Pilots eject safely after engine failure

“WHEN it got to the stage that I realised we were not going to make it, basically instinct kicked in and I called ‘eject, eject, eject’.

“I was not overly concerned for our safety because I knew that if I followed the procedures I have been trained for we’d be ok.”

That was how SQNLDR Bruce Collenette from Central Flying School described the final moments of his ill-fated PC-9/A which crashed about 3.15pm on May 18 about 1km short of the runway at RAAF Base East Sale after experiencing a suspected engine failure.

SQNLDR Collenette, a qualified flying instructor, and instructor trainee (and qualified pilot) FLTLT Steve Andrews ejected safely.

Soon after take-off, the aircraft lost power and was turned back towards the base. The pilots were unable to restart the engine and immediately followed the engine shutdown procedures checklist.

Continued Page 2

Andrew Stackpool

DRAMATIC SCENE: Base emergency services at the scene after a CFS PC-9/A crashed about 1km short of the runway at RAAF Base East Sale. Photo: AC Oliver Carter
Testament to their training

From Page 1

CO East Sale and OC of Air Training Wing GPCAPT Glen Coy said the two men followed their training and drills and tried to restore power to the engine.

“They were unable to restart the engine and immediately followed the engine shutdown procedures checklist,” GPCAPT Coy said.

Realising they did not have sufficient glide potential to reach the runway, they made a very sound decision to eject out of the aircraft.

“We had probably about three minutes to make the decision as to whether to glide in or eject.”

He said he was feeling ok after the incident.

“If you follow the procedures and training then you can be confident you’ll come out of it in pretty good shape,” he said.

He also said without any hesitation that he would be returning to the air.

GPCAPT Coy said their response was testament to their high level skills and training.

“The aircraft has an excellent [ejection] safety system and the crew are very well trained in the operation of that system and used it correctly,” he said.

“Also, the search and rescue responses by base emergency services were swift and appropriate. The base did an excellent job with their response.”

He said being a “tight-knit community” at East Sale, everyone were relieved the men were safe.

“The Air Force is providing support to them and their families, and wishes them a speedy recovery.”

GPCAPT Coy stressed that the Air Force maintained a very strict airworthiness and safety system.

On May 19, an aviation accident investigation team commenced an investigation into the incident at East Sale. However, GPCAPT Coy again stressed that it was too early to speculate on the possible causes.

In the meantime, PC-9/A flying operations have been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

My first thought was, ‘you’ve got to be kidding me’, but it was happening for real.

— SQNLDR Bruce Colletette

Response pulls all together

WHILE the base response to the ejection of SQNLDR Bruce Colletette and FLTLT Steven Andrews is still under investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Team (AAIT), what was most evident was that all elements of East Sale’s emergency response teams were well prepared, and committed to preserving the safety of the two crew members and those in the immediate vicinity of the crash site.

The initial response was attended by Transfield Base Fire personnel, Air Force medical assistants and civilian health practitioners, the CHC Search and Rescue Helicopter crew, Security Police and the Base Aviation Safety Officer. The Air Traffic Control Section was staffed by a mix of military and civilian personnel of 453SQN Flight, who handled the initial radio response and handover to the Base Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) impeccably.

The EOC took control of the situation, and ensured the initial response was under control and a quick passage of information was distributed to the relevant stakeholders at Air Training Wing, Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety and Air Force Headquarters.

As the incident unfolded, all areas on base set into action. Defence Support Group staff took records in the EOC, organised for contractors to support the emergency and the arrival of the AAIT, Wilson Security’s staff and Air Force Security Police established a cordon and picket around the crash site, and the School of Air Warfare photographic staff were soon at work obtaining imagery from the ground and from the air.

The safety and wellbeing of SQNLDR Colletette and FLTLT Andrews was the priority for all involved.

Central Flying School personnel rallied to support their crew and to ensure that next of kin were contacted as soon as possible.

On the clearance of fuel by Fuel Quality Control staff, crew from 32SQN were in the air that evening to expedite the initial response of the AAIT to East Sale.

Chaplains provided initial counselling and support to those affected, including those dealing with the emergency.

The Base Management Forum had just hours before received tentative dates for a desktop and field crash exercise in June. While these exercises will still go ahead, there will obviously be a slightly different perspective on them now.

While the investigation is still to take place, the base can be commended for its efforts in response to this incident.

Editorial team
Acting Director
David Edlington: (02) 6265 4650 david.edlington@defencenews.gov.au
Editor/Deputy Editor
Simone Liebelt: (02) 6265 2253 Mobile: 0400 003792 simone.liebelt@defencenews.gov.au
Editor/Deputy Editorial
John Martin: (02) 6265 7219 john.martin@defencenews.gov.au
News Team
Chief of Staff
Graham McBean: (02) 6265 1161 chiefstaff@defencenews.gov.au
Contact us:
Email: raafnews@defence.gov.au

Subscriptions
Trish Dillon: (02) 6266 7607 subscription@defence.gov.au
Advertising:
Tim Asher: (03) 3332 7651 Mobile: 0459 942551 advertising@defence.gov.au

Disclaimer
Air Force News is published fortnightly by the Directorate of Defence News. Printed by Capital Print. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising if it is deemed inappropriate and to change the size of the ad, print type or other specifications if material is not compatible with our system. The fact an ad is accepted for publication does not mean that the product or service has the endorsement of Defence or Air Force News.

Cyber support
SOCIAL media has again demonstrated its ability to report on incidents and take almost immediate comment and opinion from a wide-ranging audience.

Following the crash of the PC-9/A at East Sale, Air Force posted a link for readers to the official statement, reporting that both of the crew members were in a satisfactory condition in hospital, and in good spirits after the incident.

Within a short time, many people had responded positively, wishing both men a speedy recovery and giving their best wishes for a return to flying soon.

If you wish to send a message of support, please visit http://www.facebook.com/RoyalAustralianAirForce on Facebook and leave a message. Air Force will pass all the messages on to SQNLDR Colletette and FLTLT Andrews.

Response pulls all together

WHILE the base response to the ejection of SQNLDR Bruce Colletette and FLTLT Steven Andrews is still under investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Team (AAIT), what was most evident was that all elements of East Sale’s emergency response teams were well prepared, and committed to preserving the safety of the two crew members and those in the immediate vicinity of the crash site.

The initial response was attended by Transfield Base Fire personnel, Air Force medical assistants and civilian health practitioners, the CHC Search and Rescue Helicopter crew, Security Police and the Base Aviation Safety Officer. The Air Traffic Control Section was staffed by a mix of military and civilian personnel of 453SQN Flight, who handled the initial radio response and handover to the Base Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) impeccably.

The EOC took control of the situation, and ensured the initial response was under control and a quick passage of information was distributed to the relevant stakeholders at Air Training Wing, Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety and Air Force Headquarters.

As the incident unfolded, all areas on base set into action. Defence Support Group staff took records in the EOC, organised for contractors to support the emergency and the arrival of the AAIT, Wilson Security’s staff and Air Force Security Police established a cordon and picket around the crash site, and the School of Air Warfare photographic staff were soon at work obtaining imagery from the ground and from the air.

The safety and wellbeing of SQNLDR Colletette and FLTLT Andrews was the priority for all involved.

Central Flying School personnel rallied to support their crew and to ensure that next of kin were contacted as soon as possible.

On the clearance of fuel by Fuel Quality Control staff, crew from 32SQN were in the air that evening to expedite the initial response of the AAIT to East Sale.

Chaplains provided initial counselling and support to those affected, including those dealing with the emergency.

The Base Management Forum had just hours before received tentative dates for a desktop and field crash exercise in June. While these exercises will still go ahead, there will obviously be a slightly different perspective on them now.

While the investigation is still to take place, the base can be commended for its efforts in response to this incident.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Acting Director
David Edlington: (02) 6265 4650 david.edlington@defencenews.gov.au
Editor/Deputy Editor
Simone Liebelt: (02) 6265 2253 Mobile: 0400 003792 simone.liebelt@defencenews.gov.au
Editor/Deputy Editorial
John Martin: (02) 6265 7219 john.martin@defencenews.gov.au
News Team
Chief of Staff
Graham McBean: (02) 6265 1161 chiefstaff@defencenews.gov.au
Contact us:
Email: raafnews@defence.gov.au

Subscriptions
Trish Dillon: (02) 6266 7607 subscription@defence.gov.au
Advertising:
Tim Asher: (03) 3332 7651 Mobile: 0459 942551 advertising@defence.gov.au

Disclaimer
Air Force News is published fortnightly by the Directorate of Defence News. Printed by Capital Print. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising if it is deemed inappropriate and to change the size of the ad, print type or other specifications if material is not compatible with our system. The fact an ad is accepted for publication does not mean that the product or service has the endorsement of Defence or Air Force News.

Cyber support
SOCIAL media has again demonstrated its ability to report on incidents and take almost immediate comment and opinion from a wide-ranging audience.

Following the crash of the PC-9/A at East Sale, Air Force posted a link for readers to the official statement, reporting that both of the crew members were in a satisfactory condition in hospital, and in good spirits after the incident.

Within a short time, many people had responded positively, wishing both men a speedy recovery and giving their best wishes for a return to flying soon.

If you wish to send a message of support, please visit http://www.facebook.com/RoyalAustralianAirForce on Facebook and leave a message. Air Force will pass all the messages on to SQNLDR Colletette and FLTLT Andrews.
Andrew Stackpool

THE RAAF Base Williamtown

The Westpac 1 SAR helicopter was available at the time. The CHC SAR helicopter arrived on scene about 12.30pm, joined by AMSA’s SAR Dornier aircraft, which provided top cover throughout the rescue.

Medical officer WGCDR Vincent Duffy, who was on board the CHC helicopter, said he had limited medical information on the condition of the three yacht crew.

“They were reported as being exhausted from the difficult sailing conditions and one member of the crew was said to be severely seasick,” WGCDR Duffy said.

“It was a cold day with gale-force winds so my preparations on the flight out revolved around being set up to deal with hypothermia, sea sickness and any injuries they may have received during their journey or from their evacuation of the yacht.

“As each person was winched on board I assessed them for the presence of these problems but all were in good condition and medical intervention was not required.

“Removal from the yacht seemed an instant cure for seasickness. The helicopter returned to Williamtown shortly before 2pm.

The men were met there by an ambulance, base medical staff and personnel from 26SQN. 26SQN CO WGCDR Glen Johnson said the three were taken to the squadron to “digest the incident.”

“We gave them time alone as I was concerned they might have a delayed reaction to their rescue,” he said.

Despite it being a busy time at the squadron, WGCDR Johnson said his personnel went out of their way to help.

“They arranged tea and coffee for the three men, offered them dry clothes if they wanted them, arranged for chaplain support if they sought it, arranged for a hot meal from the mess out of hours if they wanted it, ensured they contacted their relatives or, in some cases, arranged for their clothes if they wanted them, arranged for several hours until they were well enough to depart the base for local accommodation,” he said.

“They declined those offers but did gulp down several cups of hot coffee in a hurry.”

TEAM EFFORT: CHC SAR helicopter pilot Andrew Tenison Woods, front, with, from left, WOoff Shane Armstrong from the Air Base Command Post at Williamtown and 26SQN CO WGCDR Glen Johnson, who both coordinated the rescue; and base medical officer WGCDR Vincent Duffy and CRC aircrewman Geoff Abrahams, who were both aboard the helicopter during the rescue. Inset, the stricken yacht.

Main photo: CPL David Gibbs; inset photo courtesy of AMSA AeroRescue
SUPER Hornets soared through the Malaysian skies during their first overseas missions when 1SQN took part in Exercise Bersama Shield 2011. Six of the Rhinos from RAAF Base Amberley touched down at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base in Butterworth on April 29 ahead of the exercise in the South China Sea and on the Malaysian peninsula between May 2 and 13.

Bersama Shield is an annual exercise coordinated by HQ Integrated Area Defence System. It is a tactical exercise focused on providing quality training in integrated air defence, air operations and maritime operations. The Super Hornets flew alongside Singaporean F-16s, as well as Malaysian F/A-18Ds and MQ-9 interceptors to conduct complex and realistic air combat training.

Playing ‘adversary air’ for the exercise, the Super Hornets executed a combination of complex Offensive Counter Air (OCA) missions, combined with maritime and land strike.

The 65-strong maintenance team from 1SQN supported two waves of Super Hornets each day, overcoming challenges during their first international exercise with the new capability.

“The Super Hornets achieved a 96 per cent mission launch success rate and flew more than 200 hours in more than 80 aircraft sorties during the exercise phase and the ferries to and from Australia,” WGCDR Braz said.

The exercise for the new Super Hornet squadron tested the entire system, but WGCDR Braz said his dedicated personnel ensured the exercise was a success.

Bersama Shield was faced with a number of challenges to deploy six aircraft, plus spares, and more than 130 personnel from bases across Australia into Butterworth.

“But they were all overcome by a group of dedicated people with great training and the confidence and knowledge to get things done in unusual circumstances,” WGCDR Braz said.

“We are also very appreciative of the excellent support provided by resident unit 324CS as they contributed to 1SQN’s outstanding mission achievement.”

WANT TO BUY A HOME OR INVESTMENT PROPERTY, BUT DON’T KNOW HOW?

- Can I buy an investment property and access military benefits (RA/MQ)?
- Can I buy a home & access DHOAS?
- What will the weekly cost be?
- How much deposit do I need?
- How do I structure my loan?

Let us provide you with the education to make the RIGHT decision!

Client Testimonial

“Astute Investments opened my eyes to the property investment market and helped to maximize the use of my defence benefits. Thanks to them I’m well on the way to financial wealth” Kenny, K.

WE MANAGE THE ENTIRE PURCHASE PROCESS ON YOUR BEHALF, YOU CAN SIT BACK & ENJOY THE INVESTING EXPERIENCE

CALL US TODAY

1800 044 429

Email: enquiry@astuteinvestments.com.au
www.astuteinvestments.com.au

Call us today for a FREE Financial Assessment!
The squadron gained a lot of benefit from operating with and against a variety of ships and aircraft from the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) nations that have capabilities the aircrew are not exposed to within Australia.

Participating in Exercise Bersama Shield provided our air and ground crews, as well as support staff, the valuable opportunity to train alongside other nations,” WGCDR Braz said.

Over the past four decades, the FPDA environment has undergone significant change and adapted to suit the regional climate and enhanced capabilities introduced into service.

The F-111 was a regular participant in the Bersama exercise series until its retirement last year.

“The inclusion of the highly capable, multi-role Super Hornet in Bersama Shield is another example of the technological evolution and enhanced support Australia provides to the region,” WGCDR Braz said.

Bersama Shield was the first international detachment for 1SQN outside of the ferry activities from the US last year and has helped the unit work towards becoming fully operational.

“Bersama Shield has been a great opportunity to demonstrate the initial operating capability status of the unit,” WGCDR Braz said.

“We have tested the security arrangements in a deployed location and more than half of the aircrew team were awarded a category upgrade that was finalised during Bersama Shield missions.

“We have shown we can take a team a considerable distance from Australia, operate in a complex and unfamiliar environment and achieve great outcomes in terms of mission success, maintenance and logistics support, great administration and travel arrangements and, of course, all conducted at a high level of security.

“The lessons on logistics and maintaining the jets in a tropical environment are invaluable and I have no doubt that every member of the detachment has come away with some invaluable experience.”

This has been another busy year for 1SQN and the success of Bersama Shield is a testament to the dedication and efforts of everyone to get the Super Hornet to final operational capability (FOC).

The speed at which the Super Hornets were purchased, delivered and participated in their first international exercise bring the project another step closer to declaring FOC, which is anticipated next year.

Australia also contributed two Anzac-class guided missile frigates, HMA Ships Ballarat and Parramatta, to the exercise.
THOUGHT FOR FOOD: SGT Cameron Keding, of 1SQN, is served a hearty meal by 324CSS during the exercise.

**FLTLT Skye Smith**

BUTTERWORTH’s resident 324 Combat Support Squadron (324CSS) provided essential support for ISON’s first overseas deployment with the Super Hornets.

A full complement of services and facilities were provided to ISON, including aviation medical, refuelling, air movements, administration, communications, force protection, legal and logistics during the exercise.

The unit’s Logistics Support Flight (LSF) of 43 staff, led by FLTLT Jared Ellison, assisted with five major aircraft movements and moved about 100,000 pounds of cargo during the deployment and redeployment phases of the exercise. “We provided accommodation, meals, air and road movements, purchasing, explosive ordnance and freight support to ISON during Bersama Shield,” FLTLT Ellison said.

“But the same level of support was provided to the Super Hornets as to any other of our visiting units for these types of activities.”

The catering team of 27 permanent personnel, both ADF and civilian, was augmented by an additional two cooks to help prepare more than 12,000 meals served at the combined mess during the exercise.

Another major challenge for 324CSS was the provision of a heightened security posture and force protection services for the Super Hornets. The 24/7 security operations included patrols of the flightline, pickets, entry check points, physical identification checks and controlled access to ISON.

The deployment of a comprehensive security detachment and successful force protection element tested ISON’s procedures for the security of the Super Hornets and provided great results as the unit worked towards achieving final operational capability, anticipated by the end of next year.

Commanded by WGCDR Ken Robinson, 324CSS was also tasked with the responsibility for providing logistic, communication and health support to ADF units deployed throughout Malaysia and Singapore, including activities at Butterworth, Paya Lebar (Singapore), Subang (Kuala Lumpur) and the ships operating in the South China Sea.

The squadron also supported the Australian National Command Element Headquarters as a part of the exercise, as well as representing the national command element in Bersama Shield.

324CSS was formed just over a decade ago following a long history of RAAF units operating from Butterworth.

Butterworth’s military history began in 1941 when the RAF chose the then Butterworth airfield as the location for a “care and maintenance” air base. The RAF left Butterworth in 1971.

The Five Powers Defence Arrangement between Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Britain was formed in 1971. The RAAF presence at Butterworth is an enduring commitment to regional stability that significantly benefited from this program, which demonstrates Australia’s long-term commitment to regional stability that our presence here at Butterworth provides,” WGCDR Robinson said.
EXERCISE: Bersama Shield helped set the scene for a significant year for the founding nations of the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA).

This year the founding members of the FPDA – Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Britain – will celebrate 40 years of regional cooperation achieved through the security initiative.

The anniversary will be celebrated during Exercise Bersama Lima from October 17 and November 4.

The FPDA commits the member nations to consult with each other in the event of coordinated defence of Malaysia and Singapore.

It is under the command of AVM Warren Ludwig at Headquarters Integrated Area Defence System (HQIADS), based at RMAF Base Butterworth.

“The FPDA continues to be an integral part of the regional security architecture, which helps develop greater interoperability among the armed forces of member nations,” AVM Ludwig said.

“The anniversary represents the strong bonds that have been formed over the last four decades and shows great promise for further development of the arrangement for the future.”

More than 800 Australian personnel from Air Force, Navy and Army worked alongside representatives from the five nations in planning, operations and support roles with resident units HQIADS and 324CSS.

The Commander of the Australian Contingent for the exercise, WGCDR Ken Robinson, said the aim of Bersama Shield was to cultivate regional ties and seek to enhance Australia’s interoperability with the armed forces and strengthen the professional relationships between the founding forces.

“The exercise scenarios helped to develop and validate the doctrine and procedures for interoperability among the FPDA nations’ armed forces in a combined and joint environment,” he said.

Exercise Bersama Shield also promoted a shared understanding of procedures for air and maritime operations, the protection of the marine environment and disaster relief management.

As part of the FPDA’s non-conventional capacity building efforts, Bersama Shield also featured a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief table-top exercise.

Exercise scenarios included maritime security serials involving the participation of non-military agencies, such as Singapore’s Police Coast Guard and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.

JOB WELL DONE: OC 82WG GPCAPT Steve Robertson, Commander Integrated Area Defence Systems AVM Warren Ludwig and 1SQN avionic technician LAC Tom Miller in front of a Super Hornet during Exercise Bersama Shield.

Photo: LACW Kylie Gibson

OVERVIEW: Planners from the Five Power Defence Arrangement discuss operational options at the Headquarters Integrated Area Defence Systems.

Photo: LAC Dan Pintsim

For more information visit une.edu.au/defence or freecall 1800 818 865

Now you’re thinking...
Fleet Network offers all the cost saving benefits of vehicle salary packaging. Our dedicated consultants are focused on delivering outstanding service. Your approval will be completed swiftly and we will keep you updated.

Thousands of Australians have trusted Fleet Network’s ability to deliver superb leasing and financing deals on any new car currently available in Australia.

Call us on 1300 738 601
www.fleetnetwork.com.au
AIR Force members were among the winners at the annual Defence OHS Awards ceremony in Canberra on May 10.

WGCDR Paul Klose accepted a Defence Commendation Certificate on behalf of the Officers’ Training School (OTS) at RAAF Base East Sale for restructuring the school.

The award was for “Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue”.

OTS identified a trend in minor and major injuries occurring as a result of mismatched recruitment screening, poor training practices and ineffective testing procedures.

Consequently, the school implemented new strategies such as delaying intense, physically demanding field exercises and conducting thorough assessment of students’ fitness abilities before school entry, to reduce the chance of injury.

Prospective students were also properly informed of the physical nature of training and advised on arriving prepared.

A Defence OHS Award Trophy and Certificate was presented to FSgt Brian Lawrie, of RAAF Base Darwin, for the Combat Support Group (CSG) reporting system.

FSgt Lawrie’s award was in the category “Best Individual Contribution to Health and Safety (an outstanding contribution by a person with responsibility for OHS as part of their duties)”.

He identified a shortfall in the CSG safety review board process and developed and delivered an easily managed closed-loop safety reporting system, increased CSG personnel awareness and understanding of the process, and developed a quick-reference user-guide flowchart.

Entries in this year’s awards represented a cross-section of the ADF and public service and the widest range of ranks.

Secretary for Defence Dr Ian Watt, VCDF LTGEN David Hurley and DGOHS Lindsay Kranz presented several awards in a range of categories.

Mr Kranz said the field of 26 entrants from across Defence was testament to the growth in commitment to occupational health and safety generally.

“When you realise that just eight short years ago, the inaugural OHS awards attracted just four entrants, and this year we had 26 very strong contenders, I think that reflects a growing awareness and acceptance of OHS across the organisation.”

The Defence OHS Awards are a recognition and reward program supported by senior Defence leaders and designed to recognise outstanding performance by individuals, groups and organisations within Defence in creating safer working environments.

CONGRATULATIONS: CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin and VCDF LTGEN David Hurley are flanked by SONLDR Stuart Wheal, WGCDR Paul Klose and FSgt Brian Lawrie.

Photo: Lauren Black
10SQN honours a lost brother

Andrew Stackpool

The Air Force spends many hours commemorating its lost comrades, most of whom perished during World War II. However, last month 10SQN remembered one of its lost brothers from a more recent event.

On April 26, 1991, 10SQN P-3C Orion A9-754 took off from the airfield on West Island, Cocos Island, to return to RAAF Base Edinburgh when it suffered a mid-air emergency and ditched into Rumah Baru lagoon.

As it struck the water, a propeller blade sheared off and smashed through the fuselage where it struck FLGOFF Tom Henniker, killing him instantly.

The other 19 members of the crew scrambled to safety on top of the aircraft where they were rescued by Cocos Island locals.

On April 26, 2001, a memorial plaque and memorial stone were dedicated at a commemor-ative service beside the island’s airport.

To mark 20 years after the accident, 10SQN re-dedicated the weathered memorial with a new replacement plaque, placed on the same memorial stone.

Under the command of 10SQN CO WOCDR Mick Jansen, the 18-member party included an honour guard made up of squadron members and a corporal posted to the island.

Also in attendance was FLTLT Henniker’s brother Richard and four members of the crew of A9-754, SQNLDR Jack Coard, SQNLDR Joe Wotton, FLTLT Tim Tucker, Richard Henniker, WOOF Chris Ogden, all of whom are still serving.

The memorial service was conducted by 10SQN honours wing commander, WOCDR Jansen, with many crew members and a corporal posted to the island.

Join the new online RSL Defence Sub Branch and access that support no matter where you are.

Member benefits include:
- National RSL membership and access to RSL Sub Branches and Clubs around Australia
- An online membership advice and assistance service
- Free 12 month membership of the RSL Defence Sub Branch for current ADF personnel
- RSL ... share the spirit of mateship. Join now at www.rsldefencesubbranch.com.au

Focus on treatment and rehab

The treatment of personnel wounded in combat, peacekeeping or other operational areas came under the spotlight in Sydney recently for 375 health care professionals.

The 21st Asia-Pacific Military Medicine Conference was conducted by the United States Army Pacific Command and United States Pacific Command and co-hosted by the ADF.

Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon opened the conference, which also included a range of presentations on veterinary and other combat animal-related topics.

$6* a day buys you coffee... OR...

A hot investment property.

Wake up to financial independence today.

The Investors Club is a free club that creates a new millionaire everyday. Join today and enjoy free support and services while you learn from experienced investors. Make your move today!

Visit www.propertygrowth.tic.com.au to find out more, get started or grow your existing portfolio!

“The Investors Club’s ongoing support makes property investing easy” — Michael Kilham

Terms and conditions apply. Whilst all details have been carefully prepared and are believed to be correct, we do not guarantee the accuracy of the information. Intending purchasers must rely on their own enquiries.

RSL – Join Online Now

Whether you are stationed at home or deployed overseas, the RSL provides real support, assistance and advice to all serving men, women and their families in the areas of compensation, welfare and advocacy.

Join the new online RSL Defence Sub Branch and access that support no matter where you are.

IN BRIEF

New joint ops chief

CDF ACM Angus Houston has announced Brian ‘Ash’ Power as Chief of Joint Operations effective May 20 following promotion to lieutenant general. LTGEN Power has held several key operational and staff appointments, his most recent as Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Partnering (Ministry of Defence), Kabul. “I know all our military operations will benefit from the experience Ash brings to this position,” ACM Houston said. He also thanked outgoing CJOPS LTGEN Mark Evans for his work in the position.

Signals school opens

ADF communicators can look forward to learning their craft at Watsonia after Defence Parliamentary Secretary David Feeney officially opened the new $110 million Defence Forces School of Signals there on May 2. The new school will provide state-of-the-art training facilities for more than 500 ADF members each year as they train in communications, information systems and electronic-warfare specialisations. The new three-storey building includes living-in accommodation for students, office accommodation, a lecture theatre and classified training classrooms.

Eligibility for medals

PERSONNEL involved with Operations Gateway and Lagoon are invited to forward submissions to an inquiry into their suitability for recognition for possible medals. Operation Gateway was the conduct of the Australian Defence Force’s 2003 air power reconnaissance and surveillance patrols over the northern Indian Ocean and South China Seas and began in 1981. Lagoon was the first combined South Pacific region peacekeeping operation commanded by the ADF in Bougainville in 1994.

Submissions to the inquiry will close on June 3. The Tribunal can be contacted at email DHA.Trust@defence.gov.au or for further information, visit www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au

Correcting the record

On PAGE 2 of the May 12 edition of Air Force News, two phone numbers listed in the article “Contacts for culture reviews announced” were incorrect. The correct numbers are:
- Review of the management of complaints – 1800 688 042.
- Review of allegations of sexual abuse or misconduct by independent DLA Piper review team – 1800 424 991.

The treatment of personnel wounded in combat, peacekeeping or other operational areas came under the spotlight in Sydney recently for 375 health care professionals.

The 21st Asia-Pacific Military Medicine Conference was conducted by the United States Army Pacific Command and United States Pacific Command and co-hosted by the ADF.

Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon opened the conference, which also included a range of presentations on veterinary and other combat animal-related topics.

Terms and conditions apply. Whilst all details have been carefully prepared and are believed to be correct, we do not guarantee the accuracy of the information. Intending purchasers must rely on their own enquiries.

The Investors Club is a free club that creates a new millionaire everyday. Join today and enjoy free support and services while you learn from experienced investors. Make your move today!

Visit www.propertygrowth.tic.com.au to find out more, get started or grow your existing portfolio!

“The Investors Club’s ongoing support makes property investing easy” — Michael Kilham

Terms and conditions apply. Whilst all details have been carefully prepared and are believed to be correct, we do not guarantee the accuracy of the information. Intending purchasers must rely on their own enquiries.
Sky high for a year

LAC Bill Solomou

NUMBER 92 Wing AP-3C flight engineer WOFF Greg Kerr reached a significant milestone recently when he achieved one year in the air – equivalent to 8760 flying hours – over the Australian outback.

He was on a return flight from Operation Gateway in Malaysia.

“I was on the return transit from Butterworth, and was approximately half-way between Uluru and Woomera when I passed the year in the air milestone,” WOFF Kerr said.

In recognition of his achievement, WOFF Kerr was greeted upon landing at RAAF Base Edinburgh with a traditional water cannon salute from the base fire trucks.

His wife Kathryn and daughters Sophie and Rebecca were on hand to congratulate him on his milestone.

“Family support is crucial and I have been supported by my wonderful wife and two loving daughters,” WOFF Kerr said.

“On numerous occasions they have put up with effectively being a single-parent family and it was great having them there when I returned.”

OC 92WG GPCAPT Warren McDonald congratulated WOFF Kerr for not only attaining the milestone but for the professional and committed manner in which he served the Air Force.

“WOFF Kerr is a highly respected WOFF and flight engineer,” GPCAPT McDonald said.

“His professional and personable qualities have enabled him to mentor countless aircrew, including myself, resulting in a safer and more proficient capability.”

WOFF Kerr joined the Air Force in 1978, and after seven years as an electrical fitter, remustered to flight engineer. During the following 24 years he was posted to every squadron within 92WG, occupying every check, training and standards position in the wing.

“I have had the privilege of enjoying a high level of job satisfaction throughout my whole Air Force career which I attribute to the outstanding people whom I have had the good fortune to work with, as well as the support of my superiors, peers and subordinates,” WOFF Kerr said.

The most memorable experiences of his career were flying operational sorties over Iraq and Afghanistan.

“There is not much of Iraq I have not seen and the terrain over Afghanistan is amazing, particularly when you visually correlate it with locations and areas of historical significance,” he said.

As the end of his career approached, he said his greatest concern was that he would no longer be able to fly for the Air Force.

“I am not looking forward to the day when I will no longer be able to get up in the air; I really love it,” he said.

ONE BIG ENTRY: WOFF Greg Kerr fills out his aircrew flying log after clocking up 8760 flying hours on a recent flight. Above inset, after landing from that flight, he was greeted by his wife Kathryn and daughters Sophie and Rebecca and congratulated by 92WG’s SQNLDR Scott Barter.

Photos: LACW Shannon McCarthy and CPL Rodney Welch

A deal you can’t drive by.

$200 petrol with every Defcredit Car Loan.

Defcredit’s award winning car loans are now pumped with even more value. Every car loan purchased receives a $200 petrol card to help you save more. Plus enjoy more purchase power at the dealer with one of the lowest car loan rates in Australia, so you can drive away the new car you really want.

Limited time offer. Call 1800 033 139 or visit defcredit.com.au to apply today.

*Comparison rate is calculated on a $30,000 secured new car loan over 5 years term, based on monthly repayments and a minimum 20% deposit applies. WARNING: This comparison rate is true for the examples given and may not include all fees and charges. Different terms, fees and other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate. Terms and conditions, fees and charges apply and are available on request. Approval is subject to satisfaction of Defcredit’s lending criteria. The $200 petrol voucher offer is only available on secure car loans funded between 23 May and 24 June 2011.
“Thousands of Reservists, who are members of the Navy, Army and Air Force, have served in Australia and overseas in recent years, as they have also done in the past. When called upon, these men and women serve alongside their colleagues in the Permanent Forces with courage and dedication, and often at considerable personal sacrifice. We admire their commitment and are determined to support all employees in the Reserve. We thank our Supportive Employers. With your help, I’d like to see your employers added to this list.”

Jack Smorgon, AO, National Chairman Defence Reserves Support Council

Ask your employer to pledge their support and join our list of Supportive Employers featured above by visiting defence.gov.au/reserves or call 1800 803 485

Visit defence.gov.au/reserves or call 1800 803 485

Authourised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.
Our winners lauded

LAC Bill Solomon

ONE thing Airman of the Year award winners have in common is that they all know exactly where they were when they heard the good news. That goes without saying for this year’s winner CPL Shaylene McDonald, who is expecting a baby in August.

CPL McDonald was in her obstetrician’s office when the phone rang.

“I was having an ultrasound done. I was already excited after seeing our child, but to then get that news I was very happy,” she said.

CPL McDonald was recognised for her achievements in her role as an acting senior non-commissioned officer in charge of instructional technique at 1 Radar Surveillance Unit (1RSU) Field Training Unit.

She initiated a series of mentoring and facilitation workshops that improved skills of instructors and provided a means of introducing new techniques. "The workshops have been a valuable tool for instructors as well as providing a means of introducing new techniques," WOII Browning said.

McDonald is her professionalism and attention to detail, “immediately evident when dealing with CPL McDonald is her professionalism and attention to detail,” WOII Browning said.

The workshops have been a valuable tool for continual improvement upon the existing skills of the instructors as well as providing a means of introducing new techniques.

Outside of her employment, CPL McDonald is studying an arts degree with a major in security, terrorism and counter-terrorism.

She is an active Animal Welfare League volunteer, and on numerous occasions has organised fundraising and community activities involving members of her unit.

CPL McDonald said the award was the highlight of her career, and that she was very proud to have received it. "The day after I was made aware of the award I was notified that I had been promoted to sergeant, so those few days were very special," she said.

The spotlight was focused on the outstanding achievements of the 26 winners at the annual Air Force Awards night in the Sergeants’ Mess at RAAF Base Amberley on May 11.

Four Air Force Band musicians, who started the night with a rocking version of Robbie Williams’ ‘Let Me Entertain You’, showed the audience of about 90 that Air Force delivers outstanding achievements in music as well.

In his welcoming address, CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin said he was particularly humbled and proud of what Air Force people continued to achieve.

“Our deeds both here in Australia and overseas have maintained our reputation as the best small air force in the world,” he said.

AIRMSHL Binskin said the awards night was not only a measure of Air Force success but also a reflection of the unique work ethic and contribution to air power.

The awards included Airman of the Year, the most proficient RAAF base, the best Reserve squadron, and excellence in instruction, safety, flying proficiency, operational health, maintenance, leadership, logistics support, engineering and technical support.

A new entry this year was the Air Marshal S.D. Evans and Airfield Defence Association Award, presented for “Outstanding leadership and operational performance” to a junior non-commissioned officer within 2 Airfield Defence Squadron. This award was designed to recognise airfield defence guard section leaders in the field, and their contribution to the sustainment of operations. It was won by CPL Eli Neale.

AIRMSHL Binskin congratulated all of the winners. “And for our award recipients who, on our 90th anniversary continue to uphold our finest customs and traditions, my sincere congratulations,” he said.

Looking for an upgrade?
Upgrade your professional qualification @ UNSW Aviation:
- Programs in Aviation Management
- Bachelor of Aviation
- Postgraduate courses offered by distance education
- A three year degree with flying and management options

Find out more:
www.aviation.unsw.edu.au
or call Jamie on (02) 9385-6767

A three year degree with flying and management options
- A three year degree with flying and management options
- A three year degree with flying and management options

Never Stand Still
Faculty of Science
School of Aviation

UNSW
The University of New South Wales

www.nextjobnow.com.au
Call 1300 112 114

LEAD TWICE THE LIFE
Above, LAC Craig Barrett’s winning photograph in the 2010 SQN LDLR W.T. Riggs Perpetual Trophy competition is an air-to-air shot of a 2SQN Wedgetail in flight. The aircraft is currently deployed in Afghanistan. LAC Barrett is due to return home next month.

Aircraft detachment and is due in Afghanistan. LAC Barrett at Kandahar Airfield.

Guthrie, congratulates LAC winner, photographer SGT Bill Guthrie, last year’s Rigg’s trophy and Port Stephens region.

Top Shot, Craig

The warning and control Wedgetail aircraft over the Newcastle Warning and Control Wedgetail Airborne Early Perpetual Trophy competition:

2010 SQNLDR W.T. Riggs

Above, LAC Craig Barrett’s winning photograph in the 2010 SQN LDLR W.T. Riggs Perpetual Trophy competition is an air-to-air shot of a 2SQN Wedgetail in flight. The aircraft is currently deployed in Afghanistan. LAC Barrett is due to return home next month.

Aircraft detachment and is due in Afghanistan. LAC Barrett at Kandahar Airfield.

Guthrie, congratulates LAC winner, photographer SGT Bill Guthrie, last year’s Rigg’s trophy and Port Stephens region.

Top Shot, Craig

The warning and control Wedgetail aircraft over the Newcastle Warning and Control Wedgetail Airborne Early Perpetual Trophy competition:

2010 SQNLDR W.T. Riggs

Above, LAC Craig Barrett’s winning photograph in the 2010 SQN LDLR W.T. Riggs Perpetual Trophy competition is an air-to-air shot of a 2SQN Wedgetail in flight. The aircraft is currently deployed in Afghanistan. LAC Barrett is due to return home next month.

Aircraft detachment and is due in Afghanistan. LAC Barrett at Kandahar Airfield.

Guthrie, congratulates LAC winner, photographer SGT Bill Guthrie, last year’s Rigg’s trophy and Port Stephens region.

Top Shot, Craig

The warning and control Wedgetail aircraft over the Newcastle Warning and Control Wedgetail Airborne Early Perpetual Trophy competition:

2010 SQNLDR W.T. Riggs
Mum’s the word

ADF mothers serving in the MEAO surrounded themselves with memorabilia of their children this Mother’s Day to remind them of their loved ones back home.

Above, mother to Paige and Ky, SGT Verity Scanlan; right, mother to Tye, LACW Danielle Tate; left, mother to Chris, FLTLT Tricia Hill.

Photo: SGT Bill Guthrie

SIMULATOR VISITORS: Above, Royal Society of the Blind members, from left, Celeste Osmond, David Bowman, Andrew Moran and Bree Muller receive a tour of the 292SQN AP-3C flight simulator from FLTLT Matt Jurkens during a visit to RAAF Base Edinburgh.

Photo: LACW Nicci Freeman

SIGNING UP: The commander of the Indonesian Air Force’s 1 Air Operations Command, AVM Dede Rusamsi, signs the visitors book at Headquarters Air Lift Group during a recent visit to RAAF Base Richmond.

Photo: LAC Chris Hall

DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT
Supporting Australia’s Reservists and their Employers

RESERVISTS -
Know your rights and obligations

This card has been designed to help you understand your rights and obligations as a Defence Reservist.

It gives you tips about the protection that is available to you, as well as how you should discuss Reserve service issues with your civilian employer.

You can pick up a card at your unit or squadron.
Alternatively, call one of our Defence Reserves Support specialists and they will send you one.

We’re here to help Reservists and their Employers.

Remember to collect an Employer Handbook for your boss. It contains everything they need to know about employing a Reservist.

1800 803 485
defence.gov.au/reserves
DIVERSITY, including gender diversity, has long been recognised as a vital dynamic in the most effective use of an organisation’s workforce.

That is why Air Force has introduced an exciting new strategy to better manage the range of talents provided by its workforce, improve the ratio of females employed within the service, support new Air Force parents and improve the system for flexible employment opportunities.

The new initiative is called the Gender Diversity Strategy.

It is predicated on the basis that gender diversity will be an important tool for ensuring that the service has a sustainable workforce that can deliver maximum capability into the future. This will be achieved by accessing the broader talent pool available from both genders, and by developing and harnessing the strengths provided by the differences they offer in leadership, communication, personality characteristics and work methodologies.

Director General Personnel – Air Force (DGPERS-AF) AIRCDRE Bob Rodgers said the need for improving female participation in Air Force had never been greater. “Females represent over 50 per cent of the Australian population, yet in Air Force they represent only about 17 per cent,” AIRCDRE Rodgers said.

“We need to be actively trying to change this trend and provide greater female participation in our workforce.”

A range of education and development courses designed to support both genders are to be offered under the strategy. More than 100 course places will be provided across a range of training and personal development opportunities to assist with new parenting, flexible employment and career development opportunities.

The strategy will be rolled out in three phases:

- Phase 1 – Mentoring and development opportunities, which started this month;
- Phase 2 – Supporting new parents, which starts in July; and
- Phase 3 – Improving the flexible employment system, which also starts in July.

DGPERS-AF will provide sponsorship for the programs in the 2011/12 timeframe. Nominations are now open for Phase 1. All course costs are funded by DGPERS-AF, with parent units retaining responsibility for any associated travel costs.

“I hope this strategy will provide the foundations to move Air Force forward into the future on this issue,” AIRCDRE Rodgers said.

Further information about the programs being offered is available on the DGPERS-AF intranet site or through your unit’s administration officer. Alternatively, contact SqnLdr Jade Devaney at jade.devaney@defence.gov.au for the program list and nomination form.

NEW TOOL TO HARNESS TALENTS: Air Force’s new Gender Diversity Strategy will access the broader talent pool available from both genders. Pictured is CPL Lyn Farrier and LAC Stephen Domagalski working together at RAAF Base Amberley.

Tell us about the other hats you wear

All Reservists (Active and Specialist) should recently have received mail asking about your civil skills (formal, self-claimed, experience) for the Civil Skills Data e-survey.

It is very important that you complete this survey as it helps the Australian Defence Force better identify people with specific skills that can be drawn upon for emergencies, exercises and deployments.

You will receive a half day pay for preparing and completing the survey and it will also help your Reserve career.

It’s time to complete the Civil Skills Data e-survey

There’s still time for you to complete the survey. Make sure you have all your paperwork ready – licences, degrees and other qualifications – before you start.

If you have any questions about the survey, or any of the information collected, please email your query and PMKeyS number to ADD.CivilSkillsData@defence.gov.au

You can complete the survey on your own or a Defence computer, but you should complete it as soon as you can.

Visit www.civilskillsdata.com today

The information the survey provides about the change readiness of Defence personnel will receive emails inviting their participation, with an electronic link to the survey.

The information the survey provides about the change readiness of Defence personnel will receive emails inviting their participation, with an electronic link to the survey.

Feedback is appreciated, and personnel in regional and remote areas are encouraged to participate to ensure that the results are not centrally focused.

Defence will help shape future reform initiatives under SRP.

For more information on the survey, refer to DEFGRAM 301/2011.
Measuring attitudes

THE next Defence Attitude Survey, to be held from June 3 to 19, will measure Defence personnel’s attitudes on service and employment conditions.

The survey is conducted online to a 10 per cent random sample of ADF and Defence APS personnel three times a year and measures conditions of service, job satisfaction, family mobility, career management and retention.

The DAS is commissioned by the Secretary of Defence and the CDF and is sponsored by the Deputy Secretary, People Strategies and Policy.

Results from the February survey will be available later this month.

For further information on the Defence Attitude Survey, visit the Directorate of Strategic Personnel Policy Research intranet site at http://aurora.cbr.defence.gov.au/DSPPR/default.shtml or email the DAS project manager at Defence.Surveys@defence.gov.au

Expressions of Interest

Role: CO Air Force
Band: CDRC
Rank: SGLNDR
Specialisation: ANYO
Closing date: May 27

Role: RAAF Long Term
Schooling
Rank: FSGL-NLDR
Mustering: ANYO/D
Location: Canberra
Closing date: May 27

Role: Remuster to
SECPOL SI ADFIS
Closing date: May 31

For information on how to apply, log on to People Central on the DRN.

Flow to improve from review

MEASURES will be implemented by July to improve the flow of information between Toll Transitions and Defence Housing Australia (DHA) as a result of the Directorate of Relocations and Housing’s (DRH) post-peak posting review.

The annual review looks at relocation and housing services delivered to ADF members and their families.

With a higher number of complaints received from ADF members regarding Toll Transitions during the 2010 to 2011 peak posting cycle, relocation administration services took priority as part of the review this year.

Director of Relocations and Housing Alan McClelland acknowledged the valuable feedback provided by concerned members and their families, who experienced difficulties with their relocations in the lead-up to and during the posting cycle.

“Some of the key and common issues raised by members included problems with Toll Transitions’ website, poor communication and a lack of responsiveness from case managers. These problems caused great frustration and anxiety for some members and their families,” Mr McClelland said.

“DRH staff recently met with Toll Transitions and the other service providers to identify the key lessons from the last posting cycle. Consequently, changes will be made to ensure the next posting cycle runs smoothly for members.”

One primary lesson was that the time between members submitting an application for relocation and receiving their movement plan from Toll Transitions needed to be reduced.

“Members can play an important role in speeding up this process by lodging their application for relocation paperwork as soon as they receive their posting orders and keeping their home address details up-to-date on PMKeyS,” Mr McClelland said.

“This will also assist DHA with its housing vacation and allocation services.”

He said a number of measures would be implemented by July 1 to improve communication between Toll Transitions and DHA, including the early release of movement plans to members. DHA will also make changes to improve the process of finding a home.

“In the past, it has been difficult for members to request a preview pin to access DHA’s HomeFin website if they hadn’t already completed the pre-request for removal pack. Members will soon be able to complete this pack with DHA staff who will then enter the data into Toll Transitions’ IT system.

“Members can play an important role in speeding up this process by lodging their application for relocation paperwork as soon as they receive their posting orders and keeping their home address details up-to-date on PMKeyS.”

He said a number of measures would be implemented by July 1 to improve communication between Toll Transitions and DHA, including the early release of movement plans to members. DHA will also make changes to improve the process of finding a home.

“In the past, it has been difficult for members to request a preview pin to access DHA’s HomeFin website if they hadn’t already completed the pre-request for removal pack. Members will soon be able to complete this pack with DHA staff who will then enter the data into Toll Transitions’ IT system.

“Currently, a member using a preview pin needs to contact DHA directly to reserve a property. This process will also change because DHA will enhance its preview pin access to give members the option of reserving a property online.”

Members who are dissatisfied with any aspect of the relocation or housing services provided to them by the respective service provider should report their concerns to their local Defence Relocation Housing Manager.
Targeting smart tools

Nigel Thompson, Program Director, Air Combat Reform

The new Air Combat Reform Program (ACRP) is already producing results as part of its mission to achieve ‘Air combat for tomorrow through improvement today’.

Commander Air Combat Group AIRCDRE Mel Hupfield said people from across the ADF contributed to air combat capability.

‘As members of our Air Combat Domain, [these ADF members] are encouraged to contribute to the improvement of the air combat capability,’ he said.

‘The Air Combat Domain reaches as broadly as air-to-air refuelling, Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft, the future Air Warfare Destroyer and Air-Land Integration with Army forces.’

One aspect of the ACRP is the Classic Hornet Improvement (CHI) program, which focuses on improving F/A-18 capability.

CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin has set new daily serviceability targets to ensure 81WG is able to prepare sufficient pilots to sustain Air Force’s capability while preparing for future capability needs and transition to the JSF. Progress towards these new serviceability targets has been helped greatly through the development of smart tools in the workplace.

Two outstanding examples are the Vixen Fleet Maintenance Planning Tool and the Electronic Parts Demand System (EPDS).

Both systems have been so successful that plans are to develop them from prototype to supported applications. They have the potential to be used at all ADF aviation units.

All inquiries regarding these tools should be directed to ACRP.Management.Office@defence.gov.au

Have you had your say?

The Timor-Leste Family Study, because families deploy as well...

If you have received an invitation to participate in the Timor-Leste Family Study, but have yet to accept, we would really like to hear from you!

To participate, please go to the webpage that is shown in your email or paper invitation and follow the instructions.

We would also like to remind ADF members to help us invite your current or former partners to the study—to do this, just fill out your partner’s details on your consent form.

You and your partner’s participation will contribute to a broader understanding of the deployment experiences of families.

For more information about the study, please contact the study team:

1800 708 335
families@cmvh.org.au

CMVH
Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health

Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health

The Timor-Leste Family Study was developed by two 81WG technicians as part of an improvement initiative to reduce the delays in ordering and supplying parts for maintenance.

Technical staff can submit orders electronically on the DNN.

Supply staff can efficiently process parts requests in priority order and can communicate parts availability and delivery estimates back to the technician.

An instant messaging function allows technical and supply staff to alert each other when important information requires action.

The initial EPDS trial was so successful. 77Sqn technicians insisted that paper forms not be used again. EPDS is now being deployed across 81WG.

EPDS is also being further developed to provide a range of unit-level time-saving maintenance management tools.

Pictured left are the 81WG technicians who developed the new system, LACs Kai Cooling (front) and Arun Thangaraju.
DEFENCE’S Payroll Remediation Task Force, established by the Government in February last year, is making headway into reducing the number of errors related to the payment of salary and allowances, but is urging Defence personnel to remain vigilant to protect themselves from being overpaid or underpaid.

Some members have been underpaid by thousands of dollars while many more have been overpaid, according to audits. Figures for April show, however, that the number of new salary recovery cases identified declined in the month from about 1.5 per cent of total salary payments to 0.9.

Director of Payroll Improvement Wendy Farnham is encouraging all personnel to take responsibility and ensure their pay details are correct.

“We are having some success in reducing the number of errors but there is a long way to go. What we’re trying to do is encourage ADF members to be more aware of their responsibility and be proactive in monitoring their pay,” Ms Farnham said.

“Every fortnight we have a large number of new issues identified with people saying, ‘I don’t think I should be getting that’. If something doesn’t look right, they should be asking questions.”

Many pay errors occur when personnel are proceeding on or returning from overseas deployment, or are relocating within Australia.

Three staff members from the Payroll Remediation Team, which was established within Defence Support Group, have deployed to the United Arab Emirates to help deployed staff minimise the problem. Their presence is boosting payroll administration oversight for personnel in the MEAO.

Ms Farnham said her team was working with stakeholders throughout Defence to make improvements across military payroll processes ahead of the planned overhaul of the ADF payroll system as part of Project JP2080.

“Our focus is looking at how to improve the current processes by improving forms and minimising red tape and unnecessary steps in the process,” she said.

“At the same time we maintain a clear vision to support our members and not cause them additional stress by making sure there are no problems with their pay.”

For more information about payslips or to inquire about any payslip item, call your supporting administrative staff, the nearest Customer Service Centre in your location or 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362). If you are a shift worker or posted overseas, you can email disc@defence.gov.au. Members on deployment are to contact their Theatre Personnel Support Centre.

Know your payslip

YOUR payslip is made up of a number of sections. Payslip headings differ between PSS and SVA, so PSS headings are included here in brackets.

The Payslip Header Information (Payslip Details) includes your: personal details, including your bank account number and categorisation; pay date, what pay period it is and any outstanding balances.

The Outstanding Balances (Pay Account Balances) section includes pay in advance, suspended pay, and any overpayments being recovered.

Fortnightly Pay and Allowances Earnings is perhaps the most important section. You should check the details here as they show your continuing fortnightly pay and allowance entitlements, including:

- annual salary;
- service allowance;
- uniform maintenance allowance;
- rent allowance;
- other allowances.

The Fortnightly Deductions section shows the amounts coming out of your pay:

- superannuation, either MSBS or DFRDB;
- taxation;
- married quarter rent;
- living-in accommodation, utilities, meals;
- recovery for any salary-related items such as system debts, bond advances and relief trust funds.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK: Personnel should check whether their payslip’s details are correct.

Photo: LAC Bill Solomou
Chaplain farewell

Andrew Stackpool

THE 2SQN chaplain who was in Vietnam the night Canberra bomber 'Magpie 91' disappeared on November 3, 1970, has been farewelled with full military honours.

Anglican Archdeacon Emeritus chaplain Bill Wheeler died of cancer.

His funeral service was held at St George's Anglican Church at Winnimale in the Blue Mountains on March 15 followed by a graveside service at Springwood Cemetery.

Former AIRCDRE Wheeler was born in Cowra, NSW, in March 1937 and enlisted in the Air Force in 1957. He became a radio mechanic and was posted to 11SQN at RAAF Base Richmond in 1959.

He became a Christian and felt a call to the Ministry.

He discharged in 1960 after being accepted into Moore Theological College.

He rejoined the Air Force as a chaplain in 1966, serving at five bases and completing two tours to Malaysia. Then, in 1970, he was posted as chaplain and civil action officer to 2SQN in Vietnam.

In 1988, he was promoted to AIRCDRE and posted to Air Headquarters at RAAF Base Glenbrook as the command chaplain. He also became Principal Air Chaplain (Anglican) and Archdeacon of the Air Force.

He retired in March 1994 and served for 12 more years with the Anglican parish of Blacktown before retiring to Winnimale in the Blue Mountains.

The Winnimale Anglican church’s minister, Rob Powell, and the director of chaplaincy at Air Command, CHAP Kevin Russell, jointly led the service.

A number of his former Air Force colleagues also attended the service. CHAP Russell said Bill had asked that his funeral, while a time of mourning, be a time of celebration of a life lived and shared and service rendered.

“He never really retired,” CHAP Russell said. “He continued to serve for a decade after his Air Force retirement at Blacktown. Then, he might have slowed down, but he continued to serve, continuing among the veteran community and taking on a number of clergy locum roles.”

While you’re out securing Australia’s future... Who’s securing yours?

OzInvest has helped many Defence Force members just like you secure their future by investing in property.

For over 23 years, OzInvest has provided brand new properties in growth regions of Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. We constantly monitor markets and apply a strict criteria to all potential developments to ensure the highest return for our investors.

You need never worry about loss of rental income under OzInvest’s exclusive ‘10 Year Leaseback Guarantee’. Since its introduction in July 1998 not one of our clients has lost a single days rental income.

How many other investments can offer you that security in today’s market?

Little wonder we currently have over 1,000 clients who’ve chosen to enjoy the security offered by our ‘10 Year Leaseback Guarantee’.

Allow OzInvest to secure your financial future today!

For an obligation free consultation Call 1800 800 775 or visit www.ozinvest.com.au
Ever been tempted by a department store’s advertisement that you can buy things such as TVs, fridges and sofas using interest-free deals? Well, be careful — “interest free” does not mean “fee free” and these deals can leave you out of pocket.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) has a free mobile calculator that you can use on your smartphone to help you work out how much an interest-free deal will really cost you.

Visit http://m.moneysmart.gov.au on your mobile phone and save it to your bookmarks or home page so you can access it in-store.

Use your smartphone to log on to a mobile calculator before you get in over your head at the department store, says ASIC chairman Tony D’Aloisio.

Interest-free deals let you have the TV or fridge and pay for it later, either by regular monthly instalments or at the end of an interest-free period.

But while a store may advertise that you don’t have to pay a deposit, there is no interest and there is nothing to pay for 18, 24 or even 36 months, in most cases you will still be charged fees. These could include an establishment fee, a monthly service fee and a late-payment fee.

Consider these points:

➤ Before you sign anything, ask about all the fees and charges so you can work out exactly how much you will have to pay back. Credit providers are not obliged to remind you when the interest-free period is due to run out, so you need to keep on top of this yourself. If you fail to repay the total amount owing on your purchase by the end of the interest-free period, your credit provider will start charging you interest. The interest rate charged could be up to 30 per cent, and often much higher than standard interest rates on credit cards which average between 12 and 20 per cent. So always aim to repay the debt early.

➤ Sometimes a retailer will give you a store card with your interest-free deal. You may be tempted to use it to buy more goods on credit, but this is often not a good idea as store cards usually have higher interest rates than regular credit cards and any purchases you make with the store card will not attract the interest-free terms you signed up for. The store card’s credit limit will often be higher than the value of your interest-free purchase.

➤ If you’re paying by instalment, the minimum monthly payments suggested by the retailer who signs you up for the deal are often not enough to pay off the full purchase price before the interest-free period runs out. This means you may be left with a large outstanding amount to pay at the end of the interest-free period. Make sure your agreed repayments are enough to pay off the full amount within the interest-free period.

➤ Explore all your purchasing options before you sign up for an interest-free deal. You may be better off saving up to buy the item instead, or buying the goods on lay-by. If you lay-by, you will have to wait until you’ve paid your purchase off in full before taking the item home, but you will save money in fees and interest.

For more information about interest-free deals, visit ASIC’s consumer and investor website, www.moneysmart.gov.au or call 1300 300 630.

AT YOUR FINGERS: If you have a smart phone, don’t forget to take it shopping.

Photo: LAC Bill Solomou

John wanted to buy a new 3D television. He visited a store and was told he could get the TV for $2300 on an interest-free deal for 18 months.

John asked the salesperson what the fees were, and found out there was a $25 establishment fee and a $12 monthly service fee. He used the MoneySmart mobile calculator and realised he would have had to pay $141 in fees, which was equivalent to an interest rate of 13.6 per cent.
Time to shape up

LAC Bill Solomou

This year marks my 47th year, and with a young family, I hope to hang around for at least another 30 years. In 2007 at the ripe old age of 43, I joined the Air Force. Upon leaving recruits I was the fittest I had ever been. But four years on, complacency has set in, and I’ve put on the pounds.

As a member of the ADF I have a responsibility to my mates. But, most importantly, I have a responsibility to my family. Looking in the mirror the other day, I was shocked to see the tell-tale signs of ageing catching up on me. My Adonis body and Greek God looks are no more.

I have started to put on weight and almost of it is around my waist. It just happened. I’m not huge, but my BMI actually puts me in the obese category. I can’t do my PT test. However, the assessment is sub-maximal, and anyone with half the fitness should be able to pass. It’s amazing to look around at ADF members of a similar age and see how many are in the same physical condition.

Statistics show that half of all regular male Defence personnel are classified as overweight, and over 10 per cent obese.

The last straw came for me when a button popped off my trousers.

I don’t eat a lot of fatty food; it’s just that I don’t exercise enough. And as we know, being overweight can lead to detrimental health issues such as stroke, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

I’ve decided to try a obesity and, in doing so, share my experiences with our readers. Most importantly, I want to encourage you to join me on the six-month journey.

My hope is to have as many Defence personnel as possible participate, and I put out the challenge to every member.

With the assistance of a trained PTI, I will undertake a training program.

The program will be published in the next issue of the service newspapers. Before undertaking the program, I met with the PTI and he identified specific exercises that would suit my requirements.

I also had a basic medical check to identify if I had any health issues that would affect my training.

It was made clear to me that if the program was to work, I would have to be committed. Therefore, I needed to set a goal. My current weight is 98kg. I want to reduce that to 85kg.

It’s going to be a big challenge. But there’s no turning back now. It really is time to shape up.

IF YOU have stacked on the pounds and want to do something about it, why don’t you take part in our JOIN BILL CAMPAIGN.

LAC Bill Solomou, a reporter with Air Force News, will launch his training regime to coincide with the next edition of the newspapers (June 9). We want you to share the journey by sending in emails about your weighty concerns and updating us on how your fitness campaign is going. We will publish your comments along with expert health and fitness advice gained from within Defence. Simply email Bill at vasilis.solomou@defencenews.gov.au

And don’t forget to send messages of support to help Bill rediscover his Greek God-like body of old.

NOTE: Before starting a fitness program, it’s recommended that you see a PTI and seek medical advice.

We want to hear from you!

NOW: 98kg
AIRM: 85kg

HELP LEGACY KEEP THEIR PROMISE BY LENDING A HAND AS A VOLUNTEER

Legacy is a voluntary organisation located in over 250 towns and cities across Australia supporting the families of over 100,000 deceased Veterans.

You can make a difference to Legacy in many ways.

If you can spare the time or have experience to share you can volunteer your support and assist with various projects throughout the year. Most notably our national appeal – Legacy Week from 28 August to 3 September 2011.

If you are keen to help the widows and young families of our deceased Veterans as a mentor, you can become a Legatee. While this involves more time and commitment, the personal involvement and interaction can be deeply rewarding.

If time is an issue, you may wish to assist us financially by making a donation or by becoming a fundraiser for Legacy using our online tools. Funds raised go towards the welfare of our widows, children and people with a disability to ensure they are properly provided for.

Interested? Want to know more? Go to www.legacy.com.au/volunteer
Or you can call a Legacy Club closest to you, go to www.legacy.com.au/ContactUs

TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE, CALL 1800 534 229 OR VISIT LEGACY.COM.AU

NATIONAL PARTNERS

Proudly sponsored by

Telstra
THALES
Commonwealth Bank
Defence Housing Australia

LEGACY

NOW: 98kg
AIM: 85kg

HL

PA

AL

PS

OM

N

O

H

N

NOW: 98kg
AIM: 85kg

HELP LEGACY KEEP THEIR PROMISE BY LENDING A HAND AS A VOLUNTEER

Legacy is a voluntary organisation located in over 250 towns and cities across Australia supporting the families of over 100,000 deceased Veterans.

You can make a difference to Legacy in many ways.

If you can spare the time or have experience to share you can volunteer your support and assist with various projects throughout the year. Most notably our national appeal – Legacy Week from 28 August to 3 September 2011.

If you are keen to help the widows and young families of our deceased Veterans as a mentor, you can become a Legatee. While this involves more time and commitment, the personal involvement and interaction can be deeply rewarding.

If time is an issue, you may wish to assist us financially by making a donation or by becoming a fundraiser for Legacy using our online tools. Funds raised go towards the welfare of our widows, children and people with a disability to ensure they are properly provided for.

Interested? Want to know more? Go to www.legacy.com.au/volunteer
Or you can call a Legacy Club closest to you, go to www.legacy.com.au/ContactUs

TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE, CALL 1800 534 229 OR VISIT LEGACY.COM.AU

NATIONAL PARTNERS

Proudly sponsored by

Telstra
THALES
Commonwealth Bank
Defence Housing Australia

LEGACY
IN BRIEF

The Australian Defence Organisation (ADO) finished the Arafura Games from May 7 to 14 with 30 medals – nine of them gold. The ADO team consisted of 133 personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force and APS. Five Defence athletes with disabilities also competed in the Games, which incorporated the Oceania Paralympic Championships.

OUR ARAFURA GAMES TALLY
9 gold medals
11 silver medals
7 bronze medals

OCEANIA PARALYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
3 silver medals

Sporting gesture
After comfortably beating the Malaysian cricket team, members of the ADO team presented their young rivals with new batting pads at the Arafura Games. The Malaysian cricket team was made up of very inexperienced junior cricketers and had very poor protective equipment. The Defence team decided to go easy on the Malaysians and assisted each batsman during their innings. After the game, the Defence members bought the Malaysian team four thigh pads. The Defence team came fourth in the competition overall.

Touching wood
The old wooden lanes at the Arafura Games posed a challenge to the 18 tenpin bowlers who represented the ADO. SGT Kerian Wyllie, who played 21 games throughout the week-long tournament, said that, given the conditions, he felt they all performed well. “The competition has been pretty good but it’s always tough when we come up here for the Games,” he said. “The lanes are a lot different to most of the centres. A machine puts down a pattern of oil on the lanes and the synthetic ones hold that pattern a lot better and for a longer period of time than the wooden lanes which absorb the oil pretty quickly.”

PUMP IT UP:
LAC Byron Helfrich returns a shot.
Photo: CPL Zenith King

Volleyball tough
The ADO’s volleyball teams were knocked out of medal contention after a tough week of competition. Both men’s and women’s teams placed sixth in the competition after some tight matches against the international competition. The women made it through to four sets in most of their matches and the men’s team won two out of their seven matches, a personal best at the Arafura Games. LAC Byron Helfrich said he was rapt to be part of the team and was really proud of their result. “It was the best result the Defence national team has achieved at Arafura so we are moving in the right direction,” he said. “The atmosphere was great and there is a lot of crowd participation which really pumps you up.”

OOZING PASSION: Above, FSgt Tony Benfer carries the Australian Defence Organisation flag as he leads the team of 130 athletes in the opening ceremony of the Arafura Games; right, FSgt Benfer competes in the 50m butterfly.
Photos: CPL Glenn McCarthy and Zenith King

S MASHING his personal best and carrying the Australian Defence Organisation (ADO) flag at the Arafura Games opening ceremony has proved a sporting highlight for FSgt Tony Benfer.

“For me it’s not about winning medals; it’s about personal bests and I achieved every single one of those goals here,” he said.

“Beating my personal best in the 50m butterfly by 10 seconds was awesome. And to get out of the water and have Ray Martin tell me and congratulate me was just unreal.”

Martin was part of a 60 Minutes crew from the Nine Network which was doing a story on the Australian Defence Paralympic sports program.

“I didn’t really care where I finished. When I found out I was just so happy with the result,” FSgt Benfer said.

The PTI from RAAF Base Wagga was struck by a hit-and-run driver at Townsville in 2007. He lost his lower right leg and now has an artificial right elbow and only four fingers on his right hand.

Despite the rain before his 50m butterfly race, FSgt Benfer managed to maintain his focus.

“It bucketed down as I was coming up to swim but honestly I was too focused on what I was doing to notice the rain,” he said.

“As soon as I got on to the blocks all I was thinking about was getting a good push off and making sure my dive was flat and that I didn’t spend too much time under the water.”

This was the first year the ADO had entered a team of athletes with disabilities and FSgt Benfer was delighted to be asked to carry the flag during the opening ceremony.

“Carrying the flag was awesome. When they called my name out the night before I didn’t know whether it was my name,” he said.

“It didn’t sink in until I unrolled the flag and was walking towards the crowd.

“There were people everywhere, cameras going off and the crowd was cheering. I thought it was fantastic.

“I enjoyed every minute of it. I couldn’t wipe the smile off my face,” FSgt Benfer said it was an honour being at the Arafura Games and he was glad that younger guys were able to see what he had achieved.

“I don’t take anything for granted anymore, so if I am selected to be a part of something like the Arafura Games I feel honoured and I’m hoping what we lay down here is good ground work for all the other guys coming through. Hopefully, I am inspiring them and they can see that if this old bugger can do it then they can get out there and do it as well,” he said.

Accompanying the team from the Australian Defence Paralympic sports program were young men with acquired disabilities who are thinking of joining the program.

“These guys have such a good attitude and they are already talking about getting their leg and competing, which is what we want to hear,” FSgt Benfer said.

“Once you go through the hardship of losing a limb or eye sight or what ever impairment, it’s a downward spiral and it is hard to get out of that.

“Sport allows you to vent, you can get it all out and you can strive to do your best.”

For the first year, Defence athletes with disabilities competed at the Games, which now incorporates the Oceania Paralympic Championship.

CPL Zenith King

AFTER-RACE BUZZ: FSgt Tony Benfer talks to 60 Minutes host Ray Martin and SGT Michael Lyddiard after the 50m butterfly.
Photo: CPL Zenith King
CPL Zenith King

LAC Matthew Stokes has again showcased his talents by taking the bronze medal in clay target shooting at the Arafura Games.

His performance has boosted his ranking in Australia to number two in the country and comes just weeks after he was named in Australia’s 25-man Mackintosh team which will be whitewashed down to five shooters who will compete in international competition.

LAC Stokes, of 10SQN, shot 118 out of 125 in the Olympic Trap at Arafura to secure himself a place in the final, where he was up against Olympic medalist Adam Vella.

Olympic trap requires competitors to shoot five rounds of 25 shots at three different traps (targets) per lane.

LAC Stokes said he went into the finals with a few nerves but maintained his focus.

“To shoot against the likes of Adam [Vella], who is ranked number three in Australia, was a good feeling,” he said.

“I dropped a few targets at the very start, which was disappointing but once I got into a rhythm I started to turn things around.

“In the end I was tied for second and had to shoot off to decide who would win.”

LAC Stokes said he always became a bit nervous before going into a final. “Sometimes I can feel the pressure but try to block it out and concentrate on what I am doing.

“I have shot in a few finals so I would like to think I have got my head around it.

“My aim is to make it to the Olympics but they only take the top two in Australia so I still have a little way to go,” he said.

BEATING THE HEAT:
Above, SGT Peter Reinke on his way to victory. Photo: CPL Zenith King

National Call-Up

LAC Matthew Stokes secured a place in Australia’s 25-man Mackintosh team in April when he contested the national trap championships along with seven teammates representing the Defence Clay Target Association (DCTA).

The team is named after one of Australia’s best shooters, Donald Mackintosh.

During the week-long competition at the nationals, LAC Stokes competed in six events and found himself in a number of shoot-offs.

LAC Stokes competes in two disciplines of shooting: down the line (DTL) and Olympic trap.

“Over the last six months or so I have been concentrating on trap so I only had one weekend of practice for this DTL event, which makes me even happier with the results,” he said.

LAC Stokes said he felt great making it into the Mackintosh team.

“You are shooting against 600 of the best shooters in the country, so to make it into that team is a great effort,” he said.

“I have made the under-21 Mackintosh team three times before this, but to make the open team is a massive step up.”

The Mackintosh team was selected from the highest aggregate score of events three, four and five. LAC Stokes scored 447/450.

Four almost-perfect rounds gives golfer a trio of medals

CPL Zenith King

WITH a bundle of medals around his neck, Air Force golf champion SGT Peter Reinke was well satisfied after the golf finals.

SGT Peter Reinke, of 452SQN, finished second over par after four rounds to claim second and an individual silver medal at the Arafura Games golf tournament.

He also won a gold medal for the winning gross score as part of a four-man Australian Defence Organisation team and a silver medal for his part in the team net score.

“I’m used to playing in Townsville so the heat didn’t bother me too much but four rounds of 18 holes was very draining,” he said.

SGT Reinke said the conditions at the Darwin Golf Club were challenging because the greens were different.

“I have played this course quite a lot because I have had two postings to Katherine in the past, but it took me some time to get reacquainted with those difficult shots that we don’t play in Townsville.

“Although I have played the course about 30 times, I tried to get out and practice as much as I could beforehand.”

SGT Reinke won the Air Force title in December after finishing second at the Air Force National Golf Championship.

“The service champions are invited to the Arafura Games so to come and represent Defence is an honour,” he said.
Have you thought about your future workforce?

Have you considered offering placements through the Defence Work Experience Program?

This Program provides opportunities to students to experience the ADF or Defence APS as an employer of choice.

Send enquiries to: Defence.WorkExperienceProgram@defence.gov.au
Or Visit: www.defence.gov.au/workexperience

---

Look who we met at the rugby game

IT IS hard to say who was the most distracted. Members of the Air Force rugby league team or Dr Chris Brown, one of the stars of Channel 10 TV show Bondi Vet.

It happened during the ANZUS Trophy tournament in Brisbane last month.

After one of the games, players from the RAAF team, the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) and the US Air Force (USAF) travelled to Suncorp Stadium to watch the Super 15 game between the Queensland Reds and NSW Waratahs.

The Air Force team took along their team mascot, a stuffed pink toy with a curly tail dubbed Her Majesty. Team captain FLGOFF Andre Holmes can't enlighten us on this beastie, other than to say it's part of a very old Air Force Rugby Union (AFRU) tradition.

"We aren't at liberty to discuss her, or to eat meat products that originate from her relatives," he said.

The person in charge of Her Majesty at Suncorp was the team's sheriff for the night, CPL Dan Baxter – that’s another team tradition: the position of sheriff rotates from player to player every 24 hours and whoever has it is responsible for keeping the players in line and looking after Her Majesty.

When someone spotted Dr Brown sitting two rows back from the playing group, a sporting maxim – never miss an opportunity – was seized upon. Well, a photo opportunity anyway.

Dr Brown has no doubt seen an array of colourful animals but what he thought about posing with Her Majesty (and CPL Baxter) nobody knows but him.

Let's get serious

LAC Jarred Playford won the Jason Bastaja award for best newcomer at the ANZUS Trophy tournament.

Air Force lost both its games – 27-13 against USAF and 29-16 against RNZAF (for the Burn-Merz Trophy) – and RNZAF beat USAF 29-0 to win the ANZUS Cup.

The standout players for AFRU during the tournament were FLGOFF Holmes, CPL Michael Godfrey, CPL Bodine Luscott and AC Darren Bruce.

Despite losing, FLGOFF Holmes saw real positives for the team, which was coached by a civilian, Stu Lundie. He is the set piece coach for Norths Rugby Club, which competes in the Sydney premier-grade Shute Shield.

"Stu provided all players with a depth of rugby knowledge and experience far superior to prior campaigns," FLGOFF Holmes said.

"On Burn-Merz game day, the traditional haka was met with steadfast resolve by the Air Force players and from the first whistle, it was apparent that it was going to be a close-fought game."

Despite a number of penalty goals against them (and a yellow card), AFRU lost a very passionate match.

"The looks from the RNZAF team after the final whistle were acknowledgement of just how close we had come, and the shaking of hands and tunnelling off of the respective teams could not have been more sincere."

---

TRI-SERVICE CARNIVAL: AC Darren Bruce in action against Navy at the Australian Services Rugby Union carnival in Canberra. The tournament was still in progress after we went to press but we'll run full coverage in the next edition.

Photo: LAC Bill Solomou

REASON TO CELEBRATE: Last year, five Air Force players figured in a combined Navy-Air Force team at the ASRU carnival. This year Air Force mustered enough players for a 10s team that beat Navy on the opening day of the carnival.

Photo: LAC Bill Solomou

---

EVASIVE: Above, LAC Aaron Lobendahn heads for the line.

Photo: LACW Rosaleen Normoyle

VETTED: Right, Bondi Vet star Dr Chris Brown with CPL Dan Baxter and the Air Force team mascot in the spotlight at Suncorp Stadium.

ON THE CHARGE: Above, CPL Bodine Luscott charges towards the goal post during the Burn-Merz rugby cup game against RNZAF.

Photo: ACW Joanna Laren
Back in tough netball company

THEY did not win a game in 13 encounters but the players in the ADF open and under-23 teams from NSW, Penrith Sports Stadium from April 23 to May 1.

Aside from the men’s team, the ADF also fielded a mixed team. The results for the mixed team were the same - no wins but a whole lot of satisfaction for a job well done against the odds.

Mixed team captain SGT Kristen Pickering said her team was faced with state teams which had been training together three nights a week for up to eight months.

SQNLDR Janssen said the men’s team was up against well-drilled open and under-23 teams from NSW, Victoria and Queensland, and some of his colleagues had only ever played social indoor netball.

“We started with a group of guys that had never played netball at the level of competition we were going into. We did a short but intense training camp to give them some team skills and worked on their individual skills, and then armed them with some simple rules and game plan,” he said.

“Over the week of the carnival they experienced why some rules were in place, learnt a style and method of play and individually and as a team continued to improve.

“We enjoyed ourselves and we were consistently told by other teams that they were amazed at how well we played given our experience, that we came from all over Australia and only had three days of training.

“Our best chance of a win was against Suva but we lost by two points, going down 37-39.”

The mixed side was hindered before competition even started, losing LACW Jess Johnson on the last day of training to a knee injury.

Air Force members of the mixed team were SQNLDR Paul Fournier, CPL Michael Gestrin, LACW Kimberly Dutton and the luckless LACW Johnson.

SGT Pickering joined LACW Johnson on the sidelines midway through the tournament after damaging ankle ligaments. But neither just packed it in, much to coach Adelle-Marie Caesar’s delight.

“Both Jess and Kristen provided valuable administrative support as scorers and photographers but also became part of the coaching support staff, giving feedback to players and speaking to coaching staff about what they learnt from the sidelines,” she said.

“Kristen remained the captain throughout, talking to the team at the huddles, which Jess participated in.

“The team’s most improved award went to LACW Dutton. “Kimberly was a late inclusion and had a lot to prove,” Ms Caesar said. “By the end of the tournament she showed a greater willingness to contest the ball, navigate space and play a tight defence in a highly physical competition.”

The Australian Defence Netball Association national carnival is planned for Victoria from October 9 to 15. Contact your state representatives or email SGT Pickering at kpickering@dfr.gov.au for information.

IN BRIEF

NSW trials

TRY-OUTS for the NSW combined services women’s, mixed and men’s teams will be held at the Moorebank Sports Club Netball Courts on July 10 and 24. For information, contact Sgt Wade Phillips on wade.phillips@defence.gov.au

Squash titles

CPL Craig Baldwin won the Open Plate event and LAC Brenda Monday was runner-up in the men’s A Grade Special Plate at the Northern Territory Top End Open squash tournament on May 7 and 8.

Footballer’s sense of pride

CPL Trudi Linsen felt especially proud to be part of the ADF women’s All Stars Australian football team which played in the Anzac Cup in Melbourne on April 21.

It was a bonus that the ADF won the game by seven goals. It was the team’s first win in five years.

“To be able to play was humiliation as I remember those who have served our country in the past and are currently serving overseas,” CPL Lines said.

“Having served twice in Afghanistan I know first-hand how important our role is and the sacrifice that is involved.”

It was a nice change for CPL Lines who played for the heavily outnumbered Air Force team at the national ADF titles and was soundly beaten by both Army and Navy.

She said it was great to be part of a winning team this time.

“It was a tough match, but I felt that all of our girls really had that burning desire to win. It showed that the ADF is back and we will never give up,” she said.

The men’s ADF All Stars team was not so lucky in its annual Anzac Challenge against Australian Combined Emergency Services team at AAMI Stadium in Adelaide on April 23.

The men lost by 19 points in the curtain-raiser to the Gold Coast Suns’ historic first AFL victory against Port Adelaide. One of ADF’s best players was CPL Shannon Burke.

Helping you own your home sooner

For more information on our Defence Home Owner Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) loans, contact 1300 2 DHOAS, go to www.adcu.com.au/DHOAS or ask in branch.


No Application Fee for a limited time*
OK, THAT’S one all. Now for the ironman
decider in Cairns on June 5.

Good mates CPLs Pete Hughes, of 22SQN,
and Owen Yabsley, of 38SQN, crossed the line
in a photo finish to the triathlon on the first day
of competition at the Arafura Games in Darwin
on May 8.

CPL Hughes was judged just ahead in a time
of 1hr 49min 29sec – which gave him fourth
place and CPL Yabsley fifth.

Cast your minds back to the national
Olympic-distance triathlon championships
in Sydney in April, and the positions were
reversed.

CPL Yabsley was the joint winner of the
ADF title there and CPL Hughes came in next,
two minutes behind.

“IT was third
time lucky
for SQNLDR
Richard
Gardiner.
Previously
he has
finished
second and
fourth in
the Arafura
Games half-
marathon.
This year he
struck gold.”

More on
the Arafura
Games,
Pages 24
and 25

In front of 7000 people at TIO
Stadium, disabled athlete FSgt
Tony Benfer carried the flag to
lead the Australian Defence
Organisation team of 133 at the
opening ceremony.

It was third
time lucky
for SQNLDR
Richard
Gardiner.
Previously
he has
finished
second and
fourth in
the Arafura
Games half-
marathon. This year he
struck gold.

“You CAN TELL THEY ARE CLOSE: CPLs Pete Hughes, left, and Owen Yabsley cross the finish line
almost locked together in the Arafura Games triathlon.

Quality leather bound,
Australian made medal
boxes, available in
various sizes.

ORDER ONLINE
www.militarymedalboxes.com
Phone 1300 661 482
Post: PO Box 8259 Warnbro WA 6169
FROM ONLY $69.95

Secret mascot business
with TV vet