THANKS FOR COMING

Operation PNG Assist wraps up for Christmas – P5

HELPING HANDS: 38SQN crewmembers receive a heroes’ welcome by Itokama villagers after delivering much-needed supplies to the flood-stricken region as part of Operation PNG Assist. Centre, from left, is flight engineer WOFF Ken Flint and pilots FLTLT Craig Taylor and FLTLT Chris Jaensch. Photo by CPL Chris Moore
2 Christmas Messages

What a ride in 2007

Chief of Defence Force

ACM Angus Houston

As we continue to experience a high operational tempo, I want to thank the ADF families, friends and comrades. Since July 2005, almost 20,000 personnel have deployed on operations. This level of commitment has not been seen since Vietnam and is greater than the entire number of personnel deployed in the 20 years from 1980-1999.
We have been called on to undertake a wide variety of roles including United Nations peacekeeping operations, humanitarian missions, important domestic and regional tasks, as well as ongoing operations in the Middle East.
Wherever they may serve, Australian Servicemen and women make a tangible and positive difference to the lives of those they touch and I am very proud of the work the ADF personnel do in service to their nation.
To those personnel working away from home this Christmas, I thank you for your dedication. It is always difficult to be separated from your loved ones, and this time of year it can be especially difficult. I can assure you that your sacrifice, support and understanding are greatly appreciated. I also thank your families for being so understanding. They are also making a significant contribution to the success of the ADF and we could not continue to operate an effective force without their support.
I wish each and every member of the Defence family a very happy and safe Christmas.

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

MAJGEN Michael Jeffery (retired)

As Commandant-in-Chief of the ADF, I extend season’s greetings and congratulations to all Air Force personnel on a job well done during 2007.
You have again worked at a high operational tempo, notably during APEC, and abroad conducting operations in the Middle East, providing direct support of operations in Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands. This is in addition to fulfilling rigorous training and readiness requirements. You have consistently demonstrated dedication, professionalism and compassion in carrying out these demanding tasks.
I was also impressed with the 2007 Australian International Air Show held at Avalon Airport, which showcased the RAAF’s airpower, capability and diversity. This year’s show was a great success and a joyous Christmas and New Year and a safe return home for those deployed overseas.

While many of you will spend Christmas at home with family and friends, others will remain on operational duty in locations throughout the globe. It is at this time that I hope that those absent on duty will find some time to share in the festive season, bolstered by the knowledge that their commitment is especially valued by all Australians.
The Air Force has much to be proud of. It is recognised internationally for its adaptability, flexibility and enthusiasm and for consistently getting the job done.
Marlena and I take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to all Air Force Servicemen and women, and to the wives, husbands, partners, friends and family members who provide invaluable support to the Air Force family.
Keep up the good work. Have a joyous Christmas and New Year and a safe return home for those deployed overseas.

Our last edition for 2007

Christmas to all from the AIR FORCE news team – Simone, Barry, Andrew and Aaron. Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to another action-packed newspaper next year. Our first edition for 2008 is in February 7. Keep emailing your contributions to raafnews@defencesegov.au

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AIR FORCE

December 13, 2007


Chief of Air Force

AIRMSHL Geoff Shepherd

In last year’s Christmas message, I mentioned how challenging 2007 had been a busy year deployed to all corners of the globe. The same can be said for 2007; we have operated and challenged ahead of us, year on year, both domestically and internationally.

With the festive season around the corner, I am positive that all of you will enjoy being at home with your families after such a busy year. If the job requires you to work over the Christmas period, I sincerely hope you understand the sacrifice you are making and encourage you to keep up the great work.

Our Air Force team has met the challenges of the past 12 months and has successfully delivered the required government outcomes. I am extremely proud of the professionalism that all members of our team have displayed.

Regionally and internationally, our Air Force has supported significant deployments in the Middle East to support significant operations in the Middle East Area of Operations and the Air Force’s Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) continues to underpin the operations of the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. Across Air Force we have now been deployed for nearly five years, which is approaching the length of some World War II deployments.

Domestically, Air Force participated in the largest successful Avalon International Air Show, which allowed us to mix it with international and domestic industry and other military forces, and gave ADF an opportunity to see many aspects of Defence’s air capability. We also participated in Exercise Talisman Saber, Operation Deluge, which was the ADF’s support to APEC.

We are progressing well with our redesign of Air Force. From January, some of our most significant changes will occur with the implementation of RAAF’s OTS 36 and 37SQNs have settled in well following the introduction of the C-17 and we are looking forward to receiving our third and fourth C-17s in January.

There are plenty more exciting opportunities and challenges ahead of us, and with what we have achieved this year, I am very upbeat about what we can continue to deliver.

I know how much we depend on each other and our families, and it is important that we remember our partners and family members who play in the Air Force family. It is what goes on behind the scenes that allows us to do our job and for our partners and family members to play in the Air Force family.

I wish you and your families all the best for Christmas and the New Year. Thank you for your exemplary efforts during 2007.

AIRMSHL Geoff Shepherd
Jets combat east coast

Air Force ramps up for major air-to-air exercise

ONE of Air Force’s most important air combat training activities of the year rocked the waters east of NSW from November 19-30.

The East Coast Air Defence Exercise (ECADEX) was conducted in the east coast military training areas.

F-111s and Learjet aircraft operated from RAAF Base Amberley while Hawks and F/A-18s from RAAF Base Williamtown were also involved. Supporting the exercise was a B707 tanker from RAAF Base Richmond, while the Navy’s frigate HMAS Parramatta and a torpedo recovery vessel also played a major role.

Surveillance and Response Group provided an AP-3C and personnel from 41WG air defence and 44WG air traffic control to assist in directing the battle.

OC 81WG GPCAPT Gavin Turnbull said ECADEX was planned to concentrate on core air-to-air skills and, as importantly, practice the integration of ground and air-based air defence elements.

“ECADEX is an important step in exposing aircrew to air-to-air combat in a high-threat and complex environment. The inclusion of HMAS Parramatta also allowed the practice of Joint procedures; [she] served as a high-value target for the red forces and as part of the integrated defence system,” he said.

ECADEX focused on two opposing forces; blue, which comprised Hornet and Air Defence assets conducting defensive counter-air operations; and red, comprising the F-111s, Hornets, Hawks and Learjets conducting offensive counter-air operations. They operated within the bounds of a real-life scenario, involving the defence of sovereign airspace and shipping against “well-trained and very capable threats”.

The scenario was designed to test active and passive air defence capabilities to further enhance the training elements of the exercise and provide Air Force personnel with a unique opportunity to practise and utilise their skills, delivering the vital training necessary to protect the integrity of Australian air space and vital infrastructure.

Commander Air Combat Group AIRCDRE Kym Oseley said ECADEX was an important exercise that allowed aircraft from ACG to obtain excellent practice in air combat tactics.

“We value enormously the opportunity to exercise both across Air Force and in partnership with the Navy,” AIRCDRE Oseley said.

ECADEX enabled our pilots and ground crew personnel to participate in collaborative training within the military airspace over sea.

He praised the efforts of the personnel participating in the exercise.

The success of the exercise is largely to the dedicated, professional, highly-skilled and talented Air Force men and women who supported the exercise,” he said.

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**FILL HER UP:** Above, LAC Steven Porter from 381ECSS tops up his fuel truck after a busy morning refilling F/A-18s.

**ON SCREEN:** Above left, 44WG technicians LACs Jordan Blackey and Nathan Abberton keep the radars working with the high flow of air traffic during ECADEX.

**READY:** Left, A 77SQN Hornet taxis out for an exercise sortie.

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**Sacrifice is honoured**

A traditional ramp ceremony for PTE Worsley was then held on November 27 by Australian soldiers from the Special Operations Task Group and Reconstruction Task Force at their base in Oruzgan Province, southern Afghanistan.

The soldier’s coffin was borne onto a waiting C-130 before being delivered to family in a solemn ceremony at RAAF Base Richmond on November 30.

The C-130 then returned to its base in the MEAO.

FAREWELL, MATE: CHAP Joe Bove presides over a flag-lowering ceremony for PTE Luke Worsley in the MEAO, attended by Australian and Canadian Air Force members, and right. PTE Worsley’s body is borne onto a waiting C-130 in Afghanistan in a ramp ceremony.

**Christmas air mail**

Warrant Officer of the Air Force WOFF Ray Woolnough

Greetings, Airmen and Airwomen of the Air Force.

It feels as though it was only last month that I last did my Christmas message to all our hardworking men and women in our illustrious Air Force. Another very productive year has passed, and I made the point in my last message that I had learnt a lot in my first 12 months in the job. I have continued to learn, and like you, will continue to discover more about our evolving Air Force.

I take this opportunity to mention my recent trip to visit our men and women in the Middle East Professional, dedicated and motivated are word descriptors that immediately come to mind. I left the three locations that I visited absolutely giddy. Not because there were problems, but simply because I did not want to leave. There was a buzz about them; morale was high – indicated by the smiles and continuous chats I had with those I had the privilege to speak to. To the leadership at the areas I visited, stealing one of CAP’s phrases – BZ to the commanders, WOFFs and SNCOs.

Again, my thanks to all deployed infrastructure commanders, WOFFs and SNCOs.

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COMMENDATION winners

CAF Commendation – Gold

- **SONLDR Wendy Gill** – for her outstanding performance as the 10SQN Executive Officer.
- **FLTLT Hannah Jude-Smith** – for her tireless and exemplary performance as OIC of 3 Control
- **WOFF-AF Ray Woolnough** – for his outstanding professional competence, leadership and team contribution to Combat Support Unit – Edinburgh.

ACAUST Commendation – Bronze

- **CPF Paul Healey** – for his outstanding professional competence, technical ability and team contribution at 223 Combat Support Squadron.
### PNG mercy mission

**ADF delivers relief to disaster stricken northern neighbours**

By LT Kris Gardiner and Andrew Stackpool

PEOPLE living in the flooded Oro province of Papua New Guinea (PNG) have received urgently-needed Australian assistance with the recent arrival of another 350 tonnes of humanitarian stores as part of Operation PNG Assist.

The PNG government, with support from Australian aid agencies and the ADF, conducted an extensive airlift operation using military and civilian aircraft to deliver emergency aid and stores to people living in the area.

On November 30, between 60,000 and 100,000 people were estimated to have been affected by the flooding, which left at least 153 people dead.

Commander of the ADF’s relief task force, GPCAPT Tim Innes, said the relief operations had been a team effort between the PNG government, Australian government agencies and non-government organisations (NGOs).

“PNG police, soldiers and aid officials joined with AusAID and ADF personnel in delivering humanitarian stores,” GPCAPT Innes said.

Supporting the PNG’s National Disaster Centre, the ADF worked closely with AusAID, Australia’s overseas aid agency, the Anglican Church and NGOs who conducted and coordinated ongoing needs assessments throughout the province to ensure aid was delivered to those who most needed it.

The C-17 achieved another ‘first’ when one flew 14 pallets of supplies into Port Moresby on the weekend of November 24 and 25, its first humanitarian mission.

Captain of the 36SQN C-17, SQNLDR Warren Crouch, said he was very happy seeing the aircraft deployed so successfully.

“One of the main reasons we bought these aircraft was for humanitarian purposes and we’ve justified it completely with this flight. It’s great to finally get the chance to use it to help our neighbours,” he said.

Two 37SQN C-130s and an Army Kingair supported the strategic airlifter.

The ADF’s forward operating base was at Girua airfield. It was operated by elements from 382ECSS, the Army’s 10th Field Support Battalion, 1 Health Support Battalion and Navy’s Clearance Diving Team One that was searching for underwater obstacles and possible unexploded ordnance.

Meanwhile, three 38SQN Caribous and three Army Black Hawk helicopters joined the relief effort to help distribute crucial food, medical supplies and shelter to the many isolated communities and villages in the province.

One of the main reasons we bought these aircraft was for humanitarian purposes and we’ve justified it completely with this flight. It’s great to finally get the chance to use it to help our neighbours,” he said.

The crews worked ‘till they dropped. It was great to see Air Force, Navy and Army involved in this operation,” he said.

Health assessment teams, including an Air Force Medical Assessment Element from Health Support Wing, and an engineering and infrastructure reconnaissance team, were reviewing the region in order to determine the most immediate needs for assistance. While no significant problems currently exist, health assessments were also being conducted on the risks posed by malaria and dysentery.

**FINAL CALL:** Above, FLGOFF Lucas Taulealeaumui and LACW Kristine Horne from 1AOSS, RAAF Base Tindal, check the manifest before passengers board a Caribou assessment flight into PNG.

**FIRST AID:** Right, 36SQN loadmasters SGT David Pyatt and WOFF Adrian Wagner unload a pallet from the C-17 at Port Moresby for onward shipping to Oro Province.

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F-111 conversion course climax

By Mark Tanzer
TOWNSVILLE played host to some rare Air Force visitors last month with six F-111 aircraft from 6SQN taking to the skies over North and Central Queensland as part of Exercise Northern Challenge.

While residents are used to the sight and sound of F/A-18s, the bigger F-111 is not a common visitor, and the city enjoyed the experience.

Exercise Northern Challenge represented the final phase of the F-111 operational conversion course and combined Hornet Upgrade Program training at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

More than 120 personnel were involved in the exercise. The scenario involved aircraft integrated with a simulated coalition aircraft to negate an enemy Integrated Air Defence System to achieve weapons effects with precision and unguided weapons.

The exercise aim – to qualify pilots and air combat officers – was explained by 6SQN Flight Commander, SQNLDR Craig Whiting.

SQNLDR Whiting said the pilots and ACOs were put through their paces in a culmination of years of aircraft training and six months' instruction on the F-111.

“AT the end of the course, we like to take the students away from Amberley to a base where we can deploy from to make it a bit different for them,” SQNLDR Whiting said.

He stressed that the training was designed to be as realistic as possible, utilising live weapons against targets in a challenging and hostile environment, while incorporating medium and high-level transits to simulate a long distance flight.

Scenarios changed to challenge the students throughout the exercise. Townsville Mayor Councillor Tony Mooney said it was “great” to have 6SQN operating out of RAAF Base Townsville throughout November.

“Townsville has a long and proud association with the Air Force, and we extended a warm welcome to the men and women of 6SQN,” he said.

“Over the years, F-111 aircraft have been an impressive part of community events such as Sky Show, and was great to be able to welcome them back.”

While in Townsville, 6SQN hosted school visits with Year 7s from the nearby Garbutt State Primary School for the first time, to get a close-up look at the aircraft.

The school’s crest features an F/A-18 aircraft, and the Year 7 football team is known as “The Bombers” – more than appropriate for a school located close to an Air Force Base.

New pilots on a Sierra high in Hornets

By Andrew Stackpool

Six new aircrew have joined the ranks of F/A-18 aviators following their graduation from 2 Operational Conversion Unit’s (2OCU) fast jet conversion course.

FLTLT Daniel Burton, FLGOFFs Chris Baker, Dave Hannaford and Daniel Truitt, and PLTOFFs William Grady and Robert Coulsand reached the climax of the course in Exercise High Sierra, which 2OCU conducted out of RAAF Base Darwin from November 16 to December 6.

Intelligence officer FLGOFF Sam Maloney also graduated from the fighter intelligence course during the exercise.

More than 150 Air Force personnel, 12 Hornets, four Hawks and three PC-9 forward air control aircraft from the Forward Air Control Development Unit (FACDU) participated.

2OCU CO WGCDR Phil Gordon said the exercise has evolved to incorporate the new capabilities introduced by the Hornet Upgrade Program.

“High Sierra is the first time with a completely redesigned Operational Conversion Course. The new course takes in all the capabilities of the Hornet Upgrade Program and shifts the focus towards guided weapons delivery,” he said.

“It was amazing to see the young students flying their way to the target using all the Hornet systems including the new datalink and Helmet mounted sight, accurately identify a difficult target and deliver a laser-guided bomb for a direct hit.

“Five months ago they didn’t know how to start the jet.”

WGCDR Gordon said the exercise was a great success, with 2OCU completing all its missions.

“The whole unit worked hard leading up to the exercise and maintained a high rate of effort throughout to successfully complete it.

“Our maintenance team did an outstanding job to keep the aircraft serviceable. We asked a lot of them, flying nearly every jet twice a day, and they delivered once again,” he said.

Course awards went to FLGOFF Truitt for weapons proficiency; PLTOFF Coulsand for academic proficiency, and PLTOFF Grady for overall proficiency.

LET’S RUMBLE: A 6SQN F-111 taxis out for another sortie during Exercise Northern Challenge.

HEADS UP: A 6SQN F-111 pilot and air combat officer demonstrate the use of night vision equipment during Exercise Northern Challenge.

GOODNIGHT: An F-111 is given a rest overnight in the Ordnance Loading Area at RAAF Base Townsville.

ALL THERE?: Above, 6SQN supplier AC Leevan Antalan checks squadron stores.

WHEEL GOOD: Left, aircraft technician LAC Chris Antalan checks squadron stores.

WHEEL GOOD: Above, 6SQN supplier AC Leevan Antalan checks squadron stores.

WHEEL GOOD: Above, 6SQN supplier AC Leevan Antalan checks squadron stores.
Sub hunt heads west

By FLGOFF Skye Smith

IT WAS a reality check of kinds for crews 5 and 6 of 11SQN when they took part in Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise 2007 (ASWEX 07) off the West Australian coast from November 5 to 16.

11SQN deployed to RAAF Base Pearce to support the bilateral exercise, which aimed to improve fleet interoperability and ties between Australia and New Zealand.

The training focused on collective anti-submarine warfare concepts, tactics and procedures by providing realistic multi-threat training in a challenging environment.

HMA Ships Adelaide, Perth, Parramatta and Sirius and the Royal New Zealand Navy frigate HNZS Te Kaha constituted the surface force, while HMA Submarines Collins, Rankin and Waller formed the sub-surface element.

P-3K Orions from the Royal New Zealand Air Force’s SSQN joined 11SQN in providing maritime air support.

36SQN’s C-17 also assisted with the exercise by transporting two of the Navy’s S-70B Seahawks – along with aircrew and maintenance personnel – from their base at NAS Nowra.

11SQN Executive Officer SQNLDR Kevin Mulgrew said ASWEX provided essential training for the individual units, as well as allowing the exercise of a larger, combined surface action unit.

“ASWEX 07 was an excellent exercise to practise littoral anti-submarine warfare in a confined environment,” he said.

For the two 11SQN crews, the exercise provided the opportunity to launch the MK 46 lightweight torpedo.

Crew 5 captain FLTLT Jay Tuffley said that while regular practice weapon drops in the simulator provided valuable training, they were no match for the real-time experience of releasing an actual torpedo on target.

“It was the highlight of my maritime career so far,” he said.

Following ASWEX, the two crews supported the Principle Warfare Officer Sea Assessment Week (PWOSAW), held from November 19-23.

The exercise aimed to enhance the anti-surface warfare training of Orion aircrew and enable the assessment of Navy Principle Warfare Officers to become the Commanding Officers’ adviser during operations, such as Border Protection and Maritime Interception.

Ready to go: 11SQN AEA SGT Michal Mikeska boards an AP-3C during the Principle Warfare Officer Sea Assessment Week.

Hunters: FLTLT Jay Tuffley and FLGOFF Lachlan Hazeldine prepare for take-off before a sortie during ASWEX 07, and right, 11SQN’s FSgt Matthew Basedow loads a sonobuoy aboard an AP-3C during an anti-surface warfare training mission.

By FLGOFF Skye Smith

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Carileen takes care

By CPL Mike McSweeney

MEDICAL assistant CPL Carileen La Rosa has already conducted two aero-medical evacuation missions from the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO).

Posted to Health Service Flight, RAAF Base Pearce, CPL La Rosa is deployed to Operation Catalyst where she works in TG 633.4’s Expeditionary Health Facility.

As task group medic, she looks after the 160 members of the C-130 detachment, but is also required to escort patients back to Australia.

“We do the pre-flight preparations, making sure they are stabilised, that their vital signs are right, and we have everything we need in a worse-case scenario,” CPL La Rosa said.

She said Army usually evacuated patients to the nearest medical facility, but Air Force-trained personnel were the ones charged with bringing them home by Aero-Medical Evacuation (AME).

“The AME course covers aviation physiology and the stressors of flight, such as increase in altitude, the vibrations, decrease in oxygen; all the factors which come into it when you’re looking after a patient,” she said.

Half-way through a six-month deployment, CPL La Rosa said she was settling into her job with the task group.

“The first month with the handover takeover was a bit difficult, but I’m really starting to enjoy it here,” she said. “It’s an honour and a privilege to bring the guys back, because they are doing such a good job here.

Being in the medical profession, that is one of our most rewarding roles. I conduct the AME, I get them home and I get them back safe with their families so they can rest, recuperate and get better.”

Herc boys went bush for charity

FLTLT Wayne Baylis and his comrades went bushy in the desert to help fight prostate cancer and male depression.

The 37SQN pilot and 44 aircrew, ground crew and support staff from the C-130 detachment in the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) sprouted moustaches for ‘Movember’, a charity event promoted by the Movember Foundation.

FLTLT Baylis kicked off the detachment’s fundraising contribution on November 1 in memory of his wife’s grandfather, Peter Cassidy, who succumbed to prostate cancer in his 70s.

“I’ve heard some guys over the past couple of years got on this charity,” FLTLT Baylis said.

“It’s a great charity; it doesn’t really matter if you are really good or bad at growing a mo’.”

Movember has run over the last three Novembers and raised more than $8.5 million. This year the MEAO Hercules detachment has raised nearly $4000.

The money is used to benefit the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and Beyond Blue, which aims to increase awareness of male depression.

FLTLT Baylis said there were a lot of people in the detachment who were keen to ‘go the mo’. “I was really impressed that so many stuck with it during the month,” he said.

“It was a chance for us to do something a little bit different and get some odd looks from our American counterparts.”

FLTLT Baylis, who has flown Hercules aircraft since 2001, said he was due home early next year.

The 37SQN detachment has deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Catalyst in Iraq and Operation Slipper in Afghanistan.
**Hercs in harm’s way**

MEAO C-130 missions are team effort in meeting critical tasks

By CPL Mike McSweeney

WHETHER on the tarmac or in the air, Aussie C-130 crews faced a regular danger in the Middle East, according to the commander Task Group 633.4, WGCDR William Kourelakos.

“Every airfield we go to has been mortared or had an IDF attack at some point during my tenure here,” WGCDR Kourelakos said.

We had to go to one airfield during a period of intense IDF activity. We did a risk assessment and came up with a plan that mitigated the risk as best as possible.

“At the end of the day that’s what we’ve got to do, we’ve got to support the guys on the ground.”

TG 633.4 is based around a detachment of three C-130Hs that provide air transport to Joint Task Force 633.

WGCDR Kourelakos said it was a critical role for which everyone at the task group had an important part to play.

“A ground unit could run out of stock in one engagement, so our role of bringing the next lot of ammo in is pretty important. I emphasise that to everyone who comes here,” he said.

He was proud of the efforts of all personnel, especially the air load teams who worked remotely with ground elements.

“Some of them have worked themselves very hard and have done a great job,” he said.

C-130 Detachment Commander SqnLdr Benjamin Cullen, now on his third tour to the MEAO, said the success of the mission was a team effort.

“What happens in the background in terms of task administration is very important,” SqnLdr Cullen said.

“It doesn’t run smoothly then the air lift mission as a whole doesn’t go well.”

He said teamwork in the air was also critical to ensure the aircraft and crew returned in one piece.

“The workload is a lot more intense than it would be for a normal mission in Australia,” he said. “It requires quite a high level of crew coordination and preparation before each descent and departure because we want to spend the minimum amount of time in the dangerous area.”

WGCDR Kourelakos said before leaving Australia crews were taught to fly profiles they wouldn’t normally fly in peacetime.

“Our crews are highly trained and have spent a lot of time learning to deal with threats in the air and the aircraft are equipped to handle those threats,” he said.

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By CPL Mike McSweeney

THE C-130 H model is providing unprecedented serviceability on operations in the MEAO after almost 30 years of faithful service to the ADF.

Commander TG 633.4 WGCDR William Kourelakos said it was a testament to the aircraft type and the hard work of the maintenance team.

“Since the H model has come into theatre, we’ve only dropped one sortie in more than two months,” he said.

The workload is a lot more intense than it would be for a normal mission in Australia, he said. “It requires quite a high level of crew coordination and preparation before each descent and departure because we want to spend the minimum amount of time in the dangerous area.”

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**H Model a winner in MEAO**

By CPL Mike McSweeney

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“Since the H model has come into theatre, we’ve only dropped one sortie in more than two months,” he said.

“That’s unheard of serviceability in the C-130 world. So hats off to the whole maintenance team because they’ve done an outstanding job.”

There’s a lot of pride among the crews that fly it. They don’t want to see the old girl go.”

With only one crew per aircraft, the C-130H detachment flew far more missions than they would have in peacetime.

And with the H model having coped well with the dust and heat of the desert, the task group commander said they might be in the Middle East for some time to come.

“Some of them have worked themselves very hard and have done a great job,” he said.

C-130 Detachment Commander SqnLdr Benjamin Cullen, now on his third tour to the MEAO, said the success of the mission was a team effort.

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“Our crews are highly trained and have spent a lot of time learning to deal with threats in the air and the aircraft are equipped to handle those threats,” he said.
By FLTLT David Lee

FOUR RAAF aircrew from 2SQN recently achieved an operational first when they commanded a US Air Force E-3B Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) mission in the US.

The crew from RAAF Base Williamtown are on loan postings with the USAF at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. RAAF personnel have been flying on the AWACS since 2003 but the recent sortie marked the first time four of the five mission command positions, and the two senior command positions on the airframe were filled by Australian aircrew.

FLTLT Ian Martin (ACO/mission crew commander), FLTLT Ben Foote (pilot/aircraft commander), FLTLT Dave Lee (air combat officer) and FLGOFF Nick Gilbert (co-pilot) filled the key positions on the sortie, and with 30 USAF personnel on board, completed an eight-hour sortie within the Continental US region.

Recently upgraded to aircraft commander on the airframe, FLTLT Foote successfully commanded the inaugural flight, capping his recent command upgrade.

Each E-3 sortie flown is tasked with various command and control elements resulting in the provision of homeland security for the US, Presidential support and protection, along with mission crew and control training for USAF fighter elements in preparation for overseas deployments.

Although the sortie was a training command and control mission for the 966th Airborne Air Control Squadron, the RAAF crew members took the opportunity to introduce some Australian culture to their American hosts.

“Vegemite and Ritz (Jatz) flowed from the galley to the flight deck; although not many of the USAF members returned for a second helping. For those not so game, Minties were available.

“There was some ribbing around the squadron about what would happen if we started heading towards the west coast and Australia instead of flying our planned profile to the east coast,” FLTLT Martin said, “but we returned to Tinker with the same aircraft we departed with.”

“My tour here is coming to a close but I can look back on this experience as a highlight of my career so far.”

IN CONTROL: A 2SQN crew on exchange in the US recently achieved a first by commanding the USAF’s equivalent to the Wedgetail (pictured above), coming into RAAF service next year.

GO AUSSIES: Right, the 2SQN crew (from left) is FLTLT David Lee, FLTLT Benjamin Foote, FLGOFF Nicholas Gilbert and FLTLT Ian Martin.

This is an opinion reflected by all of the past and present Aussies at Tinker.

“We will continue to strive for more flights with Aussie command crews during our time here, along with clearance to deploy with the USAF operational squadrons,” FLTLT Martin said.

The crew is gaining valuable operations experience in link, radar, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF), passive detection system, control and operations experience that will “value-add to 2SQN’s future”.

The rotation of RAAF personnel at Tinker will continue until December 2008.
BIGGER was better for kids young and old alike who came to RAAF Base Richmond for the Defence (Sydney Region) Christmas Treat 2007.

Crowd numbers were solid despite the grey weather, with more than 2300 people enjoying themselves at the Christmas bash on November 23 and 24.

Last year’s event raised the stakes on traditional Christmas Treats at Richmond with rides and a circus, and this year’s event built on that success with a bigger sideshow alley of carnival rides.

Lessons learned from last year’s effort included better preparation for weather and rest areas for mums with young children.

Webers’ Circus entertained with clowning and daredevil acrobatics inside the Big Top tent, while outside, the acrobatics were complemented nicely by a C-130J handling display.

Making the event a true tri-Service affair was the Navy’s sleek new A109E “Power” helicopter, along with a team of Army parachutists and the Australian Army Band.

Christmas Treat committee president FSgt Simeon Prucha said: “We had ringing endorsements from people who said the circus show was better than last year and that there was plenty of variety with the rides.

“Richmond’s Mechanical Engineering Operational Maintenance Section also produced camouflaged Santa hats as a novelty item, which were well received,” he said.

International visitors included none other than North Pole’s most famous resident, who visited on both days in a fetching Auscam Santa suit.

While kids will have to wait another month for Santa to pay them a visit again, an early Christmas present came for the Defence Special Needs Support Group, who received $3955 raised from proceeds from a Big Top raffle, run by Treat organisers in partnership with Defcredit.

The Christmas Treat was open to all Defence and Defence-employee families in the Sydney region.

“The Treat would not have been possible without the efforts of the committee – FLTLT Linda Bates (OIC), SGT Rita Coles (secretary), Mrs Kerri Sills (treasurer), WOFF Chris Sinfield (flying display) and, of course, our Santas – CPL Kaine Tessier on Friday and CPL Darryn Atkinson on Saturday,” FSgt Prucha said.
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The festive season is a time for family and friends
FAST on Thump

By FLTLT Stephen Crimston

ABOUT 50 Air Force health professional reservists are now 'FAST', following a recent exercise conducted by 1 Air Transportable Health Squadron (1ATHS) at RAAF Base Amberley.

1ATHS conducted Exercise Praecordial Thump (PT07) from November 10-11. The squadron is required to maintain a Fly Away Surgical Team (FAST) capability. PT07 was designed to enhance Expeditionary Health Support preparedness and facilitate the integration of the permanent and reserve personnel posted to the squadron.

Its purpose was to familiarise the squadron’s specialist reserve health personnel with its deployable equipment and also enabled 1ATHS to identify and address any shortfalls and better get to know its reserve personnel.

Exercise activities included set-up and familiarisation with the squadron’s FAST. The fly-away team provides an emergency surgery capability. The health reservists are critical for this capability, and the specialist personnel familiarised themselves with the FAST equipment schedules and met the permanent personnel who deploy with them.

The exercise enabled reserve personnel to gain a greater visibility of the expertise and capabilities that can be achieved through effective integration of permanent and reserve health personnel.

They inspected a 36SQN C-17 and learned about the impending role expansion of the aircraft, with its aero-medical evacuation (AME) capability due to be introduced early in 2008.

Several of the specialists had previously been involved in large-scale AME operations such as Bali Assist, and agreed that the C-17 would deliver an enormous capability enhancement in that area.

Commander Combat Support Group AIRDRE Mark Gower and OC Health Services Wing GPCAPT Tracy Smart addressed the exercise participants.

GPCAPT Smart emphasised the importance of the reserve personnel to Air Force’s health capability.

"With the recent restructure of Air Force Reserves and subsequent redistribution of reserve personnel positions into unit establishments, this exercise provided an excellent opportunity to foster closer working relationships and facilitate a ‘one team’ approach to Expeditionary Health Support," GPCAPT Smart said.

"This is the first integrated training exercise that Air Force health has achieved following the restructure, and it will provide a platform from which to launch our Expeditionary Health Capability preparedness into the future."

HELLO: Members of the Air Force Health Reserve and 1ATHS get to know each other and the equipment they will use on deployment.

FAST TALKER: Right, FLTLT Haydn Cohen explains the FAST concept to the exercise participants, including CDRCSG AIRCDRE Mark Gower (right).

Photos by LAC Al Bencke

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End of an era for

Revamped RAAFCOL to open for business in the new year

By Andrew Stackpool

THROUGH the dynamics of change, an icon of Air Force training and education heritage will be retained when the Ground Training Wing (GTW) becomes the RAAF College (RAAFCOL) on January 1 next year.

Under the Air Force Rebalance/Defence Modernisation Program, the GTW was merged into the RAAF College in 1986, the academy became the RAAF College (formerly ARAF) again to cover all elements of officer training. In 1998, its structure was widened to cover professional military education and training for all Air Force ranks.

The college was founded to provide professional military education and training for career aircrew officers. In 1961, it became the RAAF College and the bands and the RAAF Museum in 2005, and the Air Force Band, and transition command of all the units to other Air Force staff to establish a reserve band capability. Because of its flying operations, the museum will transfer to Air Training Wing.

Commanded from its Wagga headquarters, RAAF College will continue its tradition of excellence in initial and postgraduate training. The college will provide a virtual 'one-stop-shop' for general training and education for all personnel from recruit to WGCGR.

Last dining-out a Colour affair

By Peter Johnson

IT WAS a night for farewells in a place for traditions. Where RAAF history is preserved, the RAAF Museum, a new piece of history was written – a dining-out night to farewell the RAAF College from RAAF Base Williams, Point Cook.

More than 80 people, including a number of previous commandants, sat down to celebrate 60 years of proud achievement by the RAAF College at the birthplace of the Air Force.

Commandant RAAF College GPCAPT Kathrin Dunn said she was “very proud to host the dining-out night to acknowledge 60 years of the RAAF College and to farewell Point Cook”.

The evening was very enjoyable with the added atmosphere provided by the RAAF Museum’s display hangar as the venue, and music from the Central Band, she said.

Commandant RAAF College Wing GPCAPT Bob Screivener, who will become the new commandant, said he had been a remarkable team, and hoped the RAAF College of the future lived up to the college's prestige.

The bands and the RAAF Museum also came under its control during 2005-06.

Now, by amalgamation with GTW, the new college will provide an even broader training role, with responsibility for all induction training, Air Force-managed initial employment training for ground specialisations and musterings, through-career professional military training for all ranks and post-graduate training conducted within Air Force.

Headquarters RAAF College at Point Cook will close and GTW Headquarters at RAAF Base Wagga will assume command of all college units except the museum.

The title of Commandant RAAF College will transfer to the OC GTW. IRU will relocate at the end of 2007 to Wagga, while Officers’ Training School (OTS) will relocate to its new accommodation at RAAF Base East Sale. Meanwhile, a new flight will be formed at Point Cook to manage Air Force’s new Gap Year program.

The School of Postgraduate Studies will remain at Wagga, while its detachments at RAAF Bases Richmond and Amberley will also remain.

As commandant, I am very conscious of the value of Professional Military Education and Training and the importance of enhancing Air Force’s reputation,” GPCAPT Dunn said.

"Considerable organisational change takes effect in January as we relocate IRU and OTS, stand up the ADF Gap Year training program for Air Force, close the two bands and Headquarters RAAF College at Point Cook, form the new Air Force Band, and transition command of all the units to other Air Force Training Group wings.

“My time as Commandant RAAF College has been very challenging, rewarding and enjoyable,” she said.

As well as its training role, changes are in the wind for the bands and the RAAF Museum.

The Central Band and the Air Force Band will amalgamate on January 1 next year to form a single Air Force Band based at RAAF Base Williams, Point Cook.

A detachment will be formed in Sydney, with a small cadre of permanent Air Force staff to establish a reserve band capability.

Photos provided by FLGOFF Jaye McIntyre

Proud history

AIR Force's prestigious academic centre stood up on August 1, 1947, in recognition of the rapidly-advancing technological changes to military aviation.

The college was founded to provide professional education and training for career officers. In 1961, it became the RAAF Academy until 1986, when its academic aspects were incorporated into ADFA and it was reconstituted as the RAAF College to encompass all elements of officer training.

In 1998, the college’s structure was amended to include aerial recruit training and promotion courses. Promotion training was further enhanced with the formation of the School of Postgraduate Studies. It became synonymous with the management of Professional Military Education and Training.

The college’s roles expanded when it assumed management of the Central Band and RAAF Museum in 2005, and the Air Command Band in 2006.
Point Cook graduates
a league of nations

By Peter Johnson

THEY have backgrounds from many countries and they come from every state and territory in Australia, but these 48 young men and women have one special thing in common. They were all graduates of Initial Officer Course (IOC) that was held at RAAF Base Williamtown, Point Cook.

On course were members of Australian, Indian, Greek, English, Croatian, Italian, Vietnamese, New Zealand, South African and Dutch descent.

AIRCdre Anthony Needham, Director General Executive, was their graduation parade reviewing officer. His arrival on parade was greeted with a fly-past by a 3SQN F/A-18, followed later by a fly-past of four PC-9s in review order.

Administration officer PLTOFF Clive Leverment, who was posted to 3SQN, has a South African background. He said he was a member of the Air Force cadets as a teenager, and always wanted to be a pilot, but has not given up hope of achieving that aim.

OFFCDT David Gregov has a Croatian background. “I decided to chase my dream of becoming a pilot in the Air Force instead of following a corporate career path,” he said.

RAAF preserves a tradition of training cadets from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Air Force Band – provided the musical accompaniment.

THE LUCKY LAST: Above, Initial Officer Course 4/2007 marks the end of an era for RAAFCOL as it marches on to the parade ground at RAAF Base Williams, Point Cook.

THANKS: Left, DCAF AVM John Blackburn presents the Parade Commander Band in January to form the RAAF Central Band – to merge with the Air Command Band in January to form the Air Force Band – provided the musical accompaniment.

Swords glinting in the late spring sun, the parade went through the time-honoured sequence that hundreds of its predecessors have followed at Point Cook, and hundreds of its successors will follow at East Sale.

In addressing the parade, AVM Blackburn told the graduates that they inherited a proud legacy.

“The Air Force is more than 86 years old; the second oldest Air Force in the world and second to none by reputation in peace and war,” he said.

“The professionalism, initiative and assertiveness will all help ensure the Air Force continues as a first-class fighting force.”

MultiCultural: Recent OTS graduates who are now part of the Air Force family. Nationalities represented include New Zealand, South Africa, India, Vietnam, Croatia, England, India and Australia.

Photo by AC Warren Derwent

IRTU parades Edinburgh for the final time

The wheel has almost turned full circle for 1 Recruit Training Unit (IRTU), as it prepares to return to the Riverina in January after 43 years at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

IRTU was raised at RAAF Base Richmond in 1954, then relocated to RAAF Base Wagga in 1960 before moving to RAAF Base Edinburgh as a “temporary measure” in 1964.

The final graduation parade at Edinburgh on December 5 preceded the occupancy of the new facilities at Wagga, where the training curriculum is being designed to meet Air Force’s needs in the future.

The parade for Course 19/07 comprised 82 recruits and was reviewed by AIRCDRE Mark Skidmore, on behalf of ACSUST, and attended by hundreds of the graduates’ relatives and friends, as well as Edinburgh personnel. The RAAF College Queen’s Colour and IRTU Governor General’s Banner were paraded.

A cocktail party held in the Officers’ Mess thanked a legion of external agencies who contributed to the successful operation of IRTU at Edinburgh.

“It is with some sadness that the unit leaves RAAF Base Edinburgh after 43 years,” IRTU CO WgCdr David Ashworth said. “It was only when we began scoping the support we will require at RAAF Base Wagga that we realised how much we have taken for granted at Edinburgh.

“There is a mood of great excitement in the unit at present as we look forward to a new chapter of IRTU’s history and a happy and prosperous integration back into RAAF Base Wagga. No one has seen the fabulous facilities being built for the unit at Wagga can fail to be impressed.

“We are engaged in a process of continual improvement that embraces the optimal learning culture and a greater emphasis on air power from day one; there is something significant about that in a modern facility that demonstrates organisational commitment to our recruits and staff,” he said.

New and improved

- From January 1, 2008, RAF College (RAAFCOL) and Ground Training Wing (GTW) will be restructured as a single training wing, RAF College, headquartered at RAAF Base Wagga.
- Command of the RAAF Museum will transfer to OC Air Training Wing.
- OC GTW will be re-titled COMDT RAAFCOL, and will command:
  - No 1 Recruit Training Unit (IRTU);
  - Officers’ Training School (OTS), including Air Force’s Gap Year program;
  - School of Postgraduate Studies (SPS);
  - School of Technical Training (RAAFSTT); and
  - School of Administration and Logistics (RAAFSALT);
- Air Force Band, including the new detachment in Sydney;
- Defence Explosive and Ordnance Training School;
- Defence International Training Centre; and
- ADF School of Languages, pending its planned transition to Army’s Training Command in mid-2008.

RAAFCOL responsibilities will cover:

- all induction training;
- RAFM-advanced initial employment training for ground specialisations and mustering;
- Air Force’s Gap Year program;
- through-career professional military training for all officers and airmen, and;
- post-graduate training.

AIR FORCE


December 13, 2007
2007 in Review

That's a wrap

AIR FORCE News takes a look at some of the headlines from another action-packed year.

General news
- Air Force went on display at the Australian International Air Show at Woomera and the ADFA Air Show at RAFB Base Edinburgh.
- RAAB Base East Sale personnel assisted residents during Cyclone Fleur.
- The Six King Board of Inquiry report opened up the path to the Air Force’s airworthiness management system.
- More than 500 million was allocated to Defence for RAAB base upgrades.
- The Government announced RAAB Base Richmond would be kept indefinitely.
- The ADF AOG Year was launched for eligible 15-24 year olds to join the ADF for 12 months.
- The Government announced RAAB Base Williamtown (Point Cook) would be retained as a key training base.
- The ADF Repair facility at GBWOB held a key event.
- The ADF AOG Year was launched for eligible 15-24 year olds to join the ADF for 12 months.
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Milestones
- 17SQN's first C-130H achieved 20,000 flight hours.
- 56SQN's C-130H achieved 20,000 flight hours.
- WOFP Jove Lawns became the first Air Force Service Women’s Adviser.
- Macquarie Airfield in the Bradfield Park Estate Area, NSW was commissioned on 10 days during Exercise Talisman Saber.
- CPL Tracie Reynolds from 1SQN became the first RAAB military working dog team to participate in Pacific Exchange.
- 77SQN achieved the world’s first ‘in-service’ fittings of ARAAB Base Edinburgh.

TWIN PEAKS: The earlier C-17 arrived at 56SQN in May. Photo: CPL, Mark Thorpe

The new Air Force’s ‘Tipsy’ radio, AN/TPS-45, became operational after 23 years.
- After nearly 50 years of service, 53SQN's R-70, 621-624 'Warthog Town' was retired.
- The in-service update was successfully tested after arriving at all services for over 50 years.
- The ADF Command Band performed in Port Moresby as part of its organisation, with the 3rd Annual Band concert.

Celebrations
- 2000 celebrated the world's first ‘in-service’ fittings of ARAAB Base Edinburgh.
- 12SQN celebrated its 60th anniversary at RAAB Base Townsville.
- 12SQN celebrated its 60th anniversary at RAAB Base Townsville.
- 77SQN celebrated its first anniversary of flying in-service to ARAAB Base Edinburgh.

Awards
- All three categories of the Australian Dental Medal – Cadet, Iraq, and their families.
- The Air Force College’s 2006-2007 Awards were presented to the students.
- Two IQIN aircraft technicians, CPL Laura Rodman and Michael Fogg, received a Good Service Award for assisting in operations during ‘11111 ADF Force 1st.’
- The ADF Force’s 2006-2007 Awards were presented to the students.
- The new Air Force’s ‘Tipsy’ radio, AN/TPS-45, became operational after 23 years.
- The in-service update was successfully tested after arriving at all services for over 50 years.
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Spending achievements
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Careers/pay and conditions
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- The in-service update was successfully tested after arriving at all services for over 50 years.
- The ADF Command Band performed in Port Moresby as part of its organisation, with the 3rd Annual Band concert.

AIR FORCE December 13, 2007

2FTS instructors star in Red Bull air race

By Barry Rollings

OVERSEAS pilots might have taken centre stage at the finale of the international Red Bull air race series in Perth recently but Air Force played a strong hand in the success of the event.

The Swan River foreshore was lined by race pilots, and various fly past and aerobatics displays – including those by 2 Flying Training School (2FTS) from RAAF Base Pearce.

2FTS qualified flying instructor FLTLT Michael Perry amazed the crowd with his aeroobatics, showcasing the skill of 2FTS instructors star.

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Ref calls in

By Barry Rollings

A CHANCE meeting at an investiture ceremony last year between WOFF Don Sturwohld from RAAF Base Richmond and Bill Harrigan resulted in the high-profile National Rugby League referee visiting RAAF Base Richmond with his family.

The two met in Sydney in April 2006, when Mr Harrigan was invested with his Order of Australia Medal for his services to rugby league.

"We met at his investiture at Government House last year," WOFF Sturwohld said.

"After the ceremony, serving members mingled with award recipients, and Bill, being keen on aircraft, started talking to a couple of us.

"We traded phone numbers – with the understanding that I wasn’t to call every time I disagreed with a video referee decision – with the view to him coming out to Richmond for a look around.

"During the last week of the October school holidays he phoned me to ask if it wouldn’t be too much trouble for him to bring his family out for the day. After the required clearances through the base commander, WGCDR Tracy Simpson, all was set for a tour of the base."

The morning began with Mr Harrigan taking the controls of a B707 flight simulator for a short sortie around Sydney and the region.

"By all reports, he was not kind to our airframe [he couldn’t fly] and we were grateful the sortie took place in the simulator and not on an actual aircraft," WOFF Sturwohld said.

"At lunchtime, Bill surprised the on-base touch football competition with an impromptu visit, where he talked with players and referees.

"In the afternoon, he toured 37SQN, looking over a C-130J and a C-130H. Being an aircraft enthusiast, he had an appreciation of the work that our transport aircraft are doing and the work that it takes to keep these workhorses in the air."

"After the tour, I invited Bill to the Sergeants’ Mess where he was greeted by the SNCOs and officers from the base. He happily mingled with those present at the Sergeants’ Mess for a couple of drinks and discussions on the NRL rules before departing.

"I would like to thank WGCDR Simpson, the 285SQN CO WGCDR Jack Foley and the 37SQN CO WGCDR Paul Nicholas, as well as the members of Richmond for accommodating his visit," he said.

Widely acknowledged as Australia’s finest sport official, Mr Harrigan remains involved with the NRL as a video referee.

He has refereed 393 first-grade games, 21 State of Origin fixtures, 25 Test matches and 10 NRL grand finals.

He was graded to the NSWRL referees in 1983, and made his first-grade debut in 1986. After retiring as a referee, Mr Harrigan spent a year as a consultant with Sydney City Roosters.
Happy Birthday: WGCDR Krista Thompson and 3CRU take time from their 40th birthday to record the historic event, and right, former unit and 3CRU take time from their 40th birthday to enjoy a buffet lunch, a birthday cake and a jumping castle, which was provided by Defence Health who also had a stall on the day.

WGCDR Thompson said that as well as changes to the technology of control and reporting, there had been a revolution in the way 3CRU went about its business.

“Forty years ago it was about fighter control locally. Today, we provide a regional surveillance picture across the entire nation and conduct world-class activities using sophisticated computer-based integrated radar systems,” WGCDR Thompson said.

With the main celebrations over, WGCDR Thompson then hosted a dinner for six previous CO’s of the unit at the RAAF Base Williamtown Officers’ Mess, spanning a significant portion of 3CRU’s history.

3CRU stood up on November 1, 1967 at RAAF Base Williamtown.

THOMPSON then hosted a dinner for six previous CO’s of the unit at the RAAF Base Williamtown Officers’ Mess, spanning a significant portion of 3CRU’s history.

3CRU stood up on November 1, 1967 at RAAF Base Williamtown.

Operation Brolga launched at Townsville for feathered VIBs

By Barry Rollings

WHETHER you are a VIP or a VIB, you can rest assured you are in good protective hands with the 323ECSS Security Police (SECOPOL) at RAAF Base Townsville.

A VIP? Yes, you read it correctly, VIBs – or very important birds.

The 323ECSS SECOPOL were protecting a VIP jet which was visiting as part of the Federal election campaign recently when the call came through to activate Operation Brolga.

The brolga is the official symbol of the base and it had been noticed that a mum, dad and juvenile bird were on the loose on the base.

Conscious of the fact that an air-strike between a commercial airliner and two brolgas late last year resulted in another juvenile brolga being left stranded on the base, every effort was made to ensure that this family stayed together.

So began a half-hour tactical approach to the wary birds, constantly looking for threats to their infant.

Finding a suitable place to shuttle the brolga up the mulga was the easy part, as a crash gate leading to the area was opened.

Then it was up to SECOPOL and the local wildlife authority to shepherd them through the opening.

“Using the fence line as a funnel, we approached the family at a right-angle about 50m away,” one of the shepherds, CPL David Powell, said.

The family saw us and started moving in the direction of the open fence and started to panic, here was something that they were suspicious of.

The family moved away from the fence but a quick shuffle to cut them off and they were on their way along the fence line again.

“The family got to the opening and, while wary at first, they eventually ran through to the safety of the town common, but not before the male of the group turned to give us the defiant spread wings telling us to stay back.”

“All in all, a good day for the brolgas and the airfield,” he said.

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1. For all aspiring applicants wishing to attempt the 2008 SAS Selection Course (SAS-SC) take note of the following:
   a. There will be only one selection course to be held in the next calendar year (28 July 2008),
   b. Attend the National SF info Tour in all major base locations 04-12 February 2008 (DTG TBC in Defence Newspapers)
   c. Have your current CO sign off on the application prior to BRL.

2. To ensure you are at the start line for the SAS-SC (with the best possible preparation), it is in your best interest to comply with the following directive
   b. Have your completed paper work submitted into SFTC by NLT 20 April 2008
   c. You will be notified of the results of the SFPB by signal 29-30 April 2008
   d. You will be sent a joining instruction (by mail) for the SAS-SC the same day.
   e. You are to RV at your designated location to conduct the SAS-SC from 27-28 July 2008. Detailed timings and locations will be released by signal (dated 01 July 2008).
   f. On successful competition of the SF Panelling Board (29 April 2008) your position on the SAS-SC will be confirmed.
   g. Remember your start date for the 13 week SAS-SC training program should commence NLT 15 April 2008 regardless of delays in Psych or medical appointments. This will allow you to complete the training just prior to the course.
   h. Take note: No man fails the SAS-SC...you are either selected or you are not. The only guarantee is that if you adhere to the training program, you will be in the best physical condition to survive the course.

For the SF preparation guide and CD
email: SFTCOPS@defence.gov.au
or write to:
SFTC
C/- selection GP
Lone Pine Barracks
Singleton NSW 2331
or phone:
Selection Group 02 6570 3315
Glenbrook busy

By SQNLDR Brett Dockett

RAAF Base Glenbrook gave about 2000 visitors a day to remember when its open day on November 11 coincided with Remembrance Day.

The open day was a great way for the community to better understand the role of the base, as well as the wider Air Force, as they inspected the Glenbrook facility.

The day allowed our neighbours from the Blue Mountains and western Sydney to understand the function of the base and enjoy a great family day out. Glenbrook Base Commander WGCDR Brett Bell said.

The open day was no small feat for the staff at Combat Support Unit Glenbrook (CSUGBK), which has only nine permanent Air Force members on strength.

The day was planned and executed with the assistance of CSUGBK Reserve Airbase Protection Flight, which travelled from Richmond, Canberra and Wagga to assist on the weekend.

“...the day could not possibly have been the huge success it was without the hard work of all those involved, including the members who supported us by providing displays for the day,” WGCDR Bell said.

Static displays were supplemented with various demonstrations of Air Force capability throughout the day. The Air Force hot-air balloon was on hand to provide tethered rides for the public and the RAAF search and rescue chopper from East Sale dropped in, allowing the public to see the machine at close quarters.

INSIDE INFO: Visitors check out an F-111 cockpit which made the journey from RAAF Base Amberley for the open day.

There were military working dog handler displays, cadets from 323 (AAFC) Squadron put on several drill demonstrations, and an F-111 cockpit was brought down from No. 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron at RAAF Base Amberley to give the public a taste of what it’s like to sit in a jet.

1 Combat Communications Squadron set up a comms display, and the bomb disposal teams from Defence Explosive Ordnance Training School brought their bomb disposal robots, in addition to inert missiles, ejection seats and various examples of what these experts do.

In addition to the military displays, many people came to enjoy a Devonshire tea in the beautiful gardens of the Officers’ Mess, which was also the historical Lapstone Hotel. The Government purchased the hotel in 1949, and ever since, the Mess has held pride of place overlooking the surrounding suburbs. On a clear day you can even see Sydney.

WHO’S A HAPPY HOUND: Children get in close to meet with military working dog ‘War’ and his handler AC Dave O’Donnell at the Glenbrook open day.

Photos by LAC Christopher Dickson

Drive to arrive alive is CAF’s travel message

DEFENCE has taken fatigue awareness a step further by again offering the Defence highway rest stop program to allow personnel and their families to use service accommodation while travelling off-duty over Christmas-New Year.

The program encourages drivers to break up fatiguing trips, a major contributor to road deaths. Participating bases offer single to family-sized accommodation.

CAF AIRMSHL Geoff Shepherd has reminded everyone to ‘arrive alive’ when travelling long distances on holidays.

“As the festive season approaches, many of us will be heading home, or enjoying the offerings of holiday destinations around the country,” he said.

“You’ve all worked hard and deserve a break. So I hope you have a chance to have fun and recharge your batteries. Road trips can be demanding and tiring for drivers and motorcyclists. There are more vehicles on the road and we all just want to get there.

“I’d like to see you back healthy, happy and refreshed in 2008 so I ask you to take care on our roads over Christmas-New Year.”

Highway rest stop program bases include: RAAF Bases Tindal, Townsville, Williamtown, Richmond, Wagga, East Sale and Edinburgh, HMAS Albatross and Stirling, Oakey Army Aviation Centre, Rockhampton, Puckapunyal, South Bandiana Gaza and Ridge Barracks.

Program information and bookings are available at www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc or visit the website for travel tips.

Case Study 2

When selling makes dollars and sense

George and Sarah - salaries $40,000 and $60,000 PA.

George has been in the services for 12 years and is being posted. They own an investment property of $450,000 with a loan of $180,000 and have $30,000 in savings.

George and Sarah now want to buy their own family home.

With the new Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme starting 1/07/08 George and Sarah qualify for the maximum rebate and following discussions with SPECTRUM they take the following options:

- Sell their investment property
- Use the released funds and the DHOAS to buy their family home plus an investment property
- Pay 12 months interest in advance on their investment loan which reduces their current year’s tax.
- Use their new increased net weekly income from rent to accelerate the repayment of the home loan.

George and Sarah are now well on their way to financial freedom.

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AIR FORCE


December 13, 2007
Restructure has positive effect for reservists

By FLGOFF Eamon Hamilton

CHANGES from the Reserve Restructure are bearing fruit for those listed in the latest round of Air Force Active Reserve airmen promotions.

OC Reserve Training Wing GPCAPT David Pasfield said Active and Specialist Reservists now posted to their war establishment roles are completely integrated within the PAF.

“Over the last 18 months, the Air Force has seen some massive changes in the employment of Active and Specialist Reservists,” GPCAPT Pasfield said.

Changes have also been effected to the reservist promotion system, which now reflects its PAF counterpart more closely.

Director of Personnel Reserves, WGCDR Kent Robinson, said: “Reserve promotions were previously tied to vacancies within reserve squadrons and reservists being nominated to fill those posts. “Now, the promotion boards are modelled on those used by DP-AF for the PAF, giving both commanders and candidates far greater confidence in the reserve promotion system. This provides promotion opportunities for reservists across the whole of Air Force.”

Those benefiting from the new promotion system include SGT Anne-Marie Morris and CPL Natalie Rigg, both Active Reservists at RAAF Base Richmond who were recently presented with their new ranks.

Executives stretch at Amberley

By LAC Aaron Curran

MORE than 20 business executives and owners received a taste of Air Force life when RAAF Base Amberley held the annual Exercise Executive Stretch (EES) recently.

From corporate suites to the Caribou, that was the transition for the business and public sector managers who took the flight from Brisbane to Amberley aboard one of 38SQN’s aircraft.

EES was coordinated by Defence Reserves Support, which assists reservists and their employers and hosted by No. 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron. They were taken on tours of 1, 6, 36 and 38SQNs, base facilities and units with a lunch provided at the Officers’ Mess.

The tour included a visit to the F-111 Simulator and 2AFDS.

23SQN CO SQNLDR Brady Cummins said EES allowed employers to see first-hand how reserve training activities can directly benefit their businesses.

“EES demonstrates how the unique professional, leadership and career development skills taught in the Air Force can be transferred in the day-to-day workplace,” SQNLDR Cummins said.

“Our aim is to highlight the skills reservists gain from being in the Air Force. Furthermore, we want to encourage employers to use the resources and financial support available to them through programs like the Employer Support Payment and Prince of Wales Award Schemes.”

Guests were from a wide range of backgrounds, from Boeing to a local builder. After their visit to the RAAF base, attendees were treated to a C-17 flight back to Brisbane airport.

“Feedback was very positive, with some attendees considering joining the Air Force Reserves themselves. One of the employers stated that flying over Brisbane in a Caribou with the ramp down was one of the biggest thrills she has had in a long time,” SQNLDR Cummins said.

WELCOME: Mary Wheeldon from QLD’s Prince Charles Hospital is shown an F-111 cockpit by 82WG XO WGCDR Terrence Deeth.

Photo by LAC Scott Woodward

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2007 SPACE ODYSSEY: Above, FLTLT Dave Goodwin from 1RSU was one of four Air Force officers to become the first international students to attend the National Security Space Institute’s space fundamentals course at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, US.
Photo by AC Mark Friend

LANDED: Below, from left, QLD Police constable Ivan Parsons, WWII vet Joseph Land and 36SQN’s FLTLT Lukasz Wijacha and WOFF Mick Wilson at RAAF Base Amberley. Constable Parsons arranged a visit to the C-17 squadron for Mr Land, a local plane-spotter, after meeting the veteran while on duty.
Photo by LAC Scott Woodward

CLOSE CONTACT: Above, CPL Jason Hajek works on a piece of communications equipment in preparation for the Defence Force Air Show.
Photo by AB James Whittle

ME AND DAD: Below, SQNLDR Nicholas Hogan and son Matthew enjoy the 37SQN Family Day at RAAF Base Richmond.
Photo by SGT William Guthrie

WELL EARNED: CDRSNG AIRDRE Warren Ludwig presents LAC Paul Mulraney with his Active Service Medal, a Returned from Active Service Badge and Afghanistan Campaign Medal at RAAF Base Darwin.
Photo AB Bradley Darvill

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DHA is on call for your next posting

WITH the ADF posting cycle upon us, Defence Housing Australia (DHA) now has regional officers dedicated to assisting you with any issues or difficulties you have with any aspect of DHA.

DHA has recognised the need to provide a more comprehensive complaints management process and the 2006 review aimed to improve the complaints reporting mechanisms.

In November 2006, DHA implemented a new DHA complaints management process, which involves having a customer relations officer (CRO) in each regional office. They are responsible for working with their regional DHA managers and the Defence Relocations and Housing Manager (DRHM) to resolve complaints.

The reporting requirements under the new complaints management process provide a greater level of visibility to Defence of complaints received by DHA on a national basis. The reporting process allows DHA to identify factors that have contributed to complaints arising and any improvements that can be made as a result.

The aim is to provide a consistent approach to the recording and management of complaints with the intention of continuously improving the level of customer service provided.

HAPPY HOMES: Every regional DHA office now has a customer relations officer to help resolve complaints quickly, giving posted members more avenues with which to contact DHA during the relocation process.

Photo by LAC Aaron Curran

MORE OPTIONS: As part of a two-year trial, reservists will be eligible to apply for the Defence Assisted Study Scheme. Pictured is SGT Carol Sedgman from No. 22 (QF) Squadron. Photo by CPL Rob Mitchell

Air Force Departure Lounge
Who’s leaving after 20 years’ service

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Must/Spec</th>
<th>Last day</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WOFF Gary Bones</td>
<td>CLK</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>37</td>
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<td>SQNLDR Robert Tandy</td>
<td>AFC</td>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>WOFF Bernadette van de Tillaart</td>
<td>CISCON</td>
<td>November 20</td>
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<td>CPL Greg Walls</td>
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<td>November 8</td>
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<td>PLTET Peter Hassett</td>
<td>INTEL</td>
<td>October 30</td>
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<td>WOFF Judith Denison</td>
<td>AEA</td>
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<td>WOFF Peter Fraser</td>
<td>CETECH</td>
<td>October 23</td>
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<td>SGT Louise O’Neill</td>
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<td>SGT Michael Powell</td>
<td>GSETECH</td>
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<td>SGT Neil Perkins</td>
<td>AVTECH</td>
<td>November 18</td>
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<td>CPL John Hawke</td>
<td>ALSFTTZ</td>
<td>November 21</td>
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<td>SGTNLDR Peter Miller</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
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<td>SGT Terrence Paince</td>
<td>AVTECH</td>
<td>November 5</td>
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<td>SGT Norman Christopher</td>
<td>SECPOL</td>
<td>November 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>SGT Gavin MacGregor</td>
<td>GSEFTT</td>
<td>November 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPL Michael Paine</td>
<td>GHAND</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location      DHA HMC       CRO emails                   DRHM contacts
Adelaide (08) 8245 7800  clientservicesADEL@dha.gov.au  Bill Greggs on 0407 211389 or Leo Pope on 0418 801981
Wagga (02) 6933 7200  clientservicesWAG@dha.gov.au  Debra Sims on 0428 238646
Melbourne (03) 3540 5000  clientservicesMTL@dha.gov.au  Brian Grear on 0402 824005 or Tania Smith on 07 3382 6992
Canberra (02) 6268 3700  clientservicesACT@dha.gov.au  Jo Payne on 0402 823766 or Fran Teller on 0402 823765
Darwin (08) 8901 7100  clientservicesNT@dha.gov.au  Louise Jordan on 0438 924351 or Melanie Robson on 0428 285030
Perth (08) 9210 3400  clientservicesperth@dha.gov.au  Tracey Pannel on 0418 651744
Richmond (02) 4589 1000  clientservicesnsw@dha.gov.au  Bob Smith on 0408 970557 or Robin Anderson on 0408 978979
Melbourne (03) 9947 8101  clientservicesMtBello@dha.gov.au  John Gaffney on 0407 462437
Sale (03) 5143 6500  clientservicesSOUTH@dha.gov.au  Christine Sarkies on (03) 9282 3628
Sydney (02) 8838 5700  clientservicesNSW@dha.gov.au  Joanne Bradford on 0408 973533 or Jodie Tannock on 0408 972933
Tindal (08) 8872 8000  clientservicesTND@dha.gov.au  Rob Smith on 0429 780211
Ipswich (07) 3395 8800  clientservicesQLD@dha.gov.au  Chris Gordon on 0419 103415
Townsville (07) 4726 1800  clientservicesNTNQ@dha.gov.au  Merv Dixon on 0408 457488 or Rae Kline on 0408 717410
Williamtown (02) 4983 5300  clientservicesWHN@dha.gov.au  Roger Lamothe on 0413 728512 or Vanessa Sellieck on 0429 127082

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AIR FORCE

In 2003, DSD recommended its Speakeasy about 3500 units across Defence. There are Speakeasy will be replaced as the ADF's AOSG after about 15 years of service life, Speakeasy replacement ROMAN application.

After about 15 years of service life, Speakeasy will be replaced as the ADF's AOSG going live on November 14. The milestone signifies the completion of the first stage of the ROMAN upgrade program, involving upgrading of software and infrastructure and modernisation of the ROMAN application.

Speakeasy replacement AFTER about 15 years of service life, Speakeasy will be replaced as the ADF's AOSG going live on November 14. The milestone signifies the completion of the first stage of the ROMAN upgrade program, involving upgrading of software and infrastructure and modernisation of the ROMAN application.

AEROSPACE Operational Support Group (AOSG) has achieved another milestone with the appointment of WGCDR Stephen Kerr as OC Air Systems Development and Test Wing and WCDR Christopher Carruthers as OC Information Warfare Wing. With these appointments, AOSG comprises three wings: Information Warfare Wing, Air Systems Development and Test Wing and Woomera Test Facility, and is organised along the structure of the Force Element Groups.

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**EYES LEFT:** Air Force Cadets from 305 (AAFC) Squadron march on to a Remembrance Day ceremony at the Avalon Beach, NSW, RSL. 305SQN joined Navy and Army Cadets from Sydney’s northern beaches at a Cadets Expo on November 10-11. It featured a wide range of activities and displays. The massed cadets conducted a memorial ceremony at the RSL as part of Remembrance Day commemorations, and the Expo concluded with the Navy sunset ceremony performed by the Navy’s Reserve Band.

**HOT SHOTS:** School of Air Traffic Control CO WGCDR Andrew Gilbert congratulates CCPL Harrison Page from 429 (AAFC) Squadron after he won the individual top shot award in the recent 4WG (AAFC) weapons competition. 429SQN from Queenscliff, Victoria, were the overall winners for 2007. The squadron faced stiff competition from 17 cadet squadrons in the keenly-contested event. 428 (AAFC) Squadron from Geelong and 402 (AAFC) Squadron from Watsonia came second and third.

**MODEL AIRMEN:** Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) Kyle Harrison (left) and Zac Wheeler from 409 (AAFC) Squadron admire a scale model Spitfire and a PC-9 at RAAF Base Williams (Point Cook). 409SQN gained some practical experience on the theories of flight when members of the Sale and District Aero Modellers Club instructed them in flying radio-controlled model aircraft at a model aircraft flying day at the base’s airfield recently. Members of clubs from Bairnsdale and Traralgon also participated in what was described as an “excellent model aircraft flying display”.

**Cadets Corner**

**December 13, 2007**
Swift impression

IN 1985, Suzuki released the first generation Swift with a 993CC engine producing 37kW of power.

Now times have changed; three vehicle generations later and in 2005 with the development and production of the fourth-generation Swift, Suzuki went to great lengths to build a vehicle which was vastly different in style, quality and performance from all the previous variants.

In this test, two variants of the Swift were driven; the standard 1.5L five-door, automatic and the snappily 1.6L five-door manual.

Both are handsome externally and internally. The compact body shape is easy on the eye and is by far the easiest car I have ever parked. A rounded body, coupled with an excellent driving position and good all-round visibility, allows drivers to dart through traffic and manoeuvre around cars with little inhibition.

The cabin has been well thought out, utilising easy-to-read instruments and dials, with a handy instrument cluster atop the centre of the dash, providing time, outside temperature and fuel usage information.

Switches are within easy reach and to add to driver convenience there are audio controls mounted on the steering wheel, matched to an MD3 CD player, which are an unexpected addition for a car in this class and price range. Seats in the auto Swift were firm, but comfortable and appear to be made of a hard-wearing fabric.

Both models include fold-down rear seats, expanding the small boot space.

Seats in the Sport are what I would term semi-sport in their appearance and feel. Other Sport additions are a leather steering wheel, red stitching and silver trim on doors, gear knob, drilled metal foot pedal covers, side, rear and front skirts, alloy wheels and rear spoiler.

On the road, the 1.5L auto has the direct, predictable handling and engine performance I expected. It’s a little sluggish under acceleration. The Sport is a different beast altogether and its 1.6L engine loves to rev.

Both Swifts punch well above their weight in their car class and succeed in their mission to provide more than basic transport, within a practical and handsome body shell for a great price.

Photo by CPL Andrew Hetherington

NEW GENERATION: The Suzuki Swift is being noticed for style, quality and performance.

How times have changed; three vehi-
cle generations later and in 2005 with the
development and production of the fourth-
generation Swift, Suzuki went to
great lengths to build a vehicle which was
g Cass considerably different in style,
quality and performance from all the
previous variants.

In this test, two variants of the Swift
were driven; the standard 1.5L five-
door, automatic and the snappily
1.6L five-door manual.

Both are handsome externally and
directionally. The compact body shape
is easy on the eye and is by far the
easiest car I have ever parked. A
rounded body, coupled with an
eXellent driving position and good
all-round visibility, allows drivers to
dart through traffic and manoeuvre
around cars with little inhibition.

The cabin has been well thought out,
utilising easy-to-read instruments
and dials, with a handy instrument
cluster atop the centre of the dash,
providing time, outside temperature
and fuel usage information.

Switches are within easy reach and
to add to driver convenience there
are audio controls mounted on the
steering wheel, matched to an
MD3 CD player, which are an
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Photo by CPL Andrew Hetherington

NEW GENERATION: The Suzuki Swift is being noticed for style, quality and performance.
Crusading conquests of epic proportions

The terrain: The visuals of Ace Combat 6 are unbelievable.

The storyline: The experience is: It’s not easy to combine arcade and realism while juggling that balance, but Ace Combat nails it.

The combat: The countries at war and overall narrative are highly fictional, as are many other surprising elements, such as the arrival of a missile-spewing Flying Fortress. To top it all off are the cutscenes between each mission, which tell the war stories of seven different characters on the ground and how the war affects them. As you can probably tell from my intro, they are a pretty dramatic narrative and often feel like watching pieces of a longer animated film. This alone sees Ace Combat setting a new standard for presentation in air combat games.

--- Sean Roberts

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--- Sean Roberts
Water stressors

Dehydration in the gym is dangerous and dehydration in the field is more so. Lt Rob Orr looks at how you should respond.

Most people are aware of the importance of consuming sufficient water and minimizing the intake of diuretics (concentrated salt, caffeine, etc.) to remain hydrated. However, while remaining hydrated is important to minimize heat-related illness, another important factor is the electrolyte balance within the body.

Where water provides the mechanism for sweat, electrolytes are vital for a variety of functions, including fluid retention, muscle function and nervous system control of the body.

Electrolyte balance

Electrolytes, like sodium, chloride and potassium, are lost through sweat, therefore, the more you sweat the more electrolytes you lose. It is here that the nature of your fluid intake becomes important.

If you only replace the water lost (especially if force-drinking high quantities of plain water), the electrolyte concentrations in the body are diluted. This is similar to filling a glass with cordial and water, drinking the diluted. This is similar to filling a glass with cordial and water, drinking the diluted. This is similar to filling a glass with cordial and water, drinking the diluted. This is similar to filling a glass with cordial and water, drinking the diluted.

Another important factor in heat injury prevention is acclimatisation, with many ADF members proceeding to a new climatic environment on posting. It is important that the body is given time to acclimatised to the new environment as the acclimatisation process can increase sweat production by more than 50 per cent.

It is not just the temperature ranges between posting locations that need to be considered but, more importantly, the humidity. Humidity reduces the effectiveness of fluid transfer from the body to the air, which in turn reduces the effectiveness of sweating as a means of heat reduction.

Depending on the severity of the climate change, acclimatisation is best achieved over a seven to 14-day period. This acclimatisation period should include bouts of physical activity, predominantly aerobic in nature, in the environment (not just in an air-conditioned room). The activity should gradually increase in time and intensity, up to the level you were operating at prior to your posting.

For more information on acclimatisation guidelines, see section 3, chapter 6 of the RAAMSAFE Manual located at http://internet.defence. asp/page/home.

For more information on acclimatisation, see section 3, chapter 6 of the RAAMSAFE Manual located at http://internet.defence. asp/page/home.

SMART MONEY

Credit cards are Christmas traps

‘Tis the season to be jolly, not crumpled in a corner wondering how to pay for all your excesses with the credit cards, as GPCAPT Rob Brown writes.

The most common financial trap over the holiday season is uncontrolled spending, particularly on credit cards. Pressure of Christmas present shopping, combined with the relaxed holiday atmosphere, can lead to frightening bills arriving in the New Year.

Financial damage caused by credit cards can destroy a family’s financial stability for years to come if they battle to pay expensive debts that could have been avoided.

The good news is credit cards can be used sensibly and even to your advantage. The key is to have an understanding of terms, conditions and interest rates. If you discipline yourself to use a credit card as a ‘convenience card’ and pay it off in one lump sum within the specified time, you can borrow interest-free from your card provider. However, if you fail to pay off the card in one lump sum, you can end up paying an annual percentage rate of over 20 per cent.

Better still, don’t use credit cards at all. Save a small amount each pay for presents and holidays, and consider buying Christmas gifts throughout the year.

Another common financial trap is to sign up for a credit card to receive a special offer. These strategies, while simple, aren’t followed enough and too many people learn the hard way – it’s your choice.

For more information on budgeting and personal finances, visit: www.adfconsum er.gov.au

GPCAPT Brown is an independent member of the ADF Financial Services Consumer Council. To suggest a topic, email: ADFColumn@air.mil.au

Defence Families — who will care?

In the current world situation, the ADF is being increasingly called on for service in war, peacekeeping and disaster relief operations around the globe.

All Defence Force service, operationally or in training, is potentially hazardous. Should the worst happen, who cares for the Defence Force families left behind?

One organisation does – and that is Legacy.

Since 1923 Legacy’s ‘promise of care’ has been to provide for the welfare of the widows and children of veterans.

Today, Legacy cares for some 133,000 widows and over 1800 children, and remains dedicated to provide for the welfare of the widows, widowers and children of veterans who have served on operations in war. Care is also extended to the families of Regular and Reserve members of the ADF who lose their lives in hazardous service, including peacekeeping operations, or in training for war.

This is Legacy’s promise to you and your family. Contact Legacy for more information, or to help as a volunteer or donor in this special ‘Legacy of Care’.

Call 1800 LEGACY (534 229) or visit www.legacy.com.au

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Kwis edge ADBA women’s team in basketball clash

By Barry Rollings

REBOUNDS and three-pointers proved decisive as the New Zealand Army edged the Australian Defence Basketball Association (ADBA) women’s 26-20 in Canberra on November 30.

Their encounter at the Australian Institute of Sport Training Hall was a curtain-raiser to the Women’s National Basketball League (WNBL) AIS-Christchurch game, won 87-63 by the AIS.

NZ Army led 11-6 at halftime before the ADBA competed on more even terms in the second half, being edged by a point (15-14).

New Zealand’s 36 rebounds to the ADBA’s 21 and nine points from three successful three-point shots proved the difference. New Zealand’s key players of the match were Rebecca Brand, Kate Hockings, Rose King and Sarah Cosgrove.

ADBA standouts were PTE Kelly Nelson, matching Rebecca Brand’s six points, ACW Karen Herbert scoring five and FLTLT Megan Hurley keeping the ball in play with four rebounds and five steals.

“The Kiwis were very strong and bonded well as a team initially,” ADBA assistant coach FLTLT Janet Turnbull said.

“They had very good crowd support from the vocal Army men’s team which was touring with them.

“Our guards Karen Herbert and Megan Hurley took control in the second half but were not quite able to match the strength of the Kiwis,” she said.

Pay day for Air Force in hard-fought golf

SGT Darren Pay from RAAF Base Wagga was named the most valuable player as Air Force regained the NSW Inter-Service Golf Champions’ Trophy with a hard-fought 3-0 win in the recent series at the Horizons Salamander Bay course.

The Air Force team was led by captain FSgt Stew Rawlinson from RAAF Base Wagga and vice-captain SGT Derek Brown from RAAF Base Williamtown, with strong support from SGT Pay. He had an outstanding week in winning all his matches in both foursomes and singles.

Tourism organiser, WOFF Shane Jensen from RAAF Base Williamtown, said more than 60 personnel from all four Services competed.

“For the first time in the competition’s history, an Australian Public Service (APS) team was included, creating a new format involving four teams,” WOFF Jensen said.

“The opening day’s individual stroke event (involving all players) belonged to Army’s CPL Trent Fortescue, who shot a scorching round of 72 to collect the prestigious Cliff Morey Trophy.”

This was followed by three days of foursomes in the mornings and individual match play in the afternoons, with competitors playing up to 36 holes of golf each day.

In the Monday foursomes, Air Force squared the foursomes with Army for three points but won the singles 9-4 for an overall 12-7 victory. On the Tuesday, Air Force accounted for Navy 12-7, after taking the foursomes 3-1 and the singles narrowly 7-6.

Air Force made the title its own in the Wednesday foursomes, with a 4-2 win against APS and taking the singles 9-5 for an overall 12-7 win.

Chip ‘n’ putt: SGT Derek Brown chips on to the green at the inter-Service golf titles. Photo by LACW Veronica McKenna

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The alcohol and other drugs (AOD) cabinet contains a range of information, resources for ADF health and allied health professionals, policy material and links to publications and other sites of interest.

ADF ATODS: The Defence Health Services response to AOD issues.

December 13, 2007

Sport 29
ADF teams batter up

THE ADF men's and women's softball teams had mixed fortunes when they played their counterparts from the New Zealand Army in the Trans Tasman Series at Randwick Barracks in Sydney recently.

The matches, played between November 12 and 15, were part of the Australian Defence Softball Association's (ADSA) national carnival.

The ADSA women retained the Trans Tasman Trophy but the Kiwi men were too strong for the Australians.

The competition attracted men's and women's teams from NSW, the Northern Territory, Queensland, Southern States and the New Zealand Army.

After three days of preliminary games, the grand finals were played on the Wednesday afternoon.

NSW lost only one game in the preliminary rounds and met Queensland in the men's final as clear favourite to win.

Queensland, consistent in the preliminaries, built its teamwork steadily to come through and upset NSW in the grand final.

NSW, the stronger team throughout the women's preliminaries, beat Northern Territory in their grand final.

"The men's competition was very exciting this year as there were a lot of new faces, and exciting talent has emerged," ADSA secretary SGT Virginia Morris said.

Life Memberships were awarded during the titles to CPO Donna Edge and SGT Morris for their dedication and support shown to Defence softball over the past years.

At this year's championships, ADSA men's and women's team were selected to tour New Zealand in December 2008.

ADSA now has a new website: http://intranet.defence.gov.au/dsg/sites/Softball

Anyone interested in playing softball should contact SGT Morris by emailing virginia-lee.morris@defence.gov.au

AIR FORCE takes to lake for ADF Dinghy champs

By Barry Rollings

AIR FORCE finished third behind two Navy crews in the ADF Sailing Association's (ADFA) Dinghy Championships in very light conditions on Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin from November 22-25.

CDRE Rick Longbottom and MIDN Andrew Foulkes were the leading ADF boat and third overall, with CMDR Martin Linsley and CMDR Bruce Edies placed second in the ADF titles. SGT Ross MacDonald from RAAF Base Richmond and Antonia Kaucz were third.

While physically undemanding, the light Canberra winds proved mentally taxing for skippers and crews as they battled to both keep their boats in the strongest breezes and achieve tactical superiority over their rivals.

The ADF titles were contested in Tasar dinghies and were held in conjunction with the ACT Dinghy Championships.

The ACT championships involved more than 50 boats racing in the same patch of water, leading to some close calls and "discussions" about rules. Breezes ranged from zero to five knots, with major direction shifts.

"Sailing well required intense concentration from the crews, and carefully controlled movements to avoid the wind and water turbulence that reduce a boat's momentum," SGT MacDonald said.

"Smooth and sequential teamwork - not easy to perform in the confines of a small boat."

The next representative event for the ADFA is the Australian Tasar Championships in Adelaide from December 27 to January 4.
**Cricket comp a mixed bag**

Air Force takes fourth spot in IDCC challenge

By Barry Rollings

A FIRST-DAY loss and the weather left Air Force pondering its fate and settling for a fourth place finish in the inaugural International Defence Cricket Challenge (IDCC) in Canberra from November 15 to 23.

Air Force lost its opening match to the eventual winner, Australian Army, before accounting for New Zealand Army and then producing an exciting win against the British team, Adjutant General’s Corps (AGCs), in their final pool match.

Air Force made 9-211 in reply to AGC’s 210. CPL Brett Harris played a starring role with the bat with 69 not out. That gave Air Force second place behind the Australian Army in pool B, while the RNZAF topped pool A from the RAN.

The round robin section of the challenge produced tight, hard cricket in which the Australian Army and RNZAF were undefeated in their pool games.

Rain then forced the cancellation of all semi-finals and plate finals on November 22, except the 5-5 play-off between the Royal Engineers and New Zealand Army. That was reduced to a 20-20 game and was won by the Kiwis, who were presented the GEN Peter Cosgrove (ret’d) Plate for fifth overall.

The poor weather forced the IDCC committee to award places in the grand final based on pool results with the two leading sides in each pool getting the nod.

All other plate final winners were determined by pool results and net run rates, with the RAN declared the SQNLDR Stan Sisney (ret’d) Plate winner (third overall) and the AGCs from Britain given the COL Wal Hall (ret’d) Plate (seventh overall).

The Australian Army’s tail wagged long and hard to win a tense grand final against RNZAF at Manuka Oval on November 23.

The grand final was played under difficult conditions. A crowd of about 500 looked on as Army won the toss and elected to bat.

Army’s top order failed to fire and it reached 139 from its reduced allocation of 42 overs, thanks to the efforts of two tailenders, LCPL Don Mander and GNR Adam Ratcliffe, who made 30 not out and 27 not out respectively.

The RNZAF was shaken by a good early spell of bowling from PTE Laurie Wood and LT Matthew Pascoe, who rocked the RNZAF, leaving it stumbling at 3-13 before recovering to be 4-74.

Then, SGT Lindsay Black (3-19) and MAJ Michael Say (3-18) ended the Kiwi dream by taking the final six wickets for 30 runs to secure the IDCC Champions Trophy.

A presentation dinner was held, with the patron of the Australian Services Cricket Association ACM Angus Houston in attendance, to present the awards.

“The overwhelming success of the inaugural IDCC has proved the concept of staging Defence cricket on an international stage,” Australian Services Cricket Association President, BRIG Stephen Dunn, said.

“The professionalism of the tournament and the outstanding spirit of the players has allowed me to begin planning for the 2009 iteration of this fabulous event.”

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**Warriors tour to South America ‘tremendous’**

By Barry Rollings

The recent tour to South America by the Australian Services Rugby Union (ASRU) Warriors is expected to provide the ideal platform for next year’s Pacific Nations Defence Cup in New Zealand.

The October-November tour to Chile and Argentina scheduled five matches and the Warriors returned home with two wins and three losses, with the losses coming against some strong competition.

“Overall, the 2007 ASRU tour to South America was tremendous,” ASRU development officer, Graham King, said.

“The South American experience has provided a wonderful foundation for the core ASRU players to continue to develop,” he said.

After beating Santo Tomas Rugby Club 120-7 on their tour opener in Chile and losing 19-10 to the province of Mendoza in Argentina, the tour continued with a match against Rosario, the second most successful province in Argentinean rugby.

Rosario fielded five players from the Argentinean national team, the Pumas, and this highly-skilled representative team won 39-6.

Renowned for its traditional Argentinean backline attacking flair, Rosario proved a different challenge from the forward confrontation of the previous match.

The game began with both sides trading penalty goals as the forwards sorted themselves out.

As the game settled, the classy Rosario backline began to show its wares. A couple of quick tries gave Rosario an 18-6 half-time lead.

After the break, the ASRU was able to more than match the Rosario side but was unable to convert several opportunities. Rosario, on the other hand, was able to convert its opportunities and ran in three more tries.

“It was actually a credit to ASRU that they chose such a strong side to play against us,” Mr King said.

“It was a very different game to that against Mendoza, which was likened to trench warfare.

“Rosario played a very fast, expansive and free-flowing game.”

Next port of call for the Warriors was Bahia Blanca in the south of the country for another hard match against the Union Rugby Del Sur (URDS). The city prepared a very strong team to meet the ASRU on November 17.

In another physical and demanding match, the advantage alternated between ASRU and the URDS many times.

ASRU had to work very hard for the entire 80 minutes of the match to secure a 19-15 victory.

On November 21, the ASRU team was outclassed in its last tour match by a Buenos Aires Selection and lost 53-13.

Played at the historic Casi Rugby Stadium in the precinct of Palermo, Buenos Aires, it was a ‘heroic defeat’ with the team playing against a team that beat the Queensland Reds during their last tour of Australia a year ago.

The Warriors played very entertaining rugby and for the most part were the equal of the Argentinean forwards.

It was in the backline that ASRU struggled to contain the free-running and highly-skilled Pumas. Any mistake by ASRU was invariably punished by the Buenos Aires backs.

That said, ASRU played some wonderful attacking rugby, and at times, stretched the Argentinean representative players.
Rain ruins Air Force’s good run in the International Defence Cricket Challenge – see P31