Chris Shaw said their objective was to secure the camp's population.

"We need to make sure everyone here is who they say they are and they pose no threat to ourselves, our mission, or other refugees around them," Maj Shaw said.

"When we are established here, we will be delivering essential humanitarian and disaster relief aid – food, water and facilities.

"This is a great opportunity for

both Australian and New Zealand soldiers to deal with a range of factors on the battlefield."

1RNZIR was closely integrated into Battlegroup Tiger, based around 1 Bde's 5RAR.

"The majority of the New Zealand soldiers have worked with the Australians before, but this is still a great opportunity to come together and re-establish our relationship with them," Maj Shaw said.

"There are always points we need to work through, but that's part of the purpose of the exercise – to understand where our shortfalls are. "If our governments called on us to work together overseas, we will have a good head start through being well versed in each other's operations."

Dealing with key leadership at the internally displaced persons camp and finding out what they need to survive is the responsibility of the CIMIC team.

"We're trying to determine how much food, water and sanitation the refugees have in the camp, so we can report those figures back to the host nation," CIMIC team member Maj Geoffrey Hatcher said.

"It requires face-to-face time with the key leaders of the camp, and discussions to figure out what their concerns are regarding basic life support supplies."

After the internally displaced persons camp was secured by the New Zealand and Australian teams, security of the location was handed over to a rifle company from the US Army.

For some of the New Zealand soldiers present, the highlight of the training was getting to experience equipment they don't have at home.

"In New Zealand, we don't have Chinooks or PMVs to travel around in, so it's been a pretty good experience for all of us," 1RNZIR's Pte Jordy Bunt said.

as 1 Bde readies

Soldiers take over Whyalla as capstone exercise kicks off

Cpl Sebastian Beurich and Capt Megan McDermott

WHYALLA locals woke up on the morning of June 28 to the sight of soldiers taking over their streets and parks as Exercise Hamel kicked off.

Starting just past midnight as 2 Cdo Regt parachuted into Whyalla airport, the first phase of Hamel involved Australian and New Zealand soldiers from the ready battlegroup evacuating role-players from 'Cultania', a fictional nation with a destabilised government.

Director General Training and Doctrine Brig Mick Ryan said non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO) and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) training activities were important should Army need to provide assistance to Australian nationals stranded in foreign countries due to natural, humanitarian disasters or conflict.

"We train for these situations to assure government that Army and other elements of Defence can assist Australian citizens or others offshore, should they desire to help other nations in their hour of need," Brig Ryan said. "The planning is important, but we also need to practise these operations to see where we have strengths and weaknesses, so we can continue to refine our training."

"Non-combatant evacuation and HADR operations are also about being able to coordinate with other government agencies. It's important to develop relationships with those organisations and practise how we might work together in austere and often distressing circumstances."

CO 5RAR Lt-Col Paul Shields said securing the Whyalla airport was important as it provided a base for evacuation of citizens.

"The advance force operations conducted by 2 Cdo Regt allowed us to provide broader security to the airport, secure our evacuation assembly areas and the routes back to the airport," Lt-Col Shields said.

"We have engineers searching evacuees and Air Force's 383 Sqn conducting screening, processing and supporting the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Left: Pte Andrew Tov, left, with military police dog 'Indie' and Pte Aleks Nigalis with 'Nitro' at the evacuation handling centre. Above: Cpl Jackson Reay, left, and Pte Olivia Hindmarsh talk to 'evacuees' as they arrive at the evacuation handling centre.

Photos by Cpl Dan Pinhorn

"We have a wide range of tasks to fulfil as Army's high-readiness battlegroup, but we never fight or work alone."

"Here we have a combined, joint, interagency team tackling some of the diverse challenges we may face."

An important part of NEO training is ensuring security is maintained at evacuation assembly areas, used as gathering points for potential evacuees.

Pte Jesse Franz-Hoobin, of B Coy, 5RAR, said NEO training serials had great training value, especially using civilian role-players.

"We don't get to do a lot of training on NEOs back on base, so it's good to add a bit of diversity," Pte Franz-Hoobin said.

"A lot of soldiers don't react to weapons, but when there are actual civilians thrown into the mix and they don't know how we operate it throws a different curveball at us."

While 5RAR maintained security of the evacuation assembly areas, role-players from 7 Bde kept and then increased the pressure on them.

"We had a bit of a rough night with [role-players acting as] rioters, but apart from that we have had a good run at the evacuation assembly area," Pte Franz-Hoobin said.

What the role-players didn't realise was that two military police dogs and their handlers from D Coy, 1 MP Bn, were on hand to support crowd control as a deterrent and, if needed, to disperse the crowd.

"During the riots, we were activated into different areas so we could manoeuvre the crowd away from the evacuation assembly area," dog handler Pte Aleks Nigalis said.

"When the crowd realised we were here and saw the dogs, they backed off straight away. If we went left, they would go right and steer clear of us the entire time."

"The exercise has been really good for both the dogs and us – the handlers – so far. We've got plenty of training value and exposure from working at the evacuation assembly area."

After the evacuees were transferred from the evacuation assembly area to the airborne point of departure, they came under the care of an entirely different service – the Air Force.

383 Sqn is a short-notice squadron designed to assist in situations like NEOs and HADR, which fits perfectly with 5RAR.

CO 383 Sqn Wg-Cdr Jim Xinos said Hamel allowed a level of detail in their

training they would not have gotten if training alone.

"We have integrated at the operational and tactical with the ready battlegroup, which not many of the contingency response squadrons have had the opportunity to do," Wg-Cdr Xinos said.

"We use these kinds of exercises to help us get ready for our online period whenever they're available. They are extremely beneficial as they allow us to rehearse our tactical operations."

For some members of 5RAR, working with 383 Sqn was a new experience.

"This is the first time I've ever worked with Air Force – I don't think they do things much differently to us," LCpl Gavin Marshall said.

"The evacuee handling centre is their show and it's working out pretty well," he said.

Bruce Ledo, a Whyalla local acting as a role-player, said his experience was "incredibly good fun".

"The Army is going to be confronted by civilians in the real world, not military members role-playing as civilians," Mr Ledo said.

"There's a serious component to all of this – the soldiers may have to do it for real."

Injecting realism into training

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

1 BDE is being tested on its ability to plan and perform a range of HADR operations modelled on contemporary scenarios as part of Exercise Hamel.

The brigade was presented with a fictional 'downed aircraft' scenario, which aimed to develop interoperability within a joint setting.

US Marine Corps (USMC) elements, with an attachment of soldiers from 7RAR, were deployed to search and secure the crash site in preparation for the disaster victim identification process, led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

AFP Federal Agent Greg Corin said multi-agency training helped to align processes.

"It's critical agencies like the AFP, ADF and other government bodies exercise these kinds of scenarios," Federal Agent Corin said. "The more we can exercise, the smoother it will be if real-time events, such as the MH-17 disaster, happen," he said.

Props and role-players were used to create a life-like crash site, including

injured passengers, dummy body parts and debris.

Role-players injected a sense of realism into the scenario, influencing the intelligence picture with enemy-sided simulated press reporting at the crash site, while local villagers engaged with the soldiers providing security.

Lt Holley Godwin, playing the role of news reporter Carley Thomas, said role-players enhanced training value.

"It's important in an exercise as big as Hamel to have role-players acting as media and locals to simulate events and to see how people react to certain situations," Lt Godwin said.

US marine LCpl Jeremy Bannerman said the training was relevant to current operational theatres.

"In today's wars, such as Afghanistan and Iraq, we undertake a lot of operations dealing with the civilian population. It's not just about going out for combat," LCpl Bannerman said. "We have to control situations involving civilians, so it's important to practise this now so we have good habits when we go into country."



Soldiers from A Coy, 1RNZIR, speak with role-players at the internally displaced people camp. Photo by AB Chris Beerens



Pte Jason Finch keeps a close watch on 'evacuees' at the evacuation handling centre.

Photo by Cpl Dan Pinhorn

Capability integration

Reserves from around the country join with 1 Bde for Hamel

Capt Sharon Mascall-Dare

BATTLEGROUP Jacka is the largest reinforcing battlegroup to be raised for Exercise Hamel from reserve units so far, with more than 700 members drawn from 4 and 9 Bdes in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

The infantry battlegroup comprised three companies supported by Bushmasters, one light artillery battery, an engineer squadron and a combat service support squadron providing administration and logistics support.

Further integration of reservist capability was provided by a cavalry scout platoon attached to 1 Armd Regt and 40 logistics soldiers who reinforced 1CSSB for the duration of the exercise.

CO Battlegroup Jacka Lt-Col Tom Biedermann said they had successfully demonstrated the reinforcement and integration Battlegroup Jacka brought to 1 Bde.

"There are a couple of ARA members in key positions the reserve could not fill, but essentially this is a battlegroup comprised of reservists who have trained over the past two-and-a-half years to be ready," he said.

"They're ready not only for the Army's capstone exercise – Hamel – but also for the ready cycle and potential operational deployment with 1 Bde."

As the battlegroup assigned to rear area security operations for 1 Bde, Battlegroup Jacka elements were primarily located in the same vicinity as the brigade maintenance area, providing security for health, administration and logistics support.

For LCpl Chris Tucci, of 8/7RVR, it was an opportunity to see his section come together as a cohesive team on a major field exercise. As a former ARA soldier with deployment experience, he

recognised the challenges encountered in the reserve.

"We parade with each other on Tuesday nights and weekends but we don't often get the opportunity to work together like this, full on, in an exercise scenario," he said.

"As a section commander, this exercise provided an opportunity to get everyone together and become one unit, providing capability.

"I have junior members of my section as well as senior members. It's been great to bring them together on Hamel to grow as a section."

Battlegroup Jacka infantry patrols in the AO were supported by a combined battery, including elements from 9 Bde's 6/13 Lt Bty based in South Australia and Tasmania, and 4 Bde's 2/10 Lt Bty based in Victoria.

"Hamel is the best training opportunity I can access as a reservist artillery officer," said Capt Nick Skinner, of 6/13 Lt Bty, who works for South Australia Police in his civilian life.

"It's an opportunity to work directly with live assets and ARA personnel in the battlespace using current technology. I can't think of a better way to learn and develop."

For many members of Battlegroup Jacka, attending Hamel had required long-term planning around civilian work commitments, in addition to months of individual and collective training with the reserve.

"It's a real credit to the soldiers of Battlegroup Jacka that they've balanced their civilian and military employment to be able to come to Hamel in such numbers," Lt-Col Biedermann said.

"They've shown themselves to be highly professional and ready to provide the integrated capability 1 Bde requires."

Members of 12/40RTR at Cultana. Photos by Cpl Dan Pinhorn



AT A GLANCE

- At Hamel, Battlegroup Jacka was at full strength at 707 soldiers.
- The battlegroup includes members of the ARA and reserve from 4 and 9 Bde units in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria.
- The patches worn by Battlegroup Jacka members are individually numbered, adopting the same system used on operations in Afghanistan.
- The exercise is named after Albert Jacka, a forestry worker from Victoria who landed at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. He served with 14 Bn and was awarded Australia's first Victoria Cross of the war.

Half a century of service

Capt Sharon Mascall-Dare

FOR WO2 Doug Pammenter, Hamel marked the 50th anniversary of his enlistment into the Army.

The 69-year-old recovery mechanic from 9CSSB enlisted in 1966 with RAE. He deployed to Vietnam in 1970.

"My tour of Vietnam was a highlight," WO2 Pammenter said.

"Reaching the pinnacle of my trade as a recovery mechanic warrant officer was also a big achievement.

"You're always learning. I tell the younger soldiers that it doesn't matter who you learn from – if you learn one thing from an exercise then it has been worthwhile."

After his return from Vietnam, WO2 Pammenter transferred to RAEME. He's spent much of his career at 9CSSB, where he's seen the workshops go through many changes and mentored younger members of his corps.

"I was surprised by the high morale on Hamel," he said. "We had some hard tasks on the exercise under inclement weather conditions. But morale remained high."



WO2 Doug Pammenter on the eve of his 50th anniversary in the Army.

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An important contribution

Capt Megan McDermott

SIG Steven Moy joined the Army in 2010 as a Telecommunications Technician after working in the IT industry for more than a decade.

He said Hamel offered an opportunity for reservists to showcase their capability and contribution.

"I've been involved in a number of Hamels, each supporting a different unit or function," he said. "This is the first

Hamel where I've been involved with a battlegroup inside the box – it was great experience to see how the wider Army operates.

"We were co-located with a detachment from 1CSR so it was good to talk to their operators and techs about how they do business.

"As reservists, we are part of the wider Army. Just recently my unit was supporting a signal regiment in Afghanistan, so we have the capability but need more opportunities to exercise it.

"This has been the perfect opportunity to showcase our skills to the wider Army.

"We're showing we have the capability and that we are keen."



Sig Steven Moy



Spr James Mioch, left, of 1CER, holds onto explosive detection dog 'Abby' as veterinarian Maj Kendall Crocker checks the dog's heartbeat at the veterinarian clinic in the Role 2E hospital. Photos by Cpl Sebastian Beurich

Special care for special animals

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

SOLDIERS have medical support wherever they go – whether it's on deployment or exercises, like Hamel, doctors and medics are there to patch them up if they hurt themselves. So it makes sense that our Military Working Dogs (MWDs) have the same support, right?

A Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) was attached to 2GHB's Role 2E hospital for the first time during Hamel. Staffed by two reserve veterinarians and two reserve veterinarian nurses, the facility can do everything from routine check ups to life-saving surgeries. Veterinary officer at the School of Military Engineering Maj Kendall Crocker said the VTF had been fully integrated into Hamel.

"We have complete support from the entire, human, Role 2E facility. Anything they have that can support an injured dog, from equipment to personnel, is at our disposal," Maj Crocker said.

"If we had a severely injured MWD in the field, they could be supported in the same way a soldier would be. Battlegroup Griffin's rotary wing assets could even be made available to evacuate the dog back to us.

"The equipment we have is good, but the main step forward for us is the personnel – the veterinary expertise to care for the dogs to the highest professional standard.

"The personnel are the key to the VTF being established, being so well received and fitting in seamlessly to the Role 2E."

Previously, MWDs and their handlers had relied on local arrangements for veterinary support.

"Some of the places the ADF deploys to can be a few hours away from civilian veterinary support," Maj Crocker said.

"Overseas, we rely on coalition partners to provide the proper support for our MWDs, but they're not always in the same place as us.

"Even in the field, sometimes civilian rotary wing aeromedical evacuation isn't contracted to take the dogs."

While there are 15 uniformed veterinarians, veterinarian nurses like 11CSSB's Pte Amanda Middelgaw are harder to come by.

"I'm a combat medical assistant in the reserve, but my civilian job is as a diploma-qualified veterinarian nurse," Pte Middelgaw said.

"As a capability, I think it's really important that we treat our dogs as we would our soldiers, both for the dogs' welfare and the soldiers, too.

"The soldiers want to know we are looking after their dogs and treating them like we would treat a human."

A MWD handler at 1CER, Spr James Mioch, said it was comforting to know that Army was moving towards providing the same medical care for its canine soldiers as they did for human soldiers.

"It's awesome helping to develop a new capability," Pte Middelgaw said.

"I've always said if Army had a veterinarian trade, I would join full-time."

The exercise has also trialled putting canine casualty evacuations through the same channels as human, with a new form – the K-9 Liner.

Magic touch

Health support on hand in case of emergency

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

EVERY officer and soldier is taught about the 'golden hour' during their basic first-aid lessons, but sometimes the injuries or the security situation mean it is difficult to get them to a hospital in that hour.

A Role 2E hospital, with all of its attachments, occupies a large position and is difficult to move and bring closer to the front line of combat.

What if there was something smaller?

A Role 2 light manoeuvre is a highly mobile surgical unit that specialises in providing emergency damage control surgery and resuscitation to stabilise a patient and get them to a larger facility after the golden hour.

Fitting onto just four standard air-shipping pallets, a Role 2 light manoeuvre is transportable by air (a single C-130 Hercules sortie), sea (integrating with a maritime Role 2E while aboard) or land (using vehicles for transport).

The facility is so small that it takes one-and-a-half hours to completely set up, but can receive patients in 40 minutes.

"The idea is partly modelled off of what the British and US armies do. We're not trying to replicate them; we're creating our own iteration," the OIC of Shock Trauma Pl at 2GHB, Capt Marcus Robertson, said.

"Because of the speciality of our staff, we have to pull personnel from outside of 2GHB. Generally our



From left, Maj Connie Jongeneel, LCpl David Oyenduntan, Lt Emma Kadziolka, Capt Simon Collins and Lt-Col Hugh Macneil made up the 2GHB surgical element of the Shock Trauma Platoon within the Role 2E hospital. Photo by Cpl Sebastian Beurich

specialist doctors come from 3HSB, however, we pull from the joint space as well.

"This really is a joint asset – we will pull from Army, Navy, Air Force or the reserves to fill our staff needs."

Lt Emma Kadziolka, a nurse in the Role 2 light manoeuvre, said it enabled potentially life-saving surgery to be undertaken if evacuation assets were unable to be used.

"We allow commanders to push further forward while knowing they have a surgical capability on hand," Lt Kadziolka said.

"It also lets soldiers know that if they are injured, surgery isn't far away, so it maintains the will to fight."

Although the Role 2 light manoeuvre was set up during the 2 Cdo Regt para-drop on Whyalla airfield, and then again for Battlegroup Tiger's push into Iron Knob, their capabilities were not needed. However, they did participate in a mass-casualty scenario while attached to 1 Bde, treating 21 mock patients, including a number of damage control surgeries.

The best meals in town

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

EVERYONE knows a hot meal is best thing after a long field exercise eating ration packs.

What most people don't know is that the chefs behind the meals on Exercise Hamel are also being tested and certified.

The commander of 2 PI, 1 Catr Coy, Capt Anthony Crowley, said after their ready period the chefs were straight back into the action.

"Most of our chefs were supporting 7 Bde last year from the brigade maintenance area. 7 Bde has gone into the reset phase of the force generation cycle, but there won't be any rest for us at 17 CSS Bde," Capt Crowley said.

"The cooks are always happy to get out into the field – this is where they put all of their training into practice, and we're reaping the benefits of that at the moment."

2 PI WO Caterer WO2 Peter Lucas said the chefs were always positive, even after going straight



Pte Bayden Johns, left, and Pte Nicole Simmons prepare lunch at the Camp Baxter mess. Photo by Cpl Dan Pinhorn

into Hamel directly after another exercise.

"At the moment, in the nine days since we started, we've cooked just shy of 10,000 meals," WO2 Lucas said.

"Everyone has been really happy with the meals. We had sign-in sheets set up to gauge numbers and people took to writing 'great meals' beside their names."

Even international participants in Hamel, like Maj Daniel Snow of the US Army, said the food was excellent.

"If people aren't happy with this, they're more than welcome to come over to the US and have some of our chow," he said.

"They'll be much happier coming back and having some of this."

The chefs who cook the meals every day say the best thing about the job is seeing a happy customer.

"We're working long hours but, at the end of the day, it's worth it to see the appreciation other diggers have for our food," 2 PI chef Pte Bayden Johns said.



Veterinarians and vet nurses from 2GHB and 1CER military working dog handlers with their dogs in front of the veterinarian treatment facility.

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Marines join Hamel

US marines head to Cultana to work with Aussie troops on capstone exercise

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

MARINE Rotational Force–Darwin (MRF-D) is now into its fifth year and is the largest rotation to date, comprising about 1250 officers and marines.

During Exercise Hamel the marines added a third manoeuvre battlegroup – Battlegroup Chromite – to 1 Bde's arsenal and were based upon a marine expeditionary force containing a light infantry battalion with three infantry companies, a heavy weapons company and a support company.

During Hamel, Battlegroup Chromite added an Australian infantry company from 5RAR and a US Army company to its ranks.

One of Battlegroup Chromite's objectives throughout the exercise was to capture Objective Iron – a heavily fortified enemy position within the Cultana Training Area – on July 7.

"We are clearing south through our area of operations to ensure there are no enemy elements in that area that will interfere with the brigade's main attack effort," CO Battlegroup Chromite Lt-Col Steven Sutey said.

"We will seize Objective Iron, which contains a company-sized enemy force, and then fix another force further to the south," he said.

"The intent is to deceive the enemy of our axis of approach, then capitalise on the deception and capture a position further to the west."

After moving through and clearing a number of trench systems and



Above: US marine Capt Chris Brock delivers a brief to Australian and US personnel at Cultana Training Area during Exercise Hamel.

Right: Marines clear a trench system during the exercise. Photos by Cpl Nunu Campos



armoured fighting vehicle pits, the combined Australian and US force secured the objective, providing unimpeded views of the majority of the training area.

5RAR's Pte Thomas Gleeson said the day action was a nice change from night patrols.

"We leap-frogged between the

trench systems in conjunction with the marines – it was tough, but it's nice to have a sit down at the end," Pte Gleeson said.

"We have heard some of the marines' communication come over the radio and haven't really understood what they were saying," he said.

"There's usually someone on hand

to translate for us though, so it wasn't too much of a hindrance."

Lt-Col Sutey said the exercise gave the soldiers and marines an opportunity to do what they did best.

"They worked together to do their mission, but it also gave them an opportunity to tell war and sea stories, get to know each other and how

they operate," Lt-Col Sutey said. "At a higher level, it gives us an opportunity to integrate with the Australians at a brigade level and work through our planning processes with them."

1 Bde's Capt Trevor Williams integrated with Battlegroup Chromite as a liaison officer at the beginning of the exercise.

"The marines have a different way of doing things, compared to how Australians do business," Capt Williams said.

"I think they do some things better than we do, so it's interesting to see the disparity between the way the different countries conduct their warfighting."

"I've learnt a lot to bring back to 1 Bde, and enjoyed myself at the same time."

MRF-D LCpl Michael Blanchard said the Australian soldiers were fun to be around.

"They like to sing – whenever we are in the 7-tonnes [trucks], they are singing in the back. It definitely brings up the morale," LCpl Blanchard said.

"We've been trading our MREs for Australian ration packs. The C menu is definitely my favourite."

5RAR's Pte Declan Lee said it was great working with the marines.

"They do things differently to us, so it's good to get that crossover of tactics," he said.

"It's always a laugh watching the Australians and marines hit it off."



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Mentors having an

Australian mentors at the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy are making a positive difference to the quality of instruction and capability of the force, WO2 Andrew Hetherington reports.

A SHORT 10-minute Black Hawk ride from Hamid Karzai International Airport will take you to Camp Qargha and the Afghan National Army Officer's Academy (ANAOA), where a team of 80 ADF members are assisting with the training of the Afghan Army's future leaders.

The Australian mentoring team is undertaking this important mission alongside British, New Zealand and Danish advisers.

Maj Cameron Elston is the deputy senior national representative and a mentor to the ANAOA administration team.

"Our rotation of four mentors arrived in February," Maj Elston says.

"Nine of us are mentoring the Afghan officers who train future officers at ANAOA, however, the number of mentors increased to 12 this month.

The other 71 Australian personnel work in force protection as guardian angels, a signals detachment, medical, clerical, RAEME workshops and in the Q store.

To graduate from ANAOA as an officer, male and female officer cadets complete a 12-month course, divided into three four-month modules. Between 200 and 330 cadets are studying in each of the modules at any one time.

The course training program is based on the British Royal Military Academy Sandhurst model.

"Male and female cadets complete most of the training program together," Maj Elston says.

"In recognition of cultural sensitivities, some training, including first aid and physical training, are conducted separately.

"The first of the three modules covers the issuing of all of their equipment and basics of soldiering, including map-reading, first aid, how to use their weapons and squad tactics.

"The second term takes cadets through practical and classroom tutorials, platoon field tactics, ambushes,

The relationships I've built with ANA members have been the most satisfying aspect of my job here.

— Capt Albert Jessup, ANAOA mentor

attacks, planning and orders, and reinforces what they have learnt in the first module. They are also taught urban warfare and building clearances."

He says the third module covers counterinsurgency operations and prepares them to instruct their future soldiers when they become officers.

Capt Angela Durant is on her first overseas deployment and is a platoon commander mentor for a female instructor at ANAOA.

"I was meant to deploy to South Sudan but this role became a priority to be filled so I got it," she says.

Capt Durant's mentee, 2Lt S, has worked at ANAOA for 18 months and is proud of her job.

"She wants to make Afghanistan a better place for her family and future children," Capt Durant says.

2Lt S trains nine ANAOA cadets and Capt Durant provides support to 2Lt S and her class.

"The highlight for me so far was being on exercise with the class and seeing the cadets progress in their skills and training," Capt Durant says.

"The cadets were charged with enthusiasm. They maintained their endurance, performed well and worked together in their platoon groups, performing fire and movement manoeuvres on the last day, covering about 10km."

Capt Albert Jessup is a platoon commander mentor for six ANAOA male staff and, like Capt Durant, is also on his first deployment.

"So far the relationships I've built with ANA members have been the most satisfying aspect of my job here," Capt Jessup says.

"We get to exchange ideas and learn from each other. It's rewarding when they take on board something I've suggested and implement it into their training program."

Capt Jessup has so far been a mentor during the first module of training at the school.

"There are a lot of theory lessons for the ANAOA instructors to get through and I assist them to rehearse," Capt Jessup says.

"During the lessons I help out with the practical components and in the breaks I advise my mentees on how they have performed and clarify any questions they have."

Capt Jessup's mentees appreciate his input during and after their lessons.

"I don't get too involved during lessons, as they need the freedom to teach in their own style," he says.

"But they like my support if they are conducting a practical lesson, or they need me to assist with a cadet who is struggling and needs a bit of extra tuition."

ANA officer Capt Ahmadi is the OIC of the ANAOA staff Capt Jessup mentors and says he and his men are happy to be cooperating and gaining knowledge from the coalition soldiers working at the academy.

"When our graduate officers go to their units, feedback we receive indicates they are performing very well," Capt Ahmadi says.

"Australians at our school have also assisted in having some training text books translated and printed, which was useful as it assisted our officer cadets learn and understand their lessons better."

LEARNING ROPES IN UK

AS PART of their training, coalition mentors who assist the Afghan cadet instructors fly to the UK to participate in an eight-day course – Initial Mission Specific Training.

Each rotation of mentors who deploy to ANAOA serve there for just over nine months, and every four-and-a-half months new mentors are rotated into the school.

ANAOA mentor Maj Cameron Elston says shortly after arriving at the academy, coalition mentors fly to the UK.

"Australian and New Zealand mentors spend four-to-five days here to familiarise themselves with the academy," he says.

"They then visit the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, which ANAOA's training is based on, and coalition mentors who have already worked here give briefs to the incoming mentors on how to assist their ANA mentees."

After the course, they return to ANAOA to complete their nine-month deployment.



Capt Albert Jessup meets with Capt Ahmadi, the OIC of the ANAOA staff Capt Jessup mentors.



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impact in Kabul

Australian personnel deployed to the Afghan National Army Officer Academy pose for a photo near Kabul. Photos by WO2 Andrew Hetherington



Milestone marked by graduation

MORE than 300 officer cadets from the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA) graduated on June 28, marking another important milestone for the 80 ADF members deployed on Operation Highroad.

Since ANAOA opened its doors to cadets in 2012, Australian soldiers, alongside coalition partners from the UK, Denmark and New Zealand, have worked with instructors and students ensuring the best possible training and guidance is delivered to the Afghan officer cadets.

Senior ADF officer and mentor Lt-Col Stephen Jenkins says the coalition's efforts at ANAOA will yield valuable dividends for Afghanistan and its people.

"The ANAOA represents the future for Afghanistan and not just in a military sense," he says.

"These young officers will eventually find themselves as Afghanistan's civil leaders and politicians.

"The training, education and moral guidance they receive here at ANAOA will influence them for the rest of their lives – a fact that's not lost on the ADF personnel here. It's a very proud day for us."

Attending the recent ANAOA graduation ceremony was Deputy Commander JTF633 Brig Kathryn Campbell, who says the graduates are an ideal example of how far Afghanistan has progressed in a short period of time.

"It's a particularly proud moment for us to see young women as part of this



ANAOA officer cadets on parade during their graduation ceremony in Kabul, Afghanistan.

latest graduating class," she says. "They are proud, smart and capable women who are about to embark on a career of their choosing, serving their country."

At any given time there are about 1000 cadets, undertaking the 12-month course at ANAOA, which sees them graduate as 2Lts. Many previous graduates have now returned to the academy as instructors.

Capt Angela Durant is a platoon commander mentor for ANAOA instructors.



Maj Cameron Elston is the deputy senior Australian representative and a mentor to the ANAOA administration team.

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Front line of support

Aussie soldiers in Afghanistan continue to provide specialist skills to assist coalition operations, WO2 Andrew Hetherington reports.

MEDICAL personnel are embracing a fast-paced multinational environment in Afghanistan, experiencing new and varied medical scenarios alongside coalition partners.

Deployed ADF personnel make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of coalition military members deployed to Afghanistan, with 14 Army, Navy and Air Force medical staff currently based at Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) and Camp Qargha in Kabul.

Army medical personnel make up eight of the 14 ADF medical personnel currently in Afghanistan.

Capt Yan Yan is the senior ADF medical officer and works in the US-run HKIA Role 2 Hospital.

"There are teams working here from 12 nations, made up of specialist emergency trauma surgeons, anaesthetists, medics and specialist nurses able to cope with a large volume of patients," Capt Yan says.

"They are the heart of the hospital and are on-call 24/7, focusing on all-round emergency care.

"We can cope with the equivalent types of emergencies that a normal hospital in Australia can."

Australia has a full treatment team working at the HKIA Role 2E, with Capt Yan leading them as their doctor.

There are 12 Australians at HKIA, with two Navy nurses and a medic and, in addition to Capt Yan, Army is represented by two medics, a scientist who performs tests on bloodwork and manages the walk-in blood bank, a dentist and dental assistant.

At Camp Qargha just outside Kabul, Army has a medic and a nurse to assist

Australian personnel who work at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy.

Air Force is represented by a medic and an aeromedical evacuation team doctor and a nurse, both of whom work in the hospital and perform the aeromedical evacuation role for Australian casualties, if needed.

Capt Yan says his team treats a variety of cases.

"So far since we arrived here, we've dealt with patients affected by IED blasts and gunshot wounds," Capt Yan says.

"We have also had a lot of interesting medical cases such as Lyme disease and malaria."

Capt Yan is enjoying his first operational overseas deployment.

"It's the reason I joined the Army – to deploy overseas on operations," he says.

Army scientist and OIC of the HKIA Role 2 hospital laboratory Capt James Fulton is always busy as he is the only scientist working at the facility.

"I have two technicians who work with me – one each from the Slovak and Czech republics – and we are kept busy providing haematology, biochemistry, blood banking and microbiology services to the hospital," Capt Fulton says.

"We assist the doctors to provide accurate diagnosis of patients by running haematology and biochemistry tests, such as kidney and liver function tests, during the resuscitation and emergency phases of patient treatment."

One of Capt Fulton's more interesting experiences occurred during a visit to another health facility.

"I visited the Bagram Airfield Role 3 hospital in late February with our dentist and Capt Yan, to see their lab and blood bank," he says.

"At about 12pm, after we had toured the facility and met some staff, there was



a mass casualty incident and 12 casualties were brought in.

"I worked in their blood bank, cross-matching and typing patients' blood and issued 27 bags of blood and 27 bags of plasma."

Capt Yan was given his own emergency resuscitation bay to work in.

"I treated a US soldier who had been shot in the arm and I took really precise X-rays of the lodged bullet, stabilised

him and passed him onto surgery," Capt Yan says. "At the same time, our dentist was helping out in the triage area."

Both Capt Yan and Capt Fulton worked for five hours in the hospital assisting the US medical staff.

"It's an experience I would not likely get here at HKIA or ever in Australia," Capt Fulton says.

"So far, that experience was the highlight of my deployment."



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in Afghanistan

Keeping wheels in motion

A SMALL but skilled team of RAEME soldiers are on the tools helping ADF personnel in Afghanistan keep their weapons firing and vehicles running.

The six tradesmen are located at Task Group Afghanistan at Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) and at Camp Qargha at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy just outside Kabul.

WO2 Nicholas Shaw is their Artificer Sergeant Major and a fitter armourer by trade.

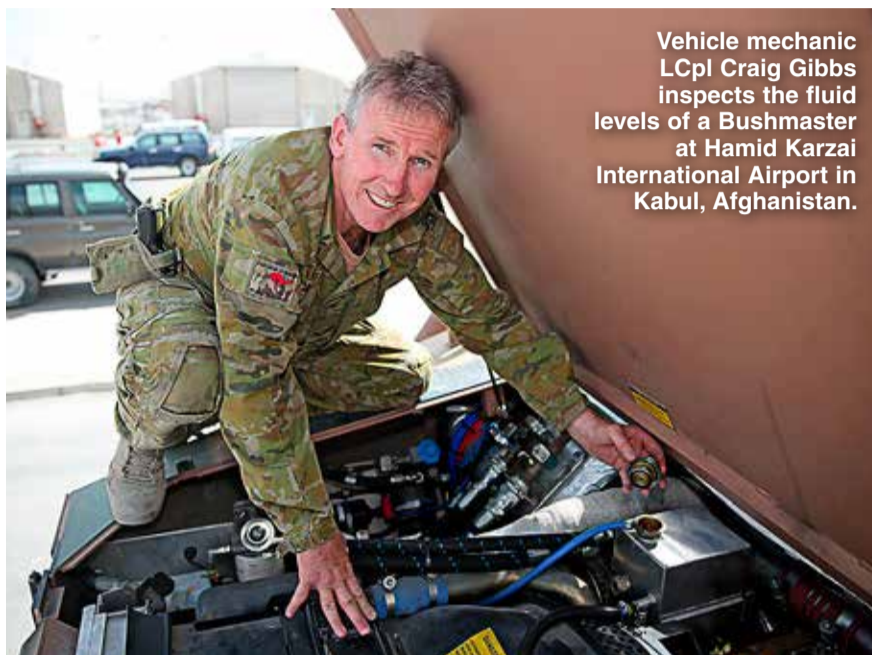
"We have a small team here with four working at Camp Qargha and two of us at HKIA," WO2 Shaw says.

"At Qargha, we have a workshop that services the task group's Bushmasters, Unimogs and weapons.

"My role is to ensure all of our work on vehicles and weapons is technically compliant under the technical regulation of ADF Materiel Manual—Land, and I report to the chief of staff at HQ Task Group Afghanistan and to HQ JTF633."

WO2 Shaw also has the challenging task of planning maintenance for the task group's vehicles and weapons.

"It's critical for us to plan ahead, especially for vehicle maintenance, as it



Vehicle mechanic LCpl Craig Gibbs inspects the fluid levels of a Bushmaster at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Working with WO2 Shaw at HKIA is vehicle mechanic and up-armoured four-wheel-drive fleet manager, LCpl Craig Gibbs.

"I track and organise all of our up-armoured four-wheel-drive vehicles through a local contractor," LCpl Gibbs says.

"Before they are handed over to the contractor I remove some of the ADF-specific equipment.

"I do get on the tools sometimes, fixing electrical faults, and I've been out to Qargha to help out there with vehicle servicing."

LCpl Gibbs is a jack of all trades and a bit of a character.

He finds himself doing jobs he would never do back in Australia.

"You name it I do it. I help fix all of the task group's push bikes and hang photo frames in the hallway at the headquarters, and I'm the sidekick to the construction civil engineer at the base," he says.

"With him I've mounted big screen TVs on HQ walls and fixed door locks.

"I'm a jack of all trades and happy to do anything."

can be difficult at times to get vehicles out to the Qargha workshop," he says.

"This is due to the geography and threat levels in Kabul. Sometimes road

routes can be closed because of bad weather or an increased threat level and it can sometimes take a week to get there."

Left: Doctor Capt Yan Yan is the senior ADF medical officer in Afghanistan and works at the Hamid Karzai International Airport Role 2 hospital in Kabul with scientist and OIC of the Role 2 hospital laboratory, Capt James Fulton, above left.

Below left: Medic LCpl Erica Ricketts and nurse Lt Margie Moon show off their personalised mugs – a welcome gift from their British colleagues – at Camp Qargha.

Photos by WO2 Andrew Hetherington

Act of kindness goes a long way

A SHORT Black Hawk flight from Hamid Karzai International Airport is Camp Qargha.

Here, Australian, British, New Zealand and Danish personnel mentor Afghan National Army (ANA) officers training officer cadets at the officer academy (ANAOA).

At the camp, there is a small Role 1 medical centre run by British military personnel.

Two Australians – medic LCpl Erica Ricketts and nurse Lt Margie Moon – work with five British counterparts.

Both are in Afghanistan on their first deployment.

"We arrived here in January and I'm the Australian medical liaison officer between Qargha and the Role 2 hospital at HKIA," Lt Moon says.

"A typical week has me dealing with a lot of administration and both of us run a rigorous timetable of medical training for Australian combat first aiders and the mentors at ANAOA.

"We were also involved with the review of the first aid training run by the Afghans at the academy."

LCpl Ricketts says she's having a great experience working with like-minded and skilled coalition personnel.

"There are a few differences in the types of equipment we use here compared to back in Australia, but we are still one team here and the British are so friendly," LCpl Ricketts says.

"I've learnt a lot here, as I've had a more clinical role and seen a lot more patients than I would in Australia."

Lt Moon recalls when they both arrived at Qargha and were greeted by the British medical team.

"The British major offered us a coffee and we thought it was a little strange for a major to make us a brew," Lt Moon says.

"He gave us our cups and said to us 'I've given you the wrong cup', and we said 'no it's okay', as we both have our coffee the same way.

"He said 'no, they are around the wrong way' and as he handed us our cups again we saw they had ordered us personalised cups with our names printed on them before we'd arrived here."

LCpl Ricketts says they were both surprised by the act of kindness.

"It was so welcoming as it was winter and we had just arrived here from our training at Camp Baird," she says.



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Show of firepower on

While a showcase for armour, this exercise is as much about training as it is about getting qualified, writes LS Jayson Tufrey.

THE shrill whine of the gas turbine coaxes the 62-tonne M1A1 Abrams battle tank into a hull-down position with the turret just cresting the rise.

The gunner lines up an enemy vehicle through his optics. Another is still smouldering after being engaged by the ASLAVs 25mm chain guns from their support-by-fire position.

The troop leader gives the order to fire. A booming report accompanies the muzzle flash that sends the 120mm projectile on its journey to finish the job started by the ASLAVs. The counter attack begins.

Exercise Reapers Run is the School of Armour's culminating training activity for the 2016 Tank and Cavalry Regimental Officer Basic Courses (ROBC), which trains selected lieutenants for troop-leading appointments in the Armoured Cavalry Regiments (ACR).

Reapers Run assesses the officers' individual troop commanding skills within a combat team setting. They are immersed in a realistic environment under the command of a combat team OC.

Two-hundred-and-forty personnel and more than 30 armoured fighting vehicles deployed to the field at Puckapunyal for 10 days to provide this training opportunity.

Trials troop leader Capt Dan Solomon, in his role as combat team liaison officer, said although the exercise was primarily about getting the lieutenants qualified, it provided training benefits for everyone involved and was much more than a showcase for armour.

"We also have soldiers from C Coy, 3RAR, APC crews from B Sqn, 2 Cav Regt, cavalry scouts from A Sqn, 10 LHR, a joint fires officer from the School of Artillery, logistics support from our own A1 echelon and Bushmasters from the Army School of Transport," he said.

"If we can instil in the lieutenants'

They've had a steep learning curve.

— Capt Dan Solomon, Trials troop leader

minds as early as possible that working as part of a combat team is all about the mutual support from other elements and not just themselves, we will not only set them up within the Armoured corps but within the wider Army as well.

"They've had a steep learning curve from where they were at the start of ROBC to where they are now. It's fairly exhilarating to look at what they have achieved – this is only the start point as they move out into their regiments."

Capt Solomon said Reapers Run set the benchmark for what the lieutenants needed to take to the ACRs

"There is no plateauing out from here. The development, learning and understanding needs to continue," he said.

"They're on the cusp of entering into what is one of the best times of their career and what is one of the best jobs in the Army.

"There is very little that can compare to when a young lieutenant looks left and right from a tank and sees the incredible amount of firepower that is at his or her command, or for a young cavalry troop leader to comprehend and understand the responsibility and influence they have on the higher commander's intent."

On completion of Reapers Run, trainees will assume their first command appointments in 1 Armd Regt, 2 Cav Regt and 2/14 LHR (QMI) from late July.

Capt Solomon also acknowledged the support provided by CATC and other external units that contributed to the success of the training activity.

A pair of ASLAVs engage a target from a static position while instructors assess procedures as part of Exercise Reapers Run.



LOGISTIC SUPPORT ESSENTIAL

THEY say an army marches on its stomach, but armour also requires fuel and ammunition to win the fight.

The A1 echelon provides these vital elements in situ or has the ability to move forward to bring its vital assets to where they are needed.

Trials troop leader Capt Dan Solomon said Reapers Run gave the lieutenants an appreciation of the importance of logistical support within a combat team and battlegroup.

"One of the first considerations they have to give after a battle is to check their ammo and fuel state so they know whether they can fight again or need resupply," he said.

"It really highlights to them the importance logisticians have in a mechanised force."

"If they don't give consideration to the amount of fuel, ammo and rations they require, they quickly realise they can't achieve the commander's intent.

"If they don't make these considerations, the flow-on effects mean HQ is under stress to provide support and bring up an A1 echelon unit into a potentially dangerous environment."

Capt Solomon said he couldn't stress enough the importance logisticians had for a mechanised force.

"Mechanical faults are a very real scenario the troop leaders will encounter once they get out into the regiments, so the importance of our RAEME soldiers comes to the fore," he said.

"Logistics personnel are an essential part of our capability that enables us to achieve the end state."



An M1A1 Abrams tank engages a target during Exercise Reapers Run at Puckapunyal and, inset, an M88 Hercules recovery vehicle tows a 'damaged' M1A1 Abrams tank from the front line.
Photos by LS Jayson Tufrey

Ex Reapers Run



Lt Ryan Abil – 2/14 LHR (QMI)

Lt Abil said ROBC had been a great six months. "I am happy with all the skills I have learnt," he said. "The difference between the dismounted skills we learnt at RMC to the mounted environment here is a pretty big change. "My highlight has been understanding how large the overall picture is. It's not just focused specifically on us but the whole combat team with HQ, communications and logistics all in a live-fire environment. "The biggest challenge has been grasping the new concept of being in a mounted environment. It is completely different to what we have been taught until now."



Lt Ryan Hook – 2 Cav Regt

Lt Hook said Reapers Run was the culmination of six months' hard work. "This exercise has been great exposure to the combat team environment," he said. "Before this RMC gives you a little bit of exposure to it, but here at the school we've seen it all come together. "It's been insightful working with the other elements of the combat team. "Listening to other call signs and hearing how they influence the enemy picture has been a highlight."



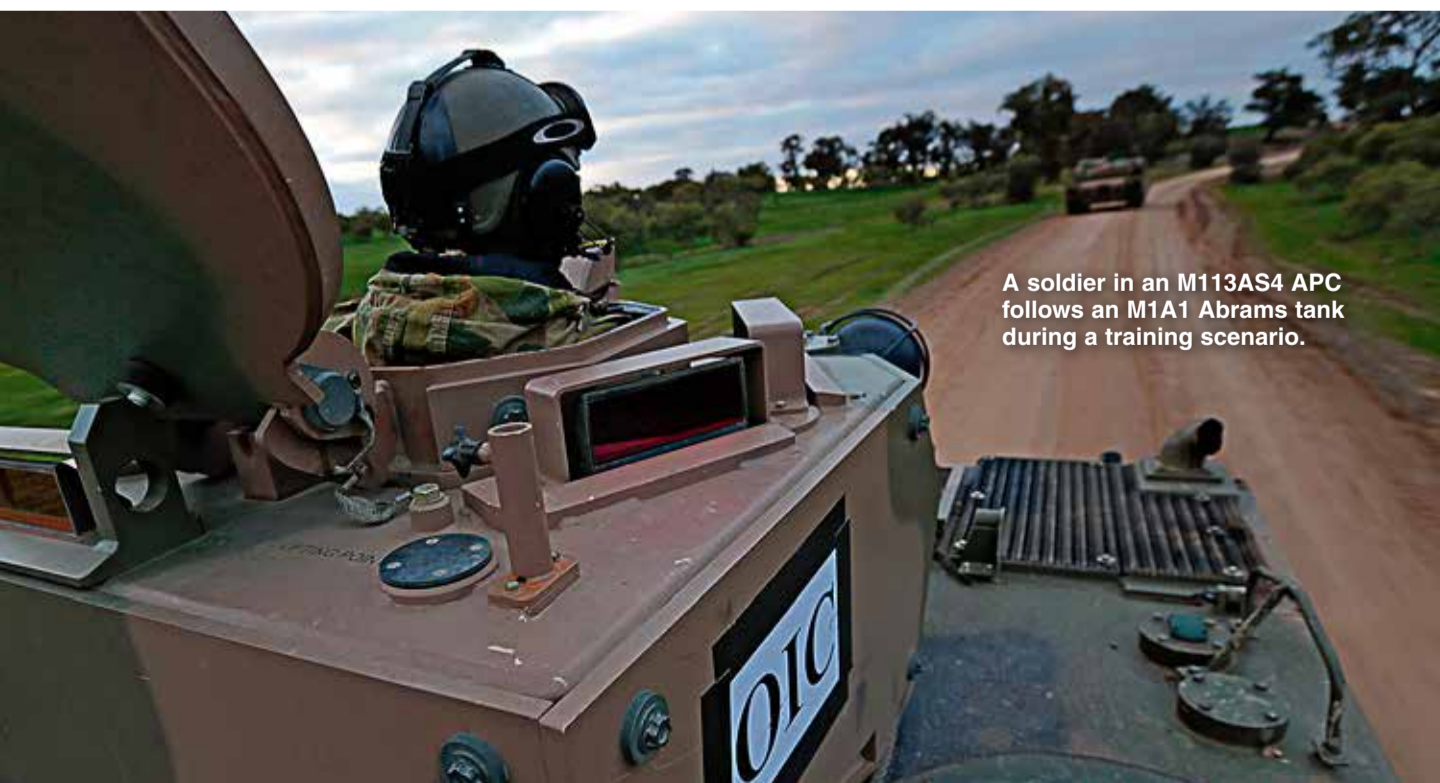
Lt Ben Peterson – 1 Armd Regt (Tank Student of Merit)

Lt Peterson said it was a relief to be at the end of the ROBC. "The culminating activity was my highlight of Reapers Run because of the amount of supporting elements involved such as infantry, transport and School of Armour assets," he said. "While it wasn't part of the curriculum, learning tactical patience has been a fantastic skill we have developed – the ability to speak on the radio net and think and do multiple things at once is something we have all developed as well. "My favourite parts were the live-fire battle runs, for sure."



Lt Anna Delaney – 2 Cav Regt

Lt Delaney said ROBC had been a steep learning curve. "I am most proud of mastering the tactics phase as well as learning to command my vehicle and the three other vehicles," she said. "As a troop leader it feels great to be in my position, with an awesome amount of firepower to bring to bear. The live-fires and my turn as troop leader were my highlights. "It's been great working with the other elements such as infantry and cavalry – you understand the effect and the different roles they all have."



A soldier in an M113AS4 APC follows an M1A1 Abrams tank during a training scenario.

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'Victory is forever'

Army cadets got a taste of life in the infantry during a recent competition at Singleton, Lt-Col Christopher Holcroft reports.

THE Australian Army Cadets National Adventure Training Award was completed at Singleton in NSW in cold, wintry conditions.

Rather than staying at home during their mid-year school holidays, 127 cadets from across the country completed the challenging week-long activity and were awarded the Adventure Training Award (ATA) badge.

Commander Australian Army Cadets (AAC) Brig Wayne Budd says the ATA is the toughest activity the cadets will face during their time in the youth development organisation.

"This week has been a defining moment in the lives of the cadets because of its arduous and challenging nature," Brig Budd says.

"The ATA will also be one of the highlights of their young lives because of the hard physical nature of activity."

Cadets trekked about 100km across country using their navigation skills and were exposed to activities to test their initiative.

Each participant was tested and

assessed individually on activities including casualty evacuation, radio communications, first aid and field engineering. The cadets also underwent individual tests of courage with a 20m high ropes course.

Dux and highest point scorer was Cadet Under Officer (CUO) Zachary Steele, of 312 Army Cadet Unit in Puckapunyal, Victoria.

He says the ATA pushes the cadets to their limits.

"If you really didn't want your ATA gold boomerang badge, you wouldn't have made it through the week," CUO Steele says.

"Every moment you were being pushed and challenged as you competed on each of the seven or so activity stands. One of the hardest challenges for me was the 20m high ropes activity where your individual courage was tested."

CUO Steele says if a young cadet asks him why they should participate in the ATA in the future, he would tell them: "No matter how difficult it is, pain is temporary and victory is forever."

In addition to cadet staff and soldiers posted to the AAC, the activity was supported by personnel from

ADFA and the School of Military Engineering (SME).

WO2 Clinton Row, of SME's Watermanship and Bridging Cell, Specialist Engineering Wing, says he found working on the ATA challenging and rewarding.

"As a syndicate directing staff and being involved first-hand with the cadets, I saw nothing but the best in determination, drive and the will to win from them," WO2 Row says.

"The teams displayed the same resilience and endurance expected of proficient soldiers."

WO2 Row says the skills the cadets developed will benefit them in years to come.

"It is also great to see mateship at its best," he says. "Every one of the cadets excelled at fulfilling the Army's core values."

AAC is a leading national youth development organisation with the character and values of the Australian Army, founded on strong community partnership, fostering and supporting a continuing interest in the Australian Army.

For more information, visit www.armycadets.gov.au



Commander AAC Brig Wayne Budd presents the dux of the Adventure Training Award, Cadet Under Officer Zachary Steele, of 312 Army Cadet Unit, with his award. Photo by Maj (AAC) Simon Bootle



Are you interested in talking about your time in the Australian Army?



Do you have a talent for making movies or web clips?



What about writing a song?



Do you enjoy art or photography?

Why I Serve

The Australian Army is running the 'Why I Serve' media competition and we are asking you to showcase your talent.

Through our values, we want you to provide an inspiring story to tell the Australian community about your experiences, workplace, peers and family. Tell your story about what it means to be part of the Army team.

Interested Army members are encouraged to submit their entries before **5pm on Friday 19 August 2016**. For further details, terms and entry conditions please search 'Army Media Competition' or 'Why I Serve' on the DRN to find the SharePoint link.



Above: Cadets march back to base at the end of the activity.



Left: Cadets work their way up the 20m high ropes course. Photos by Lt-Col (AAC) David Major



Below: Cadets complete an 'electrified spiderweb' activity to test teamwork, leadership and problem-solving skills. Photo by Capt (AAC) Mark Bender

IN BRIEF

Spring ball

THE Sydney Military Officers Spring Ball 2016 will be held on September 10 at the Victoria Barracks Officers Mess. This year marks the 175th anniversary of the beginning of construction of Victoria Barracks. In celebration, this year's ball is themed '1840s, the world as it was'. For more information, visit www.sydneymilitaryofficersspringball.com

RSL Active

A NEW arm of RSL SA offering life enrichment strategies for veterans and their families was launched in Adelaide on June 26. 'RSL Active' is designed to ease the transition to civilian life, and includes a wide range of sporting and social programs, employment and education guidance, and social reintegration. For more information, visit <http://rslsa.org.au/rslactive>

JUNE TRIAL RESULTS

All Court Martial and Defence Force Magistrate trial results are subject to command review and appeal. The results are of trials across the ADF.

NCO

Defence Force Magistrate

1 x Creating a Disturbance – DFDA s 33(b)

The member was accused of creating a disturbance by behaving aggressively towards a subordinate member. The member pleaded guilty to the charge and was found guilty of the charge. The member was fined \$1000 (to be paid in instalments).

Restricted Court Martial

8 x Unauthorised Access to Restricted Data – DFDA s 61(3) and Criminal Code s 478.1(1)

1 x Unauthorised Modification of Restricted Data – DFDA s 61(3) and Criminal Code s 478.1(1)

2 x Prejudicial Conduct – DFDA s 60(1)

The member was accused of the unauthorised access to, or modification of, restricted data held in a Defence computer. The member was also accused of prejudicial conduct by accessing a computer application of other members. The member pleaded not guilty to the charges but was found guilty of the charges. The member was severely reprimanded, reprimanded and convicted without punishment (on good behaviour conditions).

OFFICER

Defence Force Magistrate

1 x Absence without Leave – DFDA s 24(1)

1 x Prejudicial Conduct – DFDA s 60(1)

The member was accused of being absent without leave. The member was also accused of directing a subordinate member to conceal the absence. The member pleaded guilty to the charges and was found guilty of the charges. The member was reduced in rank.

Streamlining support

▲ A new online claims form will reduce the paper trail

APPLICATIONS under the Employer Support Payment Scheme (ESPS) can now be lodged online.

From July 18, the online claims system replaces Webforms AD138-1 to AD138-4.

The ESPS provides financial assistance to Australian employers to facilitate the release of their employees to undertake reserve service.

In the past, a claim was lodged using a paper-based system to a number of ESPS locations around Australia.

Head Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division (CRESD) Maj-Gen Iain Spence said in recent years there had been a change in community expectations and government standards with respect to the provision of online services to the community.

"The ESPS claim system will enhance the claimant's experience with an e-business context," he said.

"The ability to submit claims online provides a modern and efficient system for employers and self-employed reservists allowing them to lodge their claims faster and



A new online claims form will make it easier for civilian employers to release reserves for ADF service. Photo by Cpl Max Bree

easier while providing online progress updates.

"The online claim system will fundamentally enhance the overall experience for the claimant, and will directly assist with achieving the objective of the ESPS – developing employer support."

The services have now assumed full responsibility for all ESPS claims, allowing CRESD to continue

to provide specialist advice and offer a centre of expertise to claimants and the services.

The previous paper-based claims submission process will remain in place until July next year, after which it's expected all claims for ESPS will be submitted online.

For further information, visit www.defencereservessupport.gov.au

'Your stories are changing the ADF'

VCDF VAdm Ray Griggs apologised to victims of sex abuse in the ADF at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse on June 30, saying the following:

"Thank you for the opportunity to acknowledge the courage and the strength of the survivors who have come forward and told their stories; not only those who have come forward to this Commission but those who have come forward to the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce and to Defence more generally.

Your stories are changing the ADF and they have strengthened the resolve of the senior leadership of the ADF to stamp out abuse in all its forms and, in particular, child sexual abuse. People and systems have failed you and they have put others at risk. That is simply not good enough.

I am deeply sorry for what has happened to you. No one who pulls on the uniform of this country and no child who is under our care should ever have happen to them what has happened to you.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the partners, the families and the carers of survivors and those who carry the memory of survivors who have passed away. I know you are as impacted by the consequence of abuse as much as the survivor themselves.

I know you carry this for many decades and in many cases for your life. I also know that there are many survivors who have told their stories who simply would not be here today without you. I think your role is not recognised anywhere near enough.

In the ADF we have made some significant changes to our culture. We needed to. We are trying to move

away from the culture that excludes and allows what has happened in the past to a culture that includes.

Strangely, the senior leadership has been very publicly criticised for this approach. I want to reassure you that, to a person, we will not be bowed by this criticism. We will continue vigorously to pursue a path where we have a culture that is diverse and inclusive.

We will strive to make children's interactions in Defence safe. We will try to build on the thousands of volunteers and Defence members who are committed to that today and are working towards that reality.

Your stories are tragic, but they are transformational, and I thank you again for your courage in bringing forward these stories. And your Honour, I thank you and the Royal Commission team for the work that you do."

Stay connected on ForceNet

THE ADF Total Workforce Model (TWM) page is now live on ForceNet.

The ADF TWM page provides ease of access to information about the TWM and key resources such as fact sheets and frequently asked questions about the TWM's different permanent/regular and reserve service categories and service options.

Personnel are encouraged to join the ForceNet professional group to stay connected with the latest news and information regarding the TWM.

About ForceNet

ForceNet is a secure e-portal that connects you with your device, the

Defence organisation and each other. The internet-based platform is accessible anytime via multiple media (desktop, tablet, mobile device). You do not need to be on the DRN to use it. It allows members to search and view career opportunities, share information, form professional and social groups, and complete administration.

ForceNet is being expanded to provide a secure, unclassified portal for discussions, user groups and other functions as defined by users.

All members of the ADF are strongly encouraged to register, visit the ADF TWM ForceNet page and define their path for how they use ForceNet.

A key enabler

ForceNet is a key communication enabler of the ADF TWM. It improves delivery of accurate and targeted communications, simplifies administrative processes, allows matching of skills to capability, and enhances the delivery of training.

ForceNet is designed to provide information on available job opportunities for members seeking to make a contribution to ADF capability.

For more information about ForceNet, visit the ForceNet information on the Army ADF TWM webpage.

Do you supervise a member of the RAAF?

AS THE annual reporting period nears, Army supervisors of Air Force personnel should be aware of changes to the RAAF's personnel performance reporting system.

Old reporting forms have been replaced with a new Personnel Performance Report (PPR) (AE519) and Air Force Member Statement (AD718), and the reporting cycle is now from October 1 to September 30 each year.

Sqn-Ldr Justin Cox, of Air Force's Personnel Performance System Project, said the reporting system was moving with the times.

"While the PAR has served Air Force personnel well since its implementation in 2002, the service's personnel needs have evolved and will continue to evolve," he said.

"It is imperative that Air Force has integrated personnel capability systems and reporting tools that reflect the current and future environment and capture what Air Force values in its people."

The new PPR is for personnel between the rank of AC/ACW and Wg-Cdr and incorporates goal-setting, self-review and performance review along with performance reporting.

Gp-Capt and above will continue to be assessed via forms AC740 and AC740-1.

A key element of the PPR is Part 3 Performance Appraisal, which requires a narrative against 12 performance criteria. If the assessment period is over 50 observed days, an assessment rating must also be assigned.

"The 12 criteria were developed to provide a balanced view of an individual's demonstrated performance and identified potential in their technical skills, combat skills and social mastery skills," Sqn-Ldr Cox said.

"To assist with this process, a comparative performance criterion was developed to guide accurate assessments against the assessed member's substantive rank."

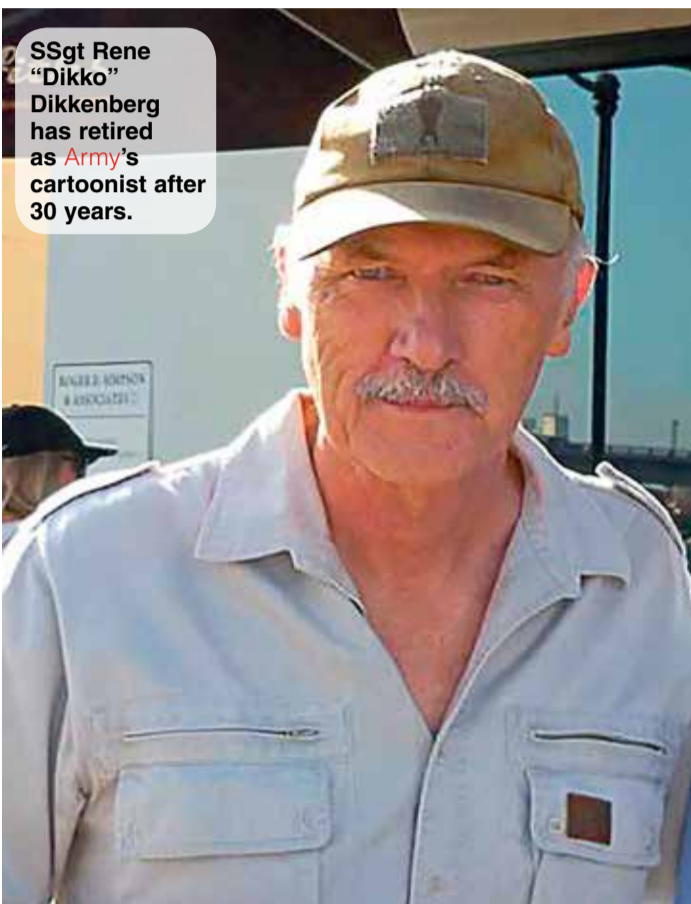
KEY AIR FORCE PPS POLICY CHANGES

- Corporals can be assessors.
- Sergeants can be senior assessors.
- Secondary duties are to be incorporated into the primary assessment.
- ADF supplementary reports can no longer be used for Air Force personnel. If a member has performed additional duties outside their posted position, the assessor should incorporate any assessment into Part 3 of the member's posted position PPR.
- Observation periods will be 'days observed' rather than 'time elapsed' within the yearly reporting cycle. Quality of agreed outcomes should be used where direct observation is not possible.
- Reporting cycle from October 1 – September 30.
- Report submission date to DP-AF of November 1.

Drawing to an end

Long-serving cartoonist retires

SSgt Rene "Dikko" Dikkenberg has retired as Army's cartoonist after 30 years.



AFTER 30 years of drawing for Army, our resident cartoonist SSgt Rene Dikkenberg, better known as "Dikko", has decided to pass the baton and say farewell.

"When I first began in 1987, I was still in RA Survey and everything was hand drawn," he said.

"I have continued to hand produce my cartoons through to the end. During my time I have drawn about 500 cartoons, which is something I never envisaged doing when I started.

"For those of you who think my cartoons aren't all that funny, and I'm sure there's an army of you out there, you'll be happy to learn that I have always drawn them simply for the joy of it and without payment."

Dikko said he was proud of the fact he had drawn hundreds of caricatures, supported everyone from Army Safe to Legal Services and made tens of thousands of dollars for Army-based charities.

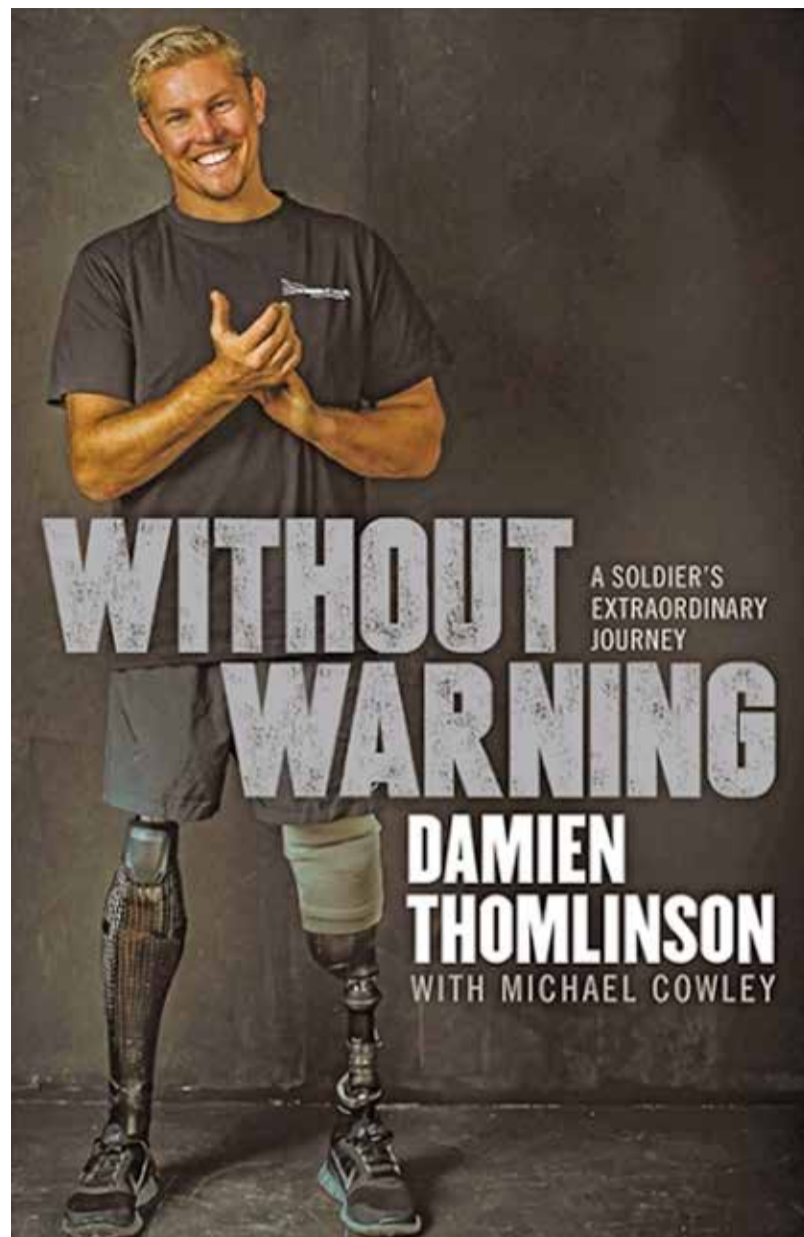
"I also hope that somewhere, if only once, I have given you all something to smile about," he said.

"I would like to pass on my thanks the staff of Army, past and present, for their ongoing support. I have always considered it to be a privilege to have had the opportunity to draw cartoons for you, the reader, and I thank you all most sincerely for reading them."



DIKKO

By SSgt Bob Dikkenberg



Uplifting story of survival

Without Warning

Publisher: Harper Collins

RRP: \$29.99

Kindle: \$13.99

Reviewer: LS Jayson Tufrey

WITHOUT Warning is not your typical 'chicken strangler' yarn about how weapons-grade-awesome the protagonist is.

Author Damien Thomlinson, while a member of 2 Cdo Regt, lost both his legs and almost an arm after the vehicle he was driving had a roadside IED detonate underneath it.

This book is a brutally honest, internal reflection by an Aussie larrikin who overcomes adversity and his own demons, but also acknowledges it is an ongoing process.

Thomlinson admits his own shortcomings, takes responsibility for how he could have done it better and acknowledges those who saved his life in the bloody aftermath of the explosion.

Thomlinson said he initially had reservations about writing the book.

"I didn't think I had had enough stuff going on to write an autobiography," he said.

"I wanted to capture the range of moods and emotion I was living with at the time, and I wanted to provide a raw example of what it was like.

"I also feared if I waited too long to recount my story it would lose its edge."

Thomlinson's positive attitude and never-say-die spirit are an inspiration to all of us, and the story of his journey is humbling, heartbreaking and truly awe-inspiring.

Thomlinson said writing the book had changed his life for the better.

"It's great to know you are an inspiration for people; I regularly receive quite a lot of positive feedback," he said.

"It feels good to help out strangers,



Cpl Dan Keighran, VC, presents Damien Thomlinson with his Invictus Games shirt earlier this year.

ABRIDGED SYNOPSIS

DAMIEN Thomlinson is a former member of 2 Cdo Regt who was badly injured after a bomb explosion in Afghanistan.

His inspiring journey of returning from the dead stands as proof that no challenge is too great, and that the Anzac spirit is alive and well.

After losing both his legs in Afghanistan in 2009, Thomlinson was determined not only to survive, but to meet life head on.

This is an uplifting story of guts, drive and exceptional resilience.

but in a way that is what serving in the Defence Force is all about; the invisible thank you from somebody you will never meet."

This book is available in print and eBook formats.

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Above: Capt Peter Conrad serves dinner in the ship's galley aboard USNS *Mercy* during Pacific Partnership 2016.
Photo by Sgt Pete Gammie

Left: Pte Tahlia Reid, of 1 MP Bn, keeps watch on traffic flow during the heavy vehicle road move during Exercise Hamel at Cultana.
Photo by Cpl Nunu Campos

Below left: Maj Cameron Elston salutes during a service held in memory of the Battle of the Somme at Camp Qargha, Afghanistan.
Photo by Sgt Hamish Paterson

Below right: Musn Nathan Moore, of the Australian Army Band, shows children how to play the keyboard during a Welcome to Country day in Laura, northern Queensland, during AACAP 2016.
Photo by Spr Natasha Lee



Above: WO1 Ken Nelliman and his brother Moses pose for a photo at the Queensland Police Service NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony in Townsville.
Photo by Maj Al Green

Left: Sig Lisa-Maree Price, of 7 Bde, kits out a student from Gabmididi Manoo Children and Family Centre in Whyalla, South Australia, during a visit by Exercise Hamel personnel.
Photo by Cpl Dan Pinhorn

WORKING OFF BAD SNACKS						
Food/drink	Size	Calories	Walk	Cycle	Swim	Run
Packet of chips	100g	545	3hr	1hr 40min	1hr 20min	1hr 5min
Chocolate bar	60g	270	1.5hr	50min	38min	33min
Ice-cream	80g	256	1hr 26min	48min	37min	31min
Energy drink	600ml	538	3hr	24min	18min	16min
Regular soft drink	600ml	244	1hr 22min	45min	35min	30min

Think of the consequences before you choose.



Weigh up unhealthy options

Cpl Heidi Joosten says you should stop and think before hitting the vending machines.

EVERYONE'S guilty of helping themselves to the soft drink and chocolate bar fridge or vending machines at work, but how often is too often?

It's okay if you're physically active throughout the day, but for someone with a desk job, it might not be so great for the waistline.

So how many calories do you need to burn each day without exercise? That depends on your body type; as things like muscle uses more energy than fat.

Each person will burn through a number of calories each day without exercise, this is called the basal metabolic rate (BMR).

You can calculate your BMR using height, weight, age, and sex; although, what it does not take into consideration, is lean body mass.

Therefore, the equation will be accurate overall, except for extremely muscular people where it will underestimate caloric needs or the extremely overweight where it will overestimate caloric needs.

But the average person can see if they are consuming more calories than they are burning, meaning excess calories will likely be stored as fat.

Try to avoid the sugar fix by doing the following:

Don't skip breakfast

If you are trying to cut back on carbs, this is the meal where you should be getting the most carbs in so you burn them during the day.

Eat only when hungry

Go for healthy snacks like nuts, muesli bars or a piece of fruit.

Drink lots of water

Cold chilled water suppresses your appetite, so if you want to lose weight, drink lots of cold water before a meal.

BMR FORMULA

Male: $BMR = 66 + (13.7 \times \text{weight in kg}) + (5 \times \text{height in cm}) - (6.8 \times \text{age in years})$

Female: $BMR = 655 + (9.6 \times \text{weight in kg}) + (1.8 \times \text{height in cm}) - (4.7 \times \text{age in years})$

Example for a 30-year-old man weighing 85kg and 184cm tall.
 $BMR = 66 + (13.7 \times 85\text{kg}) + (5 \times 184\text{cm}) - (6.8 \times 30 \text{ years}) = 1946.5$ calories/day.

You can then calculate your total daily energy expenditure by multiplying BMR by your activity level calculation

Daily Activity Level calculation

Sedentary = BMR X 1.2 (little or no exercise, desk job)

Lightly active = BMR X 1.375 (light exercise/sports 1-3 days/wk)

Moderately active = BMR X 1.55 (moderate exercise/sports 3-5 days/wk)

Very active = BMR X 1.725 (hard exercise/sports 6-7 days/wk)

Extremely active = BMR X 1.9 (hard daily exercise/sports and physical job)

Avoid the vending machine

We are all guilty of it. It's okay to treat yourself once in a while, but consider how much it will take to burn that off later.

Don't rush your food

Allow yourself time to chew your food up to 32 times which actually activates your body to generate signals of fullness.

Eat fewer calories

If your goal is to lose weight by burning off excess body fat, aim to eat 500 fewer calories a day than your needs and maintain or increase your exercise activity.

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Cpl Sarah Petchell competes in a powerlifting competition in Texas, US, where she placed fifth.

Deadlift dancer has eyes set on 200kg lift

Cpl Max Bree

A GRACEFUL and elegant deadlifting routine helped Cpl Sarah Petchell to a top placing at a world powerlifting competition in Texas, US, from June 20-26.

Cpl Petchell, of APAC-SQ, finished fifth in the 72kg weight class at the International Powerlifting Federation Open Classic Powerlifting Championships and attracted international attention for her unique lifting style.

"For my deadlifts I have a little ritual I go through," she said.

"It sort of looks like a dance, so they started calling me the 'deadlift dancer'."

Before a deadlift, Cpl Petchell delicately places her right foot down while holding her arms wide apart, she then grabs the bar with her right hand and holds her other arm back while positioning the next foot.

She then stands up and holds her arms to the front, with one palm up and another down. Then she reaches down to grab the bar and makes the lift.

The elegant ritual puts Cpl Petchell into the 'Sumo' deadlift stance.

"I found I got stuck on 160kg in the conventional stance," she said.

"So I decided to give the Sumo stance a go and my weight just rocketed up. Females often use it because it decreases the range of motion and gives you more hip and leg drive."

Cpl Petchell has deadlifted 185kg in competition, 187kg in training and has a goal to lift 200kg.

Lifting on the international stage presented a new set of challenges.

"It's nothing like lifting at the gym; there's a lot of media and spotlights on you," she said.

"You're lifting in front of more than 200 people, you can hear cameras clicking so it's a different kind of pressure."

Cpl Petchell first dealt with this kind of attention at the Commonwealth Powerlifting championships in Canada late last year.

"In Canada my eyes were wide open but this time I was better prepared mentally," she said.

"You have to have your routine when you're out there. It's a very selfish and personal moment when you're about to lift."

Cpl Petchell trains for two-to-three hours four or five days a week to maintain her strength.

"I started doing Cross Fit and discovered heavy lifting," she said.

"It turned out I already had the required strength."

Next on Cpl Petchell's calendar is the Australian National Powerlifting Competition in Brisbane in October.

"I think I'll do really well but there's one or two who are close behind me, so if I win I'll have earned it," she said.

Opportunities for everyone

Wheelchair Aussies rules becomes official ADF sport

LS Jayson Tufrey

ARMY had a convincing victory over Victoria in an exhibition match of wheelchair Aussie rules at the state netball and hockey centre in Parkville, near Melbourne, on July 19.

The Disability Sports Australia (DSA)–Victorian side, who came runners up in last year's competition, were soundly defeated 27-11 by Darwin-based soldiers from 1 Bde's Soldier Recovery Centre (SRC) in what was a physical, highly contested, match.

The ADF recently announced wheelchair Aussie rules as an official sport and has been an active participant in the development of the sport with DSA and the AFL.

Chair of the ADF Aussie Rules Association Brig Matthew Hall said participation in events like this offered a great opportunity to promote the important role sport played in physical and psychological rehabilitation.

"The flow-on effect should be inspiring other wounded, injured or ill personnel, their families, and the veteran community to engage in this newest adaptive sport," he said.

"One of Defence's highest priorities is its commitment to promoting positive mental health, and providing the necessary care, rehabilitation and support to ADF personnel who require it."

Army coach Cpl Cobi Head said his team started off a little slow.

"We'd never had the opportunity to play on a full court, so having all that space was maybe a little bit daunting for the guys," he said.

"After the first third everyone found their game and we performed much better than expected and came away with the win."

"This means a lot for the guys who love AFL who are wounded, injured or ill, as they are generally unable to participate in sport."

"We have some guys here who are AFL born and bred so they are over the moon at what lays ahead for them."

Pte Filippo Grilli said he had been playing wheelchair Aussie rules for four weeks while recovering at the SRC.

"It's great fun. Although it's a different experience I'm really enjoying the game," he said.

"It's terrific Army is getting involved in this sport considering we have soldiers who



ADAPTIVE SPORT

DISABILITY Sports Australia (DSA) and the ADF Australian Rules Association partnered to conduct the first National Wheelchair Aussie Rules Carnival in Melbourne in April.

ADF participation in the newest wheelchair sport is a key part of the ADF Adaptive Sports Program.

The successful event in April involved state-based teams from SA, Vic and Tas, an RSL veterans team from NSW, and two teams of soldiers from Soldier Recovery Centres in Adelaide and Darwin.

Since then, the AFL has come on board to officially endorse the sport and struck a memorandum of understanding with DSA for development and promotion.

have lost limbs or ended up in a wheelchair, not knowing how to get on with their life after being in the service for so long."

Sig Simon Bannister said he had been playing wheelchair Aussie rules for about two weeks.

"It takes a bit of practise to get used to the chair but our training sessions have been going well at the SRC," he said.

"I enjoy playing up in the forwards. I'm not very tall so I don't do that well in the rucks. The biggest challenge is judgement



Main: Pte Filippo Grilli, centre, of the Soldier Recovery Centre in Darwin, passes the ball during a wheelchair Aussie rules exhibition match in Melbourne.

Inset above: Cpl Nathan Jones in action during the match. Photos by LS Jayson Tufrey

when passing and chair speed. This is a great opportunity for anyone with a disability to try to get active in the sporting community."

Since participating in the inaugural DSA-ADF National Wheelchair Aussie Rules Carnival in April this year, the group have initiated a weekly competition in Darwin.

For more information on wheelchair Aussie rules, visit www.sports.org.au/wcaussierules



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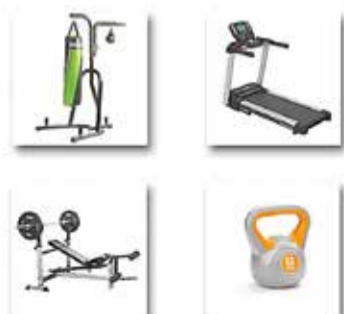
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SPORT

July 28, 2016

Cfn Neil Adam, of 1 Bde's Soldier Recovery Centre in Darwin, sends a ball on its way for a goal during a wheelchair Aussie rules exhibition match at the State Netball and Hockey Centre in Parkville, near Melbourne.
Photo by LS Jayson Tufrey

Wheelchair Aussie rules becomes official ADF sport

PAGE 35

ON THE BALL

NEW ENEMIES FOLLOW OUR VETERANS HOME

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