HAWKEI IN THE SKY

Trials prepare Chinooks to provide Hawkeis with greater mobility on operations

A CH-47F Chinook takes the weight of the Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle while conducting external lift trials.

Photo: Glen McCarthy
Welfare service for Everyman

Cpl Mark Doran

“TIME for a cup of tea or a friendly chat.”

Governor-General Gen Sir Peter Cosgrove (retd) unveiled the Everyman’s Welfare Service new brew truck at Government House in Canberra on August 23.

The new brew truck was bought for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) for use among every branch, wherever possible, within the ADF.

Sir Peter is Patron of the Everyman’s Welfare Service, which serves soldiers, sailors and airmen and their families by providing a philanthropic support service not normally provided by the ADF.

In the field, the Everyman’s Representatives turn up with their brew trucks in unexpected places, often at the most unexpected times. Sir Peter said the Everyman’s Welfare Service was established 75 years ago to offer support, guidance and comfort for troops going to WWII.

“It continues to be here for those who serve today,” he said.

“My Army career lasted more than 40 years and the Everyman’s was a constant, welcome presence. The new brew truck is already packed with the same comforts and will extend the same good will that can make all the difference.

“It addresses the need for men and women in their country’s uniform, often very young men and women, for affectionate support.”

Sir Peter thanked Brig Phil Winter and Lt-Col Gordon Lambie, of the Centenary of Anzac planning team, for suggesting the Everyman’s Welfare Service as a worthy charity for the REMT from their time in Melbourne last year.

Chief Commissioner Everyman’s Welfare Service, Ken Matthews, said the new vehicle would be a reassuring presence for Australian servicemen and women.

“The charitable donation by REMT was incredibly generous,” he said.

While not members of the ADF, Everyman’s Representatives receive ADF accreditation and hold honorary officer status.

They work from recreation centres on bases and travel with troops on military exercises and operational deployments. Everyman’s Representatives have served in Singapore and Malaya during WWII.

They have since supported the troops in Malaya, Vietnam, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands and today deploy Everyman’s Representatives to the Middle East Region.
**Sky no limit for Hawkei**

Eamon Hamilton

RECENT airlift trials in Townsville are helping the Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle—Light (PMV-L) prepare for future operations.

"The Land 121 Phase 4 project is developing a new protected mobility vehicle for the Australian Army," WO1 Simon Needham, said. "In this project, we are designing and building a vehicle that will be able to carry the Australian Army's new light aircraft, the CH-47F Chinook." Needham said the project is designed to be operated by the Army aviation teams, with the goal of increasing the speed and flexibility of the Army's aerial mobility capabilities.

"The CH-47F Chinook is a powerful aircraft that can carry heavy loads and operate in a variety of conditions. It is designed to be a key component of the Army's aerial mobility capabilities," Needham said.

"The new CH-47F Chinook that we are testing in Townsville is a significant improvement over the CH-47D Chinook that we used in previous trials," Needham said. "The CH-47F Chinook has a longer range and greater endurance, allowing it to carry heavier loads over longer distances. It also has a more powerful engine, allowing it to operate in a variety of weather conditions."

"This enhanced the safety and efficiency of the trial. "More broadly, the CH-47F is able to operate in highly complex, dynamic environments with increased safety and efficiency versus CH-47D," Capt Weatherstone said."

**Peacekeeping memorial**

A new memorial honouring the contribution of Australian peacekeepers will be opened on Anzac Parade in Canberra on September 14.

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial will open the memorial will begin at 10am. The event coincides with Anzac Day, to mark the annual remembrance of Australian service during World War I.

"The new Australian Peacekeeping Memorial under construction on Anzac Parade. Photo: WO2 Andrew K. G. Watkinson"
Hawkei vehicles right on track

Cpl Max Bree

ARnfy’s mean-looking Hawkei vehicles are getting closer to production.

Pulled by a six-cylinder turbo diesel engine that can also act as a power generator, the Hawkeis’ feature ballistic and blast protection, along with a mounting ring for heavy weapons.

They will come in four-door command and recon variants, along with a two-door utility version.

Project director Col John McLean said it shouldn’t be too difficult for Hawkeis to comfortably find their place in combat brigades.

“Army’s experience with the Bushmaster provides a good baseline for how to employ protected vehicles,” he said.

“The Hawkei is a niche capability. Army will maximise its strengths in no time.”

About 1100 vehicles are expected to be delivered to various units, with 3 Bde slated to receive them first. The final deliveries of Hawkei to Army and Air Force are expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

A major Hawkei trial was held near Townsville in 2013 where the team took feedback and rolled it into the design process.

“There were some issues around the position of things on the vehicle,” Col McLean said. “Like storage, latches or accessibility of things, nothing major.

“We had a trial this year with little improvements around the edges, but nothing fundamental was changed, which provides a level of confidence when moving into full production.”

Hawkeis will be built in Australia and have been attracting a lot of attention.

“The user trial in Townsville during February highlighted the importance of getting people’s hands on something new and different, and getting their heads around how they will get the greatest utility from it.

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“There was a lot of interest from COs and RSMs asking when we’re getting it.”
As war evolves, so too must the equipment with which it is fought, Cpl Max Bree reports.

From a beautiful bluestone building in Melbourne’s Victoria Barracks, WWII’s Gen Thomas Blamey made crucial wartime decisions.

In Gen Blamey’s office, at his desk, now sits CASG’s Head Land Systems Maj-Gen David Coghlan, making decisions shaping Army’s future capability.

“The nature of land warfare is very diverse and we have to integrate everything from helmets through to missile systems,” he said.

“We do that for the ADF and we fill a large niche that industry can’t.”

The division is responsible for delivering a vast majority of the ADF’s land-based capabilities to support “raise, train and sustain” requirements, and urgent operational deployments.

This includes vehicles, weapons, field gear, deployable health systems, surveillance equipment, and rations. The division takes capabilities from development through to acquisition and in-service management.

Maj-Gen Coghlan said the division has operated in some form since 1908 and most soldiers would be familiar with the division’s “Land” project numbers.

“If without us, the ADF wouldn’t have the equipment to the depth or quality it has now,” he said.

“In all modern, Western armies there is an equivalent organisation doing a job like us. You need a detailed understanding of the ADF to make sure you’re providing the best equipment possible.”

Down the hallway from Maj-Gen Coghlan’s historic office, his senior leadership team holds meetings in a refurbished WWII cabinet room, complete with war-era secret voting buttons built into the conference table.

“Secret votes aren’t needed in the building today, as the Land Systems team takes its cues from the Defence White Paper.”

The White Paper is government’s direction, and during the initial stages of the capability life cycle we develop options in partnership with Army, Navy and Air Force headquarters and once a decision is made by government, we purchase and sustain that equipment,” Maj-Gen Coghlan said.

“The equipment rolling out today is a far cry from that seen by Maj-Gen Coghlan when he joined in 1981. “There is absolutely no comparison,” he said.

“Back then, the Army I joined primarily had equipment left over from Vietnam.

“Over the past couple of decades the change has been dramatic. Many of our new capabilities will skip a generation and provide us with the best equipment in the world.”

“There is now a need to upgrade and refresh equipment at a faster rate than in decades gone by.”

“The mindset has changed,” Maj-Gen Coghlan said.

“As the pace of warfare increases, so does the pace of acquisition and sustainment to match. And, the division is here to meet that need.”

Equipping an army

The Rheinmetall Boxer undergoes blast testing at Proof and Experimental Establishment – Graytown.

Photo: Graham Davey

Land Systems Division

The Rheinmetall Boxer undergoes blast testing at Proof and Experimental Establishment – Graytown.

Photo: Graham Davey

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The equipment creating more versatile soldiers

Cpl Max Bree

As Army’s new packs, webbing and armour roll out across Australia, project director Lt-Col John-Paul Ouvrier has clear indications his team is on the right track.

“We’ve had a significant number of units calling us to expand their basis of issue entitlement and seeking to have the equipment issued early,” he said.

“Units that aren’t on the basis of issue are seeking to be included, to ensure they get the equipment.”

1 Bde soldiers first received about 7000 sets of the soldier combat ensemble (SCE) in 2015, followed by roughly the same amount delivered to 3 Bde in 2016.

7 Bde will have theirs by December and the project is using an ongoing adaptive acquisition approach to improve the gear.

“We deliver the first tranche of the equipment and then work closely with Diggerworks to incorporate feedback from the users into the design of the subsequent tranche,” Lt-Col Ouvrier said.

“In this way we’re able to continuously deliver cutting-edge equipment that really meets the user’s needs.”

Lt-Col Ouvrier said the SCE impressed counterparts in the US and UK militaries.

“The feedback we’re getting from them is that our gear is state-of-the-art and some of the best equipment out there,” he said.

The SCE’s armour can be scaled to meet different threat levels the Army is likely to face.

“The baseline level of protection is against low-velocity rounds and if the threat environment worsens we can increase it to a high-velocity capability, which will counter armour-piercing rounds,” Lt-Col Ouvrier said.

The system also features optional extremity protection for the arms, groin and neck.

The feedback we’re getting from [the UK and US] is that our gear is state-of-the-art and some of the best equipment out there.

– Lt-Col John-Paul Ouvrier, project director

Lt-Col Ouvrier’s project regularly sends used helmets and armour back to manufacturers for checking.

“They inspect and x-ray that equipment, refurbish it and we send it back to users,” he said.

“That way we ensure it will provide the appropriate level of protection on operations.”

By the end of this year, the project will have delivered about 22,000 sets of SCE to the combat brigades.

With the success of the project, an SCE modernisation plan is being prepared to supply the equipment to training establishments, reserve units and some parts of Air Force and Navy.

“We’re looking to purchase another 35,000 sets of SCE to roll out to units that didn’t receive the capability within the scope of the original project,” Lt-Col Ouvrier said.
The new Rheinmetall MAN trucks are proving a hit with drivers, Cpl Max Bree reports.

Their comfortable cabs proved a hit with drivers, their integrated load system made transporting and distributing loads a breeze, and their powerful engines take them over rough terrain. Army’s new Rheinmetall MAN trucks are heading to 1 Bde later this year, having completed their initial rollout to 7 Bde – replacing the Mack, Unimog and S-Liner fleets.

“Through the project we are delivering a capability that is a generational step forward in terms of mobility, protection and safety,” project director Land 121 Phase 3B Col Steve Wilson said. “Almost 40 per cent of the new capability is fitted with protected cabins.

Additionally, there are a range of safety features including anti-lock braking, electronic braking stability, rollover protection, air-suspended seats to reduce driver fatigue, and reversing cameras on selected variants to assist in mechanical loading.”

All trucks have the capability to be fitted with communications and battle management systems. Between now and 2022, a total of 2797 vehicles, 3585 modules and 1753 trailers will be delivered to units across Australia.

And those unprotected vehicles in the fleet can be retrofitted with blast and ballistic protected cabins if needed. Jacquie Menzies, vehicles and modules project manager, said it didn’t take long for the newly delivered trucks to be sent out in the field. “They were introduced in February and a few weeks later they were deployed on 7 Bde’s Exercise Diamond Walk,” she said.

“The feedback from the brigade was really positive, with the users saying they far exceeded their expectations.

“We haven’t had any feedback that the new capability hasn’t been embraced.”

Col Wilson said some of the training team based at Amberley found the occasional driver initially reluctant to let the old trucks go. “They’ve indicated at the start of the course they’ve had some operators who have strong ties to the old vehicles and typically by the end of the course they’re strong advocates of the new capability,” he said.

The new trucks are expected to last for the next 30 years and Col Wilson was pleased with the positive feedback about both the new capability and the training team based at Amberley.

Jacquie Menzies and project director Col Steve Wilson discuss their work on Land 121 Phase 3B that acquired the Rheinmetall MAN trucks.

Photos: Bruce Powell and Cpl Max Bree
Weapon’s explosive accuracy

There’s a new capability for the Mk 47 grenade launcher, Cpl Max Bree reports.

The Mk 47 can send 275 high-explosive grenades downrange each minute, but project director Lt-Col Byron Cockedge is more impressed with the Mk 47 grenade launcher’s video sight.

“The Mk 47 gun has been in service for about 10 years, so the real capability enhancement is the new sight,” he said.

“It allows greater accuracy, at greater distances, by day and night. It can acquire and observe targets out to 3000m.

“It’s not really the gun itself, it’s the fire control system that comes with it that is new. Australia is the only country to have it currently in service.”

The sighting system features a laser range finder, thermal sights and a ballistic computer to calculate where the rounds will land.

The system achieved its initial operating capability milestone in May, with about 200 weapons now delivered to Army and Air Force units, where it has replaced the Mk 19 grenade launcher.

“The Mk 19 is well over 30 years old,” Lt-Col Cockedge said. “It was bought to fulfill an urgent operational user requirement at that time.”

The project team is now finalising delivery of training and simulation systems while working on storage of the weapon in the Bushmaster and other vehicles.

1RAR’s DFSW platoon put the weapon through its paces during a six-week test and evaluation process.

They gave feedback that was used to enhance the Mk 47’s load carriage equipment.

“There were some observations the contractor was able to take back to the manufacturer, General Dynamics, and they made a few tweaks to the equipment to make it more user-friendly,” Lt-Col Cockedge said.

Project director Lt-Col Byron Cockedge with a diagram of Army’s new Mk 47 lightweight automatic grenade launcher.

Photo: Cpl Max Bree

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**Blast-resistant vehicles**

Potential Army armoured vehicles are being assessed to withstand larger blasts, Cpl Max Bree reports.

The two prospective ASLV replacements have undergone blast testing. The risk mitigation activity follows recent completion of user evaluation trials under Land 400 Phase 2. The Rheinmetall Boxer CRV and BAES Systems Australia Patria AMV35 were both subjected to a simulated mine blast under one of the road wheels, according to Lt-Col Chris McKendry, a program manager with Land 400.

Manufacturers then repaired the vehicles before they received another simulated mine blast, this time, under the belly of the vehicle. “In the first 10 months the vehicles have performed very well; they’re tightly compet- ing, there’s little to differentiate them,” Lt-Col McKendry said.

“Ultimately it’s going to be their complete offer; their capability, their assessed value for money and the results of the test and evaluation activity.”

The year-long risk mitigation activity is being used to reduce the risks in undertaking an acquisition of this size.

The aim is to examine the tenderers’ claims regarding the performance of their vehicles and search for issues that could be improved before the selected vehicle enters service.

“We’re looking to influence those small changes in areas that aren’t 100 per cent right,” Lt-Col McKendry said.

“We don’t want anything to be missed that could create issues down the track.

“If we find something early, we get it into the contract and we won’t have to pay for a number of contract changes to fix an issue.”

While the ASLVs didn’t receive a mid-life upgrade, Land 400 Phase 2 will account for through-life support and a mid-life upgrade to see the vehicles to about 2050.

“We don’t know what the threat environment will be in 10 years,” Lt-Col McKendry said. “But there’s money allocated through the program for future technology refreshes.

“The baseline of these vehicles is quite high but we’re not resting on our laurels.”

A seasoned cavalry officer, Lt-Col McKendry said vehicles centred on mobility, firepower and protection.

“You trade off all three,” he said.

“ASLV and M113s have been higher on mobility but less on protection, while their firepower varied between .50 cal and 25mm.

“These two Land 400 vehicles tend to bring all three together and balance them.

“Plus their electro-optics are far superior to what we’ve had in the ASLV.”

When positioned next to an ASLV, the prospective replacements dwarf the older vehicle, but Lt-Col McKendry said this size meant better protection.

“A lot of people say they can’t believe how much bigger they are than the ASLV,” he said.

“These new vehicles are designed to withstand much higher blast events than what an ASLV can sustain.”

Once the supplier is chosen, Defence plans to acquire 225 of the vehicles.

**Weapon system being rolled out**

Cpl Max Bree

DISTINCTIVE black Steys are appearing at units as the new EF88 rifles are rolled out across the country.

Boasting reduced weight and increased versatility through attachments, the new weapon has arrived at 3 Bde and will soon be issued to units in South East Queensland.

“We call it a weapon ‘system’ because it’s a baseline rifle with a suite of surveillance and target acquisi- tion ancillaries,” project manager Tim Donegan said.

The weapon reached initial operat- ing capability in May and continues to be rolled out regionally, and complete by 2021.

The original Steyr has been in- service with Army since 1988 and has undergone minor upgrades since.

“Threats are always changing and subsequently Army had a requirement for an increased lethality,” Mr Donegan said.

“It increases the ability of the soldier to shoot to 600m, both day and night, for the initial iterations of the Steyr, it was 300m by day only”

Specially designed in Australia for the ADF, the new rifle was heavily influenced by a series of user trials.

“The rifle’s progression was de- linked from the ancillaries because we needed to get the rifle right first so we knew what we were dealing with before we went to our market,” Mr Donegan said.

“There were significant inputs in terms of the weight of the rifle and ergonomics that came from users.”

Mr Donegan believed this led to the EF88’s warm reception.

“We’ve had overwhelmingly positive feedback from everybody we’ve rolled it out to,” he said.

“If there was any complaint, people are just a bit put out that they’re receiv- ing the capability after other units.”

Once rollout of the EF88 is com- plete, Defence’s older model SA1 Steys will be destroyed but the exist- ing and updated SA2 version will be retained.

“We’ll end up with a fleet of 56,000 rifles comprising the SA2s and the EF88,” Mr Donegan said.

But it isn’t just the weapons and their attachments that are being changed.

“Under the project, we’re updat- ing the WTT5, we’re introducing red in- sert guns, new weapon boxes and all the other logistic elements that are required,” Mr Donegan said.
Training centre launches

SOCOMD members and the wider ADF gathered to mark another milestone in the ongoing development of special operations on September 1.

The gathering at Holsworthy Barracks witnessed the transition of the Special Forces Training Centre (SFTC) into the Special Operations Training and Education Centre (SOTEC). Guests included Special Operations Commander Australia (SOC Aust) Maj-Gen Adam Findlay and representatives from across SoComd and the wider ADF.

The Commandant of the centre said SFTC had grown over the past 20 years to see it responsible for the delivery of more than 30 courses per year. This included the conduct of all Special Forces Support Staff Tactical Integration training and the Commando Reinforcement Cycle.

“The transition to SOTEC will see the centre shift its focus from just training to include education and will enable the centralised coordination of learning for all Special Operations and support elements within the ADF,” Lt-Col S said.

“SOTEC has a detailed development plan, which has been underway for some time. Today’s transition marks the first step on a path which will see the centre fully operational by January 2021.”

“Between now and then the centre will take on responsibility for all common individual skills training in the special operations sphere and will be a place where we can better grow and develop our people and capabilities.”

Personnel across the ADF will see changes in the near future with SOTEC rebranding the revised Special Operations Introduction Course (SOIC) on campus in the coming months while a Special Forces smart phone app, designed to better inform prospective members of the Command, is due out before the end of the year.

“With SOTEC as the centre of all special operations training, we will continue to build a collegiate team prepared for a range of missions and contingencies based on world’s best practice,” the Commandant said.

“SOTEC is the mechanism which will ensure that Australia’s Second remains at the cutting edge.”

Special ops first

SoComd has branched out to non-Special Forces personnel as part of the ongoing evolution of special operations training.

The inaugural Australian Special Operations Course (ASOC) was conducted earlier this year as part of the ongoing evolution of ADF special operations training.

Twenty-nine high performing officers completed the course in Canberra and Holsworthy. The course was comprised of both theoretical and practical training, aimed at non-Special Forces personnel and is one of several initiatives being undertaken by SoComd.

Since early 2016, SoComd has been investing in a vision, underpinned by the core ideals of “trusted” and “team of teams”.

This new vision is the basis for creating a strategic National Mission Force, comprised of personnel and capabilities drawn from across the ADF and other agencies.

Participants were excited by the inaugural course, an armoured corps officer said.

“I wasn’t initially sure what to expect,” he said.

“I was clear it wasn’t a ‘selection’, so to speak, and that it was more of an immersive and broadening experience. I was also curious about the team of teams approach currently being taken by SoComd – I wanted to see how this would translate into reality.”

Sponsored by CA, the course was run by the Special Forces Training Centre (now SOTEC) and future courses will be conducted once a year.

This pilot course was offered to personnel selected on merit by DOCM-A and over the course of the 12 days, students were given an insight into how the ADF generates joint special operations effects and the challenges, both cognitive and physical, associated with being a member of the team of teams.

The course is divided into two phases, the first of which was run in Canberra and centred on the Special Operations Planning Course (SOPC) designed to educate and develop an operational and strategic understanding of SoComd capabilities, operations and ethos.

One student, a signal corps officer, said the first phase represented a unique professional development opportunity.

“We were briefed by a number of high level ADF personnel including CA and SOC Aust and important government agencies such as DEFIS,” she said.

“To conclude the SOPC, we conducted
a planning serial in pairs, which emphasised to me, the strategic impact of tactical decisions.

“I see that as the everyday nature of the Command which is something I will continue to reflect on throughout my career.”

The SOPC concludes with a customised strategic thinking, soft people skills and ethical decision-making module.

Having been exposed to the theory and ethos underpinning Socomd, the second phase of the training concentrated on immersing the participants into the special operations environment under the mentorship of Socomd junior leaders.

This included qualification in a number of weapon systems as well as exposure to Socomd equipment, facilities and training methodologies. The training culminated with a 36-hour full mission profile exercise, replicating a National Mission Force task.

“I really enjoyed having the face-to-face contact that we had with the staff from SFTC; the majority of whom had long careers within 2 Cdo or SASR,” the student said.

“They were all really approachable and professional. Every facet of the training they provided was reinforced with their experiences and always linked to a real life situation.”

Another student said the course was very comprehensive, taking them right from capability briefs, through to strategy and up to governmental decisions.

“I now have a much clearer picture of how important it is to take a comprehensive, ‘teamed’ approach to the threats we face,” he said.

“The creation of robust, highly skilled and adaptive networks of regular, special operations and civilian organisations is clearly the secret of success, but it’s also clear there’s more we can do to hone these relationships.

A third student encouraged anyone offered a place on the course in 2018 to “seize it with both hands”.

“It is an immersion that will open your eyes to the benefits of working as part of an inter-agency team,” he said.

“Whether you end up working for Socomd later down the line or not, you’ll make a series of connections that will be invaluable in your future career.”

The next ASOC will occur in early 2018. Twenty positions are available and candidates will be identified in consultation with the career management agencies.
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Gone but not forgotten

Cpl Mark Doran

CLOSE to 50 former members of 2/4RAR attended a plaque dedication ceremony at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on August 25. AWM Director Brendan Nelson welcomed the group and the plaque was unveiled by a former CO 2/4RAR Brig Paul O’Sullivan (ret’d), and 2/4RAR Association president WO1 Max Walker, of AHQ.

Brig O’Sullivan said those who served in 2/4RAR were the recognised and unheralded warriors of the post-Vietnam defence of Australia.

From its establishment in 1973 they stayed through the tempest of the three-year training cycle with little from the live-firing exercises at the High Range Training Area and the repetitive Kangaroo exercises at Shoalwater Bay or the recurring live-firing exercises at the High Range Training Area.

Some were fortunate enough to deploy on activities such as Exercise Tropical Lightning in Hawaii and some were chosen for Exercise Long Look with the British Army.

In the 80s we were a part of the Operational Deployment Force, rotating annually with our sister battalion 1RAR to become the online battalion, fully manned and equipped for that year ready to respond to Australia’s defence needs on 24 hours’ notice to move.

“The soldiers of the battalion did that with stoic commitment to the dual responsibilities on the Army’s undertaking of service to the nation and the responsibility of the regiment to put duty first,” WO1 Walker said the plaque dedication was a wonderful opportunity for the former men and women of the battalion to reflect on their history.

“Association members from across Australia travelled to Canberra for this event,” he said.

“The plaque was originally designed and the ceremony was held on Anzac Day. The linking of 2RAR and 4RAR to form 2/4RAR was the first such linking in the Royal Australian Regiment and came about because of the cessation of National Service, when Army underwent a major reorganisation. The battalions were linked on August 15, 1973. Throughout its existence 2/4RAR was based at Lavarrack Barracks in Townsville and formed part of the 3 Bde. It was charged with the task of preserving the traditions, associations and museums of the two battalions from which it was formed.

The 1994 Defence White Paper directed the raising of an additional infantry battalion to redress a perceived shortfall in Army’s capability to conduct land operations in accordance with strategic guidance.

This additional battalion was formed on February 1, 1995, by delinking 2/4RAR to reform 2RAR and 4RAR. The existing 2/4RAR, complete, was re-titled 2RAR while 4RAR was formed incrementally over the period to 1999. Eventually 4RAR was taken out of order of battle and is now known as 2 Cdo Regt.

Elements of 2/4RAR served in Malaysia as Rifle Company Butterworth from 1975 until 1989 and also supported operations in Cambodia, Somalia and Rwanda.

Legacy of giving

Call For Applications: The Army Tertiary Education Program 2018

Background

The Army Tertiary Education Program (ATEP) provides an opportunity for junior Army officers and soldiers who do not possess an undergraduate degree, to undertake part time study in selected courses at the Southern Cross University (SCU), University of New England (UNE), James Cook University (JCU) and Charles Sturt University (CSU).

Prescribed Degree Programs

Prescribed Degree Programmes (PDP) are defined as programmes of study that meet the broad aims of ATEP. The PDP sponsored by the ATEP are:

• Bachelor of Training and Development (BTrg Dev) - UNE.
• Bachelor of Organisation Leadership (BOrgLead) - UNE.
• Bachelor of Business (BBus) – JCU.
• Bachelor of Business (BBus) – SCU.
• Associate Degree in Adult Vocational Education – CSU.

2018 Applications are now open.

Positions are now available for junior Army officers and soldiers who are interested in commencing tertiary studies in trimester 1, 2018. The following FT Army personnel are eligible to apply for ATEP sponsorship in 2018:

• Lieutenants and Captains who have graduated from the Royal Military College (RMC) and have completed four years continuous service.
• Officers commissioned through the Army Senior Non-commissioned Officer and Warrant Officer Commissioning Scheme (ASWOCS).
• Warrant Officers of substantive rank.
• SNCO of substantive rank who have completed a minimum of five years continuous service in that rank.
• Military Instructors of any rank who have served at least three years in an instructor appointment.

The cut-off date for applications for ATEP sponsorship in 2018 is 20 October 2017. ATEP application forms and detailed information on the program including university advanced standing requirements are available from the ATEP SharePoint page on the Forces Command Intranet site: http://drem.defence.gov.au/Army/FORCOMD/Headquarters/DPM/Pages/Army%20Tertiary%20EducationProgram.aspx

Point of contact for ATEP application: Mr Ken Bow
ETD Branch, HQ FORCOMD, Bld 111 Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW 2021
Telephone: (02) 8335 5804 Email: kenneth.bow@defence.gov.au
Value of Legacy

Cpl Bill Solomou

A MOVING speech by a Legatee stole the show at this year’s launch of National Legacy Week in Canberra on August 27.

Junior Legatee Mark MacInnes gave an emotional and eye-opening speech about how his father, Lt-Col Andrew MacInnes, suddenly passed away when Mark was 13.

When his father died, his mother lost a treasured and loving husband, Mark said.

“And my sister and I lost a figure of guidance, support and unconditional love. Love that we both needed.”

Mark described how, after his father’s death, he “lost a treasured and loving husband.”

“After my father passed away, my mother fell into a void. She lost her partner of 35 years. We lost a figure of guidance, support and unconditional love,” he said.

He said he felt isolated and not understood – until he discovered Legacy.

“Legacy has provided me with a support network of people who understand my pain, helped me process it and then feel better,” he said.

Legacy caught me mid-fall in a net of formidable support and love.

In the first instance, Mark said Legacy meant the occasional Christmas voucher.

“It has been an absolute privilege to be involved with Legacy,” he said.

“They put me in contact with other teens in the same situation; this gave me a support network of people who understood my pain, helped me process it and then feel better,” he said.

“In front of everyone here, I admit I was foolish and swallow the pride I once had,” Mark said.

“Since allowing Legacy into my life they have acted as the safety net. Legacy caught me mid-fall in a net of formidable support and love; it has given me a light inside of me that I used to see inside everybody else.”

Mark told the audience about how Legacy, in hindsight, had helped him.

“Legacy caught me in a net of support and love. It has been an absolute privilege to be involved with Legacy,” he said.

He encouraged everyone in Defence to continue to contribute and support in any way they could.

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Mark told the audience about how Legacy, in hindsight, had helped him.

Legacy Week was important “to all of us in Defence and the Defence community.”

“It is a critical element to the support network for all of Defence,” he said.

RSM-A WO Don Spinks said Legacy Week was important “to all of us in Defence and the Defence community.”

“It is an amazing institution and I encourage everyone to get on board with Legacy,” he said.

Legacy was held from August 27 to September 2 to raise funds and awareness for the families of incapacitated and deceased members of the ADF.


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Veterans honoured

A LAST Post ceremony was held at the Australian War Memorial to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay.

Seven veterans of the battle attended the service meeting with Veterans’ Affairs Minister Dan Tehan, CDF ACM Mark Binskin, CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell, CAF Air-Mshl Leo Davies, and Cdre Brenton Smyth, representing the CN.

Lt-Gen Campbell said the Battle of Milne Bay was a significant action for Australian forces.

“The battle was the first allied land victory against the Japanese in the Second World War,” Lt-Gen Campbell said.

“The RAAF was pivotal in the success of the battle, providing air cover and air power against Japanese capability and protecting Australian troops.

“It is important to be here to recognise the surviving veterans and to also acknowledge and remember those who died in that battle.

“More generally we should remember those who served in the Second World War in which 40,000 Australians died.

“To honour that sacrifice and to recognise the freedoms that generation gave us is a very, very important thing to do.”

A feature of the battle was the close cooperation between Army and the RAAF. Working together throughout the battle, Army and RAAF won a decisive victory, marking the first real defeat of the Japanese on land in the war. Hudson bombers from RAAF 6 and 32 Squadrons provided reconnaissance and bomber support, 75 and 76 Squadrons provided Kittyhawks, and the flying squadrons were supported by 37 Radar Station and 8 Fire Control Unit during the battle.

The Army deployed its 7th and 18th Infantry Brigades. Before the Last Post ceremony, the veterans took a guided tour of a new exhibition at the Australian War Memorial.

The tour highlighted the conditions and physicality of the fighting at Milne Bay through technology and artefacts from the battlefield, as well as art and photographs.

CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell, RSM-A WO Don Spinks, CAF Air-Mshl Leo Davies, and WOFF-AF Rob Swanwick at the Pool of Reflection.

Photo: Cpl Dan Pithorn
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In their footsteps

Three quarters of a century after troops traversed the New Guinean jungles to halt advancing Japanese forces, modern troops are retracing their steps.

SEVENTY-FIVE years after 39 Bn fought the Japanese in New Guinea, men and women of 39OSB have retraced their steps for Exercise Kanga’s Return. From August 5-9, 39OSB members traversed the 96km trail for the exercise named after 39 Bn veteran Alan “Kanga” Moore.

In what started as a “good idea” for CO 39OSB Lt-Col Kimberlea Juchniewicz in March 2016 became reality when a combined team of 29 personnel, including 23 from 39OSB and six from Army HQ, departed for Port Moresby en route to Kokoda.

The local population had a special welcome for the group including traditional dancers and the opportunity to visit the Kokoda memorial and museum. The memorial also houses an honour roll of 39 Bn.

Lt-Col Juchniewicz said a highlight of the tour was the dawn service at Isurava.

“At ease men.

Now I don’t know you all by name, but I do know you. We met at Isurava, we fought there together, and every step of the way to here. Now we are relieved and will leave the battle. The battle you have fought for the Track may have just saved your nation. Every day the enemy’s supply line stretches further; he suffers now as you have suffered. You have grievously wounded your enemy – others will stop him. The Brigadier wants you to know that your gallantry, your courage and your fortitude are an inspiration. I want you to know that you are some of the finest soldiers I have seen. You have seen things in this place that no man should witness, some of these things you must forget; but none of us will forget our fallen comrades. Your efforts have ensured they have not died in vain. History will remember you, and in the years to come others will wish that they had your conviction and determination.

Remember – remember, that glory is not the exaltation of war, but the exultation of man; of man’s nobility made transcendent in the crucible of war; of faithfulness and fortitude, gentleness and compassion. I am honoured to be your brother.

I have heard some talk amongst you that some of you feel that you have been let down by other battalions or companies. While I understand that talk under these difficult circumstances, I ask that you let it go. I remind you that those men are no better or no worse than you, but that their circumstances were different. Had they been side-by-side with you they might have performed magnificently. Had you been side-by-side with them you might have performed less well.

The fact that their leaders let them down, and yours didn’t, doesn’t mean that they were any better or worse than you are. The principal thing is that you have done well; very, very well indeed, and I am proud of you.

CO 39 Bn Lt-Col Ralph Honner speaking to his troops at Menari, New Guinea, 1942

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30CGR personnel tell their stories after retracing the footsteps of 39 Bn across the Kokoda Trail during WWII.

Capt Peter Blake

The main purpose of the activity was to commemorate and remembering soldiers who had served in the Kokoda Campaign and to gain a better knowledge of what they experienced. Prior to walking the track, I had read about the Kokoda Campaign and the hardships faced by the personnel and locals fought during the Kokoda Campaign. The strategic importance of the track was well known to me, as was the conductance performance of the Australian and Japanese forces. The Kokoda Track was the backbone of the Australian and Japanese forces in their campaign to conquer Papua New Guinea. The Kokoda Track was used by the forces to move their troops and supplies. The Kokoda Track was a vital link in the campaign. The Kokoda Track was a vital link in the campaign to conquer Papua New Guinea.

The second experience was again at the village of Kukura and standing on the very ground on which Bruce Kingsbury earned his posthumous Victoria Cross. It was indeed an appropriate solemn vibe as our group came to understand the sacrifice and determination demonstrated by the Australians who fought at Kokoda. But in the other there was the sight barreled experience of getting to know the local people and seeing firsthand the dedication of the PNG locals.

Pte Samuel Bockarie

I am from Sierra Leone (Freetown), where my late grandfather fought in WWII as a young man and rose to the rank of Col in the Sierra Leone Armed Forces before he retired. His accounts of the war were passed down to me, and I have a family connection. My background is from Sierra Leone (Freetown), where my late grandfather fought in WWII as a young man.

The Kokoda Track therefore was a great experience. On the one hand there was the profound feeling of standing on the very ground on which Bruce Kingsbury earned his posthumous Victoria Cross. It was indeed an appropriate solemn vibe as our group came to understand the sacrifice and determination demonstrated by the Australians who fought at Kokoda. But in the other there was the sight barreled experience of getting to know the local people and seeing firsthand the dedication of the PNG locals.

Both presented huge obstacles for the movement and organization of troops yet the strategic importance of the track was evident. The Kokoda Track was a vital link in the campaign to conquer Papua New Guinea.

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When the Japanese Empire thought they found the ‘easiest’ route to Port Moresby, Australian troops made sure it was anything but, Nicholas Anderson reports.

The Kokoda Trail was the scene of the Australian Army’s most recognised campaign of the Second World War. Fought in New Guinea in 1942, the close proximity of the fighting to the Australian mainland meant that there were few other times, before or since, where the direct danger to Australia was as keenly felt. The Australian objective in the Kokoda campaign was to prevent the Japanese from crossing the Owen Stanley mountain range to attack Port Moresby.

The Japanese needed Port Moresby to anchor the southern arc of a defensive line being constructed in the south-west Pacific to shield the territories they had conquered.

In addition, capturing Port Moresby would enable the Japanese to target the lines of communication between Australia and the United States.

Each phase, traversing the Kokoda Trail – which provided the “easiest” route across the Owen- Stanley range – was necessary, because the Japanese march southwards, with the two distinctive phases over three-and-a-half months.

Despite these efforts, there was nothing “easy” about the Kokoda Trail. It is a rough footpad that climbs and descends more than 5000 vertical metres to improve their regularity of supply lines.

The first phase involved the Australians unable to resist the enemy’s determination or firepower, in their maritime invasion of Port Moresby; their naval fleet turned back at the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The Kokoda campaign is steeped in myths built up in the relationship between the AIF and the militia; and, the lessons learned on the ground.

To Kokoda.

Nicholas Anderson is a historian at the Australian Army History Unit and author of To Kokoda.

Engineers (left) build a bridge in 1942 along the track from Kokoda to Buna and local bearers (right) stretcher an Australian soldier in need of medical attention.
SAS family welcome

A beret parade marks introduction of personnel into the Special Air Service Regiment.

The Special Air Service Regiment recently welcomed the next generation of officers, soldiers, sailors and airmen into the unit at a beret parade conducted at Campbell Barracks in Perth.

In an address to unit members and their families, CO SASR Lt-Col J began by paying tribute to one of the last survivors of the famed Z Special Unit.

“The men of the Z Special Unit, men like Dr Malcolm Smith, were the forebears of our unit and, as we bid farewell to one old soldier, so too do we welcome a new generation of soldiers into service with the Special Air Service Regiment,” he said.

Dr Smith, recently deceased at 95, was buried at Karrakatta Cemetery in Perth in a casket covered with the Z Special Unit flag.

“It was a poignant symbol of the impression of his military service of 75 years prior,” Lt-Col J said.

The symbols of the modern SASR, the sandy beret and winged-dagger badge, were central elements of the beret parade.

“They represent the SAS ethos and our aspirations to be quiet professionals, to lead in small team excellence and to lead in the conduct of Australia’s most sensitive missions,” Lt-Col J said.

In recognition of the unit’s heritage, representatives from each decade since the raising of 1 SAS Coy in 1957 presented the coveted beret to each new member.


“They represent all ranks. They represent scholars, sportsmen and the odd scoundrel.

“They represent those who have deployed to the furthest corners of the globe and those who remained in Australia to build the depth of capabilities that this unit has built its reputation upon.

“They represent those who have received this nation’s highest honours, and those who may not wear much tin and ribbon, but who still enjoy the hard-won and treasured respect of their mates.”

Family members were present to witness both the ceremony itself and the commitment each beret recipient made as they stepped forward.

“From this point forward you are on a daily renewable contract, where the relentless pursuit of excellence must be more a personal commitment than a dictum sprouted from up high,” Lt-Col J said.

“I have every confidence in you. I commit to each of you that we will throw an arm around your families and friends and always welcome them into our special community.

“You are now all members of the SAS family.”
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A blast of an exchange

Exchange Program Long Look is providing invaluable experience for our troops training with the British military, Sgt Dave Morley reports.

If you’re offered the chance to take part in Exchange Program Long Look (EXP LL), “grab it”, is the advice being given by EXP LL contingent commander Capt Carla Gallway.

Capt Gallway, who is based at Australia House in London, said the program is important for the ongoing relationship between Army and its UK partners, focusing on interoperability, new capability, force generation and the enduring relationship.

“EXP LL is a unique and exciting opportunity that encourages individual and professional development,” she said.

“It offers information exchange on capability, extra-curricular liaison, and overall is a rewarding experience for participants because they are exposed to historical customs, traditions and cultural ties with the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD).”

EXP LL has been an ongoing reciprocal exchange between the ADF and the UK Armed Forces for many years, predominantly Army-to-Army or Army-to-Royal Marines.

ADF members from 1, 6, 7 and 17 Bdes, CATC, ALTc and 1 Div took the opportunity to work alongside UK MoD counterparts in barracks and in the field.

They were embedded into several UK MoD host units for the duration of their exchange.

These included the Infantry Battle School, 14 Sig Regt, 3 Cdo Bde and 1 Ault Cp Royal Marines (RM), 1 Bn the Mercian Regt, School of Arty, 19 Regt Royal Artillery, 33 Engr Regt, 35 Engr Regt in Germany, 45 Cdo RM and the Mission Training and Mobilisation Centre.

Capt Gallway said Army continued to work hard to develop international relationships from the tactical to strategic level and saw an improved EXP LL as a key facet to exploiting the already strong bonds between Australia and the UK.

“Exchange programs, such as EXP LL, remain important for individual and organisational development,” she said.

“The unique opportunity is used to enhance the ADF’s regional and global influence, thus supporting the Defence International Engagement Plan and Defence White Paper 2016 initiatives.

“EXP LL offers the opportunity for targeted, focused periods of exchange and both armies are supportive of a newer, more flexible approach agreed to in 2015.”

EXP LL members took part in the Codford Badge Maintenance Day on July 1.

Out of uniform, members took the opportunity to watch the Army v Navy rugby match at Twickenham, participate in unit adventure training and attend the Maj-Gen’s Review of the Queen’s Birthday Parade. Capt Gallway said through the ceremonial tasks, exercises and training activities, barracks life and gaining experience in the British culture, one thing that remained constant throughout the many years of EXP LL, was the friendships and experiences gained.

“The main effort of EXP LL remains the bedding-in of members with British units, representing the ADF and seeking to share and gain valuable experience,” she said.

“The wealth of knowledge and exposure each member has gained during EXP LL coupled with the experiences they in turn have passed on to their British counterparts cannot be underestimated.”

EXP LL takes place every year from April through to December, with two three-month phases this year.

An opportunity to experience life in a foreign military

PARTICIPATION in EXP LL is a great way to gain knowledge and experience to bring back to their own units, according to members who took part in exercises with the UK Army.

Troop leader at 2/14 LHR Cpl Dave Morley has been employed as an SSO planner with 1 Bn, the Mercian Regt, an armoured infantry unit based on the Salisbury Plain.

He deployed with that unit to the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada to assist the unit prepare for deployment on NATO missions to the Baltic states.

He said working closely with a number of British armoured infantry battalions had provided an insight into Coalition TTPs for IFV operations ahead of Land 400 Phase 3.

“Many British armoured infantry battalions have only recently transitioned from light-role to IFV-mounted forces and provide an excellent reference for likely challenges and transition of our own APC and IFV capability back to RAfM, under Land 400 Phase 3 and Plan Keogh,” he said.

The exchange is directly relevant to the various modernisation initiatives restructuring Army

LT Chris Hughes, of B Coy, and LT Alex Geary-Jones, of the Royal Marines.

including 7 Bde.” CPL Sean Myles from 7 Sig Regt took part in Ex Listening Wolf with 14 Sig Regt (EW) as part of a foreign military detachment.

He said it not only allowed him to compare partner equipment capabilities with Australia’s, but also to experience field skills and tactics he could pass on to his unit.

“Overall EXP LL has given me the opportunity to experience life in a foreign military, both in barracks and on the field, and have experiences I wouldn’t normally have back home,” he said.

I wouldn’t normally have back
Gunners fly in to battle

The gunners of 4 Regt were well prepared for the fight at Shoalwater Bay Training Area during Exercise Talisman Sabre.

The regiment deployed three gun lines, a regimental command post and joint fire coordination centres at the battle group and brigade level as well as the CSS Bty.

The guns of 109 Bty travelled by sea to support the Amphibious Ready Group while the rest of the unit moved by road to SWBTA.

An airmobile gun raid meant the M777 lightweight towed howitzers were ready to support the various battle groups as they inserted into the complex area of operations.

CO 4 Regt Lt-Col Alwyn Payne said the unit’s mission was to coordinate and execute joint fire effects in support of the brigade’s manoeuvre plan to destroy the enemy.

“We integrated our artillery capability with close air support from the RAAF, US Air Force and the USMC and called on the attack aviation from Battle Group Pegasus including the US AH-64 Apaches and Australian ARH Tigers.

“We were also supported by the US Army’s M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System deployed at SWBTA and the reinforced combat brigade’s electronic warfare elements of 7 Sig Regt.

“Through 1 Div we could call for naval gunfire, but the scenario precluded that because of the proximity of our manoeuvre elements, although for key targets with sufficient time we could influence the employment of Tomahawk land attack missiles or Harpoon standoff land attack missiles. “We could also access extensive Civil Military Cooperation resources as well as information effects to ensure we would win the non-kinetic fight.”

The M777 can link with Australian and coalition networks providing accurate and timely responses to support ground forces in all weather conditions, day or night.

Lt-Col Payne said it was fantastic to work with the US and New Zealand militaries, as well as other nations involved in Talisman Sabre.

“We exchanged liaison officers across the brigade including with Battle Group Gimlet (US) and Task Group Black (NZ) to ensure they could be supported by the offensive support plan,” he said. “The ISR capabilities of the Australian and US MQ-1C Gray Eagle remotely piloted aircraft systems were also used extensively by 4 Regt.

“We were well supported by two lines of Shadow which enabled us to maintain situational awareness of the enemy and Gray Eagle provided intimate support throughout the final combined battle groups attack.”

Lt-Col Payne said Talisman Sabre was the most comprehensive training test the regiment had ever been exposed to.

“We’re not fortunate enough to be able to have a free-thinking and dynamic enemy to test ourselves against until we deploy to an activity like this,” he said.

“It was a great opportunity for our soldiers from a regimental planning perspective right down to the gunners on the ground who could see what it was like to be part of the enhanced military machine which is 3 Bde (Reinforced).”

“Our guys did a great job – they busted their backs and performed to the best of their ability in testing and trying conditions.

“The best part of Talisman Sabre was to be a part of the main effort as we were tested and trained with the support of a well-staffed, well-led and well-drilled divisional joint fires effect cell.”

September 7, 2017

A CH-47F Chinook, from 5 Avn Regt, prepares to lift a 155mm M777 howitzer from the flight deck of HMAS Choules.

Photo: Cpl Mark Doran

Guns fly in to battle

Armobile gun raid trial shows potential for rapid insertions in battle zones, Cpl Mark Doran reports.

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An emergency training exercise was used to test the management of a multi-agency response, Cpl Mark Doran reports.

A DREADFUL scene confronted first responders to the crash site. The Bushmaster, a heavy rescue vehicle and four fire suppression appliances, Local fire brigade members extract a casualty from underneath a Bushmaster during the exercise at Holsworthy Barracks, which was designed to be as realistic as possible.

Sgt Van Ballekom said the multi-agency response was managed using Australasian Inter-agency Incident Management System guidelines to ensure all participants had a common understanding of the command, control and coordination arrangements. “The exercise allowed us to test the knowledge of the service police trainees at managing serious, complex and evolving incidents in collaboration with civilian emergency services,” he said.

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Talking about feelings

A new book aims to help parents understand how their children feel when they’re deployed.

As the daughter of a serving ADF member, Jessica Love understands the highs and lows of having a parent deployed for extended periods of time. “Sometimes when you are gone, I get upset and angry that you miss things that are important to me.” This is a line from Sometimes, a children’s book Jessica has written.

CDF ACM Mark Binskin launched the book in Canberra on August 18 at Campbell Primary School, where 40 per cent of the students are children of an ADF member.

Sometimes is the sequel to Soon, a book Jessica wrote about her emotions for an English assignment in 2015.

“Writing Soon helped me understand my feelings and also share these thoughts with my parents in a way that wasn’t confronting or scary,” Jessica said.

“The emotion in both books is the same, but Sometimes takes a deeper look at feeling scared, lost, angry and hopeful because I’m older now.

“I wrote the book to help parents understand how their kids are feeling, but spouses can also relate because they’re going through the same emotions.

“It’s also about returning servicemen and women, and the next stage for my Mum, Dad, brother and I, because now that Dad no longer gets deployed, we have to get used to being together again.

“I want to help people understand their feelings are normal and they’re not alone feeling this way.”

Sometimes has been published in a typeface that assists dyslexic children and features illustrated watercolour images.

The books have opened the lines of communication between Jessica and her father Col Shaun Love.

“Hearing first-hand how Jess feels means our family has an open dialogue and are not afraid to talk about our emotions. I believe this has made our family unit stronger,” Col Love said.

Jessica’s story captured the attention of Maj-Gen Gerard Fogarty (red), the CEO of Defence Health – a not-for-profit health insurer fund for the Defence community.

“Defence families move around so much and one of the hardest parts is feeling isolated and not part of a wider community,” Maj-Gen Fogarty said.

“Hearing the Love family’s story, and Jessica’s in particular, we know this is something that’s felt across our membership, which is why it’s important for us to support it.”

Defence Health is the main sponsor of Soon and Sometimes, and paid for the initial print run of 1000 copies. It will give away copies of Sometimes to its members.

About 5000 copies of Soon were sold or donated to ADF families to help them understand how their children may have felt.

One dollar from the sale of each book will be donated to Soldier On.

‘Sometimes’ is available from Echo Books for $24.95 at echobooks.com.au

Author Jessica Love watches on as CDF ACM Mark Binskin answers questions from children during her book launch at Campbell Primary School.

Photo: Sam Birch
ADFA held its annual Open Day on August 26, providing prospective students, families and friends and the public an opportunity to see a range of exciting displays and learn about life and study at the academy.  

Photo: Michael Jackson-Rand

ADFA trainee officers performed a simulated ground based infantry attack.

ADFA cadets demonstrate PT using medicine balls.

Above: A trainee shows the strength necessary to climb a pole without equipment.  
Left: The parachute display team shows the gathered crowd how to pack a parachute.
Communication has become the critical factor in humanitarian operations, Cpl Mark Doran reports.

Responding to disaster

Planning, preparation, coordination, but most importantly communication, were among the key issues of humanitarian operations discussed at a seminar in Canberra. The seminar gave participants a deep dive into the complexities surrounding the planning and conduct of humanitarian operations and allowed personal networks to be developed. It explored how Defence, other Australian agencies and the international community can best work together in a domestic, regional or global response to a natural or human-induced disaster.

It also allowed global disaster response coordinators, such as the UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and designated UN Cluster leads, to inform and brief on international standards, common plans, expectations and the requirements of host nations in supporting an international response.

The 66 participants included 40 from the Department of Defence and other government agencies, such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the ADF, along with members of non-government organisations, including Oxfam and CARE Australia. The 26 international participants were from 13 countries across the regions of South Pacific (Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea), South East Asia (Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines), South East Asia (Thailand and Vietnam), South Asia (Pakistan and North Asia (China)).

Commanding Officer ADF POTC Lt-Col Matthew Nash said the capabilities of the ADF had changed significantly in the past decade, which in turn allowed increased options for the Australian Government to respond to humanitarian operations.

"While warfighting remains our primary mission, Defence’s unique assets allow us to assist in the quick deployment of life-saving capabilities and supplies," he said.

"While we should remain the last resort, military forces will continue to deploy on humanitarian operations and these operations will only increase in complexity as the populations’ relief needs are influenced by increasingly complex security environments.

Since 2008, the ADF has supported state governments and assisted international responses in Indonesia, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Haiti, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand and Vanuatu, providing disaster relief after tsunamis, earthquakes, cyclones and floods.

Australia’s role to humanitarian operations is guided by policies, agreements and international law, outlining how humanitarian actors and militaries work with host nations’ primary responders in a disaster-management situation.

Lt-Col Nash said numerous humanitarian operations highlighted the importance of the ADF having witnessed the complementary roles of host nation first responders, international civil agencies, the non-government sector and other militaries during disaster relief.

"The seminar’s value is the professional development provided to participants through presentations and discussions with representatives from regional governments and civil agencies, including the UNOCHA, the Red Cross and other government agencies such as DFAT and Emergency Management Australia (EMA),” he said.

The presence of key personnel from HMAS Stems Adelaide and Courageous, HQ 1 Div, Air Force and HQOC at the seminar provided an opportunity to connect Defence to the humanitarian actors who coordinate and provide aid during international disasters within the region.

"These personal networks will be critical in the coming disaster season, in Australia and regionally,” Lt-Col Nash said.

The ADF POTC is a joint unit established in 1993 and its core mission is to provide ADF members with United Nations pre-deployment training. However, the unit also provides training and education in all aspects of peace, humanitarian and population security operations.

Located at ADFA in Canberra, it forms part of the Australian Defence College.

Some valuable lessons

The importance of using personnel who were able to provide local knowledge was recognised as an invaluable resource during the response to Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

The final day of the Humanitarian Operations Seminar in Canberra was a case study on the response, recovery and lessons learnt from Operation Queensland Assist – Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Dobbie crossed the Queensland coast near Airlie Beach on March 28 as a Category 4 system with winds of more than 150 km/h.

The cyclone rapidly weakened into a tropical low, but continued to travel south causing significant damage and flooding in south east Queensland and northern NSW before heading to New Zealand.

Brig Commander 3 Bde Brig Chris Field, who led the ADF response task force before coordinating the state’s recovery efforts.

Field said the effect of ADF personnel arriving in the communities of the Whitsundays to help with the recovery was remarkable.

"It brought a calmness and certainty to people,” he said.

Early decisive engagement by CO 3CER Lt-Col Jennifer Harris, with the local mayors of three local councils ensured they knew the ADF was there to protect life and enable the recovery of essential public infrastructure.

"Essentially our role was to clear the roads and public facilities to enable people to return to their normal pattern of life, although we did assist elderly people or those who needed support in personal recovery efforts.”

The operation also gave excellent opportunities to develop community relations with an example being the new relationship with the Whitsundays Regional Council.

Brig Field said it was critical 3CSR ensured there was early communications integration with the emergency services.

"The affected area was treated as an area of operations and we used our battle management system to track our military personnel,” he said.

"Social media was an important tool and was used by local government as a key source of messaging.”

During the recovery mission the focus was on the disaster-affected people.

Brig Field said he spent a lot of time talking about the human factor as a state recovery coordinator.

"Queensland is well-structured – recovery includes all elements of government, private enterprises and primary producers and not for profit organisations.

"The work by these combined organisations is all about gaining and maintaining human connections.”
ARRTS shout out

Sqn-Ldr Jamie Abbott

ARMY members facing health and wellbeing issues are reminded that applications are open for the next round of the ADF Arts for Recovery, Resilience, Teamwork and Skills (ARRTS) program.

The program provides a rare and different opportunity to embark on a unique creative arts program unlike anything Defence has offered before.

Open to all ranks and services, the four-week program is held in Canberra for up to 30 participants.

They are offered training and practical experience in one of the following creative streams: acting and performance; music and rhythm; creative writing and visual art.

ARRTS head Brig Wayne Goodman said experience in these creative streams was not necessary.

“You will be mentored by professional artists, actors and creative staff over the four weeks and there is no audition process, you don’t even have to have any of the normal structures of a day,” he said.

Participants of the ARRTS program will include selected men and women who have been wounded, injured or ill.

Previous participants have reported improved resilience, and increased confidence and self-esteem as a result of attending the program.

Pte Soul Gersden-Jensen completed the ARRTS program in May this year and chose acting and performance.

“I was very nervous at first as I have done very little acting throughout my childhood,” Pte Gersden-Jensen said.

“I highly recommend other members do this program, I will be going back to my unit and telling everyone about it.”

The next ARRTS program will be held from November 6 to December 1.

Designed to support and enhance participants’ individual recovery, the program includes 24-hour-a-day access to health and support services.

ARRTS creative director Lt-Col Geoff Grey said the program couldn’t be any more removed from a regular military environment.

“We don’t wear uniforms, we don’t have rank and we don’t have any of the normal structures of a day,” he said.

For more information or applications forms, email ADFARRTS@defence.gov.au, or phone Nina Craven (02) 6265 5923.

Open to all ranks and services, the four-week program is held in Canberra for up to 30 participants.

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Toll Move Plan App - easy access to details of your relocation itinerary.

Survey aims to improve PTSD app

MOBILE phone app PTSD Coach Australia has been available for some time to help ADF members understand and manage the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs has collaborated with Defence to evaluate the app and identify ways it could be improved. The Queensland University of Technology has been commissioned to undertake the work.

Project lead David Kavanagh said the evaluation would involve an online survey, telephone interviews and workshops where participants use the app and talk about their experience.

“We are seeking up to 1500 Defence members to do a 10-15 minute anonymous survey,” Prof Kavanagh said.

“We want to hear what a range of people think of it.”

The project also seeks ADF members or their families to do a 20-40 minute phone interview, or attend a two-hour workshop in Brisbane, where they will use the app and discuss their experience.

“Phone apps can potentially give people support whenever and wherever they need it,” Prof Kavanagh said.

“We want to see whether people think this app is useful, and ask them for suggestions to make it even better.”

To participate, register by calling 1300 300 164, or email ptsdcoach@qut.edu.au. Further information can be found at survey.qut.edu.au/190063/105b/
Always there in times of need

Michelle Fretwell

SEEKING chaplaincy support, counsel and assessment is much more common than you might think.

For the first time, Army chaplains have started recording the pastoral interventions with people seeking advice and counsel – and from those records it’s clear the issues that concern you most likely worry the people around you too.

The Director-Generals of Chaplaincy across the three services directed the development of the chaplaincy reporting tool which now records anonymous data.

Data collected between January and June shows the breadth of services chaplains provide.

Senior Staff Chaplain Army Headquarters Kerry Larwill said the reporting tool was less about how many people chaplains saw and more about the effect they had on people’s lives.

“We wanted this to be professional, objective, transparent and comparable to the other services, which is why we tied it to the World Health Organisation’s pastoral intervention codes,” Chap Larwill said.

We are reporting on the areas of assessment, support, counsel, education and religious ministry.”

In the six-month period, there were 40,000 recorded interventions between Army chaplains, members and their families.

The most significant issues were still personal relationships, which accounted for 20 per cent of all interventions.

Second to that, work-related stress, postings and deployments accounted for 18.7 per cent of all interactions.

Members don’t necessarily want a solution – they want someone who is outside of command to talk to,” Chap Larwill said.

“They want someone to give that perspective where they can balance their career needs alongside someone who understands that life is more than working for the Army.

“It’s good that our statistics are showing that through the interventions we do, we are making a difference in supporting people.

“Chaplains keep members effective for a capability but, more than that, we care and want to see people achieve wholeness, fulfilment and happiness in their own lives.”

Chaplains recognise that many Australians see themselves as spiritual persons and one third of all interactions by chaplains are spiritual or religious in nature.”

Chap Larwill said chaplains experienced a high level of demand, particularly outside of hours.

He said that Army chaplains had received 1000 out-of-hours response requests between January and June – out of those, more than 350 were home and hospital visits.

In the same period, Army chaplains conducted 850 education events with more than 18,000 participants.

There are 72 permanent fulltime chaplains in the Army and 95 specialist reservists.

“I’m a believer in Defence chaplaincy. I’m here because I believe I can make a difference in supporting the men and women who serve Australia – and I think all chaplains would say that,” Chap Larwill said.

“It’s a privilege to be involved in people’s lives and help them – and I think that chaplains are doing great work.”

You can contact your closest chaplain by phoning Defence on 1300 333 362 and asking for the duty chaplain at your base.

Chap Michael Pocklington, left, chats to Pte Brandon Smith during training at Lone Pine Barracks, Singleton.

Praise for academic Defence program

The Military and Defence Studies Program offered by the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC) at the Australian National University (ANU) has been awarded the 2016 Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Education for Programs that Enhance Learning.

The award was accepted by Daniel Marston on behalf of the SDSC, in a ceremony attended by Australian Command and Staff College (ACSC) staff and students at the Australian Defence College (ADC).

The Military and Defence Studies Program is a fully integrated postgraduate course developed by an academic team from the ANU and the ACSC military directing staff. The program is taught intensively over an 11-month period on-site at the ADC.

Marnie Hughes-Warrington, said the partnership between ADC and ANU represents the “dream team” for future military leaders.

“The ADF and ANU have created a unique opportunity for mid-career officers and Defence personnel to develop the creative talent that provides the basis of Australian joint-military capability and leadership now and into the future,” she said.

The academically rigorous program balances applied military, strategic and defence studies with vocational requirements created specifically for the ADF by the SDSC in cooperation with military directing staff.

The ADF and ANU have created a unique opportunity for mid-career officers and Defence personnel.

Marnie Hughes-Warrington
WO2 Cameron Buchanan stands in the Australian cash office at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. 

Capt Samuel Mettam at Hamid Karzai International Airport on Operation Highroad in Kabul, Afghanistan.


Above: Maj Andrew Leong works in the Australian Headquarters at the Kabul Garrison General Command in Kabul.

2 Cav Regt celebrated the 30th birthday of their mascot WO2 Courage. The wedge-tailed eagle was presented to the regiment in 1987. Courage’s first major ceremonial occasion was as part of the guard for Prince Charles during his visit to Australia in 1988 for the bicentennial celebrations.

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A new study by from London’s School of Public Health suggests that there is no such thing as being obese and healthy.

Notions of having a big gut but still being healthy have been challenged by a European report released last month. Overweight or obese people with otherwise normal blood pressure, blood sugar or cholesterol still had their risk of coronary heart disease increased by up to 28 per cent, according to the study.

Camille Lassale, an epidemiologist from Imperial College London’s School of Public Health, now based at University College London, who led the research, said their findings challenged the notion people could be “fat and healthy”.

“We conclude that there is no such thing as being healthy obese,” she said.

“You are at an increased risk of heart disease.”

Studies previously suggested some overweight or obese people didn’t have problems like fat in the blood clogging arteries or high blood pressure that usually came with added weight, and were classed as “metabolically healthy”.

This has been challenged by recent studies that found overweight people were still at higher risk of heart disease than those of a normal weight.

This most recent study, published in the European Heart Journal, appears to confirm this.

The study examined more than 7600 adults with coronary heart disease – where coronary arteries are blocked and can cause a heart attack – then categorised them by body mass index (BMI) and metabolic health, such as high blood sugar levels.

Data from 10,000 healthy controls were used to represent the general health of the population sampled.

They were separated into healthy and unhealthy groups, based on whether they had three or more of the markers for being “metabolically unhealthy,” then separated by BMI to class them as normal, overweight or obese.

The “metabolically unhealthy” group were at greater risk for coronary heart disease, with unhealthy obese people being in the highest risk category.

But researchers found those in the “metabolically healthy” group who were obese or overweight showed a greater risk of heart disease than people of normal weight.

Those who were overweight were at a 26 per cent increased risk, while obese people were at a 28 per cent increased risk.

“Even if you are classified as metabolically healthy, excess weight was associated with an increased risk of heart disease,” Dr Lassale said.

“It’s another brick in the wall of evidence that being healthy overweight is not true.”

Though the risk is much higher in the unhealthy group, Dr Lassale said those without things such as high blood pressure shouldn’t rest on their laurels.

“They seem to be at an intermediate risk,” she said.

“We saw that they went on to develop more heart attacks.”

The team could not say with certainty why overweight people went on to have heart disease.
Medal haul at Perisher

ARMY dominated the ADF Alpine Snowsports Championships in Perisher Valley from August 21-24. The contingent of 36 soldiers brought home individual and group titles, including the overall champion service trophy which they won last year.

Lt Elizabeth Lambert again won the overall women’s ski championship while Maj Alistair Court dominated in the men’s snowboard competition.

The individual efforts were backed up by a strong team performance with the women’s ski team and men’s boarder team winning the best squad awards against Navy and Air Force.

Army contingent manager Capt Nick Longney said the team’s strong results were not surprising. “Army had a strong line-up this year,” he said.

“Apart from the more seasoned competitors, there were some new and talented faces in the group adding depth to the results.

“Our previous fastest members are starting to be challenged by the younger competitors, which not only keeps things interesting, but also shows great promise for the future of the team.”

Army Snowsports President Lt-Col James Kerr said Army was lucky to pull the group together during the championships. “It’s a friendly rivalry, but it’s great to see Army come away with the overall win,” he said.

Pte Humberdross won the ADF Patron’s Award for his efforts and enthusiasm and said he was elated to be the competitor displaying the best and fairest qualities on the snow.

The ADF Patron’s Award was awarded for excellent conditions in the second week and performed strongly in the Snowboard Slopestyle.

The ADF Patron’s Award is awarded to the competitor displaying the best and fairest qualities on the snow.

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The ADF Patron’s Award was awarded for excellent conditions in the second week and performed strongly in the Snowboard Slopestyle.

Outgoing President of ADF Snowsports, Col Phil Langworthy, said the competition was incredibly intense, but, of course, good-spirited between the services.

“It was the first time a soldier had won the trophy since 2012. We haven’t done a great deal of lead up training, so to place in the top 10 teams in Australia was a great achievement,” he said.

“For Australian Army Alpine Snowsports Association competition updates, information and contacts visit Facebook @ australianarmyalpinesnowsportsassociation

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MEMBERS of the ADF Parachute association hung up their parachutes for a chance to compete in the Australian Indoor Skydiving Championships held at Ifly Downunder, Poonah on the August 18-19.

Twelve members from Army, Navy and Air Force took part in this year’s championships which saw flyers from all over Australia and overseas come and compete in the largest championships to date.

OIC of the event, Capt Holly Godwin, said every year ADFPA entered teams into the competition and this year was no different with five teams entering in three categories including rookie, four-way formation skydiving intermediate and two-way vertical formation skydiving.

“It is great to see the number of Defence teams in this event growing,” she said.

“The skill level of all participants just keeps getting better and better every year.”

This is certainly true of All Out Defence who took out the gold medal in the four-way formation rookie category.

The individual efforts were backed up by a strong team performance with the women’s ski team and men’s boarder team winning the best squad awards against Navy and Air Force.

“A separate Parachute event will definitely help us prepare for the Queensland State Skydiving Championships in September.”

Al Out Defence members, Col Richard Mallet, and Cds Trent Moloney and Natapat Tarapun were thrilled to receive gold and look forward to perhaps defending their title at the Military Skydiving Nationals being held in December.

“Flying in the wind tunnel really helps develop skills that can then be transferred to the sky,” CPO Rob Clarke said.

“Generally teams will improve at a far quicker rate if they incorporate indoor skydiving into their training.”

The event went over two days and competition was fierce.

Flt-Lt Ben Skuce, whose team Vertically Challenged Defence competed in the intermediate four-way category, was pleased with his team’s results.

“We haven’t done a great deal of lead up training, so to place in the top 10 teams in Australia was a great achievement,” he said.

“It will definitely help us prepare for the Queensland State Skydiving Championships in September.”

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The 3CSSB T20 cricket team had a huge 55-run win over 2 Cav Regt in the final game of the 3 Bde cricket competition.

Having won every match of the series, the team batted first scoring 180 off their 20 overs thanks to an impressive score of 91 not out from Pte Josh Gonzalez. He backed up his effort in the pace attack, taking 4/35.

The ADFRU team line up before playing at Davis Field, Trentham. Photo: HC Faraday

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Eagles take to the ice

ADELAIDE-based Army and Air Force ice hockey players have been learning the game in a competition, played against 10 civilian teams during August.

The Air Force Eagles ice hockey team consisting of nine players, two of which are Army, have played four rounds in the three player side civilian Adelaide Redwings Ice Hockey Club tournament.

Air Force Eagles development coach Air Force Cpl Anthony Kunda said the competition was as much about the players learning the essential skills of the game in addition to having fun and winning.

“Each match we have up to nine players who will play on a rotational basis during the two 20-minute halves,” Cpl Kunda said.

“When a player rotates out of the game and benches, I offer advice on general game play and skating. We have a number of players who have never competed before and they are all learning so much from being a part of this competition and from our senior players.”

One of two Army players on the team is LCpl Craig Watson, of 7RAR.

So far he’s been using the competition as a preseason for another ice hockey tournament.

“I’ve been playing since 2014 and I’ve already looked forward to next year’s competition and hopefully get selected for the brigade.”

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SNOW CONTEST
Army dominates the ADF Alpine Snowsports Championships
P34

Capt Andrew Moses, of 3HSB, during the ADF Alpine Snowsports Championships. Photo: Sam Birch

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