

AIR FORCE



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The official newspaper of the Royal Australian Air Force

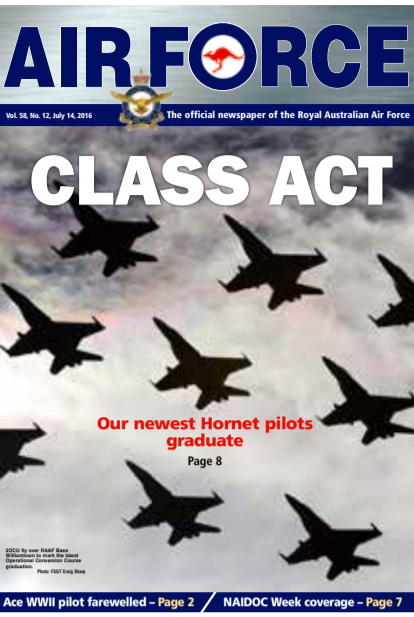
CLASS ACT

Our newest Hornet pilots graduate

Page 8

20CU fly over RAAF Base Williamtown to mark the latest Operational Conversion Course graduation.

Photo: FSGT Craig Sharp



Ace WWII pilot farewelled - Page 2 NAIDOC Week coverage - Page 7

AIR FORCE

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The casket of the late SqnLdr Robert "Bob" Cowper at his funeral service held at the Morphettville Racecourse, Adelaide.



Above: AIRCDRE Noel Derwort (second from right) and GPCAPT Reg Carruthers (ret'd) (right) respectively hand over the RAAF Ensign and Australian National Flag to family members of the late SqnLdr Cowper.

Below: An AP-3C Orion conducts a fly-past at the conclusion of SqnLdr Cowper's funeral service.
Photos: CPL David Cotton



Farewell ace

A fitting funeral service for one of Air Force's highly respected WWII pilots

OFFCDT Oliver Jiang

SqnLdr Robert "Bob" Cowper (ret'd) – a WWII ace and one of the most highly decorated Australian fighter pilots – was farewelled at a funeral service in Adelaide on July 1.

Air Force personnel, dignitaries, family, friends, and veterans attended the service for SqnLdr Cowper, DFC & Bar, OAM, Legion of Honour (FR), after he died in his Adelaide home on June 19 aged 93.

GPCAPT Reg Carruthers (ret'd) said he was lucky to have SqnLdr Bob Cowper as a friend and mentor.

"He approached everything he did from flying, farming, horse racing and supporting the veteran community with the same passion, professionalism and determination to succeed.

"His love for his family, friends and his Air Force was boundless and without condition, and he was an inspiration to everyone who met him from the young LACW in the mess during the Air Force week celebrations through to CDF during a base visit. Sorely missed but never forgotten."

The service was held at the Morphettville Racecourse, Adelaide, and official guests included the Governor of South Australia Mr Hieu Van Le, Parliamentary representatives and ADF members, in recognition of both SqnLdr Cowper's wartime service and his post-war work with veterans and their families.

As a testament to his lifelong association with Air Force, SqnLdr Cowper's casket was covered by an RAAF Ensign, as well as his service dress hat and ceremonial sword.

An Air Force Honour Guard stood in attendance and an Army bugler played the Last Post during the funeral. At the conclusion of the funeral service, an AP-3C Orion from 92WG conducted a fly-past as a final farewell.

AIRCDRE Noel Derwort CSC and GPCAPT Reg Carruthers (ret'd) both met and came to know SqnLdr Cowper while serving at RAAF Base Edinburgh. They represented Air Force at the service and presented the Australian National Flag and RAAF Ensign to SqnLdr Cowper's family members.

SqnLdr Cowper was a familiar face at Edinburgh, as an honorary member of the Officers' Mess and as an attendee at commemorative services, and was proud to share his stories with those following in his footsteps.

The decorated pilot enlisted in the RAAF on his 18th birthday, and served during WWII as a night fighter pilot. He achieved "ace" status with a total of six enemy planes shot down in operations over Britain, Malta, and France. By the end of the war he had completed 68 missions and was the Commanding Officer of No. 456 Squadron, Australia's only night fighter squadron during WWII.

His first Distinguished Flying Cross, recognising great courage and determination, was awarded while serving with No. 108 Squadron (RAF), and his second after he had moved to 456SQN.

456SQN was present during the famous D-Day landings in Normandy, France, and reportedly downed 35 enemy planes over the beach. In recognition of the squadron's contribution to the liberation of France and the end of the

war in Europe, SqnLdr Cowper was awarded the French Legion of Honour in 2004.

On one occasion, an enemy plane that SqnLdr Cowper was attacking exploded with such force that the plane he was flying was sent into an uncontrollable spiral, forcing him to bail out. He lost consciousness whilst in the air, but was able to come around in time to open his parachute.

After returning home to Australia, SqnLdr Cowper eventually settled down as a successful racehorse breeder, as well as being active in the local community and in veterans' organisations.

It was for his dedication to veterans and their families, as a member of the Returned Services League, a member of Legacy, and later as President of the Adelaide Branch of Legacy, that SqnLdr Cowper was recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2012.

SqnLdr Cowper is survived by his daughters Helen and Susan and four sons in law, nine grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

ADF to march into history

On the eve of the 100-year commemoration of the Western Front, we are set to take part in France's Bastille Day march

THE ADF is proud and honoured to have been invited to march in the Position of Honour for the French National Day Parade on July 14, according to VCDF VADM Ray Griggs.

The ADF contingent for the parade was scheduled to comprise 140 personnel, including 30 from Air Force and Navy and 80 from Army.

VADM Griggs said it would be a great privilege for the ADF to participate in the event, because it would further strengthen the close and longstanding defence relationship between Australia and France.

"The ADF is proud and honoured to have been invited to march in the oldest and largest regular military parade in Europe on the Champs-Élysées in Paris," VADM Griggs said.

"Not only is this event a patriotic display for the French military and their equipment, it recognises

current French operations and their servicemen and women's sacrifice and service to their country in campaigns over time.

"For so many of those campaigns Australian servicemen and women were there, serving alongside their French counterparts during the First World War, and even today on operations in the Middle East."

VADM Griggs said the ADF contribution to the parade would be particularly timely as many Australians had travelled to France to commemorate the 100th anniversaries of the battles of Fromelles and Pozieres later in the month.

"In a little over 24 hours from the commencement of the Battle of Fromelles on July 19, the Australians suffered 5500 casualties.

It was, indeed, the most costly day in Australia's military history," he said.

"The Centenary of Anzac is a very special time for all Australians and will be one of the most significant commemorations to take place in our lifetime.

"For our ADF personnel to be involved in this historic day in France, it is a further opportunity to remember and reflect upon the service and sacrifice of our past and current servicemen and women."

The ADF planned to join its Anzac counterparts, the New Zealand Defence Force, in Paris to march with the French Armed Forces and other military contingents in the parade, proudly leading in the Position of Honour.

The national day commemorates both the Storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, and the Fête de la Fédération which celebrated the unity of the French people on July 14, 1790.



Part of the ADF contingent rehearse at Randwick Barracks, Sydney on July 4 in preparation for the French National Day parade in Paris. Photo: SGT Janine Fabre

OUR MEMBERS IN FRANCE SAY:



Taking part gives me an immense sense of gratitude for being rewarded with this unique opportunity.

CPL Joao Silva
Air Surveillance Operator, 3CRU

It's because of the reputation and history that those before us have set, that we can be involved in this historic event.

FLTLT Kirsty Cross
Pilot, 25SQN

It gives me a chance to pay my respect to members of my family who fought and sacrificed their lives on the Western Front during WWI.

CPL Adam Mitchell
Military Working Dog Handler, RAAFSS

I feel privileged to have the opportunity to represent my unit, the Air Force and Australia at an international event.

LACW Pia Sadler-Eriksson
Air Surveillance Operator, 1RSU

As the fifth generation of my family to serve, I am extremely proud to carry on the tradition of helping the Australian people and representing my country.

CPL Timothy Chatterton
Avionics Technician, 75SQN

It's an honour to be selected to represent 3SQN as we commemorate our 100th anniversary.

SGT Kristy Nichols
Personnel Capability Specialist, 3SQN



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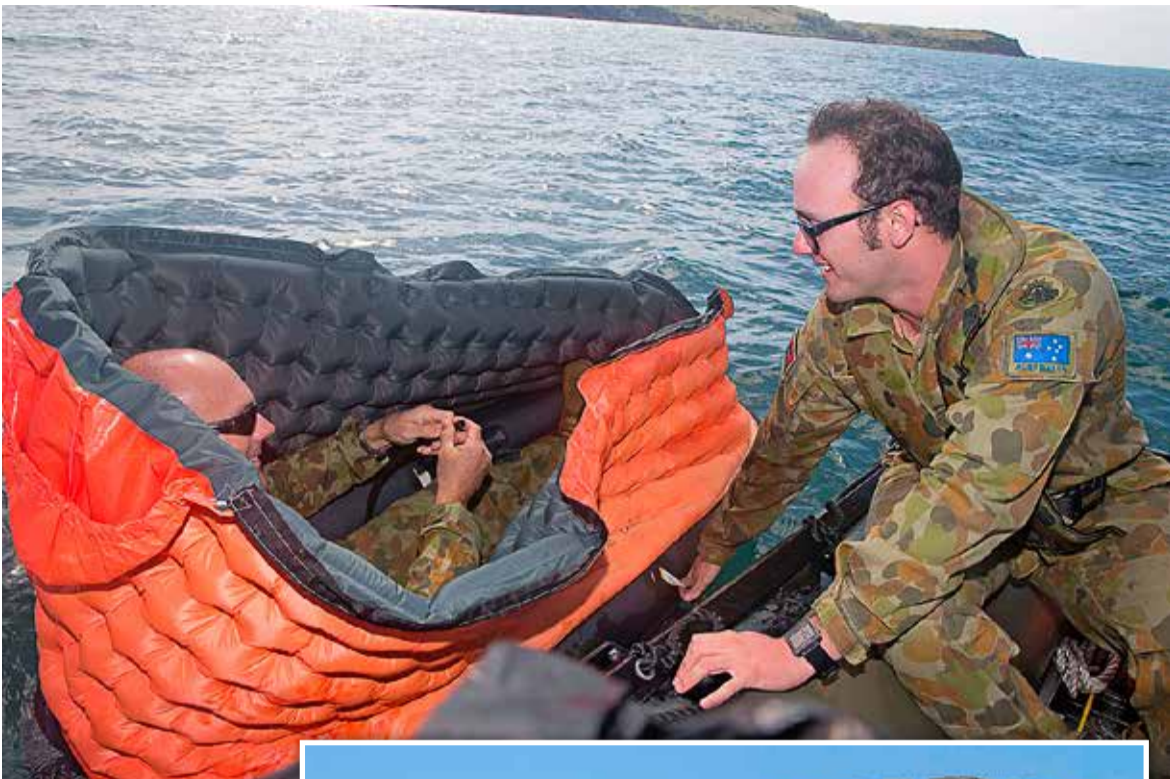
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Above: Air Force CPL Ben Dombrowski, of Combat Survival Training School, is set "adrift" by Australian Army Craftsman Lewis Sweeting (right) during Exercise Angel Reign.

Right: A USAF pararescueman drops from a HH-60 Pave Hawk search and rescue helicopter to retrieve an isolated person from a life raft off Rattlesnake Island near Townsville.

Photos: CPL Steve Duncan



A new reign for search and rescue

FLGOFF Natalie Giles

EXERCISE Angel Reign wrapped up its first week of activity with an exercise to recover eight isolated personnel off the Townsville coast on July 1.

The exercise is a joint personnel recovery activity that provides combat search and rescue training for combat crews, para rescue, battle managers and joint search and rescue centre personnel.

Exercise director GPCAPT Mark McCallum said during the first week of the exercise they trained using a range of capabilities.

"We have successfully run serials with all our interagency partners this week including the Australian Maritime Search Agency, Australian Search and Rescue, the Coast Guard and Queensland Police," he said.

Capabilities included an AP-3C Orion conducting an Air Sea Rescue Kit drop and personnel location, USAF HH60 Pave Hawk Helicopter winching, using a MC130P to locate personnel, Guardian Angel para rescue and recovery and the E7-A Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft to conduct communications. This effort had been supported by an LCM8 landing craft from the Australian Army.

GPCAPT McCallum said Angel Reign provided an opportunity to build interoperability and cultivate ties with the US, Australian Army and civilian agencies and helps to promote security and stability in the region.

Commander of 129th Operations Group USAF Colonel Toft O. Aujero said the exercise allowed the US and Australian international partners to strengthen ties.

"If we find ourselves in a next future conflict we'll have these relationships that we've built on so that we can integrate and be more effective to protect our soldiers, sailors and airmen," he said.

"Over the course of the exercise we're going to conduct basic search and rescue exercises unilaterally and bilaterally and that's culminated into a more complex rescue recovery using all elements of fixed wing, rotary wing and technical rescue," COL Aujero said.

While this training is not specifically aimed at preparing individuals for Operational Combat activities, it does provide comprehensive training in the event that these situations arise.

"On combat operations our people are in harms way, we put them in situations where they may be in duress or isolated behind enemy lines and we have a duty of care to then go in and recover them," GPCAPT McCallum.

"It's exactly those situations we are training for, we're looking at our procedures and our policies and giving our people a chance to operate with their US counterparts."

The exercise has proven that Air Force can work with its international partners and external agencies to successfully retrieve isolated personnel from a range of scenarios.

"This week has shown that Air Force is an agile and potent combat force that can operate in an integrated battle space with multiple partners at relatively short notice," GPCAPT McCallum said.

The next stage of the exercise will involve land-based recovery exercises at the Townsville Field Training Area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

37SQN to celebrate anniversary

Former No. 37 Squadron aircrew, maintenance personnel and support staff are invited to attend functions on August 26-27 to celebrate 50 years since the arrival of the first C-130E, A97-159 at RAAF Base Richmond, and to also mark 50 years of C-130 operations by the squadron. Details are available from Col Coyne, president No. 37 Squadron (RAAF) Association on 0402 815 015 or email 37sqnasoc@iinet.net.au

Leadership nominations open

Applications are now open for the 2016 Leadership Exchange program. Personnel from Corporal to Squadron Leader are eligible to apply. Equivalent reserve and Public Service personnel are also encouraged to apply. The Leadership Exchange is a professional development forum designed to enhance leadership effectiveness in the key areas of self-awareness and self-development, assertiveness, leading teams, and communication. The Leadership Exchange is a residential program in Canberra and is fully funded by the Adaptive Culture Program. Dates are: August 29 to September 2; September: 12-16; November 21-25. For more information please contact SQNLDR Mark Penreath on (02) 614 47302 or visit: <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/raafweb/sites/afac>. Applications close on July 27.

Voice to be heard

Australia's voice is now loud and clear in the global F-35 test team

Brooke McEwan

TWO Royal Australian Air Force personnel are giving Australia a much more influential voice in the global F-35 program by taking part in a deployment with the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf) in June.

The RAAF personnel, on posting to the Joint Strike Fighter Operational Test Team (JOTT) at Edwards Air Force Base in the US, were part of a team that assessed the first international F-35 deployment.

FLTLT Ben Mason and SGT Justin Kelly are two of 33 Australian personnel working full time in the US representing Australia's interests in the global F-35 Program.

The role undertaken by FLTLT Mason and SGT Kelly in the JOTT is to test the F-35 air system in an operationally representative environment, the outcomes of which are critical to informing Australia on how best to support the F-35A aircraft.

While they both have been involved in other F-35 deployments with the USAF and the US Marine Corps (USMC) during their time at the JOTT, the Netherlands deployment was the first opportunity to assess an international F-35A deployment.

SGT Kelly, a Maintenance Subject Matter Expert, said his

position within JOTT enables Australia to have an influential voice in the global F-35 Program.

"Having Australians involved in the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) at Edwards AFB has given us a huge voice in the F-35 Program and a chance to drive change in a direction that suits the RAAF's interests," SGT Kelly said.

From an F-35 supportability perspective, both FLTLT Mason and SGT Kelly consider the F-35's Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS) to be the defining difference to any other platform they have worked on.

"Maintaining a modern day fighter aircraft has been done before, but using ALIS to do so is cutting edge and will revolutionise the way we maintain aircraft" SGT Kelly said.

"ALIS provides the information system infrastructure (hardware, software and data) that performs maintenance management, fault diagnostics, supply support, mission planning, and training management across the F-35 weapon system."

FLTLT Mason, the Logistics IOT&E Coordinator, said he could now see how his role directly influences Australia's F-35A sustainment planning.

"We've been able to provide insight from our experiences here



JOTT personnel FLTLT Ben Mason and SGT Justin Kelly.

to help shape the way in which Australia will use and support the aircraft, including ALIS," said FLTLT Mason.

AIRCDRE Terry Saunderson, Acting Head Joint Strike Fighter Division, said the deployment to the Netherlands was a beneficial exercise.

"Having the opportunity to observe the preparation, pack-up, deployment and reconstitution of F-35A's to the Netherlands provides Australia with valuable insight as we prepare to ferry our first two aircraft to Australia in 2018," AIRCDRE Saunderson said.

"This provides great confidence and reduces the risks we are managing as we plan to integrate this new and exciting capability into the broader Defence environment."

The JOTT is a collaborative undertaking between the US, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Australia consisting of five operational test squadrons responsible for operating and maintaining all three variants of the F-35; plus three Integrated Project Teams who support operational test planning, execution and reporting activities.

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Rotation Six members senior engineer FLTLT David Crossman and aircraft maintainer LAC Lee Childs inspect the undercarriage of an E-7A Wedgetail at ATG. Photo: SGT Hamish Paterson

Running like clockwork

E-7A rotation maintains high standards in the Middle East, WO2 Andrew Hetherington writes

PERSONNEL from Rotation Six of the Air Task Group E-7A Wedgetail detachment, Task Element 630.1.2, have completed their operational deployment to the Middle East with a 100 per cent mission success rate.

To top it off, Rotation Six's aircraft maintainers were also recognised with a Commander Air Task Group 630 commendation.

SQNLDR Brad Machan, detachment commander of Rotation Six, said his task group successfully completed more than 30 missions between March and June.

"We arrived here in March and operated the E-7A aircraft in a variety of roles including maintenance, operations and operations support," SQNLDR Machan said.

"The aircrew flew in support of Coalition personnel and assets in the air and on the ground over Iraq and Syria."

He said their missions typically lasted up to 14 hours, with eight of those on station over Iraq and Syria coordinating airpower.

"We provided voice and digital command and control capabilities to ensure aircraft separation, and that they had enough fuel and the right information at the right time to execute their missions," he said.

SQNLDR Machan said his people had put in a great performance over the four-month deployment.

"We had a small group drawn from all three services and six ADF

units, and as expected, individually and collectively the team did an outstanding job," SQNLDR Machan said.

"It was satisfying for me to see what a highly trained group of individuals can achieve given the right circumstances.

"It was very special for me to see our aircraft maintainers recognised with a Commander Air Task Group 630 commendation.

"Our deployment ran smoothly also due to the great support provided by Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 and support personnel based at Camp Baird, Australia's main support base in the region."

Rotation Six senior engineering officer FLTLT David Crossman said his team of maintainers worked a busy day-and-night schedule.

"We worked together really well as a team focusing on getting and keeping the aircraft in the air."

The section received their commendation for demonstrating excellent teamwork and being adaptable in a dynamic operational environment, ensuring the E-7A was safe to fly all of the missions it was tasked to do.

"After we arrived we identified the need to organise our support and test equipment in our hangar and to update our spreadsheet on the calibration dates for the equipment, which took one of my technicians a month to complete," he said.

FLTLT Crossman said his team truly deserved the commendation for all of the hard work they had done over four months.

One member of the maintenance team is LAC Lee Childs, whose role was to work on essential aircraft systems, contributing to the element's mission success.

"I worked on all of the aircraft systems which were not computer based, such as hydraulics, flight controls, tyres, wheels, brakes and fuels," LAC Childs said.

"I also had the responsibility of supervising the flight line and going through maintenance check lists before a Sergeant would sign off on work completed.

"When I was working on the aircraft, I always had in the back of my mind that this jet needs to be in the air to support a bigger picture."

For LAC Childs, the people he worked with made his first deployment to the Middle East an enjoyable experience.

"If you have a good bunch of people, as we did here, it doesn't matter what situation or conditions you have to face, things are always pretty cool at work," he said.

"It was also great to be part of the team to receive the commendation too. I didn't know it was coming and I had a bit of a smile to myself when I found out about it."

ATG weapons team loaded with talent

SGT William Guthrie

ORDERING, assembling and loading munitions is a crucial, behind-the-scenes job for RAAF armament technicians deployed at Air Task Group in the Middle East, according to FLTLT Gareth Bucket.

FLTLT Bucket, who is a line safety controller, said an integral part of the capability to strike at the enemy in MER were the men and women supporting the mission and providing the tools to do the job.

He said he was responsible for ensuring weapons were safely configured and loaded on the F/A-18A Hornet so they could be "delivered" to their intended targets.

Before the weapons could be loaded to the Hornets, FLTLT Bucket said there was a vast amount of work that went on to get the weapons to this stage, both in theatre and in Australia.

"We are just a small part in a large team of personnel who contribute to the operation here," FLTLT Bucket said.

"Prior to any weapons being deliv-

ered they need to be ordered in component form from Australia.

"After receipt and inspection of the components, they are moved to a secure United States Air Force and Australian joint user storage and preparation facility until they are needed for final assembly."

The assembly and loading of weapons is undertaken by armament personnel and it is often conducted at night to avoid the extreme daytime temperatures.

"There are three basic components that make up a weapon; a warhead, a guidance kit and the fuse," said FLTLT Bucket. "Once assembled these become what is known as an 'All Up Round', each ready for a specific mission set."

"Each All Up Round is transported and loaded to the aircraft using specialised ground support equipment. Once loaded, both the All Up Round and the aircraft are given their final inspections to ensure they are ready for the mission."

"The final phase is the effective and safe delivery of the weapons to targets in both Iraq and Syria – that's the end outcome that we're all here to achieve."



ATG Strike Element armament technician LAC Matt Finch assembles guided munitions in the Middle East. Photo: CPL Nicci Freeman



Rotation Six maintenance team with their Commander Air Task Group Commendation for exemplary performance during their Operation OKRA deployment. Photo: CPL Nicci Freeman

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WORDS FROM A WOFF

CAF says, let's go

While undertaking professional development with DGPERS-AF throughout 2015, WOFF Lisa Sheridan and I reviewed the management, employment and development of Air Force WOFFs.

We focused on solutions that would enhance workforce flow across all ranks and provide greater career opportunities, particularly for those senior airmen identified by Air Force as talented, high performers with potential for advancement.

This work culminated with the Warrant Officer Employment Continuum (WOFF EC).

CAF approved the WOFF EC, and with his signature, he initiated one of the biggest reforms to the management and development of our senior enlisted airmen.

The reforms will expand career opportunities, improve work force flow and most importantly introduce a WOFF Talent Management Framework.

This framework includes a WOFF Tier Advancement Model and the establishment of the WOFF Talent Management Board. DGPERS-AF is working to

WOFF-AF Rob Swanwick continues a regular column from WOFFs.

implement these reforms and over the next few editions you'll see articles in *Air Force News* explaining more of the detail.

Although it is titled the WOFF EC, the effects of the reforms will actually be felt throughout the enlisted ranks as we see more WOFFs transition through the tiers to either commission or transfer to different Service Categories.

The introduction and implementation of these strategies will ultimately contribute to identifying, developing and retaining high quality senior enlisted airmen.

These will benefit our entire Air Force through having more capable leaders and importantly, it allows all airmen to plan their careers and become better and more influential leaders.

Before my appointment and throughout the WOFF EC development, my desire has always been to develop senior airmen with strategic appreciation of our business who can then operate at that level.

CAF and I believe this can be gained through a variety of employment experiences particularly in people enabler roles such as MSI, School Facilitators, Joint positions and DP Personnel Managers.

CAF has said on many occasions during his base visits that he greatly values airmen who fill these types of roles as their experience greatly assists their development as modern empowered leaders.

It's early days and I ask you all to be patient with the implementation phase as it is somewhat, a work in progress or as DP-AF says, "It's a prototype Rob, we won't always get it right but we will learn and make it better".

I'm excited because the WOFF EC will facilitate broader opportunities for our airmen to provide continued effective service while meeting Air Force's future needs. This means our airmen will be more capable than the people we fight against or operate with.

It also addresses individual expectations of what they want to get out of their career and allows Air Force to retain talented and skilled airmen whose career does not necessarily end at WOFF.



WOFF-AF Rob Swanwick witnesses the approval of the Warrant Officer Employment Continuum (WOFF EC) by CAF AIRMSHL Leo Davies at Air Force Headquarters, Canberra.
Photo: LACW Katharine Pearson

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Bosses gain insight

FLTLT Nick O'Connor

AIR Force reservists had the chance to turn the tables on their civilian bosses as they provided instruction and guidance on the Weapons Training Simulation System at Duntroon as part of Defence's "Bring a Boss" activity in late May.

The activity gave reservists' employers a taste of military life and an insight into one aspect of how reservists must keep up their individual readiness.

Nine bosses from the ACT, including employers of Air Force and Army reservists, took part in the Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC) initiative.

HQJOC logistics officer FLTLT John Timermanis said the occasion was "a great opportunity for reservists to showcase their skills".

"It was a fantastic opportunity for me to be able to show my civilian boss part of what I do as a reservist and to take him through the weapons drills," he said.

FLTLT Timermanis' civilian boss, Bureau of Meteorology manager of environmental information services Dr Andre Zerger, said the event was his first exposure to the ADF.

"We had a look at some of the weapons the military uses as well as taking part in shooting the rifle on the simulation range," Dr Zerger said.

Philip Moss, Defence Reserves Support Council ACT & SE NSW Chair, encouraged Air Force Reservists to nominate their employers to take part in the evening.

"The purpose of activities such as Bring a Boss is for civilian employers or supervisors to get a taste of reservist life," Mr Moss said.

"Some employers don't fully appreciate the commitment reservists make. The DRSC has a number of activities and exercises that expose employers to military life and provide a shared understanding of the challenges reservists face."



FLTLT Guri Singh (rear) supervises Marc Mowbray-d'Arbela as he aims a F88 Austeyr during Bring a Boss night.
Photo: SGT Murray Staff

A mark of respect

Touching hearts at the RAAF Memorial Grove

CPL Bill Solomou

A PLINTH to dedicate the important contribution and sacrifices made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Air Force was unveiled at the RAAF Memorial Grove in Canberra on July 6 during NAIDOC week.

More than 80 Air Force personnel, local indigenous leaders and dignitaries braved the chill to witness this important tribute.

A/CAF AVM Warren McDonald said for Air Force personnel, NAIDOC week was a time to celebrate and honour the service of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters.

“Since the Second World War, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have served in nearly every conflict and peacekeeping operation Australia has been involved in. At times they have overcome barriers to do this, such as restrictions based on race, or lack of acceptance and respect,” AVM McDonald said.

“Today, here at Memorial Grove, I am unveiling a memorial acknowledging all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have served in, or worked directly with, our Air Force.”

AVM McDonald said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the Air Force continue to serve with pride and display the values and

qualities that make our Air Force such a powerful and effective fighting force.

LACW Rachael Ellem, a Personnel Capability Specialist from No. 453 Squadron, is a proud Kamilaroi woman. She provided an inspiring and reflective speech on her life and career in Air Force as an indigenous woman.

“Prior to joining Air Force, my life had no purpose, I had no idea what I wanted to do,” LACW Ellem said.

“After completing the indigenous pre-recruitment course I knew this was something I wanted to do with my life.

“I had a strong sense of belonging and I finally felt like a part of a family and part of a team.”

LAC Kyle Weatherall, an Airfield Defence Guard with ISECFOR, a proud Gamilaroi and Mandandanji man, read his own reflective poem.

SQNLDR Gary Oakley, Air Force’s indigenous historical custodian said it was great to witness the recognition of indigenous service.

“The Air Force has a long history of supporting Indigenous Service dating back to the First and Second World War,” SQNLDR Oakley said.

“I would like to see a change in this inner belief that we (indigenous Australians) aren’t capable of achieving what non-indigenous Australians can, we can stand up and be counted – Air Force will support you,” he said.

Right: A/CAF AVM Warren McDonald with indigenous elders Uncle Harry Allie and Auntie Agnes Shea during the unveiling ceremony at the RAAF Memorial Grove in Canberra on July 6.

Below: LACW Rachael Ellem addresses the guests during the ceremony.

Photos: CPL Bill Solomou



AC Brodie McIntyre plays the didgeridoo at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on July 7.
Photo: Lauren Larking

Gesture of high note

CPL Bill Solomou

A CEREMONY to commemorate the proud service and sacrifice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in times of war was held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on July 7.

The service, as part of NAIDOC Week, began with the unmistakable sounds of a didgeridoo.

The distinctive sounds echoing through the hallowed memorial set the mood for a unique Last Post ceremony.

AC Brodie McIntyre, a military working dog handler at RAAF Base Tindal and a proud indigenous man, had the honour of playing the didgeridoo.

AC McIntyre, who played the didgeridoo in Gallipoli during this year’s Anzac Day service,

donated the didgeridoo to the AWM after the ceremony.

“It was a great honour to play at both the AWM and Gallipoli and to have it here on display – this is a great honour for me and my family,” AC McIntyre said.

During the handover, AC McIntyre kissed the didgeridoo and he was assured by AWM staff that it was greatly appreciated and that it would be well looked after.

AWM director Dr Brendan Nelson said receiving the didgeridoo was not only great for the AWM but also for the Australian nation.

“In accepting the didgeridoo into our collection symbolically we are, of course, recognising the service and the sacrifice of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders,” Dr Nelson said.

Don’t miss more NAIDOC Week coverage in the July 28 edition of *Air Force News*

I finally felt like a part of a family and part of a team.

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TO THE NEXT LEVEL



Exercise High Sierra delivers our newest fighter pilots, **CPL Brooke Stockley** writes

AIR Force has seven new fighter pilots following the completion of Exercise High Sierra conducted in Townsville from June 6 to 24.

The exercise is the final phase of the Operational Conversion Course converting pilots from the Hawk 127 Lead-In Fighter to the F/A-18 Hornet aircraft.

The No. 2 Operational Conversion Unit graduating pilots were MAJ Wesley, FLGOFF Patrick, FLGOFF Travis, FLGOFF Samuel, FLGOFF Steven,

FLGOFF Joshua and FLGOFF Benjamin.

The focus of this biennial exercise is the employment of live air to surface weapons including the use of high explosives which are released over the Townsville Field Training Area.

CO 20CU WGC DR Adrian Maso said the final stage of the OPCON course provided crucial opportunities for the students to showcase the skills they had learnt in their three years of training to become fighter pilots.

WGC DR Maso said the exposure the students were given in Townsville in regards to carriage and employment of high-explosive weapons was particularly important.

"The strike missions carried out give the students opportunities to practise safe and efficient fighter operations, preparing them for transition from the training environment to a fighter squadron," he said.

Having just spent an intensive five months of training on the F/A-18, the focus

at High Sierra is on students demonstrating they have what it takes to be Air Force's next frontline fighter pilots.

The exercise was supported by 140 personnel deployed from 20CU, 81 Wing and other supporting elements

FLTLT Adam treated crowds to a flying display off The Strand on June 9 in support of the Townsville Air Show, which will feature F/A-18s in October.

20CU's 14-ship display formation fly over RAAF Base Williamtown to mark the latest pilots to graduate from the Operational Conversion Course.

Photo: FSGT Craig Sharp

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Medals for our dogged canines

Two of Air Force's best friends rewarded for their service, **CPL Marc Douglas** writes

THE presentation of two Canine Service Medals marks the start of an exciting period of change for 2SECFOR's Explosive Detector Dog Operation Cell (EDDOC) at RAAF Base Amberley.

The medals were awarded to two experienced members of 2SECFOR – EDD Quill 1915 and EDD Omeka 1969, who will both retire and will be replaced by younger dogs.

The medals, which are awarded to any dog employed in its duties on a continual basis for a period of no less than five years of service, are from the Australian Defence Force and Trackers War Dogs Association.

LAC Joel Germain, Omeka's handler, said both dogs graduated from the Australian Customs Firearms Explosive Detector Dogs course – Quill was in 2008 and Omeka in 2010.

"Their careers have taken them all over Australia, deploying on numerous operations and exercises, the most recent being the G20 summit in 2014," LAC Germain said.

"The presentation of these medals is a welcome nod of appreciation, not only to the dogs themselves, but to the training and efforts of their past handlers.

"For Quill that would be SGT Brendan Dennis and LAC Andrew Mattner, and in the case of my girl Omeka, SGT Heath Webber and CPL Jeff Gavidi.

"It's thanks to the outstanding efforts of these handlers that both dogs are performing so well at nine years of age."

CPL Marc Douglas said now the old girls were going through the retirement process, they had a diverse trio of younger dogs ready to take over the reins.

"EDD Cowboy will be taking over from Quill and is a recent addition from the US. Cowboy has been through the US Marine Corps Improvised Explosive Detector Dog Program as well as the USAF Specialised Search Dog Program with one tour of Afghanistan," CPL Douglas said.

SGT Ty Trost said EDD Rudder had the same level of experience. "He is an English labrador who went through the IEDD program as well as SSD with myself in 2013," he said.

"As for the local boys, we have recruit dog King, a two-year old from the Belgian Malinois Rescue Program and last but not least recruit dog Banjo, a cattle kelpie cross from Newcastle Rescue.

LAC Germain said the training of the local dogs had been entirely RAAF-based, but these new recruits had the advantage of receiving a mixture of the very best training methodologies from around the world.

"Hopefully they will become certified as Explosive Detector Dogs during our annual Certification Exercise, Taipan Detector," he said.

"It's exciting times for 2SECFOR EDDOC. We wish Cowboy, King, Banjo and Rudder the best of luck and hope that their future careers are as long and as rewarding as that of medal recipients Quill 1915 and Omeka 1969."



Right: LAC Joel Germain, with EDD Omeka 1969 and CPL Marc Douglas with EDD Quill 1915 of 2SECFOR.
Above: Quill and Omeka with their Canine Service Medals.

Photos: CPL Casey Gaul

They've got this licked

CPL Max Bree

EXCITED puppies run out of their cage, swarming me after their door opens.

One of the Malinois pups runs off and starts exploring, two sniff my boots while another bites my boot laces and doesn't plan on letting go.

It's difficult to imagine these seven-week-old pups as military working dogs chasing down air field intruders, but they've already started their training at the canine breeding section of the RAAF Security and Fire School.

Apart from breeding puppies, the section puts the aspiring working dogs through a program exposing them to things like gunfire, jet noise and children.

Puppies are taught to walk on leads, chase balls and prey-bite their toy as opposed to handler's limbs.

Canine breeding manager Stephen Cannon said the program shapes puppies' natural behaviours for future work.

"If a guy comes too close, the dog might bite and that's a defensive behaviour," he said.

"If someone runs and the dog chases them, that's a prey behaviour; then the dog gets the guy down and hooks in, that's a fighting behaviour.

"These are all natural behaviours, we just pigeon-hole them with a name."

The section was originally set-up to produce five to six litters a year, but it is now doing 10-12 litters, which totals about 80 puppies.

CPL Samantha Luck works in the section as a puppy development officer, but is sometimes called on to be a puppy midwife.

"The mother during the first birth I did was quite calm and she let me sit in there the whole time," she said. "Steve was mentoring me showing me what I had to do, what to look for and other veterinary procedures."

During his time at the section, Mr Cannon helped deliver more than 800 puppies but the experience hasn't become boring.

"Each time they have babies it still excites me," he said.

"It's always exciting the arrival of new life. Every now and then you get to save a life or help along a puppy who is doing poorly."

The section breeds German and Dutch shepherds but is mostly focused on Malinois, a type of Belgian shepherd.

"Malinois want to please you, hop on your lap and do things like that," Mr Cannon said. "They're gregarious, some would say naughty.

"German shepherds can be a little bit aloof they



CPL Samantha Luck, puppy development officer, with Malinois puppies. Photo: CPL Max Bree

can take you or leave you. All the Malinois' skills seem to come earlier than the other shepherds that seem to be a bit clumsy and dopey."

Malinois had become the dog of choice for police and militaries around the world, according to Mr Cannon.

"Even the German police breed Malinois now which is quite amazing – but that's because their success rates are better," he said.

At 12 weeks, puppies are sent out to foster families until they reach about eight months and come back to start serious working dog training.

CPL Luck said she would sometimes get attached to the puppies, particularly the ones she's had to hand raise.

"By 12 weeks of age we're happy to see them progress to the next stage of training and they're getting to that terror stage and we've generally got litters following behind them," she said.

"This is the busiest job I've ever done. There's so much more than what you'd perceive as training puppies or playing with puppies – it's so much more in depth."

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Op in Taji tent is a snip

Tri-service surgery helps a friend in need

CAPT James Hook

AN Australian tri-service medical team on active service in Iraq has successfully removed the appendix of an American soldier.

General surgeon SQNLDR Daron Cunningham, orthopaedic surgeon Commander Ian Young and anaesthetist COL Michael Reade performed the emergency appendectomy in an operating theatre in a tent at the joint Australian and New Zealand medical facility at the Taji Military Complex, 20km north of Baghdad.

SQNLDR Cunningham, a RAAF reservist who works as a general and trauma surgeon, said the emergency surgery went without any problems.

"The surgery would normally be performed laparoscopically [keyhole surgery] in Coalition countries, so it was a pleasure to be using traditional techniques," he said.

"Having all three services involved, and being the only RAAF member at the health facility, made for some great banter."

Royal Australian Navy officer, CMDR Young, serves with the Maritime Operational Health Unit at HMAS Penguin in Sydney, and works full-time as an orthopaedic surgeon at Melbourne's Frankston Hospital under a clinical placement deed organised through Joint Health Command.

"I have deployed a number of

times, but this is the first time I have been involved in mounting a major hospital in a war zone.

"Being deployed in an Anzac hospital was special, as was working in a tri-service environment."

Australian Army officer, COL Reade, is an anaesthetist and intensivist who works full time as the Defence Professor of Military Medicine and Surgery at the University of Queensland, researching, teaching and writing policy around military trauma medicine.

"I used all the techniques that reduce the risk of anaesthesia in a patient who's acutely unwell," COL Reade said.

"Despite being in a tent, we had all the required drugs and equipment, and everything we'd have needed if anything had gone wrong."

COL Reade told the patient before the operation the standard of expertise and equipment in the operating theatre was better than one would expect in many Australian and US civilian hospitals.

LEUT Meg Frugtniet, a reservist with the Royal Australian Navy, was the scrub nurse in the operating theatre and said the operation "went really smoothly".

The US patient was discharged a few days after the surgery and made a full recovery.



Army theatre technician PTE Jason Miller, left, RAAF general surgeon SQNLDR Daron Cunningham, Army anaesthetist COL Michael Reade (rear) and Navy orthopaedic surgeon CMDR Ian Young perform the appendectomy in a tent at the Taji military complex.

Photo: LS Jake Badiou



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VIRTUAL REALITY



A C-130J Hercules from 37SQN at Gilgandra airport during 285SQN's airborne operations training course in June.

Photo: CPL David Gibbs

High performance in the sky is coming from high technology on the ground, **Eamon Hamilton** writes

NEW training devices are enabling No. 285 Squadron to capitalise on technology to prepare Air Force's future C-130J Hercules workforce.

All pilots, loadmasters and technicians for the C-130J are trained by 285SQN before graduating to the Hercules operating unit, No. 37 Squadron.

Between 2013 and 2015, new training devices delivered to RAAF Base Richmond have required a new curriculum and courseware for students studying at 285SQN.

CO 285SQN WgCdr Jason Baldock said the evolution of the C-130J's role called for changes in training its workforce.

"There was a need to refresh the ageing C-130J training system, cou-

pled with a strong drive to minimise time in training and maximise the delivery of operational capabilities," he said.

"The redeveloped Pilot Initial Qualification course trains students to become equally capable of operating from either control seat and across a greater number of operational skill sets when compared to the legacy system."

Students begin C-130J conversion using newly procured desktop computer-based training, which is a progression from instructor-led Powerpoint presentations.

"Much of the training is conducted at each student's own pace. The instructors are on hand to assist student with any questions, and conduct revision with them at the end of a lesson," WgCdr Baldock said.

Students can use the multi-function training aid (MFTA), which employs touchscreen emulation technology to broadly re-create a C-130J cockpit.

"[The MFTA] has allowed 285SQN to relocate a number of training events out of the C-130J full-flight mission simulator (FFMS)," WgCdr Baldock said.

"By releasing the FFMS of this training, we've increased its availability to train pilots on the C-130J, or conduct currency events and mission rehearsals for pilots from 37SQN."

Used by 285SQN up to 16 hours per day, the FFMS was installed in 1999 and is a re-creation of a C-130J cockpit.

A software and hardware update for the FFMS in 2013 has introduced an open architecture, allowing virtual

environments to be expanded or updated. The FFMS can also be networked into exercises such as Coalition Virtual Flag, and has improved the fidelity of visuals across an expanded geographic area.

Lessons in the FFMS can be recorded using the Flightscape 2.0 debriefing tool.

"Flightscape can provide a playback of the pilot's inputs to the controls during an FFMS lesson, and display the aircraft performance at that time," WgCdr Baldock said.

"We can record a student's response to an engine failure in the FFMS, display it in Flightscape, then debrief with an example of an ideal response."

New training devices, including the virtual terrain board, are helping stu-

dent pilots and loadmasters to fly the Hercules on operations.

Replicating the effects of wearing night-vision goggles, the board projects a range of scenarios on to a screen.

"We can present situations, lighting effects, and optical illusions which are difficult or even dangerous to re-create in a real aircraft," he said.

"The virtual terrain board can vary the night-time illumination, height and speed of the aircraft, and control scenarios such as enemy fire or other aircraft.

"In a three-hour session with the virtual terrain board, students absorb the same lessons that it would take months of operational flying to experience."

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Spitfire pilot FLTLT Stan "Bluey" Donnellan (ret'd), 94, at his home in St Huberts Island, NSW.
Photo: CPL Bill Solomou

LOST THEN FOUND

An Italian family who saved the life of a WWII pilot thought they would never see their 'hero' again. Fate and a 19-year quest changed all that, **CPL Bill Solomou** writes

WWII veteran Stan "Bluey" Donnellan, 94, never thought he would live to see the day when the great-grandson of the man who helped him escape war-torn Italy 72 years ago would visit him in Australia.

RAAF FLTLT Donnellan (ret'd), who was a Spitfire pilot for No. 232 Squadron in the Royal Air Force, was taken under the wings of an Italian family after his aircraft crashed in Tuscany on June 11, 1944.

In a tale reminiscent of a WWII movie script, the then FSGT Donnellan ended up in the hands of Mr Angiolino Bertelli, who risked himself and his family of five to help save the pilot's life.

Mr Francesco Bertelli, the great-grandson of Angiolino, became fascinated with the tale of "Bluey" from the age of six.

Following the death of his great-grandfather, Francesco began a quest to track down the pilot, perhaps in the hope of meeting "the hero" from the skies.

Nineteen years later on June 29, *Air Force News* was at Stan's home at St Huberts Island, New South Wales, when Francesco finally got to meet the Spitfire veteran.

Francesco said he was nervous yet excited at meeting "Bluey" for the first time.

"It was an emotional moment for me, as I have met my hero," Francesco said.

Looking back, Stan said Angiolino Bertelli took a huge risk by sheltering him, as he had five children and a wife to care for at his home.

He said the Bertellis looked after him as if he was family.

"They risked their lives for me, I stayed with them for five weeks," he said.

Stan recalled his sortie when his Spitfire crashed into farmland in Tuscany in 1944.

He said he remembered flying in a valley after attacking an enemy scout vehicle, when he experienced fuel issues.

"I was doing 140 miles an hour and coming down fast," he said.

"I went through a couple of poles, like goal posts, they took out my wings and eventually hay stacks slowed me down."

Once on the ground, the Spitfire was sliding towards more poles, so Stan attempted to jump out, but this failed.

"As soon as I could, I cut my straps and I ran towards cover," he said.

"I was expecting the worst, so I got out, as I was trained to do."

Stan said he ended up in a drainage pit where he once again followed procedure and hid his parachute and gloves.

"I started running along vines and every now and then I would hear a voice coming out of the

woods, "scappare," "scappare," which I believed was 'run'," he said.

During the first few days of his ordeal, Stan came across numerous people who were willing to help him without any regard to their own safety. They gave him food, wine and most importantly cover from the Germans.

He communicated in broken English and hand gestures.

"I came across some teenagers and they took me to a farm house," he said.

"The owner, a woman, took care of my uniform, she tore off my epaulettes, and unpicked my boots. It made me look like a farm hand.

"She said the water was not drinkable, I remember her giving me wine instead."

Stan kept on the move, always looking out for the Germans and unexpected surprises.

"I saw a village and I headed towards it, and all of a sudden I heard machine gun fire. At that point I decided to go around it instead."

On the run, he came across a farm girl milking a cow. "She took me home to her parents and they gave me food and a map," he said.

"I remember the father asking me to sleep away from the house, just in case the Germans came by, so I slept out in the wheat fields."

The farmer informed the resistance, and later that week he was on his way to the Bertelli house.

In his "hideout", Stan fondly remembers looking out of his hideout window and seeing the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which was about 25km away.

After the battle of Salerno, American troops picked up Stan and he eventually found himself back at his unit in Corsica.

As a six year old, Francesco found a certificate presented to the family from Field Marshal Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre, H.R. Alexander, in a box.

"After my great grandfather's death, I went through some of the boxes," Francesco said.

"It was then that I noticed this certificate. I framed the certificate and it is now on a wall in my room."

The curious Francesco then asked his father, who went on to tell him about this man called "Bluey" from Australia.



The wreckage of FLTLT Stan Donnellan's (ret'd) Spitfire in Italy during WWII.



Francesco Bertelli meets his hero, FLTLT Stan "Bluey" Donnellan (ret'd), in person after a 19-year quest.
Photo: CPL Bill Solomou



The Bertelli family who risked their lives to hide and shelter FLTLT Donnellan (circled) from capture after his Spitfire crashed in Italy in 1944.

THE BIRTH OF A SPITFIRE PILOT

AT a young age, Stan "Bluey" Donnellan always wanted to fly and when he had the opportunity to do so with the Royal Air Force, he jumped at it.

FLTLT Donnellan (ret'd) enlisted in the RAAF on June 21, 1941. He conducted his training at Mascot and eventually posted to No. 232 Squadron Royal Air Force as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS).

The scheme was adopted by Australia and other British dominions to provide trained aircrews to fight with the RAF.

The SQN went through three incarnations during WWII, first as a fighter squadron that was caught up in the disasters in the Far East early in 1942, then as a fighter squadron in the Mediterranean and finally as a transport squadron in the Far East.



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Sharing healthy advice

Nursing students from the Philippines gain valuable insights aboard floating hospital, writes **SQNLDR Trevor Grant**

ARAAF nurse has made a big impression on Filipino nursing students thanks to her somewhat unusual floating setting.

When third year university nursing students from the Bicol University in Daraga, located in the Philippines province of Albay, were told that they would be attending a nursing workshop and touring a state of the art medical facility, they didn't expect it to be aboard one of the world's finest hospital ships.

SQNLDR Lynette Howell is a flight nurse serving aboard the United States Naval Ship *Mercy* for Pacific Partnership 2016 (PP16), a US Navy-led multinational annual humanitarian and civic assistance mission.

The visit by *Mercy* allowed SQNLDR Howell to organise two nursing workshops where students could participate side-by-side reviewing clinical techniques and procedures in a world class hospital – albeit a floating one.

SQNLDR Howell said the visit gave the students a first-hand look at the massive surgical vessel and then provided a hands-on clinical workshop with PP16 medical personnel.

"The students were fascinated

by the capability aboard *Mercy*," SQNLDR Howell said.

"The chance to have the workshop experience was, for them, an opportunity of a lifetime."

After a one hour presentation, the students toured the clinical areas of the ship with discussions, demonstrations of emergency equipment and specifying differences between the ship's intensive care, adult ward, paediatric ward and main operating room.

They then split into smaller groups to attend hands-on workshop skill stations that included hand washing, personal protective equipment, wound care and intravenous therapy.

The visit finished with side-by-side clinical techniques and procedures practices.

Bicol University student Zandra said that she enjoyed the visit immensely.

"I learnt so much from the people, and the workshops were really good for us," she said. "This hospital ship is unbelievable."

This year PP16 is visiting Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Indonesia and Palau with Australian Defence Force personnel participation in all locations.



Nursing officer SQNLDR Lynette Howell explains the uses of a dry suction system for intensive care patients to Filipino nursing students during the nursing skills workshop onboard USNS *Mercy* in Legazpi, Philippines. SGT Pete Gammie

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NEW-AGE HORIZONS

The latest technology was on display at DST's Partnerships Week. CPL Sebastian Beurich has a look at what is keeping Defence in the driver's seat

A visitor experiences the F/A-18 Hornet simulator in the Air Operations Simulation Centre at DST's Partnerships Week. Photos: Sebastian Beurich

FLYING aircraft to practise tactics is an expensive venture, so what if we could perform the same functions in a high-immersion simulator, without the cost? How does Defence establish what the typical lifespan of aircraft structural components is – and how do we test those components in a high-stress atmosphere?

The answer to these questions and more were on display during Defence Science and Technology Group's (DST) Partnerships Week, held from June 6 to 10 at Fishermans Bend in Melbourne.

Other projects on display during Partnerships Week included additive manufacturing processes, human to autonomous systems interfacing and research into hypersonic systems.

The Air Operations Simulation Centre at DST in Melbourne houses a number of both high and low immersion simulation systems for a range of Defence aircraft, notably the C-130 Hercules, the F/A-18 Super and Classic Hornets and the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter in use by the Navy.

But these simulators aren't to train our pilots on the platforms – they are for developing high-end tactics and also providing an opportunity for DST's scientists to study how aircraft crews interact with their aircraft.

DST behavioural research scientist Dr Christopher Best said the simulation centre wasn't only used for tactical training.

In the past we have used the facilities at the simulation centre for a range of purposes – to reconstruct accidents, to study how our people integrate with their platforms and to trial new equipment," Dr Best said.

"We use an artificial intelligence to control the 'enemy' combatants in the system and our engineers have built a voice control system to help us control them.

"The software also enables us to draw statistics from our participants in real time, which we can use to streamline current processes."

Maria Vukovic is one of the simulation engineers who helps to adapt the system to different airframes.

"We have a lot of computer science and engineering staff in the simulation

centre, but we also work with psychologists who look at behaviours and metrics," Mrs Vukovic said.

"We can look at human-to-machine interface technologies, crewing concepts, or we may be asked to reconstruct the flight path in an accident investigation.

"The simulation centre is a completely reconfigurable space, so we can wheel different aircraft cockpits in and investigate what we need to."

Chief Defence Scientist Alex Zelinsky said strengthening industry partnerships helped to build future capability and ensure access to the latest technology.

"While we have many great people working in DST, we don't have all of the best people. The idea of partnerships is to reach out and form alliances so we can bring the best people on board and solve the difficult problems as quickly as possible," Dr Zelinsky said.

"The Defence White Paper and the Industry Policy Statement outlined the game changing technologies – cyber operations, autonomous systems, hypersonics, undersea warfare and

quantum technology – all of which are areas we are looking at building partnerships in."

Often, if spare parts or components are needed for one of Air Force's aircraft, especially one manufactured overseas, there is a long lead time for them.

This is why the work DST is doing in stress testing critical airframe components is vitally important to make sure Air Force can keep its aircraft in the sky longer.

Geoff Swanton, an aircraft structural integrity engineer with DST, supports two aircraft platforms – the F/A-18 Hornet and the PC-9A training aircraft.

"Previously conducted fatigue testing hasn't given us the answers we require to manage the [aircraft] structures safely, until the aircraft is retired," Mr Swanton said.

"With 30 years of F/A-18 service experience, we know when and where certain types of damages occur.

"We're taking the testing a step further here and adding in extreme damage cases to further it.

"Effectively, what we're doing is

putting extreme loads on the wing, which an aircraft can expect to see only once in its lifetime.

"The idea is if the wing survives this testing, it's going to be able to survive basically anything and get us to the retirement date safely."

Mr Swanton explained how DST's Aerospace Division had already leveraged an industry partnership with another display in his area.

"We're currently collaborating with a company called Ruag, which is located in Bayswater, Western Australia, to develop an additive manufacturing technique for use on aircraft," Mr Swanton said.

"This is a technique where we spray on metal powder at supersonic speeds to achieve an instant bond, so we're able to coat or build up and strengthen structures.

"It has potential as an environmental coating – it can be sprayed over gaps and fastener holes to keep the environment out, but we are also exploring its use for cosmetic repairs."



DST industry experience placement students James Kennedy (left) and Stefan Kiss display an unmanned aerial system during DST's Partnerships Week.



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Ensure you are paid correctly

Jessica Richardson

DID you know that if your personal details are incorrect in ADFPAY or PMKeyS you may not be receiving your correct entitlements?

To avoid over or under-payments and discrepancies with leave, Assistant Secretary Pay and Administration Brian Paule said personnel needed to be proactive in managing their personal details.

"It is your ongoing responsibility to ensure your leave, pay, allowances and payroll deductions accurately reflect your personal circumstances," Mr Paule said.

"You should be able to update most of the details in PMKeyS Self Service, but if categorisation details are incorrect, they will have to be corrected through your orderly room/unit administration.

"If you have difficulty finding this information in PMKeyS Self Service, you should seek advice from your Unit Administration,

Defence Service Centre or the Self Service User Guides which can be accessed once logging into PMKeyS Self Service.

Supervisors also have a role to play in ensuring correct entitlements are being received by approving leave, allowance and personal administration requests in a timely manner.

"Supervisors are able to approve leave applications by logging into Self Service via the DRN only, as Self Service is not available on Home Portal," Mr Paule said.

"Planned leave and any half pay and unpaid leave should be processed before the leave begins. If not, the member may be overpaid and incur a debt to be repaid when they return.

"Similarly higher duties allowance (HDA) needs to be recorded in a timely manner in ADFPAY.

"When a decision is made to pay HDA, supervisors and managers must ensure the direction and

payment authorisation are processed immediately with effect from the start of the higher duties period.

"A delay in processing the HDA authorisation will result in a retrospective payment, and a delay in the additional pay for the member."

In many cases, decision-makers are waiting either until the period of HDA has ended or up to three months before processing the payment authorisation.

This is non-compliant with current policy. PACMAN states that 'the member is entitled to higher duties allowance from the first day of the trial period'.

"Withholding this payment authorisation is not acceptable and this practice may be subject to an audit," Mr Paule said.

For more information on Defence One, visit <http://ciogintranet/organisation/HRDD/PSMB/DefenceOne>



CHECKLIST

Log into PMKeyS Self Service and ensure the following details are correct:

- rank
- contact details
- emergency contacts
- dependant details
- categorisation
- position details
- allowances
- leave data including leave entitlement, outstanding applications and denied applications (members are required to delete denied leave applications)



Changes in relationship policy have occurred.

Photo: LAC Brenton Kwaterski

Relationship policy

A NEW policy recognising the variety of relationships and family structures in contemporary Australia went live on July 1.

Assistant Secretary, People Policy and Employment Conditions, Mr Tyson Sara said the new policy aligned the process for recognising members in married, state/territory-registered and de facto relationships and also recognised foster children under long-term or permanent care orders.

"Members in all types of relationships may seek recognition of their relationship under a standardised process," Mr Sara said.

"Couples in de facto relationships can apply to have their relationship recognised by completing a new form and supplying supporting evidence.

"Couples in state or territory reg-

istered relationships or marriages can apply to have their relationship recognised by completing Web-form AD150 and providing their marriage or registration certificate."

The policy replaces DI(G) PERS 53-1 Recognition of Interdependent Partnerships, and offers a less prescriptive and more accessible process.

"Members in all three relationship types will still need to demonstrate that they normally live together in the posting location before they can access Defence benefits, such as housing or removals, associated with MWD and MWD(U) categorisation."

A comprehensive package on recognition of relationships and dependant children is available from the new PACMAN website at <http://www.defence.gov.au/PayAndConditions/ADF/Recognition-Partner.asp>.

We've heard you: CIOG

WHEN it comes to ICT issues, the Chief Information Officer Group (CIOG) says it is all ears and is acting swiftly to improve services following the results of a satisfaction survey.

Head of ICT Operations AVM Andrew Dowse said Defence personnel had raised the concerns during the Enterprise Corporate and Enabling Services survey.

"We heard you ... and we're doing something about it," AVM Dowse said.

"We are introducing new ICT capability and making customer experience improvements a routine part of our business.

"We are listening and we are doing something about issues that impact on the services we deliver."

AVM Dowse said some of the ICT issues would be simple to fix while others would take more time.



plained about multiple warning notices when 'H: drives' reached their data limit, so ICT reduced them to one per day.

"People have also said they are experiencing long log-on times so we are measuring those in each region to help determine how we can improve log-on speed," AVM Dowse said.

had also made other recent improvements, such as, introducing Google Chrome as an alternative web browser and rolling out the Next Generation Desktop DREAMS.

Additionally, the service request catalog has been upgraded to make navigation easier and ticket recognition has been improved.

"The new look dashboard features a 'goods and services' and 'help and support' tab to point you to the right search and menu options," he said.

"The auto-email notifications now include the ticket's title so that people can better identify the jobs they have logged without having to keep track of their ticket number."

For more information, visit the "We heard you...and we're doing something about it" website at <http://ciogintranet/ICTServices/Did-you-know/Pages/We-heard-you.aspx>

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Mapping out SERCATs

How to negotiate the Total Workforce Model as it continues to evolve

ALL Air Force personnel should have been allocated a Service Category (SERCAT) on PMKeyS from July 4, as part of the implementation of the Total Workforce Model (TWM).

If you are a reservist on CFTS (continuous full time service), you have also been allocated a Service Option (SERVOP) of "SERVOP C".

The mapping of members to their respective SERCATs will occur automatically within the PMKeyS environment.

For example, all permanent Air Force members should be mapped to SERCAT 7, and all Air Force reservists should be mapped to either SERCAT 2, 3, 4 or 5 depending on their current service type.

Note: SERCAT 6 is not yet available to members. SERCAT 1 is reserved for APS members who are force assigned.

How do I know what my allocated SERCAT is?

You can check your allocated SERCAT on PMKeyS Self Service (PSS). Log on to either PMKeyS Portal (Employee Self Service) or if you do not have access to the DRN, the PSS home portal. Follow this path:

- My personal details
- Personal information summary
- Rank and contract

The screen displayed (top right) will show SERCAT and SERVOP.

How do I know if my SERCAT is correct?

The table (below right) shows your service type and the Service Category which you should have been allocated.

Note: If you are a reservist undertaking CFTS, you will be assigned a reserve SERCAT (SERCAT 3, 4 or 5) and your Service Option will display "SERVOP C".

What do I do if my SERCAT or SERVOP is missing or not correct?

It is important that you notify PERSBR-AF as soon as possible, by emailing HRISDataProcessing@defence.gov.au. In some instances your SERCAT may be incorrect if you have recently transferred between service types. If incorrect, your SERCAT or SERVOP will need to be amended.

What will TWM mean to my pay and conditions?

The Air Force implementation of TWM will not change any existing pay and conditions at this time.

More information about SERCAT 6 will be provided in a later edition of *Air Force News*.

For further information on TWM implementation in Air Force, visit: <http://drnet.defence.gov.au/raaf/PERSAF/TWM-AF/Pages/TWM-AF.aspx> or e-mail: AirForce.TWM@defence.gov.au

Rank and Contract	
Substantive Rank:	SGT
Seniority Date:	10/12/2004
Rank Type:	Substantive
Worn Rank:	E06 Sergeant
Service Category:	Service Category 3
Service Option:	Service Option CFTS
Family:	FM00514 ARMY Ordnance Corps
Function:	FN61401 Operator Administrative
Sub Function:	SF62208 Op Administrative Spv
Skill Grade:	S013077 074-4 Op Admin Spv
Original Hire Date:	27/07/1987
Current Period Service:	9
Engagement Type:	Ready Response Force

Your Service Category (SERCAT) and Service Option (SERVOP) will display here. The Service Option will display "N/A" or will be blank if you are not a reservist on CFTS.

CHECKING YOUR SERCATs	
SERVICE TYPE	SERVICE CATEGORY
Permanent (full-time)	SERCAT 7
Permanent (PTLWOP)	SERCAT 7 (PTLWOP)
Reserve – Operational Employment Group	SERCAT 5
Reserve – High Readiness Reserve	SERCAT 4
Reserve – Supplementary Employment Group	SERCAT 3
Reserve – Standby Reserve	SERCAT 2

Above: This screen shot with edits displays what you should be looking for while logged into PMKeyS. All Air Force personnel should have been allocated a SERCAT category.

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LAC Kalib Cupples, a firefighter for No. 23 Squadron Fire Section, shows children from the Defence Work Experience and Engagement Program equipment at RAAF Base Amberley. Photo: CPL Casey Gaul



Above: LACW Deanne O'Connor and FLTLT Nicole Clements (right) of Headquarters NORCOM chat about the B-52 Stratofortress with USAF pilot, CAPT "Bash" Rockwell, during Exercise Green Lightning in Darwin. Below: CPL Peter Ling from the Soldier Recovery Centre meets USAF SSGT Benjamin Babcock during the exercise. Photos: CPL Craig Barrett



The Bomber Command Association hosted a memorial service at RAAF Base Amberley to pay tribute to the WWII aircrew and ground crew veterans. From left: Mr Ted Bowles; Senior ADF Officer Amberley AIRCDRE Scott Winchester; World War II veterans Mr Geoffrey Hutton, Mr Stan Pascoe and Mr Robert Jubb; Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey AC; World War II veteran Mr Ron Hickey; and Officer Commanding No. 82 Wing GPCAPT Glen Braz. Photo: CPL Brenton Kwaterski



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FLTLT Luke Connery, of No. 295 Squadron with his wife Kylie, son Liam and daughter Savannah after being presented with an Air Command Australia Silver Commendation – awarded for his outstanding performance as the Officer in Charge of Mission Specific Training. He received the award as a result of planning, designing and implementing a Mission Specific Training package and Mission Rehearsal Exercise to prepare a Combat Support Element to deploy to Taji, Iraq. Photo: CPL Casey Gaul

Claim your missing money

It's worth checking if you are entitled to a share of Australia's missing millions, ASIC chairman **Greg Medcraft** writes

ABOUT \$1.2 billion of unclaimed money is lying around in dormant bank accounts, life insurance, shares and other investments, waiting to be claimed by its rightful owners.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission's (ASIC) MoneySmart website provides guidance on how to find unclaimed money.

In the past financial year, more than 25,000 people made successful claims and \$158.4 million was paid out.

You may have unclaimed money if you have:

- moved house without leaving a forwarding address;
- not made a transaction on your cheque or savings account for seven years;
- stopped making payments on a life insurance policy;
- noticed that a regular dividend or interest cheques have stopped coming; or
- been the executor of a deceased estate.

Bank accounts become unclaimed after seven years if the account is inactive (eg. no deposits or withdrawals).

Life insurance policies become unclaimed if the money is not claimed seven years after the policy matures.

After seven years, any unclaimed money is transferred to the Commonwealth and managed by ASIC. There is no time limit on when this money can be claimed.

Searching for unclaimed money

You can do a free search of unclaimed money records on ASIC's MoneySmart website to see if you are entitled to a share.

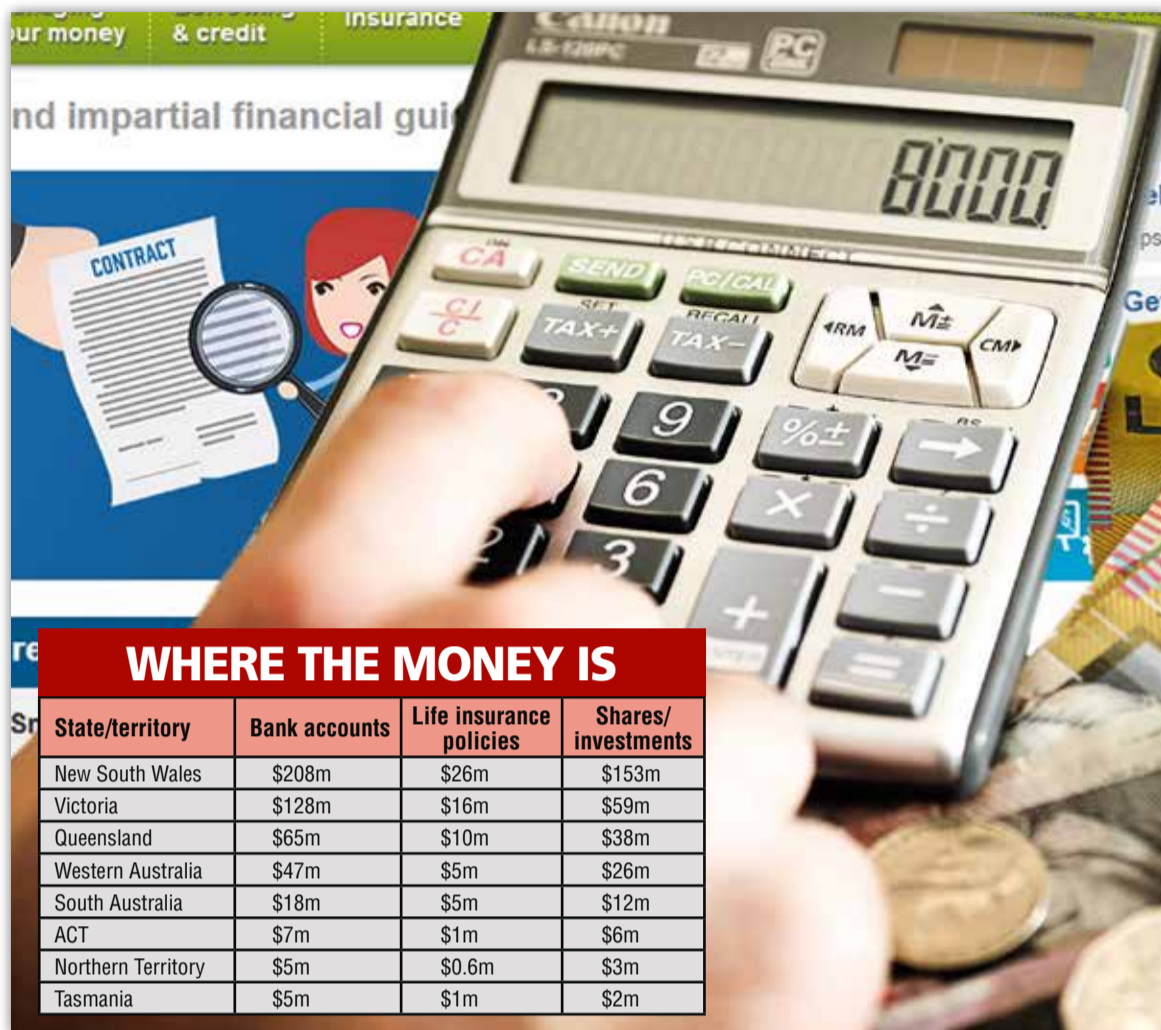
The website also provides information on how to make a claim. If the record you locate is listed as "banking" or "life insurance", you will need to contact the institution that originally provided the unclaimed money.

If the record is listed as "company", you will need to go to the "claim money from shares and investments" on ASIC's MoneySmart website.

It's free, quick and easy to use ASIC's MoneySmart website to search for unclaimed money for yourself, a family member, colleague or friend.

If you find you have unclaimed money, you can use ASIC's MoneySmart financial calculators and apps to make the most of your money and help achieve your financial goals.

Find out more on unclaimed money at <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/find-unclaimed-money>



WHERE THE MONEY IS

State/territory	Bank accounts	Life insurance policies	Shares/investments
New South Wales	\$208m	\$26m	\$153m
Victoria	\$128m	\$16m	\$59m
Queensland	\$65m	\$10m	\$38m
Western Australia	\$47m	\$5m	\$26m
South Australia	\$18m	\$5m	\$12m
ACT	\$7m	\$1m	\$6m
Northern Territory	\$5m	\$0.6m	\$3m
Tasmania	\$5m	\$1m	\$2m



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Racking up enough hours of sleep is vital for your physical and mental health.

If you fail to snooze, you lose

Missing out on a few hours' sleep a night over extended periods could mean missing out on a few years of your life, **CPL Heidi Joosten** writes

ADEQUATE sleep is a key part of a healthy lifestyle and can benefit your heart, weight and mind.

Research shows people who get less than six hours of sleep a night for more than 10 consecutive nights can be at a greater risk of diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease, weight gain, mental health issues, an increase in chronic pain and premature ageing.

Sleep deprivation causes an increase in C-reactive proteins.

These are produced in the liver and can cause arteries and blood vessels to clog.

This also leads to disruption of the inflammatory system, which increases recovery time.

Therefore, having an adequate amount of sleep is crucial for healing injuries.

A good night's sleep is also great for controlling weight, so if you are thinking about going on a diet, you might want to plan an earlier bed time.

Sleep and metabolism are controlled by the same area in the brain.

When you are sleepy, hormones that

drive appetite are increased. When you don't get enough sleep your ghrelin, the "hunger hormone" that stimulates appetite, goes up and causes you to crave more food.

Levels of leptin, which signals the brain when you are full, go down. This means you don't feel satisfied and want to keep eating.

So the less you sleep, the more food your body will crave.

When you're sleep-deprived, the immune system is weaker, leaving it less able to fight off the flu and other infections.

Most importantly, sleep is important for mental health and can decrease levels of depression.

It also reduces levels of stress and anxiety while lowering your blood pressure.

With a good night's sleep you will be more emotionally stable.

Adults need an average of between 7.5 and nine hours each night.

CPL Heidi Joosten has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Exercise and Sports Science.

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- Make sure your bedroom is dark and warm
- Get the temperature in bed right – being too hot or too cold can disrupt a good night's sleep
- Avoid watching TV in bed or using electronic devices
- Lie flat to avoid aches and pains, and make sure you have a good pillow with neck support because poor posture can cause aches and pains and lead to long-term back problems

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Strategy pays off

Defence's game plan far too good for Police during inaugural rugby union test

CPL Max Bree

A TORRENT of tries hailed ADF's thumping 55-16 win over the Australian Police side during an inaugural rugby union test match in Canberra on July 1.

Despite the eventual win, ADF fly-half LAC Nathan Lalliard said things were uncertain leading into the game.

"We've had a few injuries and boys were umming and ahing about whether they'll be on the field or not, but we managed to get all the boys through," he said.

"The training and preparation we had was awesome and I was really keen to get on the field."

Big hits from both sides followed kick-off as each team sought to dominate early.

But Defence drew first blood with a converted try in the seventh minute breaking the initial deadlock.

The Police managed to get on the board with a penalty goal 12 minutes later but Defence quickly followed with a penalty goal of their own.

Quick hands off a scrum gave Police their first try that was answered by one from Defence five minutes later. A penalty goal to the Police rounded out the scoring in the first half with Defence leading 15-13.

"The first 10 minutes was really painful," LAC Lalliard said.

"I'd like to say we weren't worried but those early shots hurt.

"At half time we had a big chat, composed ourselves and stuck to the game plan and that managed to show in the final score."

Police opened the second half with a penalty goal before a try to Defence in the 12th minute.

Defence went into high gear with another five unanswered tries throughout the rest of the second half, steamrolling an increasingly despondent Police team.

LAC Lalliard credited the runaway win to Defence's game plan.

"We didn't have a specific ball player," he said.



The ADF Rugby Union team contests a line-out against the Australian Police. Photo: CPL Max Bree

"We played so every person in the team could pass the ball to wherever we needed it, not just relying on our playmakers.

"We seemed to make a lot of metres out wide, tier them out, then cut through the middle."

ADF co-captain LTCOL Sean Kearns said the Police may have suffered from having three days less preparation than his side.

"And there's also our ticker, drive and determination," he said.

"What makes us successful at football makes us successful on the battlefield.

"The Police haven't played their equivalent of an inter-service carnival yet and I'm convinced they'll be a different opposition in 12 months' time."



RAAF Mirages' captain FLTLT Aaron Smith makes a break against the ACT Veterans. Photo: CPL Max Bree

Spirit of charity

CPL Max Bree

THE RAAF Mirages romped to victory against an ACT Veterans team during a rugby union charity match in Canberra on June 26 – but "the score" certainly did not affect the spirit of the occasion.

On the field, the Mirages defeated the Veterans 60-10, but to follow a tradition from previous contests, the Northrop Grumman Cup final score was "officially" 9-9.

Mirages captain FLTLT Aaron Smith said he wasn't too excited about the final score.

"Just to get here to play is an achievement for these blokes," he said.

"It's about playing footy, having a good time, remembering the old days and doing it for a good cause."

FLTLT Smith credited his team's prolific try-scoring with their speed out wide.

"ACT play a very forwards-based game," he said.

"We tend to work off our backs so that seemed to go in our favour.

"One of the blokes is a retired RAAFie Johnny Samin, who plays touch for Australia, so it's always good to offload to him and he can run the length of the field instead of me."

While the impressive performance appeared to come from a well-drilled side, FLTLT Smith said there was little preparation going in.

"We get together and have a warm-up run five minutes before the game and that's where the plan gets developed," he said.

"The beauty of it is, no matter what happens on the field, the trophy's engraved 9-9 – so it's just about enjoying the game.

"Every game against the ACT Vets ends up 9-9, there's no kicking outside the 22 and no contested scrums."

Mirages are an over-35s team comprising of serving and former Air Force personnel.

The match also raised \$2500 for Soldier On.

ADFRU-W impress

LEUT Kirsti Burtenshaw

THE ADF Rugby Union Women's have just completed their first two-week concentration together as largely a new team. The side displayed "extraordinary" talent at the ARU Women's Nationals at St Ignatius, Riverview in Sydney.

ADFRU-W rugby veteran SGT Debbie Grylls said the new culture was exceptional and it would unlock the potential of this new and dynamic team.

Despite losing their day one fixtures against last year's championship winners – Sydney 35-5 and Western Australia 10-0 – there were some excellent positives to take out of the match. Day two saw the ADFRU-W beat a determined Victoria 17-10.

"The ADFRU-W should be extremely impressed with their ability. As the underdogs, ADFRU-W continue to surprise, with strong individual and team performances," captain FSGT Brooke Saunders said.

Day three saw ADFRU-W face NSW country in the plate final play off for fifth place

The ADFRU-W showed resilient defence, but were unable to hold out the NSW Country team who won 17-0.

The players will now focus on a possible tour of the US.

See facebook/ADF Rugby.

Masters keep their cool on the ice

Eamon Hamilton

THE ADF Ice Hockey Association has proven older players can learn new tricks following a recent masters tournament in Melbourne.

The ADFIHA made its debut appearance from June 10-12 at the Old-Timer Ice Hockey Association (OiHAN) tournament, fielding a team of players aged between 35 and 52.

ADFIHA team captain WGCDCR Christian Martin said all three services were represented in the side.

"The ADFIHA secured a position in the over 35 category – a significant challenge considering the maturity of our organisation and skills of several of our players," WGCDCR Martin said.

The ADFIHA side came to the tournament with the intention of representing Defence and exposing its players to a different calibre and style of play. The idea is to promote a fair and enjoyable hockey atmosphere.

The ADFIHA side faced off against teams from Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria.

"Never having played together, it took the team a few games to adjust to the style of play and to find ourselves on the ice," WGCDCR Martin said.

For the final match – the bronze medal game – the ADFIHA made several changes to its line-up, returning to face the Tasmanian side.

Those changes provided scoring opportunities and a solid defensive posture for the ADFIHA team that led them to a 3-2 victory.

For more information, email AAIHA.committee@defence.gov.au

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July 14, 2016

LAC Nathan Lalliard is tackled by an Australian Police Rugby Union player during an inaugural test match in Canberra on July 1.
Photo: Max Bree



FORCES COLLIDE

Defence catch Police off guard
Page 23



James Dallas
Australian Veteran Claims Manager,
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Peter Hartung
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