

# Snapshot

## Air Warfare Destroyer Project progressing well

The Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) Alliance has recently established a contract to BAE Systems to provide the Mark 45 Gun for the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) AWDs.

Greg Combet, the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Procurement, says the weapon will provide the destroyers with both a sea and land warfare capability

"The gun has a range of 60 nautical miles and will be capable of firing both RAN standard munitions and extended range munitions," Mr Combet said.

A variant of the gun is already in operation on the RAN's ANZAC Class frigates, in US Navy destroyers, Spanish F100 and in several other navies.

The announcement means that contracts or identified preferred suppliers will be responsible for the delivery of more than \$1 billion worth of equipment—including the core Aegis combat system for the ship as well as the gun and sonar systems.

"The procurement processes for a number of other combat system components are also at an advanced stage, including the navigation radar, satellite communications, the torpedo launch system, the surface to surface missile system and the countermeasures capability," Mr Combet said.

The first of the AWDs is scheduled for delivery in late 2014. The contract is worth about \$80 million.

For further information, see our story of page 17 of this edition regarding the AWD Alliance.

## Planning for Australia's future submarine

The Australian government has taken a major step forward towards planning for the Navy's future submarine, expected to enter service around 2025 when the Collins Class will begin to be decommissioned.

A project office of 17 people is being established to manage the Future Submarine Project, designated SEA 1000. This project office will expand during the coming years.

The studies will be managed under the joint supervision of the Chief Capability Development Group and the Chief Executive Officer for the Defence Materiel Organisation.

"Submarines provide a vital military capability for Australia. A key Defence election commitment for this Government is focussed on carefully planning for Australia's next generation of submarine," Minister for Defence the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP said.

"I am therefore pleased to announce that I have recently approved funding of \$4.67 million for a program of studies in support of the acquisition of Australia's future submarines.

"Through these studies, Defence will engage industry to assist development of the project acquisition strategy for Government consideration in the second half of 2009. Work on the concept design of the future submarine will commence in 2010, leading to further consideration by Government in 2011," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

## Joint Logistic Unit (North Queensland) a great place to work

The Townsville-based unit of Joint Logistics Command won the 'recommended employer' award in the 2008 Australian Business Awards. Joint Logistic Unit (North Queensland) or JLU(NQ) scooped the award in the highly competitive Government Category.

Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Piers Cambridge, praised his staff, saying the award represented national recognition for the dedication to duty, loyalty and productivity of the small, energetic team that support the Australian Defence Force in North Queensland and beyond. Acknowledging his predecessor, LTCOL Glyn Llanwarne, LTCOL Cambridge said "He, too, would be very proud of the unit's achievement".

JLU (NQ) was assessed against seven criteria of excellence. The unit had to demonstrate advanced claims against the criteria of leadership, impact, adaptability, corporate culture, customer and market focus, uniqueness and evidence of success.

Like all Joint Logistics Command workplaces, the workforce at JLU(NQ) is truly diverse. The unit comprises Navy, Army, Air Force, Australian Public Servants and contractor personnel, all dedicated and committed, delivering quality service to its dependencies with great pride.

## CORRECTION:

On page 38 of Issue 2 2008-09, we incorrectly captioned a photo pertaining to an article on the Redress of Grievance process. The photo should have captioned Michael McCulloch at left instead of Corporal Andrew Hetherington, who was indeed the co-author of the article, but not pictured in the accompanying photo.

## Aussie Gunners pull their weight in Afghanistan

Sixteen 'Gunners' from the Darwin-based 8/12 Medium Regiment are providing vital fire support to International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan National Army troops in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) Gunners have fired more than 140 fire missions involving more than 2500 artillery rounds in the first deployment of Australian artillerymen in their primary role since ADF operations ceased in Vietnam in 1972.

Brigadier Brian Dawson said they are undertaking an extremely demanding job in some of the harshest and most austere operating environments.

"The Gunners are required to live virtually beside their guns and are required to react at very short notice to fire missions at any time of the day and night," Brigadier Dawson said.

## Closer cooperation with European allies

Collaborative ties were recently strengthened between the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the United Kingdom (UK) and France in science and technology research.

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP attended a series of technical meetings in London and Paris. He said Australia's defence science relationship with Britain and France was increasingly important given the rapidly developing nature of technology and consequent implications for Australia's defence.

He said DSTO maintained a strong relationship with the UK through its Anglo-Australian Memorandum of Understanding on Science and Technology (AAMOST).

"There are more than 50 collaborative projects underway, and DSTO have three staff posted to the UK under AAMOST with two more planned by the end of the year, and there is one UK staff member posted to DSTO," MR Snowdon said.



**LEFT: The proud winners: David Smith holds the award, flanked by Mitch Mee and Lieutenant Colonel Piers Cambridge as well as some of JLU(NQ) personnel.**

## Inquiry into recognition of 4RAR's Malaysia service

The Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into recognition for service for Australian military personnel who served with the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Malaysia in 1966 to 1967.

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, made the announcement and said that the inquiry by the Tribunal was a fulfilment of an election promise.

"It will focus on recognition of service for Australian military personnel who served with the 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Malaysia in 1966 to 1967," Dr Kelly said.

"In particular, the Tribunal will examine the eligibility of members of 4RAR who served at Terendak, Malaysia, for Australian, Imperial or foreign recognition.

"Many people have written to me concerning eligibility issues associated with recognition for service for Australian Military personnel who served with 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in Malaysia in 1966 to 1967, and I would encourage them to now take advantage of this opportunity to make a submission."

The Tribunal can be contacted at:

Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal  
Locked Bag 7765

CANBERRA BUSINESS CENTRE ACT 2610

Or via email to [DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au](mailto:DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au)

## The future for New South Wales Defence industry

Defence has engaged with executives of the New South Wales (NSW) Australian Industry Defence Network (AIDN) in Sydney to promote defence-related business opportunities upcoming in the next couple of years.

During the meetings, Greg Combet, the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Procurement, said that skills shortage was one of the greatest challenges facing defence industry in meeting the increase in demand.

“During the next decade it is anticipated that more than \$100 billion worth of business will be spent in maintaining and replacing our defence equipment,” Mr Combet said.

NSW future opportunities include several projects approved in the last budget including:

- \$45.4 million for major capital facilities projects at RAAF Base Holsworthy and Williamtown; and

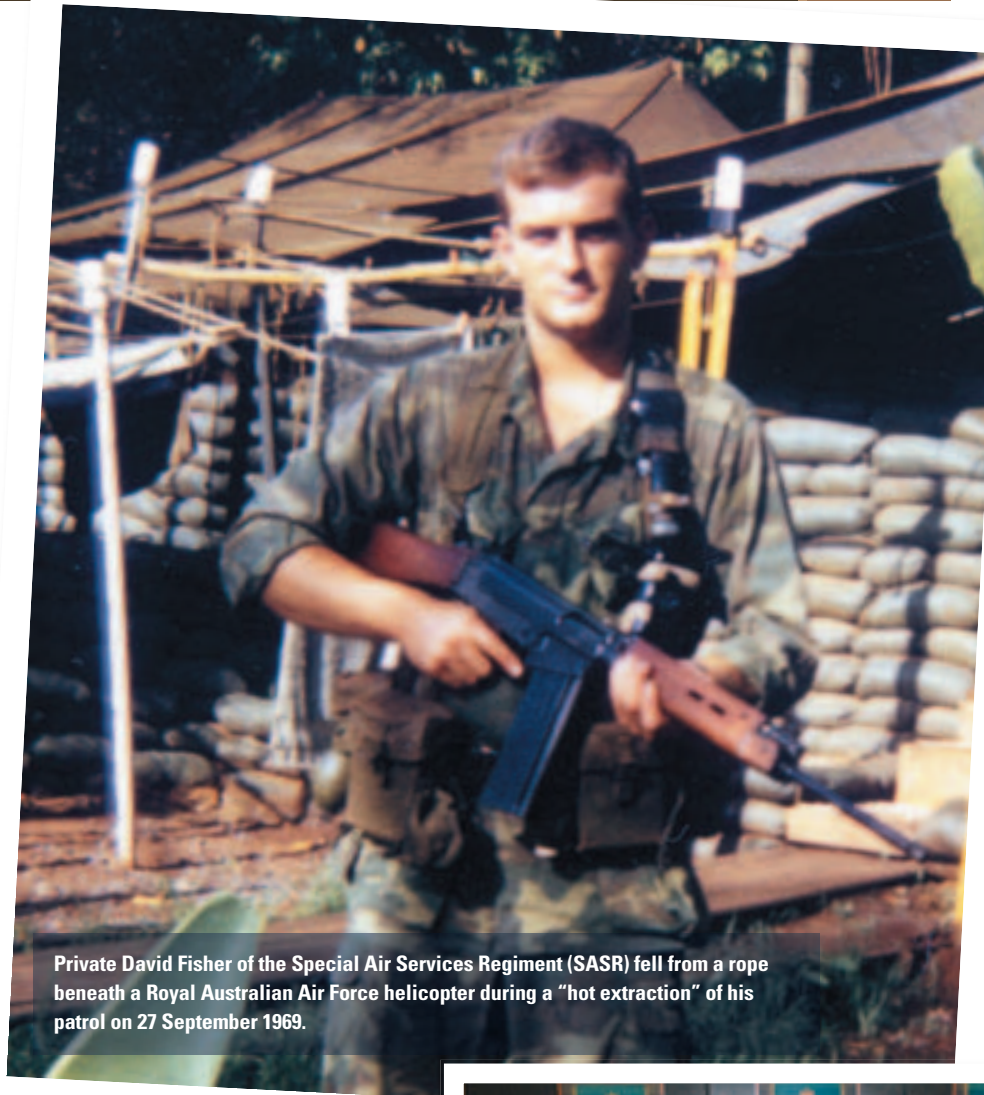
- \$5.4 million for medium capital works at Randwick and Orchard Hills.

In addition, about \$35 million will be invested in the proposed works at HMAS Albatross to support the introduction of the Multi-Role Helicopter.

## Private David Fisher arrives home

Thirty-nine years after he was lost on operations, the remains of Private David Fisher have finally been brought home to Australia.

Private Fisher, a member of the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR), was lost on 27 September 1969, when he fell from a rope suspended from a helicopter during a hot extraction of his patrol. An immediate search was conducted by the helicopter, followed by air and ground searches, but no trace of Private Fisher was found.



Private David Fisher of the Special Air Services Regiment (SASR) fell from a rope beneath a Royal Australian Air Force helicopter during a “hot extraction” of his patrol on 27 September 1969.

His remains arrived at RAAF Base Richmond aboard an RAAF C-130 Hercules aircraft. Private Fisher’s remains were accompanied back from Hanoi in Vietnam by members of his family, the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP, and Special Operations Commander, Major General Timothy McOwan.

A ‘ramp ceremony’ was held at Richmond, where Private Fisher’s casket was carried by an honour guard made up of SASR members, before an honour guard comprising SASR veterans and commandos from 4th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

Private Fisher is the last of four Australian Army soldiers, lost on operations during the Vietnam War, to be brought home.

A further article on the repatriation of PTE Fisher can be found on pages 28-29 of this edition.



**ABOVE:** Members of the Army Band pose with actor Jack Thompson and General Peter Cosgrove (Rtd) after receiving a Gold ARIA Award in Sydney. Their musical tribute recognised the national distribution of more than 38,000 copies of the compact disc, ‘Salute to the Aussie Digger’. Photo: Captain Michael Brooke

## Gold ARIA award for 'Salute to the Aussie Digger'

A musical tribute has earned the Australian Army its first ever Gold ARIA Award.

Presented during a ceremony at Victoria Barracks in Sydney, the award from the Australian Record Industry Association (ARIA) recognised the national distribution of more than 38,000 copies of the compact disc, 'Salute to the Aussie Digger'.

The CD project was conceived in 2003 by Australian Army Band – Sydney member, Warrant Officer Rod Mason.

"This is a wonderful achievement for the Australian Army Band Corp and is recognition of the sort of activities that all Army bands are involved in," WO Mason said.

Following extensive research, script writing and music composition, the album was recorded over several months in 2004 by the Australian Army Band – Sydney, under the baton of Major Geoff Grey.

"With all of the elements of the project being completed 'in-house' from scripting and recording to sound engineering and graphic design, the CD is a very special achievement by members of the Australian Army Band Corps," MAJ Grey said.

The recording features a wide variety of evocative music covering periods of conflict over the past 130 years and includes numerous compositions by members of the band.

Since its release the CD has been included in national educational literature available in all Government secondary schools, issued to recruits upon march-out from the Army Recruit Training Centre and raised significant funds and awareness for Legacy.



## Care to comment?

Do you have an opinion on this story? If so, we are seeking your constructive and concise comments in a 'Letters to the Editor' section. Please send via email to: [defence.magazine@defence.gov.au](mailto:defence.magazine@defence.gov.au)

## AFL/Army Courage Award announced

Land Commander Australia, Major General Mark Kelly recently presented the 2008 AFL/Army Courage Award Richmond's Brett Deledio at the AFL All-Australian Awards Dinner in Melbourne.

Brett was selected by thousands of football fans who voted on the AFL web site each week. Army and the AFL asked fans to examine three acts performed by players in each round and to nominate the act they felt best displayed Army's core values of courage, initiative and teamwork.

## HMAS Maryborough returns home

Royal Australia Navy Patrol Boat HMAS *Maryborough* recently returned to her home port of Darwin after participating in Exercise Maru in New Zealand – a multi-national, multi-agency exercise under the Proliferation Security Initiative. Aimed at preventing the shipment of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the five-week deployment was the first by a RAN Armidale Class patrol boat to New Zealand.

During the deployment, the ship's company visited the overseas ports of Noumea in New Caledonia and Auckland and Nelson in New Zealand, engaging with and strengthening ties with Australia's regional neighbours.

## No remains of World War Two airmen located at PNG site

A thorough search of the wreckage of a World War Two RAAF Lockheed Hudson in Papua New Guinea has uncovered dog tags, but no remains of the four airmen lost with the aircraft on 11 February 1942.

Flying Officer Graham Gibson, Pilot Officer Frank Thorn, Sergeant Barton Coutie and Sergeant Arthur Quail were aboard Hudson bomber A16-126 when it was shot down during a sortie against Japanese shipping at Gasmata Harbour, New Britain.

An Air Force team of nine personnel, including two Air Force Reservist forensic specialists, deployed to the isolated mountain ridge inland from Gasmata by helicopter on Saturday, 4 October 2008. They spent a week at the wreckage site, and no human remains were found.

## Smart bombs score hit in extended test

Defence has successfully tested the Joint Direct Attack Munition - Extended Range (JDAM-ER) weapon which will enable the RAAF to deploy strike weapons more safely and effectively.

The JDAM-ER is a conventional JDAM, enhanced with an Australian-designed wing kit, based on technology licensed from the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO).

DSTO developed the gliding mechanism in a wing attachment that enables the 500-pound JDAM weapon to accurately find long-range targets, giving the launch aircraft a fire-and-forget capability at a safe standoff distance, well out of harm's way from enemy threats on the ground.

Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP said recent tests, conducted at the Woomera Test Facility in South Australia by the Aerospace Operational Support Group on Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18 Hornet aircraft, demonstrated further performance enhancements of the system.

"The latest tests were conducted under the scope of a Defence Materiel Organisation, Industry Division Minor Project to further develop the JDAM-ER into a usable product," Mr Snowdon said.

## Lord Nelson Sword of Excellence

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) David Graham has been awarded the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) Lord Nelson Sword of Excellence, during a ceremony at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia.

This annual award is presented to an officer of the Australian fleet who has continually displayed a degree of leadership consistent with the high standards set by Horatio Lord Nelson. The Chairman of the Nelson Society of Australia, Mr Mike Sargeant, also participated in the ceremony, awarding a Nelson Society Medallion to Lieutenant Commander Graham.

Lieutenant Commander Graham joined the RAN in 1992 and has most recently served as the Commanding Officer of an Armidale Class Patrol Boat, based in Darwin. During his command, he and the ship's company won the prestigious Kelly Shield in 2007, awarded annually for overall proficiency within the Patrol Boat Force Element Group.