Air Force welcomes new era of air power

By John Martin

THE Air Force is well placed to change almost its entire fleet of aircraft as earmarked in the Defence White Paper, according to CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin.

The biggest planned acquisition will be about 100 F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft with supporting systems and weapons.

But AIRMSHL Binskin says while that is what he calls the “big banner headline”, the White Paper promises so much more.

“Except for the Hawk, C-17 and C-130J, we’ll be changing every platform we have;” he said.

“To change the majority of the force in just over a 10-year period, I don’t think we’ve seen that before – not to this scale.

“The last time we did a big transition was the end of the Hornet introduction in 1989. Since then we’ve introduced the C-130Js, but we haven’t had a big-ticket change-out like we’re about to go through in the majority of the force – so it is a big challenge for us.”

AIRMSHL Binskin hopes that Air Force will have Initial Operating Capability of the JSF by around the middle of next decade, but that is dependent on a number of factors.

“The exact dates are yet to be agreed by government. It goes to second pass mid this year and we’ll [then] have the exact dates we’re phasing those aircraft in;” he said.

“We’ll aim to phase them in, cognisant of running down the classic Hornets and getting the full life we need out of the Super Hornets.”

CAF said the JSF fleet would be primarily based at RAAF Base Williamtown, with a lesser footprint at RAAF Bases Amberley and Tindal.

He said the Air Force would continue to introduce new and upgraded systems to collect and fuse air surveillance information from multiple sources so that the Recognised Air Picture remained relevant for future joint operations.
Kelly shares the good news

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support Dr Mike Kelly visited RAAF Base Amberley on May 6 to brief personnel on the new Defence White Paper. "I was very pleased to be able to brief personnel at Amberley about the Government's commitment to Air Force," Dr Kelly said. "The Government has invested heavily in the infrastructure at Amberley to support its growth, and I know the Ipswich community is very supportive of the base."

Photo: ACW Jessica Smith
White Paper 3

New era has begun

Prime Minister Rudd promises a more powerful Defence Force

By Michael Brooke

THE FUTURE ADF will be better equipped, fully networked and better positioned to meet Australia’s air power requirements as a result of the 2009 Defence White Paper.

Titled ‘Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: Force 2030’, the White Paper was launched by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon on board HMAS Stuart at Fleet Base East in Sydney on May 2.

Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support Dr Mike Kelly, CDF ACM Angus Houston, CN VADM Russ Crane, CA LTGEN Ken Gillespie and CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin attended the launch.

Mr Rudd said it was the first Defence White Paper specifically prepared to meet the challenges to Australia’s defence and security in the 21st century and confirmed the Government’s commitment to the defence of Australia and the security and stability of the region.

It represents more than 14 months of hard work and the complete re-examination of Defence strategy, capabilities, business processes and resources.

“The White Paper explains how the Government plans to strengthen the foundations of Australia’s defence and also provides an indication of the level of resources required over the coming years,” Mr Rudd said.

It also notes the increasing uncertainty of the strategic environment, and better positions Defence to respond to the broad range of possible conflicts and contingencies likely to impact upon Australia’s future security. It provided a clear view of how much strategic risk Australia was prepared to bear, and how much military power we should seek to develop.

“The more Australia aspires to have greater strategic influence beyond our immediate neighbourhood – that is to say the ability to exert policy influence that is underpinned by military power – the greater the level of spending on Defence we need to be prepared to undertake,” he said. “If we want to back up strategic influence with military power, we have to be prepared to invest the resources required, and to be content that the security benefits outweigh those costs.”

“In terms of military power, the Defence policy meant that Australia had the capacity to act independently where we had unique strategic interests at stake, lead military coalitions where we had shared interests at stake, and to make tailored contributions to military coalitions where we shared a wider strategic interest with others.”

As a result, the ADF of the future will be a more potent force, particularly in the key areas of undersea and anti-submarine warfare, surface naval warfare, air superiority, strategic strike, special forces, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and cyber defence.

The Government also plans to invest about $30 billion over the next decade to remediate the shortfalls and underinvestment in the Defence Budget.

Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon said in order to adjust Australia’s view of challenges in the future, the Government intends to prepare a new Defence White Paper every five years.

“This five yearly White Paper development process will be the centrepiece of the Government’s new strategic risk-based approach to defence planning,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon and contingencies likely to impact upon Australia’s future security.”

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AIR FORCE personnel will play an important role among the 450 extra Australian personnel that the government committed to operations in Afghanistan on April 30.

Air Force engineers will be included among the enhanced engineering support element that will work on improving Tarin Kowt airfield, while an extra C-130 and support personnel are also being committed.

The 450-strong force will increase Australia’s contribution to 1550 personnel but at this point there is no increase to the combat forces on the ground. Instead, the new personnel will be employed in training and mentoring Afghan forces, engineering and enhanced staff duties within the headquarters.

Also, 120 of the new personnel will deploy specifically to provide security support during the forthcoming elections in August.

At present, it is anticipated by government that these forces will remain in place for eight months. The increased contribution will be made up of:

- two additional Operational Mentoring and Liaison teams of about 100 personnel;
- additional personnel for our current Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force efforts of about 70 personnel;
- an increase to the number of HQ embedded staff by about 70 personnel;
- an enhanced engineering element of about 40 personnel;
- an Election Support Force of about 120 infantry personnel;
- an additional 50 personnel consisting of logistics and transport specialists, including one additional C-130 aircraft and support crew who will get the new elements of the force established in Afghanistan.

By Hugh McKenzie

DOCTOR Vicki Ross of Joint Health Command is firm about one thing – stay calm about the flu, any flu.

Dr Ross said there was no need to panic about the influenza A(H1N1) infection – dubbed swine flu – as no cases had been recorded in Australia.

“The Australian Government is continuing to focus on delaying the entry of the virus into Australia using enhanced border surveillance and vigilance for cases domestically so that these can be contained before they spread,” she said.

Defence is fully engaged with Commonwealth, State and Territory Government agencies that are responding to the influenza A(H1N1) outbreak in overseas countries.

“Influenza is influenza and we’re not 100 per cent sure about the origins of this virus. It has elements of swine, human and avian influenza and it is like it’s an assortment of strains that has come into being and is infecting people. There are teams world-wide that are looking at the genetics of it,” Dr Ross said.

She said it was unlikely current flu vaccinations available in Australia would protect against the new strain, but people were still encouraged to be vaccinated.

“It’s important for people to have the annual flu vaccine because Australia is moving into its own flu season and if we can protect against that, that’s a good thing,” she said.

“Washing your hands with soap and water, covering your mouth and nose when coughing, using tissues instead of handkerchiefs, disposing of used tissues carefully and not being a hero and coming to work while ill will reduce the chance of being infected or spreading any strain of influenza.”

Mexico is at the epicentre of the influenza A(H1N1) outbreak. The majority of cases outside of Mexico are still being reported as a mild illness only.

Contingency plans are in place for distribution of anti-viral medication to ADF personnel deployed on operations based on health risk assessment advice from Commander Joint Health. They are ready to be dispatched at short notice.

Protect yourself and others: You should get the annual flu vaccine to protect against other flu strains this season, and you should also take precautions not to spread illness to others. Photo: LAC Casey Smith
Win for mental health

By CPL Corinne Boer

AN $33 million, four-year program to bolster the ADF's mental health care was announced on May 1 in response to a comprehensive review by independent public health specialist Professor David Dunt. The Review of Mental Health Care in the ADF and Transition through Discharge acknowledged the ADF’s mental health commitment but made 52 recommendations for improvement. Prof Dunt said the ADF’s commitment to mental-health strategy compared favourably to military forces in other countries and Australian workplaces.

He said the present situation reflected a lack of funding and resources at the directorate level and regional mental-health teams. “Its roll-out has been patchy and depended too much on the enthusiasm and commitment of ADF regional mental-health providers,” Prof Dunt said.

CDF ACM Angus Houston has already committed to 49 of the 52 recommendations. Since 2002, “we’ve improved the way we care for the people who have mental health problems,” ACM Houston said. “But it is quite clear from Prof Dunt’s report that more work needs to be done.”

The reform will include providing improved mental health governance and policy, an enhanced mental health workforce, improved mental health training for ADF personnel and providers, enhanced prevention strategies including better research and surveillance, enhanced mental health rehabilitation and transition services. It also includes greater involvement of families in the mental health of ADF members and better facilities from which mental health services will be delivered.

Prof Dunt said a new model of services would result in better health for members. “Most importantly, [there] is a need for further development of the mental health workforce,” Prof Dunt said.

“[There is a] need for greater involvement of medical officers and doctors in mental health and there should be more training both at initial induction as well as after that.”

Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon said implementing the report would ensure access to best practice mental health services for ADF members. “Many of the recommendations can be implemented in the short-term while others will take several years to achieve.” Mr Snowdon said. “This is a significant undertaking and Defence will report regularly to the government about its progress in implementing the recommendations.”

Suicide report released

AN EXTRA $9.5 million in funding for suicide prevention among veterans and ex-Service personnel was announced on May 4.

The Independent Study into Suicide in the Ex-Service Community by Professor David Dunt examined the broad issues of suicide in the ex-service community and specific cases in the past three years. Its 21 recommendations include:

• strengthening mental health programs including suicide prevention;
• further simplification of administrative procedures for personnel leaving the ADF or applying for compensation;
• more experienced case managers assigned to support clients with complex needs;
• increased access to mental-health clinical expertise; and
• wherever possible, veterans’ families should be included in relevant events and services.


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You might get a cheap car at an auction but not without risks. Though you’ve paid for it, owing, you could lose the car even if there’s money outstanding on it. If there’s money owing, you could lose the car even if there’s money outstanding on it.

3. Buying from a dealer
All licensed dealers must guarantee the title of any vehicle they sell and in most cases provide a warranty covering mechanical defects.

4. Fleet Sales
You can buy near-new ex-company cars at less than dealer prices. However the best ones may have gone to trade and internal buyers.

5. Online Buying
You can find good deals online without travelling all over town, but this is possibly the riskiest form of used car buying. Websites such as www.carsales.com.au provide a good source.

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Technical ‘mastery’ praised by 44WG

By FLTLT Jaimie Abbott

DEVELOPING an innovative audio-visual system that earned an Air Force corporal one of air traffic control’s highest honours.

CPL Nye Davies was presented with the 2008 T.C. Delahunty award, which is an annual recognition presented to the 44WG airman or APS member who makes the greatest contribution to support for military air traffic control.

The first OC of 44WG, AIRCDRE Terry Delahunty, presented the award in a special ceremony at 44WG Detachment, RAAF Base Williamtown.

CPL Davies has displayed skills in technical mastery, but this is really a recognition of the entire team,” AIRCDRE Delahunty said.

CPL Davies was selected for his development of a cost-effective and easy-to-implement audio-visual recording system. It will provide Air Traffic Controllers with the ability to replay radar video and audio to assist in the effective conduct of air safety investigations.

Headquarters 44WG is now considering the system for use in other Air Force air traffic control detachments across Australia.

“It’s such an honour to receive this, particularly when so many others in the vision system had earned an Air Force honour,” CPL Davies said.

QC 44WG GPCAPT Forster Breckenridge said CPL Davies’ achievements were considered to demonstrate outstanding technical skills, ingenuity and professionalism and had resulted in a significant benefit to air traffic control operations.

CPL Davies is now working as a technician at 3 Control and Reporting Unit at Williamtown.

RECOGNITION: CPL Nye Davies is presented with the award by AIRCDRE Terry Delahunty.

New model for bases

SOME new and significant changes to the administration of Air Force bases will have little impact on the day-to-day operations of units and their members.

That is the key message recently promulgated by CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin.

Under the implementation of the new Base Accountabilities structure from July 1, the position of Base Commander is being abolished and will be replaced by the base Senior ADF Officer (SADFO) and Airbase Executive Officer (ABXO).

The SADFO is CDF and CAF’s senior management representative on the base and is primarily responsible for Defence’s reputation and associated emergency systems. The ABXO will be selected from the Combat Support Unit on each base.

“The SADFO will have authority to take command and control of the base when needed to allow a unified response to any base security, emergency or similar incident and will also be the ADF authority for base orders, instructions and plans,” AIRMSHL Binskin said.

“Your unit commander will still be in command of your unit and they will remain responsible and accountable to me for the activities carried out within your unit.”

CAF said that the Base Accountability model had provided Air Force with an opportunity to review its relationship with the Defence Support Group (DSG) and to clearly define each organisation’s responsibilities.

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CPL Nye Davies is presented with the award by AIRCDRE Terry Delahunty.

NEW WAY OF WORKING: CPL Aaron Fuller from Combat Support Unit Edinburgh services a Defence vehicle on the base. The Edinburgh base commander will be known as the base Senior ADF Officer under the new Base Accountabilities structure, to be implemented across all RAAF bases from July 1.

CPL Nye Davies is presented with the award by AIRCDRE Terry Delahunty.
SPECIAL FORCES APPLICATION

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STEP 1 - 7 months from course date - Go to the DRN SFTC website and read what is required for application. Some applicants may need to plan their attempt at Selection 18 months in advance. Submit application for CO recommendation and contact Selection Wing SFTC staff.

STEP 6 - 2 months from course date - Course panels are released shortly after the Special Forces Paneling Board (SFPB) has convened. SFET are usually conducted during this period. Applicants should check the dates that the SFPB convened and contact their unit for a copy of the panel signal.

IMPORTANT DATES
CSTC APPLICATIONS CLOSED
CSTC COMMENCES 11 MAY 09
SFET(SAS) COMPLETED BT - 27 JUN 09
SAS-SE 20 COMMENCES 03 JUL 09
CSTC COMMENCES FEB 2010
All other key dates are located on the Web site

ENQUIRIES: SELECTION WING 02 63750190 - sftc.selection@defence.gov.au
Just rewards for Simon

By LEUT Anthony Lutz

SQNLDR Simon McLaughlin has been recognised for his international service and for being a part of the massive machine that got our battle casualties from the point of injury back to Australia, he said.

“Seeing first-hand Australians who have been injured on the front line to smiling on the back of an incredible C-17 aeromedical evacuation aircraft bound for Australia was a truly humbling experience.”

“Working in the Australian HQ was another “eye-opening” experience for him. “So much work goes on behind the scenes to support our troops in the field,” he said.

“It’s been an incredible opportunity to work in the HQs.”

After four months in the MEAO, he is looking forward to putting up his feet and relaxing. “We all need a well-earned rest,” he said.

“For me it was my privilege to be a part of the final team in Baghdad, assist in turning that page over and then contribute to the next phase of Australia’s efforts in the MEAO,” SQNLDR McLaughlin said.

“An incredible experience that me and people in place to get the job done,” he said. “We also moved towards a more global JTF633 health operation, and in turn extended the Task Force’s capability through people, training and scope of practice.”

“A great highlight for me was turning the final team in Baghdad, assist in turning that page over and then contribute to the next phase of Australia’s efforts in the MEAO,” SQNLDR McLaughlin said.

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**Turning up the heat**

Breaking the barriers a challenge in Sudan

By FLGOFF Eamon Hamilton

BREAKING through multiple language barriers in the midst of one of Africa’s worst ongoing conflicts while loading cargo on a 30-tonne helicopter was all in a day’s work for FLTLT Andrew Miller. FLTLT Miller was deployed for six months to the Darfur region of Sudan as part of Operation Hedgerow.

Operation Hedgerow is the ADF’s commitment to the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), a 26,000-strong peacekeeping operation in central Africa.

Since 2003, violence between rebel and tribal elements against government troops and militias has resulted in about 450,000 people being killed, including members of UNAMID.

In August 2008, the ADF initiated Operation Hedgerow, with an eight-person strong commitment to provide logistics and movement support to the UNAMID Headquarters element in the town of El Fashir.

Deployed as the Movements Control Officer in El Fashir from August 2008 to February this year, FLTLT Miller was the first RAAF member to deploy as part of Hedgerow.

Two other RAAF members remain – FLTLTs Nicole Strybosch and Kevin Brent.

FLTLT Miller said his role was to plan and co-ordinate the movement of cargo and personnel in the Darfur region using UN fixed wing and rotary assets.

“Predominately, this encompassed movement of contingent-owned equipment (vehicles, tents, rations, water, ammunition, etc) and also rotation of the African battalions in and out of Darfur,” he said.

“We worked closely with military, police and civilians from a wide variety of African countries, including Kenya, Gambia, Rwanda, Egypt, Ethiopia and Nigeria.”

El-Fashir is an important provincial capital in Darfur, but is more than 1200km from the port of Sudan on the Red Sea, with little in the way of local infrastructure to make supporting the UNAMID mission an easy task.

“FLTLT Miller said.

The poor condition of the roads and runways also compounded the problem.”

Previous experiences as Air Movements Officer at RAAF Base Richmond did little to prepare him for the unique challenges that he faced in Sudan.

“Learning to do business ‘the UN way’, operating under a different set of rules and culture did take some getting used to,” he said.

“The language barrier was also another obstacle – trying to co-ordinate the loading of a shipping container on to an Mi-26 chopper with a Russian-speaking loadmaster and an Arabic-speaking forklift driver was a frustrating yet amusing experience I will not soon forget.”

The obstacles, however, made success and cooperation all the more fulfilling.

“There was certainly some professional fulfillment in being able to pass on ADF methods of operation, as well as expertise and experience, to our UN and African Union partners,” he said.

“Overall it was a very unique experience. Being able to work with such a wide variety of African militaries and gaining a first-hand insight into the African/Muslim culture was a fantastic and worthwhile opportunity.

“I hope the mission continues to push ahead and achieve all that it has set out to do in Darfur.”

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C-17 offers lift in Timor

A 36SQN C-17 made a quick visit to East Timor recently to deliver Anzac Day stores and collect a Black Hawk from the Army’s East Timor Aviation Group. It was the second time a C-17 had landed in Timor, and gave Aussie soldiers, United Nations aviation staff and East Timorese firefighters the opportunity to get on board for a quick tour through the aircraft.

Photo: LSPH Paul Berry
Farewell,
my locks

By FLTLT Anita Green

RAAF Base Amberley recently rallied the troops to raise money for the World’s Greatest Shave in support of the Leukaemia Foundation.

This year, SQNLDR Lyn Horne offered up her locks if she could raise $1000. This was too tempting for work mates and the amount was quickly reached. Personnel from all over the country chipped in to make sure SQNLDR Horne followed through on her promise. WOFF Kylie Terri did the honours at HQ Combat Support Group on March 13.

WOFF Terri is a breast cancer survivor who was proud to support the event.

The team captain, WOFF Rod Greenslade, generously donated his time, money and hair to the cause after his wife Julie contracted Acute Myeloid Leukaemia in early 2007. Julie was fortunate enough to survive chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant. This gave WOFF Greenslade and many others the motivation to shave their heads each year to raise the money, which helps the Leukaemia Foundation provide practical care and support to patients and families.

WOFF Greenslade and the main contingent of the Amberley team were shaved at Riverlink Shopping Centre at Ipswich on March 14. The other team members from Amberley were WOCDR Bryan Blacka and SGT Phil Bruce.

The RAAF Security and Fire School also fundraised for the event. SGT Troy Woof and LAC John Bein courageously offered to wax their legs if they each received $1000 in donations, while CPL Mel Robinson lost her hair for an additional $500 in donations.

By the end of March, Amberley had raised almost $6000, with more donations being received.

Lang prize for top nurse

A TOP exam result in the 2009 Aviation Nursing Officers (AVNO) course earned FLGOFF Pamela Wittmann the prestigious Miss Margaret Lang Prize.

CO of the RAAF Institute of Aviation Medicine (AVMED) COL John Turner and Director of Defence Force Nursing GPCAPT Michael Paterson presented the award at RAAF Base Edinburgh following the two-week biannual course.

“The Aviation Nursing Officer course is a relatively new course conducted by AVMED,” COL Turner said. “The course offers intensive training in physiology, psychology, human factors and operational health in the aviation environment.”

FLGOFF Wittman said the course was an intensive but satisfying two weeks.

“I now have a greater understanding of the assessment and management of aircrew, which I can use daily to support the flying squadrons on base,” she said.

“All of the staff at AVMED were extremely passionate about aviation medicine and this made the course thoroughly enjoyable.”

Annual Rent Allowance review

Defence Housing Australia (DHA) wishes to advise you that the 2009 annual Rent Allowance review has commenced.

If you are currently in receipt of Rent Allowance, and you are included in this year’s review, you should have already received your statement, letter and reply-paid envelope. If this is the case, you will need to respond immediately.

The review is to establish if there have been any changes to your domestic circumstances that would affect your Rent Allowance.

You will need to complete the statement and provide details about your current rental situation.

It is important you respond to this review. Failure to respond by the due date may cause payment of your Rent Allowance to be ceased.

BULLETIN BOARD

Air Force Band

May 14: The Clarinet Quartet will give a free concert at the RAAF Museum, Point Cook, from 10am.

May 15: The Band’s Sydney Detachment will support the RAAF Base Williamtown Sergeants’ Mess Autumn Ball from 7pm.

May 17: Force 10 will perform at the Ararat Rotary Fund Raising Concert at the Ararat Town Hall.

May 17: The Air Force Jazz Ensemble will support the DCO Family Day at RAAF Base East Sale from 10am.

May 17: The Ceremonial Band will support the 4WG Australian Air Force Cadets parade at RAAF Base Laverton, Point Cook.

May 18: The Band’s Sydney Detachment will support the Air Force Awards night at the Hellenic Club in Woden, Canberra.

May 20: The Ceremonial Band will support the latest 1RTU graduation parade at RAAF Base Wagga from 11am.

May 25: The Concert Band will give a free concert at the University of Melbourne’s Melba Hall.

RAAF, the Nursing Service was expanded to 616 by December 1945, and led to the eventual formation of 1 Medical Air Evacuation Transport Unit.
For FLTLT Catherine Mahoney, an Intelligence Officer at the Defence Security Authority in Canberra, it involved much more than that.

On September 13 last year, Hurricane Ike, one of the most powerful hurricanes in US history, hit Galveston, Texas, with 175km/h winds causing massive damage and 112 deaths.

FLTLT Mahoney was in the US for 18 months with her husband Mick, who was posted to Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

“After volunteering with the Red Cross in Australia, it seemed like a logical way to make friends and give back to the community,” she said.

Due to the number of hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast last year, the American Red Cross (ARC) had a wide footprint from Florida to New Mexico.

“I knew they needed volunteers and I had the training, so I put my hand up,” FLTLT Mahoney said.

“Many of the ARC volunteers are retirees, so my contribution as a younger member was welcome.”

Three weeks after Ike hit, she was deployed to the disaster relief HQ in Houston and was briefed on the situation in Galveston. She volunteered to go to Galveston as it was the worst-affected area.

“Once reaching Galveston, I spent my four weeks running the registration area of the mega shelter,” she said.

The Galveston shelter housed hundreds of residents in tents and so security was an issue.

Even though many buildings were still standing, the scale of the devastation became evident to FLTLT Mahoney. With water that surged over the seawall filling the area, everything from buildings to communications to petrol stations was unusable.

“It was only after a day or two that I realised the devastation of Galveston was greater than what the eye could see, and recovery would take years,” she said.

“Residents on the neighbouring peninsula were not allowed to return for almost two months as disaster relief teams searched for bodies. “Houses had no roofs, children’s toys were caught in trees and people were retirees, so my contribution as a younger member was welcome.”

FLTLT Mahoney said.

“I was there when the shelter closed, and helped move up to 400 residents to a new, non-ARC shelter,” she said.

“It was emotional to say goodbye and good luck to people with whom I had developed the most unlikely bonds.”

FLTLT Mahoney is now back at work in Canberra.

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MUSIC MAN: Chaplain FLTLT Yogiendera Juste-Costant sings a hymn during the RAAF Base Edinburgh dawn service.

ON THE BIG STAGE: The Air Force Band provides entertainment below the Anzac Day game between Collingwood and Essendon at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

MEMORIES: In Sydney, ACW Luise Exwell (left) and Jessica Johnson, from RAAF Base Richmond, are shown a photo of World War II veteran Reg Thomson, which was taken on Anzac Day when she was 20 years old.

RESPECT FROM TOP: Air Force members of the Control and Reporting Centre Campbell Park, Kardinya, with an Anzac Day banner made by students from South PGC College in Warwick, Queensland. The students also sent letters and Anzac biscuits.

KODIYAK: FLTLT Scott Green, from RAAF Base East Sale, during the Anzac Day ceremony in Bairnsdale.

G O DAY KIDS: A 37SQN member greets children watching his squadron march past in Sydney. Photo: LAC Christopher Hall

AMBERLEY PRIDE: SGT Amanda Broom and CPL Kristina Filippi from 2AFDS pose in front of Brisbane’s iconic “Brisbane Eye” before marching in the Anzac Day parade.

THE PIPES ARE CALLING: SGT Craig Dawson, a member of the Pipe Band, plays at the RAAF Base Edinburgh dawn service.

ON THE RIG STAGE: The Anzac spirit is epitomised in the courage and valor of our troops who are operating in challenging environments in Afghanistan and around the world. We should all be grateful for the efforts and sacrifices these fine men and women make on our behalf,” Mr Fitzgibbon said. In Malaysia, a small contingent of AHF Habitats was on hand to mark the occasion.

RAAF Base Edinburgh.

COME IN, SPINNER: GPCAPT Kendall Quinn takes a turn with the kip in the traditional Anzac Day game of Two Up at the Control and Reporting Centre in Afghanistan.

LONDON REMEMBERS TOO: LCPL Mark Gibson from the Glenruder Guerilla Regimental band plays the Last Post in front of thousands of onlookers at Hyde Park Corner.

AIR FORCE Takes Anzac pride to the streets.

Air Force takes Anzac pride to the streets.

LONDON CAPITAL: Paying homage at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

MESSAGE FROM HOME: Anzac Day.

QUEENSLAND. The students also sent letters and Anzac biscuits.

Kandahar Airfield, with an Anzac Day banner made by students from Scots PGC College in Warwick, Queensland. The students also sent letters and Anzac biscuits.

POIGNANT: FLTLT Erica Green, from RAAF Base East Sale, during the Anzac Day service at the Australian National Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux in France, where she also laid a wreath at the Australian Digger Memorial. The ceremony was organised by the One Tree Hill Progress Association with significant assistance from GTF Tillett.

Nearly 85,000 people, including Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, attended the Anzac Day Australian Football League game between Essendon and Collingwood at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Mr Rudd was moved by the crowd’s reverence when they stood for a minute’s silence.

LONDON REMEMBERS TOO: LCPL Mark Gibson from the Glenruder Guerilla Regimental band plays the Last Post in front of thousands of onlookers at Hyde Park Corner.

More than 150 people gathered for the service, including representatives from the Development and Test Wing (DT WG) from the Aircraft Research and Development Unit, located at nearby RAAF Base Edinburgh.

COMING UP: Members of the Control and Reporting Centre Campbell Park, Kardinya, with an Anzac Day banner made by students from South PGC College in Warwick, Queensland. The students also sent letters and Anzac biscuits.

Air Force takes Anzac pride to the streets.

LONDON REMEMBERS TOO: LCPL Mark Gibson from the Glenruder Guerilla Regimental band plays the Last Post in front of thousands of onlookers at Hyde Park Corner.

COMMUNE: SGT Amanda Broom and CPL Kristina Filippi from 2AFDS pose in front of Brisbane’s iconic “Brisbane Eye” before marching in the Anzac Day parade.

THE PIPES ARE CALLING: SGT Craig Dawson, a member of the Pipe Band, plays at the RAAF Base Edinburgh dawn service.

Air Force takes Anzac pride to the streets.

In Afghanistan, hot and humid conditions prevailed for the estimated 100,000-strong crowd accompanied by 800 air force personnel, all of whom enjoyed the dawn service officiated by chaplain SGT Tillett.

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The ceremony was organised by the One Tree Hill Progress Association with significant assistance from SGT Jason Tillett.

DT WG provided a catalogue party, which was attended by SGT Shane Forrester. SGTONI Bryan Whittington gave the address, SGT Tim read the poem, in Flanders Fields, and WOFF Peter Albon read the Ode. The Australian Air Force Cadets presented a flag bearer and handed out the order of service.

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Gilgandra in western NSW for local Anzac services. Gilgandra is home to a dirt airfield often used for training of Hercules crews in combat air lift.

37SQN led the Air Force contingent of the ANZAC Day march with about 300 people on strength. 28SQN took a contingent to Gigranda in western NSW for local Anzac services. Gigranda is home to a dirt airfield often used for training of Hercules crew.

Anzac Day was marked in great reverence again this year. Cities were teeming with people as marchers took to the streets around the nation. And as the sun rose over dawn service envoys everywhere, the new light of day shone to pay homage to our veterans of war. Air Force, once again, was at the forefront.

Capt AHF Habitats Mark Brown laid a wreath and delivered the Ode of Remembrance at the Anzac Day dawn service at the Australian National Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux in France, where he also laid a wreath and delivered the Ode. He also laid a wreath at the Australian Digger Memorial in Buller, where he also laid a wreath and delivered the Ode. He also laid a wreath at the Australian Digger Memorial in Buller.

A 37SQN member greets children watching his squadron march past in Sydney. Photo: CPL Melina Mancuso

Students from Scots PGC College in Warwick, Queensland. The students also sent letters and Anzac biscuits.

MEMORIES: In Sydney, ACW Luise Exwell (left) and Jessica Johnson, from RAAF Base Richmond, are shown a photo of World War II veteran Reg Thomson, which was taken on Anzac Day when she was 20 years old.

Photo: SGT William Gethin

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More than 2000 Air Force personnel can say they play a part in protecting Australia’s national interests – through early warning systems which make up the core platform of Surveillance and Response Group (SRG).

How they do it is complicated, varied and often classified – whether it is in the maritime or over-land environment, aerospace, surveillance and battle space management, or air traffic control.

SRG was formed on March 30, 2004, by merging the former Surveillance and Control and Maritime Patrol Groups. Bound together by the motto ‘Foremost Sentinel’, the four wings contribute to the surveillance and response capability of the ADF.

Commander SRG AIRCDRE Warren Ludwig said the Wings had introduced the surveillance and response capability to Australia and the nation, and would continue to do so as new capabilities were introduced.

SRG is headquartered at RAAF Base Williamtown, along with 41WG, 42WG and 44WG. 92WG’s headquarters is at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

41WG

Few people outside of Defence are aware the Air Force is deployed to Afghanistan. That airspace is one of the busiest in the world, with many civilians and a large number of military aircraft movements each day.

41WG personnel are completing rotational stints at the Mobile Control and Reporting Centre (MCRC) in Kandahar, where they provide air surveillance and air traffic management services.

Spanning across Australia, the SRG still going strong

FTLT Jaimie Abbott takes a look at the FEG which recently celebrated its fifth birthday.

WIDE-RANGING DUTIES: Members from 41WG, RAAF Base Williamtown, who showed off the TPS-77 Radar at the Australian International Air Show 2009 at Avalon.

Photo: APBh Evan Murphy

41WG units include: 3 Control and Reporting Unit (3CRU), located in Williamtown; 114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit (114 MCRU) in Darwin; and 1 Radar Surveillance Unit (1RSU) in Adelaide. Also at Williamtown, Surveillance and Control Training Unit (SACTU) provides the training for Air Combat Officers and Air Surveillance Operators to enable them to perform air battle management and surveillance operations.

A new challenge is on the horizon for 41WG. It will be the introduction of the most complex command, control and communication system for the ADF – Project Air 3333 (Vigilare). It will exchange information from the Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN), Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft, civil and military microwave radars, fighter and maritime patrol aircraft, Royal Australian Navy air warfare-capable ships and various intelligence sources.

OC 41WG GPCAPT Daryl Hunte said the Vigilare project would produce a comprehensive picture of the skies above and around Australia, enabling a faster response to possible future incursions into the country’s airspace and maritime waters.

The first capability segment is scheduled to be complete and rolled out in mid-2010.

42WG

The newest wing in the Force Element Group, 42WG, was reformed on January 1, 2006. There will be much attention on this wing in the next 12 months, as it takes delivery of the much-anticipated Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) capability for Air Force.

The introduction of Wedgetail (six aircraft and associated ground support segments) into operational service will place Australia at the forefront of what will be a technological leap forward in AEW&C operations.

Wedgetail will provide a flexible, responsive and enable sensor and command and control capability to support air combat, surveillance and battle space management roles for joint and coalition operations. The aircraft will also be able to provide support to civilian agencies, including Coastwatch and Customs, and will support key roles such as search and rescue.

2SQN will be the operating unit for the Wedgetail.

OC 42WG GPCAPT Stephen Meredith said operational testing began last month as part of Exercise Arnhem Thunder.

“The aircraft are expected to be delivered by Boeing from the end of this year. It will be exciting for all SRG personnel involved in bringing this important capability to maturity,” GPCAPT Meredith said.

44WG

The band of Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs), technicians and support staff in 44WG provides a wide range of airspace management and control services to support operations at home and abroad.

For Newcastle, Darwin and Townsville airports, both military and commercial aircraft. We provide tactical control of forward airfields, battlefield aviation and other airspace activity, both within Australia and for operational deployments,” GPCAPT Breckendred said.

44WG personnel have commitments in the Sudan and Middle East Area of Operations and have also been actively involved in a number of recent operations including East Timor, Iraq (Baghdad/Balad), the Solomon Islands and Indonesia. Their roles have ranged from active operational duties to peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

92WG

92WG was the first maritime wing in Air Force history. It was formed at RAAF Base Edinburgh on July 1, 1977.

Today, 92WG commands two operational squadrons – 10 and 11 SQNs; a training unit, 292SQN; two operational detachments, 92WG Detachment A at Butterworth, Malaysia; and 92WG Detachment B in Darwin, and a number of operational support and development elements.

92WG continues to operate a detachment of two AP-3C aircraft and support personnel in the Middle East. This detachment started in March 2003.

Operating AP-3C aircraft, 92WG’s combat roles include anti-submarine and anti-surface surveillance. The Wing also conducts long-range over-water and over-land intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions in support of Australia’s national interests.

Orion crews have been involved in many rescues, helping save lives in situations ranging from local bush fires to major national emergencies. 92WG can be credited for the Great Southern Ocean rescue of Tony Bullimore and for the Wing’s efforts in the 1998 Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

The AP-3C is scheduled to remain in service until 2018. It will be replaced under Project AIR 7000.

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Showcasing Air Force

Volunteers are being sought to visit schools and various community groups for young people to tell them about Air Force life. It is part of a new community engagement program called “This is Your Air Force”, which aims to raise the level of understanding and interest in the Service. The program has the strong support of CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin, who said it was not specifically designed to be a recruiting drive, but would not doubt have some influence on the future career decisions of those engaged.

The original list of volunteers has come from the Alumni Visits List held by Defence Force Recruiting, AIRMSHL Binskin said. “While this is a good starting point, I feel we need a broader mix of jobs/careers/backgrounds in order to demonstrate the diverse nature of the Air Force and, as such, I encourage more of you to volunteer for this program.”

“The only caveat is that your supervisor approves of your participation as it will require you to be absent from the workplace occasionally.” A visit coordinator has been appointed for each major region and will be responsible for managing the visits and volunteers in their area.

“It is not my intent that every single community group within a region has to be visited,” AIRMSHL Binskin said. “The number of visits completed should be based on what can be reasonably achieved without adversely impacting the effectiveness of their individual units.”

Who to contact

If you would like to volunteer for this program, the visit coordinators are:

- Northern Territory; FLTLT Emma Brown, (02) 6265 5477; emma.brown1@defence.gov.au
- North Queensland (from Airlie Beach north); FLGOFF Lisa Power, (07) 4752 1702; lisa.power@defence.gov.au
- South Queensland (from Mackay south); WO2 Michelle Foley, (07) 5461 2218; michelle.foley@defence.gov.au
- Western regional NSW (from Wagga to Dubbo and west to the border); FSgt Natlee Sargent, (02) 6937 4021; natlee.sargent@defence.gov.au
- Northern NSW (from Newcastle across to Dubbo and north); SQNLDR Anne Taylor, (02) 4964 6734; anne.taylor@defence.gov.au and FLTLT Amanda Norris, (02) 4928 5488; amanda.norris@defence.gov.au
- Canberra (and south-east coast south of Wollongong); FLTLT Diane Jackson, (02) 6266 2773; diane.jackson@defence.gov.au
- Sydney (and the east coast up to Newcastle and down to Wollongong); FSgt Vicki Lousick, (02) 4587 3033; vicki.lousick@defence.gov.au
- South Australia; SQNLDR Jacqui Carwell, (08) 8393 2272; jacqui.carwell@defence.gov.au
- Western Australia; CPL Brooke Fitzpatrick, (08) 9571 7666; brooke.fitzpatrick@defence.gov.au
- East Sale (and regional Victoria); FLGOFF Amanda Van de Paverd, (03) 5146 7303; amanda.vandepaverd@defence.gov.au
- Melbourne (and Tasmania); FLTLT Emma Brown, (02) 6265 5477; emma.brown1@defence.gov.au
- Adelaide (and South Australia south): FSGT Vicki Fitzgerald, (07) 3211 2215; vicki.fitzgerald@defence.gov.au
- Melbourne (and Tasmania); FLTLT Amanda Norris, (02) 4928 5488; amanda.norris@defence.gov.au
- South Australia; SQNLDR Jacqui Carwell, (08) 8393 2272; jacqui.carwell@defence.gov.au
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Looking for leaders

If you have a passion for leadership, then the Air Force Leadership Exchange (LX) is the forum for you. The LX is a professional development forum aimed at enhancing leadership effectiveness by giving participants the opportunity to openly share ideas and experiences with others of different ranks and occupations.

Any rank and mustering/specialisation from CPL to junior SQNLDR (APS4-EL1) with some leadership experience is eligible to apply.

The applications are used to put together a forum containing a broad cross-section of ranks, jobs and experience levels. This ensures you gain learning from a diverse range of ideas and experience levels across Air Force.

Each LX is limited to 25 participants, and uses a supportive environment and experience levels across Air Force.

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Heritage returns

By Andrew Stackpool

The Air Force heritage display at RAAF Base Wagga is to reopen, following an injection of $130,000 from Air Force to complete the building’s refurbishment.

To be known as the RAAF Wagga Heritage Centre, it will celebrate the long-standing relationship between the base and the local community.

The Heritage Centre will be established at the former museum site in the old guardhouse building at the base front gate. After the building was closed, most of the exhibits were transferred to the RAAF Museum for conservation and safe-keeping; they will now be returned to Wagga.

The money comes on top of an earlier $200,000 spent to refurbish the building after the museum was first shut in 2001 for major remediation works and a further $75,000 spent late in 2008 to improve safety and disabled access.

While the work on the building was under way, Air Force commenced a program of community engagement. A community management committee, known as the Wagga Museum Reference Group, was established. It is chaired by Deputy Base Commander WGCDDR Karen Wood-Meyer and its members include local Member Kay Hull.

The Group is examining working arrangements, timeframes for setting up and re-opening of the centre, and the recruitment and training of volunteer guides and other staff members. At the same time, a public forum to discuss the various aspects of the centre’s operation and way ahead, and to call for volunteers is scheduled for May 21.

WGCDDR Wood-Meyer said it had been hoped to open the Heritage Centre for the base open day on October 18, but this would not now be feasible.

“There is a bit more work to do to get the collection in place, the traffic management plan is in place and the risk analysis has been done. “It shows real energy in the ADF towards engagement with the community.”

Director of Air Force Heritage GPCAPT Dave Richardson said the public forum had a number of aims.

“The purpose is for us to explain to the public what we’ve been doing and to advise of the framework we have worked through on their behalf for a viable Heritage Centre,” he said.

“We need to let [the public] know what the plans are, what resources are available and what volunteer resources we’re looking for. “Air Force recognises that there is strong [community] support for something like this to celebrate those strong links between the base and the community that go back to WWII, and we’re very pleased to be able to help celebrate that too.”

“So, unlike the RAAF Museum which is chartered with safeguarding the whole Air Force heritage collection, these regional displays have much more of a local flavour and much more of a local engagement.”

He said the Heritage Centre would provide the opportunity to focus on the good will and strong support which is expressed in Wagga.

“We’re committed to ensure that this works properly and well, and with the full level of community engagement.”

The RAAF Heritage Centre public forum will be held at the Wagga Old Council Chambers from 7-9pm on May 21. All are welcome to attend.

Did you know?

Although the RAAF Wagga Heritage Centre won’t be officially open in time for the base open day on October 18, a demonstration display will be open to the public.

Air Force has a “One Museum” policy. The official guardian of the RAAF Heritage Collection is the RAAF Museum at Point Cook in Victoria.

Regional Heritage Centres like RAAF Base Wagga will focus on celebrating links between the base and local community.

RAAF Base Amberley has a similar collection.

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A knee injury can put your fitness program on hold for many months. LT Rob Orr looks at the correct exercise techniques that may avoid serious injuries and strengthen the joint.

This action places strain on the passive structures of the joint and does little to warm-up the active structures. Small-range knee bends, increasing in range of motion, provide a safer and more effective alternative.

**Stretch don’t strain**

Avoid stretches that place strain, like the hurdler stretch where you tuck the heels under the buttocks and leaning back to stretch the thighs. Instead modify the hurdler stretch by placing the heel of the bent leg in towards the groin or increasing pelvic tilt when stretching the front of the thigh in the traditional standing thigh stretch.

**Compound training**

When training muscles that surround the knee joint, can increase force through the joint. To the configuration of most machines, includes the knee cap being pulled outwards by stronger structures.

**Keep the balance**

Depending on the activity, some muscles may be used more than others and with time this can lead to muscle imbalances. Muscle imbalances can alter the alignment of the knee structure, particularly during movements under load and can lead to progressive damage.

As an example common to runners is an overuse injury called patellofemoral pain syndrome that normally involves pain in and around the kneecap. Rather than give in-depth biomechanical analysis of the causes of this syndrome, it is enough to say that one of the causes includes the knee cap being pulled outwards by stronger structures.

**Switch on control**

This is perhaps the most important point. Following an injury to the knee, the controlling nervous system can be switched off or miscalibrated – a prime reason why injuries tend to recur.

Even when the pain has stopped it is vital that physiotherapy treatment is sought and continued. Not only are all the muscles required to work to protect the knee, they need to work at the right time.

**Keep the balance**

The vastus medialis obliques muscle is the teardrop-shaped muscle on the upper inside of the knee. This muscle is meant to activate with or slightly before the other three muscles of the quadriceps in order to align the kneecap so that when the stronger muscles pull, the kneecap moves in its correct groove. A common consequence of knee injury has this muscle firing too late. The knee-cap does not align properly and after a period of time you have another knee injury.

Apart from ensuring that the muscles fire on time, the speed that they fire is important. When straightening your leg, your hamstring muscles activate to protect you from over straightening the knee and damaging the knee structures. As such, the hamstring muscles must activate at not only the right time but, depending on the speed of movement, must activate fast enough to provide a breaking force near the end of the knee’s range of motion.

For more information, see your PTI or health professional.
someone has asked to use your terminal. Can they access your personal information? ASIC Chairman Tony D’Aloisio has 10 tips to keep you secure.

1. Always visit the website of an organisation by typing the web address into your browser
   If you receive an email inviting you to click on a link, always type the web address into your browser or email and call your friend or bank and confirm the contact. Be wary of emails or phone calls that supposedly come from your bank. Why? These may be phishing (email) or vishing (phone) scams which try to grab your personal details by taking you to a hoax website that often looks genuine.

2. Treat social networking sites in the same way as face-to-face meetings
   Think carefully about what information you put on Facebook, MySpace and other places where you can meet and interact with others. Do your “friends” really need to know your date of birth, mobile number, employer and home address? Limit access to your profile to your close friends and don’t forget to set up privacy settings. Why? Email is not secure. Scammers can intercept your email, find out your email address and guess your online email password. Never put financial information (such as account numbers, credit card numbers, PIN or passwords) in an email.

3. Disable pop-ups in your browser
   Pop-ups are not only annoying, clicking on the pop-up message may allow others to download and install a program on your PC aimed at spy- ing or identity theft. They may even download a key logger that records the keys you press and sends details to the scammer.

4. Make your passwords hard to guess
   Use combinations of letters, numbers and punctuation for your passwords and change them frequently. Using any single word or easy number combination, for example your pet’s name or your birthday, makes it easy for scammers. Why? Email is not secure. Scammers can intercept your email, find out your email address and guess your online email passwords. Never put financial information (such as account numbers, credit card numbers, PIN or passwords) in an email.

5. Always click the ‘log out’ button when banking online
   When you visit secure sites (such as your bank website or email account), make sure you always log out. Avoid using public computers for confidential purposes because even if you are logged out, the details of your activities are still stored on the PC.

6. Check whether the website is secure
   If you’re asked to provide personal information, check that the details in the address bar of the browser start with ‘https’ (the ‘s’ stands for ‘secure’). It is easier for scammers and hackers to access sites that are not secure.

7. Check your credit report at least once a year
   You can get a free copy of your credit report and you can make sure no one is using your name to borrow money or run up debts.

8. Thoroughly check your account statements
   If you have received all expected account statements. Check that you have received all expected account statements. Follow up any unfamiliar transactions by contacting your bank or financial institution.

9. Destory personal information
   Scammers have been known to go through your rubbish in the hope of finding personal information. You should shred, cut up or burn old bills, account statements or cards to prevent scammers from getting hold of your personal information.

10. Keep your letterbox locked
    Make sure that you have a secure lockable letterbox. Check the letterbox regularly and remove mail shortly after it has been delivered. Otherwise identity thieves can easily steal letters from unlocked letterboxes.

For more information, including how to obtain financial advice, visit ASIC’s consumer website, FIDO at www.fido.gov.au or call 1300 300 630.

Our new eLearning module can help you get Financial Advice.

www.adfconsumer.gov.au

For more information contact us at: adf.consumercouncil@defence.gov.au
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$10 POSTAGE AUSTRALIA WIDE
Inspiration from Mr Olympia

By Barry Rollings

NOTHING but the best – that was the advice on which Air Force bodybuilder CPL Owen Batty based his recent World Natural Bodybuilding Federation (WNBF) Riverina championship success.

CPL Batty, a PTA at RAAF College at RAAF Base Wagga, won the lightweight division and the overall men’s category at the open men’s men’s bodybuilding competition at Wagga’s Civic Theatre on April 4.

CPL Batty had some good advice along the way from Tim Martin, winner of the Mr Olympia class three and overall amateur championship at the 2008 Natural Olympia competition.

“Haven’t been receiving a lot of advice from Tim over my dieting period of about 12 weeks and tried a lot of things he discussed with me over email,” CPL Batty said.

“I gave up playing team sports many moons ago,” he said. “I don’t do a lot of fun runs and races with the exception of the City to Surf, so I prefer just to explore the world around me and running allows me to do that and maintain my health and fitness levels at the same time.

“I played soccer, Aussie rules and cricket as a kid and took part in school athletics.

“I never really took on running until I got involved with the team sports phase and then I joined the Blue Mountains-Katoomba Athletics Club in 1997 and took part in every season until it folded in 2001. My kids were Little Athletics with the junior club.

“I love the 1500m because it is the classic distance and Australia has a long history of excellence in the event. Anything longer feels like death on two legs.”

LAC Batty plans “a dip” at the City to Surf again this August. He’s also considering having a crack at the ADF track championships when they come around next year.

PRIDE OF LACE: LAC Steve Attwell won the combined men’s ADF 10km run during the Newcastle Hill to Harbour fun run.

Photo: LAC Craig Barrett

Aiming High: CPL Owen Batty poses with one of his trophies.

Photo: WDCR Ron Bosley

Sport

IN BRIEF

$2000 raised

THE Air Force Rugby Union over-35s made off with the silverware – but charity was the winner when the Northrop Grumman Cup was played against the ACT Veterans’ Rugby Union Club at Dunton.

The game raised $2000 for Legacy and the George Grecan Foundation.

The Air Force team, the Mirages, consisted of Air Force members from units as far away as Darwin, Townsville and Amberley.

If you are 35+ and keen to participate on the field or the sidelines, contact SGNLDR Mike Bowen at michael.bowen@defence.gov.au

Women’s rugby

DEFENCE women players will take their first steps up the representative ladder when they contest the Australian Services Rugby Union Championship in Canberra on May 23.

All three Services will be represented at Vink Park in Wannassa at 1.30pm when a combined Navy/Air Force team will attempt to wrest the Mick Dunne Trophy from the defending champions, Army.

Calling golfers

MEN and women golfers who wish to be part of the 2009 ACT Inter-Service Golf Tournament are urged to register their interest now.

The series is scheduled for October 19-23 at Mollymook Golf Club.

It involves Army, Air Force, Navy and APS teams.

Teams will consist of 12 players and two reserves.

The ACT Air Force golf representative is: SQNLDR Mark Wilkins, mark.wilkins2@defence.gov.au or (02) 6266 6608; ACT APS representative: Col Eade, colin.eade@defence.gov.au or (02) 6127 6400.

Hockey team falls short

ARMY beat combined Air Force/Navy 7-4 when players from Canberra and Wagga joined forces to contest the 2009 ACT Inter-Service Hockey Championships on April 2.

The match, played in warm and humid conditions at the ACT Hockey Centre in Lyneham, also doubled as a selection trial for the Defence Hockey Championships at Homebush in Sydney from May 30 to June 5.

The winning team scored two quick goals after the resumption to close the gap to 4-3.
The Air Force scored its first rugby union win in 13 years against its New Zealand counterparts in Ipswich on April 23. It was a tough and gritty performance during the Burn-Merz Shield competition and the 20-10 win stakes Air Force’s claim as a genuine contender for this year’s Australian Services Rugby Championships at Viking Park in Canberra from May 17 to 23.

Air Force will play Navy in what promises to be a cracking opening to the tournament on May 17 at 3pm. Air Force then plays Army at the same venue on May 23 at 3pm, preceded at 1.30pm by the women’s championship game between the combined Air Force/Navy women and Army.

The Burn-Merz Shield, named after the first Australian and New Zealand airmen to die in combat, has been hotly contested between the Anzac nations since 2004, with NZ winning every year – last year by a resounding result.

Air Force were led by captain FLTLT William Scott and vice-captain CPL Bryan Hudson. The home side’s rock-solid ruck and goal-line defence denied the Kiwis numerous scoring opportunities. The backline defence, despite some missed tackles late in the game, was perhaps the strongest it has been and was led by outside-centre AC Jeff Moate.

Attacking raids and a strong kicking game led by CPLs Hudson and Shaun Ward often found the Kiwis lacking out wide and allowed the Air Force to capitalise on resultant opportunities.

The Air Force forwards dominated the scrums and maintained their composure and strength in the lineouts. Strong performances in particular came from the front row of FLTLT Will Scott, AC Alex Chan and LAC Brian White, who worked their opponents tirelessly in attack and defence. Flankers LAC Sean Johnson and CPL Richard Lucker left nothing in the tank with solid defensive games.

The win was praised by coaches FSGT Gary Anderson and CPL Scott McKenzie, who had only four days to put the team and a game plan together. Specialist coaching advice was provided by Andy Tucker, who was instrumental in ensuring that Air Force got the most out of its available players.

For more information, visit www.airforcerugby.asn.au

FLYING HIGH: CPL Simon Aird from 36SQN plucks the ball from a lineout during the 20-10 game against the Kiwis in Ipswich.

Photo: A&W, James Smith
A positive outcome for the ADF

CDF ACM Angus Houston

THE 2009 Defence White Paper, Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: Force 2030, is a very good outcome for the ADF. It is exactly what we need to ensure we have the long-term guidance, planning and force structure to provide Australia with a military that has the capacity to protect Australia and her interests.

I am delighted with the capability decisions that have been made and the balance between the three services. This White Paper fully reflects the advice provided to me by the Service Chiefs and the advice I provided to Government.

Since becoming CDF in 2005, my vision for the ADF has been that we will be a balanced, networked and deployable force, staffed by dedicated and professional people who operate within a culture of adaptability and excel at joint, interagency and coalition operations. This White Paper will deliver this vision within Defence caused by the prioritisation of urgent equipment acquisition over less urgent but important parts of Defence. We have now reached a point where our information and communication technology systems, bases and infrastructure, logistics and other support services require immediate remediation.

In addition to this remediation, Defence will be undergoing a Strategic Reform Program (SRP). The SRP comprises a comprehensive set of reforms that will overhaul Defence, producing efficiencies and creating significant savings of about $30 billion, which the Government has agreed to reinvest in capability. The reforms will be comprehensive and cover areas such as: capability development, estate, information communications and technology, intelligence, sustainment, logistics, non-equipment procurement, preparedness, personnel and operation costs, reserves, science and technology, shared services, strategic planning and workforce management. These reforms will generate savings of $3 billion over the next four years alone. I stress that while efficiencies can be found in support areas, safety and quality will not be compromised.

These reforms will be carefully planned, led and managed on a whole-of-Defence basis. You will be critical to how you can contribute and the changes you can expect. This White Paper has been a lengthy, consultative and comprehensive task. I congratulate all involved ADF members on a job well done. The future security of our nation has been strengthened with the release of this White Paper.
The White Paper will ensure Air Force maintains its regional air superiority through the acquisition of around 100 F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters, along with the Super Hornet as a part of the bring down combat capability. Through the commissioning of highly-skilled people, multi-role combat fighters and assets such as Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft, the Air Force will continue to ensure air supremacy, maritime strike, long-range strike options, defensive air support and close air support capability system. Australia’s future Air Force will include a balance of conventional and unmanned platforms.

The Government has decided about a major strategic shift in defence expenditure, anticipated to be associated with the highest level of defence spending in history. In particular, the Government has decided to purchase 24 F/A-18F Block II Super Hornet bridging air combat fleet.

Part of the Super Hornet fleet will be configured on the production line to be available to be converted to EA-18G ‘Growler’ electronic attack variant should later strategic circumstances dictate.

Delivery of four KC-30A multi role tankers will allow the Royal Australian Air Force to refuel aircraft in flight and accomplish advanced and advanced maritime surveillance capability supplemented by up to seven new high performance maritime patrol aircraft.

Enhanced transport capability options through acquisition of about 120 new C-130J Hercules to bring the fleet number to 14.

Eight new tactical battlefield helicopters with greater range, speed and payload capabilities than the retiring Caribou.

New upgraded systems to collect and process surveillance information from multiple sources to create a realistic and accurate picture of the ADF’s primary operational environment.

Air Force will continue to also provide for communications, logistics and commandability, electronic warfare and air sovereignty.

New unmanned helicopter system (UH-60V Black Hawk) will significantly improve the survivability of the Army against direct armed attack.

The Government has decided that the ADF will continue to operate against any foreign forces that, through their own actions or by their inaction, could challenge our control of the international system. This defence force will be endowed with both a deep stake with others, and in relation to our strategic interests, but with a capacity to act independently where we need to act independently. In particular, we will have in military strategy, the principle of self-reliance in the application of our strategic interests. But with a capacity to act independently where we need to act independently. In particular, we will have in military strategy, the principle of self-reliance in the application of our strategic interests. But with a capacity to act independently where we need to act independently. In particular, we will have in military strategy, the principle of self-reliance in the application of our strategic interests. 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people are at the heart of delivering the Defence capability.
To support and sustain the current and projected future force and the new capabilities described in this White Paper, Defence will need to grow the full-time military workforce to about 77,800 personnel, and the civilian workforce, including contractors, to about 21,900 over the next 10 years.

Attracting and retaining the future workforce will be one of the most significant challenges facing Defence, and the Government is determined to ensure that Defence puts the right strategies in place to achieve the required outcomes.

Government has directed significant new investment in people in initiatives.
The Defence People Strategy will seek to:

- provide a compelling and competitive career;
- offer professional and personal development;
- offer career fulfillment;
- provide a safe and healthy workplace;
- recognise the critical support that families provide;
- and;
- recognise the importance of Defence as a unique national institution.

Personnel

Defence will continue to seek new ways to recruit and retain technical trades as well as key professional groups such as tradespeople and health professionals.

NAVY: Funding for an additional 700 Navy personnel will address structural hollowness, reducing the pressures on the current workforce, and ensure the recruitment of competent personnel to meet the future maritime capabilities. Navy will require a new approach to building and sustaining the workforce requirements of the new submarine capability.

ARMY: To build and sustain the workforce requirements of the Enhanced Land Force and the Adaptive Army initiative, an Army Plan has been developed, which sets in place the force structure, disposition and numbers required to grow the Army and be adapted to meet the needs of this White Paper.

AIR FORCE: The major capability transition over the next decade will mean that the workforce will need some modest growth and to be reshaped to meet the demands of a new Army, principles and modern, flexible employment practices and will need some organisational restructuring to enable the significant level of capability enhancement described in the White Paper.

What the White Paper says about...

Future deployments

If, on occasion, the Government decided that it is in Australia’s wider strategic interests to undertake operations in the Middle East and other regions, such as those operations under way in Afghanistan, Australia would do so only after the Government had satisfied itself that our forces have the necessary weapons, protection, logistic support, training, combat readiness and force preparation to carry out the important operational and strategic missions.

The Government is committed to a better integration between part-time and full-time service in the ADF, and removing factors that impede the contribution part-time forces can make.

Further enhancements, especially to the High Readiness Reserves (HRR) are planned. Defence will also investigate a new form of part-time service based on workforce sponsorship.

Intra-state conflict

INTRA-STATE conflict, such as civil war and conflict involving non-state actors, will be an enduring feature and the most common form of conflict in the period to 2030 and that the ADF needs to be prepared to play its part in dealing with such contingencies.

ADF deployments into situations of armed conflict, or of conventional war, may be required. These could be in the form of humanitarian, stabilisation, counter-insurgency, peacekeeping and reconstruction interventions, such as we have undertaken over recent years in Cambodia, Cambodia, Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, Solomon Islands, southern Iraq and Afghanistan.

Terrorism

GROUPS like al-Qaeda and its associates will continue to employ terror across the globe.

The risk of terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia with a potential to affect Australian interests, or threaten Australians, will remain of concern for the foreseeable future. Islamist terrorism will likely remain a destabilising component of the global security environment for at least a generation. The capabilities of the ADF provide the basis for sophisticated counter-terrorism operations, especially where targeted capabilities are required, such as specialised intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, or precision targeting and strike.

Space

The Government places a high priority on assured access to high-quality space based imagery to meet Defence needs for mapping, charting, navigation and targeting data.

It has decided to improve Australia’s intelligence collection capabilities by acquiring a satellite with a remote sensing capability, most likely to be based on a high-resolution, cloud-generating, synthetic aperture radar. This important capability will add to Australia’s standing as a contributing partner within our alliance framework with the United States, which will be given access to the imagery collected by this system.

Economic crisis

The global economic crisis is likely to accelerate some established trends such as the shift of economic weight to the Asia-Pacific region.

Fragile and vulnerable nations, particularly those with limited reserves with which to buffer their economies from the crisis. Such countries may struggle to meet the demands of their citizens, and may be easier targets for foreign influence in ways that might be unfavourable to long-term strategic stability.

The global economic crisis also presents the potential for extremists to seek to capitalise on resentment fuelled by economic woes as governments struggle with diminished revenues and are forced to cut budgets, including in critical areas such as health programs, food and fuel subsidies, or even counter-terrorism activities.

Climate change

CHANGING climate patterns, combined with booming population growth, will sharpen competition for scarce food, water and energy resources in many parts of the world, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and are likely to exacerbate existing population and infrastructure problems in developing countries, straining their capacity to adapt and cope. Large-scale strategic consequences of climate change are, however, not likely to be felt before 2030.

Countries in the Pacific may find themselves threatened by severe climatic extremes such as more intense cyclonic and extreme weather events. They may require external assistance to manage the consequences of climate change, and to respond to natural or man-made humanitarian crises or disasters.

Humanitarian aid

DEFENCE will continue to provide a range of specialist capabilities on a scale and of a kind available from no other Australian agency. These capabilities on a scale and of a kind available from no other Australian agency. These capabilities on a scale and of a kind available from no other Australian agency. These capabilities are designed to support of regional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Costs

DEFENCE will continue to drive down the costs of ownership of military capability. This will include improved use of simulation, a more active role for ADF Reserve, smarter maintenance and leaner logistics systems, improved information management, and, where appropriate, a bias towards military- and commercial-off-the-shelf capabilities.

RESOURCES

Over recent years, Defence has employed part-time units in several operational deployments and large scale national security activities such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, APEC meetings and international VIP visits. Part-time personnel routinely undertake extended operational deployments in the near region, such as the infantry company group currently deployed to Solomon Islands.

Critical specialists, such as surgeons and other professionals, also provide invaluable service to Defence operations on a part-time basis.

The Government is committed to a better integration between part-time and full-time service in the ADF, and removing factors that impede the contribution part-time forces can make.

Further enhancements, especially to the High Readiness Reserves (HRR) are planned. Defence will also investigate a new form of part-time service based on workforce sponsorship.

Contractors

Commercial contractors have been used, in some form, on all recent deployments. These have allowed ADF elements to redeploy, repatriate, reconstitute and prepare for subsequent operations.

Contractors may be used in the future for long-term stabilisation and reconstruction operations.