



The Soldiers' Newspaper

# ARMY

Edition 1294  
November 8, 2012



# 'One of our best junior NCOs'

Experienced special operations engineer  
Cpl Scott Smith killed by IED in Afghanistan

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# Facing down the enemy

Victoria Cross awarded to NCO who repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire during the battle of Derapet



Brotherhood: Victoria Cross recipients Keith Payne, Cpl Daniel Keighran and Cpl Mark Donaldson stop for photos at Government House in Canberra after Cpl Keighran's investiture ceremony. Photo by Lauren Black

## Sgt Dave Morley

A FORMER 6RAR soldier became the third Australian to receive the Victoria Cross for Australia at an investiture ceremony at Government House on November 1.

Cpl Dan Keighran was awarded the Commonwealth's highest honour for his actions at Derapet in Uruzgan province on August 24, 2010.

Governor-General Quentin Bryce told those present at the ceremony that "when we look at Cpl Keighran we see a man of profound physical and moral strength".

"When we listen to your citation the image is confronting and powerful," she said.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard said Cpl Keighran's acts of courage spoke of who he was as an Australian.

"We are so glad that your spectacular acts of bravery still saw you returned home to us safe and to your family and friends safe," she said.

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott said Cpl Keighran had joined "the best of the best and the bravest of the brave".

"Those of us who don't serve in

the armed forces and who don't put our lives on the line for our country are in awe of those who do," he said.

CDF Gen David Hurley said the battle at Derapet showed there was nothing simple in war.

"His clarity and composure spread to those around him," he said.

"The fighting at Derapet was among the most intense experienced in Afghanistan."

Cpl Keighran said he was extremely honoured and proud to receive the award, but said it was as much for his mates as for himself.

"I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the boys with me," he said.

He now works in a gold mine at Kalgoorlie and has joined the Army Reserve with 11/28RWAR.

"I haven't seen the 6RAR soldiers for a couple of years, so it will be good after all of this to have a chat," he said.

The medal presented to Cpl Keighran only arrived from London at 9.15am on the day of his investiture.

Look out for full coverage, including a detailed personal account of Cpl Keighran's actions during the battle, in the next edition of **Army**.

# Afghanistan force posture to shift by end of year

## Cpl Nick Wiseman

AUSTRALIA will contribute to a new NATO-led mission commencing after 2014 to train, advise and assist Afghan National Security Forces, Prime Minister Julia Gillard said in an address to the House of Representatives on October 31.

"2012 has brought important progress in transition in Afghanistan," she said.

"As transition proceeds in the province, Australia will adjust our military and civilian posture there.

"Our Mentoring Task Force will shift to a smaller advisory task force model, we will cease routine partnered operations at the Kandak level and our presence will consolidate in the multinational base in Tarin Kot."

In her address, Ms Gillard said the shift in posture would likely occur toward the end of this year, but it would not mark the end of combat operations in Uruzgan.

"Our SOTG will continue to operate against the insurgency and our advisory task force will retain a combat-ready capability," she said.

"To guard against any possibility of a return to international terrorism to Afghanistan, I expect the US and Afghan governments to discuss possible future arrangements for counter-terrorism training and operations."

The Prime Minister said Australia had seen "astonishing courage" of Australian soldiers performing acts of the most extreme bravery in the presence of the enemy.

"Many more demonstrate a quiet courage in their devotion to duty every day under the strain of war, in the villages, on the airfield [and] in the workshop."

For the Prime Minister's full statement, go to <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/statement-house-representatives-progress-transition-preparation-future>



The mission continues: Routine partnered operations in Afghanistan are expected to cease by the end of this year, but a significant presence will remain in Tarin Kot and Special Forces will continue operating beyond 2014.

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# 'The epitome of a combat engineer'

Fallen special operations engineer returns to Australia

"SCOTT'S sense of obligation, his sense of loyalty and his sense of purpose made him the epitome of the calling of combat engineer."

CO SOTG Lt-Col I paid tribute to 24-year-old Cpl Scott James Smith during a moving memorial service and ramp ceremony at Multinational Base Tarin Kot in Afghanistan on October 26.

"The type of physical and moral courage required of our special forces combat engineers is what we all hope for ourselves, but in the case of this man he displayed it every time he deployed on missions and tasks," Lt-Col I said.

Cpl Smith, from the Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER) based at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney, was killed by an IED on October 21 during a mission in northern Helmand province.

The Chief of Joint Operations, Lt-Gen Ash Power, said Cpl Smith was part of a small team tasked with clearing a suspected insurgent compound when the incident occurred.

"The compound was quickly assessed to be an IED factory and the commander on the ground made the decision to extract his personnel due to the high risk the area posed," Lt-Gen Power said.

"During the withdrawal from the compound an improvised explosive device detonated, killing Cpl Smith instantly."

Lt-Gen Power said the buildings within the compound were subsequently destroyed by precision ground fire from supporting ISAF units.

"Cpl Smith was a highly trained, experienced Special Forces engineer – his work had made the way safe for his comrades."

Cpl Smith was born in the Barossa Valley South Australia in 1988.

He joined the Army in February 2006 and, after initial employment training, was posted to 1CER in Darwin.

In 2008, Cpl Smith was posted to the then-Incident Response Regiment as a search operator.

He was regarded as an exceptional soldier who possessed all the qualities and charisma of a great junior leader.

He was described by his unit as a genuine, honest and dedicated member who was "probably one of the best junior NCOs" the unit had seen.

Cpl Smith returned home to his family and comrades in a solemn ceremony at RAAF Base Richmond on October 28.

Members of his unit met the RAAF C-17 aircraft and formed an honour guard and bearer party to escort his casket to his family.

Cpl Smith was received by his family, members of SOER, CDF Gen David Hurley, CA Lt-Gen David Morrison and Special Operations Commander Australia Maj-Gen Gus Gilmore.

His family released a statement after his death describing him as "the loveable character that held the family together".

"We knew the Army was Scott's second family – his home away from home."

"Scott truly believed his actions made a difference; he was a truly



One of the best: Members of SOTG farewell Cpl Scott Smith during a ramp ceremony at Multinational Base Tarin Kot.

Photo by Sgt William Guthrie

dedicated soldier who also knew how to relax in his time away from work.

"Scott had a larrikin charm that

endeared him to all those around him and these qualities ensure he will always be held in the hearts of those who knew him."

Cpl Smith is survived by his partner Liv, his parents Katrina Paterson and Murray Smith, and sister Roxanne.

## Spr Jordan Penpraze farewelled

HUNDREDS of family members, friends and colleagues came together to farewell Spr Jordan Penpraze in a military funeral at the Mornington Racing Club in Victoria on October 23.

CO SME Lt-Col Allan Hollink said the Army had said goodbye to one of its newest soldiers.

"When Jordan enlisted into the Army, he not only commenced a new career, but he became part of the Army family," Lt-Col Hollink said.

"This is a close family with strong bonds, and while Jordan will remain in our hearts and prayers, his parents and partner will remain part of our family and you will always be welcome with us, at the home of the sapper."

The ceremony included an audio-visual tribute from Spr Penpraze's family and colleagues.

Speaking on behalf of the Penpraze family, Chap Michael Pocklington said all were proud of Spr Penpraze.

"All Jordan wanted to be was a sapper," he said. "He knew the dangers of the job and he overcame many obstacles to attain that dream."

"Jordan's motto was 'do what you want to do and be what you want to be'. He lived by this motto and we would like his Army mates to continue in their careers, to stay safe, to be what you want to be."

Spr Penpraze died from injuries suffered in a vehicle accident during a training activity at the Holsworthy Field Training Area on October 8.



Saying goodbye: Coffin bearers from SME carry their classmate, Spr Jordan Penpraze (pictured top), from the funeral service.

Photo by LS Paul McCallum

# Top soldiers recognised

This year's Soldiers' Medallions recognise the hard work and exemplary service of personnel throughout the Army.

## Army Headquarters

Cpl M.G. Botting APSC AHQ  
 Cpl K.G. Mortison DSCM-A CMA  
 Musn R. Babajanov RMC AHQ  
 Musn G.J. Hodge AAB-N AHQ  
 Cpl A.P. Cameron-Taylor AAB-S AHQ  
 Musn A.T. Ball AAB-M AHQ

## Non-Army Group

Cpl D.J. Hatfield I&S  
 Bdr D.S. Jones HPC  
 Cpl J.A. Brown DNSDC VCDF  
 Cpl M.S. Ewing ADFA ADC  
 Cpl M.T. Drage DCNO  
 Pte C.K. Emmett AFG VCDF  
 Cpl K. Steindl JHU VCDF  
 Pte K.D. Binet AFG VCDF

## Special Operations Command

Pte C.H. Socomd  
 Cpl A.C. Socomd  
 Cpl S.T.B. Socomd  
 Pte R.P. Socomd  
 LCpl S.D. Socomd  
 Pte M.W. Socomd  
 Pte A.B. Socomd  
 LCpl S.L. Socomd  
 Pte T.L. Socomd  
 Pte D.C. Socomd  
 Cpl L.M. Socomd  
 Sig A.B. Socomd  
 LCpl D.N. Socomd  
 Cpl K.R. Socomd  
 Cpl S.J.S. (deceased) Socomd  
 Cpl T.M. Socomd  
 Spr C.O. Socomd  
 Cpl F.W. Socomd  
 Cpl D.C. Socomd  
 Cpl N.O. Socomd  
 LCpl D.R. Socomd  
 Cpl M.P. Socomd  
 LCpl S.G. Socomd  
 Cpl E.W. Socomd  
 Pte A.T. Socomd  
 Sig S.V. Socomd  
 Cpl B.D. Socomd  
 Spr S.B. Socomd  
 Pte T.C. Socomd  
 Pte A.B. Socomd  
 Cpl B.M. Socomd  
 Cpl C.W. Socomd  
 Pte N.W. Socomd  
 Pte P.D. Socomd  
 LCpl B.P. Socomd  
 Cpl D.L. Socomd  
 Cpl D.A. Socomd  
 LCpl B.L. Socomd  
 Cpl B.B. Socomd  
 Cpl D.S. Socomd  
 Cpl M.S. Socomd

## HQ Joint Operations Command

Pte D.W. Young JMOV JOC  
 Pte A.R. Morris JMOV JOC

## Divisions

Cpl G. Lindermann 39 PSB 1 Div  
 Pte J. Caddey 1 Sig Regt 1 Div  
 Cpl R. Arkell CTC 1 Div  
 Cpl A. Cepeda 1 Sig Regt 1 Div  
 Pte C. Rice CTC 1 Div  
 Cpl J. Marr CTC 1 Div  
 Pte J. Peronchik HQ 1 Bde 1 Bde  
 Sig A. D'alton Gordon 1CSR 1 Bde  
 Tpr K.A. Jordan 1 Armd Regt 1 Bde  
 Bdr S.T. Bowden 8/12 Regt 1 Bde  
 Pte W.J. Coleman 1CER 1 Bde  
 Pte A.J. McKendrick 1CSSB 1 Bde  
 LCpl N. Van Rooijen 2 Cav 1 Bde  
 Pte S.R. Livori 7RAR 1 Bde  
 Pte K.J. Newham 7RAR 1 Bde  
 Cpl M.F. Mullins 5RAR 1 Bde  
 Pte O.M. Frischknecht 5RAR 1 Bde  
 LCpl A. Yarrow 1CSR 1 Bde  
 LCpl P.J. Jackson 1 Armd Regt 1 Bde  
 LBdr M.G. Hurren 8/12 Regt 1 Bde  
 LCpl J.W. Lovi 1CER 1 Bde  
 Pte R.K. Patton 1CSSB 1 Bde  
 Cpl S. Brookes 2 Cav 1 Bde  
 Pte M.A.S. Knight 7RAR 1 Bde  
 Cpl R.C. Pearce 7RAR 1 Bde  
 Cpl J.R. Stone 5RAR 1 Bde  
 CFN C.G. Drewitt 5RAR 1 Bde  
 Cpl C.H. Schroder 1 Armd Regt 1 Bde  
 Cpl S.T. Shores 8/12 Regt 1 Bde  
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 CFN E.M. Taylor 1CSSB 1 Bde  
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 Cpl T.J. Reynolds 7RAR 1 Bde  
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 Spr J.B. De La Rue 1CER 1 Bde  
 Pte C.G. Whitty 1CSSB 1 Bde  
 Tpr M. King 2 Cav 1 Bde  
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 Cpl C.A. Stratford 5RAR 1 Bde  
 Spr H.J. Griffiths 1CER 1 Bde  
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 Cpl M. Dwyer 4 Bde  
 Cpl D.A. Hannaford 4 Bde  
 Tpr C.A. Leffley 4 Bde  
 Pte C.S. Champion 4 Bde  
 LCpl G.R. Niegut 4 Bde  
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 LCpl W.S. Manners 5 Bde  
 Pte J.G. Gissing 5 Bde  
 Spr A.G. Delveroudis 5 Bde  
 Cpl R.A. Heydon 8 Bde  
 LBdr D.S. Hedge 8 Bde

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 Cpl J.T. West 8 Bde  
 Spr N.L. Law 8 Bde  
 Cpl J.L. Abram 8 Bde  
 LCpl S.W. Ramage 8 Bde  
 Pte M.A. Lowe 8 Bde  
 LCpl A.N. Gregory 8 Bde  
 Cpl I.D. Brown 8 Bde  
 LCpl M.J. March 8 Bde  
 Cpl J.A. Gordon 8 Bde  
 Pte R.H. Williams 8 Bde  
 Pte J. Britt 8 Bde  
 LCpl J.W. Underwood 8 Bde  
 Cpl R.F. Marshall 8 Bde  
 LCpl A.E. Sanders 9 Bde  
 Cpl K.E. Sylva 9 Bde  
 Bdr I.J. Brucksch-Domanski 9 Bde  
 CFN M.T. Barrington 9 Bde  
 Tpr M. Ly 9 Bde  
 LCpl M.D. Easton 9 Bde  
 Cpl A.T. Munro 9 Bde  
 Cpl A.E. Taylor 9 Bde  
 LCpl D.S. Conelly 9 Bde  
 LCpl C.R. Tait 11 Bde  
 Cpl D.J. Richter 11 Bde  
 Pte M.P. Munn 11 Bde  
 Pte N.B. Gibbs 11 Bde  
 Sig M. Bishop 11 Bde  
 Spr W. Stanley 11 Bde  
 LCpl B.A. Doxanakis 11 Bde  
 Cpl J. Wasson 11 Bde  
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 Pte A.C. Read 11 Bde  
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 Sig N. Stamatis 13 Bde  
 LCpl G.W. Harrington 13 Bde  
 Pte N.D. Ward 13 Bde  
 Cpl J.R. Coccaro 13 Bde  
 LCpl G.R.C. Brady 8 Sig Regt  
 Cpl B.G. Knipe 1RAR 3 Bde  
 Pte P.A. Bowers 1RAR 3 Bde  
 Pte R.L. Markie 1RAR 3 Bde  
 Cpl T.P. Casey 1RAR 3 Bde  
 Cpl J.H. Steven 1RAR 3 Bde  
 Cpl A.A.E. Kime 1RAR 3 Bde  
 Cpl A.J. Bashford 1RAR 3 Bde  
 Cpl B.J. Robinson 1RAR 3 Bde  
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 Pte T.G. Weir 2RAR 3 Bde  
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 Pte J.M. Macarthur 3RAR 3 Bde  
 Pte R.K.J. Wilkinson 3RAR 3 Bde  
 Pte E.J. Price 3CER 3 Bde  
 Spr S.T. Flannery 3CER 3 Bde  
 Spr S.A. Eddleston 3CER 3 Bde  
 Spr W.A. Wallace 3CER 3 Bde

CFN A.S. Howell 3CER 3 Bde  
 Pte D.R. Redman 3CER 3 Bde  
 LCpl K.L. Pettit 3CSR 3 Bde  
 Cpl L.M. Wright 3CSR 3 Bde  
 GNR S.M. Dirs 4 Regt RAA 3 Bde  
 Bdr N.R. Corradetti 4 Regt RAA 3 Bde  
 Cpl D.F. Sterck B Sqd 3/4 Cav 3 Bde  
 Cpl A.J. Barnes B Sqd 3/4 Cav 3 Bde  
 Cpl L. Jordan B Sqd 3/4 Cav 3 Bde  
 Cpl B.K. Camin 3CSSB 3 Bde  
 Pte G.G. Bell 3CSSB 3 Bde  
 Cpl K. Lavery 3CSSB 3 Bde  
 CFN S. Smart Norforce 6 Bde  
 Pte K.J. Kay 6ESR 6 Bde  
 Sig M.J. Stedman 7 Sig Regt 6 Bde  
 Cpl R. Shepherdson 6ESR 6 Bde  
 Cpl S.J. McPartland 1 Int Bn 6 Bde  
 GNR T.P. Bryne-Baxter 16 ALR 6 Bde  
 LCpl V. Missler Pilbara 6 Bde  
 Cpl J.M. Murphy 6ESR 6 Bde  
 Cpl D.T.L. Prowse 1 Int Bn 6 Bde  
 Pte B. Nicoletto Pilbara 6 Bde  
 Spr J.S.K. Marek 6ESR 6 Bde  
 Cpl T.M. Murdoch 1 Int Bn 6 Bde  
 Cpl S.E. Smart 16 ALR 6 Bde  
 LCpl L.C. Ward 6ESR 6 Bde  
 Spr S.J. Stent 6ESR 6 Bde  
 Cpl L.T. Ashton 7 Sig Regt 6 Bde  
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 Cpl A.M. Rawnsley RMC-D RMC-A  
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# In honour of Lt Case

Training centre honours pilot killed in Afghanistan

Cpl Max Bree

THE first ADF member killed while deployed as part of the air component in Afghanistan has been honoured with a training facility named after him at RAAF Base Amberley on October 16.

The Lt Marcus Case Facility is now training personnel working on all aspects of the Heron Remotely Piloted Aircraft.

Lt Case was an Army pilot working with the Heron detachment in Afghanistan when he was killed in a Chinook helicopter crash on May 30 last year.

CO 5 Flight Wg-Cmdr Jonathan McMullan was commander of the Heron rotation in Afghanistan when the tragedy occurred.

"I'd just finished flying for the day and I got a call saying the Australian Chinook that Marcus was on had crashed," Wg-Cmdr McMullan said.

After meeting Lt Case's parents at the board of inquiry into the accident, Wg-Cmdr McMullan invited Bernie and Lee Case to see the Heron facilities at RAAF Base Amberley.

"They were doing a trip of Australia going around military establishments where Marcus had been," Wg-Cmdr McMullan said.

"We wanted to give them a day in the life of Marcus here at the training facility.



"But I didn't tell them we were going to name the facility after Marcus. They were overwhelmed.

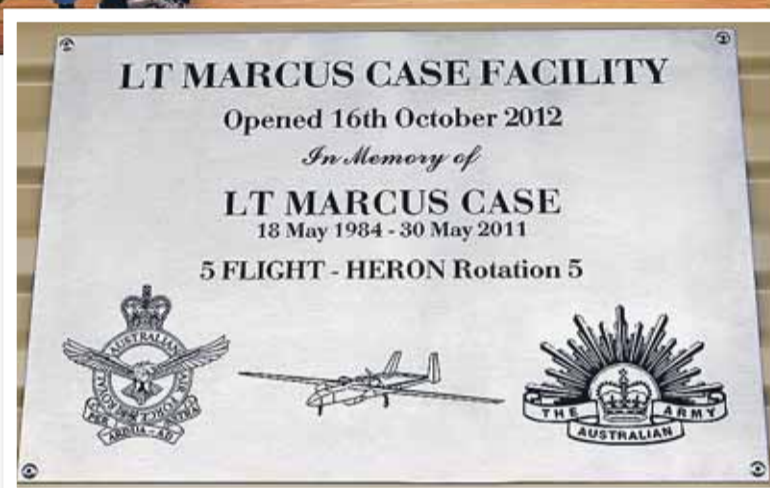
"Marcus was killed working for me ... I'm honoured to honour his memory."

The Lt Marcus Case Facility is used for training Heron pilots, payload operators and intelligence personnel.

"Before going on a Heron deployment, members do at least two weeks training here at 5 Flight, with aviators spending up to six weeks," WGCDR McMullan said.



**Dedication:** OC 82 Wing Gp-Capt Geoff Harland officially opens the Lt Marcus Case Facility at RAAF Base Amberley as Lt Case's parents, Bernie and Lee, look on.  
Photo by LACW Shannon McCarthy



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# Rehab accolade

6RAR leads the way in casualty management

Cpl Nick Wiseman

EXCELLENCE in managing wounded soldiers has earned 6RAR the 'rehabilitation and return to work' award for casualty management at the 2012 Comcare Work Health and Safety Awards in Sydney.

Lt Paul Nolan, commander of the battalion's reinforcement platoon, said the battalion was honoured to receive the award.

"To be honest I didn't really think about it much at first," he said.

"While it was an esteemed honour to be considered for a prestigious award, we just did what we had to do to look after our soldiers."

Lt Nolan has dived into a role different to most other platoon commanders, dealing with a greater number of soldiers under his command and on a more personal level.

"I manage the platoon on a day-to-day basis," he said.

"Managing their recovery and transition back to work or the civil community is an important part of my role.

"I wouldn't be able to do it without the support of a great team of strong NCOs.

"Quite often these NCOs have been managing platoon-size groups themselves."

The platoon has had a great success rate, with many soldiers successfully returning to duties in a rifle platoon or transitioning into the community.

"Just because they don't return to their duties in the Army does not mean they're not a success story," he said.

"The battalion is extremely proud to be nominated and honoured with the award.

"We continue to strive for the best rehabilitation and reintegration we can offer these members."



**Success story:** 6RAR has been awarded for their excellent casualty management work at the 2012 Comcare Work Health and Safety Awards. Here, 6RAR soldiers serving with MTF 1 provide security as the construction of a new patrol base begins in the Mirabad Valley region of Afghanistan in 2010.

Photo by LS Paul Berry

# Get overseas mail in early for Christmas

SENDING those vital messages and presents to deployed personnel during the busy Christmas period is being made all the easier via the Australian Forces Post Office (AFPO).

Cut-off dates have been implemented to ensure mail arrives on time.

Mail being sent to AFPOs 1, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 18 must be sent in time to arrive at the Australia Post facility in Sydney by December 7. Mail for AFPOs 2, 5 and 11 must arrive in Sydney before December 14. Mail to these addresses is subsidised by Defence. Mail to ships operating outside these AFPOs attracts normal Australian postage rates and are subsidised for delivery beyond Australia.

Leut Chris Duke, of the Directorate of Supply Chain Operations and Plans, said the service was only for families and friends writing to their loved ones.

"Mail above 2kg will attract postal charges, so it's best to keep it under 2kg," Leut Duke said.

Deployed forces should check with their local AFPO to determine an appropriate posting date from their location.

Families should remember items and some publications can cause offence in some locations and all mail is subject to border security.

All customs documentation and declarations must be filled out correctly and attached to the parcel. Also, proof of identity is required when posting a parcel.

The Defence-subsidised mail sent through the Defence Postal Service is restricted to personal mail only for Defence personnel or approved agencies working with Defence.



**Special delivery:** Families are advised to get Christmas gifts to deployed soldiers into the mail soon to ensure they arrive on time.

These arrangements do not cater for any material of a humanitarian or goodwill nature. Anyone considering sending humanitarian aid or bulk goodwill donations must contact Military Strategic Commitments on (02) 6266 7515 before making any plans.

In recent years goodwill donations have also been received for military working dogs and explosive detection dogs. However, items such as food and toys cannot be used by the dogs due to their strict diets and training regimes. As such, care packages for dogs cannot be accepted.

For more information contact an Australia Post retail outlet, the customer call centre on 131318, or visit [www.auspost.com.au](http://www.auspost.com.au)



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Forces Command  
Victoria Barracks  
Paddington NSW 2021  
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# Multicam now Aus-made

The latest rotation of combat troops deploy to Afghanistan wearing Australian-made Multicam uniforms

TROOPS operating outside the wire in Afghanistan will soon be wearing Australian-made Multicam uniforms providing a stronger garment better suited to the Afghan environment.

Defence Materiel Minister Jason Clare announced on October 22 that the uniform had been issued to 7RAR soldiers and Airfield Defence Guards deploying to Afghanistan.

Based on feedback from Australian troops, the new uniforms feature a number of modifications and stronger fabric compared to the US design that has been in use for the past two rotations.

Mr Clare said it was the best uniform for the work Australian soldiers did in Afghanistan.

"It provides better concealment and makes it easier for our soldiers to do their job," he said.

"The feedback I've received from troops has been very positive."

About 3600 sets of the new uniforms have been ordered at a cost of almost \$780,000. Another 5500 uniforms will be ordered later this year for soldiers deploying in 2013.

The original uniforms were purchased quickly from the US to get them out to the soldiers on the ground.

Last year Defence purchased a

## MULTICAM CHANGES

- Australian made.
- Integrated elbow and knee pads to reduce soft tissue injuries.
- Shirts which are cooler and designed to be worn under body armour.
- Trousers with a padded waist band to be more comfortable under webbing or a field pack.
- Trousers with more pockets and stretch fabric at the joints for ease of movement.

licence from the US manufacturer to make the uniform locally and to create a unique Australian version of the Multicam camouflage pattern.

Three patterns were developed and underwent testing in a range of environments as well as considering feedback from soldiers before the final selection was made.

"They [soldiers] have told me this is the uniform they want and the Australian industry has delivered," Mr Clare said.



**Proudly Australian:** Soldiers from the 7RAR Task Group are among the first to wear Australian-made Multicam uniforms for their Afghanistan deployment. Photo by LAC David Cotton

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# Engineers wrap up Joy Springs project

Final testing on Aboriginal community's water infrastructure complete

CAPT Josh Myers, of 19 CE Works, returned to the small community of Joy Springs near Fitzroy Crossing last month to test and commission the final element of the AACAP 2011 project to upgrade water infrastructure.

The water upgrade project started in 2010 with design and development as well as construction of the two new bores. The new bores and pipelines provide greatly improved water quality and flow rate into the community's houses.

The project was managed concurrently with the AACAP 2012 Dampier Peninsula project and was handed over to the WA Department of Housing on October 31.

The visit also closed the project for the four houses and the health clinic constructed during the 2011 deployment of Exercise Saunders.

The people of Joy Springs have capitalised on the training delivered during the 2011 project. Since the Army visit the community has established a business providing engine maintenance and catering for the neighbouring communities, which has earned the town a small business grant to support the operation.

Personnel from 19 CE Works will remain in contact with the community until the defects liability period for the most recent works wraps up in October next year.



On the job: Cpl Warren Stevens, of 1/19RNSWR, teaches Joy Springs locals engineering skills during AACAP 2011.

## Joint look at maritime challenges

CA LT-GEN David Morrison opened his first Chief of Army's Exercise on October 29, welcoming 35 senior international military officers and academics from 17 nations including Indonesia, China and the US.

This year, the biennial CA's Ex was themed "The Australian Army's role in a maritime strategy" and conducted over two days at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre in conjunction with the Land Warfare Conference.

Lt-Gen Morrison emphasised in his opening address the importance of working in a joint coalition and interagency environment.

"In this Asia-Pacific century we understand that access to the perspectives of other military professionals and strategic thinkers from across our region and the globe are absolutely indispensable if we are to understand our role in relation to security and prosperity in Australia," he said.

The exercise provided an opportunity for participating personnel to interact and debate key issues.

The format of the exercise centered around three formal addresses – one provided by an Australian academic, Dr Mike Evans, one by a retired Indonesian lieutenant general and academic, Agus Widjojo, and one by a senior member of the People's Liberation Army of China, Gen Ren.

The participants also spent time in smaller groups where key matters were discussed. The exercise ended with a plenary session to share ideas.

The forum aimed to improve understanding among the participating personnel of the challenges facing land forces in the Indo-Pacific and the role of land forces in promoting regional stability and security.



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# Sappers' bang for buck

## 22 Const Regt helps out at Puckapunyal

**Capt Felicity Hamblin**

SOLDIERS from 22 Const Regt proved their mettle recently with the successful execution of Exercise Big Bang.

Held over four days at Puckapunyal, the exercise centred on demolition practice, renovating the engineering compound HQ building and fixing the area cricket pitch.

About 20 sappers braved the cool conditions while working to construct a bailey bridge as the main demolition target. They fixed cutting and catering charges to achieve the bridge demolition and, for many, it was their first time working with explosives.

Spr Bradley Smith said the weekend had been the highlight of his Army career.

"It was quite exciting actually," he said. "It was the first time I had used demolitions. We did a simulated contact and building the bridge itself and learning a lot of new techniques was great."

He said he learnt a lot about demolitions in general, particularly about high and low explosives.

"I quite enjoyed building the bridge because it was the first time I'd seen a bailey bridge. We all had a great time getting out and doing this because we don't get out field too often."

On the day of the demolitions, the 'Old Sapper' organisations arrived to take part in the activities and watch what the sappers of today did with their equipment.

Reg Morrell, of the Royal Australian Artillery Association, said he was impressed with the work of the sappers and was interested to see the changes

in equipment over the past few decades.

"It would have been good if we could have been right there to actually see the explosion but of course we had to be in the bunker for safety reasons," he said.

"The shake in the ground and seeing the destruction afterwards was great. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole day and I was really impressed with the attitudes and work carried out by the sappers."

While the demolition activities impressed the visitors, riding in two Bushmasters was the icing on the cake.

"All the chaps there thought it was tremendous. Having ridden in the back of many Army vehicles over my time, I thought it was a fantastic machine," Mr Morrell said.

Following months of planning, a television-style "renovation rescue" had the tradesmen team up in two groups to transform the existing office building in 72 hours.

Lt Natalie Canham said it was a great opportunity to put the soldiers' skills to good use while encouraging friendly competition.

"We wanted to provide an area for our leaders to work in and, most importantly, provide an area for our sappers to have a rest during their demanding working day," she said.

"We had 15 members working on the renovation. They put in new floor coverings, a new kitchenette for our brew area, and painted."

Lt Canham said the sappers also provided a new wicket for the local cricket club.

CO Lt Col Darren Potter said he was impressed with the hard work and commitment shown by the soldiers.

**I quite enjoyed building the bridge because it was the first time I'd seen a bailey bridge.**

— Spr Bradley Smith, 22 Const Regt



Helping hand: Cpl Peter Borzdynski, of 22 Const Regt, repairs a window as part of the renovation of the office block at the unit's Puckapunyal training facility. Inset, the sappers' completed bailey bridge ready for demolition.

Photos by Maj Ian Toohill



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# Divers go bush for infantry training

Clearance divers join reserve course to learn infantry minor tactics

Cpl David Crosbie and  
Cpl Macmillan Delaney

TEN clearance divers from Australian Clearance Diving Team 1 joined reservists from MUR for Combat Arms Module (CAM) and Infantry Module 2 courses at Puckapunyal last month.

The courses, run by MUR's Soldier Training Wing, train soldiers in infantry minor tactics for section and platoon-level operations. The clearance divers attended to gain a basic foundation in infantry fighting skills.

The divers picked up the weapons qualifications easily during the CAM and continued the high standard throughout the Module 2 course.

The course covered defensive, offensive and security operations, which the divers were experiencing for the first time.

The instructors were impressed with their enthusiasm for the training and the speed with which they picked up the new skills, completing the culminating exercises – live fire section attacks by day and night – to a high standard.

It was the first time Navy personnel had been integrated into a MUR course. The divers were well received by staff and the Army trainees.

The Soldier Training Wing conducts MUR's courses throughout the year to ensure a constant flow of qualified personnel.



**New skills:** Clearance diver AB Thomas Adams works alongside soldiers on MUR's Combat Arms Module and Infantry Module 2 courses at Puckapunyal.

## Club raises funds for local charity

THE Diggers Military Motorcycle Club Townsville chapter gave a donation to the Cerebral Palsy league last month to buy much-needed equipment and some toys.

A few club members were shown around the centre by staff member Donna Sheppard and introduced to Mattie, who attends the centre.

The club has committed to future fundraising initiatives and organising club working bees to help install gardens and fencing.

Staff at the League said they are very grateful for the donations and the specialist equipment it purchased would help with children's therapy.

## Shed to bring troops together

SERVICEMEN and women both serving and retired can enjoy many benefits such as mateship, social activities and welfare advice in a new meeting place known as the Defence Shed.

Currently available online with physical locations to follow soon it will provide opportunities for various hobbies, crafts, skills and instruction as well as bringing together various mental, spiritual and physical services to help members.

Based on the "men's shed" principle, the Defence Shed is being organised by ex-ADF personnel from various backgrounds with a passion for helping their mates in need.

For more information go to [www.facebook.com/groups/DefenceShed](http://www.facebook.com/groups/DefenceShed), [www.defenceshed.com](http://www.defenceshed.com) and [www.dan.gov.au/community/groups/defenceshed](http://www.dan.gov.au/community/groups/defenceshed)

## Free car wash for soldiers

THE Australian car wash industry has joined the international Grace for Vets program to offer serving troops and veterans free car washes on November 11-12.

Last year was the first time Australian car washes joined the program, which also operates in New Zealand, Canada and the US. On Remembrance Day last year, 75 businesses throughout Australia washed 1300 veterans' cars.

The Australian Car Wash Association has encouraged all its members to participate in the program and several businesses have already signed on.

The program works on the honour system and is open to serving soldiers and veterans on November 11-12.

For a list of participating car washes, go to [www.graceforvets.org](http://www.graceforvets.org)



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# Desert ride for mates

Riders cross Nullarbor for charity

Cpl Max Bree

ARMY aviators and former Royal Marines are cycling more than 4500km across Australia to raise money for injured Defence personnel.

The 10-person team set off from Perth on October 7 and was due to arrive in Sydney in time for Remembrance Day.

Team Leader Lt-Col Bill O'Donnell cycled the same route with three mates in 1982 as a Royal Marine.

Seven Army aviators are riding with Lt-Col O'Donnell and another former Royal Marine from the original ride.

"We're cycling roads some people have never driven before," Lt-Col O'Donnell said.

The team is raising money from the RSL-sponsored charity Mates4Mates that provides welfare and treatment programs to support physically or mentally injured Defence personnel and their dependents.

"We have attracted huge support for what we are doing from local communities as we've made our way across

Australia," Lt-Col O'Donnell said. "This has inspired the team to ride harder and faster in order to match the support expressed by everyone we've met and talked to about Mates4Mates."

After crossing the Nullarbor, the team will pass through Adelaide and Melbourne before finishing in Sydney.

Lt-Col O'Donnell and his team expect to average 150km a day to finish the ride in 30 days.

"The team feel privileged to be doing what they are doing and respect the fact that they are fit and able to complete the 4500km challenge where others, as a result of their injuries or illness, are unable to do so," he said.

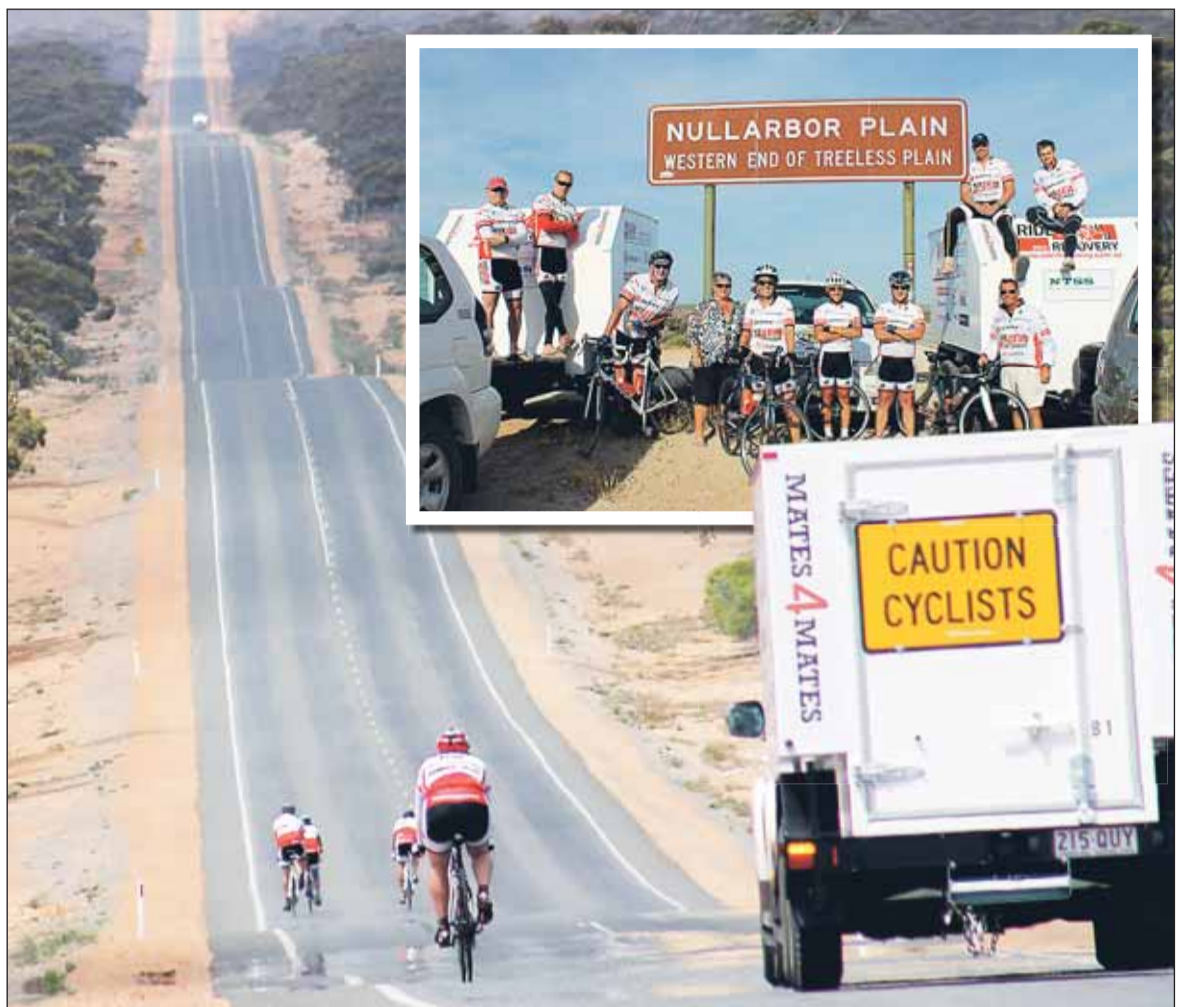
"This thought alone inspires them further to overcome their personal physical and mental challenge of cycling across Australia."

The original ride in 1982 was dubbed Expedition Nutty Pom by the Australian High Commission on hearing the young marines were cycling across Australia in the middle of summer.

For more information on Ride4Recovery visit [www.ride4recovery.com.au](http://www.ride4recovery.com.au) or donate at [www.everydayhero.com.au/event/ride4recovery2012](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/event/ride4recovery2012)

**We have attracted huge support for what we are doing from local communities as we've made our way across Australia.**

— Lt-Col Bill O'Donnell



Long road: The team of cyclists makes its way along one of the world's longest straight stretches of road to raise money for injured soldiers.

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# Joining forces in the jungle

Soldiers from 3RAR team up with Thai Army counterparts in final phase of Rifle Coy Butterworth rotation

**Cpl Max Bree**

A FEMALE truckie has enjoyed the mud and bugs of infantry life as a rifleman on the latest rotation of Rifle Coy Butterworth (RCB).

Pte Shona Parrington-Jones, a driver at 3RAR, slugged her way through the south-east Asian jungle with 3RAR's Kapyong Coy as part of RCB rotation 99.

"Joining Rifle Coy Butterworth certainly threw me in the deep end, as I had no previous experience in the field as a rifleman," she said.

"But the men of 2 Pl understood that I had no real infantry training and went through the steps of each training exercise or activity in detail so I could grasp the concept and then try it myself in a section."

On top of their training in Malaysia, the company travelled to Thailand from August 12 to September 16 for jungle training with the Royal Thai Army, dubbed Ex Chapel Gold.

Kapyong Coy was treated to a Thai-military-style PT session that involved a mix of cardio and callisthenics before receiving survival training from the Thai Special Warfare School.

Soldiers were exposed to different plants in the local area that were either edible or could be used to remedy various ailments.

Muay Thai Grand Master, Colonel Noppaklao, was also on hand to teach the Aussie soldiers a few things about martial arts.

Cpl Byron Aperocho, of 3RAR, said the grand master gave better lessons than would ever be found back home.

"Learning Muay Thai was a very rewarding experience. We were taught in the traditional way which was easy to grasp and practical," Cpl Aperocho said.

"Anyone who has done a form of martial arts would agree that the lessons that we've learnt from the Grand Master were high quality training

and could not be replicated back in Australia."

Before delving into the jungle with the Thai 3rd Inf Bn for Chapel Gold's Op Black Tiger, a platoon from Kapyong Coy was attached to the Thai Army's 1st Rifle Coy while a Thai platoon was placed under Australian command.

Black Tiger involved a battalion attack followed by a battalion clearance of subsequent objectives. Each company conducted attacks on platoon sized forces in prepared defensive positions, with the added complexity of reported civilian hostages.

Despite the language barrier, the 3rd Inf Bn and Kapyong Coy managed to adapt each army's different tactics and clear all objectives.

Section 2IC Pte Kevin Cuneen said he enjoyed working with the Thai Army.

"From watching the way the RTA patrol and conduct attacks, it is easy to see a lot of differences, such as less emphasis on orders and more relaxed field discipline," Pte Cuneen said.

"However, they also proved that they know how to get the job done and they work extremely hard when the job's on".

Pte Parrington-Jones thought Thailand was going to be the most challenging part of her time as a rifleman, but she ended up enjoying working with the Thai soldiers.

"Despite half the time not understanding what they were trying to say, after a while we got our meaning across with a mixture of hand signals and broken Thai," she said.

"It was good to become friends with them and strengthen the relationship between the Australian Army and Royal Thai Army.

"Sure, we were covered in mud, twigs, leaves and bugs, but at the end of the day there are smiles all around."

The 99th rotation returned to Australia on October 28.



**Partnership:** Cpl Kostia Beggs (left) delivers a lesson to Thai soldiers on an upcoming activity with help from interpreter Maj Tony Rigby. Inset, Pte Shona Parrington-Jones takes down Pte Daniel Seipke during a Muay Thai session with a Thai Army grand master in the martial art.

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# Touchdown near Timor

▀ Pilots practise deck landings with US ships

**Leut-Cmdr Darren Mallet**

TIMOR-Leste Aviation Group (TLAG) pilots deployed on Operation Astute refreshed their deck landing qualifications on October 12 with help from USS Rushmore and USS Green Bay.

TLAG CO Maj Scott Doré said the ships visited Dili for Exercise Crocodillo between the East Timorese military (F-FDTL) and US Marines.

Major Doré's pilots, from 5 Avn Regt, have been in country for several months and many have deployed on Op Astute before.

The deck landing certification consisted of two days and nights of flight deck landing and lift-off manoeuvres. USS Rushmore and USS Green Bay flight deck members helped with signalling, wheel chocks and refuelling.

"We have to practise at least every six months," Maj Doré said.

"The qualifications and training went really well, we integrated seamlessly with the US ships from the first landing. All TLAG aircrew were qualified within a short time frame."

TLAG aircrew completed a number of consecutive bounces – landings, lift-offs and circling – during the training activity.

It takes about 30 minutes for each pilot to complete the deck-landing



requirements, which must be duplicated in the dark using night vision for a night qualification.

"This qualification is instrumental to the development of Australia's amphibious capability.

"The pilots trained here over the past few days will be among the first to land on Australia's new Landing Helicopter Docks from 2014," Maj Doré said.

Maintenance and operations staff from TLAG also visited the USS Peleliu, an LHD of similar dimensions to the future HMAS Canberra. These crews learnt about maintaining, handling and communicating in the maritime environment.



Coming in: Black Hawk 208 is signalled off by the flight deck marshaller during deck landing qualifications on USS Rushmore off the coast of Dili. Inset: TLAG members Lt Daniel England, Lt Dean Orzanski, Cpl John Wood, Maj Scott Doré, Lt Michael Perkins and Cpl Blake Camporeale participated in the training activity.

Photos by AB Lee-Anne Mack

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# Wali in Afghan hands

▶ The ANA 4th Bde's 3rd Kandak takes complete responsibility for Patrol Base Wali

1Lt Cari Butler, US Army

THE Afghan National Army took another step forward in their road to independent operations when 3rd Kandak, 4th Bde took full control of Patrol Base Wali after a transfer of authority ceremony on October 7.

Due to their operational success across the Mirabad Valley region and Khas Uruzgan with help from Australian mentors, the 3rd Kandak is the first ANA kandak in Uruzgan province to take operational control and be completely independent of their coalition counterparts.

CO 3rd Kandak Lt-Col Ghafoor was optimistic about taking complete control of the area and felt the kandak would be a model for the 4th Bde and the ANA as a whole.

"It's a very joyful day for the Afghan forces because they have realised that they can defend their own country, their own area without the help of a foreign force," he said.

"The ANA have now reached a level where they can stand up against the enemy and they can defend themselves as well as this country.

"We are sad that the Australians are leaving because we have built a relationship with them and become good friends, but at the same time we are very happy that they will leave us to reunite with their families."

CO 3RAR Lt-Col Trent Scott said it was an historic day for both the Australians and Afghans in Uruzgan province and he looked forward to seeing the kandak succeed.

"This is a big step to complete independence," he said.

Incoming Combined Team Uruzgan commander Col Simon Stuart addressed



**Independence:** Australian and Afghan National Army troops salute during a handover ceremony at Patrol Base Wali in the Mirabad Valley.

Photos by Cpl Hamish Paterson

the 3rd Kandak at the transfer of authority ceremony.

"The 3rd Kandak of the 4th Bde will stand on its own two feet and take the fight to the enemy," he said. "You are at the forefront of transition in Afghanistan.

"You should face the future with confidence, because you have proven yourself ready and worthy."



**Over to you:** Sgt Joel McMahon, of the 3RAR Task Group's Mentoring Team Charlie, receives an award from a soldier of 3 Kandak at the handover ceremony.

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# Troops go on the run in Afghanistan



CAPT Anne Cumpston, Pte Rob Russell and Lt Wendy DeBoer were among the Australian Army winners when Australian, Singaporean and US personnel competed in the Tarin Kot Melbourne marathon in Afghanistan on October 14.

The event – split into several races – was conducted around a 6km loop of the dusty, rocky perimeter road of Multinational Base Tarin Kot.

Base gym manager Sgt Cassie Fien said everyone had a great time.

“There were no injuries, however, there were a few sore people walking around the next day.”

Sgt Fien, a prominent middle-distant runner herself, was a driving force behind the event.

“I contacted the guys at Melbourne marathon and asked if I could run the Melbourne marathon over here. They jumped at the idea and the Tarin Kot Melbourne Marathon was born.”

Sgt Fien said 130 people participated and part of their entry fee went to a charity for acquired brain injuries. About \$320 was raised from the Tarin Kot entrants.

Capt Cumpston won the women's marathon, Pte Russell won the men's half marathon and Lt DeBoer won the women's half-marathon.

There were also male and female 10km and 5.7km races.

Pictured here are LCpl Erin Taylor and Capt Candice Bowden from FSU 7. Inset, runners prepare to set off on the marathon.

Photos by Cpl Hamish Patterson

## Down tools for mental health

UNITS across the MEAO made adjustments to their operational tempo to take part in ADF Mental Health Day on October 10.

JTF633, Combined Team Uruzgan and personnel in Kabul participated in the two-hour program that highlighted the importance of maintaining mental health.

Commander JTF633 Maj-Gen Michael Crane said after 13 years of continuous deployments to different theatres of operations, mental health was an issue that had more than likely affected each ADF member.

“Whether it is an individual, a friend, a colleague, a subordinate or a boss, chances are they know someone who has suffered or is suffering some form of mental health issue,” he said.

“Mental suffering is an area that is not as easy to recognise as its physical counterpart, so we need to make sure we continue to care for each other and provide them the help they might need.”

The day included a discussion forum to raise awareness of post traumatic stress disorder.



Healthcare: Psychologist Capt Scott Gayton addresses soldiers from the 3RAR Task Group for Mental Health Day at Multinational Base Tarin Kot.

Photo by Cpl Hamish Paterson

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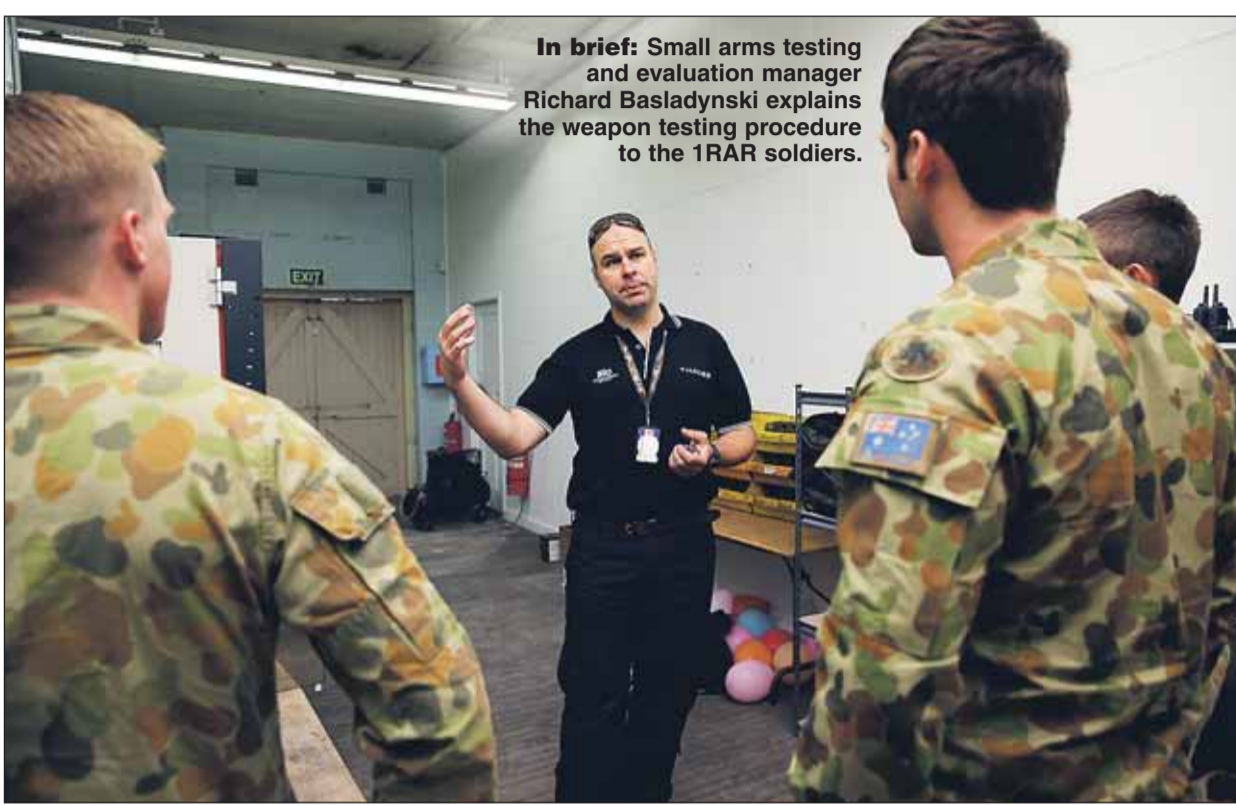
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# FIRST TO FIRE NEW WEAPON



**In brief:** Small arms testing and evaluation manager Richard Basladynski explains the weapon testing procedure to the 1RAR soldiers.



**Versatility:** LCpl Lachlan Robinson (left) and Pte Kirk Foster try EF88s with bipods mounted on the front Picatinny rails.



**Less weight:** Pte Kirk Foster tests the new weapon with a detachable foregrip.

**Cpl Nick Wiseman** joined the first soldiers to fire the new EF88 Austeyr at the Thales Small Arms Factory in Lithgow.

**T**HREE diggers from 1RAR became the first Australian soldiers to fire the all-new Enhanced F88 Austeyr on October 26. LCpl Lachlan Robinson and Ptes Kirk Foster and Robert Crane became involved in the project earlier this year when they did handling testing and conversion training in Townsville.

**It's definitely more versatile now – it's not just one rifle anymore but can be one, two or three.**

– LCpl Lachlan Robinson, 1RAR

With the next phase involving firing the weapon, the three soldiers travelled to Lithgow to test-fire the weapons in front of a crowd of journalists.

LCpl Robinson said the weapon responded well on the day.

"They've dropped some weight from it and it's much better balanced now," he said.

"It's definitely more versatile now – it's not just one rifle anymore but can be one, two or three."

The upgrades to the rifle will allow soldiers to better suit the weapon to the individual user or task by quickly adding or removing modules such as bipods and sights.

Pte Foster said he was impressed with the new grenade launcher attachment.

"You don't need an armourer or any special tools to remove the GLA anymore," he said.

"If you needed to move the GLA to someone else [on the old F88], you would have to switch the whole weapon system affecting their zero. Now you don't."

The three soldiers were impressed with the weight difference of 500 grams shaved from the rifle and 1.5kg from the GLA.

When asked if there was anything they didn't like about it, Pte Foster said he found a small issue with the new cheek weld on the butt, combined with the new sight.

"I found it hard to get a good clear sight picture initially," he said.

"It's preferable in the prone position to sink down nice and low into the weapon but I found it a bit harder with the new design."

"That's just one thing I don't like about it but there are 10 new things that are great about it – you can never please everyone."

## HANDS ON THE EF88

**Cpl Nick Wiseman**

I WAS fortunate to be among the first soldiers to handle and fire the new EF88 on October 26.

After receiving briefs from Thales staff, there was one instantly noticeable difference between the current F88 and the new EF88 – the barrel is no longer removable.

The degrees of weapon readiness are identical as taught for the F88, with the only difference in unloading when firers no longer remove the barrel – a simple cock, lock and look in with white light if needed and the weapon is cleared.

Another small change is noticeable when releasing the working parts forward.

The cocking handle now gets flipped back towards the barrel, eliminating the risk of damage if the weapon is dropped or placed on a hard surface.

Picking the weapon up, it feels better to hold, which seems to be a combination of the Thales team shaving 500 grams from the overall weight and tweaking the design to provide a more balanced rifle.

Sporting no less than three picatinny rails (the top rail is 30cm long) the combination of equipment you can add to the rifle is now only limited to what is available.

The rifle was readily converted into a number of variants on the day simply by switching the ancillaries between handgrips, monopods, bipods and grenade launchers – all quickly and easily removed within a matter of seconds.

The weapons had already fired thousands of rounds during the testing process but the firing cycle felt smooth and consistent.

The changes in balance and reductions in weight made it quite comfortable to hold.

A futuristic looking rifle for its time, the new design once again brings back the "space-age" looks with a great looking weapon. But looks aren't everything, are they?

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**First firers:** From left, LCpl Lachlan Robinson and Ptes Robert Crane and Kirk Foster, of 1RAR, were the first soldiers to fire the EF88 Austeyr.

## A century supporting soldiers



**Milestone:** Defence Materiel Minister Jason Clare talks with Pte Robert Crane about the new EF88.

**Cpl Nick Wiseman**

FROM Gallipoli to Afghanistan the Thales Small Arms Factory in Lithgow has been supporting Australian Soldiers for 100 years.

Since 1912 the factory has manufactured the .303, SLR and the F88 Austeyr – the three workhorses of the Army.

Defence Materiel Minister Jason Clare said the skilled tradesman who worked in the facility had helped protect our soldiers.

"In every major conflict we have been involved in for the last 100 years our troops have carried weapons made right here in Lithgow," he said.

"This factory has produced over one million firearms."

Originally conceived as a facility to manufacture weapons designed elsewhere, Thales invested in expanding the factory's capabilities to add extensive design and testing expertise.

This investment has allowed Thales to develop the Enhanced F88 Austeyr

(EF88), which is to be the new rifle for the Army.

The EF88 expands on the existing design of the Austeyr originally developed in Austria, providing a lightweight, modular and adaptable weapon system.

Planning for this new weapon system started two years ago with hands-on testing earlier this year in Townsville by C Coy, 1RAR.

Land 125 3C project director Maj Simon Johns said he was encouraged by the weapon's performance against the Army's requirements.

"So far we have seen that the reduction in weight and improvements in modularity have been achieved without compromising the reliability and accuracy of the F88 SA2," he said.

"There hasn't been a more rigorous testing program on an Australian rifle since the 1980s."

The weapon will continue to be assessed against Army's exacting requirements and is expected to finish testing by June next year.

# Screen savers could do more

THE Queensland Police Service on its DRN equivalent system has a screen saver that cycles through important points of contact, information on the roles of units, equity advice, OHS and other important information.

It appears to be a simple and effective way to circulate up to date information holistically, rather than the usual poster dissemination that requires users to display in highly visible areas and update frequently (if they could be bothered) or dull mass produced emails that get deleted without being read.

The current DRN screen saver (although probably economical to maintain) is premium advertising space going to waste.

I doubt even one person would take notice if the safe base level was changed to Echo in the current format.

Additionally the second order effect would be a reduction in printing and dissemination costs including guaranteed viewing by the majority of Defence personnel (at a minimum most supervisors).

My second suggestion would be to have information displayed specific to the local area.

This suggestion was originally submitted to the SRP suggestion box.

**Capt David Long**  
7CSSB, Gallipoli Barracks

**Chief Technology Officer Matt Yannopoulos** responds:

THANK you for your suggestion regarding the potential use of screen savers to disseminate information.

Unfortunately it cannot be considered further for implementation.



**Black out:** The DRN screen saver must adhere to Government regulations on energy conservation.

Photo by Sgt Dave Morley

*This is because Defence is required to support the all-of-government green ICT policy enabled by the Australian Government Information Management Office common operating environment policies and build standards.*

*This policy includes how screen savers and monitor hibernation should be configured.*

*It is a whole-of-government requirement that the monitors be put into hibernation after 20 minutes of*

*inactivity, this would mean that the screen saver is only visible for that period.*

*It is also not recommended to use screen savers as they keep the desktop computer active. Having the screen saver running will result in constant power consumption to keep the desktop computer and monitor awake to run the screen saver.*

*I hope this reasoning provides a clear understanding why the suggestion is not viable for implementation.*

# Psychs and dentists had key Bali role

## Response went beyond medical teams

I READ with pride the article "A black day" (**Army**, October 11).

My pride was for the remarkable response by the ADF personnel involved in Operation Bali Assist.

The article covers in detail the ADF response including the aeromedical evacuation, the supply of storage refrigerators, the four ADF chaplains, the three ADF linguists and the Defence staff from the Consular Mission.

I was, however, disappointed, saddened and quite frankly shocked at the gross omissions in the article.

There was no mention of the five ADF dental officers or the two Army psych officers deployed as part of Op Bali Assist.

The AME teams came and went in a rush, claiming all the media attention, yet it was those who remained to deal with the 202 dead bodies and their grieving families who had the most difficult task.

The efforts of the five ADF dental officers led to the identification of 104 of the victims from their dental records within two weeks of the bombing, long before the first DNA results were available.

These bodies were immediately released, much to the relief of their families who were then able to obtain closure.

Other families had to wait up to two

months for the DNA analysis to enable the release of the bodies of their loved ones.

The dental officers worked tirelessly alongside their civilian and international colleagues under the most trying and primitive conditions in the Denpasar hospital morgue to complete their horrific task.

Their camaraderie and the compassion and work ethic displayed by everyone around them helped them endure this task and it was with a sense of pride and achievement that they returned to Australia two weeks later.

The counselling efforts of the Army psych officers was greatly received by the grieving families and the personnel involved in Op Bali Assist.

Their work certainly helped me to cope and I would like to think that others benefited as well.

**Col Geoff Stacey**  
Joint Health Command

**Army editor John Wellfare** responds: THANK you, Col Stacey, for raising awareness of these under-reported facets of the ADF response in Bali.

It's a shame that those who received little recognition for their efforts at the time of the tragedy should continue to be forgotten during anniversary coverage.



**Military aid:** ADF emergency medical responders in Bali in 2002 were backed up by dentists and psychologists who worked on victim identification and grief counselling.



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Old mates: Cpl Scott Bateman, of Australia's Federation Guard, and WWII veteran Bruce Bridgman visit the grave of Mr Bridgman's close mate, Sig D. A. Ross, at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in El Alamein, Egypt.

Photo by Cpl Christopher Dickson

# Vets return to

Veterans remember mates on the 70th anniversary of the battle that stopped the Nazi war machine in its tracks, **Capt Sean Childs** reports.

**A**USTRALIA'S Federation Guard and 21 World War II veterans travelled to Egypt from October 16-22 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Allied victory in the battle of El Alamein.

Commemoration activities included a memorial service at Australia's 9th Division Memorial in El Alamein along with New Zealand and International services at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery.

The battle holds a significant place in Australian and Allied WWII history.

Allied defeat of Germany's Gen Rommel and his Afrika Korps led to their total withdrawal from North Africa, denying control of the strategic Suez Canal and Middle Eastern oil fields, crucial to German war efforts.

Sir Francis de Guingand, then chief-of-staff to Britain's Gen Montgomery, commander of the victorious Eighth Army coalition, described the Australian 9th Division's contribution at El Alamein as significant to the overall North African campaign victory.

"This area saw the most determined and savage fighting of the campaign. No quarter was given, and the Australians fought some of the finest German troops in well-prepared positions to a standstill, and by their action did a great deal to win the battle of El Alamein," Sir Francis said.

Fifteen members of Australia's

Federation Guard supported the anniversary events.

Ceremonial duties began with the mounting of the catafalque party at Sydney's Hyde Park Anzac Memorial commemorative service before departure, culminating with the catafalque party at the 9th Division's memorial service at the Commonwealth War

**To tour the battlefields and hear first hand the history and the stories of courage and mateship is priceless.**

— Cpl Ryan Tracy, AFG

Graves Commission Cemetery in El Alamein.

Catafalque party commander Cpl Ryan Tracy said accompanying the veterans to El Alamein gave the contingent members a unique opportunity to learn first hand the history of Australia's contribution.

"This was an amazing opportunity for all of us to travel with the veterans," Cpl Tracy said.

"To tour the battlefields and hear

first hand the history and the stories of courage and mateship is priceless. And for us to then officially honour the fallen on behalf of Australia by mounting catafalque parties is a privilege that we are all very proud of."

Veteran Gordon Wallace, of the 2/15th Battalion, recalled tragic events of the campaign.

"Me and my mates buried a great mate, Kelvin Croker, who was only 21, during the early days of us being in the Middle East and fighting the enemy," Mr Wallace said. "We buried him between Benghazi and Tripoli while being machine gunned three times and at one point having to dive into Kelvin's grave for protection."

Gordon and his mates buried Kelvin 21 paces from the edge of the road, marking his age.

Montgomery's Eighth Army was drawn from throughout the British Empire. At the right of his line, next to the Egyptian coast was the 9th Division. Then came a Scottish division, the 51st Highlanders, followed by the 2nd New Zealand, 1st South African and 4th Indian Divisions.

The Eighth Army casualties from October 23 to November 4, 1942, were 13,500 killed, wounded or missing. The 9th Division losses totalled 620 dead, 2000 wounded and 130 taken prisoner.

German and Italian forces suffered 37,500 killed, wounded or missing.



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# World War II battlefield

## SPECIAL GUESTS AT AL MINHAD

### Capt Jay Ellul

WORLD War II veterans spent time with troops deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations at Al Minhad Air Base on October 22.

The veterans were on their way back to Australia after commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein in Egypt.

Commander JTF 633 Maj-Gen Michael Crane said today's ADF owed a great deal to these veterans for their honour, courage and sacrifice in helping to defend Australian principles.

"It is a privilege for all ADF personnel serving at Al Minhad Air Base to meet some of Australia's finest soldiers and we thank you for spending some time with us," Maj-Gen Crane said.

The El Alamein veterans were shown around the different areas of the base before being taken to a demonstration of modern equipment.

The veterans were then hosted at a special lunch where they were able to share and swap stories with their modern-day counterparts.

Department of Veterans' Affairs Repatriation Commissioner Maj-Gen Mark Kelly said spending time with the veterans was something all task force members would remember.

"Each serving member can take great pride in knowing they follow in the footsteps of these intrepid men and are upholding the Australian values these men fought so valiantly for 70 years ago," he said.



**Times change:** From left, El Alamein veterans Derek Holyoake, George Mason, Jack Calder and Geoff Bydder check out the uniform and equipment of a modern-day soldier worn by Cfn Peter Edney during the veterans' visit to Al Minhad Air Base. Photo by Sgt William Guthrie



Looking back: Veterans Ron Myers, Jean Parry, Alf Carpenter and John Pocock stand alongside Lt-Gen David Morrison at the Australian 9th Division memorial service in El Alamein.

Photo by Cpl Christopher Dickson

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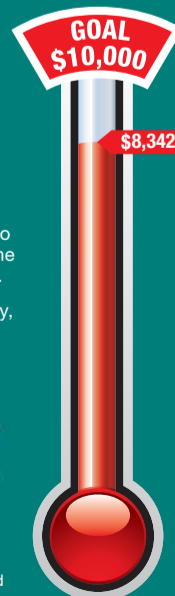
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# Winning the war of robots

## HOW MARTY WORKS

TEAM members were required to manufacture and fabricate their prototype system using commonly available materials, components and methods, and the gross weight was not to exceed 8kg.

A mechanically operated pneumatic piston attached to rope ascenders was the final design for the rope climbing subsystem.

A sink strainer holding a table tennis ball was attached to this subsystem as a motion smoothness sensor. If the ball fell out of the strainer, the team's score would be discounted.

ADFA team member Lt Jacob Fisher said because the climbing system was not permitted to use electronics or electrical energy, one option considered was using a helical spring.

"During our testing we found it was hard controlling the energy when climbing the rope, but the most difficult part was stopping and keeping control of the ping pong ball," he said.

"Our biggest challenges during the project were creating designs on paper and then spending months developing them when they didn't work as intended."

Helping Marty negotiate the path was achieved with infrared reflective sensors. When Marty arrived at the rope, doors on the top of the machine opened to deploy the softball for its climb up the rope.

Speakers on board Marty provided the theatre for ADFA's demonstrations, with Richard Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries played during the first run and music from the Star Wars score during the second.

The team also experimented with a tracked version of their prototype – which would climb over the obstacle instead of manoeuvring around it – for nearly two months, but the machine became too fast and was uncontrollable.

A team of engineering students from ADFA took out a national robotics competition with their innovative machine, **Cpl Mark Doran** reports

**A** UNSW Canberra team of four ADFA officers won the 2012 Warman Design and Build Competition in Sydney on September 30 with their robotic system "Marty", named after the RAEME motto "arte et marte".

Sixteen teams from Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia competed in the challenge to design, build and prove a prototype system which could autonomously move a payload, consisting of a softball, to a set height on a rope tether.

The competition is an initiative of the National Committee on Engineering Design.

Creative, innovative and intricate solutions were required to build the systems that could accurately move the softball along a 5m track, past an obstacle and up 1.4 metres of rope within two minutes.

One subsystem could use electrical power and electronic circuitry, while the other was to be purely mechanical.

UNSW Canberra was represented by Maj Roger Dudziak, Maj Simon Telleria, Capt Nathan Gilfillan and Lt Jacob Fisher, all second-year engineering students.

Lt Fisher said the team had worked on the project as part of a subject undertaken by all Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering students since late January.

"While a part of the course is about the functionality of a device, a large part is about the design



**Machine masters:** From left, Lt Jacob Fisher, Capt Nathan Gilfillan, Dr Warren Smith (National Coordinator), Maj Roger Dudziak and Maj Simon Telleria with the winning prototype of the 2012 Warman Design and Build Competition.

See Marty in action online at [www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews](http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews)

Photo by Cpl Mark Doran

requirements and the planning process," he said.

"Maj Dudziak was the team leader and although we divided the responsibilities of the tasks according to our strengths, we also helped out across all areas because the idea of the competition is to learn."

The ADFA team scored 149 points from a possible 150. The judges were also impressed by the way their entry (one sub-system was in the form of an APC with camouflage paintwork) proudly projected the Army brand and

demonstrated military precision.

It took the prototype 18 seconds to negotiate the route and 12 seconds to climb the rope.

As a group, the ADFA team members were highly motivated to win the competition and said some of the biggest challenges during the project included avoiding tunnel vision and maintaining the balance of workloads.

Maj Dudziak said there were various real-life applications for the robotic devices particularly in a military context.

"In order to reduce the expo-

sure of personnel to risk, there is an increased focus on the development and application of autonomous devices within military forces," he said.

"There are definitely applications for the climber in Defence and with modifications it could take heavier weights and be used in many scenarios."

Students from ADFA have competed in 24 of the 25 national finals. ADFA won the national title in 1998, placed third in 2006, second in 2008 and also received the Judges' Award in 2000 and 2004.

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# Into the islands

With big new amphibious ships coming soon, troops from 1RAR embarked on one of the Navy's oldest vessels to find their sea legs in New Caledonia, **Leut Samantha Dudley** reports.

**T**ROOPS from B Coy, 1RAR, joined a multinational humanitarian force conducting disaster relief in New Caledonia for Exercise Croix du Sud from October 7-26.

The biennial exercise, led by French Armed Forces New Caledonia (FANC), included participating military forces from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga Vanuatu, Japan, the UK, the US and Canada.

The 92-strong 1RAR contingent was embarked on board HMAS Tobruk and supported by troops from 35 Water Tpt Sqn.

CO Maj Paul Sanderson said the exercise was an opportunity for his company to work in a multinational environment among regional partners.

"It is extremely important to practise and become familiar working as part of an international coalition on tasks such as we've done during Ex Croix du Sud, delivering humanitarian aid to a population that has suffered from a natural disaster," he said.

B Coy soldiers worked alongside the FANC conducting vehicle check points, quick response force tasks and vital asset

security operations to enable the evacuation of civilians during the exercise.

B Coy section commander Cpl Philip Kong described the exercise as "a real eye opener".

"Working with and integrating with all different nations has been invaluable," he said. "It's been a really good exercise for us."

It was the first time most of the 1RAR troops had conducted amphibious operations from HMAS Tobruk, but they soon gained valuable experience.

The soldiers transited from Townsville to Noumea aboard HMAS Tobruk and conducted multiple embarkations and disembarkations from the ship, often working with the lighter amphibious resupply cargo vessels operated by 35 Water Tpt Sqn.

Maj Sanderson said the experience would serve his troops well as the tempo of amphibious work ramped up in the coming years.

"Exercises such as Croix du Sud are extremely important in developing our skills, especially in amphibious operations," he said.

"It's helped us build our expertise as infantry operating off ships, which will be important for the future with LHDs."



**Bonjour:** Children from Poum in New Caledonia help Pte Todd Haig, of B Coy 1RAR, practise his French language skills.



For a full gallery of photos from Ex Croix du Sud, check out **Army** online at [www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews](http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews)

**Setting sail:** Troops from 1RAR make the journey from HMAS Tobruk to the shore in a lighter amphibious resupply cargo vessel operated by 35 Water Tpt Sqn.

Photos by LS Brenton Freind

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# The cultural connection

As an Australian soldier and a Muslim, Lt Glenn Mohammed is the odd man out at both his reserve unit and his mosque, **Cpl Nick Wiseman** reports.

**A**S A practising Muslim, Lt Glenn Mohammed has been asked by both Muslim and non-Muslim Australians why he wanted to join the Australian Army.

His answer is simple – joining the military is something he has dreamt about since childhood.

Born in Libya but soon moving to Saudi Arabia, Lt Mohammed spent his early years in and around military bases in the Middle East as his father was an architect designing and maintaining buildings on the bases.

At age 17, he left Saudi Arabia with his family's blessings to further his education in Melbourne, enrolling in RMIT University to complete his higher education certificates before furthering his studies in the field of finance.

Later he spent a few years in Singapore before returning to Australia in 2006 and becoming a permanent resident on June 6, 2008.

Two days after his residency, he applied to join the Army Reserve and that dream was realised when he received his commission on July 8, 2009, as a Pay Corps officer.

Owning a small digital telecommunications business, he is currently studying to be a lawyer, with barrister training not far away.

Bringing his civilian experience to his military work, he said he enjoyed working in financial resource management.

"I like making people more aware of the resources they use, especially with the limited nature of the resources," he said.

"I also get called on with my background to assist with deploying forces."

That assistance is using his fluent language skills including Arabic and Urdu – which is a mix of Arabic and Farsi – to better prepare soldiers deploying to the MEAO.

Lt Mohammed said deployed soldiers often needed the skills of an interpreter to complete their missions.

"By interpreting and translating lan-

guages as a role player it gives these soldiers an idea of what they will face on deployment," he said.

"If it makes a difference to the soldier deploying, then I've done my part."

Another reason behind joining the Army was achieving a personal goal of trying to reduce the stigma associated with Muslims.

Lt Mohammed has found that in both the civilian and military environments a lack of understanding continues to divide Muslims and non-Muslims.

"The problem is on both sides," he said.

**If people integrated more and got to know each other instead of keeping to themselves, we wouldn't have this problem.**

– Lt Glenn Mohammed

"If people integrated more and got to know each other instead of keeping to themselves, we wouldn't have this problem."

Being quite active in the Muslim community, regularly attending mosques and other gatherings, his Muslim peers often ask why he joined the Australian Army.

"A lot of Muslims think that soldiers go drinking and party after hours all the time," he said.

"What they need to know is it's not like that and even when there is alcohol involved no one is forced to drink it."

Another common perception that Lt Mohammed talked about was the thought that Muslims who socialised with non-Muslims would lose their religion or culture.

"You won't lose your cultural and religious identities just by mixing with non-Muslims," he said.

"But you will gain a better understanding of cultures other than your own."

Thinking back to his officer selection board and the question he was asked, Lt Mohammed said he was taken aback at first, but after taking a moment and realising it wasn't a racial or religious attack, he responded.

"I told them that being Muslim is a personal choice – it's my religion," he said.

"It's not something that would stop me from serving as an Australian soldier."



Two worlds: Pay Corps officer Lt Glenn Mohammed hopes his reserve service will help bridge the cultural divide between Muslims and non-Muslims in Australia.

Photo by Cpl Nick Wiseman

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Service: Sgt Craig Nott, Sgt Erik Wellington, Sgt Greg Waddell and WO2 Mick Martin volunteer as firefighters. WO2 Martin and Sgt Wellington put out a truck blaze.

# A blazing volunteer role

Soldiers help out the community, and one lucky truck driver, by getting involved with the fire brigade, **Cpl Max Bree** reports.

**A** FIERY glow pierced the early morning darkness as four soldiers, volunteering as firemen, raced towards the site of a fuel-tanker crash outside Nagambie in Victoria on September 30.

Confronted with 30.5m-high flames billowing from the tanker and with another fire crew looking on, the team piled out of the truck, unrolled hoses and began attacking the inferno with foam.

Working as volunteers with the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Sgt Craig Nott, Sgt Erik Wellington, WO2 Mick Martin, Sgt Greg Waddell and two civilian volunteers swung

into action after arriving as the second emergency crew at the blazing crash site on the Goulburn Valley Highway.

"Probably due to the fact we were soldiers and our mates were experienced blokes as well, we had pulled out three lines and were putting foam on the fire within a few minutes of arriving," Sgt Wellington said.

"The fact we just hooked in is probably a direct result of the way the Army teaches you to deal with any apprehension and put it behind you as you concentrate on the task at hand."

Within an hour the fire was contained under a blanket of foam, but as it began to evaporate, embers fell from nearby trees, which reignited the

fuel and prompted another round of foaming from the fire hoses.

"You get a few adrenaline trips in the Army but rolling up that road wondering if you'll be able to tackle it properly is pretty good," Sgt Wellington said.

"This was the biggest fire I have been to and I believe the most dramatic for the brigade I belong to since the Black Saturday fires."

Sgt Wellington believed the fire started after a kangaroo was caught inside the truck's wheel well, causing the brakes to lock and catch fire, which spread to the tyres and up to the fuel load. Luckily, the driver had pulled over and moved to safety before the flames engulfed the truck.

With the fire out, the volunteer firemen spent most of the day hosing the red-hot truck axle before the remaining fuel could be siphoned out of the tanker.

"We weren't released till about 4.30pm, just in time to go to the pub and watch the NRL grand final," Sgt Wellington said.

After previous postings where he made little effort to become involved with the local community, Sgt Wellington joined the CFA in Avenel on his posting to Puckapunyal.

"It's better than just being a traveller in town or a blow-in for two years. I wanted to do something outside of the Army, where I could learn new skill sets and have a chance to apply

them while remaining a regular soldier. I was pretty surprised when I rocked up and there were two soldiers already there," Sgt Wellington said.

"I would recommend other soldiers, if their posting permits it, to consider joining their local volunteer fire brigades, SES or other agencies. It's a great way to get involved with your community, and even help them out with some of the skills and competencies that can be carried across from the Army.

"There are soldiers across Australia volunteering in fire brigades and other organisations, and as long as you get the CO's approval, the training is easily achieved during evenings and the odd Sunday."

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# Expo shows gear options

New clothing on display at Amberley

SOLDIERS checked out the newest clothing and equipment during the second annual Clothing Expo at RAAF Base Amberley on September 18-19.

About 200 Army and Air Force personnel attended the expo, giving feedback on the equipment directly to purchasing officers.

The expo focused on uniforms, accoutrements, combat clothing and equipment, and cold weather and extreme cold weather clothing.

A detailed presentation was held on the afternoon of September 18 for senior officers, with the expo open to all Defence personnel the following day.

Presentations covered ADF combat and non-combat clothing, field and aerial delivery equipment, soldier combat ensemble and Reports on Defective or Unsatisfactory Materiel (RODUMS).

The equipment on display ranged from packs, rucksacks, boots and helmets to extreme cold weather sleeping bags, bivi bags and water purification systems.

The DPCU and multicam uniforms, maternity uniforms, and samples of the new cold weather fliers ensemble and triservice firefighters ensemble were also on display.

Individual uniform entitlements, women's clothing, maternity wear, and the rollout of new multicam uniforms

were discussed during the question and answer sessions throughout the day.

Clothing Systems Program Office (CLOSPO) representative Lt-Col Harry Marr said the expo emphasised the valuable role such an event could play in developing clothing and equipment.

"The team at CLOSPO work tirelessly to improve clothing and personnel equipment for the ADF," he said. "These events are vital in gaining the feedback from members required to make improvements."

"The feedback I received from some of the women on the fit of their DPCU will feed straight into the work we are doing at the moment on an 'alternate fit' DPCU design."

WOFF Cary Thompson, of HQ Air Lift Group, said the expo was very informative.

"The expo provided a great opportunity for participants to look, touch and feel products," he said. "The expo gave all members the opportunity to discuss their needs and requirements with equipment managers and subject matter experts."

For more information on emerging clothing and personal equipment go to the CLOSPO site at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/dmoweb/sites/CLOSPO/>



The good gear: Boots, combat equipment and cold-weather gear were among the items on display at the second annual Clothing Expo at RAAF Base Amberley.

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# A revolution in gaming

Latest entry in Assassin's Creed franchise leaps ahead of predecessors and sets the bar high for open-world games

## Assassin's Creed III

Platform: PS3, Xbox 360

Publisher: Ubisoft

RRP: \$69

Reviewer: John Wellfare

FEW video game franchises can claim to span such a vast period of world history as *Assassin's Creed*.

The first game in the series was set in the Middle East during the Third Crusade. The second game and two subsequent spin offs jumped forward to Italy during the late 15th and early 16th centuries. *Assassin's Creed III* takes another step forward, dropping players into the east coast of North America in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

Players primarily take on the role of Connor, a part British, part Native American new member of the Assassin order taking on the familiar Templar enemy in the New World.

The series' defining hallmarks – historical context (with plenty of poetic licence), vast open worlds, fluid hand-to-hand combat and the ability to scale buildings and free run parkour-style along rooftops – are all present in the third iteration.

The building-climbing/parkour element of the game has been significantly upgraded, with Connor able to climb cliffs and trees and even run through the tree tops, leaping and swinging from branch to branch. This is an essential inclusion given the open game world includes an expansive wilderness.

It's clear Ubisoft set out to stretch the capabilities of the current generation of consoles with *AC3*. The game world is vast, encompassing New York and Boston as well as a huge swathe of surrounding wilderness. The developers have filled the world with inhabitants – cities are truly crowded, some big battles of the Revolutionary War are represented with thousands of soldiers and the forests are thick with trees and teeming with wildlife.

The world is so rich and interesting, sometimes it's nice to take a break from the main story and spend a day exploring the wilderness.

Even if just playing the essential story missions, the game is long, almost tediously so in the beginning with the first few hours given over to a lengthy prologue, but once the world opens up and the story gains momentum players will come to appreciate this detailed intro.

There's very little to criticise about *AC3* – it does everything well. There are a few occasional glitches, but these are rare compared to most open-world games (I'm looking at you, *Skyrim*). Overall a thoroughly entertaining and engrossing experience.



Big game: *Assassin's Creed III* recreates the cities and wilderness of colonial America, and equips players with the ability to explore every inch of its richly detailed world.



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Don't take a risk on underinsurance, says Australian Securities and Investments Commission chairman **Greg Medcraft**.

# Insuring against disaster



Photo by Sgt David Grant



**D**o you have enough insurance to cover all the costs of repairing or rebuilding your home if it is damaged or destroyed by fire or flood?

Even if you're renting, you should consider whether your contents insurance is sufficient.

Having your home or possessions damaged or destroyed in a natural disaster is devastating.

If you are not happy with your current level of cover, shop around for a policy that's better suited to your needs.

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- It's hard to estimate what it costs to rebuild a home.
- Your policy may be old (more than three years) and you may not have updated your level of cover.
- You may have completed renovations, or recently bought jewellery or new electronic items.

To work out if you are not adequately covered use the online calculators on insurance company websites to estimate the total cost of repairing or rebuilding your home, or replacing your possessions.

Compare estimates from at least three calculators as the results can differ.

## Check your policy now

Check to see how much your

insurer will pay and under what circumstances.

Does your policy cover the cost of rebuilding and any extra costs you might incur?

Also check when your insurer will reject a claim.

Your policy will state what disasters you are covered for.

Make sure you understand the definition of each term.

If you are unsure, ask questions until you are satisfied you know what's covered and what's excluded.

In June 2012 a standard definition of 'flood' was developed for home and contents insurance, to give people more clarity when choosing cover.

Insurers have two years to start using this definition, but can start using it now.

Contact your insurer to find out if they are using the standard definition.

If you are not happy with your current cover, talk to your insurer and see what they can offer.

Shop around for a policy better suited to your needs.

## Choosing contents insurance

The type of cover you choose will affect the premium you pay.

Some policies cover you for defined events such as fire, while others cover you for any accidental event.

There are two main types of contents insurance:

- Policies that cover the value of your possessions.
- Policies that replace your possessions with new items. For example

"new for old". "New for old" policies tend to be more expensive.

Work out what type of cover you want and weigh up the costs.

You can save money by choosing a higher excess. For example, if you could pay the first \$1000 of any loss, the premium will be cheaper.

Policies with the lowest risk of underinsurance are 'total replacement' policies, where the insurer agrees to pay unlimited replacement costs.

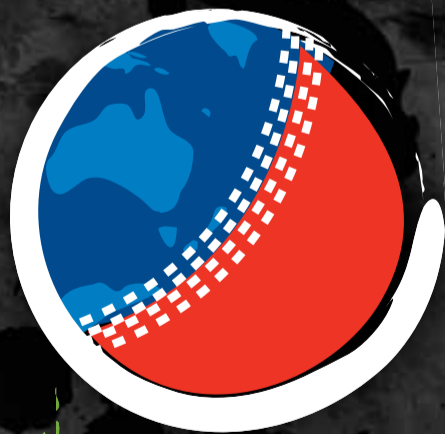
The golden rule is to get enough cover for the worst-case scenario.

For more information, go to [www.moneysmart.gov.au](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au).

- Email ASIC at [ADFcolumn@asic.gov.au](mailto:ADFcolumn@asic.gov.au) with topics that interest you.

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# Promise of better care

The Joint Health Commander says ADF members will not lose services under a new contract, **Cpl Nick Wiseman** reports.

**T**HE new health services contract is designed to continue to provide "high quality health care in a timely fashion to our people when it is needed", according to Commander Joint Health RAdm Robyn Walker.

Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon said Defence's contract with Medibank Health Solutions contained stronger monitoring and quality assurance measures than under previous health commercial arrangements.

"Under this contract there will be no reduction in health care entitlements to ADF members," Mr Snowdon said.

"Our servicemen and women will continue to receive the highest quality of health care services."

He said the contract included detailed performance measures and reporting requirements related to delivery of health care services and clinical governance.

Defence retains full responsibility for, and oversight of, the healthcare services provided, not Medibank Health Solutions.

RAdm Walker said the new contract was designed to provide consistent services around the country.

Previously, regional health centres established their own arrangements with medical providers.

The new agreement will standardise arrangements under a national system, which will also relieve the administrative burden on units with national invoicing.

Members of the ADF will retain the right to a second opinion if they are not happy with their service.

Existing specialist health providers are in talks with Medibank about their individual circumstances, but RAdm Walker said the negotiations were a commercial matter between those parties.

She said a report that only medical practitioners who signed the new contract would be eligible to treat ADF personnel was untrue.

"If a member requires treatment and that is only achievable through a specialist who is not currently contracted to Medibank, we still reserve the right to use that person if it is the best medical option available," she said.

For most treatments and services, ADF members should not see a change.



**Highest quality:** Registered nurse Stacey checks blood samples drawn at the Russell Medical Centre.

Photo by LAC Bill Solomou

RAdm Walker said privacy concerns were also unfounded.

"No medical-in-confidence information will be released without the consent of the patients," she said.

"The contract stipulated a report was expected back in a reasonable amount of time after a member had seen a specialist.

"This is no different to how it has been done previously; it's now just written into the contract."

Transition to the new four-year contract started in July and was due to be completed by November 5.

If any ADF member experiences medical treatment they are not pleased with, they are encouraged to contact their local health centre and use the health care complaint system.

## 1800 IM SICK

MEMBERS who fall sick or become injured after hours or in stand down periods can expect better support under the new health services contract.

The existing 1800 IM SICK hotline will be centralised to an existing established medical provider focused on assisting with medical attention and advice to ADF members when service health care is not available.

Under the old system the number would route through to an available ADF health centre, which could have been interstate with a medical staff that may have been unfamiliar with the member's area.

The new system will have the call answered by a central centre specialising in triaging medical situations over the phone and able to provide advice on regional medical facilities if needed.

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# Warriors on a charge in UK

ASRU women amass 152 points in two games

Michael Brooke

THE Australian Services Rugby Union-Women (ASRU-W) Warriors has made its intentions clear in the opening two games of its UK tour.

The ASRU Warriors scored a total of 152 points to nil, annihilating both the Royal Navy-Women 100-0 in Portsmouth on October 27, and the Royal Air Force-Women 52-0 at RAF Halton on October 23.

"The ASRU is now poised to record a clean-sweep in its three-week tour of England that concludes with the Remembrance Day test against the British Combined Women's team," said coach Leut Rosie Apikotoa.

The ASRU women are also scheduled to play the British Army women's team in Aldershot on October 31.

The Warriors ran riot over the Royal Navy courtesy of their rampaging forwards, led by Army's Capt Caroline Vakalahi, Air Force's Cpl Rebekah Allen and Off-Cdt Sarah Hume, as well as Navy's Leut Sara Mooney and PO Nicole Palmer.

Leut Apikotoa said the ASRU forwards played highly disciplined and well-structured rugby, even after the score had blown out to embarrassing proportions.

The match was a memorable one for Capt Brooke Saunders, who came

into the team as fullback and scored three tries.

The ASRU women kicked off the tour by thrashing the RAF-W in a match dedicated to Special Forces Engineer Cpl Scott Smith, who was killed in Afghanistan three days earlier.

Both teams paused for a minute's silence to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice paid by Cpl Smith and other British and Australian soldiers.

The sombre mood before kick-off gave way to a very passionate and physical display by the Warriors, who dominated the match from start to finish with a simple but very effective brand of aggressive and disciplined rugby.

Capt Sally Carter, of 6 Avn Regt, led her side from the front and her combination with back-rowers Leut Sara Mooney, of JLU-N, and Cpl Rebekah Allen, of IRTU, paved the way for the Warriors' impressive victory.

Leut Mooney and Cpl Allen were tireless in attack and defence, which helped the speedy ASRU backs score a lot of slick tries.

Coach WOFF Joe McIvor said Cpl Allen shaded Leut Mooney as the most valuable player because of her ferocious tackling and her ability to link between the forwards and the fleet-footed backs.

By half-time, ASRU-W had posted four tries through Pte Brea Grant,



## THE TEAM

ARMY'S representatives are: Capt Caroline Vakalahi, Capt Sally Carter, Lt Alisha Hewett, Lt Stacey Eason, OCdt Sharyn Laws, Cpl Fasheena Nevell, Cpl Emma-Lee Wood, Cpl Bridget Beatson, Cpl Stacey Bolton, Pte Brea Grant, Leut Melissa Thompson, Pte Hayley Sullivan, and OCdt Eleanor Tegg.

**Determined:** Pte Hayley Sullivan, of 1 Joint Movt Gp, carries the ball during the ASRU women's 100-0 victory against the Royal Navy at Portsmouth on October 27.

Photo by Alligin Photography

of ICCSB, Cpl Emma-Lee Wood, of 6RAR, and Lt Alisha Hewett, of 1CHB.

The Warriors' onslaught continued in the second half with team captain Capt Sally Carter, of 6 Avn Regt,

leading the team to a well-deserved 52-0 triumph.

A total of 13 Army women are playing with the ASRU-W team on its UK tour from October 18 to November 11.

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## Army cyclists dominate at Canberra championships

LT-COL Dean Thompson (pictured back page), of Army HQ, is the new ADF downhill champion.

He won the title at the Defence mountain biking and road cycling championships in Canberra from October 15-20.

Army riders had number of good performances, with Capt Timothy Frankcombe, of Victoria Barracks, second in the overall road race (second in the criterium component and third in the actual road race).

Lt-Col Chris Gates, of Army HQ, was second in the men's time trial and Lt Melissa Stafford, of Holsworthy Health Centre, finished second in the women's cross country championship.

This was the first time the Australian Defence Cycling Club had run a combined road race and mountainbike championship, pitching the event as a carnival with the focus on participation.

In addition to the championship races, the club ran many activities focusing on developing the skills of newer riders.

The event also included an excursion to the Australian Institute of Sport, where members were invited to participate in a study of post activity recovery methods.

In other cycling news, Capt Benjamin Bruce, of ALTC, was a member of a team of four that placed 10<sup>th</sup> at the Scott 24-hour race in Canberra on October 13-14.

## Tenpin tenacity

WO2 Steve Ritchie, of the Defence Police Training Centre, won a gold medal in the national tenpin titles on October 6 in Sydney.

WO2 Ritchie partnered Leut-Cmdr Steve Reynolds to win the restricted teams challenge doubles.

Cpl Jason Lindsay and PO Brendan Parr finished third in the same event.



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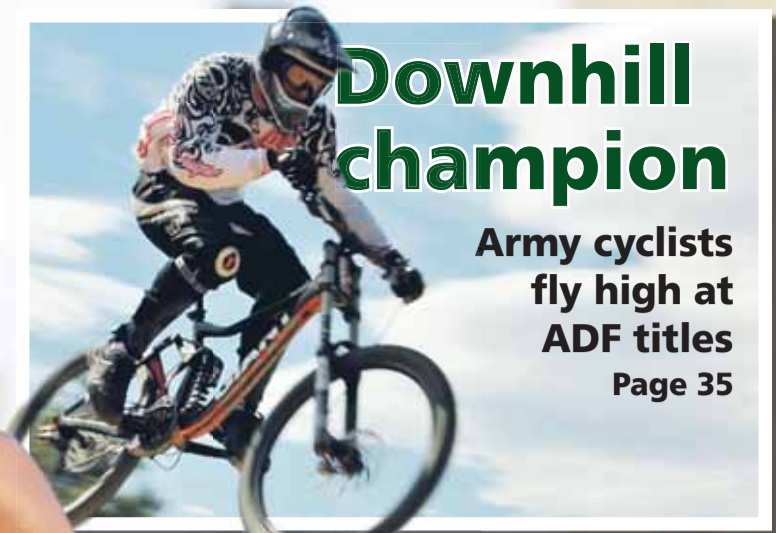
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# Sport

November 8, 2012



## Downhill champion

Army cyclists fly high at ADF titles  
Page 35



Catch me if you can: Capt Caroline Vakalahi stretches ahead of the opposition on the way to the try line during a comfortable 100-0 win against the Royal Navy in the second game of the ASRU Warriors' UK tour. Photo by Alligin Photography

# RUNAWAY WINS

ASRU Warriors get off to flying start on UK tour, wiping out the first two matches without ceding a single point to the opposing teams

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