

# Southern Jackaroo



ABOVE: SERGEANT FIRST CLASS CHIAKI TAJIRI, JAPAN SELF DEFENSE FORCE, AT THE PEAK OF ACTION ON THE RANGE AT PUCKAPUNYAL.

BELOW: A JAPANESE SOLDIER IN ACTION ON A SNEEKER RANGE IN THE AUSSIE BUSH, DURING EXERCISE SOUTHERN JACKAROO.

MAIN: AN AMERICAN SOLDIER IN ACTION ON THE SNEEKER RANGE.



PICS SERGEANT BRIAN HARTIGAN

BELOW: AN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER IN ACTION ON AN URBAN ASSAULT RANGE.

BOTTOM: A US SOLDIER IN ACTION ON AN URBAN ASSAULT RANGE, DURING THE TRI-NATIONAL EXERCISE SOUTHERN JACKAROO.

BACKGROUND: A BUCKET-LOAD OF AUSSIE AMMUNITION READY TO FIRE. NOTE: THE US AND JAPAN BROUGHT THEIR OWN, SAME SIZED (5.56MM) BUT SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT AMMUNITION.



**A**ustralia, Japan and the US conducted the first ever ground exercise involving the three nations – Exercise Southern Jackaroo – in Australia from 18 to 26 May 2013.

The exercise was seen as an important step forward in trilateral defence cooperation.

Exercise Southern Jackaroo saw Australian Army, Japan Ground Self Defense Force and US Army personnel participate in skills-based live-fire training and adventurous training, at Puckapunyal and in Melbourne.

During the exercise, 14 personnel from each of the three nations participated in live-firing activities focused on advanced marksmanship skills within simulated urban terrain, as well as abseiling from tall buildings in the Melbourne CBD.

Over the past year, military cooperation between Australia, Japan and the US has strengthened, with the Chief of the Australian Army attending the Senior Level Seminar between the Japan Ground Self Defense Force, US Army Pacific and US Marines Forces Pacific. Earlier in May, Japan and the US participated with 14 other international teams in the Australian Army's Skill at Arms Meeting.

A Defence spokesman said Exercise Southern Jackaroo reflected the shared commitments of the three countries to strengthen defence and security cooperation.

"The three nations share several common security interests, and so practical cooperation through exercises such as Southern Jackaroo is a central part of developing our trilateral defence relationship.

"The importance of this cooperation was amply demonstrated in the multi-nation response to the tsunami that devastated parts of Japan in 2011."