WELL, LOOK WHO'S BACK

Jumping for joy: Pte Sean Milburn receives a warm greeting from his Mum, Faye, and a particularly enthusiastic welcome from his girlfriend, Samantha Freeman, on his return from Iraq. All soldiers who deployed with Overwatch Battle Group (West) 4 have now returned home.

SEE REPORT PAGE 3
Photo by WO2 Graham McBean

JUNE 30 DEADLINE TO ACCEPT RETENTION BONUS P23
Great soldier passes

By Cpl Corinne Boer

GEN Francis Hassett (ret’d) was remembered for his inspiring leadership, constant achievement and relentless dedication to duty at a service at Dunrobin Chapel on June 17.

The funeral of the former Chief of Defence Force Staff was attended by Governor-General Maj-Gen Michael Jeffery, CDF ACM Angus Houston, Chief of Army Lt-Gen Peter Leahy, VCDF Lt-Gen Ken Gillespie, Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon, family and friends.

Maj-Gen Jeffery described Gen Hassett as an outstanding combat soldier, a great military leader and a loving husband, father, grandfa- ther and great-grandfather.

“He was charismatic and his professional confidence and loyalty perme- ated through all who worked for him.” Maj-Gen Jeffery said.

His subordinates thought that he was a very sincere man who was always ready to lend a helping hand. “He was loved by his family.” Maj-Gen Jeffery said.

Gen Hassett was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1976. He retired in 1977.

VC winner Keith Payne served under Gen Hassett in 1953 and first met him while playing foot- ball. “He commanded the football team like that of a military unit. It had to be at its peak,” Mr Payne said. “He was a very sincere man . it was humbling to know him. He was loved by his soldiers as he was loved by his family.”

Maj-Gen Jeffery said Sir Francis’ influence on leadership continues today.

“The Hassett Award, estab- lished in 2006 thanks to a gener- ous donation by Sir Francis and Lady Hassett, reflects his own experiences in youth,” Maj-Gen Jeffery said. “It annually honours the best of junior leadership with- in the Royal Australian Regiment to inspire the next generation of promising leaders.”

Greatly admired: Gen Hassett as Chief of the Defence Staff.

By Corinne Boer

Gen Hassett was born in Sydney in 1918 and entered RMC aged 16, graduating in 1938. His career, which spanned more than 42 years, saw him undertake a variety of positions, including Chief of the General Staff (now Chief of Army). He saw active service in World War II, Korea and Malaya. At age 23, he was the youngest officer promoted to lieutenant colonel during WWII.

Gen Hassett is best remembered for his achievements in command of an under-strength battalion at Maryang San in 1951, regarded as perhaps the single greatest feat of arms by the Australian Army in the Korean War.

The attack lasted for five days and concentrated on series of hills held by Chinese forces. 3RAR took and held the hilltop, which enabled British battalions to clear the slopes and ridges of the hill.

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Home from Iraq

THE final elements of Overwatch Battle Group (West) 4 arrived home in Brisbane on June 22. In an historic occasion only days before, the Australian flag was lowered for the last time in Tallil and handed to CO OBG(W) 4 Lt-Col Chris Websdane, who was last to board the C-130.

The final Australian battle group in southern Iraq, cavalry-led OBG(W) 4 was unique in that all major components were drawn from Brisbane-based units.

The members of the 515-strong battalion included famously dangerous terr-IED and IDF patrols in Dhi Qar and Al Muthanna provinces right up until the end of operations.

Lt-Col Chris Websdane, who was last to board the C-130, said: “Every Australian can be proud of the job our soldiers have done.”

Met by his girlfriend, infantryman Pte Sean Milburn, 6RAR, said he was pleased to be home. “It was a good experience,” Pte Milburn said. “I was lucky enough to get two trips in one because I went to Baghdad as well as deploying with the Overwatch Battle Group.”

Girlfriend Samantha Freeman said she was excited and had been looking forward to the homecoming. “I have been planning this for weeks and it has been quite funny because I lost my balloons,” Ms Freeman said.

“For me it is about the pride of Australia,” she said. “Everyone in the battle group has done an exceptional job,” Lt-Col Stock said. “OBG(W) 4 has been a groundbreaker in terms of how to operate in this kind of environment.”

In addition to successful patrolling regime, the diggers’ ability to build a strong rapport with the locals earned the diggers’ respect from Iraqis and their coalition peers.

US Lt-Col Mark Stock, whose unit took over from the Australians, said he was impressed with their work and that the handover was thorough.

“Every Australian can be proud of the job our soldiers have done.”

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IN BRIEF

Cadet killed
AN OFFICER Cadet studying at ADFA died and four other Cadets were injured in a car accident in Canberra on June 13. O/Cdt Benjamin John Taylor, 18, was killed when the vehicle in which he was a passenger hit a concrete barricade. Two other passengers were in a critical condition in Canberra Hospital. Police charged the driver with culpable driving causing death.

Soldier returns
AN RTF 4 soldier injured in a vehicle fire near Tarin Kowt in Afghanistan has returned to Australia for medical treatment. He suffered smoke inhalation while trying to extinguish a fire in a Bushmaster on June 3. He remains in a satisfactory condition at the Holsworthy military hospital.

Dig finishes
EXCAVATION of a World War I burial site at Pheasant Wood, France has come to a close. The excavation revealed significant numbers of human remains at the site, along with artefacts which signify their Australian and British nationality. No decision will be made on the future of the site or the remains until the official report is received.

40 years of enjoyment
BRISBANE-based Maj Peter Dobbs has completed 40 years of dedicated service in the ARA. Maj Dobbs enlisted on May 6, 1968, and was allocated to the RAA. During his 40 years of service he has performed a range of regimental, staff and training appointments, including overseas service in Vietnam, Singapore, Bougainville and several appointments as RSM and Master Gunner. Maj Dobbs was commissioned in January 1991 and was promoted to his current rank in 1999. He is currently serving at HQ 1 Div as the SO2 Coord/XO. Commander 1 Div Maj-Gen Richard Wilson and HQ SM WO1 Carl Edwards presented Maj Dobbs with the Chief of Army’s certificate of appreciation for 40 years’ service. Maj Dobbs was also presented with the mandatory walking stick from the staff at HQ 1 Div.

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Your Superannuation
We – you and the DFWA – await with eager interest the Government’s next steps in their consideration of the new Military Superannuation Scheme. The Association’s submission has stirred great response from the highest military and political circles, and it remains a continuing top priority for us – on your behalf.

Equally, the Association’s fight for justice to provide for adequate indexing of your superannuation pension – that you contributed to during your working life (it is not a free handout like some Government benefits, despite what some may think) - continues.

Defence Families Australia (DFA)
The Association has entered into a strategic working partnership with the DFA. Go to the DFA website – www.dfa.org.au - to see how we can help each other to support all Defence family members.

We need your help!
The Association’s work is done by volunteers but we need membership to support our lobbying activities and to provide the necessary financial resources. Why not join us?

Want to learn more about us?
Please see www.dfa.org.au

Board report is released

THE Defence Department has released the Board of Inquiry report into the death of Capt Paul Lawton, who fell ill and died in August 2006 while escorting Abrams tanks from the US to Melbourne on a commercial ship.

The cause of Capt Lawton’s death was an infection of the lungs, complicated by an existing heart condition known as cardiomyopathy.

The Board found that despite Capt Lawton’s willingness to carry out the duties, the decision to allow him to undertake escort was in breach of his Medical Employment Classification, which deemed him medically unfit for “deploying or seagoing service.” This breach was primarily the result of complexity, ambiguity and duplication in ADF health policy.

The Board found that the steps taken by Capt Lawton’s superiors to protect his health and welfare on board the ship were reasonable in the circumstances. His superiors believed he was suffering from symptoms of a cold or the flu, unaware of the seriousness of his heart condition and that he had prescribed medication about 6-8 weeks before his death.

From the time of first diagnosis in December 2003 until departure for duty in August 2006, Capt Lawton received periodic medical examinations and was prescribed medication for his heart condition.

The Board’s report made 41 recommendations, of which 12 were accepted by CDF ACM Angus Houston.

The remaining nine recommendations were not accepted for two reasons. First, Defence is constrained from implementing some of the recommendations due to privacy implications. Second, some of the matters recommended by the Board have already been addressed by Defence separately.

Capt Lawton’s family have received ongoing support throughout the course of the inquiry and been informed of the Board’s findings.

A copy of the Board of Inquiry Report, edited for privacy reasons, can be found at http://www.defence.gov.au/coi/inquiry_reports.htm

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Flight of his life

By SCdt Tim Thomas

REID Capp has spent a lot of time in hospital over the past 12 months, as the little six-year-old boy has been diagnosed with Ewing’s sarcoma, a rare form of cancer.

But he’s proven you don’t need to spend years in training to be an Army pilot, as “Captain” Reid Capp, adorned with his pilot wings and blue beret, took to the skies in an Army Kiowa.

The flight was part of Reid’s Make-A-Wish visit to the Army Aviation Training Centre (AAvnTC) at Oakey.

For Reid, his nine-year-old sister Alex and his parents, Jo and David, this special day was all about having fun.

“It was a lot of fun, I got to fly in a real helicopter and see all my friends”, Reid said.

Reid’s adventure started early when he and his sister were presented with their berets at their home in Toowoomba and given a ride in a camouflaged Land Rover.

Reid’s first mission was a flight with his mother and sister in an Army Kiowa helicopter. The young boy was treated to a special in-flight surprise, a fly-over of his school with all his class mates on the oval waving to him.

After the flight, Reid and his sister tried out the Black Hawk, Tiger and loadmaster simulators, dined with the pilots at the officer’s mess and had a spin in a fire truck.

This special day was the culmination of weeks of planning by the staff at AAvnTC.

When the idea of hosting Reid for a day was passed on to the Chief of Staff of AAvnTC, Lt-Col Tim Witenden, he said he was inundated by offers of support by the centre’s staff. “We are all members of the local community and it is good to give back to the community that supports us,” Lt-Col Witenden said. “The officers and men had just as much fun as Reid and his family did.”

While it was a memorable day for the staff of AAvnTC, it proved to be a moving experience for mum Jo.

“This has been amazing; Army and all the people at Oakey have really gone above and beyond the call of duty with today,” Jo said.

“Today has been like Christmas for the family.”

Group considers human error in arms incidents

THE Combined Arms Training Centre’s (CATC) recent Small Arms and Weapon Training Simulation System (WTSS) User Conference in Puckapunyal provided a forum to discuss small-arms safety, training, doctrine, capability development and related issues by ADF stakeholders including ADF Cadets, and others that Defence support, such as the police and Customs.

“It was the first conference of its kind in three years and was so successful that it is intended to conduct another next year,” S03 Small Arms Capt Scott Lawson said.

The conference, opened by Col Mark Holmes, Commandant CATC – in his capacity as the OHS Adviser ADF Small Arms Training, Training Adviser for ADF Small Arms and Training Adviser for the WTSS – was followed by three days of discussion and presentations, covering topics ranging from Services updates and lethality to the “buddy system”.

The conference also heard that the Defence Support Group (DSG) has updated and is soon to release a new Defence instruction on the management of Defence training areas. It will provide guidance on areas such as the policy with respect to live-firing in heightened fire periods, and levels of required authorisation and delegation for the conduct of activities on Defence Training Areas. DSG also spoke about the Training Area Safety Management Information System.

The Defence Material Organisation is continuing to investigate ways to improve the F88SA1 Steyr.

Those who have something to contribute to the next conference or have any general query regarding small arms, should contact the ADF Weapons Policy Cell on (03) 5735 6490 or 0408 410 759.

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Spectrum Advising Defence Personnel for 26 years
By Maj Mark Shanks

FOLLOWING a visit earlier in the year by the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) Training Commander, Lt-Gen Darmono, who is keen to adopt some Australian training methods, the Combined Arms Training Centre (CATC) at Puckapunyal has hosted the Directors of the Indonesian Schools of Infantry and Cavalry.

The Combined Arms Training Centre (CATC) at Puckapunyal has hosted the Combined Arms Training Centre (CATC), a concept foreign to TNI-AD whose training system is still conducted on corps lines. The Indonesian generals visited the School of Armour to inspect a display of armoured vehicles and simulation facilities.

At the School of Armour they received a briefing on the Bushmaster, followed by a trip to the driver training area to experience, from the passenger seat, the vehicle’s capabilities. The generals were impressed with the equipment on display and the demonstrated professionalism of the Australian soldier. He went on to say that he hoped that cooperation and closer ties between the Australian Army and the TNI-AD could be further developed at an early date.

At the next day the party visited the School of Infantry in Singleton, NSW, to inspect initial employment training before returning to Indonesia. The generals inspected a Bushmaster before taking a ride.

The visit, Maj-Gen Subagio said he was very impressed with the equipment on display and the demonstrated professionalism of the Australian soldier. He went on to say that he hoped that cooperation and closer ties between the Australian Army and the TNI-AD could be further developed at an early date.

Command to change

By Cpl Corinne Boer

THE ADF School of Languages will transfer command from the RAAF College to HQ Training Command—Army on July 1. The change follows a review in 2005 which established that TC-A was already tempo.

It will be based on current operational capabilities. It was decided that TC-A was already the manager of joint training for other associated capabilities. It was decided to include the Languages Other Than English capability under the same training management framework.

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Paws patter at Ranger

By Lt Danielle Perkins

BALLARAT’S Ranger Barracks went to the dogs earlier this month, providing a training base for the Australian Customs Service.

Organised by reservist Capt Daniel Strack, a Customs supervisor, seven dogs and their handlers visited the home of 8/7/RVR to undertake a series of weapon detection exercises as part of a basic training course.

Senior instructor Brett Matthews said he had been training dogs to find firearms and explosives since 2005, adding to the traditional role of narcotic detection.

And he said the regular cooperation with the Army was extremely beneficial.

“When we come to Melbourne for the final part of the course, we come up here and use the barracks at Ballarat,” he said.

“It is very good for our training, very beneficial from a Customs point of view because we get to extend our dogs detection parameters.

“Up until now, they’ve been trained on some very specific firearms but here we get to train on some firearms that we don’t get regular access to and the other good thing is that they’ve been stored and handled by different people.

“It’s invaluable for the whole Australian community for Customs and Army to work together.”

The 13-week course is mostly run in Canberra, with four dogs expected to graduate. Mr Matthews said the dogs would be used in traditional Customs roles, such as at airports and on the waterfront, and for jobs conducted in cooperation with state and federal police agencies.

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Looking ahead: Maj Andrew Dahl meets with tribal leaders.

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 Talks a sign of real progress

By Capt Douglas McGuire

RECONSTRUCTION Task Force 4 soldiers in Afghanistan have conducted their first public shura – or meeting of elders – in a former Taliban stronghold north of Tarin Kowt in Oruzgan province.

The meeting between the RTF and local tribal chiefs is a significant step in the building of relationships between the Australian troops and the local community and is seen as a sign of real progress in the area’s security.

Sydney and Brisbane-based diggers have spent the past month building the latest in a series of patrol bases that will be handed over to Afghan National Security Forces.

This shura is significant because by sitting with us in public in clear view of everyone passing by, the leaders of this area are showing that they want us here and are prepared to work with us to ensure that the insurgents don’t come back,” RTF 4 CO Lt- Col Stuart Yeaman said.

“All of our operations here are designed to push the insurgents out of these communities for good and we are putting a lot of effort into developing our contact with the leaders here.

“When they are out on patrol the diggers have been doing everything they can to reassure the ordinary people that we are here to help them, despite the misinformation being spread by the insurgents. People are, after some initial scepticism, coming round but this will be a long process, there is no doubt.

“There is still great fear of the insurgents, despite them having been largely driven out of this part of Oruzgan.

“They may come back briefly to launch attacks, but I am certain that they have nothing like the freedom to conduct their activities, or intimidate the local people into supporting them that they had a few months ago.”

Maj Matt Richardson, the Liaison Officer tasked with holding a series of shuras, said there were encouraging signs in the relationships with local people.

“Over the years these people had a succession of armies and militias promising, cajoling and threatening them into supporting whatever cause they represented, and they are a bit suspicious of the latest bunch to turn up,” he said.

“What we are doing is demonstrating by our actions that we mean what we say. The first thing we did when we arrived here was to rebuild a bridge and then a huge amount of plant and equipment turned up to build this patrol base.

“The locals can see what we are doing for them and this is starting to have an effect. There is no doubt that this will take time, and a prolonged effort by the diggers, but there are no better ambassadors for our cause than the soldiers themselves.”

Down to earth: Maj Matthew Richardson talks with a local leader inside his home in Oruzgan province.

Photos by Cpl Neil Ruskin

Looking ahead:
Maj Andrew Dahl meets with tribal leaders.

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WORLD NEWS

Army June 26, 2008

Woman’s touch is crucial

By Capt Douglas McGuire

PTE Lauren Maude, an orderly room clerk with Reconstruction Task Force 4, had no idea that she would end up far from her desk in the fight against Taliban extremists.

But that’s exactly where she has found herself as the cultural considerations of dealing with women in this conservative Islamic country overcome traditional military boundaries.

Pte Maude is now shoulder to shoulder with her male colleagues at checkpoints and on operations because of the need for female soldiers to conduct potentially sensitive tasks such as searching women and girls.

“This is way different to what I thought I would be doing – it’s great,” Pte Maude said.

“I was expecting to be sitting behind a desk and then suddenly I’ve been put out here.”

“I would rather be here than in Tarin Kowt. I really enjoy the interaction with the locals, especially the kids. The culture is so different and the whole experience is amazing. Some of the women are scared of me at first but we manage to overcome that.”

“I’ll probably never experience this again so I need to make the most of it. It really opens your eyes – you can really see that we are making a difference.”

CO RTF-4 Lt-Col Stuart Yeaman said the role played by female soldiers was vital in a country where women were highly protected by their male relatives.

“For us to be able to do our job properly without female soldiers for interacting with women and girls would be extremely hard. We are working to get the people onside and anything that helps us overcome some of the cultural differences gives us an edge, and also negates the Taliban’s attempts to discredit us and portray us as anti-Islamic,” he said.

Girl talk: Pte Lauren Maude sits with a group of Afghan girls (left) and meets two youngsters (above). Photos by Cpl Neil Ruskin
CHAPLAIN Kerry Bartlett knows Kung fu padre

By Capt Joe Nyhan

CHAPLAIN Kerry Bartlett knows how to look after himself. As an accredited boxing coach and martial arts enthusiast, this grandfather is in great demand among troops nearly 40 years his junior who look forward to his regular fitness sessions.

“As an accredited boxing coach and martial arts enthusiast, this grandfather is in great demand among troops nearly 40 years his junior who look forward to his regular fitness sessions.”

They see me as more than a chaplain and they enjoy the training. “Once that trust and credibility is there, the soldiers are much more likely to come to me, if they have the need, to share what’s on their hearts.”

Chap Bartlett has just completed a six-month deployment to JTF 633 as the Coordinating Chaplain on Australia’s Middle East HQ in Baghdad, an experience he described as “a privilege”.

“Teaching boxing is a tremendous way for me to establish trust and credibility.”

“It’s a reflection of how fast things are changing in our part of Afghanistan, and of a wider success against the insurgents – used as a supply route between bases in the north and Helmand province to the south.”

The RTF has spent recent weeks penetrating deep into what has been an area of huge importance to the insurgents – used as a supply route between bases in the north and Helmand province to the south.

An aggressive patrolling program, coupled with the construction of a major new patrol base, has combined with coalition operations elsewhere to see the insurgents retreat from the majority of the Tarin Kowt bowl. RTF 4 is finding plenty of evidence of their presence, but so far the insurgents have avoided confrontation with the diggers.

“The choice of Service Personnel. Links with the ADF for more than 25 years.”

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By Capt Douglas McGuire

THREE of Australia’s most senior generals have visited what was a Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan.

The senior leaders – Generals David Hurley, Mark Kelly and Mike Hindmarsh – spent two hours in the strategically important region north of Tarin Kowt, visiting RTF 4 troops building a patrol base there.

Commander Joint Operations LiGen Hurley and LCAust Maj-Gen Kelly were travelling with Commander JTF 633 Maj-Gen Hindmarsh visiting soldiers deployed on Op Slipper in Afghanistan.

“Just months ago this area was very much insurgent territory,” CO RTF 4 Lt-Col Stuart Yeaman said.

“Now we can bring VIPs such as this group here with complete confidence. “It’s a reflection of how fast things are changing in our part of Afghanistan, and of a wider success against the insurgents that is taking place across the country.” The RTF has spent recent weeks penetrating deep into what has been an area of huge importance to the insurgents – used as a supply route between bases in the north and Helmand province to the south. An aggressive patrolling program, coupled with the construction of a major new patrol base, has combined with coalition operations elsewhere to see the insurgents retreat from the majority of the Tarin Kowt bowl. RTF 4 is finding plenty of evidence of their presence, but so far the insurgents have avoided confrontation with the diggers.

“In recent days we have discovered a cache of bomb-making equipment during one of our patrols for example, so they are still about,” Lt-Col Yeaman said. “We are also noticing a marked difference in the attitude of the ordinary local people, who are becoming much more trusting of us as they see that we are here to help them.”

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This week IAN PETERSON recommends

**Soldiers’ smiles say everything**

By Capt Joe Nyhan

SOLDIERS serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have had a welcome surprise in the mail in the form of care packages from the Returned and Services League.

Boxes – enough for every person – have arrived packed full of edible treats, games and reading material.

The OC of the Security Detachment, Maj Ewen Hedges, said the RSL care packages were a real touchstone to Australia and a huge morale booster for the troops.

“The biggest thing with the care packages is that it means someone at home is thinking of us,” he said.

“We really appreciate the fact that people have been reaching into their pockets and spending the time and effort to put together these packages.

“We eat a lot of American food over here and, frankly, to get a packet of Allens Snakes or some Anzac biscuits in the mail really does bring a smile to our face.”

**Balmoral marked**

By Maj Ian Toohill

TIMOR-Leste Battle Group 4 – also known as Battle Group Balmoral – has paused to remember those who fought in the Battle of Balmoral 40 years ago.

The battle group is made up predominantly of personnel from 3RAR, which over three days in 1968 suffered five KIAs in the fighting at Fire Support Base Balmoral.

“It is always very moving to conduct a remembrance service while on overseas operations,” said Chaplain John Sanderson, who led the service.

The TLBG 4 HQ staff on parade in the hot Timorese sun, complete with catafalque party, presented local passersby with a colourful spectacle.

Battle Group Balmoral CO Lt-Col Wade Stothart delivered a reflection on the battle.

“This is a very proud day for the serving soldiers of 3RAR as we remember the achievements of previous members of the unit and strive to maintain their high standards and operational success,” he said.

The service took place at the same time as formal dinner remembrance service in Canberra. John Robbins, 3RAR Veterans Association, said having a “parallel dinner and memorial service in Timor-Leste for Balmoral was a great initiative by the CO and adjutant. It emphasises the continuity of service in the regiment.”

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MEMBERS of the Timor-Leste Aviation Group (TLAG) and the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) engineers have painted and provided pews for a new church in the village of Darlau.

Residents of the 1000-strong village, situated on a ridge 800m above Dili, had built the church but run out of funds for painting and seating.

Once ISF Commander Brig James Baker approved the project, it was a matter of raising the money for the paint and fitting the project into a busy operational workload. The engineers provided the wood for the seats while members of the ISF donated the $1200 needed to buy the paint.

While all this was taking place an ISF medical assistant conducted a medical clinic.

By Maj Ian Toohill

AUSTRALIAN soldiers have helped destroy about 100 rifles confiscated by the International Stabilisation Force (ISF).

ISF MPs supervised the cutting up of the weapons, which had been held in secure storage for nearly two years.

The task was ordered by the Timorese Prosecutor General as the weapons were no longer needed for legal proceedings.

ISF Joint Provost Marshal Maj Ian Stewart said the destruction of the weapons was another example of the successful cooperation between the ISF, UN Police and Timor-Leste Government agencies.

“Together we are helping to make the streets of Dili and the districts safer,” he said.

The recovery of additional illegal weapons over the next few months will be an important initiative for the Timor-Leste Government, the ISF and the UN.

Guardian

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Leonardo: Tpr Graham Roehors has fun painting the wall of a church at Darlau.

Photo by Cpl Chris Moore

Seized arms: Australian MPs and UN Police from Brazil and Portugal with a stockpile of illegal weapons due for destruction in Dili.

Photo by Cpl Chris Moore

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Army: Secdet 13 endured a baptism of fire soon after arriving in Baghdad. How did everyone respond to that?

Maj Hedges: We had a reasonably smooth transition initially, with an increase in the obvious security measures occurred in Baghdad early in March and into April. Despite the trying conditions, the soldiers demonstrated good initiative and a capacity to continue their tasks without being distracted or pressured by what was going on around them.

Army: How has the personal composition of Secdet changed with Rotation 13? It’s no longer exclusively Army is it?

Maj Hedges: We have a really big change with the Security Detachment in that we have received some additional menning from the Air Force, in this case from No. 2 Airfield Defence Squadron.

Army: These guys are basically the Air Force’s equivalent to our infantry and they have a slightly different role which normally relates to protecting air bases. However, over here they’re providing us with a lot of additional flexibility. The fact they are equipped with a lot of additional kit shows that the guys simply means that they have adapted to the new situation and have accepted as equals within the combat team.

Army: As an infantry company commander in the traditional sense, what challenges do you face when you are placed in command of a team such as Secdet which draws together so many specialisations from across not only Army, but now the Air Force as well?

Maj Hedges: I think the challenge it presents is that we have different ways of looking at problems and different methods of solving them. However, that is outweighed by the fact we’ve got here. Baghdad is still a dangerous place, however, loved ones need to have faith in the fact we are well trained and everyone here has initiative, ability and common sense which allows them to carry out the task.

Army: How important are major sporting events at home, such as State of Origin, to the morale and welfare of deployed personnel?

Maj Hedges: They are very important. We are very lucky. We’ve had the return of all our loved ones, we’ve had some additional manning from the Air Force as well, and into April. Despite the trying conditions, the soldiers demonstrated good initiative and a capacity to continue their tasks without being distracted or pressured by what was going on around them.

Army: How well are the ASLAVs suiting the job if you continue to support them in the field?

Maj Hedges: I think it means we really have to build on discussion. Maj Hedges: We’ve had a reasonably eventful year. We’ve got a really big change with the Security Detachment in that we have received some additional menning from the Air Force, in this case from No. 2 Airfield Defence Squadron.

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Give spouses job opportunities

ONE of the biggest worries we all have at the end of each year before we are posted is where our spouse will be employed in our new posting locality.

There are some large Defence areas within each posting locality, Robertson Barracks, Lavarrack Barracks, Victoria Barracks, DMO and SCMA etc. They have a large population of ADF employees, so there is no reason why there could not be a number of these positions within the APS 2 level that could be set aside for Defence spouses.

Here’s how it would work: a spouse applies for and is accepted for the position, however, they are only employed in the position for 12 months, which gives them time to gain the experience in the APS and then apply for other jobs within the Public Service. If at the end of the 12 months no one else has applied for the position, they can remain for a further 12 months.

This takes the added burden off the Defence employee when only one wage is coming into the house in the new year. The spouse is working straight away and a second wage is coming into the household.

Being a Defence employee for over 30 years, I know how hard it is for my spouse to gain employment in the new posting locality. Retention is big on the government’s agenda these days, so helping spouses gain employment quickly would go a long way to helping this problem.

W20 Steve Derham OAM
Fort Queenscliff, Victoria

Mary Riches, Director Defence Workplace Relations, responds: DEFENCE aims to support families of ADF personnel who may be relocated. The Public Service Act 1999 requires that vacancies of the type you suggest, be made available to all members of the community.

For many years we have supported employers who recruit Defence personnel with a guarantee rental income for a minimum of 10 years. This takes the added burden off the Defence employee when only one wage is coming into the house in the new year. The spouse is working straight away and a second wage is coming into the household.

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In RECENT editions of all the Defence newspapers there was an insert from Defence Honours & Awards which featured an article on the wearing of the Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC), stating that only one MUC can be worn regardless of whether a member may have been awarded two or more.

This might have been as a result of a photograph of a member of the RAN appearing in a recent Navy news wearing two MUCs. All recipients have a Federation Star device displayed on the MUC, indicating that the member was part of or posted to that unit at the time of the award.

Why not have additional Federation Stars placed on a member’s MUC, where the member has received more than one award, similar to the clasp system for various awards, rosettes for long service awards and a number system for other specific awards (predominantly UN missions)?

It’s highly unlikely that more than three MUCs might come a member’s way, however, there is sufficient room on the MUC for at least three Federation Stars if required.

W01 Wally Meurant
DMO Victoria Barracks, Melbourne

Pat Clarke, Acting Director, Honours & Awards, responds: THE regulations for the insignia of unit citations allow only one of each insignia – gallantry and meritorious service – to be worn, irrespective of the number that may have been awarded to a unit.

Those who were members of a unit at the time the award was made wear the insignia in perpetuity with a Federation Star emblem to denote membership of the unit. The number of times an individual may have been a member of a unit or units that were awarded citations.

The intention of these regulations is to reflect that the actual award is made to units, not individuals and to avoid a proliferation of insignia and emblems. The possibility of this is high, given the Defence organisation, tempo, with the associated increasing frequency of deployment of units.

A useful comparison may be the oak leaf emblem of the Imperial service medal which is worn on medals, irrespective of the number of times a person may have been mentioned, and there are many instances of multiple mentions.

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WO1 Tony Minniti
Armament SPO
Victoria Barracks – Melbourne

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Information about civilian law is available from a number of sources, including legal aid commissions and law societies in each state and territory of Australia. Sometimes an understanding of the law relating to your problem will enable you to decide how best to handle it. Sometimes you may also need legal advice. The RSL Legal Aid Scheme is designed to help you obtain information about the law and preliminary advice about your problem.

For information about how to access the scheme, visit the RSL website at:
http://www.rsl.org.au

Sheared determination

Grit: Blisters, aches and pains – another annual CFA
The determination shows on the face of Sgt Ross Ryan, Orderly Room Sergeant, Regt HQ, 3CER, towards the finish of the fast-paced 15km pack march. Collecting their weapons from the armoury at 0400hr on a recent Friday morning, 30 members from the Regt HQ and 18 CE Sqn set off on the CFA along the foreshore at Pallarenda, Townsville. Photo by LCpl Glenn Power

Shaped charges at Pucka exercise

By WO2 Paul Wheeler

TRAINEE EOD technicians took part in Exercise Low Order over five days at Puckapunyal, which involved employing various established explosive entry techniques to render ordnance safe. Burning or deflagration was favoured rather than detonation. Deflagration is an incomplete and relatively slow detonation, more like combustion than explosion. Trainees were also encouraged to trial new techniques to achieve the same aim.

The ordnance used during the activity included MK 82 500lb bombs, LUU 2A/B AC flares, 155mm and 105mm howitzer rounds, 81mm mortars, thermite grenades and small-arms ammunition. Students were also exposed to several purpose-constructed shaped charges such as Zippers, Ausdiscs and Plastics.

Zipper charges, for example, are small shaped charges. Historically, these charges are reliable but are not always available, especially on deployment, hence the need for other improvised techniques.

As well as various case entry techniques, trainees also practised 'low order' techniques. By WO2 Paul Wheeler

Capt Andrew Coe, OIC of the exercise, said of the last three courses, “this year’s activity definitely had the highest success rate employing ‘low order’ techniques”. “Due to the low number of trainees on the course, there was also a greater training benefit per student than the other courses I have been involved with,” he said.

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The LEPDP has been developed as part of the wider implementation of Army’s revised technical regulatory framework and encourages land engineers to enhance their professional development through participation on the professional development program delivered through Engineers Australia (EA).

The LEPDP is open to all full time practicing four-year engineering degree qualified professional land based engineers in Army or the Army program.

Professional engineers wishing to take part in the LEPDP should complete an application form, which can be downloaded from the HQTC-A website and fax or mail the application to the contact address below for approval.

HQTC-A LEPDP intranet address:
http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/Sites/TCA/Go to Training Operations LEPDP.

For further information on the Land Engineer Professional Development Program contact:
Phillip Nelson
LEPDP Manager
HQTC-A
Victoria Barracks
Paddington NSW 2021
Tel: 02 9339 2446; Fax: 02 9339 2462
Mobile: 0416 030 844
Email: phillip.nelson@defence.gov.au

Land Engineers

TRAINING 19

By Cpl Robert Godfrey

THE Atherton Tablelands has played host to 40 members of B Sqn, 5 Avn Regt, providing plenty of white water in the North Johnstone River for Exercise Warhorse Challenge.

The rafting exercise, down 55 challenging and spectacular kilometres, saw personnel come face to face with potentially dangerous river hydraulics, stoppers, strainers, underwater and unforgiving rocks.

Before getting near the water, members had to man-pack all the rafting equipment required for 2½ days on the river through dense mountainous rainforest.

Starting at first light and battling inclement weather conditions, the rafting crews met a major task in moving up to half a ton of rafting equipment approximately two kilometres down to the starting point, a difficult move.

“One of the hardest and challenging things since basic training, I had no idea what I was getting into but I did feel a huge sense of accomplishment,” said Cfn Matthew Armstrong.

Sgt Shane Kemper agreed: “It gave me an opportunity to experience challenge and hardship among the men and women within the squadron. I look forward to the next opportunity.”

Once all the rafts were set up and loaded, the Unit Adventurous Training Leaders undertook raft crew briefs, which consisted of paddling commands, flip drills and, most importantly, the man-overboard drill.

From this point on, crews needed to react instinctively to the commands of the raft guide in the powerful and relentless environment of the river system.

The first of the warm up rapids was upon them within minutes and marked the start of twisting, chaotic white water.

Graded on the international scale as grade five, with six being the highest. Rapids with names like Mordor and Snake Falls were negotiated successfully, some were simply too dangerous and required the crews to portage the rafts around them.

This was a form of military training that cultivated teamwork, aided with the integration of new members and required demonstrations of physical courage and initiative.

Proving the point, Capt Dave Marshall said, “There were lots of times when I felt that I was not in control, but the biggest thing for me was thinking about the process of conducting my responsibilities as a crew member within my raft.”

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Security skills rounded out

By Capt Michael Brooke

SOLDIERS from Holsworthy-based 5 Bde conducted a comprehensive training program in Sydney recently to hone their skills in a range of low-level security-related tasks.

The bi-annual training activity, Exercise Round Out, involved more than 120 soldiers who conducted search operations at major public venues and vehicle checkpoints.

The exercise was conducted at several locations in central Sydney, including St Andrews Cathedral, and the south western suburbs, including Warwick Farm racecourse, CUA Stadium and The Chifley Hotel in Penrith.

Commander 5 Bde Brig Paul Brereton said the exercise was conducted to ensure a high level of skills and training was maintained.

“The exercise provided Reserve officers and soldiers with essential training that has given them the skills and confidence to successfully complete important tasksing this year,” he said.

A feature of the search tasks was the use of a variety of dogs from EOD based at SME, which helped the reservists locate suspicious objects.

Spr David Nazareth, 5CER, said the highlight of the exercise was deploying to his local area to conduct search tasks at the Chifley Hotel. “It was really valuable experience to deploy to a hotel in my local area, and see the reaction of the public who were really supportive when they knew we had sacrificed our weekend to hone our skills in a training exercise,” he said.

Reservists have often performed this type of low-level security tasks in support of police at major events, such as at the Sydney Olympics and the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

Turning 30-something?

Don’t let your birthday end in higher premiums.

If your partner is 30-something and does not have private hospital insurance, then they’re looking at higher premiums.

Under the Federal Government Lifetime Health Cover initiative, health funds are required to apply a 2% premium loading for every year a person delays purchasing hospital cover after turning 30.

As a permanent member of the ADF, the premium loading will not affect you until you discharge. However you do need to consider its effect on your partner.

By purchasing Defence Health hospital cover by 30 June, your partner’s premium loading will be minimised. And if you make the purchase by 30 June, following your partner’s 31st birthday, the loading will be avoided altogether.

Remember, the longer you leave it the more it will cost.

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     PSYCH SUPPORT SECTION (PSS)
2. FAX AD 343 PM 532 & PS 006 TO
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   FAX: (02) 65750027

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SPECIAL FORCES ENTRY TEST
Holsworthy Barracks 18 - 26 July 2008
2/08 CSTC 1st September - 11 October 2008

APPLICATIONS FOR COMMANDOS in by 20 JUN 08
SPECIAL FORCES PAPER BOARD 3 JULY 08
SPECIAL FORCES ENTRY TEST 21 - 26 JULY 08 (SYDNEY)
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Notification policy updated

By Wg-Cmdr Jim Lewis, Deputy Director Military Personnel Policy

WHEN the media announces the serious injury or death of an service- man or woman, the tragedy is felt throughout the Defence community. But imagine that tragedy belonged to your family, and that they were learning about your injury, or worse, from someone outside the Defence organisation.

If this scenario is beyond your imagination, consider the possibility of you seriously injuring yourself in your day-to-day role, or while training. How would you feel if you were in hospital and no one was able to let your family know?

While every effort is made to prevent casualties in the ADF, they cannot always be avoided. When they do occur, the ADF’s highest priority after treating casualties is notifying the primary emergency contact (PEC) and next of kin (NOK) as quickly as possible.

Defence has defined procedures to ensure casualty information is provided to the PEC and NOK in a timely fashion by trained notification teams. As part of Defence’s commitment to continuously improve support to members and their families, the policy for these procedures was recently updated to include lessons learnt from recent casualty notification cases.

To ensure the accuracy and timeliness of casualty information, a number of changes have been made to DI(G) Pers 11-2 – Notification of ADF and non-ADF Casualties, including:

ADF members are now required to ensure their PEC and NOK information on PMKeyS is current, both annually and before a deployment. PECs may now be notified of a casualty without an ADF member’s consent. Information will be limited to a member’s casualty classification (e.g. very seriously ill).

The initial notification signal has been simplified so that trained personnel can notify the PEC and NOK faster than before.

In all casualty notifications, the most important elements are accuracy, speed and compassion. The updated procedures will ensure that PECs and NOK know of the facts quickly and receive immediate support from Defence.

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Bonuses offer deadline is June 30

THE final date to accept the Army Expansion Rank Retention and Completion (AERRC) Bonus is June 30.

The bonus is available to eligible corporals, sergeants, captains and majors who have been issued a bonus offer by their CO/OACO. Of the 6417 eligible members, 5932 have already made a decision on the bonus offer, with 5074 – or 79 per cent – choosing to accept.

It is now urgent that the remaining members either make an accept/reject decision on the AERRC Bonus Decision Sheet, which is located in their offer package, or seek approval from their CO/OACO to extend the decision to a specific date beyond June 30.

Members who fail to make a decision by June 30, and do not receive approval for an extension to their decision date, will lose their right to accept the bonus. To ensure no member is financially disadvantaged and to meet the deadline, the Director Military Personnel Administration – Army (DMPA-A) has authorised the issue of bonus offers to members currently under a Notice to Show Cause (NTSC) or awaiting a Medical Employment Classification Review Board (MECRB).

NTSC and MECRB member acceptances will be held in abeyance in the unit and will only be approved by a CO/OACO if and when a decision for continued service and/or retention of rank is made.

Bonus payments are normally taxable and therefore the overall benefit to individuals will vary based on personal circumstances. It is in the interest of each eligible member to seek independent financial advice before deciding to accept the bonus.

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Know the risk of debentures

Australian Securities and Investments Commission Chairman Tony D’Aloisio explains one of the less common investment products.

A USTeria are faced with thousands of choices when it comes to investing their funds. The most common financial products are well known, such as shares in a company or a fixed-term deposit at a bank.

Debentures are a more sophisticated financial product option which ADF members have been showing some interest in at recent ADF Financial Services Consumer Council seminars. Debentures have also gained a higher profile as a result of the collapse of Reserve and Fincorp. These debentures are a more sophisticated financial product option which ADF members have been showing some interest in at recent ADF Financial Services Consumer Council seminars. Debentures have also gained a higher profile as a result of the collapse of Reserve and Fincorp.

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Tired of the standard three sets of 10 reps? Lt Rob Orr offers some variety in routines.

Let’s begin by making one point. Very few PT sessions need to be hard. If PT isn’t hard it isn’t PT and is an old and archaic mindset.

Be warned, these are much more fun with a training partner.

The office session or holiday session

Exercises: Squat, push-up, walk.

Set up an hourly reminder on your desktop PC or watch to begin at 9am. At the first reminder, begin this low intensity workout in your work clothes (you should not be breathing heavily at all).

For this session your training range should be 30 to 50 per cent of your maximum best effort — depending on your fitness — for the squat and push up. Do the exercises sequentially, completing one set of each. For example, if you can normally complete 30 push-ups do 10 to 15.

Once you have completed the squat and push-up, walk up one flight of stairs or walk from one end of the office block to another. Return to work and wait for the next reminder. Each training set should last for no longer than a maximum of five minutes. Keep training till 4pm.

By the end of the day you would have clocked up eight mini training sessions and at least 250 per cent of your maximum squat and push-up effort.

Other exercises can be added depending on what is available. Sign out a medicine ball for a week, find a chin-up beam, or do dips off a stable chair or desk.

The Egyptian session

Exercises: Squat, chin-up, push-up, sit-up, cycle.

This format has you do the exercises in a pyramid. Decide on your method. Will it be up five, 10, 15 or 20? Will it be down 20, 15, 10 or five? Regardless, warm up thoroughly.

For the squat, chin-up, push-up and sit-up, start off at an intensity of around 75 per cent of your maximum (if the repetitions are too high — over two minutes per exercise — add a medicine ball and recalculate the maximum with this load beforehand).

Complete your first set. After the first set, jump on the cycle and ride at an easy pace for one minute, a moderate pace for two minutes and then another easy pace for a final minute.

You can pause for up to a minute between each exercise and reduce or remove the break as you progress. As soon as you have finished riding move back to the squat, chin up, push up and sit up, this time reducing your repetitions by one for every repetition you completed in the first set (for example 10 — nine, eight to 20 — 18 — 16 to 20 — 15 — 10 — 5 — 4).

Get back on the cycle. “Pyramid up” by adding one minute to the moderate training period. In this example, this means riding easy for one minute, moderate for three minutes and easy again for one minute.

Repeat the last two steps until you have completed as many sets as you desire or when your squats, chin-ups, push-ups and sit-ups reach zero. The good part about this double pyramid is that even as your resistance exercises decrease your metabolic exercise increases. Don’t forget to cool down.

The out of timer — low volume, high intensity

Exercises: Chin-ups, push-up, run.

For those days when you are short of time but wish to do PT, add an out of timer to your week. The out of timer is low intensity more often and high intensity sessions as a treat, which means no more than once every three to four weeks. After all, which is the soldier more desired on the battlefield: the fit and healthy member who is physically capable and alert or the one who can run really fast, but is constantly injured, tired and may in fact never actually get there?

Practice does not make perfect — perfect practice makes perfect. Take the time to ensure that exercises are performed with strict exercise technique. Muscles do not respond to the amount of weight you lift, they respond to the amount of stimulation received so remember it’s not how much you lift, but how well you lift it.

Fitness built over time

Place cones or a marker out every 100m with a turnaround at 200m.

Start off at a moderate pace, getting faster to around 90 per cent effort for the last 100m. Don’t rest, do two repeats. Don’t forget to cool down.

Your maximum session time should be close to half an hour.

Final training points

Your permanent fitness is built up over time with continuous progressive development. Pushing hard for every session will lead to overtraining and injury and, for the general population, PT will become a punishment and you’ll take every chance to avoid it.

You should do low to moderate intensity more often and high intensity sessions as a treat, which means no more than once every three to four weeks. After all, which is the soldier more desired on the battlefield: the fit and healthy member who is physically capable and alert or the one who can run really fast, but is constantly injured, tired and may in fact never actually get there?

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Win a beauty

FOOTY Show personality Trevor Marmalade has helped to raise the profile of the Defence Lake Attack Charity Fun Run by participating in a television advertising campaign.

Mr Marmalade recorded a community service announcement on May 31 at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne with the assistance of Defence personnel. The community service announcement will be shown on Channel 9 from July and again in October 2009 and 2010.

The Defence Lake Attack Fun Run will be held on August 24 at Melbourne’s Albert Park Lake. CDF ACM Angus Houston and Melbourne’s Lord Mayor John So will join other celebrities at the ADF’s largest community event. All funds raised by the initia-

FULL RESULTS


The event boasts that it is Australia's most scenic race with an emphasis on fun for the all the family and it was not found want-

Participants from the Albury-Wodonga and Shepparton areas look forward to their annual visit to the valley, as do locals and a number of keen athletes from Melbourne and Adelaide.

The event forms the first part of the Great Alpine Challenge. The other two are the Kangaroo Hoppet – a 42km ski race – and the Mitta to Mount Beauty 55km MTB race.

FOOTY Show raises Lake Attack profile

Friends and Legacy: The event is in its 26th year and features an exciting schools competition, Defence, police and emergency services displays, activities for children and entertainment provided by the Navy’s Melbourne band.

One of the organisers, Cmdr Jim Unkles, said participants would receive a medal, T-shirt, show bag and other giveaways.

“The Defence Lake Attack is all about the ADF supporting com-

To register for the Lake Attack visit www.
lakeattack.com. Inquiries to Cmdr Jim Unkles (03) 92845451 or Fiona Wicht of Start to Finish Event Management on (03) 96451333.

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Full results

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Lacrosse players go commando

MELBOURNE-based 2 Coy, 1 Cdo Regt, recently conducted a challenging day’s training for the current women’s world champion Australian Lacrosse team.

The players were put through a series of group challenges, which tested them both mentally and physically in preparation for the defence of their world cup title in the Czech Republic in 2009. OC 2 Coy, Maj Brett Miller said 2 Coy was more than happy to help support the girls’ preparation, as many of them came from the local area.

The women performed very well under the duress of being exposed to many new experiences.

The feedback from the Lacrosse coaching staff was it was a very worthwhile day and achieved the desired outcome of reinforcing the importance of working in a cohesive team environment.

Any Melbourne-based ex-ARA or Reserve soldiers who would like to support the Commando’s capability are encouraged to join 2 Coy as 1 Cdo Regt continues to support ongoing operations in the ADF.

ACT netball trails

ADF and APS ACT netball officials are organising representative teams to contest the ADF Netball Association’s national carnival from September 28 to October 4 in Adelaide.

Selection trials will be held in June for ACT ADF women’s, mixed and men’s teams. The point of contact for Army is WO2 Kylie Reynolds on kylie.reynolds@defence.gov.au.

India out with a bat

A SHARED love of the sport has led to the Australian Services Cricket Association presenting a cricket bat, signed by the Australian team, to Indian Lt-Gen Jasbir Singh Lidder.

Lt-Gen Lidder is the outgoing Chief Military and Force Commander, of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

The ADF contingent to UNMIS, through its commander, Lt-Col Bill Coates, set the ball rolling in the quest to obtain the bat for Lt-Gen Lidder.

CDF ACM Angus Houston endorsed the concept in his capacity as ASCA patron. Cricket Australia also supported the presentation of a bat signed by Australian cricket team members to the outgoing chief.

Lt-Gen Lidder, who had been serving in his current role for more than two years, received the bat in Khartoum in April at UNMIS headquarters.

A passionate cricket enthusiast, Lt-Gen Lidder enjoyed great rapport with the ADF personnel during his time in post, most notably during the 2007-08 Australia and India cricket series.
THE Australian Defence Tenpin Bowling Association’s (ADTBA) national championships from June 2-6 at Tuggeranong Bowl in Canberra read like an Army benefit after it swept most of the awards and provided the majority players selected in the representative team.

Army had 10 members selected in the Combined Services national tenpin bowling team with five from Air Force, four from the Australian Public Service and one from Navy.

Those selected will go on to contest the Australian championships as the Australian Defence Organisation team at Tuggeranong Bowl in October.

This year’s tournament began with the inaugural Services challenge – a four-cornered event for Army, Navy, Air Force and APS organised by WO Raymon Cooper (Navy).

Army won and will defend its crown next year in Victoria.

The Combined Services State versus State was contested with singles, doubles and teams competitions over 18 games in challenging conditions.

WO2 Eileen Dixon from NSW won the singles, Sgt Mark Roberts (Army) and WO2 Gavin Marshall from Queensland were the champion doubles combination and Maj Jamie Arnell, LCpl Mark Niciejewski and WO2 Brett Thomas from Queensland took the teams event.

The GB Plate for those members who did not qualify for the Masters event was won by Pte Liam Wardell from NSW with Pte Gay Arnell from Queensland the runner-up.

The Masters Champion of the ADTBA for the second successive year was Pte David Edwards from Queensland, defeating fellow Queenslander Maj Jamie Arnell in a closely fought encounter.

The ACT was the overall winner of the ADTBA nationals closely followed by Queensland.

The Combined Services team:
WO2 Steve Ritchie, WO2 Eileen Dixon, Pte David Edwards, Maj Jamie Arnell, Sgt Michael Watson, WO2 Brett Thomas, Sgt Eddie Hatzakortzian, LCpl Mark Niciejewski, WO2 Clive Thompson, Sgt Mark Roberts (Army), Cpl Keiran Wyllie, Cpl Mick Walker, Flt-Sgt Brett Byers, Flt-Sgt Dennis Dillon, LAC James Mitchell, CPO Jonathon Hartnett, Mark Jordan, Richard Wdowik, Paul Shields, Maria Haw, Brian Elick and Brett Kleidon, while qualifying, were ineligible to make the national team because there were already four APS members in the team.

Strike force: Pte David Edwards, 1 MP Bn, Enoggera, sends his ball down range during ADTBA national championship in the ACT. Photo by LAC Aaron Curran.