AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE
PARLIAMENTARY PROGRAM 2016

ADF
Parliamentary Program
Message from the Assistant Minister for Defence

It gives me great pleasure to present to Members and Senators, the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program for 2016.

Throughout its 14 year history this initiative has enjoyed bipartisan support, providing a wonderful opportunity for parliamentarians to experience first hand the unique and challenging aspects of service life. What sets this program apart from any other is the chance to live and work with the men and women of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and gain that special insight into how Defence capability meets the Government’s strategic aims.

This is your invitation to discover the professionalism and dedication of the men and women that underpin the strength of the ADF.

The popularity of the program continues to be underlined by the many Members and Senators who have completed multiple attachments. Whether you are new to the program, or one of our ‘veterans’, I encourage you to engage in 2016. Whichever activity you elect to undertake, I am confident you will find it both enlightening and rewarding.

The options for 2016 cover a wide spectrum of military activities extending from the training and support areas, through to the continuing front line operations, military exercises and humanitarian efforts being undertaken here and abroad.

The other important facet of the Parliamentary Program that has gained impetus in recent years is the exchange element, which involves up to 16 ADF personnel being hosted by a parliamentarian during a sitting week later in the year. This exchange allows ADF members to view the operation of Parliament and the daily working routine of their hosts.

The mutual understanding achieved through this aspect of the program cannot be overstated and we are indebted to those parliamentarians who elect to sponsor Defence participants in Parliament House for this important week.

I am confident this year’s program will deliver an experience that will assist you in your parliamentary career and I commend to you the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program for 2016.

The Hon Darren Chester MP
Assistant Minister for Defence
Welcome to the ADF Parliamentary Program

It is an honour to welcome you to the 2016 Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program and a privilege to again partner with the Assistant Minister for Defence, the Hon Darren Chester MP, to present this program.

This is my second year overseeing the program and I have now had the opportunity to engage first hand with the full cycle of events. I have also taken some time to reflect on how well the program has enabled parliamentarians and the men and women of the ADF to understand one another. The program provides a unique opportunity to showcase Defence and the work we do - be it on operations overseas, training and exercises in Australia, or humanitarian tasks and community assistance programs.

Last year’s experience has only increased my enthusiasm for the program. The personal testimonies of past participants and the positive feedback from those who help deliver the program shows we have the right formula to build on that special sense of shared understanding between the ADF and our elected representatives.

This year we offer you 18 exciting options which reflect the depth and complexity of the work we undertake. The suite of attachments on offer for 2016 continues from previous years, presenting an excellent cross section of the ADF undertaking its many roles. There is something for everyone.

On behalf of the Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC, the Service Chiefs and the wider Defence community, I would like to extend a very warm invitation to all parliamentarians to take up the challenge and engage with the ADF Parliamentary Program in 2016.

Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC, RAN
Vice Chief of the Defence Force
There are many privileges enjoyed by Senators and Members in the Federal Parliament. Few of them match the opportunity to participate in the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program. The vast majority of those who sign up once go on to repeat the experience. That tells you something.

You are embedded with service personnel at every level in the rotation you choose - from Commanding Officer to troops, sailors, airmen, cooks, drivers, pilots and everyone in between. It is a real leap of faith for the Defence Chiefs to allow such access to our service personnel, their equipment and their way of life. Australia is the only country which provides this embedded opportunity to Parliamentarians.

My program placements have included deployments with Norforce at Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory, with our ISAF troops in the Middle East, East Timor, the SASR observing their selection process, Operation Sovereign Borders at Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin and back to RAAF Base Amberley in 2015.

I graduated as a junior officer at RAAF Base Amberley in 1970; the only structure I recognised from that era was the front gates and they are no longer serving that role! The airfield defence dogs are no less ferocious however! ‘Zulu’ got the quinella: a vet and a Senator in the one bite.

There are multiple benefits of the program for Parliamentarians. Spending time with colleagues from the ‘other House’ and other political parties in a neutral environment is valuable. You get the inputs from a wider cross-sector than otherwise might occur.

Observing our ADF personnel on deployment is instructive. Actually joining them in these activities is certainly character building. When you spend hours in body armour, you come to appreciate its weight, its encumbrance and you ask if there is not a better product to serve the purpose.

The quality of briefings from senior officers in the zone of activity is of great value. It assists in understanding the broader strategy when the issues are canvassed back in Australia and in the Parliament.

As Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee of the Senate, I have found the contacts made and the breadth of information available has significantly improved my understanding of issues which come before the committee.

Most importantly, it is the pride with which ADF personnel serve this country that is the constant factor evident in my participation in the program.

When you observe these members from all military services, have the chance to work alongside them, learn some of their issues first hand and play some small role in addressing concerns raised, you come to realise just how valuable the program is.
Gai Brodtmann MP
2015

Last year I was fortunate to take part in not one but two Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program attachments.

In May I visited RAAF Base East Sale for an unforgettable three days. I spent time in the Officers’ Training School, participated in a PT session and did 4G in a PC-9/A – and I have the pre-flight pictures, a fridge magnet and salt and pepper shakers to prove it!

In September I visited the 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment for four days where I was joined by my colleague, the Member for Perth, Alannah MacTiernan.

We received training on how to live, rest and move as an RFSU soldier in the field, which saw us cooking and eating ration packs under the stars and trying to fall asleep wrapped in mosquito nets. I also gained a greater understanding of the varied roles of the many Reserves who make up the regiment.

So a big thankyou to everyone at RAAF Base East Sale and the 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment for hosting me.

The insights I gained from both experiences have been invaluable in my role as the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence.

Last year I was also pleased to return the favour and host Squadron Leader Nicholas Pausina during a Parliamentary sitting week.

I cannot recommend the program highly enough, for parliamentarians and ADF personnel.

The program broadens our mutual understanding and deepens our relationship and, more often than not, gets us both out of our comfort zone.

The program is a once in a lifetime experience and I congratulate the program’s team for its success.
Members and Senators, the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program is a “not to be missed” opportunity in your diary.

I have had the privilege of participating in the program many times, having previously experienced naval bases on the east coast of NSW and border patrols out of Darwin. I have also spent time on HMAS Melbourne while on deployment in the Middle East Gulf Region and a week at RAAF Base Richmond.

Each experience has provided me with a deep appreciation of the professionalism, dedication and world class character of our defence force personnel.

The experience of putting on the uniform and joining in activities, and observing and participating first hand on deployments alongside our ADF is a privilege.

I participated in the joint Exercise Pacific Partnership 2015 where I spent a week upon the US Naval Medical ship the USNS Mercy in June.

I had the opportunity to participate in many fulfilling and eye opening activities, such as helping to restore a WWI memorial, and visiting medical clinics where hundreds of local people requiring treatment would line up to be treated by the ADF and US medical teams. It was an incredible experience to see that these services, which are so easily accessible in Australia, were life changing for the people of Bougainville.

One standout training activity that I had the opportunity to observe was the training of resuscitation techniques for newborns. Thousands of newborns die in Bougainville and throughout the Pacific when with training and equipment their lives can be saved.

Spending time with ADF personnel in their roles is an invaluable experience.

In August 2015 I also had the pleasure of hosting Air Force Squadron Leader Christine Fay in Parliament House for a sitting week.

I encourage you to take the opportunity to participate in the program. It provides an insight into the life changing impact our ADF personnel have around the globe, and gives participants a wonderful opportunity to directly understand and observe first hand what it is like in the daily lives of our valued, passionate, dedicated and honourable ADF personnel.
Taking part in the Australian Defence Force Parliamentary Program was a fantastic and eye opening experience. It’s something I’d recommend every MP and Senator do at least once.

You don’t truly know how unfit you are until you take part in an ADF training session! It was one of many experiences that helped me grasp the kinds of pressures our ADF personnel endure, something I wouldn’t quite understand if not for the program.

In April 2015 I travelled with four other MPs and Senators to the Middle East Region and Afghanistan to see first-hand the work being done by our ADF personnel overseas. Our trip was made even more surreal when we met ADF personnel involved with air combat operations and support training missions in Iraq.

We also met some of the ADF personnel still stationed in Afghanistan. They are a group of professional and dedicated individuals carrying out their work in extreme environments, while somehow managing to retain that famous and quintessential Aussie humour and light-heartedness.

Seeing the work our diggers do up close gave me another perspective on the ADF. You’ll learn more in a few days on a RAN Destroyer in the Gulf, or in theatre, than months of hitting the books. It’s the best crash course you can do.

The program has helped me broaden my understanding of the ADF and its operations abroad. It’s an essential tool for MPs and Senators to better understand the defence force and, in turn, make better and more informed decisions about it.

The program is not a one-way street, and hosting an ADF member and teaching them about our workplace over a parliamentary sitting week was just as informative and enjoyable.

Very few people get to witness our ADF personnel in action, and I’d encourage anyone with an opportunity to be part of the program to take it!
General Information

The following provides a summary of the ADF Parliamentary Program and attachment options for 2016. Specific dates are nominated where applicable; however, requirements may necessitate some date changes as the year unfolds.

Applications and Selection Process

Application forms are available in electronic format at the ADF Parliamentary Program website: www.defence.gov.au/adfpp. Applications should indicate your first preference and, in the event of oversubscription, a second and third preference.

In the event an option is oversubscribed, a ballot will be held to establish a rank order and reserves if necessary. Ballots will be drawn at close of business on 11 February 2016 for all options that have been oversubscribed. Applications received after this date will go onto a waiting list, to be prioritised in order of receipt.

All applications will be acknowledged on receipt. Subsequent to any balloting requirements, applicants will be advised of the success of their application and will be formally passed to the appropriate host Headquarters who will liaise directly with applicants regarding uniform issue and administrative details.

Working Routine

The attachment options on offer are designed to ensure maximum impact from the experience. Features include the opportunity to work and live wherever possible alongside service men and women at all rank levels. The situations may not offer five star comforts and there may be very little protocol. However, the prospect of arduous physical activity and conditions should not deter anyone from joining the program. Defence can and will tailor the conditions to suit your level of comfort and ensure you get the most out of the experience. To that end we ask, wherever possible, that applicants plan to complete the full attachment period offered.

Uniforms

Participants will be issued, wherever possible, with the same uniforms, protective clothing or equipment used by ADF personnel at the destination unit. Participants will also be issued a distinctive ‘rank’ insignia to identify them as a parliamentarian attached to the ADF Parliamentary Program.

Parliamentary Exchange

An integral part of the ADF Parliamentary Program is the exchange element where ADF personnel are attached to the office of a parliamentarian at Parliament House, Canberra, for a one week period during a sitting week. Exchange personnel gain an insight into the parliamentary and committee processes, and develop an understanding of the departments that operate within Parliament House. They also gain an appreciation of the scope of the extensive and varied activities undertaken by a Senator or Member of Parliament.

The exchange to Parliament House is tentatively planned to occur 29 August – 1 September 2016. Expressions of interest from parliamentarians willing to host this year will be sought mid-2016.
## Attachment Options

**Option 1 Navy**  
Major Fleet Unit Experience  
1 February - 16 March

**Option 2 Navy**  
Fleet Base West - HMAS Stirling  
Dates flexible

**Option 3 Navy**  
Aviation and Officer Training  
Dates flexible

**Option 4 Navy**  
Patrol Boats Northern Australia  
Dates flexible

**Option 5 Army**  
Royal Military College Duntroon  
2 - 4 August  
10 - 12 August

**Option 6 Army**  
Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program  
17 - 19 April

**Option 7 Army**  
Jungle Combat Instructor Training  
11 - 15 April

**Option 8 Army**  
2nd Commando Regiment  
6 - 8 April

**Option 9 Army**  
Special Air Services Regiment Selection Course  
1 - 7 May

**Option 10 Air Force**  
Exercise PITCH BLACK  
29 July - 19 August

**Option 11 Air Force**  
RAAF Base Amberley  
Dates flexible

**Option 12 Air Force**  
RAAF Base Edinburgh  
Dates flexible

**Option 13 Air Force**  
RAAF Base Williamtown  
Dates flexible

**Option 14 Combined Exercise**  
Pacific Partnership 2016  
8 - 19 June

**Option 15 Combined Exercise**  
Exercise RIMPAC  
13 - 29 July

**Option 16 Joint Operation**  
Operation RESOLUTE  
4 - 8 April  
2 - 6 May  
4 - 8 July  
8 - 12 August

**Option 17 Joint Operations**  
Middle East Region  
12 - 21 April  
5 - 14 July

**Option 18 Defence**  
Young Endeavour Youth Training Scheme  
20 - 30 March  
3 - 13 June
Option 1
NAVY - Major Fleet Unit Experience

OUTLINE
Host ships will predominantly be working ‘in company’ with a number of other ships which are ‘working up’ to unit certification or operational evaluations. Activities include ship manoeuvres, flying operations, air raids using live aircraft support, weapon firing exercises and battle damage drills.

While attached to a major fleet unit, you will experience the very dynamic routines of a warship whilst living in one of the messes alongside Navy personnel as they go about their daily business. While activities will be varied and dependant on the training program at the time, you will experience some of Navy’s capabilities and the amazing people who serve our nation.

There are a range of ships available including Anzac Class frigates, which have been upgraded with new Australian radar systems, Adelaide Class frigates, supply ships and amphibious ships including Navy’s largest ship, HMAS Canberra, which will be conducting a range of helicopter flying trials.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM
Programs will be confirmed closer to the date and are dependant on operational and training requirements. You should expect to participate in an activity between 3-5 days. Arrangements for meeting the ship will be confirmed prior to the date.

Dates: 1 Feb - 16 Mar 16
East Coast - HMAS Canberra dates and other ship availability for this option are flexible within the parliamentary recess periods.

No. of Participants: No limit.

Note: You will be required to meet medical standards prior to sea riding in a major fleet unit.
Option 2
NAVY - Fleet Base West - HMAS Stirling

OUTLINE

Fleet Base West is the home of the Navy in Western Australia. All six of the Collins Class submarines, a number of frigates, a support ship and a Clearance Diving Team are based here and supported by HMAS Stirling, Rockingham. The shore-based program will provide you with a broad overview of the various units and support functions provided by Stirling.

At 78 metres long and displacing over 3000 tonnes, the Collins Class submarines have the ability to remain almost invisible for up to one month at a time as they patrol the ocean depths in a world of secrecy. The submarine is crewed by a unique team of professionals operating some of the most sophisticated equipment in the world. Stealthy, ever vigilant and highly efficient, a submarine exists in a world unseen by most and experienced by only a lucky few. Its secrets are everything and that’s the trademark of the silent service.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (5 days)

Day 1. HMAS Stirling, Rockingham. Briefings conducted by Stirling staff, followed by a tour of Fleet Base West and its units.

Day 2. Tour and briefings on submarine support facilities, including the Submarine Escape and Rescue Centre, the Submarine Training and Systems Centre, and the Defence Science and Technology Group.

Days 3-5. Sea ride in a Collins class submarine.

Dates: Dates for this option are flexible within the parliamentary recess periods.

No. of Participants: Limited to four.

Note: You will be required to meet medical standards prior to sea riding in a submarine.
OUTLINE

HMA Ships Albatross and Creswell are located in the Shoalhaven region near Nowra, NSW.

Albatross is the Navy’s only Air Station. Its primary function is to provide air support to the Fleet and is home to the Fleet Air Arm. Four squadrons operate Navy’s combat helicopters: the Seahawk and MRH-90 as well as the training fleet of Squirrel and Bell 429 helicopters. The Base also provides administrative and personnel support to a number of residential units including: Naval Weather and Oceanographic Centre; Joint Acoustic Analysis Centre; RAN Tactical Electronic Warfare Support Section; Aircraft Maintenance and Flight Trials Unit; and the Army Parachute Training School.

The Naval College at HMAS Creswell provides single Service training for naval undergraduates, as well as non-specialist officer training courses. Creswell also supports the operations of fleet activities within Jervis Bay.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (4 days)

The combined program at Albatross and Creswell will include a helicopter flight or simulator experience, tours of the bases, visits to various units, interaction with trainees and sailors, attendance at instructional activities, tour of the Fleet Air Arm Museum, tour of Jervis Bay, Helicopter Underwater Escape Training or Flight Deck Trainer Unit experience and tour of the air traffic control facilities.

You will also experience the RAN School of Survivability and Ship’s Safety, which is the lead establishment for training fire fighting, battle damage and nuclear biological chemical defence.

Dates: Dates for this option are flexible within the parliamentary recess periods.

No. of Participants: No limit.
Option 4
NAVY - Patrol Boats Northern Australia

OUTLINE
The Navy’s current patrol boat force consists of 13 Armidale Class Patrol Boats (ACPBs) and two Cape Class Patrol Vessels. The boats are operated out of Darwin and Cairns.

The ACPBs are highly capable and versatile warships that are able to conduct a wide variety of missions and tasks. They are Navy’s principal contribution to the nation’s fisheries protection, and immigration, customs and drug law enforcement operations. The vessels work hand-in-hand with other Government agencies and each year they provide up to 3000 patrol days as part of the national surveillance effort.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (3-5 days)
This is your chance to join the small crew of about 20 conducting training and certification in preparation for their operational roles. You will have the opportunity to witness training where the crew are put through a series of scenario-based exercises over an intensive period.

The program will also include weapon firings, battle damage management and repairs, medical emergencies, force protection and mariner evolutions.

Dates: Dates for this option are flexible within the parliamentary recess periods.

No. of Participants: Limited to two per patrol boat.

Note: You will be required to meet medical standards prior to sea riding in a patrol boat.
Option 5
ARMY - Royal Military College - Duntroon

OUTLINE
The charter of the Royal Military College - Duntroon (RMC-D) is to prepare cadets and other selected candidates for careers as officers in the Army by: promoting learning, leadership and integrity; inspiring high ideals and the pursuit of excellence; and inculcating a sense of duty, loyalty and service to Australia.

Training at RMC-D is a rewarding challenge for Australians training to serve their country and begin their careers in the profession of arms. This is your opportunity to ‘join’ the Army alongside Australians aspiring to be officers in the Australian Army.

Training at RMC-D is conducted over 18 months in three distinct stages, commencing with basic training in Third Class and progressing in difficulty through Second Class into First Class.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (3 days)
You will be received by the Commandant and the Commanding Officer of RMC-D on arrival. After an initial briefing you will be immersed into the broad range of activities experienced in Third Class as part of Initial Cadet Training (ICT) at Majura Training Area, ACT. You will have the opportunity to:

• Observe and participate in ICT - including drill, weapons, field craft and a variety of other theoretical lessons.
• Handle assault rifles and light machine guns of the Australian soldier and participate in live fire weapon practices.
• Learn basic military communications skills including operating service radios.
• Be put through your paces with Army Physical Training Instructors by participating in an entry level fitness training activity.
• Experience the life of a soldier in the field, learning basic field craft skills, navigation, weapon handling, carriage of equipment and movement in the field environment.

Dates: 2 - 4 August
10 - 12 August

No. of Participants: Limited to five.
OUTLINE

The Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program (AACAP) is a collaborative partnership between the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Australian Army. AACAP aims to address community safety by improving environmental health and living conditions in remote Indigenous communities. In 2016, AACAP will be held in the Laura community 140km west of Cooktown, North Queensland.

One project is undertaken each calendar year to target improvements in housing and essential services such as water, power, sewerage and health. AACAP achieves this through the delivery of infrastructure, vocational skills training and complementary health care services.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (3 days)

You will be met on arrival at Cooktown by the Officer Commanding AACAP. After an initial briefing you will be immersed in a broad range of AACAP activities. You will have the opportunity to:

- Participate and interact during visits to the hospital and environmental health facilities, workshops and kitchen.
- Participate in a simulated casualty drill to test the medical staff and camp procedures.
- Participate in a physical training session with members of 6 Engineer Support Regiment run by Army Physical Training Instructors, involving cardio and strength training exercises.
- Visit the construction site and view progress of construction tasks within the Laura community.
- Observe the Army-run medical and dental programs within the Laura community and gain an understanding of the local health issues.
- Observe members of the Laura community in a range of practical workshop skills and IT based training.
- Experience life as a member of a Construction Squadron in the Australian Army and gain an understanding of the conditions experienced in remote Aboriginal communities.

Dates: 17 - 19 August

No. of Participants: Limited to five.
OUTLINE
The Joint Officer Combat Instructor Training – Falantil – Forces De Defensa De Timor Leste (JOCIT-F-FDTL) is an individual training course developed for the Timor Leste Defence Force. The course is conducted by expert staff from the Australian Army Jungle Training Wing (JTW) at Tully in North Queensland.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (5 days)
With the staff of JTW Tully as your hosts, you will be immersed in a broad range of activities conducted as part of the JOCIT-F-FDTL course. You will have the opportunity to:

• Deploy into the field with your hosts and experience the demands of day to day living in a jungle environment.

• Join a group of trainees and experience expert instruction on the development of jungle patrolling and survival skills.

• Experience the Australian jungle and gain an appreciation of working and living within this arduous environment.

• Participate in simulated ‘blank’ fire activities using a range of Australian weapon systems.

Dates: 11 - 15 April
No. of Participants: Limited to five.
Option 8
ARMY – 2nd Commando Regiment

OUTLINE
The 2nd Commando Regiment is the close combat unit of Special Operations Command. Domestically, the Regiment provides the Australian Government with the Counter Terrorism force of last resort through the Tactical Assault Group – East.

Offshore, the Regiment supports continuous engagements in close cooperation with many of Australia’s most important regional allies. The Regiment also provided support to the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan during Operation SLIPPER and is currently in Iraq on Operation OKRA. The 2nd Commando Regiment is based out of Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (3 days)
With the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major of the 2nd Commando Regiment as your hosts, you will be immersed in the life of a Commando. You will have the opportunity to:

• Participate in live fire weapon practices utilising personal weapons of the Australian Commando.
• Participate in a military obstacle course as part of a team under the direction of a military Physical Training Instructor.
• Undertake an above water obstacle course at the Holsworthy Pool.
• Experience the life of a Commando, participating in various training serials for urban operations, close quarters battle, working with Military Working Dogs and much more.

Dates: 6 - 8 April
No. of Participants: Limited to six.
OUTLINE

The Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) is a Special Mission Unit with a unique and rich history, renowned for innovation, courage and operational success. Specially selected and trained officers and soldiers are well resourced, technically enabled and trusted to operate in diverse environments delivering effects beyond the capability of any other ADF unit.

The SASR employs covert means to achieve specialist intelligence collection, recovery, strike and support effects. An adaptive, agile and versatile force, the Regiment flourishes in complex and uncertain environments, and is most effective in areas where others cannot venture.

This is your opportunity to see if you have what it takes by participating in the SASR Selection Course outside Perth, WA.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (7 days)

A detailed program will be provided on arrival, however the broad theme will be:

- Campbell Barracks overview with Commanding Officer SASR.
- Tour the Unit History Museum.
- Attend the SASR Selection Course from Monday through to Friday.
- Participate in a 20 km march and other activities.

Dates: 1 - 7 May

No. of Participants: Limited to two.

Note: Attending members need to be physically fit.
OUTLINE

Exercise PITCH BLACK is the largest combined air exercise in Northern Australia and involves aircraft and crews from Australia, the United States of America, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia. The exercise is primarily based at RAAF Base Tindal, with support from RAAF Base Darwin.

RAAF Base Tindal is located near the outback town of Katherine in the Northern Territory and is home to the F/A-18 Classic Hornet and a number of other essential Air Force capabilities. Tindal is a front line operational air base and is one of the few Defence establishments to be manned exclusively by uniformed personnel.

Other resident units providing support to flying operations include: Air Traffic Control, health support, tactical communications, airfield defence, security services and Wedgetail Airborne and Control Detachment.

RAAF Base Darwin shares its runway with the Darwin International Airport and is Australia’s northern staging base for overseas and Australian border protection operations.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (5 days)

• Join Combat Support Group providing deployed combat support air operations for the ADF.

• Join 17 Squadron, RAAF Base Tindal, as they deliver the vital engineering, aviation fuel, air movements, airfield engineering, logistical and life support facilities to provide the airbase capability needed to effect fast jet squadron operations.

• Join 75 Squadron, one of the Air Force’s highly potent combat fighter squadrons, with a potential F/A-18 flying opportunity (dependant on aircraft availability).

• Enjoy a visit to the Air Weapons Range at Delamere.

• Observe a mission planning brief and then follow the mission at the Task Unit Headquarters.

Dates: 29 July - 19 August

No. of Participants: Limited to four.
Option II
AIR FORCE - RAAF Base Amberley

OUTLINE

RAAF Base Amberley is the largest operational base in the Air Force employing approximately 5,800 Service and civilian personnel. It is located near Ipswich, 50km southwest of Brisbane.

RAAF Base Amberley is home to three of the Air Force’s newest aircraft: F/A-18F Super Hornet, KC-30A Multi Role Tanker Transport, and C-17 Globemaster.

Amberley also hosts the headquarters for the largest force element Group, Combat Support Group (CSG). With a focus on combat capabilities, the Group is responsible for airbase services, command, control and management during peace and conflict. The Base continues to grow and is now also home to Army units making up the 9th Force Support Battalion (9 FSB) and the 6th Engineer Support Regiment (6ESR).

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (5 days)

- Undertake a tour of RAAF Base Amberley’s airfield, Air Traffic Control and aircraft working areas to experience the operating aircraft up close. Later, participate in a C-17, F/A-18F or KC-30A simulator ride, as well as complete a KC-30A or a C-17 familiarisation flight (depending on squadron scheduling).

- Join the staff at CSG for an insight into the work that goes into keeping the Air Force operational. See how they set up an aero-medical evacuation facility on the C-17. Later, join Number 382 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron in the field, where they will set up an Air Point of Departure and an Evacuation Handling Centre.

- Join the Number 2 Security Forces Squadron to see how the Airfield Defence Guards operate, including a visit to the Weapon Training Simulation System. Later, join personnel at the RAAF School of Fire and Security for a hands-on experience with fire fighting and the Panther Fire Fighting Truck, as well as the Military Working Dogs and their breeding program.

Dates: Dates for this option are flexible within the parliamentary recess periods.

No. of Participants: Limited to four.
Option 12
AIR FORCE - RAAF Base Edinburgh

OUTLINE

Located 25 km north of Adelaide, RAAF Base Edinburgh is the largest military base in South Australia employing approximately 3,000 personnel. RAAF Base Edinburgh is the home of 19 units, the two largest being 92 Wing (92WG) and RAAF Air Warfare Centre (AWC).

92WG operate the AP-3C Orion surveillance aircraft. The Wing is regularly operational with a range of border security missions. The AWC, established with effect January 2016, enables warfighting capability, encompassing the Information Warfare Directorate, the Test and Evaluation Directorate and the Air Force Ranges Directorate.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (5 days)

• Help plan and brief a maritime surveillance mission at 92WG. Learn how they locate everything from submarines to illegal fishing boats in Australian waters.

• Gain an appreciation of Number 1 Remote Sensor Unit’s role in conducting wide area surveillance, utilising Australia’s world leading high-frequency Over-The-Horizon radar capability.

• Join Number 3 Security Force for a day. Spend time with a Military Working Dog Team. Participate in weapon handling at Ground Defence Section culminating in a shoot at the range wearing full body armour.

• Take a flight in a Test and Evaluation Directorate PC-9A and let one of the Aircraft Research and Development Unit’s highly skilled test pilots demonstrate how they put the aircraft through its paces before its acceptance into ADF service.

• Follow up with a tour of the RAAF Institute of Aviation Medicine to learn how ADF aircrew are trained in the effects of flight at high altitude and high “g” forces and its impact on the body. Try out the Night Vision simulator.

• See how Information Warfare Directorate produces targeting intelligence for precision guided munitions delivery. Also gain an understanding of cyber warfare vulnerability.

• Conduct a one-day visit to RAAF Base Woomera and the Woomera Test Range to see where the RAAF conducts weapon system test and evaluation.

Dates: Dates for this option are flexible within the parliamentary recess periods.

No. of Participants: No limit.
OUTLINE

RAAF Base Williamtown is located just north of Newcastle and is one of the Air Force’s busiest and most complex bases. The Base is home to 32 units and 20 organisations. A variety of aircraft permanently operate from the Base including the F/A-18 Hornet, the Hawk 127 and the E-7 Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning & Control aircraft. The Base is also preparing for the introduction into service of the F-35 Lightning III advanced fighter in 2018.

Other major elements at the Base include:

- Headquarters Air Combat Group, which is responsible for developing and maintaining the expertise to competently operate world class fighter aircraft.
- Headquarters Surveillance and Response Group is located within the Eastern Region Operations Centre (EASTROC) and commands the Air Force’s airspace and air battle management capability, including Number 3 Control and Reporting Unit which provides fighter control services to the Hawk 127 and F/A 18 Hornet aircraft.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (5 days)

- Join an aircraft maintenance team as they prepare the Hawk 127 or F/A-18 Hornet aircraft for the daily flying program. Observe the planning and briefing for the mission and then observe a training mission being flown.
- Observe the thorough medical regime that aircrew are required to complete to enable them to conduct the flying missions.
- View the Operations Room of the EASTROC where the fighter control missions are conducted and observe a Mission Readiness Exercise for the Air Battle Managers in Afghanistan.
- View the operation of the Air Traffic Controllers in the Approach Room and Control Tower where they provide services for Hawk 127, F/A-18 Hornet and civilian passenger aircraft movements.
- Join the Military Working Dogs during a training event as the dogs and handlers are exercised in disabling an intruder.
- A familiarisation flight in a Hawk 127, F/A 18 Hornet or E-7 Wedgetail surveillance aircraft is also on the cards depending on squadron scheduling.

Dates: Dates for this option are flexible within the parliamentary recess periods.

No. of Participants: Limited to two.
OUTLINE

Pacific Partnership (PP) is an annual Humanitarian Civil Assistance program sponsored by Commander US Pacific Fleet, which had its genesis in the multinational Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief response to the Banda Aceh tsunami in 2004.

Humanitarian Civil Assistance projects conducted under the sponsorship of PP have typically alternated between South East Asia and the South West Pacific regions. PP in 2016 includes visits by the USNS Mercy to Indonesia, Timor Leste, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The ADF will be supporting PP16 primarily in Timor Leste with medical and engineering personnel based aboard the USNS Mercy.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (6 days)

- You will be met by an ADF escort officer at Darwin airport for a commercial flight to Dili, before joining USNS Mercy.
- Operating from USNS Mercy, you will deploy ashore to observe and assist the engineering community assistance programs providing humanitarian aid to the population of Dili and the nearby township of Liquica.
- Accommodation while onboard is likely to be in sailors’ messes with shared ablution facilities. If required, any onshore accommodation is likely to be in tented facilities.
- An opportunity may also arise to attend parts of a Humanitarian and Disaster Relief planning exercise that will be held over a five day period (dates to be confirmed). This activity will be a Whole-of-Government based approach with a focus on a catastrophic flooding and landslide event (Dili only).

Dates: 8 - 19 June 2015 (flexible 6 days within this period).

No. of Participants: Limited to two.

Note: International air flights and hotel accommodation in Dili (if required) are to be at participant’s expense.
OUTLINE

Combined Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) is a major exercise conducted out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The exercise is sponsored by the US Commander Third Fleet and aims to improve interoperability and proficiency of maritime and air force capability among coalition forces. The exercise is based on a realistic short warning scenario traditionally involving Pacific Rim nation forces. Capabilities being exercised include anti-submarine, anti-surface, anti-air, amphibious warfare and non-combat evacuation operations.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (8-10 days)

Day 1. Commercial flight to Honolulu.

Days 2-7. Typical activities that will be planned include:

• Helicopter transfer to at sea units. RAN units include HMA Ships Canberra, Ballarat and Warramunga. Opportunities to visit US Navy units including Aircraft Carriers and Amphibious ships will be investigated.

• At sea activities in either RAN or US Navy ships that might include air operations, amphibious operations, underway replenishment and weapons firing serials.

• Visit the Pacific Warfighting Center, Ford Island - be met by Combined Forces Maritime Component Commander, attend the daily Commanders Update Brief in the Pacific Warfighting Center, headquarters tour and receive overarching RIMPAC brief.

• Visit the Combined Air Operations Center, Hickam for a tour with Combined Force Air Component Commander.

• Visit Kaneohe Bay to observe explosive ordnance demolition team activities.

• Observe Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (possibility of orientation flight will be investigated).

• Pearl Harbor Heritage Orientation - Arizona Memorial, Missouri Museum, Pacific Aviation Museum.

Day 8. Depart commercial air.

Dates: 13 - 25 July

No. of Participants: Limited to five.

Notes: Commercial flights to and from Hawaii are to be at participant’s expense. Accommodation whilst in Honolulu will be in service quarters wherever possible. Otherwise there may be a requirement for hotel accommodation at participant expense.
OPTION 16

JOINT OPERATION –
Operation RESOLUTE

OUTLINE

Operation RESOLUTE is Defence’s contribution to the Whole-of-Government approach to protecting Australia’s offshore maritime interests. With increasing emphasis on inter governmental agency interaction, this is an excellent opportunity to join the ADF and Australian Border Force in their combined role to protect Australia’s borders and maritime interests.

With effect from January 2016, the Headquarters for Maritime Border Protection Command (HQMBC) reverted from Darwin to Canberra.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (4-5 days)

• Days 1-2. Spend the first two days in HQMBC in Canberra being briefly on the strategic aspects of Maritime Border Protection activities and being kitted in uniform ready for deployment forward.

• Day 3. Travel to Darwin or Cairns (destination dependent on operational conditions/activities).

• Day 4. Undertake a patrol on board one of the Navy’s Armidale Class Patrol boats or on board one of the Customs and Border Protection vessels.

• Day 5. Embark on an Air Force P3C aircraft, or Customs aircraft, as it conducts an aerial patrol of the northern approaches to Australia.

You will have the opportunity to work closely alongside the crew of both craft as they perform their duties. Platform availability will depend on operational tasking and weather conditions at the time.

Dates: 4 - 8 April
2 - 6 May
4 - 8 July
8 - 12 August

No. of Participants: Limited to two.

Note: Accommodation in Canberra on first two days and transport to either Darwin or Cairns will be at participant’s expense.
Option 17
JOINT OPERATIONS – Middle East Region

OUTLINE
This is a special opportunity to join with servicemen and women working in Australia’s most significant overseas military operations within a globally critical region. The ADF in the Middle East Region encompasses four operations on land, in the air, and at sea:

• Operation OKRA - land and air operations in Iraq and Syria.

• Operation HIGHROAD - assisting Afghani forces and NATO staff.

• Operation MANITOU - maritime enforcement in the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

• Operation ACCORDION - Arabian Gulf region (UAE, Qatar and Bahrain).

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (7-8 days)
• Your journey begins at Sydney International Airport, where you will meet your ADF Escort Officer and board the Defence charter aircraft to Al Minhad Airbase in the UAE, home of Joint Task Force 633 (JTF633).

• At HQ JTF633 you will orientate for the week ahead and be welcomed by the Middle East Region two-star ADF Commander, introducing you to the multi-facted and complex ADF operations in the area.

• From here, experience the full suite of ADF operations providing real-time experience of Australia’s engagement in the Middle East.

• Opportunities to observe and interact may include:
  » land operations training national forces in Iraq or Afghanistan,
  » air operations combating Daesh in Iraq and Syria, and
  » maritime enforcement operations in the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

• There may also be an opportunity for employment in regional peace-keeping, depending on the operational and security environment.

• Whilst every endeavour will be made for you to observe all elements of the MER, the broad geographical spread of ADF activities and operational imperatives may impact on the program delivery.

• You will most likely return on the Defence charter aircraft from Al Minhad Airbase.

Dates: 12 - 21 April
5 - 14 July

No. of Participants: Limited to four.
Option 18

The Young Endeavour Youth Training Scheme

OUTLINE

The Young Endeavour Youth Training Scheme provides young Australians aged 16-23 with a unique, challenging and inspirational experience at sea aboard the national sail training ship Young Endeavour.

The United Kingdom gifted the Young Endeavour to Australia to mark the Bicentenary in 1988. The ship undertakes around 20 voyages each year, usually sailing from ports in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

The Royal Australian Navy members who crew the ship are selected for their professionalism, maturity, and ability to engage with and instruct the youth of Australia. They bring a diverse range of skills and experiences to the ship, and depart with well established seamanship skills and a comprehensive understanding of facilitation, communication and leadership development.

For over twenty years, the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme has been recognised internationally as a leading youth development program. Our voyages increase self awareness, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and create a strong sense of community responsibility amongst members of the youth crew.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM (up to 11 days)

• You are offered this unique experience to join with 24 of Australia’s youth and the nine Navy crew on one of two adventurous 11 day voyages.

• You will have the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of sailing a square rigger from climbing the mast, setting the sails, navigating, keeping watch, taking the helm and helping in the galley.

• The journey is not a leisurely cruise. You don’t need to be a sailor, however, you will find it challenging and exhilarating.

Dates: Voyage 1: 20 - 30 March, Sydney to Sydney
Voyage 2: 3 - 13 June, Newcastle to Brisbane

No. of Participants: Limited to two.

Note: Either voyage has the option of being for a shorter period depending on porting options during the voyage.
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