



Australian Government
Department of Defence

DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE

CPA 034/08

Friday, 22 February 2008

DEFENCE FINALISTS IN NATIONAL SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA AWARDS

Defence has two finalists in the upcoming Australian Safety Compensation Council's *Safe Work Australia Awards*, the Chief of the Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, announced today.

Defence contenders, Army Captain Sharryn Batt and the Navy's Amphibious and Afloat Support Group, are past recipients of the Defence Safety Awards, and the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission Safety Awards. They are now competing nationally for the premier occupational health and safety awards that recognise excellence at the government, organisational and individual level.

"Defence Secretary Nick Warner and I congratulate Captain Sharryn Batt and the Amphibious and Afloat Support Group for being selected as finalists in the Safe Work Australia Awards," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

"It is gratifying to see Defence people represented at these national awards in recognition of their excellence in promoting and implementing improvements in occupational health and safety.

Air Chief Marshal Houston said Captain Sharryn Batt was vying for recognition against six other competitors in the 'best individual contribution to workplace health and safety' category for her awareness program that combines lead risk-controls into an integrated package.

The Navy's Amphibious and Afloat Support Group was competing with seven other finalists in the 'best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue' category for developing a marine boarding party ladder.

"Our finalists reflect the type of individual and group leadership, commitment and initiative that Defence values and needs to continually improve its health and safety work environment. We extend our best wishes to them in competing for these awards," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

Award winners will be announced at a ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra on 28 April 2008. More details may be found at the Australian Safety Compensation Council's website www.ascc.gov.au. Details about Defence occupational health and safety programs are available at www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/

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