FUTURE READY

SHAPE, DETER, RESPOND

Chief of Army discusses strategic update and force structure

Centre

CDF MESSAGE
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Innovative areas

A new learning program being trialled by Army’s Future Land Warfare Branch is based on a pilot MakerSpace held last year.

MAKERSPACE “learning areas” equipped with 3D printers, laser cutters and computers with design software will start showing up at various brigades later this year under a new learning program being trialled by Army’s Future Land Warfare Branch.

The new program is based on a pilot MakerSpace held last year, when junior leaders from 1 Bde were challenged over two days to program a robot to cross a bridge they designed and built.

Six teams were provided with an overview of robotics, programming and basic engineering design and used computer-assisted design, 3D printers and laser cutters to complete the task. Each team came up with a different solution.

Director MakerSpace Lyndal Thompson, of the Australian Army Research Centre, was impressed by the creativity and diversity of the young leaders’ solutions.

“The new MakerSpaces will allow junior leaders to learn new problem-solving skills,” Dr Thompson said.

“We hope to give people the tools and skills to think creatively, instilling the confidence to problem solve and push design to the tactical edge.

“The program augments traditional training methods and complements Army’s ‘Training Transformation’ initiative.”

Portable “MakerSpace” containers will be distributed across Army at 1 Bde and 7 Bde.

A fixed MakerSpace “learning area” will open at Holsworthy later this year.

More information on MakerSpace can be found via the Australian Army Research Centre at https://researchcentre.army.gov.au/library/land-power-forum

Creative competition

THE Force Exploration Hub is calling on the design skills of creative Defence personnel.

With a $500 prize, the Hub is running a competition challenging entrants to create a hero image to represent futuristic ADF platforms, personnel and operating environments.

The image will be a big, eye-catching design used in media products to communicate the Hub’s mission, giving viewers a sense of what they do.

Following the theme of “shaping the future force”, designs should reflect the Hub’s mission to provide a pathway to future force options.

Ideas should reflect a future of accelerated change, increasing uncertainty and unprecedented disruptive technologies.

The Hub works with Defence Science and Technology, groups and services to generate, develop and test ideas for future force design.

It aims to be the catalyst for engaging with a range of ideas from industry, government and research institutions to shape the future force. The competition is open until August 31.

For more information about the competition, go to the DPN page http://mset.defence.gov.au/void/FDFA/ Pages/home.aspx The competition link can be found under Important Documents on the DPN at https://objcdc6/id:BN1877679/document/ versions/published

HQJOC set to double its capacity

Sgt Sebastian Beurich

HQJOC will go green in the coming years, as the base doubles capacity to ensure future operations are adequately supported.

Defence Minister Linda Reynolds and Defence Industry Minister Melissa Price announced the $31 million upgrades on July 3, to be delivered in two stages.

The first, commencing in August, includes a 1.8MW solar farm, car park and security upgrades and accreditation works.

Senator Reynolds said the expansions would come with an increase in personnel at HQJOC that are needed to plan and conduct operations.

“We’ve seen the vital role HQJOC played in the government’s response to the Black Summer bushfires and COVID-19,” she said.

“When the expansion is complete, the complex will house up to 1400 personnel, doubling its capacity from what it was originally built in 2008.

“The upgrade will make the ADF more capable for the wide range of potential scenarios and threats Australia will face in the future.”
Options being explored for pay and conditions

Message from the Chief of the Defence Force Gen Angus Campbell.

TO OUR ADF team,

In October 2019, I wrote to you expressing my view that over time, allowances and conditions in the ADF have not kept pace with changes in Australian society and have become overly complex. I sought your views, experiences and innovative ideas on what modern ADF pay and conditions arrangements would look like to better support you and your families throughout your service career and future transition to civilian life.

Some important improvements to your conditions have already been agreed and implemented since the commencement of this activity in 2019:

- On July 1, 2020, a new housing solution was introduced, providing ADF members and their families in Sydney and Canberra with more choice and flexibility by offering townhouse-style accommodation as an alternative to the traditional service residence.
- The existing house removal benefit to anywhere in Australia post-transition to civilian life has been increased from 12 to 24 months. This provides transitioning members more time to decide where in Australia they wish to settle in civilian life.
- All members posted to a seagoing vessel can now relocate their families anywhere in Australia for family or community support. A return removal is also provided once the member is returned to a “shore posting”.
- Long Service Leave policy has also been changed to reduce the minimum period of leave allowed to seven days, down from 15 days. This provides greater flexibility in how members manage their leave.
- ADF carer’s leave has been extended to provide members access to leave to care for close relatives who may or may not live with them, in addition to dependants.
- ADF paid parental leave has been increased from 14 calendar days to 28 calendar days. Since I last wrote to you, the ADF has been involved in an unprecedented way in contributing to the Australian Government’s response to domestic crises. Defence’s support to Australian communities following the devastating 2019-20 bushfire season through Operation Bushfire Assist, and now in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through Operation COVID-19 Assist, has demonstrated again just how adaptable, professional and capable our members are.

As I said in my letter of April 23, I am also grateful to your partners and families for supporting you during these difficult times.

These recent experiences have served to highlight just how important it is that we have clear and relevant ADF pay and conditions policies that are fit for purpose and meet your contemporary needs in all the different situations you are expected to serve.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback and suggestions in response to my October 2019 letter. Your participation has been considerable, productive and rich in ideas and sharing of personal experiences, for which I am grateful. More than 980 people provided their feedback and ideas, and almost 500 members and partners attended tri-service workshops held around Australia in late 2019 and early 2020.

It is clear from your feedback that there is room for improvement with the current employment offer. Many of you expressed frustration with outdated and inflexible policy relating to housing and other benefits.

Your feedback has been heard and your input is now informing work under way to address the themes raised in my October 2019 letter and reflected in your feedback. The project team has been working closely with the personnel areas within the services and we will continue to engage with a cross-section of you who self-nominated to assist in the policy design phase.

I encourage you to remain engaged and will require your input and engagement in the near future.

If you have further feedback or ideas, please send them through to adf.employmentoffer@defence.gov.au.

You will be able to keep track of our progress by visiting the ADF Employment Offer intranet page. The second phase will see the replacement of the current complex ADF allowances framework with a more streamlined model. This large body of work is in its early stages and will require your input and engagement in the near future.

I am taking a phased approach to this body of work. The first phase is examining options to:

- Provide more flexible housing solutions to better meet your and your families’ needs and offer greater choice.
- Contemporaryise the categorisation system that determines member benefits and allowances.
- Modernise and simplify the complex ADF allowances framework, commenced with a proposal to roll several universal ADF allowances into your base salary.

Implementation of these reforms will commence later this year and continue into 2021.

The second phase will see the replacement of the current complex ADF allowances framework with a more streamlined model. This large body of work is in its early stages and will require your input and engagement in the near future.

As I said in my letter of April 23, I am also grateful to your partners and families for supporting you during these difficult times.

I am taking a phased approach to this body of work and actively participating when the opportunity presents itself. This is your chance to help design a modern employment package that attracts and retains the workforce required for our current and future Defence capability and also meets your contemporary needs.
Capt Myles Morgan

IT WAS a different welcome for Aunty Lorraine Hatton at Army’s Land Warfare Centre (LWC) in Canungra, Queensland.

Having completed training there years earlier to attain the rank of WO2, she returned as the new Army Indigenous Elder.

“It started off being picked up by two warrant officers in a staff car – I felt so spoilt,” Aunty Lorraine said.

The last time she was at LWC was to complete the Warrant Officer Course in 2001.

“It was interesting to see how core issues at training may not have changed significantly, but the delivery methods truly have,” Aunty Lorraine said.

“When the day was over, my left arm was not as sore as it was last time I was there, when I was carrying manuals and the like in my echelon bag or – as we referred to it back then – my strengthening bag.”

Aunty Lorraine was appointed Army’s second Indigenous Elder by CA earlier this year.

She retired from the Army’s Royal Australian Signals Corps in 2007 after 20 years of service.

Her return to LWC gave her a chance to meet the soldiers training the next generation of warrant officers and non-commissioned officers.

“This was my first engagement as Army’s Indigenous Elder and it was important to me to break bread with the soldiers there,” Aunty Lorraine said.

“A good communicator is a good listener, so I truly had my binungs [ears] open.

“One of the main points raised was how the units could engage with community. I hope I assisted there and have opened networks for them.”

Aunty Lorraine was joined by Army’s second Indigenous Elder by CA earlier this year.

She is looking forward to visiting Army’s establishments around the nation and eventually returning to Canungra.

Information on the Defence Indigenous Pathways Program can be found at: defence.gov.au/APSCareers/Indigenous/ADF.asp

IN BRIEF

Help for victims

THE Help is Here campaign aims to raise the profile of support services available to anyone affected by domestic and family violence. This recent government initiative comes when individuals are expected to practise social isolation by staying home and experiencing financial stress. Victims of domestic violence and people fearing abuse can call 1800RESPECT.org.au or call the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 068 for free, confidential advice and support 24/7.

DVA seeks feedback

DVA is seeking feedback from current and ex-serving personnel as part of reforms to how they deliver services. Their National Consultation Framework is reviewed every three years, this time focusing on effectiveness of the current model and its ability to appropriately represent the community now and into the future. The survey closes on July 26 and can be found at dva.gov.au/about-us/overview/consultations-and-grants/how-we-consult-exp-service-community-2019-national

Conflicts of interest

WORKPLACE conflicts of interest are under the spotlight in the latest edition of Integrity Matters, a publication from the Audit and Fraud Control Division to help ADF members detect, avoid and report fraud. Defence personnel can identify fraud risks and learn how to manage potential or perceived conflicts between private interests and official duties. Integrity Matters’ format has undergone a transformation and readers can now view an interactive PDF at: http://dml.net/AssociateSecretary/ACFO/CIBDFC/Awareness/IntegrityMatters/pages/Home.aspx

On familiar ground

Defence will celebrate NAIDOC Week officially in November 8-15. Due to COVID-19, the National NAIDOC Committee postponed NAIDOC Week 2020 celebrations until November 8-15. The 2020 theme, Always Was, Always Will Be, recognises that Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this continent for more than 65,000 years. Defence will celebrate NAIDOC Week officially in November to align with the committee’s decision.

NAIDOC Week is held annually in the first week of July to recognise and celebrate the histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

For information on community events please visit the Indigenous Affairs events page on the LPN.

Fun run for diversity

MORE than 150 ADF and coalition personnel participated in a “Deadly Fun Run” at Australia’s main base in the Middle East.

Event organiser WO1 Kelly Hammant said the event was held to recognise the importance of culture and diversity to the ADF.

“All deployed personnel located on base were invited to participate in either a 10km run or 5km walk,” WO1 Hammant said.

“The run was an opportunity to come together and acknowledge we are all one, and to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Indigenous Australians.

“Beautifully painted Indigenous boomerangs were also handed to the participants.”

A tree-planting ceremony was held to mark the July event.

“It brought all cultural backgrounds together to share Australian Indigenous cultures,” WO1 Hammant said.

Cpl Vikrant Deokar ran 10km and said it was inspiring.

“It was a unique event, noting the requirements to adhere to social distancing, but that didn’t deter participation to recognise and celebrate the histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,” Cpl Deokar said.

“Recognising our Indigenous cultures is extremely important and being able to celebrate it overseas while on deployment through cultural activities like this is pretty special.

“I would encourage everyone to learn the history of the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to allow the next generation to develop respect and diversity, and an understanding of cultural difference.”

For information on community events please visit the Indigenous Affairs events page on the LPN.
ORDER OF THE DAY
July 16, 2020

Trooper Jonathan Church Award

Lt-Gen Rick Burr
Chief of Army

THE Trooper Church story describes a soldier who personifies Good Soldiering. Trooper Church’s actions in Rwanda in 1995 remain a compelling example of exemplary character and service to which all soldiers and junior leaders should aspire.

The Jonathan Church Good Soldiering Award recognises five selected Good Soldiering recipients every year, from all areas across Army, who demonstrate strength of character by exemplifying Army values, Army learning behaviours and excellence in soldiering by fulfilling the obligations of our contract with Australia. The senior awardee each year becomes Army’s Good Soldiering Ambassador.

In 2020, the Jonathan Church Ambassador is Cpl Joshua Conaty – 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. The 2020 Jonathan Church awardees are Sgt Christopher Finch – 5th Aviation Regiment; Cpl Justin Rowan – School of Armour; Cpl Todd Snowden – School of Military Engineering; and Pte Darryn Breugem – 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

I congratulate Cpl Conaty and all Good Soldiering awardees and thank them for their exemplary service to Army and the nation.

Maj Bradley Richardson

THE common saying is “logistics just happens”, but that is not the reality.

It takes a team of skilled individuals to ensure equipment and cargo gets to the right place, at the right time.

WO2 Nick Ewart, from the JLC’s Directorate of Operations, is deployed to the Middle East to provide technical logistics support.

“I’m supporting the in-theatre logistics elements by providing technical supply chain support. WO2 Ewart will be deployed for three to five months, depending on progress.

“Currently our most complex moves involve the backload of Defence vehicles that are no longer being used in theatre,” he said.

“I also support the good work of the logistics elements. It’s good to see the quality of work that the junior soldiers are generating and the positive effect they are having on the strategic supply chain. WO2 Ewart will be deployed for three to five months, depending on progress.

According to HQ JTF633 senior logistics officer Cmnd Chris Jones, RAN, WO2 Ewart is a valuable force multiplier during a busy logistics period.

“WO2 Ewart provides technical logistics support and by deploying him forward it allows JLC to have an immediate understanding of technical aspects of the supply chain, which is invaluable,” Cmnd Jones said.

“The presence also enables the JTF633 logistics elements to maintain focus on supporting current operations in theatres such as Afghanistan, which are still ongoing.”
Knightsed in Cambodia

AFTER more than 25 years of volunteer work to improve mental health in Cambodia, Capt Milê Glamcevski received a knighthood.

He was bestowed the Royal Order of Sahametrei (Grand Cross), a chivalric order, for rendering distinguished services to the Cambodian King and people.

Capt Glamcevski said it will probably be the highest award he would ever receive.

“It may be an individual award but it wouldn’t have happened without a group effort,” Capt Glamcevski said.

As a fresh university graduate 30 years ago, Capt Glamcevski took up a job lecturing at Cambodia University.

In 1996, the university still had no computers, so Latrobe and Monash University donated a couple and Capt Glamcevski collected them.

“When I got to Melbourne airport to depart, I was informed my luggage was over the limit,” he said.

“I threw out all my personal gear and arrived in Cambodia with just the clothes on my back and the computers.”

Capt Glamcevski now divides his time between Cambodia and Australia where he works as Operations Officer for 2FSB’s 6 Log Spt Coy and as the Victoria and Western Australian general manager for onPsych.

Since becoming a reservist 10 years ago, Capt Glamcevski said Army also supported his other commitments.

“I have been in operations officer positions where the units restructured my role to allow me to be effective to them and my civilian duties,” he said.

“One unit gave me an operations sergeant to complete the day-to-day tasks, as I needed to be overseas two weeks each month.

“I would fly in Tuesday morning, work at the unit till Sunday, completing reserve weekend tasks, and then depart overseas again.”

Capt Glamcevski has post-graduate qualifications in mental health, medicine and education, and has provided mental-health support to schools in Australia, Malaysia, Turkey, Cambodia, Nauru and East Timor.

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We’ll get through this together.
Tanks for the refresh

Pte Jacob Joseph

AS THE last Abrams M1A1 rolled out of JLUV Bandiana, Tank Technical Refresh Modification Project team leader Josh Thomson thought it was time for a beer to celebrate a project spanning six years and 142,747 working hours.

Tanks got stripped, Mr Thomson said.

"Mostly it was to be honest, the gunner's sight thermal window. Closely followed by the rear, where the rear gunner's safety was an issue, and the commander's seat, which was pretty much the same," Maj-Gen Stuart said.

The refresh was an opportunity to carry out deep-level maintenance, a 10/20 service and a new coat of paint to bring each tank back to close to zero-maintenance hours by the time vehicles were returned to units.

Broadpectrum project officer Harry Lawrence said a 10 service referred to the service schedule in the operator's manual and 20 met the US requirements of deep-level maintenance.

"The US Army normally completes a refresh at the five-year point and a full rebuild every eight to 10 years," Mr Lawrence said.

The project started in October 2014 and finished in May this year. Work has already started on the DLMA, a condition-based maintenance project.

"KPMG performed a maintenance task analysis on behalf of Army, looking at failure points on the tank," Mr Lawrence said.

"We’re refurbishing the suspension, comp idlers and reseting the torsion bars, changing the front and rear gun seals and repair- ing the ammo racks because they’re known failure points in the tank’s life-cycle," Mr Thomson said.

Mr Thomson said the team at Bandiana demonstrated JLUV was capable of deep-level tank maintenance on a level to rival Anniston Army Depot in the US.

"We’ve built up a depth of experience now. Our guys have stripped basically every tank apart and put them back together," Mr Thompson said.

"One of our electronics technicians can conduct advanced fault finding and diagnose nearly all of the electronic faults by analysing the wiring diagrams and tracing the systems through.

"It’s a facility that can expand and contract to allow us to have a defence-based sovereign capability.

"When the need arises, this place can react quickly and extra capacity be turned on to complete whatever work is required."

Pitching with an innovative twist

Cpl Julia Whitwell

REIMAGINED as a virtual event, Army Innovation Day was delivered via video link-up at ADFA.

A shortlist of 13 proposals from 10 Australian companies were pitched virtually on July 2, to a panel of Army decision makers including Head Land Capability Maj-Gen Simon Stuart.

Aligned to this year’s theme of “enhancing the land force support system”, proposals sought to simplify processes and improve situational awareness of logistics and included personnel, asset and bulk stores tracking systems.

"Presentations were impressive and well targeted," Maj-Gen Stuart said.

"It’s clear industry understood the capability needs Army articulated and they sought to link those with solutions they have been innovating.

"When there’s a chance to interact with equipment or software being pitched, you get a different experience, but this year we still achieved what we needed to in a fair, transparent and creative way.

"Army innovation days typically present an opportunity for face-to-face interactions with our industry partners, but challenges posed by COVID-19 required us to adapt and be responsive.

"To everyone’s credit, we persevered and achieved something great and unique."

Teams from Defence Innovation Hub, Defence Science and Technology Group and Land Capability Division assessed each proposal and the process culminated in an online pitch with the intent of entering into an innovation contract.

These contracts aim to deliver technology for user trial and evaluations within a year.

"Though not all field trials and evaluations lead to implementation, they provide Army with a clearer view of the technology’s future," Maj-Gen Stuart said.

"The project started in October 2014 and finished in May this year. Work has already started on the DLMA, a condition-based maintenance project.

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"When the need arises, this place can react quickly and extra capacity be turned on to complete whatever work is required."

Participants at Army Innovation Day watch a video presentation from CA Li-Gen Rick Burr at ADFA.

Photo: Cpl Julia Whitwell

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**Into the unknown**

**Capt Taylor Lynch**

LEUTENANTS and sergeants were given the perception of “no end in sight” and nothing but each other to rely on to get them through an ordeal that tested their resilience.

8/9RAR’s Exercise Ramsilience, at Gallipoli Barracks, put the junior officers and platoon sergeants through a four-day test of hardness and endurance.

Only told a time and place, the participants undertook physically demanding fitness sessions and mentally draining decision-making activities while navigating through varied terrain with little sleep.

Lt Simon O’Hara said the experience, held in late June, helped to build solidarity in his team.

“The experience greatly increased team cohesion across the unit,” Lt O’Hara said.

“Deploying on a field exercise is always a great way to reinforce purpose, develop rapport and get to know one another through shared experiences.”

Planning training programs with my platoon sergeant, the ability to conduct a tactical exercise without troops, all while under the pressure of reduced sleep, was challenging but good to get back into post-COVID-19.

The most challenging part of the exercise was the aspect of the unknown.

“Exercise Ramsilience was one of the rare opportunities within a battalion context where the focus for development lay at a platoon level and nowhere else,” Lt O’Hara said.

“The time and effort invested in the rifle company lieutenants and sergeants shows a genuine desire to improve command teams at the platoon level and it was really effective.”

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**Blown away by promise of soft landings**

**LS Kylie Jagiello**

FROM a distance, the recently constructed officer selection obstacle course at Enoggera may look like any other, but the soft-fall rubber flooring makes it unique.

Commonly used around playground equipment, the surface is non-slip, weatherproof and meets standards for critical fall height certification.

In a small ceremony to open the facility on July 10 a petrol-driven blower vacuum was symbolically handed over.

11ER RSM WO1 William Fry said the surface allowed for easy clean-up and removal of debris with the blower vacuum.

“There is no worry of rotting from wet sand due to the new replacement soft-fall, and the obstacle course now has a 20-year lifespan,” WO1 Fry said.

11ER carpenter LCpl Bryan John brought experience running his own business to project manage the site.

“I had worked as the foreman on previous Aboriginal community assistance program jobs for the Army but this was my first time project managing,” LCpl John said.

“I was ordering and planning everything, scheduling the day’s work and the people required, as well as running the site.”

It was a lot of work and many hurdles. Full credit to the people who got stuck in and completed the job.”

Director Career Management Support – Army Col Mitch Kennedy said this was the end of a three-year project.

“We conduct selection boards regionally for reserve officers,” Col Kennedy said.

“A new course was required and it was a great training opportunity for 11ERs reserve members – to be part of something that will benefit the future reserve workforce.”

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**Exercise Ramsilience**

**Exercise Ramsilience participant completes the military flotation serial at Gallipoli Barracks, while, above, Sgt Joshua Hetherington tackles the navigation serial and, right, Lt Simon O’Hara provides a back brief during the tactics and planning serial.**

**Photos: Tpr Jonathan Goedhart**

**Maj Anthony Smith and Lt Enhma Watson at the handover of the new obstacle course at Enoggera.**
Keeping the unit connected
Lt Ellen Cohen

SOLDIERS deployed with JTU Tiger are assisting NT Police and emergency services with a range of personnel and logistics support throughout the NT. Darwin-based 1CSR communications specialists Sigs Joshua Kindred and Adelaide Brown were called up to deploy as part of the team.

Sig Kindred said they provided communications support as part of Operation COVID-19 Assist. “It was a short-notice task,” Sig Kindred said. “It proves that you always have to be ready to go, as anything can happen.”

The Sigs mission was to provide and maintain a robust and layered communication network for the unit, near large population centres and remote police control points.

The availability of civilian telecommunications allowed JTU Tiger to use the mobile cloud operations network – a capability that enabled secure live personnel tracking and alternate voice and data services.

Sig Brown said it was a great opportunity. “It was good to practise our skills and see how different agencies and services operate, particularly as part of such a unique task,” Sig Brown said.

“I was interested in seeing this technology used and to see that everyone needs basic information and communication technology literacy to troubleshoot issues as they arise.”

The unit also employed satellite communications and high-frequency radio communications to keep each of the check points connected to one another and in touch with their headquarters in Darwin.

Sig Kindred said this created redundancy in case mobile communications infrastructure failed. As communication systems operators, Sigs Kindred and Brown had training and experience in the technology.

“Hopefully we’ll get to see all our training put to use in support of the community,” Sig Kindred said.

Making a change

Maj Sarah Hawke

FORMER Commander of JTF629, Maj-Gen Paul Kenny, described stepping in to support the national response to COVID-19 as a highlight of his career.

“What we have achieved could not have been done without the team that has contributed throughout this mission,” Maj-Gen Kenny said.

“More than 4000 people have flowed in and out of this task force, drawn from across the ADF total workforce model.”

Maj-Gen Kenny transferred command to Brig Malcolm Wells at JTF629 HQ, Randwick Barracks, during a low-key ceremony on July 3.

After three months steering Defence’s support to civilian agencies in response to the pandemic, Maj-Gen Kenny will take over command of the ADF’s COVID-19 Taskforce from Lt-Gen John Frewen.

During the change of command, Maj-Gen also paid tribute to the task groups that are executing the mission across the country. “We as staff are here to support the Joint Task Group Commanders in the states and territories to execute the mission,” he said.

“They are the ones at the frontline supporting their respective states and territories to deal with the impacts of COVID-19.”

Helping out their territory

Lt Grant McMahon

SOLDIERS from 1CSSB were scattered far and wide in support of the NT Government during Operation COVID-19 Assist.

The Darwin-based battalion provided support to NT Police at control points along Queensland, South Australian and Western Australian borders.

Section commander LCpl Jayden Osborne was deployed to the NT/SA border, 1750km down the Stuart Highway from Robertson Barracks.

“The main challenge was the short notice,” LCpl Osborne said. “We had about 24 hours to load the stores and be on the road.”

LCpl Osborne’s convoy consisted of two G-wagons, three 40M and one HX77 Rheinmetall MAN truck, with two medium-weight Haulmark trailers loaded with stores including water, rations, repair equipment, fuel, an ISO fridge container and a 16kVA generator.

CO 1CSSB Lcpl Kane Wright said the short-notice deployment of the battalion during the pandemic highlighted Army’s ability to respond rapidly to assist the Australian community.

“I was continually impressed with our people and their ability to demonstrate our rapid response readiness,” Lt-Col Wright said.

“1CSSB provided the first ‘boots on the ground’ in support of the NT, Federal Police and the wider community.”

Once the border control points were established, 1CSSB force elements rotated through each on a fortnightly basis, assisting police by providing logistic, administrative and communications support.

Driver specialist LCpl Lachlin Asheton-Cooper said the long hours spent in the company of NT and Federal Police provided a great opportunity to learn about other agencies.

“I loved the experience. I was able to gain an insight into how the police operate and their important role in our community,” LCpl Asheton-Cooper said.
IN RESPONSE to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ADF has deployed planners to Melbourne to support the Victorian Government.

Army reservist BC Maj James Eling from 2/10 Field Regt is one planner deployed to Melbourne’s State Control Centre.

“There’s a major operation happening in response to the increase in COVID-19 cases being reported in Melbourne,” Maj Eling said.

“We’re supporting the process from a logistics and risk perspective, putting together a plan so it can run as smoothly as possible.”

He has found the work challenging and rewarding.

“Working on the testing teams has been good because it is tight time frames, complex problems and is enjoyable working in a high-performing team,” Maj Eling said.

As the managing director of a civilian IT and marketing company, Maj Eling has found his training and deployments with the ADF valuable for a successful business.

“The basic leadership skills the ADF teaches are critical for running a small business and have enabled our company to function significantly better,” he said.

“The other key aspect is the planning process. Approaching problems in a structured way from a business viewpoint is helpful for a more efficient, better company.”

As an employer, Maj Eling was full of praise for the ADF.

“For employers, the ADF is probably Australia’s largest leadership organisation,” he said.

“We will take your people and train them up in leadership skills. These critical leadership skills that reservists learn are a big differentiator between good and great employees.”

More information on the reserves and employer support is at: defencereservessupport.gov.au

Two Army reserve specialist nurses are using their military skills at Royal Adelaide Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lts Michelle Farror and Toni Lapworth undertook the two-phase ADF Extended Practise Nursing (EPN) Course, which prepared them for their deployment on Operation Bushfire Assist.

The combination of training and operational experience is now being put to the test as intensive care clinical nurses on Operation COVID-19 Assist.

Lt Lapworth joined the Army Reserve in 2017 and is posted to 9CSSB as team leader of the treatment team within the health company.

She said the EPN training helped prepare her and Lt Farror for working in more austere environments.

“Phase one of the course set us up well for Bushfire Assist as it focused on primary health care,” Lt Lapworth said.

“Phase two focused on emergency department and intensive care, which we now use in our civilian workplace and has prepared us for future deployments with the Army.”

Central Adelaide Local Health Network chief executive officer Lesley Dwyer said the organisation was highly supportive of reservists.

“If members of staff choose to be part-time members of the ADF, we need to support them as it not only benefits individuals, but the skills they bring benefit our organisation as well,” Ms Dwyer said.

“Out reservists are highly motivated professionals who bring an additional level of enthusiasm and commitment to the job.”

During the COVID-19 response, the hospital developed a unique partnership with the ADF.

“They have provided an enhanced level of planning support to our organisation,” Ms Dwyer said.

“This relationship has been further enhanced by the knowledge that we have highly capable reservists within our workforce who have been using their military skills to help us directly in our fight against COVID-19.

“This is especially evident in the intensive care unit, where we have a significant number of doctors and nurses who serve in the ADF as specialist reserve officers.”

More information on the reservists and employer support is at: defencereservessupport.gov.au
A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF ARMY

CA Lt-Gen Rick Burr provides an update on the recently announced Defence Strategic Update and Force Structure Plan.

It is Army’s people who will design and deliver best-practice decision-making, training and doctrine to maximise the potential of the capabilities delivered through the Force Structure Plan.

Lt-Gen Rick Burr
Chief of Army

As Commander the Australian Defence Force, I want to thank you for everything you have done and will continue to do. Together, we will ensure the capability to support our military, national security and strategic interests.

Our people are the core of Army’s people, who adapt to new challenges, work with others and respond to dynamic environments. It is Army’s people who will design and deliver best-practice decision-making, training and doctrine to maximise the potential of the capabilities delivered through the Force Structure Plan.

The Defence Strategic Update outlines three objectives that guide Defence planning, force structure, force generation, international engagements and the strategic environment; deterrence, respond and engage.

We have streamlined workforce processes to ensure that Army has the people to meet the demands of being Ready Now, has been inspiring. We have learnt a lot about adaptive workforce and training opportunities through the Bushfire and COVID-19 Assist. We have a hard work in training and development. The foundation of this is knowledge and capacity, we must transform policy and structure must support us to do this.

We are prioritising their upskilling and leaning into the opportunities of the future. This is about learning, knowledge and capacity, we must transform policy and structure must support us to do this. The Defence Strategic Update and Force Structure Plan, and review them in light of the

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The Defence Strategic Update also directs an increased role for the ADF to support emergency and domestic environments.

Strong partnerships with national training systems and the Australian defence industry and knowledge quickly, wherever it is needed. It is our responsibility to maximise the potential of the capabilities delivered through the Force Structure Plan.

We encourage you to help others by sharing what you have learnt through the chain of command or on online forums such as the Cove or on online forums such as the Cove or on online forums such as the Cove or on online forums such as the Cove or online forums such as the Cove or on online forums such as the Cove or on online forums such as the Cove or on online forums such as the Cove or on online forums such as the Cove or on online forums such as the Cove or on online forums such as the Cove. The Cove provides an opportunity to share our learning, knowledge and capacity and increases resilience.

To enhance land capability, the government has committed $55 billion over 10 years for leading-edge national innovation. This provides an update on the recently announced Defence Strategic Update and Force Structure Plan. It is Army’s people who will design and deliver best-practice decision-making, training and doctrine to maximise the potential of the capabilities delivered through the Force Structure Plan.
ESCAPE
THE WINTER BLUES
STRAP YOURSELF INTO
THE DRIVER’S SEAT

Quoted prices include:
- Finance
- Rego
- CTP
- Fuel
- Maintenance
- Insurance

<table>
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*Based on the following assumptions: living in NSW 2560, salary: $70,000 gross p.a., travelling 15,000 kms p.a., lease term: 60 months, using the Employee Contribution Method for FBT purposes. Images shown may not be the exact car that the calculations have been based on. All figures quoted include budgets for finance, fuel, servicing, tyres, maintenance, Vero by Suncorp comprehensive motor insurance, Hydro Platinum Pack and re-registration over the period of the lease. Also includes, for Suzuki, Audi and BMW models only, 2 year Platinum Warranty insurance. Vehicle residual, as set by Australian Taxation Office, payable at the end of lease term. The exact residual amount will be specified in your vehicle quote. Vehicle pricing is correct at the time of distribution but may be subject to change based on availability.
†Negotiated Smartleasing buying power discount on chosen vehicle may vary.
Seventy years since Australia entered into a conflict, which is still not resolved, Army historian Sophie Jerapetritis reflects on the legacy of our involvement in the Korean War.

ONLY five years after the end of WWII, Australia was once again thrust into major conflict in what became the first Cold War battleground. Australia’s involvement in the Korean War was a significant strategic shift to engaging with Asia and the newly formed United Nations. However, it also highlighted deficiencies in Australia’s postwar defence policy, with no deployable force ready at the outbreak of war.

Despite this, the almost 20,000 Australian men who served in Korea, 11,200 of whom served in the Army, acquitted themselves with distinction in the extreme conditions.

Major land operations were the key turning points of the war and Australian forces in partnership with Commonwealth and UN allied forces were pivotal in preventing defeat on the Korean peninsula and holding their own against a numerically superior enemy.

On June 25, 1950, when news broke of the Korean War, the daily life of the understrength 3RAR, stationed in Japan as the Australian Army component of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, remained largely the same. Many did not believe this force, which was preparing to return to Australia, would be deployed to Korea in a matter of months. 3RAR did not receive formal notification until August 2 that it would be going to Korea rather than home. This force required extra men to boost its strength, so Australia turned to volunteer enlistments and the rotating deployment of 1RAR and 2RAR to support the commitment to Korea.

Recruitment began in August 1950 and the Army was overwhelmed with volunteers, turning away many due to criminal records or poor health.

People volunteered for an array of reasons that reflected the political and social landscape of the time – from a need to prove themselves after “missing out on the action” in WWII, or a wish to stem the tide of communism throughout Asia, to a sense of boredom and frustration with civilian life or a desire to further their military careers through combat experience.

This diverse group, known as “K Force”, deployed from Australia in early September to join 3RAR in Japan.

The Australian contingent arrived in Pusan, Korea, on September 28, 1950, where it formed part of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade. Australian soldiers developed close working relationships with the New Zealand artillery and British and Canadian combat forces, and were well supported by the 60th Indian Field Ambulance.

Three years and one month from the outbreak of war, the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed, bringing the conflict to an end, yet failing to bring peace to the peninsular.

The Australian Commander of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade, Brig John Wilson, said to his brigade after the armistice in July 1953: “Now that the ceasefire has come, I wish to express to you all the admiration and pride I feel for the way in which you have kept up the same high standard and fighting spirit and efficiency right to the last moment.

“It has made me realise more than anything else what a fine brigade I have the honour to command. You will be asked to work hard for the next few days but at least you will have the respite from danger and discomfort you so richly deserve.”

July 27 marks Korean Veterans’ Day and commemorates the bravery of all Australians who served in the Korean War and made a significant contribution to the international effort.

Seventy years on, Australia is still involved with the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission through the Defence Attache in Seoul and continues to engage with Asia.

The tactical and strategic experience from the Korean War, in which more than 300 Australians died and 1200 were wounded, permeates the ranks of the Australian Army.

The lessons learnt at key battles such as Maryang San and Kapyong, and the legacy of those who served and died in these battles, continues today in the places such as Kapyong Company at RMC Duntroon, in Army’s ongoing contributions to UN missions around the world and in the stories of the men and women who served in Korea with distinction.
During recent school holidays, Victorian AAC Bde successfully conducted its first online promotion courses.

Maj (AAC) Joe Day, SO2 Cadet Development at HQ Victorian AAC Bde, said senior cadets flagged the need to do something to avoid missing a year of promotion courses. “The cadets have built this course from scratch,” Maj Day said.

“They’ve prepared all the lessons and adapted all the software. It’s brilliant what they’ve done.”

The Lance Corporals’ Course was conducted from June 16 to 28 as a self-paced, individual online learning package. Cadet Rec Hayley Dodd, from Monivae College ACU, said the pre-course was fairly simple to complete. “The lessons were clearly set out and easy to achieve,” Rec Dodd said.

In the lead up to the Junior Leaders’ Course on June 29, re-imposition of some health restrictions forced some last-minute changes.

A proposal to establish an IT hub to coordinate the training had to be dropped to ensure cadet safety, but cadets who had designed the course swiftly adapted the program and it commenced on time as a completely online activity over five days.

The course package was delivered to 128 students, mostly from Victoria, by cadet instructors using a combination of three platforms: Zoom Business, Google classrooms and KAHOOT Quiz software.

Capt (ACS) Michael Daniel, 2IC of the Camberwell Grammar School ACU, said the philosophy of “by cadets for cadets” was central to the delivery of the package. “At any time we had one adult supervisor as a co-host in each platoon lesson, but his or her job was to allow the cadet instructor to deliver the training and only intervene if required,” Capt Daniel said.

Cadet WO2 Connor Way, of 106ACU, said the amount of preparation work completed by the design team was phenomenal. “Instructing on this course has been really good,” WO2 Way said.

“I’m in Queensland and haven’t met most of the students or the other instructors, but we worked together really well.”

Cadets who successfully complete the course will be awarded a provisional promotion, with a substantive promotion to follow a field assessment after easing of restrictions, Commander Victorian AAC Bde Col John Molnar said.

“The high degree of collaboration between cadets, adult staff and Army personnel has created an excellent opportunity to engage cadets and maintain the AAC program through these challenging times,” Col Molnar said.
Gift of life

A discussion between Lt-Col Nick Brown and his wife lead to her donating her organs, Cpl Julia Whitwell reports.

T WAS an easy choice during a difficult time: when new mother Leanne Brown died on February 7, 2019, after an arduous battle with bipolar disorder; husband Lt-Col Nick Brown helped her donate her organs.

“My last vision of Leanne was when she was wheeled off through an honour guard of doctors and nurses, to go into surgery to go and save four other people’s lives,” he said.

“Bipolar disorder is a really difficult illness to live with. Leanne did a magnificent job of living with it but, sadly, lots of people with bipolar disorder have a chapter in their life that involves suicide – whether they attempt it, think about it, plan it or carry it out.

“Had Leanne not been an organ donor, suicide would have been her final chapter. I’m really grateful to be able to say her final chapter was saving four people’s lives.”

DonateLife Week, from July 26 to August 2, aims to increase donor registration. To register, visit https://donatelife.gov.au/register-donor-today and download an organ donor register form.

Pauline Coverdale

Memorial held for lost soldier

Commander 7 Bde Brig Jason Blain lays a wreath during the service at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.

Photo: Cpl Nicole Dorrett

Capt Taylor Lynch

WITH close family and friends present, 6RAR paid respects to Pte Nathan Bewes who was killed in action while serving in Afghanistan as part of Mentoring Task Force One in July 2010.

A small memorial service was held at Gallipoli Barracks to remember a soldier who was not only a professional infantryman, but a cherished mate at the battalion.

Pte Bewes joined Army in 2005 at 19 and served his career at 6RAR. By the time he was deployed to Afghanistan in early 2010, he had already served in East Timor and completed a previous tour to Afghanistan.

In his first five years in Army, he had experienced more than many do in a lifetime of service.

At the memorial service, Commander 7 Bde Brig Jason Blain provided some insight into Pte Bewes’s character.

As the CO in Afghanistan at the time, Brig Blain recalled that tragic day in 2010.

“I remember speaking with Nathan and my recollection is always one of a squared away, purposeful and committed soldier,” Brig Blain said.

“Nathan was a good soldier, actually, he was a great soldier.

“In contact with the enemy, Nathan was fearless; he never took a step backward and was always one of the first to go outside the wire.

“The respect his peers and superiors had for him was not just based on his courage and skills as an infantryman, Nathan was also a loyal friend and would do anything for his mates, expecting nothing in return.

“His selfless attitude and willingness to put himself in harm’s way to protect them made Nathan a respected and beloved member of his team.”

Brig Blain also highlighted the positive effect Pte Bewes had on the people around him, with personal traits seen on and off the battlefield, especially among his family.

“Remarkable experience and courage and these traits didn’t stop; we see them here today, we see them in those who served alongside Nathan and we especially see it today in Gary, Kaye and Stephanie,” Brig Blain said.

“I can’t express how proud I am to have served alongside Nathan and the men and women of the Mentoring Task Force One.”
remote environment.

required systems or be productive in a workplace and operational demands. She said an individual’s was observed between the groups well to COVID-19 but some variation increased from May to June, on flexible working arrangements.

THE number of Defence people working from home increased from 2.3 to 48 per cent. Deputy Secretary DPG Justine Greig said the workforce responded as part of a government report into COVID-19’s impacts. They will also inform Defence’s future ICT requirements and environment, including how additional flexibility can be introduced.

For more information, contact the Directorate of People Intelligence and Research: dpi.research@defence.gov.au

“A FLEXIBLE working arrangement is essential for senior medical officer Lt-Col David Heslop who juggles academia, research, military and his consultancy business. A specialist in occupational and environmental medicine, Lt-Col Heslop is also an associate professor of public health at the University of NSW.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, he volunteered to work with the Directorate of Army Health on Service Option C (SERVOP C). This is a reservist on a set period of full-time service to meet a need that matches their skills, while remaining on their base SERCAT. There was a need for specialist advice relating to COVID-19 within Army that was not present and I felt my best effect was to support Army directly,” Lt-Col Heslop said.

“My preference is to work for the military as a career but in my specialist role,” Lt-Col Heslop said.

“At the time it wasn’t possible full-time and now it is an option but just under a flexible working arrangement.”

That arrangement is essential for balancing his career with his wife’s career and bringing up four children.

“We decided we could both have our aspirations. That was a decision we made together,” he said.

His SERVOP C contract expired at the end of June, so Lt-Col Heslop is now deciding his next step.

“My preference would be SERVOP D and I expect the university would be quite open to a situation where they have somebody working partly for the military and partly for them in terms of remuneration,” Lt-Col Heslop said.

“It is beneficial for the Army because a lot of my academic research is defence related. “So these are all considerations but they are not impossible considerations.”

For more information on Career Management Army, visit drnet/Army/CMA/Pages/Home.aspx and for more information on SERVOP D, visit the SERVOPs website at drnet/People/Policy/ADF-PAC-Policy/ADF-Pages/SERVOPs.aspx.

Flexibility in balancing aspirations

Sgt Janine Fabre

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His SERVOP C contract expired at the end of June, so Lt-Col Heslop is now deciding his next step.

“The choice is to transition to SERVOP D or explore a SERVOP 5 SERVOP D arrangement,” Lt-Col Heslop said.

SERVOP D is a partnership between the Army and a civilian employer to share the costs of employment.

It provides the employee with enhanced professional development opportunities and the civilian employer with new ways to engage Army while allowing Army to bring in contemporary, in-demand skills.

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Steering in different directions

MORE soldiers are transferring to driver specialist than any other trade, according to data from CM-A’s trade transfer cell. Fifty-one soldiers submitted an application to jump behind the wheel last financial year.

Intelligence analyst was the second most popular, with 38 personnel lodging paperwork to join AUSTINT.

Maj Kate Thomas, responsible for in-service trade transfers, said some trades were always popular, but there was a spike in interest when IET positions become available.

“We are trying to encourage soldiers to transfer to trades where there are vacancies,” Maj Thomas said.

“There are positions available for a variety of trades at the moment. We’re looking for PTIs, with the IET commencing next February, and there are training places available for all the signals trades as well as clerks.”

The reallocations and trade transfer cell manages applications for soldiers who want to change their ECN or need to be reallocated to a different role for medical reasons.

2RAR rifleman Pte Jacob Hosking said it took about five months to change from military police to infantry.

“Once my chain of command signed off on the paperwork and it went through to the trade transfer and retention warrant officer (TTRWO), most of my time was spent waiting to get panelled on an IET course,” Pte Hosking said.

“But there’s a member who submitted their application to transfer to a signals trade and was starting IET within less than two weeks of inquiring.”

If soldiers want to transfer quickly, they can check available IET courses by visiting the trade transfer cell website.

To begin a transfer, soldiers should submit a PE166-1 through their chain of command and speak to a TTRWO.

For information, visit the DPN website: http://drnet/Army/DCMIA/Pages/Training-Opportunities.aspx

IN BRIEF

New doors open

TOWNHOUSE-style accommodation will now be offered to eligible ADF members in Sydney and Canberra as an alternative to the traditional service residence. Townhouse choice will provide more options and flexibility to members choosing housing for themselves and their families. As with rent band choice homes, members are not obligated to accept a townhouse choice offer, in which case they will be offered a service residence. Feedback from the ADF Employment Offer Modernisation Program suggests not all members want or need a freestanding home on a large block. Director ADF Employment Offer, Housing and Categorisation Project Derek Cox said members were increasingly looking for more choice and flexibility in their housing options.

“A townhouse choice property will now allow members to live closer to the city in a low-maintenance style property,” Mr Cox said. For further information on townhouse choice properties, refer to DHA Online Services or email housing@dha.gov.au

Travel approvals

DEFENCE personnel holding a DTC or CMC may approve their own official travel up to $200 (including GST) under their own delegation, following changes introduced on June 4. This includes for use of public transport, ride-sourcing services, parking and tolls when attending things such as meetings, conferences or training in the local area. Incidental private travel can be combined with domestic official travel and short-term (less than six months) international official travel. Official travel is where Defence is responsible for direct or indirect costs associated with travel. Personnel should consult the Defence Tax Management Office before requesting private travel to ensure it will not incur fringe benefits tax. The changes were specified in the new Official Travel Accountable Authority Instruction and accompanying delegations. Go to drnet/dtg/Travel/Pages/default.aspx or email travel.reform@dtg.gov.au

Upcoming IET courses

ECN 165 – Ground Crewman Mission Support
August 3, 2020 – February 1, 2021

ECN 274 – Driver
August 3 – November 10, 2020
September 10 – November 20, 2020
October 5 – December 9, 2020
February 15 – May 20, 2021

ECN 662 – Communications Systems Operator
24 Sep 24, 2020 – July 9, 2021
February 1 – September 24, 2021
Training free-fall

An Army member jumps from a CASA C-212 Aviocar 400 aircraft during training at the ADF Parachuting School; and inset, parachutes are fitted and checked on personnel.

Sgt Sebastian Beurich

SOLDIERS have jumped at the opportunity to restart training as restrictions eased recently.
The ADF Parachuting School resumed training at the start of May, conducting a military free-fall instructors course over Jervis Bay on NSW’s south coast.
By the end of the course, trainees, drawn from SOCOMD, parachute riggers and qualified infantrymen, will be able to train and critique other soldiers or airmen conducting military free-fall courses.
Instructors and students conformed to strict measures including segregation from other staff, physical distancing and regular temperature checking throughout.

Survival of the fittest in SERE course

Cpl Veronica O’Hara

NOT many in Defence aviation would recognise combat survival training after recent changes.
The Aircrew Survive, Evade, Resist, Escape (SERE) Level C course, commonly referred to as “COMSURV” at Combat Survival Training School, aims to prepare ADF aircrew for modern combat operations.
Students are instilled with a survival mindset, then tested while under duress, in unique training scenarios and environments.
Practical skills like building a shelter, lighting a fire and finding food are still taught, but with emphasis on physical and mental resilience.
The revised course was influenced by changes to current technology and procedures, and shaped by observations and experiences of Australian and Allied aircrew.
Previously, the course provided students with the opportunity to survive in multiple natural environments. Now it emphasises learning to survive and recovery from permissive (peacetime) or non-permissive (hostile) areas.
A reduction in duration led to pool drills replacing the sea survival component, according to instructor WO2 Liam Higgins, RAN.
“The course used to take three to four weeks, included 18 hours in a life raft and a couple of days on an island, which was then reduced to two weeks with less time in a life raft,” WO2 Higgins said.

Another change was implementing modular training, starting with the permissive phase in the classroom before students deployed to the field for group and solo survival assessments.
In the field, students experience isolation and intense activity in hot and humid conditions, as well as fatigue, hunger and other physical stressors.
“They quickly move into a survival mindset and start to demonstrate the will to survive, and for some, a lot of mental games are played out,” WO2 Higgins said.
“Quite a lot of students have never really been alone before, particularly the younger ones, and then to spend time in an unfamiliar environment by themselves – some really struggle with the task.”
Students undertake a variety of recovery options in the non-permissive phase. Role-playing provides learning opportunities, such as gaining trust from the local populace for last-resort assistance.
Struggles in the non-permissive phase are different because of the new challenges and theoretical training is put to good practice quickly.
Being prepared is key to survival and this includes physical fitness, but WO2 Higgins said some find their fitness is not at the required level for a survival situation.
“Physical fitness is one of the qualities of a survivor and we emphasise it throughout the course;” WO2 Higgins said.
“The CO likes to sum it up as, ‘Stay ready, so you never have to get ready.’”

History of combat survival

Formed in 1955 under then Headquarters Home Command, ADF Combat Survival has been located at Canungra and RAAF Base Amberley, establishing permanent roots in 1979 at RAAF Base Townsville.
Transitioned from a training flight to an independent unit in 1987 and adoption of the motto of “Adapt and Return”.
The unit grew from eight personnel to 25 full-time members and 20 reservists, with tri-service representation.
Postgraduate courses include Aircrew Cold Weather Survival and Unit Combat Survival Officer.
The school has trained students from Germany, PNG, USA, UK, The Netherlands, Sweden, NZ and Malaysia.
Up to eight SERE C courses are held each year.

WO2 Clive Keam, right, inspects LS Brendon Potter’s smoked beef jerky during SERE training in 2018.

Photo: Sgt Kirk Peacock
Quick-fire questions

1. Fissures, vents and plugs are all associated with which geological feature?  
2. Which author wrote the Winnie-the-Pooh books?  
3. Which Dutch artist painted the Girl with a Pearl Earring?  
4. How many ribs are in a human body?  
5. In what year was the first Wimbledon Championship held?  
6. In which city was Anne Frank’s hiding place?  
7. Before the Beatles were formed, John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison were originally members of which group?  
8. What is the world’s biggest island?  
9. What is the common name for dried plums?  
10. Which name is rapper Sean Combs better known by?

Answers

1. Volcanos.  
2. A. A. Milne.  
3. Vermeer.  
4. 24.  
5. 1877.  
6. Amsterdam.  
7. The Quarrymen.  
8. Greenland.  
10. P. Diddy.

Book review by Sgt Dave Morley

RENOWNED author and former Aussie soldier Tony Park has just released his eighteenth novel and it’s every bit as hard to put down as many of his previous reads.

Set in Mali, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and briefly, London, it centres around a club of eccentric and geriatric palm tree and firearm fanciers, corrupt South African police, amateur jihadis and the odd CIA operative.

As with all Park’s books, the pace is fast, the characters fair dinkum and his boots-on-the-ground experience shows through in a big way. Female merc Sonja Kurtz returns in this book, though starting to feel her age, this time hired by the CIA to locate Joanne Flack, who is alleged to have stolen an almost extinct African plant worth millions of dollars.

An RG-32 armoured car, helicopters both ancient and modern, a Cold War-era Hawker Hunter and a swag of various captivating weapons going back to the Rhodesian Bush War, make up the book’s hardware department.

As with many of Park’s books, the twists and turns are still happening right up until the final few pages.

Tony Park was an Army Reserve air despatcher and later a public affairs major, deploying to Afghanistan for six months in 2002. He divides his time between Sydney and swanning around southern Africa researching his stories in an old Land Rover – good work if you can get it.
SOME of Darwin’s fittest soldiers are pushing their legs to the limit as they cycle 1200km over eight days in support of the Cancer Council NT.

Ten soldiers from 1CSSB departed on July 21 for the “Crank it 4 Cancer” ride, pedalling from Darwin to Kakadu, Pine Creek, Litchfield and Berry Springs before returning to Darwin on July 28.

Team leader and event organiser Cpl Levi Winman said the initiative was close to his heart, as his mother was diagnosed with cervical cancer last year.

“Around 12 weeks out from a show I decided I’d take the leap and push myself towards a goal. I trained for about three years before I competed in my first show.”

“Making no mistake, WBFF entrants have bodies light-years away from the average gym-goer. The physical changes are obvious but the mental changes are unexplainable,” Cpl Denman said.

“Then I took a year off competing to increase muscle mass and bring up the areas of my physique I was lacking. I was due to debut in the World Beauty Fitness & Fashion (WBFF) Bikini Diva category but the pandemic hit.”

“Half way through Cpl Denman’s cutting phase, the WBFF titles were rescheduled. Around 12 weeks out from a show I start decreasing my calorie intake, which means losing body fat while maintaining as much muscle as possible,” she said.

“Cpl Denman found a passion for weightlifting and fitness when she started training to join Army.”

“The team are continuing to seek donations for the Cancer Council NT through a GoFundMe page at https://au.gofundme.com/FzknzQ-4-cancer

“Any donation, no matter how small, goes a long way to raising awareness and support for all those who have been affected by cancer,” Cpl Winman said.
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Soldiers push their legs to the limit for charity

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Cpl Levi Winman prepares for the 'Crank it 4 Cancer' charity ride supported by 1CSSB and the Cancer Council NT.

Photo: Pte Rodrigo Villalba