SKILL SET

LAC Nicholas Glancy is a carpenter with 65SQN. Photo: CPL David Said

OUR VITAL JOBS
Pages 12-16
Conference proves a triumph of agility

WGCDR Tharren Kingston-Lee

The Air Power Development Centre has demonstrated its agility by delivering 2020’s Air Power Conference via video and digital platforms. With the support of many of the original speakers, the Air Power Development Centre collected and distributed a range of videos covering topics from an historical perspective of great powers in our region with David Hunt’s entertaining reflections, through to Professor Paul Dibb’s contemporary analysis of Chinese and Russian activities in our region today.

“I’d like to thank our eminent speakers who have provided their thoughts and insights and have contributed to the 2020 Air Power Conference,” CAF Airmshl Mel Hupfeld said.

“The change to a digital format allowed us to be able to still have this very important conversation. Their flexibility to work with us to reschedule and deliver their presentations to a camera, instead of an auditorium of 1500 people, is the key to Air Force being able to deliver this year’s conference.”

Participants heard from CAF who outlined his vision for Air Force. CAF Gen Angus Campbell and Defence Secretary Greg Moriarty discussed the way in which Defence integrates with government to support national interest in our region. Chief of the Royal New Zealand Air Force AVM Andrew Clarke shared a Kiwi perspective on relationships building in the Pacific region.

The challenges of delivering the conference were significant. The impact of COVID-19 and the requirement for social distancing and the geographic distances for many presenters meant the videos were captured on a range of devices and media – from professional studios to PC-based webcams.

No. 28 Squadron helped with filming, editing and finalising professional videos and the RAFA Digital Communications team was instrumental in sharing the content through web, YouTube and various social communications channels.

“The teamwork and effort required to get this from an auditorium-based conference to one where delegates and others could view the content on any electronic device was significant,” Air Power Development Centre Director GP Capt Jarrod Pendlebury said.

“Along the way, the APDC team were required to rapidly learn new ways of business to get the job done and I’m very proud of the product they’ve developed.”

“This is but one example of the work underway in the Air Power Development Centre to explore new ways of engaging with the global air and space power community.”

“Our aim is to build a world-leading centre that is closely integrated with partners across the globe, delivering timely and insightful analysis exploring the utility of air and space power along the continuum from cooperation to conflict.”

In another first for Air Force, the program for the Runway, the professional development site, “The Runway,” produced its first podcast episode of the digital versions on The Runway. By leveraging the 2020 Air Power Conference online initiative, they explored air and space power in the region, using a Q&A approach.

“The podcast episode takes a fascinating look into the effects that national power levers and strategic thinking can have on air and space power in our region,” Podcast Executive Producer SQNLDR Kath Kennedy said.

The episode will be available to access, share and comment on from mid-June at www.runway.airforce.gov.au

I encourage all Air Force personnel to access the videos, podcasts or transcripts from the 2020 Air Power Conference,” Airmshl Hupfeld said. “The more informed we are about what is happening in our region, the better we are all able to contribute to the tactical and operational levels of our mission.”

The Air Power Development Centre hopes that these presentations are an informative, thought-provoking and engaging means to bring the 2020 Air Power Conference to life.

The Air Power Development Centre is currently working to deliver future monthly Air Power seminars via webinar – stay tuned and don’t forget to register.


Jacqui Payne

THE No. 82 Wing Training Flight at RAAF Base Amberley is trialling the delivery of airborne operational conversion training in the F/A-18F Super Hornet aircraft in Australia.

82WG provides air combat and electronic attack capability for the 82nd Air Division and operates F/A-18F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler aircraft.

82WG Training Flight (82TF), and 82WG XO WGCDR Trevor Andrews said the launch of the trial was an important milestone for Air Combat Group.


"The first graduates returned in 2016 to complete the first operational transition course.

"This occurred in parallel with the last 6 Squadron F/A-18A Operational Conversion for No. 10 OPCR, which ran from April to September 2016.

"This program will enable 82WG to provide enduring aircrew training for the entire capability spectrum required for the F/A-18F. We expect significant advantages to be realised through an Australian-based operational conversion, such as improved delivery of Australian-trained aircrew back into the squadrons, increased standardisation and reduction in duplicate training overheads.

"82TF will provide a sustainable flying training solution supported by an F/A-18F aircraft and a mixed maintenance workforce of contracted and uniformed members.

"The challenges of international travel during the COVID-19 pandemic has also meant the timing of the trial has been extremely beneficial for workforce sustainability and capability.”

82TF is a partnership arrangement between Air Force and Boeing Defence Australia’s (BDA) Air Combat Electronic Attack Sustainment Program (ACEASP). Under the arrangement, BDA provides the operational maintenance to the fleet of six Super Hornet under the existing ACEA sustainment contract. Ten uniformed RAFA technicians are also embedded within BDA’s maintenance personnel, thereby building the workforce strength of both organisations.

82TF’s first programmed flying day was January 14 when two sorties were launched designed to ensure ACEASP staff readiness for full-suit training beginning in the second quarter of 2020.

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THE first Australian F-35A aircraft to roll off Lockheed Martin’s Texas production line back in 2014 has completed 1000 flying hours over the skies of Arizona.

Australian F-35A Pilot FLTLT Adrian Herenda was at the controls of A35-001 as the clock ticked over 1000 hours.

The former F/A-18A pilot has been flying the F-35A for about 12 months and said it was a good feeling to be flying the jet when it reached the milestone. “The F-35A provides the pilot with phenomenal situational awareness, which is a significant benefit when operating in complex threat environments,” FLTLT Herenda said.

Aircraft A35-001 is currently being operated by the international Pilot Training Centre (PTC) at Luke Air Force Base (AFB) in the US as part of a pool of training aircraft qualifying F-35A pilots and maintainers from across the globe.

Director General Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) AIRCDRE Damien Keddie said A35-001 reaching 1000 flying hours was an important achievement for the Australian F-35A Project. “It demonstrates the maturity of our F-35A capability and showcases the importance of the international F-35 partnership,” AIRCDRE Keddie said.

“A35-001 is one of five Australian aircraft at Luke AFB, with other F-35 partner nations also contributing aircraft to the PTC in a show of global collaboration that has been the cornerstone of the F-35 Program since the earliest days.”

Air Vehicle Sub-Project Manager SQNLDR Brook Porter, of JSF Branch in Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG), said as the first Australian F-35A, A35-001 was the visible symbol of a new type of weapon system that had already provided reliable pilot training for Australia and the F-35 Cooperative Program.

“In reaching this milestone, A35-001 typifies the extraordinary contribution that Australia has made as a partner nation within the global F-35 Program. It’s another significant step forward as the F-35 weapon system continues its successful path to becoming our future fighter capability – a capability that provides obvious benefits to Defence but is also highly profitable to Australian industry, with more than 50 Australian companies winning more than $1.7 billion in production contracts to date.”

Project Engineering Manager Timothy Rafferty, of JSF Branch, said the milestone signified the maturity of the platform and associated support systems. “Given A35-001 completed most of its 1000 flying hours at the PTC, this milestone highlights the contribution Australia has made to the collaborative training environment, with more than 1000 F-35 pilots now qualified and flying with their respective services,” Mr Rafferty said.

Australia has now accepted 26 F-35A aircraft in total. In addition to the five at the PTC, 17 are operating at the aircraft reached 1000 flying hours. The remaining four jets are scheduled to transit from the US to Australia before August.

Mr Rafferty said JSF Branch personnel played a key role in the acquisition, initial certification and airworthiness management of Australia’s F-35A fleet from 2014 until mid-2018. In 2018, the Air Combat Systems Program Office (ACSP) in CASG assumed responsibility for airworthiness and overall sustainment management of the fleet.

“This demonstrates the critical and ongoing collaboration taking place as we work to ensure all 72 jets are delivered to Australia by the end of 2023 for Final Operating Capability,” he said.

SQNLDR Porter said the Mission Systems team in JSF Branch was focused on ensuring Australia’s needs were rolled into the weapon system as the aircraft evolved over its life cycle. “Since 2014, we [Australia] have grown our fleet to 26 aircraft, established training systems, simulators and the complex autonomic logistics information system, developed electronic warfare reprogramming capabilities and upgraded RAAF bases to handle the F-35A,” SQNLDR Porter said.

“We have also assisted in the creation of Australian-based industry support. “We have increased our pace from a crawl to a jog, with ACSPO and Air Combat Group rapidly taking up the reins and doing so with aplomb.”

It was important to acknowledge that the achievement of the 1000 flying hours milestone was the result of “tireless work by so many people, past and present, working together”. “There is a lot more work to be done and we are well prepared,” he said.

This is the final year of the RAAF’s contribution to the PTC. From 2021, all F-35 training is planned to be conducted in Australia.

AN Australian-made miniature satellite has been launched into space to test radio communications technologies to help shape future space capabilities in Australia.

The M2 Pathfinder, developed by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Canberra in partnership with the RAAF, is a significant next step in developing Defence space systems. Small satellites such as M2 Pathfinder, also known as CubeSats and about the size of a loaf of bread, allow high-tech capabilities to be tested in space at a lower cost than larger satellites.

Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said the satellite would help inform future capability designs for the ADF.

“Through this collaboration, it has enabled UNSW Canberra to develop a number of space courses and programs to benefit Defence personnel. “The experience gained in the development and operation of these spacecraft also offers educational benefits for Defence personnel studying space programs at UNSW Canberra. This further enhances the future Defence space workforce.”

Staff at UNSW Canberra will conduct a series of communications tests with the M2 Pathfinder satellite over the coming months.
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CPL Dan Zaniol has advanced specialised electronic test equipment.

NOVOCASTRIAN CPL Dan Zaniol has received a Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) for meritorious achievement in support of the ADF’s air combat electronic warfare capability.

“I feel deeply honoured to receive such a significant award,” Aviation Technician CPL Zaniol said.

Before his posting to Joint Electronic Warfare Operational Support Unit at RAAF Base Edinburgh in South Australia, CPL Zaniol worked for 81WG Avionics Maintenance Facility, in the Electronics Counter Measures Section, where the Joint Service Combat Systems Tester (JSECST) was supported and maintained for Air Combat Group.

The JSECST provides squadrons and repair depots with a capability to fault-find and verify the operational status of aircraft-installed electronic combat systems.

“Equipment that is unserviceable or degraded can often make a difficult job harder to accomplish,” CPL Zaniol said.

“I felt that it was extremely important to rectify and improve the overall performance for its stakeholders. As such I was tasked with rectifying them.”

“One key contributing factors had been prioritised keeping in mind that strike capability could not be compromised, an action plan was developed.”

“Ultimately this led to identifying and implementing new-generation test equipment, creating new procedures, rectifying software faults, improving training and awareness, and applying a suitable tracking system to manage critical components.”

“Technicians can now confidently use the upgraded JSECST to conduct functional testing of electronic combat systems installed to the aircraft for optimal operation. CPL Zaniol joined the Royal Australian Navy in 2002 then later transferred to the Air Force in 2010.

“As a teenager, I had a keen interest in the mechanical and electrical industries, I thought a career in the aviation industry would best suit my interests,” CPL Zaniol said.

“I never dreamed that one day I would see my name in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List as a recipient of the CSM.

“I would like to thank everyone involved with the JSECST rectification and upgrade. I worked with a lot of people locally and abroad to deliver an improved system.”

“It is a great privilege to serve with like-minded individuals committed to continuous improvement.”

“I was privileged to work with FSGT Hassall who was the squadron commander and deputy chief of Air Force during this time, SQNLDR Lisa Hubbard.

“Technicians can now confidently use the upgraded JSECST to conduct functional testing of electronic combat systems installed to the aircraft for optimal operation.”

I would like to thank everyone involved with the JSECST rectification and upgrade. I worked with a lot of people locally and abroad to deliver an improved system.”

“It is a great privilege to serve with like-minded individuals committed to continuous improvement.”

“I am deeply honoured to receive this award but I’d like to acknowledge that it was a team effort,” FSGT Hassall said.

Member (AM) in the Military Division

AIRCORE Graham Edwards CSC
For exceptional service to the ADF in aerospace acquisition and sustainment, and organisational capability development.

GPECAPT Jennifer Fantini
For exceptional service in aerospace maintenance, maintenance productivity improvements, and aircraft maintenance management and strategy development for the RAAF.

AIRCORE Craig Heap CSC
For exceptional service in aerospace capability management, operational support, and organisational development for the ADF.

GPECAPT Karen Millett
For exceptional service to the ADF in communications engineering, personnel coaching and Cyberspace Workforce development.

GPECAPT Jane Wheaton
For exceptional service in workforce development for the ADF.

AIRMSHL Warren McDonald AM CSC
For distinguished service in response positions as Deputy Chief of Air Force and Chief of Joint Capabilities.

Medal (OAM) in the Military Division

WGGDR Steven Parsons CSC
For meritorious performance of duties in very important persons operations at the Air Mobility Control Centre; and in the provision of airbase support and cultural reform as Commanding Officer of No. 13 Squadron.

WOFF Paul Shephard
For meritorious service in the field of airborne electronic warfare development.

Contribution to Distinguished Service

SQNLDR Richard Letts
For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as the Combined Joint Operations Centre, Train Assist Command - Air Liaison Officer from September 2016 to March 2019 while deployed on Operation Highroad.

Conspicuous Service Cross

AIRCORE Jennifer Lumsdon CSC
For outstanding achievement in Specialist Reserve health services for the ADF.

Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)

WGGDR Wayne Bradley
For outstanding achievement in the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander personnel in the RAAF.

SQNLDR David Bywater
For outstanding achievement in aerospace acquisition and sustainment, and organisational capability development.

GPECAPT Paul Deighton
For outstanding achievement in language training reform, development and diplomacy as Commanding Officer of the Defence Force School of Languages.

FSGT Stewart Hassall
For outstanding achievement in P-8A Poseidon fleet and workforce development.

AVM Joe Iervasi AM
For outstanding achievement as the Commander Joint Task Force 633 on Operations Olza and Highroad from January to June 2019.

SQNLDR Jasper McCallin
For outstanding achievement in the creation of integrated tactical procedures to maximise air combat effectiveness for the RAAF.

CPL Tobias O’Neill
For outstanding achievement in cyber warfare with No. 462 Squadron.

Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)

GPECAPT Matthew Barnett
For meritorious achievement as a Joint Operations Command domestic and counter terrorism planning team leader.

WGGDR Julie Canterbury
For meritorious achievement in project management of upgrades to the C-130J Hercules air transport capability for the ADF.

GPECAPT Paul Carpenter
For meritorious achievement in joint air operations planning and force generation of command and control personnel for the RAAF.

SQNLDR Lisa Hubbard
For meritorious achievement in logistic support of the C-17J Spartan battlefield airlift capability.

WGGDR Andrew Miller
For meritorious achievement in intelligence capability development as the inaugural Commanding Officer of the Air Intelligence Training Unit.

CPL Daniel-Scott Zaniol
For meritorious achievement in the maintenance and development of specialised electronic test equipment in support of the ADF’s air combat electronic warfare capability.
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A FORMER workhorse of the sky, Caribou A4-199, has a new resting place at the front of RAAF Base Townsville. The Caribou’s gate guard position has been transformed with new lighting and a publicly accessible landscaped viewing area, honouring 45 years of service.

Senior ADF Officer RAAF Base Townsville WGCDR Mathew Green, Base Manager Mick Harris and former Caribou maintainer WOFF Kevin Parker unveiled the new site in May. It follows extensive refurbishments to the Caribou, including a new Vietnam War-era green paint scheme and red wallaby emblem on the tail, a nod to the popular nickname given to the Caribou’s former squadron - Wallaby Airlines.


WOFF Parker helped with the project, drawing on his 25 years’ experience maintaining and flying the Caribou.

“It was a great aircraft to fly in, carry heavy loads.” WOFF Parker said. “And while it wasn’t fast, it could get in to some tight, rough places and carry heavy loads.”

WGCDR Green said the new garden area represented a significant investment in the local economy. “It looks amazing, especially at night with the new lighting,” he said.

“All the work on this display, from early design through to completion was undertaken by 12 local contractors, nearly all of whom have never worked at RAAF Base Townsville before.”

The viewing area was the first of a number of planned additions. “The Caribou at the front gate is the result of extensive planning by the History and Heritage Branch of Air Force Headquarters to increase the heritage presence of the RAAF Base at Townsville and to recognise its significant contribution to aviation history,” WGCDR Green said.

“In the next phase we’ll see the complete revamp of the Townsville Aviation Heritage Centre and installation of new historic aircraft displays – a Mirage fighter jet, a Pilatus PC-9, a Winjeel, a working Caribou cockpit display and an Iroquois gunship.

“All these aircraft types have a connection to Townsville and it’ll be exciting to see them back, fully restored, hopefully in time for the centenary of Air Force commemorations in 2021.”

Ken Wilson

Well-earned retirement

RAAF Base Townsville Senior ADF Officer WGCDR Mathew Green, Base Manager Mick Harris and WOFF Kevin Parker in front of the De Havilland DHC-4 Caribou after the completion of base improvements.

Right: A plaque installed as part of the refurbishments.

Photos: LACW Annalin Wright

IN BRIEF

Payment summaries

THE Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has made changes to the way employers report salary and wage information. The changes are a part of Single Touch Payroll (STP). Defence implemented STP in February 2020 and commenced automatically providing payee earnings and wage information to the ATO every fortnight from pay day March 19, 2020. Defence will no longer issue payment summaries at the end of a financial year. Instead, you will be able to access an income statement via myGov during the financial year.

Reportable Fringe Benefits Amount (RFBIA) information will be available at the end of the year. If you do not have a myGov account you can sign up at my.gov.au. Existing processes for ADF members who served in a Tax Zone during the financial year remain unchanged.

Member Tax Zone details will continue to be reported to the ATO directly by the member.

Visit the Single Touch Payroll page, contact 1800 DEFENCE or email yourcustomer.service@defence.gov.au.

DHOAS subsidy

THE Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) helps current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families to buy their own home by paying a monthly sum towards their approved home loan. On June 22, the timeframe to access a DHOAS subsidy certificate will be extended from two to five years after a permanent or reserve force member leaves the ADF. The extension to five years will provide veterans with the time to carefully consider their options.

Information about DHOAS is available from the Department of Defence (https://www.dhoas.gov.au).

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Nationally Recognised Training
Honour on first deployment

LAC Matthew Shomali has been crowned “Airman of the Rotation” during his first ADF deployment to the Middle East with the sixth iteration of the Expeditionary Airbase Operations Unit (EAOU).

LAC Shomali, who joined the Air Force in 2006, said he was honoured to receive the recognition.

“It was a big surprise. I was not expecting any award at all,” LAC Shomali said.

“Going in, I thought anything on top of a good deployment was a bonus, so I’m pretty happy.”

The security governance team performs biometric enrolment duties, which are not carried out in Australia.

“My role involved looking after all the other country nationals, or locally employed contractors. That’s all our cooks, cleaners and drivers who need to be biometrically enrolled,” LAC Shomali said.

“We do their security vetting, finger printing, compare checks with other databases and from those results we assess them for security clearances to come onto base.”

“The language barrier has been the most interesting. When I first started I could not understand the managers I had to liaise with several times a day but we figured out a way to communicate with pen and paper.”

As part of his award, LAC Shomali received the EAOU flag that flew during his deployment.

He said he would take the flag back home to Byron Bay.

“There will be times on holidays when I go home to Byron Bay. I reckon I’ll take it to the family home and leave it with my parents so when I go home on holidays it will be in the bedroom. I think dad will be pretty happy with that,” LAC Shomali said.

“My dad is from Palestine, he is Arabic. Growing up, mum and dad wanted us to visit family who still live there but they held off because it was an unstable environment.

“I’m glad I was able to finally spend time with my parents in a safer environment for our highly professional, highly skilled personnel who maintain ATC services for the ADF and civilian passengers travelling through Darwin International Airport,” WGCDR Hoare said.

“Significantly, the new tower facilities will support a future upgrade of the air traffic control (ATC) tower at RAAF Base Darwin.”

The new infrastructure will support the delivery of traffic management capabilities. It will also provide a more flexible and conducive work environment for our highly professional, highly skilled personnel who maintain ATC services for the ADF and civilian passengers travelling through Darwin International Airport,” WGCDR Hoare said.

With both elevator and stairwell access to the control room, the new facilities will house an external observation deck, crew rest area, kitchenette and a mechanical plant room,” WGCDR Anthony said.

“As part of the joint Defence/Airservices Australia ‘OneSky’ program, completely new state-of-the-art ATC equipment is being installed in the new tower. The new tower will be utilised as part of the joint Defence/Airservices Australia ‘OneSky’ program.”

RAAF Base Darwin Senior ADF Officer WGCDR Andrew Anthony said the facility was a welcome upgrade.

“With both elevator and stairwell access to the control cabin level, the new facilities will house an external observation deck, crew rest area, kitchenette and a mechanical plant room,” WGCDR Anthony said.

“Once ATC services are being provided from the new tower, the old tower will be demolished in order to provide an unobstructed view from the new location.”

EAOU CO WGCDR Shannan Forrest presents LAC Matthew Shomali with the EAOU flag.

Photo: PO Yuri Ramsey

Tower taking shape in Top End

Bettina Mears

CONSTRUCTION of a new air traffic control (ATC) tower at RAAF Base Darwin is underway.

As part of the joint Defence/Airservices Australia ‘OneSky’ program, completely new state-of-the-art ATC equipment is being installed in the new tower.

The project will enable the seamless and continued delivery of air traffic services for the region.

Defence contractors Lendlease began works in July 2019 at the site of the joint military and civilian airfield (leased by Darwin International Airport), with the main support structure increasing at a height of about 6m a week, from April.

A major construction step involved separate lifts of the tower cabin to the top of the structure. The first being around 25 tonnes and the second around 50 tonnes with the use of a 500-tonne hydraulic crane.

The new tower will be utilised by Air Force air traffic controllers and Communications electronics technicians to deliver Darwin’s ATC capabilities.

No. 452 Squadron CO WGCDR Andy Hoare said Air Force personnel support both military and civilian air movements at Darwin Airport and would transfer to the new facility when completed.

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Photo: PO Yuri Ramsey
WGCDR David Cooksley is proud to be part of ‘something so great’, SQNLDR Bruce Chalmers writes.

WGCDR David Cooksley has put his skills in emergency, pre-hospital and retrieval medicine to good use since leaving New Zealand in the 1990s. He came to Australia to undertake training in emergency medicine and now is part of Air Force’s Health Operations Conversion Unit at RAAF Base Amberley as medical officer instructor for the principal military critical care aeromedical evacuation team (MCAT).

“I’ve always had an interest in the military but finally began thinking seriously about joining the ADF approximately 16 years ago while working in Townsville,” WGCDR Cooksley said.

“Townsville is a city with a strong military presence and I felt I might be able to contribute a little to the ADF with my medical knowledge and skills in emergency, pre-hospital and retrieval medicine.”

“Now that I ponder about what it means to be part of Air Force’s first 100 years, I’m incredibly proud, and feel genuinely blessed by the privilege, of being part of something so great.”

The ADF is well known for its humanitarian and disaster relief operations and WGCDR Cooksley is working with the MRH90 projects office and Airbus Helicopters as one of the subject matter experts for the MRH90 helicopter aeromedical fit-out, designed to enhance medical assistance when needed.

“Being a reservist and trying to manage a civilian career while making a useful contribution to Defence can be hard,” WGCDR Cooksley said.

“Working away from family for extended periods of time while on deployment or exercise is hard at times and without a very supportive wife and family it would be impossible. They’re the unsung heroes.”

The important work done by the ADF’s Joint Health Command contributed to the effective COVID-19 response by the ADF and the work of medical professionals like WGCDR Cooksley continues to build on the extensive medical capabilities of the ADF.

“I think one thing that really surprised me is just how many different opportunities open up once you join the ADF – especially if you’re willing to get involved,” he said.

“I love the ability to contribute to something that’s important for this nation. I love the camaraderie and opportunity to engage in interesting and challenging activities in Australia and abroad.”

Centenary online

The AF2021 team has been gathering stories about past and present members who have made an exceptional contribution to Air Force. These stories will be shared through Air Force social media and website platforms showcasing the critical role our people have played in building the world’s best Air Force over the past century.

More information about Air Force 2021 is available at our website www.airforce.gov.au/100

A recipe for career excitement

SQNLDR Bruce Chalmers

GROWING up in Redland Bay while completing her secondary schooling at Our Lady’s College Amnerley, SQNLDR Lauren Bishop spent most summer holidays on Stradbroke Island with her grandparents, rather than picking strawberries in the local area.

While fishing and swimming at Point Lookout, she had a strong desire to learn how to cook and started her first job as an apprentice chef at a fine-dining restaurant in Brisbane.

Her love of cooking led her to join the ADF as a cook, with a view to saving enough money to continue her cooking training in Italy.

Twenty years later, SQNLDR Bishop is now Air Force’s Senior Movements Officer at Headquaters No. 96 Wing, RAAF Base Amberley.

“My team and I are responsible for ensuring safe delivery of the air movements and aviation refuelling capability for Air Force,” SQNLDR Bishop said. “Within No. 96 Wing we have a workforce of approximately 330 people who are working hard to prepare cargo for load and unload operations and to refuel aircraft across the globe.

Like our aircraft I have had the opportunity to travel extensively, with one highlight being a deployment to Antarctica in support of Operation Southern Discovery.

“I worked and lived in Antarctica as the Casey Station logistics officer during the 2017-18 summer.”

SQNLDR Bishop was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for her logistics support to the Air Force’s Heron Remotely Piloted Aircraft operations.

“In her spare time she is a keen hiker. Last winter my daughter and I completed the Overland Track in Tasmania and we have also done some hiking in the Canary Islands,” SQNLDR Bishop said.

From NZ to share a life of expertise

SQNLDR Lauren Bishop said a career highlight had been travelling to Antarctica for Op Southern Discovery. Photo: CPL Jesse Kane

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Amberley going strong at 80

Evita Ryan
RAAF Base Amberley turned 80 on June 17, a day to reflect on its many milestones, from its official opening in 1940, to taking the lead in introducing women to the Defence workforce, to becoming a modern, fully operational platform for the conduct of joint operations.

Starting in 1939, the construction of RAAF Base Amberley was described as one of the largest projects undertaken in Queensland at the time – officially opening on June 17, 1940.

Air base operations began the same month with the first aircraft at station headquarters being the Moth Minor No. A21-26, followed shortly by four Wirraways.

By the end of 1940, there were 54 aircraft based there and over the next two years it was transformed into a centre of excellence for the assembly, maintenance and salvage of aircraft, which was the primary focus of the base during World War II.

Not long after, Amberley became part of a quiet revolution with RAAF leading the way in introducing women to the Defence workforce. In 1948, a Lincoln A73-11 aircraft crashed in the north-east corner of the airfield, bursting into flames on impact and killing all 16 service personnel on board.

Three years later, the first bomber in RAAF service to be fitted with election seats, the Canberra MA20, arrived at the base. It was later converted for target-towing and photo reconnaissance roles until 1982.

The first six F-111C aircraft arrived in 1973. This was followed a few months later with the formation of No. 12 Squadron comprising CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

The transfer of the battlefield helicopters from the RAAF to the Army in 1989 provided the opportunity for further expansion of aircraft capability on the base and three years later, 10 Caribou aircraft were relocated to Amberley.

In 2000, redevelopment works began with the relocation of Combat Support Group from Glenbrook and new headquarters for No. 82 Wing, while the base also hosted several operational combat support units and security and fire training capabilities.

Development of the super base continued over the subsequent years with accommodation, airfield upgrades, a gym, military working dog facilities, security and fire training and the headquarters building. In 2010, after 37 years of service, the F-111 was retired, with two remaining on display – one at the main entrance to the base and the other at the RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre.

The base has hosted elements of the Australian Army. From 1960 to 1973, it was home to Army aviation and since 2006 has supported a variety of Army units. Amberley now hosts a range of Air Force, Army and joint capabilities and is a fully operational platform for the conduct of joint operations.

Today, RAAF Base Amberley accommodates about 6000 military personnel, public servants and Defence aviation contractors, and provides facilities for many aircraft.

Calling all members of the Chinook community

CAPT Campbell Rogan
ON June 30, C Squadron 5th Aviation Regiment celebrates the dual milestones of its 25th anniversary alongside the 40th year of CH-47 Chinook aircraft operations across the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force.

C Squadron will be holding a gathering for members past and present of the Chinook community in Townsville during the end of 2020 to celebrate the squadron’s 25th anniversary and the 40th year of CH-47 Chinook operations.

Event dates are to be confirmed in line with COVID-19 restriction easing.

The Australian operation of the CH-47 Chinook began during the drawdown of the country’s involvement in the Vietnam War with No. 12 Squadron. Previously a World War II general purpose, bomber and transport squadron, it was re-formed at RAAF Base Amberley on September 3, 1973.

The squadron received the aircraft with delivery aboard the Navy aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne during March 1974. In doing so, Australia became the first international export customer of the CH-47 Chinook from the United States. The acquisition of the 12 new CH-47C Chinook aircraft was made in partnership with the introduction into service of the DHC-4 Caribou to form a battlefield medium-lift capability replacement for the aging C-47 Dakota.

Over the course of its operations, 12SQN established the aircraft’s versatility and capability as a medium-lift helicopter in support of the ADF both domestically and internationally in Malaysia and in support of newly independent Papua New Guinea.

The aircraft proved its worth to the government of the day in its capacity to respond to national disaster relief and regional emergencies.

Within a backdrop of the service transfer of the battlefield helicopter capability to the Australian Army, the aircraft was retired from Air Force on June 30, 1989 after 15 years of dedicated service.

Half a decade later, the CH-47 Chinook returned to Australian service this time with the Australian Army’s Aviation Corps to modify the capability loss following the Air Force retirement.

As part of the acquisition, the mothballed CH-47C aircraft stored at RAAF Base Amberley since their retirement were transferred to Boeing Helicopters.

In return, four of the ex-12SQN CH-47C aircraft were upgraded to the CH-47D variant and delivered to C Squadron again by sea on January 27, 1995, heralding the return of the CH-47 Chinook to Australian skies.

C Squadron paraded for the first time at the 5th Aviation Regiment, RAAF Base Townsville on the June 30, 1995. The squadron began its first years operating two aircraft types simultaneously with the CH-47D Chinook and UH-1H Iroquois gunship.

Expression of interests in attending the anniversary events can be made via csqn.anniversary@defence.gov.au

A FIRST-of-its kind trial to remotely pilot a small Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) from the back of a C-130J has taken air-land integration to new heights.

The trial, recently undertaken at RAAF Base Edinburgh, tested the viability of operating a UAS via the aircraft’s on-board satellite communications (SATCOM) link, opening up future potential to operate UAS, or other networked capabilities, from anywhere in the world and, vice-versa, demonstrating an ability to upload live imagery from off-board sensor systems.

SQNLDR Peter Cunningham said it was the first time airborne control UAS had been attempted from a C-130J Hercules.

“On a crisp winter day in regional NSW, a couple of high-altitude balloons could be seen floating up into the clouds. But this was no joy flight – the two balloons each carried a series of networked sensors as part of a trial launch by RAAF’s Plan Jericho team. The aim was to test how the rapidly-deployable payloads could be used to improve situational awareness over a vast area. Plan Jericho’s Advanced Sensing Lead WGCDDR Paul Hay said high-altitude balloons could provide a sovereign and low-cost complement to our on-board systems. “As our operating environment continues to become more complex, we need a greater number and diversity of small and low-cost sensors to give us the most up-to-date and comprehensive data,” WGCDDR Hay said.

Plan Jericho is trialling the application of these sensors as part of their advanced sensing program, which also includes orbital rocket launches. “By taking our payload up to the stratosphere, these balloons will help us to exploit the under-utilised altitudes between where aircraft generally fly and space, giving us a wide view on what’s happening below,” WGCDDR Hay said.

The intention is for the data to be integrated into a cutting-edge Combat Cloud, which is being developed by Plan Jericho. “This will enable faster and better decisions to be made,” he said. Jericho Director GPCAPT Lyle Holt said the project was a collaboration between Defence and Thunderstruck Space. “At Plan Jericho, we look for partners who think like we do – Australian companies who are at the forefront of innovation,” GPCAPT Holt said.

“This gives us excellent opportunities to access and test out cutting-edge technology, while supporting our local industry.” Plan Jericho also used the launch as an opportunity to capture the imagination of the next generation of aerospace experts. A 3D printed Jasper – an animated character developed by Air Force to encourage more children to study STEM subjects – soared into the stratosphere on one of the balloons.

Mounted on the balloon, a 360-degree camera recorded footage, which was overlaid with scientific facts about the atmosphere. CG render using the digital model of Jasper plane circled the balloon as it reached the atmosphere. The video will be shared across multiple social media channels, inspiring children by showing the incredible aerospace opportunities that are happening in Australia.

“We want to motivate these kids to study STEM and reach for the stars,” WGCDDR Hay said.

Head of Air Force Capability AVM Catherine Roberts applauded the flight. “Now that Air Force is leading space within Defence, it is fitting we take Jasper with us into the stratosphere as one of our first steps,” AVM Roberts said.

The results of the trial will be evaluated for future integration into operations, helping Defence to advance Australian designed and developed launch capabilities.

Samara Kitchener

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Video of the launch can be seen at: https://innovalive.sharepoint.com/focus/HD/15850n5QYOu7xh8j8h4zn.png?

The 3D-printed character ‘Jasper’ climbs into the sky on a balloon. Insert: Another of the balloons is launched over country NSW.
Keeping Air Force operations involves a vast array of personnel, skills, training, talent and dedication, CPL Veronica O’Hara writes.

Across a wide range of roles

AIRFORCE Engineer FLTLT Loreta Newcorn-Howe was Defence help in the worst flood in Townsville during the 2019 Townsville floods. When she was deployed, she found there are times that you meet people along the way. "As a small unit, we're exposed to a large number of different people, that's reality when leading people," FLTLT Newcorn-Howe said.

"I found it a culture shock going from being under civilian contractors to working with our personnel on projects, and being exposed to all the different types of disasters Relief tasks. It gave me insight about what my career might look like."

"I've always been something I reflect on." FLTLT Newcorn-Howe said.

"We integrate with other units and part of my role is to exercise and deploy a role whether it's a maintenance role or a training role. It's a lot of different tasks involved in a variety of different roles."

"I've always been grateful for the experience."

"We're attached to the squadron, and you get a whole range of experience, you know and I've certainly used a lot of those contacts in my professional life as a construction manager in Canberra, base airfield engineering in Canberra, now at RAAF Headquarters, and the office of the Secretary of Defence."

"I've been giving 37SQN a bit of travel during that time. "I've been giving 37SQN a bit of travel during that time, especially as someone who is more experienced and I'm the one who's been through the process of setting up ADF and the capability we represent ADF and the capability we purchased a ticket to but I am happy to find out what you don't like is just as good as finding out what you do like," FLTLT Newcorn-Howe said.

"It's really good seeing the difference we made for another day, especially for the people that fell on fences," he said.

"Helping people in any way felt good to me and I've found it exciting, particularly as someone who was seeing how much they'd lost and dealing with the crisis."

"One day I might make a small change to a job that I need to do a hardened bunker for a vehicle control post," FLTLT Newcorn-Howe said.

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Attention to details and much more

A

IR intelligence analysts (AIA) work in the front line of surveillance, reconnaissance and electronic warfare monitoring and reporting tactically-advantageous intelligence.

Located at RAAF Base Edinburgh, the Distributed Ground Station – Australia (DGS-AUS) is the Air Force’s centricised intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) processing, exploitation and dissemination (PED) capability.

DGS-AUS is data and sensor agnostic, and through the exploitation of imagery and signals intelligence, provides the ADF and allied forces timely, accurate, relevant and actionable intelligence.

DGS-AUS Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) Analyst LAC Harry Lumsden analyses a wide range of signals during real-time support for aircraft performing operations around the globe.

“This continuous monitoring ensures the safety of our aircrew and our airborne platforms,” LAC Lumsden said.

“There are many technical concepts in the SIGINT [signals intelligence] trade which can be difficult to understand, however the mentors and instructors are accommodating, educated and highly experienced.

“During the downtime, we maintain technical proficiency, develop our trade knowledge and mentor others at the same time.

“The opportunity to train and work in a unique environment, the ADF’s contribution to the ADF’s contribution to the operational AIA role is

I have the opportunity to participate in Operation Bushfire Assist, providing daily intelligence briefs in support of the ADF’s contribution to the bushfire efforts. An incredibly rewarding experience. I find that the biggest challenge of the Operational AIA role is

mentoring and reporting tactically-advantageous intelligence.

The need for air intelligence has heightened in order to win against the increasingly complex and lethal threats of warfare in the Information Age.

An integral part of Australia’s requirements to deliver effective air power, air intelligence has always been a prerequisite for the successful planning, execution and assessment of air operations.

INTELO FLGOFF Ki Gladding works in a classified environment at Air Force’s intelligence squadron, No. 87 Squadron 42 Tactical Intelligence Flight (TIF) Edinburgh Detachment specific to No. 10 Squadron and the AP-3C Electronic Warfare (EW) aircraft.

“I was inspired to join Air Force because of the challenge, and being able to test my abilities in a dynamic envi-ronment, where I get to be part of something bigger than myself.

“If you want to succeed as an INTELO, you need to put the time and effort in to understand your air- craft, the crew and the problem set at hand.

“I get to lead a team of incredibly smart and resourceful air intelligence analysts in the conduct of active ADF operations, which have real-world outcomes that you can see make a difference.”

Across the flight line at 8TSQN 92TIF supporting P-8A Poseidon missions, INTELO FLGOFF Tirilye Hollenberg-Kay, comes from an arts educational background but transitioned to a STEM-centric research role as an Air Force INTELO.

“It was a big change that required commitment and getting out of my comfort zone,” FLGOFF Hollenberg-Kay said.

After that it was deploying as a targeting duties officer (TDO) on Operation Okra and last but not least, getting to fly in a Super Hornet as part of my Intel training.

“People assume it’s just being involved in targeting, however, it’s a role that requires a lot of detail and precision.”

“In the end, I’ve always been the one to make sure the right information is in the right hands. A big part of the role is ensuring that the right information is available to the right people.”

Social mastery is a key compo-nent of being a good INTELO.

For further information on the Intelligence employment categories, visit: https://airforce.defence.gov.au

Specialists meeting challenges of an ever-evolving world

S modern warfare rapidly evolves, critical people-centric roles such as intelligence officers (INTELO), air intelligence analyst operational intelligence (AIA OPINT) and air intelligence analyst signals intelligence (AIA SIGINT) have never been more in demand.

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Technical skills have never been so in demand, FLTLT Bel Scott writes.

Networking in the cyber domain

O. 462 Squadron is at the frontline of protecting Air Force’s cyber security and cyberspace domain.

Former CISCON CPL Luke Burns recently transitioned into the NETECH role and currently works in the cyber vulnerability investigation team at 462SQN.

His team is responsible for conducting vulnerability assessments (VA) on government ICT systems for the purpose of highlighting potential weaknesses and improving their overall cybersecurity posture.

CPL Burns participated in the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal for the NETECH pay case that formalised the content of the successful submission to establish the NETECH category, an amalgamation and enhancement of the CISCON and CETECH roles.

“The CISCON and CETECH categories have been operating on top of each other for many years now,” CPL Burns said.

“This transition formalises the changes that have mostly happened organically with the ever-evolving changes in technology.

Merger provides benefit in that it gives a clear post for those looking for a career in this field.

“It brings with it clear posting and promotion opportunities, training requirements and updated employment/job task profiles.”

CISCONS and CETECHs have always adapted to change by developing skills and operating outside of their official job requirements, engaging in external courses or on-the-job training opportunities to keep up with demand.

At 462SQN, our daily tasking often involves constant technical skill development and cybersecurity research to ensure we are always up to date with the latest technology and attack methods,” he said.

“It can be challenging building and maintaining the knowledge and experience needed for this job. Every ICT system is different from each other.

“I find a lot of satisfaction and reward when I am able to identify a novel security vulnerability on a system that I had spent time researching in the past.

“It can be very motivating to take something learnt from theory and make use of it in a practical way.”

As highly skilled, technical experts, the NETECHS at 462SQN provide cybersecurity services and information assurance advice to ADF stakeholders who own, operate or manage ICT systems for Air Force.

This offers a dedicated workforce capable of supporting network operations for a fifth-generation Air Force.

Awards the 2019 462SQN Halifax Award, presented to a member who exemplifies the highest level of professionalism and selfless commitment, NETECH CPL Natalie Ekonomopoulos has embraced the mustering changes.

“I was always interested in joining Air Force and after much consideration towards the plethora of jobs available, I decided I was most interested in developing my information technology skills through a CISCON role,” CPL Ekonomopoulos said.

“Information technology is a vastly developing area with an ever expanding scope and opportunity.

“I really enjoy networking, problem-solving and learning, so it seemed like the smartest career choice for me at the time.

“Now work in a role that provides information assurance and advice to accreditation authorities to appropriately secure and risk manage capability in order to support a fifth-generation Air Force.

“If you are interested in IT, innovative, enjoy learning and being challenged then I would recommend considering this job opportunity.

“It’s an excellent long-term career path and there are always learning opportunities and diverse IT and cyber security roles available.”

ACW Lauren Campbell enlisted as an air intelligence analyst but after an interim posting with 462SQN information systems security team, she’s making the leap to become a NETECH and began training this month.

“I’ve had the opportunity to work alongside and learn from other cyber professionals,” ACW Campbell said.

“I am constantly faced with new and exciting challenges that I have never come across before, which ignites my curiosity.

“It’s rewarding being able to overcome and achieve something once you put your mind to it. This experience inspired me to remuster to a role which supports cyberspace operations.

“I think more women should consider and be less intimidated about going into technical and cyber roles.

“You’ll surprise yourself by what you’re good at and you’ll get the chance to contribute your own different yet invaluable perspective.”

For further information on the intelligence employment categories, visit: https://airforce.defencejobs.gov.au/jobs/network-technician

ACW Lauren Campbell, left, with CPL Natalie Ekonomopoulos in a communications cabinet for cyber research and development systems at 462SQN.

Photo: CPL Branton Kalatski
FLTLT Arihia Peri, an air traffic controller at RAAF Base Darwin, with her Dr Rob Lee Defence Flight Safety Award trophy from the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Photo: SGT Ben Dempster

Concorde inspires career

International Women in Engineering Day on June 23 highlights the profession’s achievers. Evita Ryan speaks with one of our members forging a path in this important arena.

“I was pleasantly surprised and did not expect it at all,” FLTLT Peri said. “My flight commander made a good effort of keeping the surprise under wraps and managed to get my family on videoconference for the presentation, which made it extra special. I am very thankful and appreciative of being the recipient of such an esteemed award.”

CAF AIRMSHL Mel Hupfeld praised FLTLT Peri for her initiative and commitment.

“I commend FLTLT Peri for her efforts, specifically her readiness to champion generative safety culture improvement both within and external to Defence in the Darwin region,” AIRMSHL Hupfeld said.

FLTLT Arihia Peri, an air traffic controller at RAAF Base Darwin.

Photo: SGT Ben Dempster

Passion and commitment recognised

Bettina Mears

As the first member of her family to pursue a career in the military, FLTLT Arihia Peri has always forged her own path, welcomed new challenges and has never been afraid to aim high.

Born in New Zealand, FLTLT Peri came to the Central Coast, NSW, when she was a child. As an independent teenager FLTLT Peri’s parents were not too sure what life in the military was going to be like for their only child and were surprised when she signed up to join the Air Force.

Fast forward to 2020 and FLTLT Peri has served more than a decade in the RAAF as an air traffic controller and is posted to No. 452 Squadron at RAAF Base Darwin.

Bettina Mears

After joining the Air Force in January 2009 and studying at ADFA in Canberra for three years, FLTLT Peri reflects on the commencement of her career journey which has delivered many opportunities.

“As an 18-year-old, I had no idea what career I wanted to have but I knew that I wanted to go to university. I saw an opportunity walking past Defence Force Recruiting in Newcastle and was overwhelmed by the list of potential jobs offered to me. I thought I would just give it a crack and 11 years on here I am,” FLTLT Peri said.

“Meeting lifelong friends, traveling Australia, always learning new things, being challenged personally and professionally, and having the opportunity for further study with ADFA and a Masters of Aviation Management has been incredible.”

In addition to her role of approach (radar) supervisor at Darwin International Airport, FLTLT Peri extended her passion for safety, training and developing controllers through her active support to the role of unit aviation safety officer.

FLTLT Peri led the development and establishment of a series of education and training programs as well as network forums that enhanced aviation safety across RAAF Base Darwin. The success of these initiatives extended the education program to the general aviation community. These efforts were recently acknowledged with the announcement that FLTLT Peri had been awarded the Royal Aeronautical Society’s Dr Rob Lee Defence Flight Safety Award for 2019. The award recognises an individual or collective effort that enhances flight safety in Defence and is open to all members of the ADF, Defence civilians, Defence contractors, foreign exchange and loan personnel, and Australian Air Force cadets.

FLTLT Peri received a certificate, trophy and $5000 from the Royal Aeronautical Society last month at 452SQN’s air traffic control complex.

The award ceremony was held over videoconference with the trophy, citation and cheque presented by Officer Commanding No. 44 Wing, GPCAPT Ruth Elsley in front of an audience of FLTLT Peri’s family and colleagues.

“I got private flying lessons when I was a kid,” FLGOFF Lyons said. “I have always been interested in being a pilot and I knew I wanted to be one.”

Born in New Zealand, FLTLT Peri saw the opportunity walking past Defence Force Recruiting in Newcastle and was overwhelmed by the list of potential jobs offered to her. After studying at ADFA in Canberra for three years, FLTLT Peri took a class of students to an engineering day at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and from then on, FLGOFF Lyons knew she wanted to be an engineer.

“I decided that I wanted to study engineering at QUT,” FLGOFF Lyons said.

“Never losing sight of her Air Force dream, FLGOFF Lyons applied for the Air Force’s undergraduate sponsorship Scheme during the first year of her Bachelor of Engineering degree. “They were really supportive,” she said. “I started out studying electrical engineering, but I got to the point where I was studying power engineering and I thought ‘I can’t do this with my life’, and Defence approved for me to switch to mechatronics engineering so I could major in robotics and minor in programming.”

Admitting that her current role as Officer in Charge of Team Echo at No. 1 Combat Communications Squadron at RAAF Base Amberley doesn’t involve as much engineering as she expected it to, FLGOFF Lyons said she was enjoying the personnel management aspect of her job while still being able to fall back on the skills she acquired during her years of engineering study at QUT.

“Because I studied engineering, I can understand what my team members are saying when they’re talking about network and cyber vulnerabilities for the most part, anyway,” she said.

FLGOFF Lyons is excited about what lies ahead for her ADF career. She’s added an overseas posting to her bucket list as well as plans to study at the Defence Force School of Languages.

“In the ADF, you feel like you’re part of a community of open, caring and accepting people,” she said.

“You train for real-life situations and develop skills that can make a big difference, and you get to see the effect of that in the real world, which is pretty amazing.”
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†Negotiated Smartleasing buying power discount on chosen vehicle may vary.
Accepting the path to wealth of ideas

FLTLT Jessica Aldred

WITH about 20 years of service under her belt, Pilot SQNLDR Anna Lovatt brings a lot of experience and knowledge to the Air Force.

Before becoming a KC-30A pilot, SQNLDR Lovatt flew as a navigator in F-111s. She believes the aircrew specialisations are in the early stages of workforce diversity.

“As one of four female pilots at 33SQN, and with the low numbers in the pilot world overall, it’s very early days for us,” SQNLDR Lovatt said.

“We are already at a recruiting disadvantage because being a pilot is not something every little girl wants to be, but I believe that if we focus on retaining female pilots and getting them beyond SQNLDR rank, we can begin to make a real difference.”

SQNLDR Lovatt said diversity was about acceptance and understanding how different perspectives could contribute to the workforce.

“Diversity to me is all about being accepting of people who are different to me – be this in gender, culture, religion and background,” SQNLDR Lovatt said. “Diversity brings a number of things to the workforce; a wealth of ideas from different perspectives, along with encouraging people to become more open-minded and accepting of others. Many of the women I work alongside are excellent communicators, they bring empathy, and they are always well prepared – but the unconscious bias of others means these may not be recognised as strengths.”

As a mother, SQNLDR Lovatt also brings another set of experiences which shapes her perspective of work.

“As a mother trying to juggle kids and flying, and I generally look at a problem in a different way to many people around me. Unfortunately there are so few mums flying, and we are all spread out, so it’s hard to share our lessons learnt and provide a model for managing and getting the most out of flying mums,” SQNLDR Lovatt said.

“But critically, we need to communicate to the lowest levels about the diversity initiatives aimed at recruiting women. If we communicate why they are so vitally important, it will help them to be accepted and understood.”

SQNLDR Anna Lovatt (then FLTLT) says a focus needs to be on retaining female pilots. Photo: CPL Jesse Kane

The Guide

The Directorate of Organisational Behaviour and Culture – Air Force has developed the Air Force Diversity and Inclusion Guide which discusses diversity of thought, perspectives and approaches using examples, members’ stories and a range of online resources including Ted Talks and useful templates.

Go west to get the job done: JLU-W’s wide shoulders

SGT Sebastian Beurich

FOR every plane that takes off from RAAF Base Learmonth, surveillance reconnaissance vehicle (SRV) that drives through the Pilbara or ship that leaves Cockburn Sound, chances are someone from JLU-W has had a hand in it.

With one of the largest areas of responsibility of any Defence unit, JLU-W combines military and commercial experience, according to CO CMDR Ben Macdonald.

“It’s sometimes easy to fall into the trap of thinking that WA isn’t a significant player in the ADF’s operational context,” he said.

“You only need to think of SASR and the Submarine Force to understand the strategic value the West brings to the table, but a substantial portion of Navy’s surface fleet operates from HMAS Stirling and RAAF Base Pearce provides basic flying training to all pilots.

“Delivery of logistics support to these units requires a team that has a deep knowledge of the intricacies of operating in WA. JLU-W provides warehousing, distribution and maintenance services to all units located in, visiting, or transiting through the state. It combines ADF and APS while integrating Linfox as the warehousing and distribution partner and Broadpectrum for material maintenance and weapons.”

Their major sites are at HMAS Stirling and Palmer Barracks, though they also maintain a smaller presence at RAAF Base Pearce and Irwin Barracks. JLU-W’s area of operations starts at Eucla, on the state’s south-eastern border, extending westward to the coast and north to Sandfords between Port Hedland and Broome.

“In the past 12 months, we have provided trade repair and windscreen replacement for six ER vehicles travelling to Jigalong for AACAP [Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program] communications system upgrades for Pilbara RAAF SRVs and maintained refuelling vehicles at RAAF Base Learmonth,” CMDR Macdonald said.

“Our success is entirely dependent on the professionalism of our people and the partnerships we’ve developed over 21 years of operations in the state.

“We’re trusted to provide maintenance on just about anything, from outboard motors and Mack trucks, through to communications equipment and weapons.”

Photos: LS Ernesto Sanchez and AB Chris Beerens

ADF members from JLU-W and LS Dan Atkinson working in the JLU-W warehouse at HMAS Stirling. Photo: CPL Jesse Kane
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The stars aligned at RAAF Base Amberley when three members each received the Federation Star, recognising 40 years of continuous service in the ADF, FLTLT Robert Cochran writes.

**FLTLT Ian Pinch**

FLTLT Ian Pinch is an electrical engineering officer who works as a planner in HQ 95WG.

Born in Wondai, a small rural town near Kingaroy, he grew up in various parts of country Queensland as his father worked for the railways, and joined Air Force after finishing his Junior Certificate in Rockhampton.

“Of my brothers was in the ADF and on his recommendation I applied and was accepted, joining Air Force as an engineering apprentice a month after I finished school,” FLTLT Pinch said.

“I feel privileged to have received the Federation Star, and I’m in awe that I’ve lasted so long.”

When asked what advice he would give to himself as a new recruit, he offered some sound words of wisdom that all serving members could benefit from. “Appreciate each posting for what it is, and view them as challenges to learn new skills and knowledge,” FLTLT Pinch said.

“Find yourself good coaches and mentors, experience life outside your normal employment profile, enjoy the people you work with and don’t live your life on social media.

“People make the Air Force, so when you become a supervisor or manager, look after your people and they’ll move mountains for you.”

**WOFF Peter Hungerford**

WOFF Peter Hungerford is a reservist military working dog handler who works in HQ 95WG.

Born and raised in Queensland, he joined the Army at the age of 17.

“I remember recruiting visiting my school and thought it’d be a great job as I liked animals and was into fitness and team sports but police dog handlers, as they were called back then, had to be at least 19 years old, so I did three years as infantry then joined the RAAF,” WOFF Hungerford said.

“I feel very proud to receive the Federation Star – it’s a great honour to join a select group of Defence personnel who’ve given 40 years of service to the nation.”

When asked about the secret to lasting four decades in Defence, he boiled it down to his canine workmates and the ongoing support of his civilian employer.

“Working with military working dogs is a dream – the satisfaction of training an animal for duty in the Defence Force, and the devotion, bond and friendship between handler and dog means everything to me,” WOFF Hungerford said.

“I’d like to thank the University of the Sunshine Coast, my civilian employer for the past 20 years for allowing me to return to the RAAF temporarily on continuous full-time service and go on deployments, work reserve days at the drop of a hat.”

When asked about the satisfaction of training an animal for duty, he said, “It’s all about building that trust and respect. And looking out for that animal, making sure that what they experience on the field is safe...”

“People make the Air Force.”

**FLTLT Colin Lambkin**

FLTLT Colin Lambkin is a reservist personnel capability officer who works as a planner in HQ 95WG.

Raised in Perth’s south-east, he was an Air Force cadet with 13 Flight Squadrons and completed three years as Infantry then joined the RAAF.

“I’m very honoured to receive the Federation Star – I had always wanted to complete 20 years, but never dreamt that I’d go on to achieve 40 years of service,” FLTLT Lambkin said.

In those four decades of service FLTLT Lambkin has seen a great deal of positive change in Air Force, especially in relation to gender equality.

“I’ve witnessed massive changes over the past 40 years, like females not having to discharge if they got married or fell pregnant, along with equal pay for women and the absorption of the Women’s RAAF into the regular RAAF,” FLTLT Lambkin said.

“But while the aircraft and working conditions have changed, one thing has stayed the same, and that’s the overwhelming support from my wife of 37 years and my two children – this award is as much theirs as it is mine.”

**Every step, challenge and reward**

When asked what advice he would give to himself as a new recruit, he offered some sound words of wisdom that all serving members could benefit from. “Appreciate each posting for what it is, and view them as challenges to learn new skills and knowledge,” FLTLT Pinch said.

“Find yourself good coaches and mentors, experience life outside your normal employment profile, enjoy the people you work with and don’t live your life on social media.

“People make the Air Force, so when you become a supervisor or manager, look after your people and they’ll move mountains for you.”

**HITTING the 40-year mark of an Air Force career could only be reached by WGCDR David Glerean getting out of an “explosive” situation during Operation Blazer in Iraq 26 years ago.**

“I’d walked into a minefield and had to remember everything from the mine awareness course I learned in one day’s training at Holsworthy to get myself out,” WGCDR Glerean said.

“Turned out the Iraqi bloke waving at me, who I thought was being friendly, was trying to warn me.”

WGCDR Glerean received his Federation Star, letter of appreciation from CAF and record of service from COOPS at HJOC on May 8.

“Every posting felt like he’d changed jobs which kept things “interesting and fresh.”

“Although travel was more limited this time, it was interesting and I worked with some fantastic coalition and American people, and I’m still in contact with quite a few of them.”

WGCDR Glerean also received a US Meritorious Service Medal, US Army Commendation Medal and shared in unit citations for 36 and 37SQNs.

“Friends and colleagues were there to celebrate his 40 years but COVID-19 restrictions prevented family attendence.”

“It was a shame my wife Jennifer couldn’t be there because I think it’s partly her award,” WGCDR Glerean said.

“I was away a lot with exercises and six deployments and she had to look after the house and family.”

“The support I received from my family helped me go the years.”

WGCDR Glerean enlisted as a military aircrew officer and reached the rank of Flight Sergeant before commissioning as an intelligence officer in 1995.

“Although travel was more limited this time, it was interesting and I worked with some fantastic coalition and American people, and I’m still in contact with quite a few of them.”

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“The support I received from my family helped me go the years.”
3CRU keeps up skill levels

MAINTAINING important training outcomes in a changing environment, the Control and Reporting Centre (CRC) at No. 3 Control and Reporting Unit (3CRU) honed its efforts and increased simulated training for operators during the period of reduced live flying as a result of COVID-19.

In addition to their full-time role on an operations crew, the personnel of the simulation section are responsible for designing and executing bespoke mission sets that cover a wide range of scenarios including Defensive Counter Air, Offensive Counter Air and Homeland Defence.

This important training generates No. 41 Wing’s capability, with plans under way to network simulation capability, with plans under way to network simulation capability, with plans under way to network simulation capability, with plans under way to network simulation capability.

Over the period of reduced flying, the section responded quickly, adapting to the changed environment. Maintaining appropriate COVID-19 protocols of social distancing, the CRC generated two-hour missions, twice a day, to ensure the entire unit remained current, competent and ready to execute when called upon.

Realistic scenarios and operating realism were at the forefront of the section’s execution strategy, with some participating personnel even wearing masks to simulate the muffled communication a live aircraft may produce.

After recently completing the Sim Pilot Course, ACW Shaan Flannery is a new addition to the 3CRU simulation section.

“The missions have been challenging to fly, but are rewarding as you can directly see the benefit you’re giving to other members of the unit,” she said.

“The knowledge provided on sim pilot course is foundation knowledge and you’re constantly learning as you go.”

“It’s also really interesting to see the level of realism that we are able to simulate.”

Officer-in-Charge of the simulation section is FLGOFF Timothy Dillon.

“The team have found many opportunities while standing up this new unit capability, with plans under way to network simulation across the Wing to produce complex training scenarios that the live environment does not always provide.”

Tiger Team enhances readiness

THE efforts of an Air Force Tiger Team have revitalised current SERCAT 3-5 workforce readiness and bolstered the Air Force personnel capability. Recently, the Tiger Team sought to contact all SERCAT 3-5 members to update their contact information and broaden information on skills and availability.

For Tiger Team member LACW Emma Gerolemou, the experience enhanced her understanding of the Air Force total workforce.

“Being on the team was an opportunity for LACW Gerolemou to work with members of various SERCAT’s ranks, mustering and physical locations.”

FLGOFF Malla Naupoto

She was involved in correlating the responses received from more than 4200 SERCAT 3-5 members on their availability, skills and limitations to service, such as essentiality of their primary employment or impact of COVID-19 on their circumstances.

“It was a great experience for me, learning how effective we can be during a pandemic,” LACW Gerolemou said. “I also learned that gathering personnel from many different areas in the RAAF can work so efficiently.”

Director General Workforce Design and Reserves – Air Force AIRCDRE Tony Hindmarsh said such efforts helped her understand the Air Force total workforce.

“Air Force is experiencing ongoing demand for SERCAT 3-5 personnel to enhance ADF operations.”

In turn, Air Force needed to better understand if SERCAT 3-5 personnel were available to render additional reserve service days in the COVID-19 environment.

This work has improved the means to communicate with SERCAT 3-5 personnel and further matured the Air Force Total Workforce System across SERCAT 3-7,” he said.

For Director General Personnel – Air Force AIRCDRE Karen Ashworth, the Tiger Team efforts added depth to the personnel landscape.
Evita Ryan

Mother of three SQNLDR Emma Kilpatrick is proof that flexible working arrangements work well in the Australian Defence Force. Her 11-year Air Force career has seen her work in various roles and locations in between three bouts of maternity leave.

Working full time up until the birth of her oldest child in 2014, SQNLDR Kilpatrick first experienced a flexible working arrangement when she returned from maternity leave. “I still had all the entitlements of a full-time Air Force member but with a flexible work arrangement negotiated through my chain of command, where I worked three days a week,” SQNLDR Kilpatrick said.

Since the birth of her first child, SQNLDR Kilpatrick said she’s changed jobs almost every year due to relocating, posting into a new role or being promoted but in each she’s been able to work with her chain of command on a flexible work arrangement that works for her family and her workplace.

During her son’s first year of school, SQNLDR Kilpatrick worked compressed hours over four days so she could be there for school drop-offs and pick-ups. Earlier this year, SQNLDR Kilpatrick transferred to the Air Force Reserve so she could continue her Air Force career while studying a Bachelor of Nursing and supporting her family.

“Now that I’m a reservist, I can adjust my work schedule to fit my studies, although this year hasn’t exactly gone according to plan,” SQNLDR Kilpatrick said. “Working, studying and homeschooled three kids has certainly been challenging.”

SQNLDR Emma Kilpatrick working from home. She is grateful for the opportunity to care for her family while progressing through her Air Force career.

Photo: CPL Colin Dadd

Flexible Force helping families

Deployment support series

While usually rewarding for members, deployments and other absences can be a stressful and challenging time for some families.

With many Air Force members currently deployed on exercise and operations, Defence People Group (Defence Community Organisation) has developed a new webinar series for members and their families called ‘Deployment: embracing the challenge’.

Military Support Officer at DCO in Darwin SQNLDR Pete Shipley said the webinar series will provide families with a range of information and practical tips for managing before, during and after deployment.

“The four-part webinar series covers the phases of deployment, the planning families can make pre-deployment, tips and strategies for managing before, during and after deployment.

Kirrilla, WA – the all-hours Defence Family Helpline/National Welfare Coordination Centre 1800 624 608 or if they need support, referral or advice, or if they need to contact their member on deployment. Families are encouraged to opt in to receive absence from home support calls.

The support calls provide a good opportunity to chat with Helpline/NWCC staff and ask any questions they might have about the support available from Defence and in their local community. The webinar series will be held on the Zoom platform and families can download the free app from the Apple Store or Google play.

Follow DCO on social media, DefenceNet Families or see the website for details about the deployment webinar series or deployment support.

SQNLDR Kilpatrick said. “The extraordinary events of 2020, with the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, has only increased the stressors on many members and their families. This webinar series provides a great opportunity to get a range of useful information from the comfort of home.”

The DCO website also has a wide range of information for members and their partners and parents about deployment and absence from home. One of the most helpful resources available on the website is the ‘Deployment operation Ovra to RAAF Base Williamtown in 2017.’

The handbook provides a range of information about how members and their families can prepare practically and emotionally, as well as tips for staying positive and how to help kids during deployment,” SQNLDR Shipley said.

The handbook also includes a Member and Family Care Plan which has a checklist of important family information like Defence and Air Force contacts. It also details the personal administration to be completed before leaving on deployment, relevant family medical and education information, and other useful contacts and information for insurance, banking, vehicle and home maintenance.

Things can go wrong when the member is deployed and sometimes their partner doesn’t know all the details of where to go or what to do,” SQNLDR Shipley said.

Events like car breakdowns, issues with Government payments or if a family member or pet needs urgent medical attention can be difficult when the family isn’t prepared.

“Even things like storms causing damage to property and insurance claims can be quite stressful if partners don’t have all the details on hand.”

“I work two days a week at Combat Support Group’s headquarters at Amberley and half a day at home,” SQNLDR Kilpatrick said.

“The other half of the day is allocated to studying. I’ve also have great support from my husband and his backing has enabled me to believe that I can do this.”

Wildcats skipper shares secrets of success

Peta Magorian

PERTH Wildcats captain Damian Martin, was recently hosted by No. 79 Squadron introductory fighter course (IFC) trainees at RAAF Base Pearce for a valuable mental skills training (MST) session.

The IFC consists of 14 weeks of combined ground and flying training and equips the trainees with the theoretical, practical and mental skills required to support them in achieving successful careers in the RAAF’s fast-jet environment.

Each training squadron is responsible for developing their own MST package that outlines the nine key mental skills: attitude, motivation, goals and commitment, people skills, self-talk, mental imagery, dealing effectively with anxiety, dealing effectively with emotions and concentration.

LACW Olivia Tannock all set to resume training and, inset, in action on the turf. Main photo: SGT Dave Gibbs

LACW Olivia Tannock switched ball games and never looked back, CPL Veronica O’Hara writes.


Taking to the pitch

67SON Flight Instructor SqnLdr Martin Keer shows Perth Wildcats captain Damian Martin the Life Support room.

79SON’s A-Flight Commander SqnLdr Martin Keer and residential Psychologist SqnLdr Shayne Hanks developed a robust 12-session program covering these skills through a series of interactive sessions with inspiring guest speakers.

“The weekly sessions include different case studies with guest speakers providing their personal perspective on the value of acknowledging mental skills which can be related to a flying training context,” SqnLdr Keer said.

Session five of 79SQN’s MST focused on the ‘elite athlete perspective’ and Damian was excited to visit the squadron for a unique question-and-answer session.

The six-time NBL Champion, six-time NBL Best Defender and 2018 Olympian, shared his advice on dealing with pre-game anxiety, the benefits of mental toughness during the game and mental game rehearsal.

“I know my team plays their best when they are mentally switched on, fit, healthy and confident and as captain, I can help my teammates be mentally switched on and confident which goes a long way to getting the ball in the hoop,” Damian said.

“It takes a good team to win a final, but it’s what’s above your shoulders that separates you from being a really good team or a championship-winning team.”

FLGOFF Jack Smith said all of the sessions so far had been well received and the trainees felt it was refreshing to hear a different perspective on how to cope with similar mental pressures experienced during their IFC.

“The Qualified Flying Instructor’s viewpoint and experience during the session aligned seamlessly with Damian’s perspective and advice,” FLGOFF Smith said.

“This adds context to our psychological theory and validates the value of each session from a flying training perspective.”

Damian’s tour of the training facilities included a flight in the Hawk 127 simulator and a flight line tour of the aircraft.
Air Force soccer player LACW Olivia Tannock is ready to return to training.
Photo: SGT Dave Gibbs

NEW GOALS

Ready to get the ball rolling again
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