

Corporal Adam Need, 26, grew up in Townsville and joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 2001 to work with Military Working Dogs.

Adam was posted back to Townsville this year and now works as a Military Working Dog Handler at 323 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron.

Working at a close-knit section within the Security Police specialisation appeals to Adam. “Being a Military Working Dog Handler is very busy and demanding at times. But, it has been extremely rewarding”.

“The opportunity to work with Military Working Dogs is something I appreciate everyday and will never forget”.

Adam also enjoys the challenges working with animals brings to his job. But, the bond he has with Military Working Dog, Saxon, is “incredible”.

“Saxon is like a part of the family. We look out for each other when we are patrolling or working with all different military elements,” Adam said.

Adam and Saxon train together everyday to ensure policing duties and specialised security skills are maintained.

This is Adam’s first time involved in Talisman Sabre, which has seen RAAF Base Townsville increase security requirements and patrols throughout the exercise.

Talisman Sabre is a biennial exercise that provides the Royal Australian Air Force with the opportunity to train with some 20 000 United States Air Force, Navy and Marines, while focusing on the operational level planning and conduct of high end warfighting.

About 7500 Australian military personnel participate in the intensive training period of sea, air and land battles that run from 10 June to 2 July this year.

As well as the aircraft operating out of Townsville, there are also a range of aircraft in Rockhampton, Amberley, Brisbane and Williamtown, along with aircraft carriers and soldiers in a variety of locations around Australia.

The Air Force has provided Adam with the opportunity to travel Australia and the world. Being part of the Tsunami relief effort in Banda Ache in 2004 and a deployment to East Timor in 2006 with his previous Military Working Dog, Hans, are just some of Adam’s career highlights.

Adam is enjoying his time back home in Townsville now, but would like to commission as an Officer in the Air Force later on in his career or work in a Defence Force Recruiting Centre.

Air Force runs in Adam’s family with younger brother, Luke, at RAAF Base Richmond working as a Firefighter and cousin Tracey Campbell at RAAF Base Tindal as a Clerk.

Adam enjoys all sports, including basketball and touch football, representing the Air Force in both. He also has a strong interest in the stock market and real estate.

For more information on joining the Royal Australian Air Force contact 13 19 01 or check out www.defencejobs.gov.au

Story by Flying Officer Skye Smith

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