Air Force making a difference on Op Padang

AIR FORCE assets continue to play a vital role in the ADF’s assistance to Padang, providing essential air lift, medical and engineering support to the earthquake-devastated region.

Medium-term relief operations are now under way, with more than 110 Air Force personnel involved in a massive air lift operation distributing essential aid around West Sumatra.

Three C-130s from 37SQN are flying sorties in the country, with two Hercules based in Jakarta and one in Darwin. Air load teams on the ground are working around the clock in support.

Since the start of the operation, by October 14, more than 230 tonnes of cargo had been flown between Jakarta and Padang.

Air load teams have also helped unload foreign military and chartered civilian aircraft that have flown into the region with emergency aid.

By the end of the second week of the operation, Air Force had completed 86 aircraft sorties, which delivered more than 450,000kg of cargo and 700 passengers.

Meanwhile, by October 17, Army and Air Force engineers had assessed 63 government buildings for structural damage and more than 500 patients had been treated by the ADF Primary Health Care Team.

Full story, Page 3
Aid efforts praised in Padang

By Andrew Stackpool

WGCDR Bill Kourelakos, who is the Deputy Commander of the JTF629 Air Component, has praised the tireless efforts of all personnel involved in the task force’s air support operation.

"The air mobility effort in support of the Indonesian Government’s relief operation in the aftermath of the September 30 earthquake in Padang, Sumatra, was testimony to the dedication of Air Component (JTF629) personnel," WGCGR Kourelakos said.

"Senior Operations Officer SqnLdr Nick Hogan planned and coordinated all Indonesian, RAAF and USAF missions. "At Padang, air load teams worked endlessly to turn aircraft around in minimum time so that each crew could achieve two missions per day."

The C-130 crews flew maximum crew days to ensure that aircraft were used to their full potential by taking only the minimum amount of crew rest between flights. The first week had brought out the best in personnel.

The air load team led by SGT Mark Robertson, the SNCO in charge of the Airfield Operations Support Squadron’s (IASS) Air Lift Team A at RAAF Base Amberley, had managed all air movements into Padang.

"They lived in cramped conditions and serviced aircraft from all around the world, all of which relied on the team to offload their cargo," WGCGR Kourelakos said.

"By the end of the second week, the team had managed 86 aircraft sorties, which had delivered into the earthquake-impacted area more than 450,000kg of cargo and 700 passengers."

The team, led by FLTLT Andrew Miller from the IASS Air Movements Section at RAAF Base Richmond, weathered a massive downpour to build pallets and load an aircraft, thereby ensuring that the first disaster relief mission got away on the first day of the operation.

"During the initial stages of the operation, the TNI-AU personnel were only able to offer the Australians a small room to work from."

We crammed our operations, logistics, administration and communications elements into this one room," WGCGR Kourelakos said.

"Eventually, we expanded into a carpent area where we set up logistics, administration, a passenger lounge, welfare area, crew rest area, crew rations storage, brew point, laundry drop off and medical section."

Other personnel were stretching their initiative and diplomatic skills. "We had Combat Support Group administration and logistics staff who had to substitute as air operations staff until Air Lift Group personnel arrived," WGCGR Kourelakos said.

"And operations staff were working very closely with TNI-AU officers to ensure we had smooth relations and airfield services 24 hours a day throughout the entire operation."

WGCGR Kourelakos paid tribute to the TNI-AU whom he described as very gracious hosts and thankful partners in the relief operation.

"Several star-ranked TNI officers have dropped into the air operations centre to observe the operation and each of them expressed their gratitude for Australia’s commitment to their relief operation," he said.

AIR FORCE leads fight against tetanus

By LSIS Paul McCallum

The ADF is delivering the only source of tetanus immunoglobulin to the people of Padang who suffered a devastating earthquake on September 30.

Through the co-ordination of Indonesian health authorities and the World Health Organisation (WHO), AusAID arranged the purchase of the emergency stockpiles from the Australian Red Cross. The ADF has now facilitated the delivery of more than 150 units of the life-saving blood product to help the local residents in the aftermath of the quake.

Senior Task Force 629 Senior Medical Officer SqnLdr Collette Richards said tetanus was a major health concern for the people of Padang as very few people were immunised.

Several diseases and illnesses become widespread when a disaster like this occurs. The immunoglobulin is not an immunisation; these people do not have the time it takes to build their own antibodies. They are fully developed antibodies that will help control the illness," SqnLdr Richards said.

"We were in a fortunate position to be able to deliver the much-needed doses and we are the only source of this product in Indonesia."

The immunoglobulin is sourced from blood donations in Australia and is administered as a direct treatment for the illness. Indonesia, like many countries, does not routinely immunise its population and tetanus is a serious health threat when people are displaced and living in an exposed environment.

"Without the continuing donation of blood by the Australian public, these products would not be available to the victims of the earthquake in Padang," SqnLdr Richards said.

"There is no cure for tetanus and the muscles in the body to seize. It can be fatal if not treated, as the respiratory and pulmonary muscle systems fail."

The director of the WHO in Padang, Dr. Vijay Nath Kyaw Win, said the supply of immunoglobulin from Australia was critical to controlling the effects of tetanus.

"This is a godsend, thank you to the people of Australia for providing this life-saving treatment," he said.

WRITERS: JTF 629 Senior Medical Officer SqnLdr Collette Richards hands over a box of 150 units of tetanus immunoglobulin from the Australian Red Cross to a local representative from the World Health Organisation in Padang. Tetanus has been identified as a potentially serious concern in Padang as very few of the city’s inhabitants are immunised.

Photo: LSIS Paul McCallum
Padang’s big push

ADF assistance to the earthquake-impacted area of Indonesia continued as life in Padang slowly returned to normal two weeks after the earthquake. As a result, the focus for the assistance changed from providing emergency response to medium-term relief operation.

By October 17, ADF assets had delivered emergency aid to the tsunami-affected areas. One team, said it had been hard work but the team assisted in unloading nearly all foreign aid, which had been flown into Padang region.

The ADF teams quickly established themselves in the city and outlying areas to assess medical and engineering needs. The first Commander Joint Task Force 629, LTCOL Neil Sweeney, said the advance team had made a big difference.

“The ability of our people to get on the ground quickly and provide informed advice about what the people [there] needed is a credit to their professionalism,” LTCOL Sweeney said.

Since then, approximately 110 Air Force personnel have undertaken a huge air lift operation to ensure essential relief workers and supplies reach the region. They include air load teams and three C-130s with two Hercules based in Jakarta and one in Darwin.

By October 14, the C-130s had flown more than 50 sorties between Jakarta and Padang, carrying more than 230 tonnes of cargo. Additionally, the Air Force air load team assisted unloading nearly all foreign military and chartered civilian aircraft that have flown emergency aid to the area.

FLTLT Paul Kretschmann, the OIC of one team, said it had been hard work but they had achieved a lot.

“In the first week, we unloaded 250 tonnes of cargo from over 100 ADF, foreign military and charter aircraft,” FLTLT Kretschmann said.

“The team supported aircraft from Indonesia, the US, UK, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand and Singapore.”

Loadmaster SGT Matthew Warnock said everything from vehicles to food, water and blankets had been flown in by the aircrew and unloaded by the teams.

“We’ve been flying two sorties a day into the airfields at maximum capacity, so the aircraft have pretty much been maximum weight or bulked out with the pallets,” he said. “We’ve been taking 11,300kgs a trip into Padang.”

The present task force commander, COL Mark Brewer, said the team had provided a mission critical role at the airport.

“Our mission could not have proceeded without the tireless work of the small Air Force air load teams, as well as the pilots and loadmasters who worked around the clock flying in and unloading not just our equipment, but the large amount of aid that has been essential to other aid agencies that have arrived in Padang,” he said.

Meanwhile, Army and Air Force engineers inspected government buildings to assess the levels of structural damage and determine what remedial and repair work should be done. By October 17, they had completed 63 assessments, enabling the UN Development Program to commence demolition or reconstruction of those found to be structurally sound.

In Seiernegging, the Primary Health Care Team had treated more than 500 patients and begun an outreach program to regional villages.

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Get in line for swine flu vaccine

By CPL Corinne Boer

A VACCINE against the H1N1 influenza (also known as swine flu) is now available to ADF members. Panvax has been tested and assessed as being safe and effective and is registered in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Senior Medical Adviser Military Population Health – Joint Health Command, Dr Victoria Ross, said the strain of influenza was still dominant in the northern hemisphere.

“It has pretty much subsided in the southern hemisphere and, in Australia, flu levels are back to normal,” Dr Ross said.

“We don’t know how the virus will behave in the future or when and how it will mutate, so vaccination is encouraged,” she said.

Dr Ross said influenza viruses mutated quite often, which was why a new vaccine was produced every year. Joint Health Command is highly recommending vaccination for those who would benefit most from receiving the vaccine including pregnant women and people with chronic diseases, like asthma or diabetes.

It is also highly recommended for ADF health-care workers involved in direct patient contact, recruits or trainees entering initial training establishments where members live in close quarters and for ADF members deploying, posting or travelling to the northern hemisphere.

Joint Operations Command is working out the details for vaccinating personnel currently deployed. Anyone wanting the vaccine should contact their ADF health facility to find out what the local arrangements are.

The vaccine is essentially the same as the usual seasonal flu vaccine. Dr Ross said side effects and precautions were also the same.

“Common side effects can include some soreness at the site of injection, headache, mild fever, body aches and fatigue for a short time after vaccination,” she said.


MEAO SUPPORT: 32WG aircraft life support fitter CPL Matthew Burns serving with the Orion detachment.

Welcome home parade for Op Catalyst personnel

MORE than 300 ADF veterans and Defence civilians will take part in a welcome home parade at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on November 21 to mark the end of Operation Catalyst.

The parade will also recognise the contribution of ADF and Defence personnel to the stabilisation and rehabilitation of Iraq.

Senior government figures will speak at the parade. VIP guests will include federal and territory ministers and opposition spokespeople, and ambassadors of other countries involved in the Iraq conflict.

The parade will feature Australia’s Federation Guard and a number of static displays of equipment used during Operation Catalyst, including an Army Bushmaster and ASLAV. A flypast is also planned.

After the parade, participants and their families will be invited to an afternoon at the Memorial.

Operation Catalyst was the ADF’s contribution to the US-led Multinational Force effort to develop a secure and stable environment in Iraq and to assist national recovery programs.

Australian forces first deployed to Iraq in 2003. Servicemen and women from all three services were deployed in a range of combat and combat support roles. This role then developed into a security and training role to enable the people of Iraq to take responsibility for their own security.

Defence formally ended its military commitment to the rehabilitation of Iraq on July 31 this year.

More than 20,000 ADF personnel have seen service in Iraq as part of Operation Catalyst between 2003 and 2009.

Anyone planning to attend the parade as a spectator can register their interest in attending by emailing parade@defence.gov.au

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THE skies over Malaysia and the surrounding seas recently reverberated to the sound of fast-jet engines as RAAF assets joined their sister services in the joint combined Exercise Bersama Lima 09 (BL09).

Thirteen aircraft and approximately 200 personnel deployed to RMAF Base Butterworth to participate. They comprised eight F/A-18s and 125 personnel from 3SQN, a 10SQN AP-3C with more than 60 personnel for maritime surveillance, and three 37SQN C-130Js and a 36SQN C-17 for strategic lift and logistics support.

The exercise, which was conducted under the auspices of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) and hosted by the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces, commenced on October 5 and concluded on October 23. The aim of BL09 was to exercise force elements from maritime, land and air forces from member nations of the FPDA in the defence of the Malaysian Peninsula and Singapore in order to enhance interoperability among the assigned forces. It also aimed to cultivate regional ties and enhance Australia’s interoperability with the armed forces of Malaysia, Singapore, the UK and New Zealand.

It was the second in the series of Bersama multilateral activities involving the FPDA forces this year, with the first being Bersama Shield held last May. CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin said the FPDA represented almost 40 years of co-operation and continued to show its relevance for the regional strategic environment.

“Australia maintains a close defence relationship with Singapore and Malaysia, both bilaterally and through participation in the Five Power Defence Arrangements,” AIRMSHL Binskin said.

“Exercise Bersama Lima also promotes a shared understanding of procedures for air and maritime operations, the protection of the marine environment and disaster relief management.”

Training in exercises such as BL09 is important for ADF personnel to obtain key skills, work as a combined force and build relationships with other exercise participants.

A full wrap-up of Exercise Bersama Lima will feature in the next edition.

BROTHERS IN ARMS: Above, from left, 10SQN Crew 3’s FSGT Kerwin Gregory and FLTLT Brett Armitstead join CAPT Alias Mustapa from 16SQN RMAF at Subang Air Force Base, Malaysia, in front of an Australian AP-3C during exercise Bersama Lima 09. 16SQN flew the Beechcraft 200T as a patrol aircraft and both aircraft types conducted patrol and reconnaissance missions during the exercise.

PRE-FLIGHT: Left, from left, 10SQN pilot FLTLT Andrew Bartlett, flight engineer WOFF Peter Robjent and co-pilot FLGOFF Daniel Scovell conduct pre-flight checks before another mission. Photos: LAC Leigh Cameron

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Wagga open day

Heritage on show

By FLTLT Bruce Chalmers

VISITORS to the RAAF Base Wagga open day were given a vision of the future preservation of Air Force heritage in the local community with the showcasing of conceptual displays and artefacts in the newly named RAAF Wagga Heritage Centre.

The Heritage Centre was visited by dozens of people on the open day. The centre was opened for the first time since 2003 for public viewing.

Originally opened as the RAAF Museum – Wagga Annex in 1995, the facility was closed in 2003 to undertake building repairs and refurbishment, and questions were subsequently raised as to the collection’s future.

To address these concerns, in 2008, Air Force and the local council set up a Museum Reference Group to undertake planning for a new display that would be known as the Heritage Centre.

WGCDR Karen Wood-Meyer chaired the group.

OIC of the Engineering Training Flight at the RAAF School of Technical Training, SQNLDR Terry Pridham, was subsequently appointed as OIC of the refurbished facility. He will work closely with the Heritage Centre Steering Group and Management Committee to ensure the centre appropriately showcases Air Force History, the Air Force presence in the Riverina and that it also runs a community based theme display.

“While there are still some final upgrades and maintenance work to undertake, the Point Cook curatorial staff and the Museum Reference Group have been busy consulting with the local community and planning the concepts for the new displays, which will be ready for the grand opening in Spring 2010,” SQNLDR Pridham said.

“During the base open day, the Heritage Centre was set up with conceptual displays and artefacts to show the public what to expect when it is finally finished next year.

“The complete display is being professionally designed by the RAAF Museum team at Point Cook, with one large room at the back of the Heritage Centre to be devoted to various displays of community-loaned items, based on specific themes.

“We currently have over 50 community members that have volunteered to work in the Centre, and around 25 of them are currently undertaking a Certificate III course at TAFE.

“We are all very excited about the new Heritage Centre and what it represents as a partnership between the community and the Air Force,” he said. The visitors included four members of the only flying squadron to be based at RAAF Base Wagga – 31SQN, which flew Beaufighters.

The four veterans, Fred Andersen (Navigator to the CO), Peter Demaine (Navigator A Flt), Ron Leckie (Navigator B Flt) and Jack Andersen (Association Secretary), are active members of the 31SQN Beaufighter Association and were delighted to see the 31SQN Honour Roll displayed in the main display case in the front of the centre.

To mark the occasion, the veterans donated a Beaufighter print (featuring Fred Andersen in the cupola) to the Heritage Centre for display.

The re-opening of the centre next year will celebrate and strengthen the strong partnership between the staff at the base and the Wagga community.
Wagga’s big day

By FLTLT Bruce Chalmers and FLGCOFF Cindy Ritchie

THE Wagga community recently enjoyed a rare opportunity to look behind the hangar doors to view the ADF at work, its assets and facilities, and to speak with its people.

An estimated 10,000 people poured through the gates of RAAF Base Wagga on October 18 for its first open day since 1996 as it showcased a variety of activities.

Navy, Army, Air Force and civilian vehicles and aircraft were also on show. The afternoon flying display featured a Hornet, a Caribou and the Roulettes, Navy Squirrel helicopters and a Vampire, Sabre and Wirraway from the Temora Aviation Museum.

Seated under fine blue skies, one visitor was extremely impressed with the event. "It’s awesome," Queenslander Leon Dafter from Mackay said.

"The last air show I saw was at the Bicentennial in Sydney, but this is so much better because here I have been able to get up close and personal with the aircraft on display.”

Wagga resident Bruce Johnston added: “I haven’t had time yet to see all the aircraft on display.”

"It was great to see the day evolve as we planned it to be. The weather was fine and so many people took the opportunity to see us demonstrate the professional approach of our tri-service and civilian team at RAAF Base Wagga. "My thanks to the staff at Wagga for their efforts in holding such a successful open day,” he said.

WOFF-AF JJ Millar, who attended the open day, said he was “really impressed with the quality of our airmen and airwomen” at Wagga. “They display the quiet professionalism and confidence that is so heartening to see when I travel to bases,” he said.

Director of Regional Events AIRCDRE Rod Luke led the 2009 Open Day team.

"We wanted to open the base to the local community so they could join us and see the exciting things that happen on the base at Wagga," AIRCDRE Luke said.

"Wagga has become the home of the airmen. It’s where our airmen commence their recruit training, many of them stay for their specialist technical and support training.

“And all of them will return to Wagga at some point as part of their career development.”

AIRCDRE Luke said his job as Director of Regional Events was rewarding and enjoyable because he got to “work closely with the people on base and the community as we displayed our base”.

"We opened the workshops and the work places to the local community so that our people could tell their story,” he said.

"We have enjoyed an exceptionally healthy, ongoing relationship with the Wagga community. We have become part of the community and they have become part of base life.

"It was great to see the day evolve as we planned it to be. The weather was fine and so many people took the opportunity to see us demonstrate the professional approach of our tri-service and civilian team at RAAF Base Wagga."
Taking stock in MEAO

By SGT Andrew Hetherington

THE 2nd Force Support Unit (FSU 2) embarked on a new era in logistics support in the Middle East Area of Operations in August when it took over from FSU 1.

The role of the team is to provide logistics, life support and Q store support to personnel deployed in Kandahar and Tarin Kowt.

OC of the FSU’s element in Afghanistan (Force Support Team – Afghanistan) MAJ David Nathan said the headquarters and a troop-sized element are based in Kandahar and another troop is located in Tarin Kowt.

The unit is made up of about 70 members from the Army and Air Force.

One of the personnel working in Kandahar is CPL Kelly Heenan, working in the Q store warehouse keeping track of stock items.

“It gets quite busy and I occasionally go and give the guys a hand in the warehouse,” CPL Heenan said.

“It is her second deployment to the MEAO.”

“It’s different for me this time as now I am working in a joint task group with Army personnel, last time I worked only with Air Force.

“So far the deployment for me is beginning to be more rewarding, because I’m starting to get my head around my job. I’m feeling like I’m here for a reason.”

CPL Heenan said a lot of people did not understand fully how everything worked when they first arrived at the unit, so she was able to use experience to help them adapt to the new environment.

“We also have the odd joke here, which also helps with morale.”

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Melbourne 6.30pm, Wednesday 25 November
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Number 1. Where you want to be

Winning hearts on Timor deployment

EAST Timor has been an eye-opener for FLTLT Erica Green and LAC Paul Fulcher who are both on their first deployment to the country.

FLTLT Green is a watchkeeper with the International Stabilisation Force. FLTLT Fulcher is a military working dog handler with the Timor-Leste Aviation Group 11.

FLTLT Green said she was amazed at what we could learn from the East Timorese.

“There is just so much more to life than what you own or what job you have,” she said. “It amazes me that you can have so much or make so much with so little.”

LAC Fulcher acknowledges that his dog Aisha is the one with the role to play.

“The handlers have to be ready to deploy, but it is actually the dog who gets the job, and the handler then goes with them,” he said.

LAC Fulcher said he enjoyed that it was his dog on deployment.

“Even if you’re having a down day, when you go to see the dogs, they’re always happy to see you,” he said.

FLTLT Green said she relished the opportunity to work with the Army while on operational deployment.

“I hadn’t really done a lot of work with the Army, so working in a joint force headquarters environment has been great to see how other parts of our Defence Force work,” FLTLT Green, who normally works as an instructor at Officers’ Training School, RAAF Base East Sale, said.

FULLFILLING JOBS: LAC Paul Fulcher with his best mate Aisha, above, and FLTLT Erica Green getting to know the local community in East Timor.

Photos: LAC Christopher Dickson

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AIR FORCE

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Record intake led by Queenslanders

By FLTLT Bruce Chalmers

THE largest Air Force recruit intake in a decade was ably assisted by Defence Recruiting in southern Queensland who delivered 67 of the 179 new recruits sworn in on October 6.

Overflowing on the steps to Brisbane’s Anzac Square Shrine of Remembrance, the new recruits were welcomed by Commander Combat Support Group AIRCDRE Noddy Sawade, who inducted the Air Force’s newest members in front of proud family, friends and public observers.

The new recruits will take up roles as aircraft structural fitters, aircraft and avionic technicians, electricians, airfield defence guards, air surveillance operators, suppliers, cooks, dental assistants, firefighters, photographers and communications and information systems controllers.

Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science Greg Combet congratulated the new members.

“T congratulate all the new members of the Air Force, thank them for their commitment to serve their country and wish them well both in their initial training in Wagga and in their future Air Force careers,” Mr Combet said.

“This is one of the largest enlistments of Air Force personnel for many years. Overall it’s a very interesting range of careers the recruits will be going to. Once again this illustrates the wide range of career opportunities available in our Air Force.”

AIRCORE Sawade also passed on congratulations from CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin.

Southern Queensland provided more than one third of the 179 new recruits sworn in across Australia.

Recruits came from an area covering Bundaberg in the north to the Queensland border in the south and west to Toowoomba.

Most of the recruits said that Air Force was their first choice for employment while some members were returning to Air Force careers to work on the range of new aircraft now coming into service.

In Melbourne, 27 new recruits were sworn in, five joined in Darwin; five in Perth; 14 joined in Adelaide; three in Hobart; 10 in Canberra; 30 joined at Parramatta, Newcastle had 12 recruits and a further 11 enlisted in far North Queensland.

As at September 1, 180 new personnel have joined the Air Force. This comes on top of Air Force’s 91 per cent achievement rate last financial year, with 1314 personnel joining the Air Force. This comes on top of Air Force’s 91 per cent achievement rate last financial year, with 1314 personnel joining the ranks.
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Our air lift vision

By FLTLT Eamon Hamilton

THE INAUGURAL Air Mobility Symposium has opened the door for our air mobility community to discuss their vision of the future.

Held at the Australian Defence College from October 7-9, the event was a chance for Air Lift Group to conduct an open forum with those who share a vested interest in its future.

That includes customers within Army and Joint Operations Command, as well as Air Force, Defence Materiel Organisation, and industry partners.

“We aim to underpin our capability commitments with better understanding of productivity and sustainability issues, resolved through a Defence and Industry Air Mobility community,” Commander ALG AIRCDRE John Oddie said.

“The symposium allows us the chance to assess our relationship, and determine where it has worked or failed through the period, to understand customer needs and to discuss future opportunities,” AIRCDRE Oddie said.

The multitude of interests at stake need to be weighed with ALG’s commitment to short-notice, high-tempo operations – as well as a long-term commitment to the Middle East.

ALG is further committed to introducing new platforms such as the C-17A, KC-30A and Battlefield Airlifter, complementing the existing C-130J and Special Purpose Aircraft.

Deputy Chief of Joint Operations Command AVM Greg Evans gave the opening address to the symposium. A former CDR ALG and Hercules pilot, AVM Evans said air lift remained the centre of gravity for the Middle East Area of Operations. While the pace of operations promised to endure, AVM Evans told attendees “it’s a marvellous time to be serving our country, and you are the people who are going to be needed”.

All of this is intended to be accomplished against the background of the Strategic Reform Program (SRP), which is viewed in ALG as the catalyst for allowing many of the required changes to happen.

Doing this requires careful cooperation with other elements such as Air Force’s Combat Support Group, or Defence Support Group, who were both given space to speak at the symposium about their respective plans forward with the SRP.

Aircrew gets funky for kids

By FLTLT Skye Smith

QUEENSLAND’s Radio Lollipop Funky Friday team were flying high when 6SQN aircrew paid a visit to sick children at the Mater Hospital recently.

FLTLTs Mathew Stade and Vladislav Bismarck and FLOGOFs Adele Merriman, Paul Moylan and Jasper McCallin, presented a special delivery of gifts for the children from the squadron.

Jaye Chirgwin of Radio Lollipop thanked the 6SQN members for visiting.

“There may be future Royal Australian Air Force members, but overall there were lots of smiles from children and parents alike after their special visit,” Ms Chirgwin said.

The F-111 Dump and Burn display performed at the Brisbane Riverfire was a popular topic during the visit.

6SQN has formed a close association with Radio Lollipop over the years.

“It is awesome to have the Air Force visit and is great that we can keep this going,” Ms Chirgwin said.

Radio Lollipop is an international organisation founded over 25 years ago to provide care, comfort, play and entertainment for children, primarily in hospitals.

The 2010 model line up of Land Rovers is here. As a member of the Australian Defence Forces’ you are eligible for the full benefits of the Land Rover Corporate Programme, including 3 years/100,000kms free scheduled service*, 3 years/100,000kms factory warranty†, factory corporate rebates on all models, reduced new vehicle delivery cost**, even free genuine tailored floor mats.

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Freelander 2 has a choice of 3.2 litre i6 petrol engine, 2.2 litre TD4 turbodiesel and new Freelander 2 TD4_e, the first SUV in the world with intelligent Stop/Start. Finally, Defender is now available with a new eight model line up – five 110’s and three 130’s – from two seats to seven, and with tray back options.

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We can do it, says Dr Watt

By Barry Rollings

Dr Ian Watt, the relatively new Secretary of Defence, has a succinct message for the naysayers who question his department’s ability to change in government expectations – it can do it, it will do it and it has to do it.

Dr Watt was responding to recent media comment which asked whether, in all the planning, anything really would change in the face of the government’s requirements for reform, budget cuts and implementing the White Paper.

“The media is asking the wrong question,” Dr Watt said.

“The question that should be asked is ‘Can Defence deliver the White Paper and the Strategic Reform Program (SRP), without changing?’ The answer is, it cannot.

“Defence has to change. I know many people will say ‘it has been said often before, and Defence hasn’t changed’ but I see a Defence organisation that has already changed a great deal.

“More than seven years ago, it seemed that Defence struggled to do many things. It delivered on its operations well, but it often struggled in things such as projects and personnel that had an administrative catch to them.”

Defence has changed almost universally for the better since then. “It has to keep doing that,” he said. “Defence is core government business. We have to change as the government demands changes from us.

“Very few organisations have the opportunity to do something like this government has handed to Defence. In setting the White Paper, a 20-year budget and the SRP, the Government has given Defence the tools to change itself and I think that’s great.

“It has given us the clearest possible signal that we can have of what we have to do.

“The government has set these parameters for us, and told us to get on and do it. That will involve change. We will do it. We can’t do what we have to do without change.”

Dr Watt said he believed strongly that the new Defence Ministerial team would make a big difference to the organisation.

“I thought Defence had laid the foundations for change already. The new Ministerial team had great promise to build on those foundations and I thought that I could help in the change process.”

While he saw no “magic formula” for Defence reform, Dr Watt said it was paramount that the organisation and its people desired change.

“That doesn’t mean everybody has to be signed on but you have to have the senior members of the organisation and a lot of people at all levels willing to countenance change and sign on. That’s what I see in Defence – strong senior leadership with an appreciation of and desire for change and reform across the organisation.”

Dr Watt’s work philosophy will be one of engagement, travelling to see and talk to people. “I am used to an organisation where you can get round and talk to everyone in it. You can’t do that in Defence but I intend to meet as many people with whom I work as I can.”

LESSONS LEARNT:

- Recent deployments
- Cutting edge medicine
- Challenges we are facing now
- Challenges we may need to prepare for

NSW Military Health Symposium 2009 >>

WHEN: Saturday 14 November 2009
WHERE: HMAS WATTLEHAM, Wollongong
WHO: To Service personnel of all ranks as well as Defence Civilian Health workers are welcome
REGISTRATION: Registration is FREE Registration closes 6 November
ENQUIRIES: AB David Talakovski Telephone: 02 423 5269 Email: david.talakovski@defence.gov.au

Many interesting subjects will be discussed at this symposium. Updates will appear on www.raamc.com

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Defence has to change. It has the terrific chance to build the organisation it wants to be.
WOFF-AF talks leadership

By LCDR Adrian Kemp

WOFF-AF John Millar joined WO Navy Mark Tandy and RSM Army WO Stephen Ward for a visit to Singapore for high-level talks with their international counterparts.

The inaugural 2009 Senior Enlisted Leaders’ Working Group (SELWG) was hosted by Singapore and co-hosted by U.S. Pacific Command and the New Zealand Defence Force.

The forum’s theme was to set the platform in ‘Making Connections and Strengthening Relationships’ for the future generation of senior enlisted leaders in the Asia Pacific region.

WOFF-AF Millar said it was a great opportunity to learn more about Australia’s neighbours’ recruit, initial employment and leadership training.

“The underpinning point that kept arising was the passion all countries represented had towards the constant development of their enlisted members and the requirement for great leadership throughout all ranks,” he said.

“It is important that this forum becomes a regular event so it is a great medium to continue to learn from each other and grow.”

BULLETIN BOARD

Air Force Band

October 29: The band will give a chamber music concert at Wesley College, St Kilda.

October 29: The Ceremonial Band will support the RAAF Band Queen’s Colour parade at RAAF Base Wagga from 8am.

October 30: Force 10 will support the RAAF Band, Laverton, Officers’ Mess Spring Ball.

October 30: The Ceremonial Band will support the 1/2009 Basic Photographic Course graduation parade at RAAF Base East Sale from 12pm.

November 4: The Ceremonial Band will support the 1RTU graduation parade at RAAF Base East Sale from 11am.

November 6: The Ceremonial Band will support the Officers’ Training School graduation parade at RAAF Base East Sale from 11am.

November 8: A band drummer will support the Remembrance Day service at RAAF Base Richmond from 11am.

November 11: A band drummer and trumpeter will support the Remembrance Day service at RAAF Base Richmond at 11am.

November 11: A band drummer will wind the Last Post in the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

November 11: A band drummer will sound the Last Post at the NRMA Annual General Meeting at Eveleigh, NSW.

November 11: The Ceremonial Band will take part in the Remembrance Day Service in Martin Place, Sydney from 11am.

F-111 engineers reunion

An engineers’ reunion dinner will be held at the RAAF Base Amberley Officers’ Mess on December 3 for all current and retired engineers who have worked on the F-111.

An information session on the Super Hornet and JSF and a tour of the base is $45 per guest with RSVPs and payment required by December 1.

To book, email karren.steadman@defence.gov.au or for more information, call Bryan McNeice on (07) 5467 8920.

Record crowd at WOE meet

By LAC Aaron Curran

In a Sign of the growing importance to Air Force of the Warrant Officer Engineer (WOE) Conferences, a record 78 personnel attended the two-day gathering recently.

Held annually at RAAF Base Glenbrook, the conferences are a way to improve maintenance processes through high-level engagement with the senior technical airmen of the Air Force.

“The theme this year was ‘Best Practices,’” Director Maintenance – Air Command GPCAPT Graeme Davies said.

A wide variety of topics pertinent to improving the maintenance environment was presented and was well received by the attendees.

WOEs from all three services, seven EXEC WOEs and for the first time two Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) WOEs, took part in presentations, informal discussions and sharing of ideas and experiences.

“One of the 78 members who attended, they represented a total of 1894 years of service and 319 years as WOEs, a considerable bringing together of experience,” GPCAPT Davies said.

“This year was up from 52 attendees at the 2008 conference.”

He said the conference remains “a valuable tool in enabling dissemnation of important unfiltered information to our most experienced technical airmen and also provides an opportunity to gather immediate feedback.

“There was great interest among the WOE regarding the Strategic Reform Program (SRP),” he said.

“They understood that we all part in play in the SRP and the broader Air Force improvement initiatives.”

While there are always fundamental differences between Air Force, Navy and Army within the aviation technical domain, GPCAPT Davies said they shared similar issues.

“A forum such as the WOE conference means that the attendees are able to share and discuss these issues.”

For the first time, two RNZAF WOEs came across the Tasman to take part and share their experiences and perspectives.

“The RNZAF had earlier expressed an interest in attending the conference,” GPCAPT Davies said.

“It was agreed on both sides of the Tasman that there were benefits from interaction between ADF WOEs and their RNZAF counterparts. We certainly appreciated them being here and we hope to see them at the 2010 conference.”

WOE WEIGHT: ACAUST

AVM Mark Skidmore heads the Warrant Officer Engineer (WOE) group at RAAF Base Glenbrook.

Photo: LACW Casey Gaul

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The city of Newcastle came to a standstill when more than 200 Air Force personnel were welcomed home from Afghanistan.

Despite a forecast for rain, the sun was out as they marched along the Newcastle foreshore before forming up for a parade in front of the historic Customs House.

Cannons were fired, and locals lined the street to welcome back those who had completed their mission at the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at Kandahar Airfield.

The parade, on October 11, was held in conjunction with the Mattara and Maritime Festivals.

Most of the members were drawn from 41WG and subordinate units, including the Williamtown-based 1 Radar Surveillance Unit and Control Support Group personnel who deployed to the CRC also participated in the parade.

They were responsible for the conduct of all air surveillance and air battle management operations over Afghanistan from August 5, 2007 until July 7 this year when they handed control back to the United States Air Force.

CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin and the Minister for Defence, Science and Personnel Greg Combet attended.

AIRMSHL Binskin praised the efforts of all the 400 Australian personnel who worked at the CRC.

“Our CRC personnel have made an important contribution to coalition operations in Afghanistan and they rarely get public recognition, so this is an important event,” AIRMSHL Binskin said.

OC 41WG GPCAPT Daryl Hunter led the parade that was marked by an F/A-18 flypast. The three fast jets arrived with perfect timing.

There was a static display of a TPS-77 radar which was similar to the one used in Afghanistan. The Air Force ensign displayed on the day was the same one flown over the camp in Kandahar for the entire duration of the deployment.

The icing on the cake was the performance of members of the Air Force Band, who marched and performed alongside the guests of honour.

There was a great deal of effort put in behind the scenes in the lead up to the event. Some of the key people included FSGT Andrew Earl, SGT Alex Palmer and SQNLDR Olivia Stuart-Atkinson, all from HQ 41WG.

“We worked with Newcastle City Council and the Maritime Festival organisations as it was the perfect opportunity to stage an event such as this,” FSGT Earl said.

Family and friends took up the invitation to attend, and thousands turned out to watch the parade.

For a select few, this was the opportunity to be welcomed back in their home city. SGT Andrew Earle, FLTLT Murray Ross and FLTLT Bradley Jones, all from 41WG, were among the first to arrive at the event.

The welcome home parade ended with a flypast of three F/A-18Es over the city.

‘It’s a real honour’

By FLTLT Jamie Abbott

October 29, 2009

NEWCASTLE WELCOMES HOME PERSONNEL FROM AFGHANISTAN

WE'RE PROUD: Greg Comet and AIRMSHL Mark Binskin in front of the TPS-77 Radar display.

IN AWE: Three-year-old Ville Vihmo, one of the many spectators who lined the streets.

PHOTO: LAC Craig Barrett

ON PARADE: Members of 41WG in front of the Customs House Hotel during the CRC welcome home parade in Newcastle.

PHOTO: LAC Craig Barrett

WE'RE PROUD: Greg Comet and AIRMSHL Mark Binskin in front of the TPS-77 Radar display.

PHOTO: LAC Craig Barrett

IN AWE: Three-year-old Ville Vihmo, one of the many spectators who lined the streets.

PHOTO: LAC Craig Barrett

WARM WELCOME: WOFF Bernadette Browning, from 1 Radar Surveillance Unit, with FLDOFF Elatha Kondalekulo, from Headquarters Joint Operations Command, at a cocktail function. The CRC gathered at Customs House Hotel in Newcastle to mark their historical deployment.

PHOTOS: LAC Craig Barrett

JOB WELL DONE:

Above, members of 41WG march off the parade ground after their welcome home parade.

SNAKING DOWN THE ROAD:

Right, the marchers head towards the historic Customs House.

PHOTO: LAC Craig Barrett
Get in early and Win!

Tickets sold by COB 06 Nov 09 go in the draw for a $250 shopping voucher from Windsor Riverview. 1 drawn at each of the seven circus shows.

1812 Overture
Saturday 28 Nov 09 from 19:30 Performed by the Australian Army Band (Sydney) with fireworks, Friday Show tickets will be valid for re-entry on Saturday

Entertainment
Friday 27 Nov 09 & Saturday 28 Nov 09 - 09:00 - 21:00 Various craft stalls, Climbing wall, ADF Car & Bike ‘Show & Shine’, Flying displays, Roving entertainments, Science shows, Military Working Dogs, Dodgem cars, Giant Slide, Miami Disco, Bucking Bull, Flying Tigers, Jumping Castles galore!

Robinson’s Family Circus
Friday 27 Nov 09 - Circus shows @ 17:00 & 19:00
Saturday 28 Nov 09 - Circus shows @ 09:00, 11:00, 14:00, 16:00 & 18:00

Aircraft flying displays
Friday 27 Nov 09 @ 16:00 - 16:30
Saturday 28 Nov 09 @ 12:30 - 13:00

Tickets only $15
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Remembrance Day 11 November 2009

Buy a poppy for your mobile phone in support of veterans

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CHECK IT OUT: Above, during the recent Exercise Nichi Gou in Japan, VP-3’s PO2 Takasuke Karlyazono hosts 10SQN’s FSGT Michael Barker, SGT Jay Trevena and SGT George Moungos during a tour of the Japanese Orion.

CHOW DOWN: Below, 10SQN’s CPL Paul Quast (right) and VP-3’s LS Hideyoshi Kimoto enjoy a barbecue lunch hosted by VP-3 at Atsugi Naval Air Base during a break in the flying.

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Wear poppy wallpaper this Remembrance Day

ADF personnel at home or overseas will be able to show they care this Remembrance Day – wherever they are – thanks to the RSL’s use of digital media.

As part of its 2009 Poppy Appeal from October 30 to November 11, RSL (Queensland Branch) will launch its mobile poppy which can be accessed via the Internet from a computer or mobile phone.

Simply put – it’s a poppy wallpaper for your mobile phone.

RSL (Queensland Branch) President Doug Formby said the mobile poppy website was a way for all Australians to come together, no matter where they were, to pay tribute to the 102,000 Australians who have died in war.

“November 11 is a day of significance for all Australians, including ADF personnel deployed overseas and ex-pats living abroad,” Mr Formby said.

“Mobile phones are common place today and not everyone can access a poppy to wear to show their support for veterans on Remembrance Day.”

For a donation of $2 or more on the website, mobile phone users will be sent a poppy wallpaper as a thank you. For every donation a poppy will also be planted on the donor’s behalf in an online Field of Remembrance.

Visit the website www.rslpoppy.com to make a donation. Mobile phone users with web access can visit the website at m.rslpoppy.com

Get ahead with ADFHEAS

A UNIVERSITY degree needn’t be out of reach, especially if the training and education received while working in the ADF is taken into account.

The ADF Higher Education Advanced Standing (ADFHEAS) Scheme can get a university education and an undergraduate or postgraduate degree off to a head start.

ADF or who plan to do so in the future can still use ADFHEAS to achieve a degree.

Further information about the ADFHEAS Scheme and the 25 universities involved can be found at the ADFHEAS webpage on www.defence.gov.au/dsg/organisation/ADFHEAS/ or email specific questions to adfheas@defence.gov.au

Help us make a statement

AN ONLINE survey has just been launched to the Air Force community to encourage members to contribute to the creation of a new Air Force Vision Statement.

Director General Strategy and Planning – Air Force AIRCDRE Mike Bennett said the survey was an important tool in “creating a fresh Air Force Vision that has as much meaning for a new recruit as it does for the Senior Leadership Team”.

“We need to know what inspires our men and women, and what motivates them to be part of one of the best Air Forces in the world,” AIRCDRE Bennett said.

“Our new Vision Statement will advance us to the year 2020 with the conviction that vital roles played by our uniformed and civilian members are being shaped by a sense of common purpose and common direction.

“As we embark on significant reform, it is crucial that we maintain a collective approach, and our Vision Statement will be the overarching inspiration for us all,” he said.

To contribute to the formation of the new Air Force Vision Statement, all you have to do is enter into your browser the following link and follow the prompts: http://72.167.189.5/Project/index.gsp?projectID=Air_Force_2020&language=en

You will be asked what inspires you, and the kinds of things that will make you proud to belong to the Air Force of the future.

The survey will take only five to 10 minutes to complete, and you can contribute as many times as you like until November 16. After this date, the Senior Leadership Team will begin using the responses to form the new Vision Statement.

If you have any questions about the project, or have trouble with the website, email afhq.afac@defence.gov.au; or contact Vicki Case on (02) 6266 5615, FLGOFF Tabitha Frew on (02) 6266 5674 or FLGOFF Tabitha Frew on (02) 6266 5615.

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STAYING FIT IS A BATTLE...

Time for a change

Air Force’s current Vision Statement reads:

To be a balanced expeditionary networked Air Force capable of achieving the Government’s objectives through the swift and decisive application of air and space power in joint operations as part of a larger coalition force.
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GO ON DISPLAY: Nominations are now open for the annual Air Force Awards. Photo: AC Michael Green

Time to reward with awards

By FSGT Ben Wright

DID you know that 38SQN has won the Duke of Gloucester Cup a record six times?
Or that four of the 13 airmen to be named Airman of the Year have been LACs?
Now, it may be your turn to be recognised for your outstanding efforts during 2009.

Air Force Headquarters is looking for hard-working individuals and units that have inspired and performed in 2009.

Every workplace has airmen who do their job well, but they also have those who not only excel in their job, they also go that extra mile to ensure that their workplace is the best it can possibly be.

The Air Force Awards provide all leaders and commanders the opportunity to recognise those personnel and units who are outstanding while they achieve the many diverse tasks that Air Force carries out each year.
The awards operate in two categories – individual and unit.

They are CAF’s unique means to recognise, reward and promote those personnel and units who challenge us to enhance our own contribution towards creating a Better Air Force, and are also an important component of Air Force’s partnership with industry.

The awards not only celebrate the achievements of those airmen and units who excel and inspire, but also those unique local solutions which make what Air Force does possible.

They also reward new ideas and innovative approaches that enhance the delivery of air power for Australia.

The nominations are now open and the process of nomination has been simplified by a new web form, AD972. Also, the Defence Instruction, DI(AF)ADMIN 02-01, which administers the awards process has been revised to streamline the background, eligibility and nomination process.

Commanders at all levels intending to nominate should refer to the instruction as there are key dates over the next few months that must be met to ensure their nominations are successful.

Successful nominees will be announced on March 31, 2010 and the awards will be presented at the gala dinner in May next year.

In addition to the 17 Air Force awards (listed in the breakout box above) to be presented at the gala dinner, CAF will also present a number of Air Command awards and the Air Force Safety Awards.

For more information, contact FLGOFF Justin Cox on (02) 6265 3669 or visit http://intranet.defence.gov.au/raafweb/sites/awards

Award categories

- Air Force APS Team Member of the Year.
- Airman of the Year.
- Logistics support award – military and civilian.
- CAF instructor of the Year (Officer).*
- Most outstanding officer graduate.
- Most outstanding RAAFSTT graduate.
- Junior Airman bursary.
- Outstanding contribution to ADF health award.
- Photograph of the Year.
- Most outstanding leadership student at OTS.
- WOFF-AF Instructor of the Year (Airman).*
- Most proficient Reserve Training Wing squadron.
- Most proficient flying squadron.
- Most proficient RAAF base.
- Most proficient unit (not eligible for other awards).
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WGCDR Jack Davenport was an Australian war hero. He saved the life of his navigator who was unable to bail out when their aircraft hurtled into a spin and he pulled one of his pilots from a furiously burning Beaufighter, with ammunition exploding around them.

For saving that pilot’s life, WGCDR Davenport was awarded the George Medal.

His story is the subject of a book, Jack Davenport, Beaufighter Leader, written by Canberra’s Kristen Alexander.

Born in 1920, Jack was 19 when World War II began. After training in Canada and Britain, he was posted to 455SQN RAAF, initially with Bomber Command flying bombing missions to Germany in the Hampdens.

The squadron transferred to Coastal Command, attacking German shipping, often at wave top level, from Holland to Norway.

Later, it upgraded to Beaufighters and, as commanding officer, WGCDR Davenport oversaw the transition to the new aircraft.

On July 15, 1944, he led one of the largest and most successful operations undertaken by Coastal Command, the destruction of nine enemy ships, and not a single aircraft was lost.

Jack exercised meticulous care in training, and he constantly exhorted his men to maintain precision formation flying.

This all paid off. Only one crew – two men – died on any operation; Jack led after taking command of 455SQN. This was at a time when Bomber Command was losing 60 per cent of its aircrew killed in operations over Europe.

After the war, Jack Davenport, AC, DOSO, DFC, GM, joined the Canberra building firm that later became Monier and managed a lot of public housing contracts for “Monocrete” houses.

He worked with Monier until 1982, at which time he was its managing director and, for two years running, was listed among Australia’s top 10 businessmen.

Jack saw the company expand into the USA, Asia and the Philippines. He joined the RAAF Association in 1946 and became a life vice president in the 1970s.

Jack was the inaugural president of 455 Squadron Association after the war, a post he held until his death in 1996.

Jack Davenport, Beaufighter Leader,写的 this book. This follows her previous work on former WWII Australian ace, GPCAPT Clive Caldwell.
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- reduced the value of your investment by re-valuing its key assets down; or
- downgraded its forecast earnings.

These examples demonstrate how important it is to have a regular flow of information to keep track of your investments.

Continuous disclosure

Material information is information that affects the price or value of your investment. Making this information available is called continuous disclosure. It’s the law for companies to make material information available to investors about events as they happen and it is up to the investment issuer to assess whether they think the information is material.

Keeping up-to-date with this information is important because it could have an impact on the nature of your investment, how much the investment is worth, or your ability to alter your investment.

Continuous disclosure information for investments listed on a public market such as the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) – shares or derivatives – is relatively easy to find on the ASX website at https://www.asx.com.au. However, for investments that are not listed, finding this information is more difficult. With unlisted shares, unlisted debentures and unlisted managed investment schemes:
- you can’t always easily see the price of the investment;
- your ability to buy or sell your investment may be restricted; and
- there isn’t ongoing supervision by a market supervisor, such as the ASX.

Nevertheless, even with unlisted investments, you do have a means of finding out current information because the business (or investment product issuer) must make certain information available to you from time to time.

When to access this intel?

You might want to access the continuous disclosure information:
- before you make an investment in unlisted shares, unlisted debentures, unlisted managed investment schemes or products quoted on the ASX-AQUA;
- once you have made one of these types of investments, to keep track of how your investment is going;
- when you are thinking about withdrawing your investments; and
- when you are thinking about making additional investments.

Where do I find the intel?

The investment product issuer can decide how they want to provide you with the information, either:
- by making the information available on its website; or
- by lodging the information with ASIC.

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STAY INFORMED: It is important to have a regular flow of information to keep track of your investments.

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Hockey veterans’ Masters touch

By Michael Brooke

The Defence Hockey team of underdogs has triumphed over adversity to win gold and silver medals at the World Masters Games in Sydney.

The men’s team won the gold medal in the over-55B category and silver in the over-40s against a tough field of international competitors.

The women’s team battled hard but was unable to match the result of their male counterparts.

The over-55B players, who called themselves the Old Warriors, beat Manly Magic 1-0 in a thriller to claim the gold medal, while the Older Warriors (over-40s) had to settle for the silver after being beaten 3-1 by the Tassie Old Boys.

The teams were made up of more than 50 Air Force, Navy, Army and APS personnel.

AC Nathan Ball scored the only goal in the Old Warriors’ gold medal decider and was voted man of the match.

Also standing tall was WGCDR Ken Millar, who showed he still had the skill and fitness to run from one end of the pitch to the other while dismantling the opposition defence.

Victory in the over-55B category was especially sweet for the Old Warriors, who seemed to lose their way in the middle of the round-robin competition after being flogged by eight goals apiece in two earlier games.

But they rallied in the play-offs. The Older Warriors fancied their chances in the gold medal showdown against the Tassie Old Boys, after fighting them to a 2-2 draw in a thrilling round-robin match.

Unfortunately, they were missing something up front on the day and had injuries to players who had been the focus at the tournament all week but were unable to play in the decider.

Defence Hockey PR spokesman LEUT Stuart Cayzer said the way the teams melded spoke volumes about the Defence Hockey combined service culture as well as the multi-dimensional manoeuvre it achieved in both the battlespace and the sports field.

He said both teams had players who played crucial roles in helping the Warriors to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat in all their games.

“Many players were on the pitch with hamstrings that were close to snapping, or that did during the final, and feet that were permanently blistered and bleeding,” he said.

Rolling Army, sunk by Navy

By Scotty Tobias

Despite downing arch-rival Army, Air Force lawn bowlers surrendered their Service Champions crown during a week of superb bowls at the national championships in Brisbane.

2008 champions could not contain Navy’s players who broke through for their first title in the championship's 25-year history.

Air Force began the tournament against last year’s runners-up, APS, in difficult, windy conditions. The match was played across four rinks with APS holding a 19-shot buffer for most of the match.

With less than an hour’s play remaining, two APS teams were on 18 shots apiece when their momentum stalled. Air Force finished strongly to manage a thrilling draw and two wins from four games but it still wasn’t enough going down 75-83 on the masters board.

In round two, Air Force met Army and once again Air Force got away poorly with three of the four teams in arrears to trail 13-31. In a stunning turnaround, Air Force clawed its way to win on all but one rink to record a meritorious 82-70 victory.

Air Force’s final match was against the in-form Navy, which in the previous round blasted APS off the green by 53 shots.

Scores were 20 shots apiece before Navy began to assert its dominance, eventually winning 82-59.

Air Force’s best player was LAC Jamie Edmonds and his team of WOFF John Donlan, SGT Luke Stubbs and FSgt Scott Bourne remained undefeated throughout the tournament and inflicted Navy’s only loss.

To all Defence Employees

SmartSalary launches Purple meets Green – our new carbon offset program

Who is SmartSalary?

SmartSalary is the approved salary packaging provider for the Department of Defence – currently over 12,000 Defence staff salary package with us.

Introducing Purple meets Green

SmartSalary is pleased to announce the launch of our new environmental program – Purple meets Green – offering our customers the opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of their car travel.

Motor vehicles produce harmful carbon emissions that damage our environment. We believe it is our responsibility to minimise that damage – that’s why we’ve partnered with not-for-profit organisation Greenfleet to help offset carbon emissions generated by vehicles leased through SmartSalary.

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We aim to encourage our customers who finance a novated car lease through SmartSalary Car Leasing to participate in this program by making a pre-tax donation to Greenfleet. Greenfleet will plant 21 native trees for each annual donation which will be used to plant forests that soak up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

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Deven Billimoria
Chief Executive Officer
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P.S For more details about the Purple meets Green program, please visit our website www.smartsalary.com.au/green or call our Leasing team on 1300 791 644.
Taking on the world

By John Martin

RESERVIST CPL Jane Watts is pinching herself. Having swept all before her in the sport of bodybuilding since her debut in only May this year, now she has won a place to compete on the world stage in New York in November.

"I know it sounds corny, but I really am quite stunned," she said.

"I came into this sport not knowing much about body sculpting and now, 13kg lighter, a title under my name and heading off to America to compete in the worlds, is just beyond all my wildest dreams." Actually, she has won three titles in short time. CPL Watts, who works for the Defence Materiel Organisation at Victoria Barracks in Melbourne, featured in the last AIR FORCE News after she won the women's overall class at the ADF natural physique titles at HMAS Cerberus in Victoria in September.

Then, on October 10 and 11, she contested the World Natural Bodybuilding Federation (WNBF) Asia Pacific titles in Sydney, where she landed the Miss Figure and Fit Body titles and won an airfare to the US to contest the WNBF World titles on November 12-14.

She will be accompanied by members of her gym, Muscle and Body Shape, head coach Michael Tabban, her trainer Areti Anagnostellis and four other competitors.

Seizing the high ground

By LAC Aaron Curran

IF RUNNING around a flat track just doesn’t do it for you, how about having a go at mountain running?

On November 7, the Australian Defence Mountain Running Championships will be held in Canberra, starting at 6.30am at Mt Majura Vineyard.

The championships will be held in conjunction with the Three Peaks 26km run (men’s championship), and Two Peaks 20km run (women’s championship).

The route will take in Mt Majura, Mt Ainslie and Mt Pleasant with prizes awarded to everyone who finishes the course.

The entry fee is $30 if your entry form is submitted before November 3. Members from the Defence Athletic Club (DAC) will have their entry fee reimbursed.


You can enter online at https://commerce34.pair.com/tzone/events/amra/mmv2009/ and then forward the following details to jessica.robson@defence.gov.au with your rank/title, name, service, unit and contact details. Then choose what category you wish to compete in – Men’s and women’s open, veteran men 35-44 years, veteran women 35 years and over and masters men, 45 years and over.

Members interested in joining the DAC can find more information on the DAC website http://www.adf.coolrunning.com.au/
THE day after winning the Australian women’s marathon title and qualifying for the next Commonwealth Games in India, FLGOFF Lisa Flint’s mind was back on her Air Force job.

FLGOFF Flint, a pharmacetical officer with 2 Expeditionary Health Squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown, won the Melbourne marathon on Sunday, October 11 in a personal-best time of 2:34.08.

“This places her as a contender for a medal in the Commonwealth Games in Delhi and, beyond that, the Olympics.

But there was little time to celebrate or feel tired for FLGOFF Flint on that Sunday because the next day she had to be back in Wagga for the third week of a nine-week Air Force logistics course.

“After the presentations, I went back to the hotel for a shower and then I had to go to the airport,” she said.

The flight to Canberra took 1½ hours and then she had a 2 ½ hour drive to Wagga.

FLGOFF Flint, 24, has been a revelation since she started marathon running just three years ago after drawing inspiration from seeing the late Kerryn McCann win the 2006 Commonwealth Games marathon which finished at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. McCann died last year.

With before her second try at a marathon, FLGOFF Flint won the 2008 Defence women’s marathon championship – 17 minutes faster than her first attempt.

But she did not rest on her laurels. There was a wider domain to conquer – not just against the best athletes in Australia, but the world.

When two friends entered the Sydney marathon in 2008, she decided to tag along too – and won it in a time of 2:47.43.

By rights, she should have won the national crown that went with it but she could not claim the title because she had not realised she had to be a member of a state-registered athletics club.

She missed the Defence marathon championships on the Gold Coast in July this year because she was in the middle of a 17-week course at Officers’ Training School at RAAF Base East Sale.

But there was no holding her back in Melbourne.

And there was no repeat of her Sydney mistake.

Melbourne this year doubled as the national championship and FLGOFF Flint made sure she was eligible this time as a member of the Hunter-Macquarie Athletic Club.

FLGOFF Flint upset experienced Japanese marathon runner Satoko Uetani in the race, knocking 13 minutes off her previous best.

(Honestly [qualifying for the Commonwealth Games next year]

wasn’t even on my radar,” FLGOFF Flint said straight after the race. “I was hoping for a top-five finish and my aim was 2:42.”

She recalls watching the end of the 2006 Commonwealth Games marathon.

“I remember watching Kerryn’s face at the finish, and she’s been an inspiration. It was a buzz just entering the MCG stadium today and hearing the spectators. It’s a great feeling and indescribably special.”

Fittingly, FLGOFF Flint won the Kerryn McCann Memorial Trophy for her win.

“This race and its course takes the cake.”

FLGOFF Flint has never been to India so the games have a double attraction – as a fascinating destination and a major step-up in the level of competition.

Although she has qualified with her time, the team is not finalised until May 2010 and she is expected to maintain a level of fitness and competitiveness in order to make the final cut.

She has no more marathons on the horizon this year but has plans to race the Zatopek Classic, a 10km track event in Melbourne in December.

The Commonwealth Games will be held in October next year.

ONLY THE START: FLGOFF Lisa Flint with her booty from winning the Melbourne Marathon and the Australian title.

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The trusted pet travel experts
Rising star makes her run

Just three years after contesting her first marathon, FLGOFF Lisa Flint has qualified for next year’s Commonwealth Games with a time-slashing win in the Melbourne marathon that also gave her the Australian title.

“Honestly [qualifying for the Commonwealth Games] wasn’t even on my radar.”

Photo: courtesy Herald Sun, Melbourne