

Leading Aircraftman Callum Wynne, 26, grew up in Tamworth and joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 2001 as an Airfield Defence Guard.

Callum remustered to become a Military Working Dog Handler in 2005 after having worked closely with them in his security duties as an Airfield Defence Guard.

“I was so impressed with the capability of the Military Working Dogs that I knew I wanted to get involved with the specialisation,” Callum said.

Callum now works at 323 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron where he gets to experience something new everyday.

Working with dogs can be quite challenging, according to Callum. “You are constantly training with your dog to ensure his skills remain current and to refine security standards”.

Callum also says that working with his dog Rusty is the best part of the job though. “The bond you have with your Military Working Dog is as strong as what you have with your own family.

“You get a real sense of achievement when you teach your dog a new skill or even when you hone an old skill to get a better result from the dog”.

Callum and Rusty train together everyday to ensure policing duties and specialised security skills are maintained.

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

Callum enjoys the new experience of working with the American Marines and the United States Air Force on Talisman Sabre.

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.

Callum has many career highlights, but says that completing his initial specialist training as an Airfield Defence Guard and then as a Military Working Dog Handler was a “big thing”.

“I have had some great times in the Air Force and made some really good mates,” Callum said.

Callum would like to deploy overseas with dog Rusty and work in an operational environment sometime in the future.

“I think the experience to deploy overseas and represent Australia would be an awesome challenge for me and Rusty”.

Callum is looking forward to returning to Tamworth to show his wife and children where he grew up. Callum enjoys car racing, fitness training and following the National Rugby League.

For more information on joining the Royal Australian Air Force contact 13 19 01 or check out [www.defencejobs.gov.au](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au)

**Story by Flying Officer Skye Smith**

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