3RAR rolls towards becoming a mechanised infantry battalion

Page 3

Lt Natasha James, of 2 Cav Regt, salutes the reviewing officer as she and her APC pass the reviewing stand.
Photo: Pte Jack Winterstein

POWERING FORWARD

Testing and evaluating equipment
Lift-out

Celebrating International Women’s Day
Pages 16-18
Another year wiser

CEREMONIAL guns rang out around Blamey Square at Russell Offices in Canberra as Army cut celebrated its 117th birthday on March 1.

In his address to the assembled officers and soldiers, CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell reflected on the history of Army, from humble beginnings to present day.

"Today is a family day; it’s the birthday of our family," he said.

"Our family isn’t just here in Blamey Square, but widely spread across this continent and the world, doing extraordinary things.

"I reflect back to when it started, when this continent and its people came together in 1901, which was an extraordinary achievement.

"From Maj-Gen Edward Hutton, the first general commanding the Australian Military Forces, through to today and my extraordinary privilege of finding myself the Chief of Army.

"I think the Army of today would amaze, and give a sense of purpose and pride, to those first members of the Australian Army.

"I was excited, but nervous beforehand. It was a good experience not everyone gets to cut the birthday cake with the Chief!"

CA finished his address by thanking past and present personnel for the work they have put into moving the Australian Army forward.

"From the first day and every day forward working together as a team, this Army and our Defence Force have been growing better and better."

"It’s not one person’s effort, it’s not a small number of people’s efforts, it’s everyone pushing together, moving the story forward.

"Whether you’re part of the full-time or part-time component, the APS, new to the force, long in the tooth like myself, or recently retired, you’re part of a great story and an extraordinary family.

"So happy birthday to you all and to the Australian Army."

Above: APS staff, alongside Army members, enjoy a snag during celebrations in Canberra. Left: Comdt CATC Col Richard Parker (centre) with the youngest male and female of the unit, LCpl Samantha Mannion and Cpl Thomas Miller-Delaney cut the cake for Army’s birthday at Puckapunyal.

RSM-A WO Don Spinks, left, Pte Joel Cantone and CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell cut the Army’s 117th birthday cake at Blamey Square in Canberra.

Photos: Cpl Sebastian Beurich
Transition to the future

The APC crewmen and women are incredibly resilient members ... they are passionate about their platform and their trade and know how to respond to challenges.

– Capt Kate Clarkson, Acting OC C Sqn

March 8, 2018


Sgt Daniel Miller

“OLD Faithful” commenced its transition to a mechanised infantry battalion with a mounted parade at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville on February 26.

Commander 3 Bde Brig Scott Winter reviewed the parade, which marks the next chapter in the rich history of 3RAR.

The transition will occur over the next 18 months, with the parade signifying the start of the first phase and receipt of the first tranche of M113AS4 APCs.

The recent custodians of APCs in 3 Bde, 2 Cav Regt, will continue to support 3RAR in crewing some of the initial issue of APCs for the next six to 18 months, allowing 3RAR to grow its infantry APC crew commander and driver capability.

The blended crew approach will ensure the cross-leveling of skills and knowledge, coupled with the greater level of equipment knowledge required to operate armoured fighting vehicles effectively. It highlights the commitment of 2 Cav Regt in supporting 3RAR during the transition.

Acting OC C Sqn Capt Kate Clarkson said she was impressed with her soldiers’ determination to see the job done.

“The APC crewmen and women are incredibly resilient members. They have seen a lot of change since 2013 but they are passionate about their platform and trade,” Capt Clarkson said.

“They also know how to respond to challenges and are keen to support the effective execution of mechanisation within the infantry.”

The battalion will use APCs in a slightly different manner than purely a lift capability.

A mechanised infantry approach will mean the vehicle, crew and dismounts will operate as one system supported by key combat team and as a battlegroup capability.

This includes firepower from 2 Cav Regt tanks, mobility support from 3CER, the coordination of joint fires and effects from 4 Regt, and logistics support from 3CSSB.

The combined-arms approach underpins fighting as combat team and as a battlegroup and ensures a modern, agile and versatile combat force capable of high-end warfare through to humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

CO 3RAR Lt-Col Mick Kearns said the mechanised capability made 3RAR a more potent and capable force.

“Clearly, the vehicle provides additional firepower alongside greater mobility and protection on the battlefield,” he said.

“However, it is when they are employed alongside other key brigade assets, such as tanks, where the true benefit is realised as part of a greater combined-arms effect.”

Lt-Col Kearns took command of 3RAR in late 2017 and brought a lot of tracked infantry experience in late 2017.

He is well posted to oversee 3RAR’s transition as he had armoured infantry experience in the UK before he transferred to the Australian Army in 2008, where he has spent time in 5RAR and 7RAR, the latter as a company commander.

The transition will not take place overnight.

A gradual approach means a combat team plus a battlegroup HQ will this year deploy on Exercise Hamel as part of the opposing force battle group in the short-term.

The aim is to have a mechanised battle group capability when 3 Bde completes its next readiness cycle in 2020.

A significant development in the growth of Army’s mechanised capability will be the new infantry fighting vehicle, which will be introduced into service under the Land 400 Phase 3.

The deep mechanisation through an armoured fighting vehicle culture, equipment husbandry and experienced RAInf vehicle crews – alongside a combined-arms approach to fighting – will be the focus for not just 3RAR, but 6RAR and 7RAR as well.
Blades of glory

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

SWAPPING out one of Army’s field training areas for the Sydney skyline is every soldier’s dream – and one that 6 Avn Regt’s aircrew are living. The triannual training, which is happening in the Sydney, Bathurst, Orange and Canberra areas during the month-long exercise, makes sure the regiment is ready for any tasks ahead.

OC 173 Avn Sqn Maj James Murray said the training let the pilots and loadmasters experience flying in a different environment. “It principally involves a lot of afternoon and night flying, which is a very different environment to day flying,” he said. “Usually we operate at night and the complex terrain in Sydney Harbour is indicative of what we’ll be flying through – both open and urban areas.

“After we’ve finished up in Sydney, we’ll move out to regional areas to extend our lines of communication and support, and stress the whole system.”

An S-70-90 Black Hawk, of 6 Avn Regt, flies over Sydney Harbour.

Testing mental health

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

SINCE the early 2000s, Defence personnel returning from operations received psychological screening. This valuable tool is used as early identification tools for those who need follow up mental health support. Unfortunately, this screening can miss those who haven’t recently deployed. As a result, Joint Health Command (JHC) is introducing the Periodic Mental Health Screen (PMHS).

This new program means that ADF members may receive a mental health screen when they go to their Health Centre to see a doctor for a booked appointment.

Col Laura Sinclair, of JHC’s Directorate of Mental Health Strategy and Research, said getting the right help at the right time was important to prevent serious issues. “The PMHS is primarily designed to enable early intervention for the treatment of mental health problems and disorders,” she said.

“Good mental health and wellbeing can be maintained by establishing a regular exercise regime, sleeping pattern and sound work-life balance, as well as maintaining a healthy diet. But sometimes, more help is needed.”

“The PMHS allows symptoms to be addressed before they become entrenched and cause broader problems.”

The screen will be conducted alongside regular appointments for the convenience of both the member and the medical staff. “If you haven’t had a mental health screen recorded on the eHealth system within the past 12 months, you’ll be asked to complete one during your medical appointment,” Col Sinclair said.

“Depending on the results of the screen, you may be asked to complete a 15-minute interview with a medical officer or mental health intake worker.”

According to Commander Joint Health AVM Tracy Smart, research conducted throughout Defence has indicated some members are reluctant to seek the support of mental health professionals. “The PMHS is very similar to a Post-Operational Psychological Screen, but it will help to identify members who are in need of mental health services, regardless of their deployment status,” she said.

“It provides an opportunity to receive support early, resulting in better mental health outcomes for both the member and Defence.”

The screen will be rolled out at Russell, Edinburgh, Albatross, Enoggera, Lavarack, Larrakeyah and Amberley Health Centres this month. The national rollout is expected to be completed by November this year.
Meeting the troops

Capt Fiona Bickerstaff

JUST before delivering the opening address at the UN Human Rights Council, Governor-General Gen Sir Peter Cosgrove (retd) made a surprise visit to elements of Operation Okra based around Baghdad.

During his first stop with Task Group 632 in Baghdad, Sir Peter commended the continuous contribution the Special Forces have made to the stabilisation of Iraq since 2003.

“I looked at the map today and saw that great sweep of Iraqi desert and it reminded me about the long-range desert group advance our Special Forces made from the west to the edge of the Sunni triangle and presence here has remained in one form or another,” Sir Peter said.

“I’m here to tell you that Australia’s Special Forces stands at the very front rank of the world’s military. Not just because they can do things that would make other people’s hair stand on end, but because with that you have a great discipline, great energy and willingness to have a crack at anything.”

Following a visit to the Presidential Palace to meet with Iraqi president Fuad Masum, Sir Peter stopped by the Australian embassy, meeting with ADF members embedded as diplomatic missions and coalition forces around Baghdad.

On the final leg of his visit, Sir Peter paid a visit to Task Group Taji 6 in North Baghdad.

As sausages sizzled and steaks were seared, he congratulated the 400-strong task group on the success of its Build Partner Capacity mission, having trained more than 31,000 Iraqi Security Forces personnel over its six rotations.

“There’s a very proud history in the modern Australian Army along with our New Zealand brethren of helping a nation develop a defence force that can look after itself. I was last here in 2015 for a visit with the VC recipients. 2015 was a dangerous year in Iraq but what a contrast a few years have made through the diligence and efforts of Australians, New Zealanders, the British contingent and the support of the US Forces.

“Ths training is helping the Iraqis to foresee a better future so well done to all of you.”

Sir Peter meets Iraqi president Fuad Masum, right, during a visit to Iraq.

Photo: WO2 Neil Ruskin

Sir Peter meets soldiers from TGT-6.

Governor-General Gen Sir Peter Cosgrove (retd) meets with soldiers from TGT-6 during a visit to Iraq.

Photo: Cpl Anita Gill

March 8, 2018


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Boosses lifted to Malaysia

As part of Exercise Boss Lift, 18 employers took the opportunity last month to travel to Malaysia to visit their reservist employees.

Throughout the year reservists across the country rely on their employers to provide them time to train and serve in Army.

Reservists could be needed for a weekend, a nine-day training block, or a three month overseas rotation.

CO 9 Bde Brig Michael Burgess said the visit provided employers with a hands-on insight into the work and training being carried out by their Reservist employees.

"Boss Lift is vital to ensure employers see their employees in this environment and get a better appreciation for what they do while they are being a soldier in the Army Reserve," Brig Burgess said.

"With the Army Reserve soldiers being actively engaged in delivering capability for Army, having employers release soldiers to come on rotations such as this and other training is important." 

On arrival in Malaysia, the group headed to Johor Bahru and over two days the employers saw conditions and challenges Australian soldiers faced while deployed.

Employers were also given an insight into service life, including firearms and equipment demonstrations and an opportunity to observe a live-fire weapons and minor tactics demonstration.

Robert Warburton, a vehicle services manager from the Royal Automobile Association of South Australia, said it was great to be given the opportunity to see his reservist employee, Cpl James Boulton, while on rotation in Malaysia.

"The reason why I came on the exercise was to get an understanding of the work James does with Army Reserve and the benefits that brings to us as an organisation," Mr Warburton said.

"The most enjoyable aspect is being able to mingle with soldiers regardless of where they are from, who they are, or their rank.

"As employers we are able to have down-to-earth conversations about the really good work they are doing to ensure the preparedness of the military forces and it's fantastic to see the work and devotion of those involved."
TRANSPORT hangars at 1CSSB were the stage for the latest logistic capability transition for 1 Bde, which in February received the latest delivery of vehicles under the Land 121 project. The changeover, which began late last year, has resulted in more than 40 vehicles and 20 trailers exchanged and upgraded as part of Phase 3B of the project, putting the ageing work-horses of the battalion – the Legacy Fleet – out to pasture.

Lt-Col James Matchett said the retirement of the Legacy Fleet was a significant moment, with many of the vehicles having provided excellent service.

"The Legacy Fleet has served Army tirelessly for many years and has earned its retirement," Lt-Col Matchett said.

"The new fleet offers exciting times ahead for combat service support, with more flexible, protected and reliable capabilities to support training and combat operations."

The Legacy Fleet’s retirement also heralded the transfer of the RACT Bushmasters to 5RAR, contributing a further step towards the realisation of a key outcome of Plan Keogh.

Lt-Col Matchett said despite the end of 1CSSB’s role as the PMV custodians in the brigade, the personnel of 12 Tpt Sqn gained important experience in digitised and protected mobility provision.

"There is now a deliberate effort to transfer platform experience to 5RAR as 1 Bde nears the end of the reset phase," Lt-Col Matchett said.

The progression made by RACT soldiers during the period that the CSSBs were the PMV custodians has been significant. It re-focused the corps towards protected mobility, operating in an environment of threat and utilising our vehicles as complete systems that contribute to the battlefield when and if required."

The welcoming of the new Land 121 vehicle fleet to its new tropical home and the transfer of the PMVs to 5RAR framed another historic moment for 1CSSB with the disestablishment of 12 Tpt Sqn and its renaming as 1 Tpt Sqn.

Recognised as Army’s oldest transport squadron, 1 Tpt Sqn’s return was ushered in with the offloading of the squadron’s flag installed on a HX77 flatrack as the centrepiece of the parade.

In a mounted salute, drivers, commanders and the gunners of each new vehicle presented to the new CO 1 Tpt Sqn Maj Will Morrison, who stood on a symbolic flatrack dais.

Lt-Col Matchett said the completion of Land 121 Phase 3B marked a new era in integrated logistics provision to 1 Bde and offered exciting times ahead.

"I asked 1 Tpt Sqn to be forward-leaning in 2018, working with the other brigade units and our sister formations to ensure our drivers utilise the vehicles to their full capabilities," he said.

"1CSSB drivers are incorporating lessons learned and are well prepared as 1 Bde moves towards the Ready Phase of the Force Generation Cycle."

The Legacy Fleet has served Army tirelessly for many years and has earned its retirement.

– Lt-Col James Matchett, CO 1CSSB

1CSSB welcomes its new Land 121 vehicles to 1 Bde, and inset: a flatrack dais with unit flag affixed is offloaded behind SSM WO2 Stuart Johnston.

Photo: Pte Andrew Bartow
Learning from the best Institute.

Warfare Maj-Gen Marcus Thompson, of Joint Capabilities Group, discuss the UNSW Defence Research Institute.

Inset: Vice-Chancellor Ian Jacobs, left, of the University of NSW (UNSW), and Deputy Chief Information Warfare Maj-Gen Marcus Thompson, of Joint Capabilities Group, discuss the UNSW Defence Research Institute. Photo: Sgt Mark Doran

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UNSW's cube satellite, An artist's impression of the ADF M1. Credit: Simon Baraclough

Sgt Mark Doran

WORLD-CLASS defence research to enhance Australia’s security will be delivered by the University of NSW (UNSW) Defence Research Institute launched in Canberra on February 16.

The Institute was established to stimulate, unify and support all defence-related research within the UNSW community, while striving to build and maintain a network across Australian and international defence industries.

Australia’s largest university-driven defence research institute will draw on the expertise of researchers of UNSW in Sydney and Canberra to provide Defence with solutions to real-life issues.

They will operate at the frontiers of science and technology to help deliver innovations to advance Australia’s global capabilities and redefine the modern defence landscape.

UNSW Vice-Chancellor Ian Jacobs launched the institute ahead of the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of educating Australia’s future military leaders.

Prof Jacobs said world-class defence began with world-class research.

"UNSW Canberra has 50 years’ experience partnering with Defence and a 50-year history of excelling in research," he said.

"The UNSW Defence Research Institute will combine our strengths and lead the way for the next 50 years and beyond."

Prof Jacobs said the institute’s knowledge would be shared with communities across academia, government and industry, as well as global policy makers.

"UNSW excels in areas such as cyber security, space, systems engineering, artificial intelligence, logistics, hypersonics, defence-related public sector management and conflict studies," he said.

"We are making our expertise available for others to learn."

Deputy Chief Information Warfare Maj-Gen Marcus Thompson, of Joint Capabilities Group, said the UNSW Defence Research Institute was important for the ADF’s future.

"It’s a natural extension of the long relationship with UNSW through ADFA and provides an opportunity for targeted research directly relevant to Defence," Maj-Gen Thompson said.

"For me, it’s relevant in the information warfare space and will advance our thinking regarding cyber security and cyber operations."

The long-term mental capability of our Defence members is also important as so many of our capabilities are personnel-based.

"It’s all well and good to put the best technology in the hands of our soldiers, sailors and airmen, but if the technology isn’t used in the best way, at the best time, for the optimum effect, we’re not setting up our forces for success."

Head Force Design AVM Mel Hupfeld, of VCDF executive, said the UNSW Defence Research Institute was also important for the ADF’s continuing relationship with academia and defence industry.

“We’ve had a long partnership with UNSW in different aspects of the capability life cycle, but a key aspect for me is the front end of future force exploration to provide options, find out what’s possible and assess capacity and capabilities to give our future force affordable and achievable innovative outcomes."

“Getting the right people professionally developed, who are able to think and operate in the future environment with new technology to get the maximum effect, is also vital to our planning."

“The relationship with UNSW will help prepare us for our future."

For more information on the UNSW Defence Research Institute visit: dri.unsw.edu.au
Changing your name now easier

A NEW smart form, Change Your Legal Name AE795, will minimise the effort involved when changing your legal name for ADF members, APS employees and contractors. The new process removes the change of name field from the AD150 – Amendment of Personal Data Details form and connects several relevant work areas responsible for actioning legal name changes. Completion of the form will allow the following:

- PM Keys, Everybody Database
- Corporate Directory update
- Personnel Security Administration Management System database update
- CT account update
- New Defence ID (Defence Common Access Card)
- New Defence Travel Purchasing card

Information and links are available on the People Connect site on the DRN.

Nature’s gentleman

Pte Diana Jennings

AN INDIGENOUS soldier who served at Gallipoli and in the Boer War has been honoured at a moving dedication service at Pinaroo, South Australia.

Held 82 years to the day he died, the service brought together members of the local community, Indigenous elders and representatives of the South Australian government and the ADF.

RSM 9 Bde WO1 Craig Cook said he was proud his unit provided the catafalque party for the dedication service.

“To me, it’s about the history and heritage of our Army,” he said.

“These are the stories that need to be told.”

After serving in South Africa during the Second Boer War, Sgt William Charles Westbury enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in August 1914 at the age of 37.

On April 25, 1915, he landed on the shores of Gallipoli with 10 Bn. After being shot in the ankle he was evacuated, but later returned to the battle during the August Offensive.

He also went on to serve on the Western Front with 50 Bin, which suffered heavy casualties at the Battle of Mouquet Farm in 1916.

Catafalque party member Pte Crystal Holly, of 9CSSB, said the dedication was significant.

“I think it is important to research and recognise Indigenous Australians for their service in the past,” she said.

The service also made impression on Pte Sarah-Jane Joerin, who performed ceremonial duties for the first time alongside Pte Holly.

“Sgt Westbury is and always will be a true example of what soldiers strive to be like, whether you’re male or female, black or white,” Pte Joerin said.

Sgt Westbury received the 1914/15 Star, Victory Medal and the British Service Medal for his service.

On his return from WWI, he became an active and respected member of his local community.

Sgt Westbury was frequently involved with local sporting clubs and the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia.

A line from his obituary, written in 1936 and read out at the dedication service, summarised his legacy: that he would be remembered as “one of nature’s gentlemen”.

“After years of multiple deployments and jumping from one thing to another, I was down, lacking energy, feeling negative and had a short fuse with friends and family. Master Yang’s course brought me back to balance and gave me fresh positive energy… surprisingly quick! The best package that I have ever come across.” – SASR, Cdo veteran

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Introducing a recovery program created exclusively to support Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans living with challenges such as physical injuries, fatigue and/or depression, anxiety and PTSD. Internationally-acclaimed physical combat and life-extension expert Master Zhen Hua Yang will teach you how to revive your life, heal physical injuries, manage pain and control your temperament.

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Master Zhen Hua Yang, founder of the Calligraphy Health System is originally from China, raised in the Shaolin and Wudang temples, and taught since a young child in methods used for thousands of years to train and heal the highest and most revered Chinese warriors, as part of a family lineage of Masters. Now, living in Australia and consultant to Olympic gold medalists, international sporting teams and as one of the world’s most highly skilled combat, health and life extension experts, Master Yang offers you the opportunity to learn techniques for lasting change. For more about Master Zhen Hua Yang visit www.masteryang.com.au.

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SOLDIERS from 16RW AR have marched through Kalgoorlie in the city’s largest military parade in nearly a quarter of a century.

With swords drawn and bayonets fixed, the soldiers exercised their Freedom of Entry to the city of Kalgoorlie-Boulder for the first time since this privilege was last conferred on the battalion in 1917. TCO 16RW AR Lt-Col Campbell Waterman said the unit has had a close bond with Kalgoorlie for more than a century.

“We have had a historic connection with the Goldfields region since before federation with many soldiers serving in the Boer War. This military and mining connection was further strengthened in 1914, when hundreds of men from the region volunteered to join the original 16RW AR to be among the first to deploy for overseas service in WWI,” he said.

An original set of 16RW AR colours are displayed in the Kalgoorlie Town Hall’s historical collection. The 16RW AR became one of Western Australia’s most iconic infantry battalions fighting at Gallipoli, the Somme, and in Syria, on the Kokoda Track, Shaggy Ridge and Balikpapan in Borneo.

Today, soldiers from 16RW AR contribute to operational tasks such as border protection, regional stabilisation missions, domestic security and aid to the civil community in times of natural disasters.

“Our soldiers are reservists drawn from across WA from metropolitan Perth, Joondalup, to Kalgoorlie-Boulder in the east and north to Geraldton,” Lt-Col Waterman said. The sword carried on parade by CO 16RW AR is the same sword carried by Brig Arnold Potts when he was awarded a Military Cross by King George V in 1917. Potts commanded 2/16RW AR during WWII and was credited with stopping the Japanese advance along the Kokoda Track.

He further emphasised the objectives of Army’s strategy for the AAC.

The strategy, released in 2016, aims to ensure Army delivers a safe, well-governed cadet program for the development of Australia’s youth. In doing this, the program helps create an environment that strengthens Army image and standing within the broader community.

Additionally, the strategy aims to ensure the AAC assists Army in aligning itself with modern Australian society through its youth.

Maj-Gen Burr said he was always looking hard at what Army wanted to get from its support to cadets, and at the same time looking to ensure Army was doing enough to support the AAC.

“The AAC is important to the Army, our youth and our community,” he said.

During the his visit to the conference, Maj-Gen Burr took time to meet with recently appointed AAC National Cdt Under Officer Sam Elias and National Cdt Sgt-Maj Jazmyn Coonan from Wangaratta.

These two cadets provide a direct link for the cadet body to the Commanding Officer of the AAC and in turn, DCA.

Maj-Gen Burr thanked everyone involved in the AAC for all that they do for the program.

“I’m always impressed and inspired when visiting AAC activities. It’s a fantastic thing to see what’s being done,” he said.

Deputy Chief of Army recognises cadets

DCA Maj-Gen Rick Burr (centre) meets with the Australian Army Cadets’ National Cdt Under Officer Sam Elias and National Cdt Sgt-Maj Jazmyn Coonan in Canberra.

General Rick Burr said he had provided a valuable link into the Australian community for Army.

“Our soldiers are reservists drawn from across WA from metropolitan Perth, Joondalup, to Kalgoorlie-Boulder in the east and north to Geraldton.”
TRIED AND TESTED

Land Test and Evaluation Agency shows equipment trialled over the past year

Special lift-out
EQUIPMENT PUT TO THE TEST

Land and Evaluation Agency is busy ensuring only the best kit makes it to our soldiers.

A USTRALIAN soldiers can be confident the equipment they bring into service will function under typical operational conditions by their peers.

Land Test and Evaluation Agency (LTEA) is bound by international test and evaluation (T&E) standards, to ensure their test and evaluation results are absolutely reliable, impartial and repeatable.

With strict set of standards, which high, it means Army is not just rubber stamping its own work.

Last year LTEA either supported or directly managed T&E activities in coordination with Forcomd, JOC, Navy, Air Force, CASG, DST Group and DSD.

This year it is also gearing up to be a busy year as LTEA puts its focus on testing capability systems in their operating environments and building the industrial network.

Army’s T&E is not about whether the equipment technically works – that is what CASG does before handing over to Army.

Through LTEA, Army’s T&E focuses on pragmatic issues Army needs to know when deploying equipment, choosing it and bringing it into service.

LTEA focuses on questions such as:

- While new equipment might meet the specification, does it actually meet Army’s real-world, contemporary operational needs?
- Does the entire system work with other Army systems, from soldier combat systems to fitting on trucks and compatible interoperability?
- Do we have the implementation right equipment: – training, doctrine, logistics and, repair parts availability – with all enablers – both materiel and organisational?
- Do we have the right people, both in combat systems and operations, to utilise it now and in the future?
- Are we able to take the lessons from the operational test and evaluation (T&E) standards, to ensure their test and evaluation results are absolutely reliable, impartial and repeatable.

Land Test and Evaluation Agency (LTEA) is bound by international test and evaluation (T&E) standards, to ensure their test and evaluation results are absolutely reliable, impartial and repeatable.

Soldiers from 8/9RAR and 1 Regt, AAR, held live-fire activities at the Wide Bay Barracks and the Townsville Field Training Area where soldiers and artisans from 3 Bde and RAAF airfield defence units used three Hawkei pilot build vehicles.

LTEA in 2016 and the subsequent raising of the Land Test and Evaluation Agency (LTEA) in 2016 and the subsequent raising of the Army took direct ownership of its T&E System.

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To the Test

A Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light during the pilot trials stage.

To the Test

A Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light during the pilot trials stage.

Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light

A Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light is loaded into a RAAF C-130 Hercules at Australia’s main base in the Middle East Region.

Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light

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Ensuring only the best

Defence Trial 943
Land 400 Phase 2 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle – Risk Mitigation Activity
October 2016 to August 2017
Defence Trial 943 provided test and evaluation of the combat reconnaissance vehicles offered by shortlisted tenderers to inform the Land 400 Phase 2 Tender Evaluation and identify risks to vehicle performance, lethality, survivability, integrability, interoperability and user performance. Testing locations included Puckapunyal Military Area, Robertson Barracks, Mount Bundey Training Area, Fleet Base East, PE&E Graytown, Monegeetta and Defence Establishment Fairbairn. A dedicated RAAC trials troop provided soldiers to crew the tendered vehicles during a four-month user evaluation centred on tactical field activities at Puckapunyal and Mount Bundey.

The user evaluation was a T&E activity within the risk mitigation activity.

Footbridge trial
Land Trial 05/16
Land 155 Phase 1 Enhanced Gap-Crossing Capability – Phase 1
Footbridge Trial
October to November 2017
Land Trial 05/16 was held at Holsworthy Close Training Area. School of Military Engineering Participants from 1CER and 7RAR tested the Sectional Personnel Bridge, now referred to as Bridge Erection Set, Suspension Bridge Footbridge System.

Subject-matter experts and observers came from the School of Infantry and the School of Military Engineering to watch RAInf and RAE teams build the bridge rapidly while wearing combat equipment.

Heavy rain was simulated to evaluate issues of foot traction, visibility and manual handling and the teams crossed the bridge with different loads, over different build types, by day and night to evaluate variables such as sound signature, stability, spacing and crossing speeds to inform employment decisions in the field.

Right: A 1 Bde member cross water on a footbridge during footbridge Operational Test and Evaluation.

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Testing and evaluation

Two Rheinmetall Boxer CRVs (left) and two BAE Systems Australia Army Scout during a firepower demonstration at Puckapunyal Range, Victoria. Photo: Sgt Max Bree

Defence Trial 943 Land 400 Phase 2 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle – Risk Mitigation Activity
October 2016 to August 2017
Defence Trial 943 provided test and evaluation of the combat reconnaissance vehicles offered by shortlisted tenderers to inform the Land 400 Phase 2 Tender Evaluation and identify risks to vehicle performance, lethality, survivability, integrability, interoperability and user performance. Testing locations included Puckapunyal Military Area, Robertson Barracks, Mount Bundey Training Area, Fleet Base East, PE&E Graytown, Monegeetta and Defence Establishment Fairbairn. A dedicated RAAC trials troop provided soldiers to crew the tendered vehicles during a four-month user evaluation centred on tactical field activities at Puckapunyal and Mount Bundey. The user evaluation was a T&E activity within the risk mitigation activity.

Footbridge trial
Land Trial 05/16
Land 155 Phase 1 Enhanced Gap-Crossing Capability – Phase 1
Footbridge Trial
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Recruiting the next generation

ALTHOUGH challenging, Capt Stephanie Steel, of the Specialist Recruitment Team – Women (SRT-W) at DFR Parramatta, said it was rewarding to watch potential recruits become soldiers.

Capt Steel believes the differences between the SRT-W team’s personal circumstances and career profiles are what makes it successful, allowing members to lean on one another for advice and provide first-hand experience to the candidates.

“I think it’s really important for the women who come in to see that. If they need a role model, we can provide it,” she said.

“Army has really taken a front-foot approach to recruiting, so it’s now a more attractive posting. It gets the word out that females are part of it all, and we can do anything we want to.”

The differences in the team also allow for differences in the way the recruiters approach potential recruits.

“We all have different ways of carrying out our mentoring role – I like to speak to them about the process and what their options are,” Capt Steel said.

“Being able to get out there and speak to our prospective recruits – that’s definitely a highlight for me.”

“It gives them a broader understanding of Defence, the service they are going into, as well as a day-to-day account of a serving person.”

A big part of Capt Steel’s job is dispelling any misconceptions potential recruits may have about a career in the Army.

“I think the SRT-W is about showing them females are thriving in all Army trades, and to get rid of their misconceptions about having to be a ‘GI Jane’,” she said.

“Seeing them go through a whirlwind of job opportunities, then go through our process is definitely a great feeling for me. “It’s a challenging job that’s different from anything else so far in my career, but it’s been a real eye-opener!”

To celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8, we feature some of the women advancing Defence.

Enjoying the challenge

Lt Wesley Walsh

PART of a growing number of women enlisting as riflemen, 1RAR’s Pte Jayne Sleigh has always pursued high standards and a challenge.

After growing up in Bunbury, WA, Pte Sleigh’s passion for music led her to Austria, and eventually to university.

Unfortunately, university didn’t offer the challenge she was looking for, so she completed a chef’s apprenticeship.

Although the hospitality industry can be fast-paced and demanding, Pte Sleigh still wasn’t satisfied, until she enlisted as a riflemen.

One of Pte Sleigh’s career highlights was working with the United States military and New Zealand Defence Force during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2017.

“Working with other countries and getting to know their culture was awesome,” she said.

While she enjoys cooking and spending time outdoors, more recently she has taken up martial arts.

“I have just started doing Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, which is actually really awesome,” she said.

While her short-term goals include deploying on exercise in Malaysia with the rest of her team and completing the heavy weapons course later in the year, Pte Sleigh said her long-term goal was to improve her leadership and become an officer.

“I am part way through the application process now,” she said.

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March 8, 2018


International Women’s Day

Equality on and off the pitch

Maj Kris Gardiner

THERE is no limit to the possibilities on offer to women in the Army, according to Cpl Tarah Bradley of 1 Avn Regt.

“There are no restrictions in what can be achieved,” she said.

“If you desire to follow a certain career path, you now have confidence to know that you will supported all the way, no matter how unusual,” she said.

Cpl Bradley, who joined Army in 2012, has always been impressed that being a soldier instantly makes you part of a team.

“Being a soldier has always meant you are something beyond gender,” she said.

“For an equal opportunity employer like Army it is perfect, as the mindset already existed that supported the idea of everyone being the same.”

One of the biggest surprises for Cpl Bradley during her career has been witnessing the progress of gender equality in the armed forces of the many coalition partners.

“With Army Aviation you get the opportunity to work with soldiers from many nations and I’m constantly amazed at seeing the same ‘everyone can do it’ attitude in other national forces,” she said.

Cpl Bradley said she couldn’t think of an activity better than sport that demonstrated recent progress.

“Recently I Bde established a women’s rugby league team,” she said.

“The work involved in establishing the team was the work of a man – Cpl Luke Ford – who wanted to get the women’s team up and running, despite the fact he couldn’t play in it himself.

“To me that sums up where we are as an organisation and the level of respect we have for each other because a mate is going to miss out – that’s pretty good.”

March 8, 2018

International Women’s Day


17

Inspiring our future

Lt Pat Cochrane

COMBINING a hobby with her day job is a dream come true for 3CSSB’s Cfn Cathy Dickson.

The third-generation of her family to serve, said she couldn’t see herself working anywhere else.

“I’ve always wanted to join the Army. It’s a secure job, you get paid to stay fit, free medical and dental and you get to have experiences you wouldn’t get outside of Defence,” she said.

“I love four-wheel-driving and camping in my spare time. It was only natural I was drawn to the recovery mechanic role,” she said.

“Townsville is a lot hotter than home that’s for sure, but my partner and I love our new posting up here with our dogs.”

The NSW country girl joined RAASigs as a combat systems operator when she enlisted in 2012, before trade transferring to RAEME as a recovery mechanic in 2016.

“I love four-wheel-driving and camping in my spare time. It was only natural I was drawn to the recovery mechanic role,” she said.

“I get to work outdoors with big trucks, go four-wheel-driving and put my skills to the test while recovering vehicles.”

Cfn Dickson said the banter between RAEME’s different trades and 3CSSB soldiers made for a great work environment.

“Everyone has been very friendly and welcoming within the unit and I love being able to show I can do the job just as good as any of the blokes,” she said.

Exploring parts of Australia that she wouldn’t normally see has been one of her most memorable experiences.

“When I was posted to Brisbane, we went on a 10-day trip travelling through country Queensland and across the Simpson Desert, then back to Brisbane,” she said.

“I highly recommend Defence as an employer for any young Australian and encourage anyone who is interested to not be scared, just get in and give it a go.”

Third-generation serving member’s job a dream-come-true
Engineering officer says ‘just go for it’

BLAZING a trail through the engineering scene, aviation engineering officer Lt Louise Farrell is putting the call out for other women to take the challenge.

“I’m definitely in the minority. There’s only one other female engineering officer in my unit, and we only have a very small handful of female technicians,” she said.

Now an ARH Tiger specialist, Lt Farrell studied a Bachelor of Mechatronics Engineering at Queensland University of Technology before joining the Army in 2013.

“Growing up, I always had an interest in planes. I didn’t choose to study aerospace engineering, but I knew mechatronics would be able to get me into aviation,” she said.

“So when I joined the Army and was given the options of joining aviation maintenance or ground maintenance, aviation was definitely my first choice.”

Lt Farrell said she noticed from the outset that she was one of only a small number of women in her industry.

“When I started engineering, I knew there would be few females in the field, so it’s something I noticed early on, and has been consistent throughout my early career,” she said.

In her role, Lt Farrell is training to become a two-star commander of aviation technicians, as well as training to become a delegate to make technical decisions on the ARH.

“It’s a bit of a balance between a technical role and a command role,” she said.

“I have to be constantly learning – and not just from books, but from my technicians, my craftsmen, my corporals – all the knowledge they have on the aircraft.”

Owing to the collaborative nature of her work, Lt Farrell said diversity in the workplace was important.

“I think it’s important more females join. We provide a different background and a different perspective to problem-solving, which is essentially what our job is,” she said.

“I think you need a wide background of people – and not just of gender – involved in making these decisions. The more diverse the workplace, the more solutions to a problem you will get.”

Having received an Army-funded Women in Aviation/Aerospace Australia (WA/AA) membership for 2018, Lt Farrell said WA/AA events gave her an insight into the scope of the industry.

“At an event I went to last year, we had a talk from one of the aeromedical nurses from Life Flight,” she said.

“It was refreshing to hear the different perspectives of people who aren’t in the military, and just to know how much of an impact we can have within the aviation industry.”

Lt Farrell’s advice for others hoping to follow her career path is to put nerves and doubt aside and to “just go for it.”

“I wouldn’t change anything – I think it’s one of the best jobs in the world, and I couldn’t say enough to encourage more people to give it a try,” she said.

“If you don’t get it, you don’t get it, but if you don’t apply in the first place you’ll never get the chance to reach the potential you might have.”

Tigers

Army is supporting initiatives to increase higher female representation in aviation, Cpl Julia Whitwell reports.

INAN effort to increase the representation of females in the industry, Army has funded three memberships to Women in Aviation/Aerospace Australia (WA/AA).

Design engineer Capt Amy Power, of the Taipan and Tiger Management Unit, coordinated the selection of candidates, and said WA/AA was focused on the participation of women in the aviation sector.

“It’s a good opportunity for our women to network in the community. Sometimes you can feel a bit insular as the only woman working somewhere,” Capt Power said.

She said while WA/AA events could be attended by anyone in the industry, supporting female memberships was an important initiative by Army.

“It shows the community that we’re serious about diversity within the industry, and we’re serious about the involvement of women,” Capt Power said.

Army became an initiative sponsor of WA/AA in 2016, when females represented less than four per cent of all pilots across the Army, and has since been involved in major events held by the organisation, including three major summits across Australia.

Capt Power said the feedback she received from Army attendees after the events demonstrated the need for initiatives like these.

“They said it worked well – not just to connect to other women they hadn’t met within Army, but to talk to other people in the industry about what they did, what different opportunities there were, and how all the industry bodies do things differently, all while working towards gender diversity,” she said.

The recipients of Army-sponsored WA/AA memberships for 2018 are Lt Louise Farrell from 1 Avn Regt, Capt Mel Polkinghorne from 16 Avn Bde, and Maj Virginia McDougall from DOCM-A.
of the sky

Performance follows passion

GROWING up on a farm, her parents instilled in her the courage to follow her dream career, and now career adviser RAEME-B Maj Virginia McDougall is inspiring other women to do the same.

“My dad took me to the V8 races every year, and was thrilled at the idea of me becoming an engineer, and maybe even working on race cars,” she said.

“He supported any interest I and my siblings had, with no gender bias, so we could do whatever we were interested in, which I just took for granted.

“It was only when I was working in recruitment, and now in career management, I could see that other people didn’t have that support to just go out and do any career they wanted.”

After graduating from ADFA with a Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering, Maj McDougall’s career has included a deployment to Afghanistan, recruiting, command of the Chinook Technical Support Troop, a project liaison role to the US Army for the acquisition of the Chinooks, and a project management role for that same acquisition project – all proving her parents right: she could do anything.

Maj McDougall said the opportunities came with their challenges, but none she felt she couldn’t overcome.

“Occasionally there might be a senior supervisor who was not too sure about a young female coming into a technical role,” she said.

“As a small female, walking into meetings you feel like you have to prove your technical competence, that you understand your capability and can talk to the engineering aspects of the aircraft.

“But overall, I’ve found the culture within Army really quite accepting.”

The key to overcoming her challenges, Maj McDougall said, was confidence in her abilities, and support from her colleagues.

“It was a combination of demonstrating strength in leadership and self confidence, as well as actually proving my technical competence,” she said. “An engineering officer isn’t the expert on the airframe – that was my ASM’s job with 20 years of technical experience. Where I was able to provide value was to bring a different thought process to the situation, focusing on an analytical approach.

“It was about acknowledging their trade and knowledge, showing them respect, and asking their help if I didn’t understand something.”

Now, as a RAEME career adviser, Maj McDougall encourages other young women to be open-minded and courageous in their careers, too.

“We are working towards increasing our numbers in RAEME for females, and building their confidence,” she said.

“For officers demonstrating a lack of confidence in their career path my advice is to seek jobs that you’re passionate about, and performance will follow.

“There are amazing opportunities that are there for the taking if you want them.”

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Strange new world

Subnautica
Publisher: Unknown Worlds Entertainment
Platform: PC (reviewed)
Release Date: 23 Jan 2018
Price: $24.99 USD (Steam)
Reviewer: Cpl Sebastian Beurich
Rating: 4/5

IF YOU’RE afraid of what lives in the deep depths of the ocean, you probably shouldn’t play Subnautica.

The survival adventure game, which recently left Steam’s Early Access program, drops you on Planet 4546B, an alien planet primarily covered by water, and left to find a way home.

The graphics of Subnautica certainly aren’t photo-realistic, but they’re good enough to support the real area the game shines in – the ambience, particularly if you’re wearing a decent pair of headphones.

With only the lights of your submarine illuminating the darkness ahead, you never quite know if the primal, alien scream you just heard is from a cat-sized creature next to you, or a C17-sized creature swimming somewhere in the haze.

The plot of the game is well developed, leading players through a variety of locations, and to greater depths, to find a way to escape the planet.

Along the way, the player can scavenge blueprints for equipment from the wreckage of their crashed ship, each of which assists in being able to survive the depths of the planet’s ocean.

You will also find diary entries, which tell the story of the Alterra Corporation, your employer, and some of the other people who survived crashing onto the planet, as well as discovering information about the planet’s inhabitants – both previous and current.

Through its three-year Early Access development, the game went through a number of changes. While the developers managed to iron out most of the bugs, there are still a number of them to be found throughout the game. In particular, I found wall glitches to be a massive headache during the game. Not only do they break the immersion, but they’re incredibly frustrating – especially because the game doesn’t have an autosave system.

In one instance, I lost about an hour and a half of significant developments, both story and equipment related, because of a wall glitch. At that point, I turned the game off and walked away.

Overall, if you’re a fan of survival adventure games – with a bit of abstract horror added in – you’ll like Subnautica.

It offers a refreshing take on a genre which has grown stale over the past few years, taking the player underwater to a rich and thriving eco-sphere – most of which is trying to eat you.
Soldiers take on the Big Husky

WHILE the “Big Husky” long-course triathlon event is usually the drawcard of the Huskisson Triathlon Festival, it was the short-course sprint events which had the fiercest competition this year.

The annual festival, held over the February 17-18 weekend in and around Jervis Bay, saw six Army triathletes compete in conditions ranging from calm to strong, blustery winds.

The short-course sprint event became a big ticket race after it was added to the National Qualification Series, which allowed competitors to gain points for the International Triathlon Union Age Group World Championships to be held in Australia this year.

HQJOC’s Lt-Col Iain Addinell placed just off the podium in the 45-49 age group of the sprint, coming in fourth, out of 87, with a time of 1:05:08, just 30 seconds off third place.

“I did a 19:44 for the 5km run off the bike, which is where I need to concentrate,” he said.

“I was beaten by an ex-world champion and another national level runner, who at 46 ran 17:22 after a hard bike leg,” he said.

RMC-D PTI Cpl Sophie Woolford, who placed ninth in the 25-29 division of the sprint said she put in a solid swim and run, but could have worked more on the bike leg.

“The biggest problem was the gusts of wind coming through gaps in the trees and buildings, which pushed us across the road,” she said.

- Cpl Sophie Woolford, triathlon participant

Other notable performances during the weekend’s events were ADF’s Sgt Luke Sypott, who placed fifth in the 25-29 division with a time of 1:03:23 and 176 AD Sqn’s Lt Leonard Ryan who completed the long-course in 6 hours and 10 minutes.

DOCM-A’s Lt-Col Del Madge and DFR’s Cpl Laura Power almost had a strong showing in their age groups during the sprint events.

ADP participants after competing in the Huskisson Triathlon.
Unconquerable heroes

LS Jayson Tufrey

INVICTUS Games 2018 training squad members at a practice session during the archery camp at the Tuggeranong Archery Club, Canberra (above) and VCDF VAmd Ray Griggs (right).

ADFIHA’s cool performance

ARMY players from the ADF Ice Hockey Association (ADFIHA) will compete in Canada this month after a great effort during the Adelaide Challenge Cup from January 30 to February 3.

ADFIHA general manager Army Capt Cameron Smith said ADFIHA’s representa-
tive team Strike would take part in the tour with the Canadian Defence Force (CDF) which was scheduled to run from March 5-19.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportu-
nity where the CDF has officially invited the ADF to participate in the Adelaide Challenge Cup from February 15-18. The ADF is represented by the ADF Unity (the women’s team) and the ADF Storm (the development team),” he said.

Capt Smith said Unity was the other big success story, being the first women’s ice hockey team to represent the ADF.

With more than 26 teams and 500 players competing, the ADF was represented by three teams: ADF Strike (the representative team), ADF Storm (the development team), and the ADF Unity (the women’s team).

The Strike competed in B division and finished the tournament with a 6-1 record, losing only to the team they later beat in the grand final. The team won the gold medal game 4-0 with stand-out performances from top goal-scorer SGT Jacob Clayton (No. 292 ADF), ADF Storm (the development team), and the ADF Unity (the women’s team).

The Strike competed in B division and finished the tournament with a 6-1 record, losing only to the team they later beat in the grand final.

Pte Riley said he could not describe the feeling of being part of the ADFIHA’s first win in a national competition. “It feels amazing to finally win after playing the past few years in the tournament and coming so close to winning but falling short,” he said. “I look forward to continuing the team’s success on our tour of Canada in March.”

ADFIHA general manager Army Capt Cameron Smith said the ADF had partici-
pated in the tournament since 2015, but this was the first time an ADF representative team had won a civilian competition of this significance.

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ADFIHA teams competed in the Adelaide Challenge Cup, which is the largest ice hockey tournament in the southern hemisphere.

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Lt-Col Iain Addinell cycles downhill during the triathlon.

PEDAL POWER

Army personnel vie for glory in the Huskisson Triathlon

March 8, 2018

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