CHANGING OF THE GUARD

USHERING IN OUR NEW CHIEF

PAGE 3
FLTLT Sacha Mondon

A NEW Air Force squadron came into being at an inauguration parade at RAAF Base Amberley on July 1. No. 65 Squadron, part of Combat Support Group, was established to combine Airfield Engineering (AFENG) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) to provide a centralised airbase recovery capability.

Parade reviewing officer CDR CSG AIRCDRE Scott Winchester said the formation of the new squadron was a significant milestone in CSG's transformation to deliver focused combat support at fixed airbases and expeditionary locations, in Australia and overseas.

CO 65SQN WOCDR Justin Cockroft said the squadron would absorb No. 383 Squadron AFENG and No. 1 Security Forces Squadron EOD flights.

"As well as a small, but dedicated HQ that will include personnel and logistics support staff to form a cohesive and focused air base recovery squadron to support air operations," he said.

"As we develop the air base recovery capability we will continue to provide current AFENG and EOD services that, in one form or another, have been provided to Air Force since WWII.

"I'm extremely proud to be given the privilege to lead the women and men of 65SQN to realise the next evolution of air base support."

The Air Force’s newest squadron will be headquartered at RAAF Base Amberley with flights located at RAAF Base Townsville, RAAF Base Richmond and Orchard Hills.

Several honours and awards were presented during and after the parade.

WGCDR Tim Hurford was awarded an AUSA Commendation for his outstanding contribution to Combat Support Capability as Deputy Executive Officer No. 95 Wing and the role he played in the CO of Defences newly formed No. 3 Security Forces Squadron and 65SQN.

FLTLT Thomas Holt was awarded a Bronze Star for exceptionally meritorious service as the executive chief of staff deployed to Afghanistan in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom’s Sentinel.

Two more KC-30As to arrive 2018

TWO additional KC-30As will be delivered to Air Force in 2018, after the government announced it would purchase the additional tankers on July 14.

Defence has signed an update to the existing acquisition contract with Airbus Defence and Space for the two aircraft and associated conversion cost at a cost of about $408 million.

Each KC-30A has a fuel capacity of more than 100 tonnes, and can off-load fuel using the 17m aerial refuelling boom system or the two hose-and-drogue refuelling pods.

The aircraft is capable of refuelling F/A-18A/B Hornets, F/A-18F Super Hornets, E-7A Wedgetail, C-17A Globemasters and other KC-30A aircraft.

In the future it will refuel EA-18G Growlers, P-8A Poseidon and the F-35A Lightning IIs providing a force-multiplier so aircraft can remain on station longer, extending their range and persistence.

The KC-30A continues to play an important role in the Middle East Region as part of Operation Okra, refuelling a growing number of Australian and coalition fighter aircraft.

Since September 2014, the KC-30A deployed to Operation Okra has delivered more than 10,800 tonnes of fuel.

The additional two aircraft will be based at RAAF Base Amberley, increasing the KC-30A fleet to seven.
Farewell and thank you

AIRMSHL Leo Davies
welcomed in as CAF

CPL Mark Doran

AIRMSHL Geoff Brown handed over command of Air Force to AIRMSHL Leo Davies at a ceremony in Canberra on July 3.

The change of command ceremony was held at Sir Thomas Blamey Square, Russell Offices, formally recognised the change of senior leadership with support from Australia’s Federation Guard and the Air Force Band.

During the ceremony, nine types of aircraft representing most of the Air Force fleet conducted flypasts.

AIRMSHL Brown ended his four-year term as CAF by expressing his gratitude to all Air Force personnel for their contribution and thanking his colleagues, family and friends for their support during his 35-year career.

I cannot leave without expressing my thanks to everyone in Air Force for the past 35 years,” he said.

I have always felt incredibly fortunate to be part of the Air Force.

To have been entrusted with the well-being and command of the men and women of the Air Force is a very special honour and even greater responsibility…”

AIRMSHL Brown said Air Force personnel represented the best of what Australia had to offer.

“We do not use words such as honour, integrity, patriotism and devotion anywhere near enough in our modern society,” AIRMSHL Brown said.

Yet these are the very qualities I have seen in abundance in the uniformed and civilian members of our Air Force family.

“I leave both proud, as well as a little wistful, as you all take Air Force and its values to live to the values that our forebears have bestowed on us as Air Force values.

Davies today,” he said.

“We have never had a more balanced and capable Air Force – and every person in Air Force has been humbling and immensely rewarding.”

AIRMSHL Brown welcomed incoming CAF AIRMSHL Davies to the job and said he trusted Air Force would give him the same support.

“I promise to give you my all and to live to the values that our forebears have bestowed on us as Air Force values.

AIRMSHL Davies said he was incredibly proud to be appointed Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force.

“I am humbled and acutely aware of the challenges and burdens that this role imposes on all who hold it,” AIRMSHL Davies said.

“I promise to give you my all and to lead our Air Force, and make them even greater by building on these three themes.

“We will continue to be an operationally focused Air Force – ready to respond to the Government and people of Australia in meeting every contingency.

“I thank you in advance for your support as we face the future challenges that will be demanded of us. I feel privileged to lead you at such an exciting time in Air Force’s history.”

AIRMSHL Davies has served in a number of roles including CO No. 1 Squadron, OC No. 82 Wing Amberley and Director-General Capability Planning in AFHQ.

He was also posted to Washington as the Air Attaché. His last post was as DCAF.

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“I am humbled and acutely aware of the challenges and burdens that this role imposes on all who hold it,” AIRMSHL Davies said.

“I promise to give you my all and to live to the values that our forebears have bestowed on us as Air Force values.

“While I’m daunted by the achievements of those who have gone before me, I am also inspired by their example – none more than the man whom I succeed today, Geoff Brown.

“It has been an honour to serve as his deputy.”

AIRMSHL Davies said as Air Force became a 5th Generation-enabled force it would need to break down internal stove pipes and become a single integrated system for the delivery of Australia’s air power.

“Air Chief, my main motivator will be to demonstrate to the Navy, the Army, the Government and the public how air power supports our national security and global interests,” he said.

AIRMSHL Brown now plans to take a break and do more silent flying in a craft which is serene and graceful, especially when compared to his former fast jets. “I have a new sailplane on order that arrives in September,” AIRMSHL Brown said. “I’ve been gliding since I was 13, so a bit of competition gliding is my number one plan at the moment.”

Watch AIRMSHL Brown’s farewell video at:

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Special Air Service Regiment, the SAS Historical Foundation has commissioned a limited edition of the Haigh & Hastings M2 Diver watch with embroidered case-back design and presentation box bearing the SASR badge.

Available only through the SAS Historical Foundation
www.australiansas.com
Heron shares the sky

Jamie Abbott

IN AN Australian first, No. 5 Flight has flown a remotely piloted Heron aircraft in civilian airspace.

On June 22, the Heron took off from Rockhampton Airport in preparation for Talisman Sabre 2015. Throughout Talisman Sabre, 5FLT members will fly the Heron from Rockhampton Airport to Shoalwater Bay Training Area military airspace.

This is the first time the aircraft has flown outside its restricted military airspace over the Woomberra Test Range.

The aircraft have completed more than 27,000 mission hours during Operation Slipper where they provided intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support to Australian forces and International Security Assistance Force partners in southern Afghanistan. Heron flew its final mission from Kandahar Air Field on November 30, 2014.

5FLT members will fly the Heron in civilian airspace.

“We do everything like we’d do on a normal aircraft the same way, it’s just you do not get to feel that sensation from the aircraft moving around,” FLTLT Mortimer said.

“You really have to change the way you think about flying and reacting with the aircraft, but it’s a great experience and raises a great challenge as pilot.”

5FLT intends to complete 10-hour flights six days a week and will operate at a maximum altitude of 25,000 feet. The aircraft will not be flown over populated residential areas.

“It’s definitely an emerging capability and it’s really exciting to be working with something which is the future of aviation in Australia,” FLTLT Sheridan said.

Having completed three tours in Afghanistan as part of the Heron Task Unit, outgoing CO WGCDR Jonathan McMullan was able to mark his last week at 5FLT watching the aircraft take off in Rockhampton for the occasion.

“I’m looking forward to continuing to build on the significant accomplishments that have been achieved so far with the Heron,” WGCDR McMullan said.

“The safe operation and integration of Heron into civilian airspace is a key step towards the normalisation of remotely piloted aircraft in Australia.”

Air Force currently operates two Heron aircraft from RAAF Base Woomera in South Australia.

They are flown by Air Force with qualified military pilots who have extensive experience on both manned and remotely piloted aircraft.

Talisman Sabre runs until July 19.

Biofuels on the way

THE ADF is in the process of certifying biofuels for use in its aircraft and will be adopting the US standards on biofuel use, ushering in a new era in aviation.

When the design acceptance process for using biofuels in ADF aircraft is finalised, it will allow most ADF aircraft types to use this more environmental friendly source of fuel, without modification to their engines.

Navy’s S70B Seahawks are the first ADF aircraft planned to use biofuel and will take part in the US Navy Great Green Fleet Exercise next year.

Deputy Director Aerospace Interoperability WGCDR Brady Cummins said the US Air Force and Navy have conducted flight trials and certification activities.

“To ensure our continued interoperability, the ADF has been staying abreast of this US research and development through the Five-Eyes Air and Space Interoperability Council (ASIC),” he said.

“The US has spent $55 million on biofuels research and how to certify them for use on their fleets and shared this information with the other ASIC nations. This has saved the ADF millions of dollars.”

The ASIC Fuels Working Group also discussed the suitability of a new deployable fuel ISO container system currently being developed by another country for transport by C-17.

Each tank is 500 cubic metres in volume and is an option that is in between a bladder and permanent tank.

This ISO fuel container system may be suitable for deployments or for use at bases where permanent tanks are being overhauled or replaced.

“If this new deployable fuel ISO container system proves to be suitable, the benefits to the ADF and the other Five-Eyes nations in cost savings, safety, operational availability and interoperability could be enormous,” WGCDR Cummins said.
Enter the Spartan

Eamon Hamilton

THE first C-27J Spartan has arrived in Australia – a journey of more than 18,000km. On June 25, the C-27J set out from Waco in Texas for its new home at RAAF Base Richmond. CO No. 35 Squadron WGCDR Brad Clarke said the Spartan was supported throughout the journey by C-130J and C-17A squadrons.

"The Hercules carried our support elements so we could maximise the fuel load," he said. "The crew that flew the aircraft to Australia was one of the first to have been trained under our system in the US." The aircraft flew through Japan, Guam and Port Moresby, before touching down at RAAF Base Townsville on June 24. Arriving in Australia through the North Pacific, the Spartan flew to RAAF Base Townsville before heading south to RAAF Base Richmond, where it conducted a series of flypasts before landing to a traditional ‘water arch’ from No. 22 Squadron firefighters.

The C-27J's delivery flight will rank among the longest journeys of its career, and is already a high point for 35SQN. "It’s an outstanding achievement for the squadron, it’s very rewarding for everyone involved," WGCDR Clarke said. "It’s great to see the aircraft here – it’s been a long road to get us to this point."

featured image

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AN AP-3C Orion has assisted in locating a hijacked Malaysian fuel tanker, MT Orkim Harmony, which had been overrun by pirates.

The Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had requested Australia’s cooperation in the initial phase of the search and rescue operation in the South China Sea.

The RAAF Orion that was operating out of Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth spotted the ship on June 17 with pirates, crew and 6000 tonnes of fuel on board.

The pirates had painted over three letters of the ship’s name, changing it to Kim Harmon, in an attempt to hamper the search.

FLTLT Adam Steff, of No. 292 Squadron at RAAF Base Edinburgh, was the captain and senior pilot on the flight.

He said the weather was challenging, but not unexpected.

“Looking back over the deployment I’d say on that particular day the weather was the worst it had been, especially as we flew into the Gulf of Thailand,” he said.

“We had to take significant weather avoidance from the radar operator and at times all the crew were made to strap in, such was the turbulence experienced.

“A lot of the crew were instructors with many hours of experience operating on Operation Gateway, which made the task less difficult, but we were always mindful we had students in the various seats, so good supervision and teamwork was required.”

According to sensor employment manager SQNLDR Peter Knox, the missing tanker was small compared with some in the South China Sea.

“We had some pictures of what it may look like and Murphy’s Law says you will never get the perfect angle, so it came down to the experience of the electro-optics operator, FSgt Adam Priestley, and the hand-held camera operator, FSgt Michael Krollig,” SQNLDR Knox said.

“From many miles back we could see that it may be the one we were after, but because of the pictures we had we weren’t sure.

“Fuel was getting low and we only had minutes left on task. If it had not been for the insistence of our tactical coordinator, FLTLT Cameron Robottom, that this was worth going all in on, because it best fitted the profile, then we may have missed it.”

He said he was pleased with the crew because the sortie was long and at the end of a busy detachment.

“It was a positive result for all involved and another example of Australia and Malaysia working together in an effort to maintain security within the region,” SQNLDR Knox said.

The deployment rounded off six months of operational conversion training at 292SQN for pilots, air combat officers and airborne electronics analysts on the AP-3C.

Royal Malaysian Navy and Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency vessels deployed to the area on June 18 and the Orkim Harmony was secured.

Hours after escaping by lifeboat, the alleged pirates were seen near Tho Chu Island and arrested by Vietnamese authorities.
The Air Force and Army Land 121 instructor training team at the completion of the Land 121 operator training phase 3A at RAAF Base Amberley. Photo: CPL Shannon McCarthy

Final course marked with ceremony

SGT Dave Morley

THE final G-Wagon operator’s course conducted by the Land 121 Phase 3A Driver Training Team (DTT) at RAAF Base Amberley ended with a commemoration ceremony on June 26.

More than 60 people from Army HQ, Capability, Acquisition and Sustainment Group, Vertical Horizons Australia and FORCOMD attended the event, which recognised the significance of the rollout of operator training provided by the Land 121 DTT and the introduction of the Mercedes G-Wagon to ADF units across Australia.

Driver trainer CPL Michael Gilbert has been employed as part of a team of Air Force and Army instructors since January 2014.

He said he enjoyed seeing the results of their training at the end of the course.

“Working within an Army unit and having to adapt to Army ways of doing business has been challenging, but has made me more aware of the need to interact with other ADF branches,” he said.

“By working and interacting together, it allows the ADF to be more of a combined team, a potent fighting force and an asset to the civil authorities in times of natural disasters.”

CPL Gilbert was impressed with the G-Wagon.

“The G-Wagon is a very capable off-road vehicle and allows the operator to get to their objective safely as well as comfortably,” he said.

CPL Gilbert’s next task as an instructor is to teach the use of the 26-tonne trailer before moving onto the new heavy-rigid and heavy combination vehicles.

OC and senior instructor of the Land 121 Phase 3 Training Team, MAJ Craig Mann, said the project had been delivering G-Wagon training since 2011, with about 4750 personnel trained on the vehicle.

“We see that as significant, especially considering this is the last introduction into service (IIS) G-Wagon course completed by this team,” he said.

“It has been a complex and long road for many people involved with the project.”

“To see the end of the 3A IIS has been emotional for those who have committed years in the development of this particular phase.”

MAJ Mann said one of the priorities of the Land 121 Training Team was to train sufficient driver testing officers and assistant driving instructors to enable units to conduct their own in-unit training.

“Facilitating unit-level training enables the capability provided by the G-Wagon platform to be further expanded throughout the ADF,” he said.

“Road Transport Wing at the Army School of Transport has recently started delivering G-Wagon sustainment as Land Rover 110 courses being conducted out of Puckapunyal are no longer being scheduled.”

Changes to alcohol prices at ADF bars

THE price of alcohol sold at Defence bars will increase from September 1.

The change is being introduced to reduce alcohol-related harm in the ADF. It will also ensure uniform alcohol prices at Defence bars across the country and assist in partially offsetting labour costs at Defence bars.

The Review of the Use of Alcohol in the ADF by Professor Hamilton in 2011 found that large numbers of ADF personnel drink at high-risk levels on a regular basis.

Defence’s ADF Alcohol Management Strategy aims to prevent and minimise alcohol-related harm in the ADF and increasing the price of alcohol at Defence bars is one aspect of this.

CAF AIRMSHL Leo Davies said having heavily subsidised alcohol available on bases was inconsistent with Defence’s ADF Alcohol Management Strategy.

“We see that as significant, especially considering this is the first of defence acts to be published in Air Force News. Entries close July 27.”

Alcohol prices at Defence bars as at September 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT TYPE</th>
<th>NEW PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Draught beer, low alcohol (375ml)</td>
<td>$3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium draught beer, low alcohol (375ml)</td>
<td>$3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draught beer, full strength (375ml)</td>
<td>$4.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium draught beer, full strength (375ml)</td>
<td>$5.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard spirit (30ml)</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium cider (500ml)</td>
<td>$7.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-mixed spirits (375ml can)</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/Red wine (150ml)</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortified wines, Port/Sherry etc (60ml)</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled Wine – Set by mess committee</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Modest changes to the price of alcohol will help encourage sensible drinking behaviour and that’s something we should all support,” AIRMSHL Davies said.

“Increases to the cost of alcohol will not change the important role Defence messes play in providing all of us with somewhere to meet and socialise after work.”

Mess committees will continue to receive 15 per cent of bar profits once the changes come into effect.

Sixty per cent of profits will be used to offset the cost of running Defence bars.

Remaining profits will go to mess committees to implement initiatives that support Hamilton Review recommendations.

The change to alcohol pricing is supported by CDF, VCDF and the Service Chiefs.

Let your kids get creative

DEFENCE is holding a NAIDOC Week colouring competition for children, inspired by the Air Force’s Worimi Hornet (pictured right).

There are three age categories: 0-3, 4-7 and 8-12 years. Winners from each category will be awarded a RAAF prize pack and winning entries will be published in Air Force News.

For more information, visit www.defence.gov.au

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SGT Dave Morley

A SMALL number of personnel attended Government House in Canberra on June 25 to accept a Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) on behalf of the 1st Joint Movement Group (1JMOVGP).

Governor-General GEN Sir Peter Cosgrove awarded the citation for the unit’s service in the Middle East region since 2001.

Sir Peter said the success of operations like Falconer, Bastille, Catalyst, Slipper, Kruger, Riverbank and Palate would not have been possible without the logistics support of the men and women of 1JMOVGP.

“All these operations depended upon your ability to solve complex problems at short notice and to deliver exceptional results under difficult conditions,” he said.

“It was your professionalism and your determination to achieve your missions that was critical in the deployment and redeployment of the ADF across the Middle East.

“It was your strength and dedication to duty that ensured uninterrupted support to ADF personnel to the Middle East from operation to operation.”

CO 1JMOVGP GPCAPT Grant Pinder accepted the Warrant for the citation, while one Air Force and four Army movers were presented with the MUC insignia.

“PCAPT Pinder said it was with immense pride that he, along with 23 serving and former members of 1JMOVGP, attended the Investiture Ceremony at Government House. “It is tremendous recognition of an ADF unit that has been in existence for nearly 20 years,” he said.

“The MUC is also a worthy recognition of an ADF unit that has provided continuous support to ADF operations since East Timor in 1999, but prior to that, personnel were also deployed to Bougainville in support of that operation.”

PCAPT Pinder said 1JMOVGP faced numerous challenges over the 13 years of support to operations in the Middle East.

“IT was your professionalism and dedication to duty that ensured uninterrupted movement and flow of matériel and personnel to support a range of high-tempo operations.”

CO 1JMOVGP GPCAPT Grant Pinder said the MUC was a just reward for the group’s efforts.

“Your determination to achieve your missions was critical in the deployment and redeployment of the ADF across the Middle East.

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Thedrawdown of Tarin Kot in 2013 under Operation Nostos, involving the movement by sea, road and air, “a significant amount of stores, as well as personnel to achieve the end 2013 deadline was another significant challenge.”

SGT Matthew Adams, of 1JMOVGP at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane, served in the Middle East as an air load planner and detachment commander on various deployments.

He said it was an honour to be part of the group receiving the MUC.

“It’s a good feeling to be here sharing with the group in what they’ve achieved,” SGT Adams said. “We had a small group of people, who had to do an enormous amount of work in the background to ensure all of the other effects are happening. It’s really good to get some recognition for that.

“The Governor-General likes to have a chat and is very down-to-earth and wanted to hear about our experiences.”

Any serving or former member who deployed to the Middle East Region between November 2001 and June 2014 in a 1JMOVGP-related role, who believes they are entitled to wear the MUC Insignia with Federation Star should email 1JMOVGP-MUC@defence.gov.au.

Competition ends 31 December 2015.

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Competition ends 31 December 2015.
Special cargo on the move

Faith Speck

AIR Force has transported some of the Australian War Memorial’s (AWM) iconic artefacts around the globe.

A crew took the Surrender Table to Singapore, where it is on loan to the National Museum of Singapore to mark the 50th anniversary of Singapore’s independence.

The loan marks a significant milestone in the Surrender Table’s history, being the first time the table has left the AWM since it was donated by the Ford Motor Company in 1964.

No. 36 Squadron C-17A pilot FLTTLT Matt Huber was one of the three pilots involved in the 14-day trip around the world, transporting a number of AWM objects.

“It’s a very exciting task. It’s not something we do all the time, but we have done this in the past. It’s something special,” he said.

Air Force’s support has been fantastic and we wouldn’t have been able to do it without them,” Mr Sullivan said.

“The table is a simpler task compared to the Menin Gate lions, gas mask, German horse respirator, black veil respirator and satchel, and trench sign.”

Training and Development Unit senior training officer SQNLDR Ray Plekker said the task demonstrated the strong relationship between Australia and Singapore.

“A crew took the Surrender Table from Canberra as part of a loan to the Canadian War Memorial (CWM).”

In Ottawa, the crew collected the Menin Gate at Midnight painting, which is to be displayed in the Flanders Field Museum in Belgium to commemorate the 30,000th Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate.

The crew assisted delivery of an Italian CV 33 Tantette and a German Search Light from Ottawa to Canberra as part of a loan to the AWM from the CWM; and the return of AWM loaned objects including the Menin Gate lions, gas mask, duckboard from Fromelles trenches, German horse respirator, black veil respirator and satchel, and trench sign.

Defence Air Movements Training and Development Unit engineer Simone Lai worked on the load clearance for the Surrender Table and Stuart Tank.

She said a number of processes were in place to transport such items.

“We first have a look at the item and do something called a physical assessment to get a feel for how heavy it is, what sort of restraint points are available and then from there we design a pattern using restraint points and we have to assess if everything is structurally sound for the aircraft,” Ms Lai said.

“The table is a simpler task because it is a crated item so that can go under already existing load clearance procedures, whereas the tank is just a bit more complex.”

AWM assistant director branch head national collection Tim Sullivan said the movement of the collection items was one of the biggest the AWM has had and represented key international relationships.

“The sweep of this movement and of this material around the world is probably the biggest we’ve done in the time I’ve been here,” Mr Sullivan said.

“There are three key relationships which are also being nurtured as a result of this project with our partners, Canada, Belgium and Singapore.”

“They have been so enthusiastic about engaging with us, and that’s been the most important outcome – the relationships that have been developed through doing this.”

The crew assisted delivery of an Italian CV 33 Tantette and a German Search Light from Ottawa to Canberra as part of a loan to the Australian War Memorial (AWM). Photos: FSGT Kev Beriman
Poised, ready to strike

FOR two RAAF officers to be cammed up, living under hutchies and living off ration packs is unusual, but for SQNLDR Mick Rouhan and FLGOFF Alisha Dunn it’s an enjoyable experience.

They were controlling the airspace for Exercise Diamond Strike, Army’s 7th Brigade Combined Arms Training Activity (CATA) at Shoalwater Bay training area near Rockhampton, Queensland, from June 20-30.

Air liaison officer SQNLDR Rouhan, who is posted to 7th Brigade, said he ran the tactical air control party and advised the commander on how to best support his ground scheme by manoeuvring Air Force and Army assets.

“We controlled the aircraft in the airspace as well as deconflicted any artillery fire support missions,” he said.

“We had a large array of aircraft types on this exercise – C-130s, F/A-18Es/Fs, C-17s and the Heron UAS. We also had Army ARH Tigers, MRH-90s, Chinooks and their UAV Shadow.

“The big thing we got out of RAAF support to CATA is joint force entry operations.”

SQNLDR Rouhan said they hadn’t practised the flow of airspace control before.

“We practised special forces elements controlling the air before the insertion and then we practised the forward element of the tactical air control party going in with the tactical arclift,” he said.

“Using live fire during this was different for us but added realism you could expect on operations, so it was very worthwhile.

“The joint force entry piece was the first time in a long time that it had been done and we were trying to assist Army as they try to rejuvenate these types of operations.”

Joint battlefield airspace controller FLGOFF Dunn, of 453SQN RAAF Base Williamtown, said she normally worked as an air traffic controller.

“Working out there as a JBAC was very different, although we achieved the same outcome,” she said.

“We didn’t have radar. We simply controlled the aircraft, and deconflicted, from a map using reporting from the aircraft to plot their position.

“Communications were the biggest challenge out there, especially with the choppers as they got further away, and being closer to the ground we could lose their signal easier.”

FLGOFF Dunn said doing what she was trained to do was fantastic.

“This was my first exercise and first time doing it for real, not simulation. I loved it,” she said.

“Hearing the jets and the choppers use live missiles and bombs was pretty satisfying.

“It was initially a little nerve-wracking without the assets we normally have in the air traffic control tower, but I know jets and I know what they want. I got used to the choppers, so it wasn’t too stressful.”

LS Jayson Tufrey

**Air Task Group milestone**

THE Australian Air Task Group’s air combat operations against Daesh continue to deliver precise and effective attacks, with more than 400 weapons employed against targets to degrade Daesh capability and to support Iraqi Security Forces.

This milestone was achieved with a combination of FA-18A Hornets and FA-18F Super Hornets flying a total of some 5000 hours, the E-7A Wedgetail completing 150 operational sorties, and the KC-30A air-to-air refuelling team delivering 25 million pounds of fuel to Australian and coalition aircraft.

Outgoing CAF AIRMSHL Geoff Brown said achieving these milestones represented the hard work of deployed personnel and the quality of the equipment they operated.

“Air Task Group milestones will continue to be achieved and they are testament to the dedication and commitment of our personnel,” AIRMSHL Brown said.

“RAAF aircraft are providing command and control, fuel and precision strike effects that are empowering the Iraqi Army and ultimately enabling the Iraqi people to reclaim their country back from Daesh.”

LS Mark Spencer calls in fast-air support during Battle Group Waratah’s live-fire exercise at Shoalwater Bay Training Area.
Grads get airborne

Eamon Hamilton

The latest generation of Hercules loadmasters and pilots has graduated from a redesigned conversion course at No. 285 Squadron.

From June 18-22, Airborne Operations training was conducted by 285SQN with two C-130J Hercules flying through South Australian skies.

FLTLT Adrian Willey, a Qualified Flying Instructor with 285SQN, said the tactical deployment focus was on one loadmaster and three co-pilots who have now joined No. 37 Squadron.

“We conducted local operations in South Australia, including air-land operations to Minlaton, Whyalla and Loxton, and airdrop operations at Balaklava airfield and Murray Bridge airfield,” FLTLT Willey said.

Flying operations included formation training, marginal and dirt airdrop operations, low-level flying, airdrop of stores and light equipment and night-vision goggle training.

“The pilots have completed more than 100 hours of simulation, and a number of validation flights to prepare them for this exercise.

“The students successfully graduated and have now entered the 37SQN on-the-job training program, where they will conduct a combination of normal and functional tasking and skill upgrades.”

The tactical deployment is a true test of the student’s ability to transfer an extensive suite of advanced skills to the airborne kind.

After 57 years of operating various models of the Hercules, the aircraft remains a critical part of how Air Force responds to emergencies around the globe.

The clearest evidence is in the Middle East Region, where C-130J aircrew can find themselves airdropping cargo to stranded civilians, or resupplying a deployed base of operations.

285SQN has trained C-130J aircrew since its formation in 1999, with the redesigned course effectively being a ‘reset’ in how aircrew are prepared.

The Loadmaster Initial Qualification and Pilot Initial Qualification courses represent more than a year’s work from the 285SQN development cell.

“The end result is aircrew that are better equipped across a range of Hercules missions, and will progress more easily through their flying tour,” FLTLT Willey said.

“The tactical deployment marks the end of five months’ training for the students at 285SQN.”

“We are pushing the students to a wider set of skills early on in their training, and making pilots agile at the same time.”

“Upgrades to the training devices used at 285SQN have also benefited the students, both in the classroom and across the range of C-130J synthetic training devices.”

Wagga pauses to recharge for birthday

SQNLDR Michelle McPhail

Though it’s never polite to comment on age, one of the stalwarts of Air Force, RAAF Base Wagga, is starting to show the signs of 75 proud years of service.

One might even say some of its ‘spark’ is gone, which is why RAAF Base Wagga will take a pause and temporarily suspend most base operations to allow a major and vital upgrade to its electrical infrastructure.

RAAF Wagga’s Senior Australian Defence Force Officer and Commandant RAAF College, GPCAPT Ross Jones, said Wagga’s entire high and low-voltage electrical infrastructure — much of which is now more than 50 years old and increasingly prone to outages and interruptions — is to be upgraded.

“The result will be infrastructure that’s going to be a lot safer for the RAAF Wagga community. It will also mean we can keep providing quality training and support for Defence,” GPCAPT Jones said.

GPCAPT Jones said five teams of on-brief contractors and other technical and support staff will replace some 5.5km of underground high-voltage cable, the main high-voltage intake switching station and 12 substation kiosks on base.

While cabling and kiosk installation has already started and will be complete before reduced activities, the required changeover to the base’s new high-voltage ring and the process of bringing substation kiosks online safely will be done once things quieten down,” he said.

“It’s all about safety, for our base community and the contractors performing the works.”

GPCAPT Jones said the works are being timed around natural breaks in training programs for most units on base, with residential students taking scheduled trainee leave for the duration, and most base unit staff either working from alternate sites, from home or electing to take annual leave.

Scheduled works will not impact Wagga Regional Airport operations or civilian flights, and security staff, fire services and other duty and support staff will remain on base throughout the reduced activity period.

“Importantly, RAAF Base Wagga will be open for business as usual, and with renewed ‘energy’, in time for our 75th anniversary celebrations with the local community,” GPCAPT Jones said.

A community concert performed by the Air Force Band and a Freedom of Entry Parade through Wagga’s main streets are just a few of the events planned for Wagga’s 75th celebrations over two days from July 31-August 1.

RAAF Base Wagga’s Senior Australian Defence Force Officer and Commandant RAAF College, GPCAPT Ross Jones, inspects electrical works on base.

Photo: SQNLDR Michelle McPhail

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They undergo sensory deprivation, interrogation, and 96-hour capture scenarios all in the name of gathering information and avoiding revealing our national intelligence, CPL Aaron Curran reports.

THE HERE is a quiet building tucked away in the rolling green hills of the Gold Coast hinterland and to the casual observer the location is nothing short of serene – the kind of rural para-chute locale one would expect for decades of military training. For others, perhaps the comforting sounds of birds and the wind could be an organisation that quietly plays a leading part in the ADF’s future capability – the Defence Force School of Intelligence (DFSI).

DFSI, as it has done for years now, plays out of sight and out of mind and stands along a rocky forested hill near Canungra. For all its natural beauty, the location absorbs more than 1000 trainees from all three services each year and sends them back to their respective units fully trained in the complex art of intelligence work in the 21st century.

In the course of its reputation for excellent training outcomes, the unit is also responsible for training Australian Government and partner nations’ personnel and even supports internal training requests from overseas.

CO/DFSI LT Col Aaron Hassell says “We are surrounded by nature and standing at what they do and that has formed a culture of excellence.”

“We comprise both permanent and reserve personnel and 23 APS,” LT Col Hassell says. “We are the only intelligence school in the ADF, making us unique.”

DFSI was raised in 1942 as the Army’s Land Headquarters School of Military Intelligence. Around 1997 the school began training Royal Australian Air Force’s Imagery Intelligence Support to Maritime Intelligence Wing.

In 2003, the school started training Navy intelligence officers in its Maritime Intelligence Wing. DFSI is responsible for the majority of intelligence training across the ADF and delivers an impressive 33 different courses from mid-January to early December.

DFSI “is renowned in individual intelligence skills,” LT Col Hassell says.

“We are the only unit in Defence that delivers source operations, interrogation, psychological operations, imagery intelligence and conduct-after-capture training.”

LT Col Hassell says the vision is to be internationally recognised world leader in individual intelligence training.

“We deliver training to Australia’s regional nations, but I regard it to be a school that is recognised within the Five Eyes community (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, UK and US) as a school where our allies want to send their personnel for this possibility, a system which includes theory lessons and rigorous simulated conduct-after-capture training.”

“Level A is an introductory Campus training course that provides a basic awareness of the ADF CAC policy,” he says.

“Level B is a one-day theory workshop covering hostage survival, foreign government detention, military exploitation and psychology of confinement.”

“Level C is a practical immersion activity, which simulates the three scenarios of hostage survival, support and capture. We prepare personnel to survive with dignity in real-world experiences gained on operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. They meet the increasing capability of personnel and we need for highly skilled operators.”

“Our capability here is growing,” he says.

“At the start of 2014 an additional instructor position was created for Imagery Intelligence Support to Imagery Intelligence Support to Maritime Intelligence Wing. DFSI has been able to significantly expand the course and provide a practical immersion activity for our ADF’s new generation of imagery intelligence operators.”

Lt Col Hassell says the team also conducts a five-week ADF conduct-after-capture training in coordination with the Maritime Intelligence Wing.

“ Anyone can call a halt to the activity if they want to, but we do have a system here that the prisoner has sensory deprivation and they undergo interrogation scenarios. We are fully trained in the complex art of intelligence work in the 21st century.”

Lt Col Hassell says the vision is to be internationally recognised world leader in individual intelligence training.

The team comprises permanent and reserve intelligence officers who may be teachers or police officers. They bring real-world experiences and expertise to the team,” he says.

“Most are from operational experience, some are high order intelligence officers (AIO), but will also only teach their standard suite of CAC.”

For instance, the ADF’s Imagery Intelligence Support to Maritime Intelligence Wing (AISIM) will be significantly upgraded.”

SQNLDR Dixon says AIW will undertake its biggest changes since 2004 because of the requirements for ADF Force’s new generation of imagery intelligence operators.

“Your capability here is growing,” he says.

“Lessons from our operational experiences in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in particular, and more broadly, is what we need to prepare personnel to survive with dignity in real-world experiences gained on operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. They meet the increasing capability of personnel and we need for highly skilled operators.”

“Anytime the team comprises permanent and reserve intelligence officers who may be teachers or police officers. They bring real-world experiences and expertise to the team,” he says.

“Most are from operational experience, some are high order intelligence officers (AIO), but will only teach their standard suite of CAC. ADF personnel are to act when facing for instructors, but all of our ‘resistance trainers’ have to have a high level of training and if the prisoner has sensory deprivation and they undergo interrogation scenarios. We are fully trained in the complex art of intelligence work in the 21st century.”

Lt Col Hassell says the vision is to be internationally recognised world leader in individual intelligence training.

The team comprises permanent and reserve intelligence officers who may be teachers or police officers. They bring real-world experiences and expertise to the team,” he says.
Effects that rubbish and debris are causing to the marine life across the Territory, has turned into an annual event. RAAF Base Darwin Senior ADF Officer WOCDR Wes Perrett said personnel posted to the base were very proud and active Darwin City community members.

“We all take pride in the city’s natural wonders and its beautiful environs,” he said.

RAAF Base Darwin provided a combined base support element with vehicles and personnel for this community venture.

WGCDR Perrett said there were never any shortage of volunteers.

“We are all happy to contribute to the community’s efforts to keep Darwin and its waterways clean and pristine for all to enjoy,” he said.

The RAAF Base Darwin support team cleaned the areas of Coconut Grove and Nightcliff Foreshore and looked forward to supporting Darwin Harbour Clean-Up Day for years to come.

Maintenance milestone

THE Tactical Fighter System Program Office (TFSPO) celebrated the 50th aircraft to conduct Deeper Level Maintenance (DLM) on June 25. DLM is where aircraft are stripped, inspected, serviced, repaired, rebuilt and tested over 13 weeks before being given back to the squadrons for further flying.

No. 81 Wing personnel have been helping service the aircraft, working with Boeing Defence Australia, which is responsible for all work conducted under the Deeper Maintenance contract and has been servicing the F-18A/B Hornet aircraft fleet since April 2013.

OC TFSPO GPCAPT David Langlois said typically eight aircraft were serviced at any given time and it took about 13 weeks to complete a servicing on a single F/A-18 aircraft. Up to 24 aircraft are serviced each year.

OC 81WG GPCAPT Phil Gordon said the team had been doing an outstanding job providing the capability to Air Force.

“Air Combat Group have had a very busy six months of flying activity recently and continue maintaining our ageing aircraft to a high standard and doing it efficiently has assisted in providing the ongoing, train and sustain capability to Air Force,” he said.

“This milestone is a great achievement especially as we look to continue our busy flying schedule and support Hornet operations in the Middle East.”
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Returning to Borneo

WWII veterans travel back to Balikpapan 70 years after serving on Operation Oboe, CMDR Fenn Kemp writes

The last time Tom Tyne visited Balikpapan beach, he had to struggle past tank traps. The biggest risk facing the 94-year-old on June 6 this year came from speeding drivers as he edged his way through the local car park.

“I sat down and had a cry,” Mr. Tyne said later. “It was all sand back then, not the rocks I see now.”

He and fellow RAAF veteran 89-year-old Fred Sharon were among eight Australian WWII veterans who were given the opportunity to return to Balikpapan to mark the 70th anniversary of Australia’s Borneo campaign.

Operation Oboe was the code name given to the campaign to recapture Borneo (part of modern Indonesia) in 1945. Seventy-five thousand Australians participated in the campaign. More than 590 lost their lives in what was to be the final Australian campaign of the war.

Mr. Tyne and Mr. Sharon were among eight Oboe veterans to travel to Borneo with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Defence staff from Australia’s Indonesian Embassy and Australia’s Federation Guard.

On July 1, 1945, Mr. Tyne was a member of the Airfield Defence Guard, heading towards Balikpapan beach. As the landing craft came into range, the Japanese opened up on them from the hills above.

“They put a trench mortar down on us,” he recalls. “Looking ahead I could see about 50 (AIF) lying on the sand.”

When Mr. Tyne’s barge got close enough, he and his mates jumped into the shallows and waded ashore. As they confronted wooden poles and tank traps, large numbers of allied aircraft flew overhead in support.

Over the next three days, Mr. Tyne would help establish Australian forces at Mangar. During that time he recalls an early morning contact with a Japanese unit at the local water supply point.

“I opened up on them with my Tommy gun,” he said. “I’m not sure if I got anyone, but our grenades did the job.”

When the skirmish ended, eight of the nine Japanese soldiers lay dead. Mr. Tyne recalls a group of commandos were far from happy with No. 2 Air Defence Squadron’s success. It turns out they had been hunting for the same Japanese unit for some time.

Mr. Sharon’s landing had occurred a little earlier at Tarakan. Posted to the No. 1 Airfield Construction Squadron, he was a plant operator. It was his task to prepare machinery and to set up camp sites for the advancing Australian forces. When Mr. Sharon loaded himself and his gear into the Landing Ship Tank (LST) he was only 19.

The trip into the beach proved to be challenging. While they encountered no resistance, the landing site chosen proved unsuitable and their LST became bogged in the mud. Much of their equipment was lost or damaged during the off-load.

“When we landed they told us we had 10 hours to make it to our objective which was the airstrip,” Mr. Sharon recalls. “In the end it took us 10 days.”

Australia’s Federation Guardsman CPL Paul Lucano listened to these stories with great interest.

“It has been an honour to be part of the 70th anniversary commemorations in Borneo,” he said.

“But as a carpenter, the biggest honour was to meet Fred Sharon. My unit, No. 65 Squadron, originated from Fred’s final unit, the ‘Flying Shovels’. Being able to talk to him and find out what they went through during Oboe has been very overwhelming.”

From left, CPL Paul Lucano, WWII veteran Tom Tyne, LAC David Darnell, WWII veteran Fred Sharon and LAC Neil Wakeling on Balikpapan beach.

Photo: CMDR Fenn Kemp
LAC Laurence, a technician on Operation Okra with No. 75 Squadron, checks inside the exhaust nozzle of an F/A-18A Hornet at Australia’s Main Air Operations Base in the Middle East Region. Photo: 307 Shane Godd

Eleven-year-old Stephan is helped into an explosive ordnance bomb suit by CPL Hugh Roughley, of Darwin-based No. 13 Squadron, during the Exercise Talisman Sabre 15 Open Day, Darwin Showgrounds. Photo: CPL Ben Dempster

WGCDR Wesley Perrett (right), CO 13SQN, and LAC David Case sit in the back of a truck with all the rubbish collected while participating in the annual Darwin Harbour clean up. Photo: LS James White

ADG CPL Tory Tipler describes the capability of a specialist reconnaissance vehicle to student Hadley Wickham during her visit to 2SECFOR. Photo: CPL Shannon McCarthy

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TISS financial year will have 27 fortnightly pay periods, which means personnel will receive additional pay but will also be liable for more income tax.

Income tax withholding tables developed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) are based on a standard financial year with 26 pay periods.

Therefore, tax withheld for personnel in the 2015-2016 financial year may not cover the additional income tax liability as Defence cannot automatically increase withholding tax to cover the additional pay.

Employees can elect to increase the amount of PAYG fortnightly deductions to cover the additional tax liability.

ADF members wishing to alter their tax deductions need to access PMKeys Self Service (PSS) Portal and go to: Employee Self Service > My Pay > My ADF Pay > Vary Additional Tax.

If you want deductions to cease at the end of the 2015-2016 financial year, you will need to enter the cessation date using PSS.

If you wish to pay in excess of the amounts listed you will need to provide Defence with either a withholding declaration – upwards variation (NAT 5367), or withholding declaration (NAT 3093).

If you claim family tax benefit or tax offset amounts through reduced withholding tax, there may be a further shortfall to that indicated above.

If you require help using PSS, user guides are available by selecting the help link at the top right-hand corner of the PSS page, or by accessing the user guides and useful links tab in the PSS portal homepage.

If you are still unsure of how to use this functionality, call 1800 333 362 or email dsc.pmkeys@defence.gov.au

For more information, visit www.ato.gov.au

Changes to reserve pay approved

FROM July 2 reserve members have access to the same salary increment structure as their permanent colleagues after the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) approved the ADF pay case on June 30.

The DFRT decision means that eligible reservists at the ranks of corporal, sergeant, flying officer, flight lieutenant, squadron leader and group captain will have access to additional increments for future salary advancement.

However, members who are remunerated under the Specialist Officer Career Structure will not be affected by the changes.

There are also new criteria for increments, to ensure that reservists who complete only 20 effective reserve service days in a 12-month anniversary period will now be able to advance a salary increment, rather than waiting for 24 months.

A staged implementation process will ensure correct placement and payment of eligible members onto a new salary increment.

Stage 1 – On July 2, affected reservists were mapped to the new salary increment structure and retained their current daily on pay rate.

Stage 2 – Post July 2, 2015, the service career management agencies will review each reservist and eligible members will be moved to a higher salary increment.

Stage 3 – Ongoing management of reservists and placement of eligible members will be the next salary increment on their anniversary date.

With more than 23,000 active reserves in the ADF, stages one and two will take sufficient time to finalize.

All eligible members will have their entitlements backdated to July 2.

ADF personnel COL Brenden Stevens said the changes would remove barriers for members moving between the permanent and reserve forces and continuous full-time service.

These changes acknowledge how the ADF is an integrated workforce and will now enable a seamless transition between each component of the ADF, he said.

For more information, visit www.defence.gov.au/dpe/pap/

Call for applications

APPLICATIONS are open for the 2016 CDF Fellowship.

CDF has requested the fellowship address the subject of accountability within the ADF.

The study may concentrate on issues such as:

- What does accountability mean?
- What are the formal and informal lines of accountability currently?
- What should they be?
- How will they need to be changed as the ADF is restructured over coming years?
- How does the ADF’s concepts of accountability benchmark against other similar organisations?
- What is expected by Government of Defence and the ADF, and how is this changing?
- Are there other expectations among stakeholders that are changing the concept of accountability?

What do these changes (if any) mean for the future structuring of formal and informal lines of accountability?

The fellowship is open to all permanent members of the ADF who can demonstrate their capacity to undertake one year of postgraduate level research.

The fellowship may be used to start new research or progress existing research, and the research must be undertaken through the University of NSW (Canberra at ADFA).

The Fellow will produce a research paper of about 30,000 words, an article for a relevant Defence publication and a verbal report to the CDF.

A CDF Fellowship will receive full salary and entitlements.

The duration of the CDF Fellowship will count as continuous and effective service for normal entitlements including retirement benefits, leave and pay increments.

Applications must be received no later than July 31.

For more information, see Defgram 262/2015 or email brady.dunn@defence.gov.au

IN BRIEF

White Paper

THE report on community consultations following the 2015 Defence White Paper Community Consultation Program was released today.

The report sets out issues raised at community meetings held around the country, and in written submissions responding to the Defence Issues Paper 2014. The Defence White Paper, to be published later this year, will set out the government’s vision for Australia’s Defence strategy over the next two decades. For more information, visit www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper

Canteen upgrade

AAFACANS has invested $208,000 in an upgrade of the ADFA cafe. AAFACANS managing director Stewart McGrow said the cafe now featured a glass atrium, which had transitioned from the front of the site. “Our team are excited to see this stage completed and the cafe as a whole has been a wonderful addition to our outlets,” he said. “Since opening, the response has been overwhelmingly positive and customers have been supportive.”

ADCU name change

THE Australian Defence Credit Union will change its name to Australian Military Bank. CEO John Ford said the move to a more forward looking term was part of the organisation’s strategy for ongoing growth and commitment to improvement.

Search for statue

PIXIE Maloney is searching for a large bronze statue called Valiant Youth that was made by her grandmother Florence Houghton and donated to Air Force in 1962. It depicts her uncle, Douglas Conway Houghton, who was shot down during the war. If you have any information about the statue, contact pixiem@bigpond.com

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NEW PERFORMANCE REPORT

PERSONNEL will have access to a new personnel performance report (PPR) from October 1, replacing the in-service PAR in operation since 2002. The PPR (AES19) is being introduced for the start of the 2015/16 reporting period. All 2014/15 reports are still to be raised in the current PAR or Supplementary Report formats. From the start of the current reporting period, the PPR will replace and consume all essential elements of the following reports into the one form:

- AC833-30 ADF Performance Appraisal Supplementary Report
- AD645-7 Preliminary Review of Performance for ADF Officers
- AD645-8 ADF Performance Appraisal for Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Airwomen Preliminary Review of Performance
- AD647 RAAF Officer Performance Appraisal Report
- AD650 Airmen and Airwomen Performance Appraisal Report

DGERS-AF AIRCDRE Bob Rodgers said the introduction of the PPR was being driven by significant personnel management reforms necessary to meet future Air Force capability needs.

"Tomorrow’s Air Force will be fundamentally different," he said.

"To meet future people capability requirements we need to transform our personnel management systems to ensure we have the right people, with the right skills, in the right positions, at the right time."

He said the introduction of the PPR was an essential component of Air Force’s people capability strategy.

"While the PAR has served Air Force well over the past decade, a new reporting mechanism is required to support enhanced professional development in the workplace and deliver sufficient, relevant and reliable information to inform personnel management decisions," AIRCDRE Rodgers said.

The PPR was developed after significant research, development and consultation to ensure it reflected Air Force’s evolving capability and cultural needs.

These requirements were clearly defined during consultation with key stakeholders and personnel, with user acceptance testing conducted at RAAF Base Richmond No. 37 Squadron, RAAF Base Wagga 1RTU and SPS, and Canberra AFRHQ.

This provided critical validation of the PPR’s functionality and practicality.

The final product is a simple and intuitive Adobe form, which will be hosted on Webforms and the PPS intranet site from October 1.

The PPR incorporates goal setting, self-review, assessor review, a full performance report and an abridged report format for all permanent and reserve Air Force members from aircraftman/woman to wing commander.

Within the report, assessors select ratings and provide comments about the assessed member against 12 specific performance dimensions and their suitability for future employment.

The performance dimensions have been developed to provide a balanced view of an individual’s demonstrated performance in technical skills, combat (contextual understanding), and social mastery (character, professional ethics and leadership).

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STUDENTs on the Defence and Strategic Studies Course are raising funds in support of Oxfam Australia’s relief and ongoing poverty reduction efforts in Vanuatu.

Vanuatu, one of the poorest countries in the South Pacific was devastated by Cyclone Pam in March this year.

Staff and students are calling for ADF support for a charity fundraising cocktail party and auction to be held on September 19 at Hotel Realm in Canberra.

Tickets are $125.

The band of the Royal Military College will provide entertainment throughout the evening. The Defence and Strategic Studies Course is the senior course offered at the Australian Defence College at Weston Creek in the ACT.

The program provides ADF officers, APS members, industry representatives and international participants with the knowledge and skills required by commanders, strategic leaders and managers engaged in national security issues.

This year there are 46 students attending the course, 18 of whom are international students representing 16 different countries from the region.

To make a donation, SMS the word ‘Vanuatu’ to 0477 333 444.

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Vanuatu, one of the poorest countries in the South Pacific was devastated by Cyclone Pam in March this year.

Staff and students are calling for ADF support for a charity fundraising cocktail party and auction to be held on September 19 at Hotel Realm in Canberra.

Tickets are $125.

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Acceptance – All Modes and the Dangerous Goods Packing and Acceptance – Air initial and refresher courses.

The Dangerous Goods Packing and Acceptance – Air refresher course will be streamlined from a three-day course down to one day, with Air Force, Army or Navy instructional staff travelling to operators,” he said.

“In addition, a new refresher training option is being looked at by AFTG’s RAAF School of Administrative and Logistics Training (RAAFSALT) for the eight-day Dangerous Goods Packing and Acceptance – All Modes course, which is currently only run at RAAF Wagga.

“Over time, we expect to see a standardised suite of courses and training, for all services, less time required for biennial operator re-qualification training, and the flexibility for trainers to come to the operators, rather than the other way around. “The net result should be a better training outcome, less time away from core role for members and their units, and increased capability overall.”

AFTG staff, led by WO2F Warren Martin, consulted with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, AMTDU and ALTC members before tabling the proposal. They hope it will reap benefits for members of the logistic and aircrew job categories across Defence. WGCDR McKee said the five-day Dangerous Goods Packing and Acceptance – Air initial course, which is run by both RAAFSALT and AMTDU, will be rationalised into one course, to be delivered at RAAF Richmond. There is also the potential for instructors to travel to operators to deliver training.
A women’s money toolkit will help women gain control of their finances, Australian Securities and Investments Commission chairman Greg Medcraft explains.

ASIC has launched a free online resource designed to help Australian women manage their finances, make money decisions at key life stages and enhance their financial wellbeing.

Women of all ages can benefit from the women’s money toolkit as it can be tailored to a woman’s particular circumstances. It provides customised and impartial financial guidance for a wide range of life events, such as having a baby, caring for others, buying a home, illness, disability and family breakdown.

The toolkit can also help women who are in control of their finances and looking to gain an edge.

ASIC is responsible for leading and coordinating the National Financial Literacy Strategy 2014-17 and women are a priority audience under the strategy.

Women have unique challenges when it comes to money. They live longer and are more likely to work part-time or take time out of paid work to care for others.

These factors, and the fact that women have, on average, lower superannuation balances, mean it is important that women understand their finances and can effectively plan for their retirement.

For example, according to superannuation statistics from May 2014, women aged 60 to 64 have on average $104,734 in their super balance, while men have $197,734.

The women’s money toolkit was developed by ASIC in response to these challenges, in partnership with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s Office for Women and in consultation with numerous stakeholders.

Since its launch at the end of May, the toolkit has been viewed more than 21,000 times.

ASIC plans to add to the toolkit over time to provide more assistance and tools on other financial issues.

**Using the toolkit**

Users answer some simple questions to get a tailored list of topics that are most relevant to them.

These may include having a baby, relationships and money, and sorting out their super.

The toolkit also creates a personalised to-do list of the actions the user should focus on right now to make the most of their money.

It contains two new online calculators, the career break super calculator and the parental leave calculator, which help users see the impact taking time out of paid work will have on their current and long term financial situation, and help them manage that impact.

The women’s money toolkit is the latest addition to the suite of online personal finance tools and calculators available from ASIC’s MoneySmart website at moneysmart.gov.au.

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Be prepared to stay safe

Acquiring self-defence skills could be the best preparation for a night out, SGT Dave Morley reports.

O YOU’RE out with a few mates, minding your own business, when some big drunken yob decides you’re his target for the night. What do you do?

According to 2IC Police Training Wing at the Defence Police Training Centre, CAPT Brad Davies, your best course of action is avoidance and prevention.

He says prevention is always better than conflict and common sense applies. “Bullies, criminals and thugs target what they assume is an easy victim, so reduce your status as a target,” CAPT Davies says.

“Always remain aware of your surroundings, maintain a tall posture and stride confidently, avoiding prolonged eye contact with strangers.”

“Avoid withdrawing large sums of money at the ATM when you see people hanging around suspiciously and don’t walk down dark streets unless it’s unavoidable.”

CAPT Davies says awareness is your next step. “Constantly evaluate and ask yourself three questions,” he says.

“What am I going to focus on?”, “what does this mean?”, and lastly, “what am I going to do?”

These three questions are applicable in all confrontations.”

As a confrontation arises, your brain will start to focus on the details and you’ll likely get an adrenaline dump as you encounter the fight, flight or freeze response.

“You have to decide what this situation means to you and what will you do next.”

CAPT Davies says “Can you defuse it by lowering your voice and using non-threatening gestures? Do you need to adopt a ready stance to fight or escape?”

CAPT Davies says resolution is the next step. “Immediately adopt a ready stance, which comprises a non-threatening posture with both hands up and open in front of you;” he says.

“They should be low enough to see over but high enough to allow you to use them to fend off or strike if you’re attacked.”

“If the attacker advances in a threatening manner, you need to decide between escaping or defending.”

“Should you be so doing as to defend yourself. ‘Will I need to weigh up things like size, demeanour and number of attackers and, importantly, don’t let your ego determine what you do.’

“If talking the attacker down doesn’t work and escape is not an option, then you are probably going to need to defend yourself.”

“As they advance towards you, immediately drive your strongest leg forward as a kick to their hip joint,” he says.

“This will cause them to lose their balance, allowing you an escape. Alternatively, with an open palm heel strike, target the forehead with one or more blows to disorient them and follow up with a shove to the ground.”

CAPT Davies suggests if you are caught by surprise, one way of protecting your head from a hook or swinging punch is to use the ‘shell’.

“By running the relevant hand along the headline from the temple rearward,” he says.

“This will allow the arm to absorb some of the blow and avoid you being knocked out.”

“Once you are able to, go on the defensive and then try to escape.”

CAPT Davies says while there is a lot of information available on self-defence for women, it is a fallacy to think that all men know how to fight or defend themselves.

“Unfortunately, self-defence is often something that people hope they’ll never need and, thus, don’t acquire the skills required to be effective at it,” he says.

“However, it’s better to be prepared and not need to fight, than be caught in a situation and not have the skills to get through unscathed.”

“Unfortunately, self-defence is often something that people hope they’ll never need and, thus, don’t acquire the skills required to be effective at it,” he says.

“These tips won’t make you a world-class fighter, but they will give you a strategy to help maintain awareness, avoid escalating the situation and, if things do go pear-shaped, give you a fighting chance.”

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Making a splash

WO2 Andrew Hetherington

FLTLT Carrie Fettes has been selected in the Australian country representative water polo squad to compete in Hawaii from August 3-9.

FLTLT Fettes was picked in the squad after impressing selectors at the Australian country championships played in Karratha, WA, in April.

Navy’s LEUT Daniel Lister and SMN Samuel Perkins and Army’s FTE Bradley Woodland are the other ADF representatives selected for the squad.

At the country championships the ADF men’s team won the bronze medal, defeating a WA team 10-8 in the medal match.

The ADF women lost to a combined NSW/WA team 19-3 in the bronze medal match.

Coach CPL Jemma Osmann said even though her team didn’t win a bronze medal match.

“We had enthusiastic players who lacked the edge gained from playing regularly in a local competition and my side was full of ex or current players who were willing to learn and develop their skills and they improved immensely over the course of the tournament.”

The bronze medal match was a challenge for the team.

“Many of our players were excluded during the game due to being fouled out and therefore, only minimal substitutes could be made during the match,” CPL Osmann said.

“Most of the team members were able to achieve pool time and each half was difficult against a strong NSW/WA combined side.

“The game was tough but the opposing team had us on both fitness and skill, but our girls never gave up and fought until the end of the game, losing 19-3.”

Team captain and one of Air Force’s best players in the competition was FLTLT Fettes.

“The biggest challenge for me during our games was trying to keep myself and the girls motivated when we were losing by great margins,” FLTLT Fettes said.

“The girls were enthusiastic and willing to learn and my reward was being able to pass on my knowledge of the game to them.”

The next ADF interservice water polo competition will be held at Randwick Barracks in Sydney in December.

For more information, email DefenceWaterPolo.Admin@defence.gov.au.

Quick steps and hard hits

WO2 Andrew Hetherington

AIR Force’s southern NSW and ACT squash players put in a hard-fought performance, coming third in their region interservice championships held at ADFA on June 5.

The competition consisted of 25-minute matches, with play continuing until time ran out.

Team captain and player WOFF Brett Parker said his team lacked the depth needed to challenge the Navy and winning Army sides.

“Our team, while keen, has plenty of room to improve and due to some of our stronger players either discharging or being posted, our side was down on the strength of previous years’ teams,” he said.

“We had enthusiastic players who lacked the edge gained from playing regularly in a local competition and my side was full of ex or current competition players. Special note should be made of the efforts put in by our third, fourth and fifth ranked players, who always played hard and ended the day with their heads held high.”

“Even though we came third, the result was a strong third.”

LAC David Watson said playing in the tournament was a great experience.

“I was graded well above the level I was competitive with, meaning I was always out skilled by my opponents,” LAC Watson said.

“The players I competed against were skilled, which helped me gradually improve my own game throughout the tournament. The more I played, I found my performance improved significantly, which was due to the great sportsmanship of all other players giving me tips on my technique.”

This was LAC Watson’s first squash tournament. “There were a few of us who had never played in a tournament before and so the experience was quite full on,” he said.

“The most challenging aspect of the day was the physical endurance I needed.

“Playing continuously for an hour, doing back-to-back games was quite an effort.”

OCDT Darpan Dhowan, WGCDR Les Hughes, WOFF Brett Parker and LACW Courtney Hartman made up the remainder of the Air Force team.

Air Force’s squash players are now preparing for the national championships to be held at RAF Base Williamtown from August 23-28.

For more information, contact LAC Stephen Gailer at stephen.gailer@defence.gov.au.

Triathletes impress in Qld

Continued from back

To train for the event she had to find time juggling work and family commitments.

“Each training week was different and involved being able to pass on my knowledge of the game to them.”

The next ADF interservice water polo competition will be held at Randwick Barracks in Sydney in December.

For more information, email DefenceWaterPolo.Admin@defence.gov.au.

In the end it was enough to cross the finish line with a smile on my face and running through the finishing chute with my support crew – my 5-year-old son, Matthew (picture right).”

The next event for Australian Defence Triathlon Club competitors will be the Fowlers Bay 70.3 on September 13 in Queensland.

For more information, visit www.defence-triathlon.asn.au.
A SMALL group of Air Force triathletes participated in three competitions in north Queensland in mid-June. The four athletes sweated it out among their Army, Navy and civilian counterparts in one or more of the three events from June 8-14: the Coral Coast 5150 event in Port Douglas, the Cairns 70.3 Ironman and a full ironman distance event.

Only FLTLT Dave Carroll entered the Coral Coast event for Air Force, in which he completed a 2.5km run in 16mins 20secs, 40km bike ride in 1.10 and 10km run in 1.01, with a total time of 2.31.

“It was a good day, despite the swim being cancelled due to rough choppy conditions,” FLTLT Carroll said.

“I ran at almost 10km/h, which for me was a good pace and running on the beach was great.

“The bike leg also went well and I rode at a much better speed than usual.”

FLTLT Carroll was one of two Air Force athletes to complete the gruelling Cairns Ironman.

He finished the 3.8km swim in 1.35, 180km ride in 6.52 and 42km run in 6.15, with a total time of 14.58.

“The Ironman was a long day and a fair bit longer than planned, but considering it was my third ironman for the season, and only five weeks after Ultraman Australia, I was just happy to finish in a reasonable time,” FLTLT Carroll said.

“The swim was a bit choppy, which meant for a sore stomach on the bike, and the run was tough in the humidity after a relatively tough swim and bike leg.”

SQNLDR Stephen Jones was the other athlete to represent Air Force at the event.

He finished in 10.54, completing the swim in 1hr, cycle in 5.37 and run in 4.09.

“It took about 7km to get into any kind of rhythm and for the next 7km and was fairly comfortable.

“I didn’t eat enough food during the run and consequently faded in the tail-end of the leg.”

By the time he’d finished the ride he was in agony and was looking forward to the run leg.

“The run started much how the ride finished, with pain,” FLGOFF Dransfield said.

“I had lots of energy left over at the finish and I was quite happy with the time I did,” FLGOFF Dransfield said.

“Due to the pain on the bike I faded in the last 30km of the ride and slowed down significantly.”

The run leg started well but, as expected, I started to slow at the 21km mark due to a lack of run training because of an achilles injury.”

Even with a split lip and a lack of running training SQNLDR Jones was impressed with his result.

“I competed at Cairns last year and the wet weather was a challenge,” he said.

“With weather conditions being slight harder this year with the strong winds, I managed to complete this year’s race 20 minutes faster than last year.”

In the Cairns 70.3 half ironman, two Air Force athletes tackled the 1.9km swim, 90km ride and 21.1km run.

FLGOFF Kendall Dransfield completed the swim in 31mins, the ride in 1.48 and the run in 2.07, with a total time of 5.05.

It was his fourth half Ironman and he said the day started off well with a smooth swim leg.

“I had lots of energy left over at the finish and I was quite happy with the time I did,” FLGOFF Dransfield said.

The other Air Force athlete competing in the 70.3 event was SQNLDR Anita Green.

She completed the swim in 39mins, the ride in 3.14 and the run in 2.07, with a total time of 6.10.

She mostly competes in Olympic distance triathlon events.

“This was my first 70.3 in Cairns and I’ve raced in one other 70.3, which was at the Gold Coast in 2007,” SQNLDR Green said.

“In Cairns I beat that time by 10 minutes.”

“Race day was my 40th birthday, so crossing the finish line in a time I had hoped for was a great personal achievement.”

Continued on page 23

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