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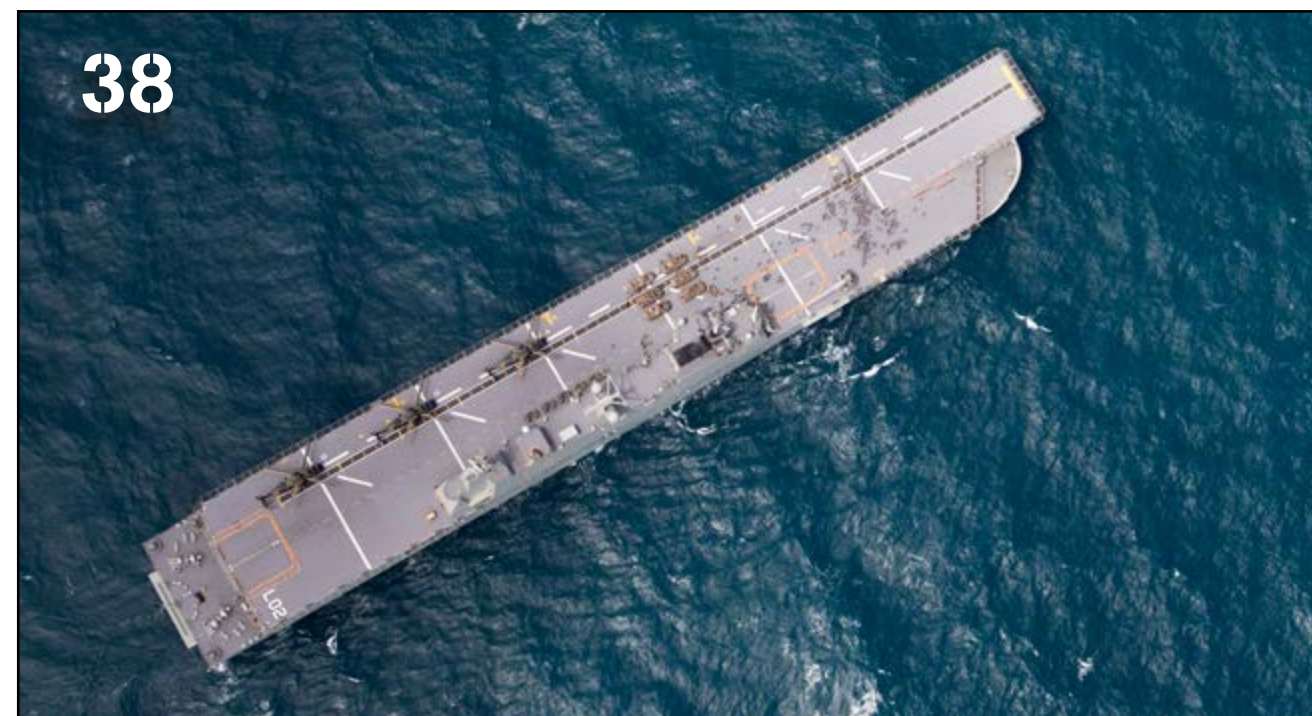
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EDITORIAL

Issue 14 – November 2015

COMBAT
Camera



**EX NORTHERN
SHIELD**

Eyes on North-
West Shelf
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appropriate.

OK – so here's the big news. This is the last issue of **COMBAT Camera**. But before you faint or cry or abuse me via email,

KEEP CALM AND READ ON

CONTACT Air Land & Sea, our main publication that's now
almost 12 years old and that you all know and love, will carry on
as per normal – i.e. four times a year and completely FREE.

But **COMBAT Camera**, which is only 14 issues old, is closing
down to make way (truthfully, to free up required brain space)
for two new products – a much more active web site with
daily updates and a fortnightly newsletter, both of which were
recently instigated and, I'm assuming/hoping, you've already
seen by now. If not, [click here](#).

I know the newsletter isn't as sexy or as substantial as this
magazine but, combined with the very active, much more
attractive web site (which I'm actually calling a *news blog*), I think
I can service the 'CONTACT community' much more effectively.

And, I'm pleased to say that the feedback I've received so
far after just the first newsletter has been very positive and
encouraging.

So, closing **COMBAT Camera** is not a sad occasion – it's just
one more of many evolutions in what we do.

But the 'why' we do what we do remains the same as it has
always been – to shine just a little limelight on the work and
effort of our hardworking Australian Defence Force and others in
uniform – especially our brothers and sisters 'across the ditch' in
New Zealand.

I have to say, this latest evolution has actually given me fresh
enthusiasm for this job too.

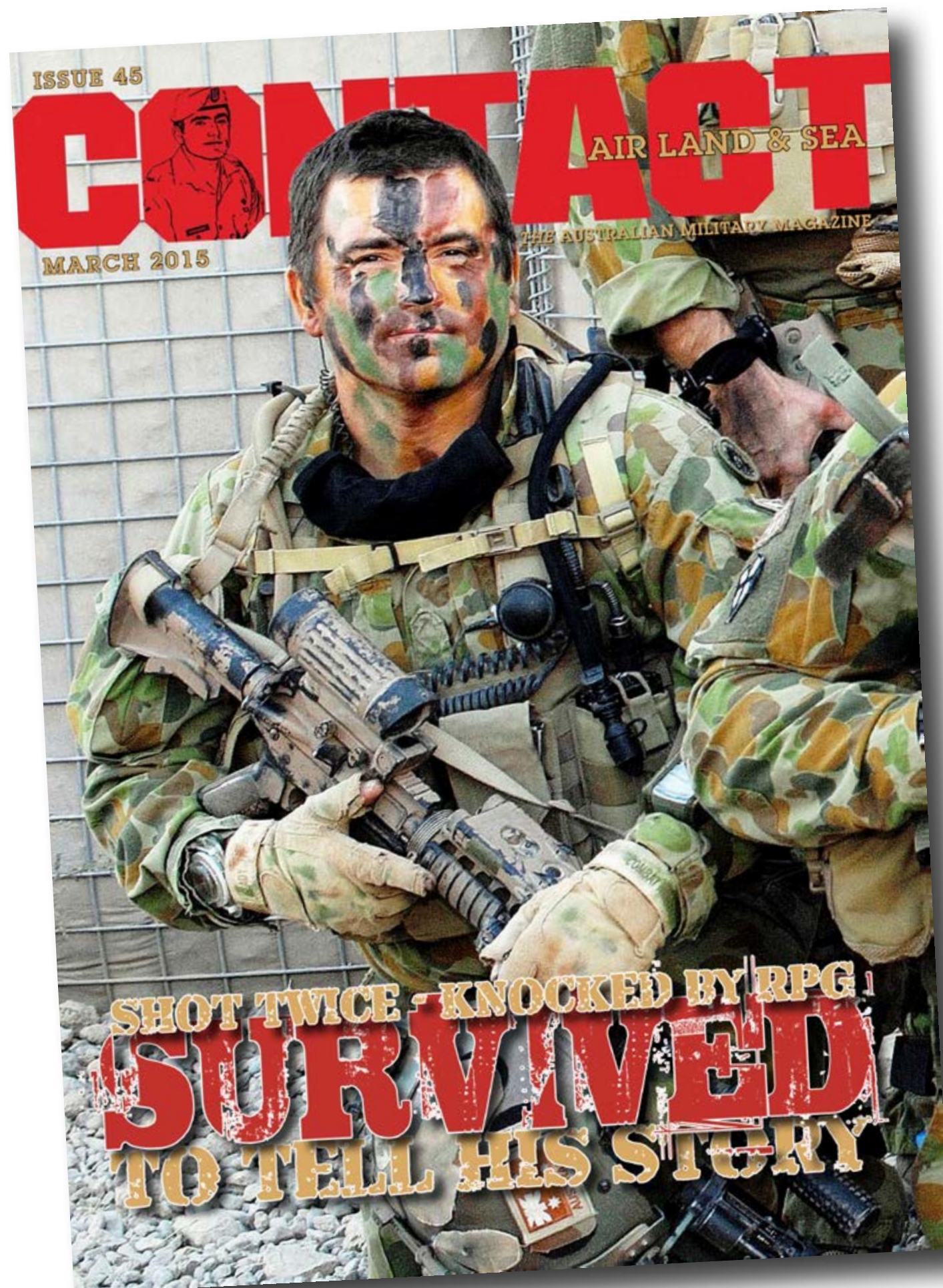
But, I need your help and support to keep the momentum
going. As always, please tell your friends and colleagues about
CONTACT Air Land & Sea and the free subscription.

And – when you see an advertisement on **CONTACT's** web
site or in the magazine, please consider supporting those
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alive and evolving.

Sincerely,

Brian Hartigan
Managing Editor

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MINIATURE RIFLES

NEWS

CHILE ENCOUNTER

Chilean Sail Training Ship Esmeralda (rear) conducts manoeuvres with Royal Australian Navy Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour during Young Endeavour's world voyage.
Photograph courtesy Armada de Chile

Last RAF SAR mission

More than 74 years of continuous life-saving search-and-rescue operations by the Royal Air Force in the UK came to an end on Sunday 4 October at 1:00pm when the RAF Base Chivenor duty search and rescue crew was formally relieved from its standby commitment by the United Kingdom Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre.

Chivenor was the last of the RAF's six SAR bases to hand over responsibility for helicopter search and rescue to civilian contractor Bristow Helicopters Ltd.

Official RAF SAR statistic record-keeping only began in 1983, but since then, those six RAF units had completed 34,025 callouts and rescued 26,853 persons in distress.

Those figures do not include rescue sorties and persons assisted by some of the other RAF SAR helicopter bases that had closed or been relocated over the period.

Similarly, they do not reflect the numbers assisted between the early 1950s when helicopters came into use as a rescue platform by the RAF and 1982, but a significant, further number of people were rescued and sorties flown over that period.

The finale for RAF Search and Rescue in the UK was very much 'business as usual'.

Chivenor's final search and rescue operation was received at 03:21am on its final day of duty, when a request from Devon and Cornwall Police to take a 38-year-old male found unconscious on a beach to hospital was passed on.



Photo by Sergeant Neil Bryden © Crown copyright 2015



Four iconic Australian rifles recreated in intricate detail. The collection features the Short Magazine Lee Enfield No 1 Mk 3 Rifle, Owen Machine Carbine, L1A1 SLR and the F88 Austeyr.

The quality 1/6th scale miniatures are die-cast in zinc and then plated in nickel or copper before being hand finished.

Each miniature is sold separately in hang packs which include vital statistics about the weapon. Also available is a modular stand for displaying the miniatures, complete with name plates for each rifle.

DIMENSIONS

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A pair of Royal Australian Air Force C-130J Hercules transport aircraft conducted low-level flying training on Friday 30 October around the Blue Mountains, south coast and Sydney Harbour – snapped at the Kiama Lighthouse by CONTACT editor Brian Hartigan.

Taking off from RAAF Base Richmond in Sydney's north west at 8am, the Hercules flew past the Three Sisters in the Blue Mountains, then south via the Warragamba reservoir to Goulburn, through Kangaroo Valley south of Nowra, via CONTACT's home town Kiama, then abeam Wollongong and up the coast, through Sydney Heads, overhead Sydney Harbour and back to RAAF Base Richmond by 9.30am.

During the sortie, the Hercules operated as low as 75m above ground and sea.

The RAAF said such flights allowed aircrew to maintain skills, with the Hercules being a key Defence asset to sustain personnel on operations.

A fleet of 12 Hercules is operated by No. 37 Squadron, with two of the aircraft continuously deployed to the Middle East.

The low-flying sortie coincided with a change of command for 37SQN, from Wing Commander Darren Goldie to Wing Commander Matt Cooper.

"My first flying tour was with 37SQN, so it has been the fulfilment of a long-held dream to come back and command this squadron," Wing Commander Goldie said.





Soldiers from NATO's Baltic Battalion practice a compound-entry technique during a city-battle training day in San Gregorio, Spain, during Exercise Trident Juncture 2015 – October 24.

Exercise Trident Juncture is NATO's largest military exercise in more than 10 years. It involves 37 nations and more than 36,000 troops.

As this magazine is published, Trident Juncture is in full swing, running from 3 October to 6 November.

Major activities are being conducted in Italy, Portugal and Spain.

More photos next page...

TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015



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LEGEND LAID TO REST

WATCH VIDEO



Major General William Brian 'Digger' James was laid to rest with full military honours in the ANZAC section of Pinaroo Cemetery in Brisbane's north on 22 October.

In a small private ceremony with full military honours, the Albany Creek man widely regarded as one of the most decent and honourable Australians of the 20th Century was farewelled.

Digger, as he was affectionately known, was awarded a Military Cross for his actions in evacuating his wounded soldiers following a landmine incident during the Korean War, where he served as a platoon commander in the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

He lost a foot as a result of the Korean landmine but stayed in the Army, transferring to Cavalry, before being reassigned to undertake medical studies at the University of Sydney.

He commanded the 8th Field Ambulance in South Vietnam and was Senior Medical Officer of the 1st Australian Task Force at Nui Dat for 12 months from January 1968 to January 1969, and was inspirational for the encouragement and personal

example he provided to soldiers wounded by anti-personnel mines.

For his outstanding service in Vietnam he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1969.

In 1971 he served with a British St John Ambulance medical relief team at the conclusion of the Biafran Civil War in Nigeria, for which he was awarded the Order of St John.

In his retirement, Digger James took on many roles including as the national president of the Returned Services League and was appointed chairman of the Council of the Australian War Memorial.

Digger James was born on 14 May 1930 at Shepparton, Victoria, and was educated in Grahamvale State School, Shepparton High School, Royal Military College Duntroon (1948-1951), University of Sydney, RAMC Millbank UK and in London.

He was patron of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, since 1985.

Major General William Brian 'Digger' James died on Friday 16 October 2015, aged 85.

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Real pocket rocket



Raytheon successfully fired two new Pike 40mm precision-guided munitions from a standard tube grenade launcher.

The shots were delivered during flight tests at Mile High Resources in Texas and both rounds landed within the targeted impact area after flying more than 2100m.

Raytheon's Advanced Land Warfare Systems director JR Smith said Pike used a digital, semi-active laser seeker to engage fixed and slow-moving, mid-range targets.

"This new guided munition can provide the warfighter with precision, extended-range capability never before seen in a hand-held weapon on the battlefield," Mr Smith said.

"Weighing less than [1kg] and measuring just [43cm] in length, Pike can be fired from a conventional, single-shot grenade launcher such as the M320.

"Pike's rocket motor ignites [about 3m] after launch and is nearly smokeless for reduced signature.

"Pike will become smarter and smarter as we develop its capabilities," Mr Smith said.

"In current configuration, the warfighter will enter programmable laser codes before loading.

"Spiral development calls for multiple-round simultaneous programming and targeting with data-link capabilities."

He said additional upgrades included firing from platform-mounted launchers such as boats, vehicles and small UAVs.

Hawkei LANDs 121



The Aussie-designed-and-built Hawkei has won the ADF's contract for a light protected mobility vehicle.

Designed and built by Thales in Bendigo, Victoria – the same factory that spawned the much-loved Bushmaster – Hawkei is in many ways a 'baby Bushmaster', with similar blast and ballistic protection, but in a much lighter package. Hell, it even rolls on the same chunky wheels as the Bushmaster!

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Defence Minister Marise Payne announced the contract at the Land Engineering Agency Proving Ground in Monegeetta, Victoria, where Hawkei had been undergoing gruelling suitability testing alongside other, foreign, contenders for the project.

Project LAND 121 Phase 4 will provide the Australian Army a fleet of around 1100 protected mobility vehicles - light (PMV-L), and 1000 trailers, via a contract worth about \$1.3billion.

Full-rate production is expected in 2018.

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MEET PRIVATE ERNEST HARVEY

The Gallipoli Centenary Bear



Private Ernest Harvey, the Gallipoli Centenary Bear, stands about 40cm in his boots and slouch hat and wears the standard A.I.F. webbing, complete with water canteen, bayonet and helve (the handle for his entrenching tool).

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Search and Recovery

Following the loss of fishing trawler FV Jubilee with her crew of three in a storm near Canterbury in October, the Royal New Zealand Navy's Operational Diving Team (ODT) was called in to assist police in their search and recovery efforts.

The diving support vessel HMNZS Manawatu, with 24 crew, nine ODT members and two members of the NZ Police dive squad on board, was despatched to an area 20km from the mouth of the Rakaia River where the Jubilee was found in about 40m of water.

The depth of the wreck meant the ODT were restricted to a fixed number of dives on day one of the mission.

Weather also played a part in restricting time on site.

NZ Police Sergeant Phil Simmonds said the focus of the recovery phase was, if possible, to locate and return the missing crew to their loved ones.

"This is an extremely distressing time for everyone involved and police and the Royal New Zealand Navy extend their thoughts and prayers to the families, friends and colleagues of the missing crew" Sergeant Simmonds said.

"Members of the Royal New Zealand Navy's Operational Diving Team (ODT) entered the wreck [on day one] and recovered the bodies of two men."

Formal identification had to be completed, but police believe they were the bodies of two of the missing three crewmen understood to have been on board at the time FV Jubilee sank.

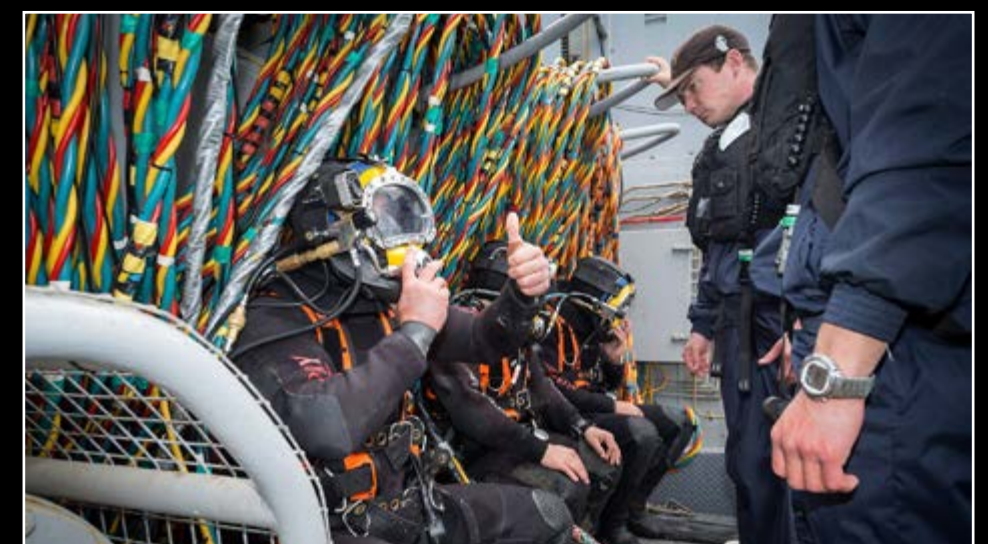
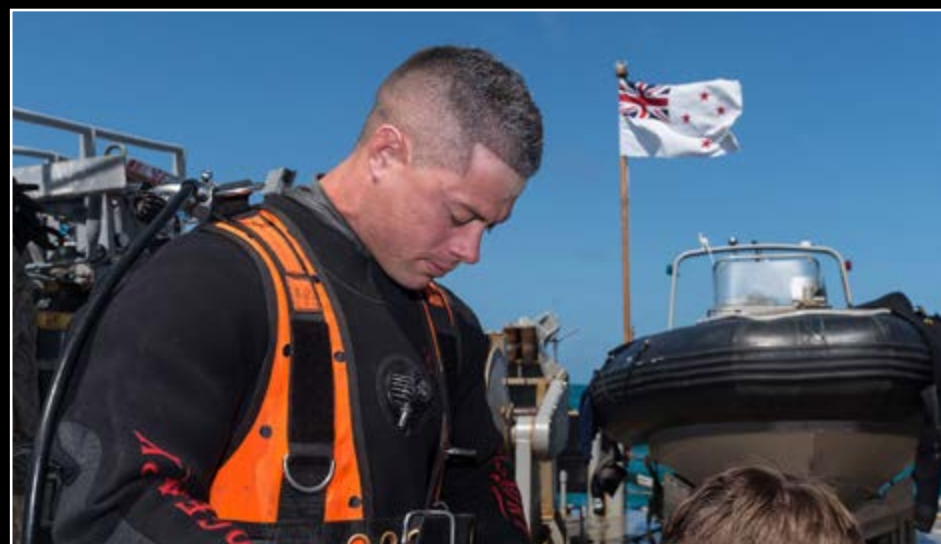
Two days later the third body was recovered.

Crewmembers of HMNZS Manawatu performed a 'Piping of the Side' as a mark of respect when the bodies were recovered.

A police investigation into the sinking of the FV Jubilee was ongoing. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission was also investigating.

The 16m 100-tonne FV Jubilee sank early on 25 October during a storm, though the boat's owner told New Zealand media he did not believe the weather was severe enough to be the sole cause of the tragedy.

The last communications with the seven-year-old fishing vessel was a distress call about 4.30am in which the men reportedly said they were heading for the liferaft – which was found early in the search with no one on board.



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Northern Shield



About 1000 military personnel, with airplane, helicopter, boat and vehicle support deployed to the north west of Western Australia in September in an exercise designed to demonstrate the Australian Defence Force's capability to protect Australia's remotest oil-rich region. Exercise Northern Shield saw members of the Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force rapidly deploy around Learmonth and Exmouth to counter a fictitious force posing a threat to Australia's national security.

Force projection with
North West Shelf in mind

Troops, vehicles and aircraft converged on Exmouth from as far as Amberley, Brisbane, Sydney, Darwin, Tindal and Canberra.

Acting Chief of Joint Operations Major General Shane Caughey said the exercise incorporated special and regular forces, parachuting, land-force manoeuvre, air-mobile operations and maritime activities.

"Exercise Northern Shield 2015 demonstrated the ADF's capacity to project forces in our north west should the need arise to protect population, resources and infrastructure," Major General Caughey said.

"Protecting Australia's north west is a key priority for Defence. Smaller-scale counter-terrorism exercises are routinely held in the region and surveillance measures are in place to detect potential threats, and Exercise Northern Shield builds on these security measures."

Exercise director Commodore Phil Spedding said the exercise followed detailed discussions between the ADF and other government agencies as well as local mining and resource companies.

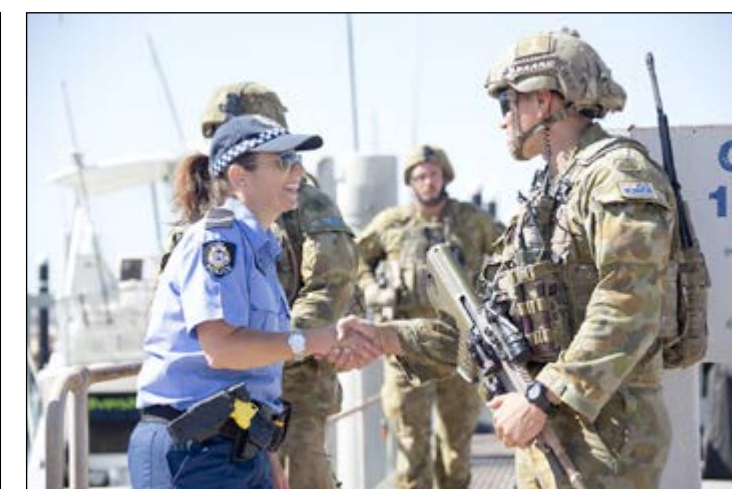
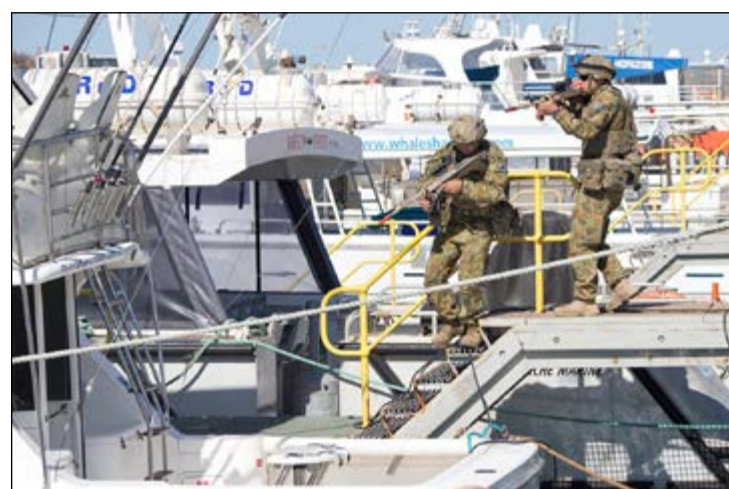
"The lessons learned from this activity will be put to good use, with Exercise Northern Shield set to become an annual training activity," Commodore Spedding said.

"Northern Shield is designed to make sure we can all work together to be ready to respond to any contingency in the region and to provide an agile, decisive and effective deterrent to any future challenge."

The exercise incorporated multiple platforms including Tiger armed reconnaissance helicopters from the Australian Army, C-17A, C-130J, KC-30A, AP-3C, F/A-18 and King Air Royal Australian Air Force assets.



Members of the Ready Combat Team from 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment conduct a clearance of a vessel at Exmouth Marina against a simulated enemy during an activity on Exercise Northern Shield 2015 and, below right, Platoon Commander Lieutenant John Blunt hands control of the marina back to local police officer 1st Class Constable Shelley McQueen.





WATCH VIDEO



Australian commandos conducted a late-night raid to clear role-player combatants occupying several buildings near a simulated Defence facility in Exmouth. The night raid was preceded by a parachute insertion into water off the coast of the remote town, with inflatable boats, dropped from the same airplanes, taking the raiders ashore.



Mark de Wet and his son Jacques take a selfie with Brisbane-based soldiers from the Ready Combat Team during a night patrol on the streets of Exmouth, WA, during Exercise Northern Shield 2015.

Exmouth Shire President Turk Shales said the Defence presence in the region was welcomed by the population.

"We have loved every second of it. The whole town is talking about the defence force, the kids are loving the forces being here and the relationships and activities have been incredible," Councillor Shales said.

"The community engagement by the forces has been second to none.

"We fully understand that it's an exercise in warfare and an exercise in protecting what is ours – our country – and we welcome that protection."



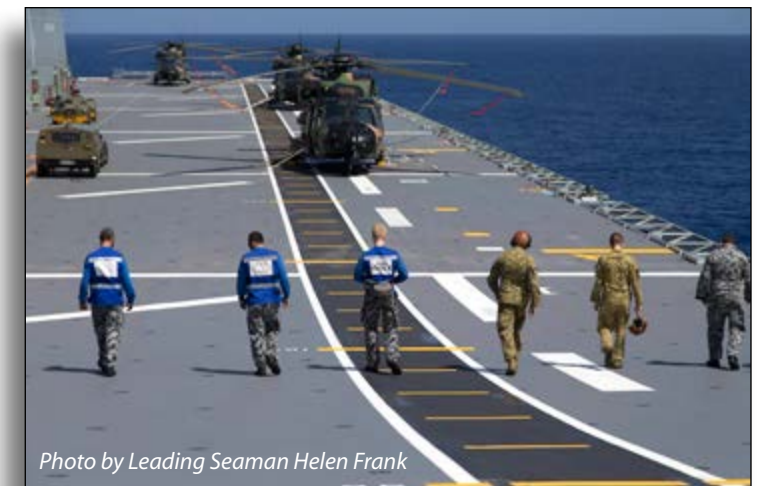
AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE

SEA SERIES



L02 HMAS CANBERRA

Photo by Leading Seaman Helen Frank



Clockwise from left: Four MRH-90 helicopters from 5th Aviation Regiment approach for landing on HMAS Canberra's flight deck.

An ASLAV ambulance from 2nd Cavalry Regiment drives up an internal ramp to the light-vehicle deck.

Members of HMAS Canberra's aviation department conduct a walk-down of the flight deck to check for foreign objects before flying operations commence.

A light amphibious reconnaissance craft (LARC) enters HMAS Canberra's port well dock.

A LARC climbs out of HMAS Canberra's port well dock, into the lower vehicle hangar.

HMA Ships Canberra and Stuart remain at anchor off the north-Queensland coast during Exercise Sea Raider.





Photo by Leading Seaman Helen Frank

Australia's newest military capability, the Amphibious Ready Element, demonstrated its capacity in waters off the north-Queensland coast during the Sea Series of exercises from August to October.

Conducted by the Brisbane-based Deployable Joint Force Headquarters under command of Major General Stuart Smith, the Sea Series of exercises enabled the amphibious force to achieve an interim operational capability.

The Sea Series of exercises involved about 1100 embarked troops and crew on board HMAS Canberra with medium-lift helicopters, landing craft, small boats, ASLAVs, trucks and other vehicles.

The embarked force included major elements from the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment and 5th Aviation Regiment, supported by HMAS Stuart, Air Force assets and other government agencies.

Major General Smith said this capability would enhance the defence of Australia and support our strategic interests in the region.

"The amphibious force has been tested in scenarios that reflect tasks that the Australian government may direct in response to local and regional emergencies," Major General Smith said.

"And the fact that the ADF has also been able to concurrently conduct Exercise Northern Shield on the other side of Australia makes these achievements even more significant."

Commander of the Amphibious Task Force Captain Jay Bannister said the Sea Series of exercises enabled a diverse and capable force embarked in HMAS Canberra to learn how to operate as an amphibious joint task force.

"The exercise also provided us with an opportunity to rehearse for future humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief missions with the support of colleagues from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Federal Police," Captain Bannister said.

The Sea Series of exercises was conducted from 17 August to 6 October.

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Photo by Corporal David Cotton



Photo by Corporal David Cotton

HMAS CANBERRA



Photo by Leading Seaman Helen Frank

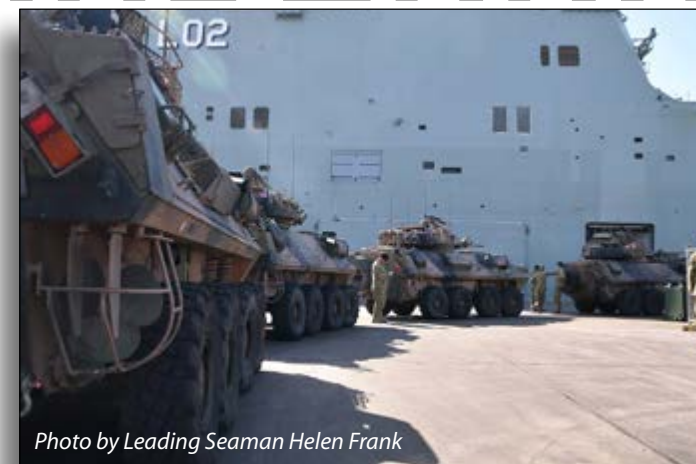


Photo by Leading Seaman Helen Frank



Photo by Leading Seaman Helen Frank

Clockwise from left: The Amphibious Ready Element on HMAS Canberra's flight deck during Sea Series 2015.

A landing craft departs the well dock.

A landing craft carries Bushmasters off Bramston Beach, north Queensland.

ASLAVs from 2nd Cavalry Regiment que to board HMAS Canberra as she prepares for Exercise Sea Raider.

An ASLAV drives onboard HMAS Canberra.

Soldiers embark a landing craft at Cowley Beach, north Queensland.

An ASLAV drives onboard HMAS Canberra.



Photo by Corporal David Cotton

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Photo by Corporal David Cotton



Photo by Corporal David Cotton



Photo by Corporal David Cotton

Clockwise from left: An ASLAV convoy at Cowley Beach Military Training Area, during Exercise Sea Raider.

Privates Brad Pumpa (left) and Ben Parkinson, from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, hold a defensive position at Mourilyan Harbour, North Queensland, during Exercise Sea Raider..

Trooper Phanubej Sirnok from 2nd Cavalry Regiment, drives an ASLAV onboard HMAS Canberra.

Royal Australian Navy personnel on the bridge of HMAS Canberra as the ship leaves the Port of Townsville for Exercise Sea Explorer, the second exercise of Sea Series 2015.



Photo by Leading Seaman Helen Frank

HMAS CANBERRA

Photo by Sergeant Hamish Paterson



Clockwise from above: A medic conducts a handover with an aircraft loadmaster before a simulated casualty is to be evacuated by helicopter to HMAS Canberra.

Private Matthew Readman, 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, after a night-raid mission.

Lieutenant John Dunn (left) and Private Jordan Hoegger, 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, account for ammunition and stores after a battle.

ASLAVs from 2nd Cavalry Regiment conduct a live-fire shoot from HMAS Canberra's flight deck.

Lance Corporal Daniel Strutt, Pipes and Drums 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, pipes HMAS Canberra into Townsville on completion of Sea Series 2015.

Photo by Leading Seaman Helen Frank



Photo by Corporal David Cotton



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7RAR BOARS RUN

Photos by Corporal David Gibbs

Members of the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, along with supporting elements from the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment and 1st Armoured Regiment, conducted Exercise Boars Run at Cultana Training Area from 10 through 18 September 2015.

The exercise was a two-phase activity – phase 1 was a company live-fire activity and phase 2 a battalion advance to contact with company clearances of urban objectives.

The field phase was followed by The 7th Battalion returned to Cultana Training Area in October to participate in the much bigger 1st Brigade Exercise Predator's Run.

More photos and a bigger story in the next issue of CONTACT Air Land & Sea, out 1 December.



Immediately following Exercise Bocrs Run, 7RAR soldiers rolled straight into a battalion section competition, which included an obstacle course.



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1st Bde Predators Run

Photos by Corporal Nunu Campos and
Leading Seaman Justin Brown

Members of the 1st Armoured Regiment, put their vehicles to the test in the attack lane at the Cultana Training Area during Exercise Predators Run in October. Infantry dismounts were coordinated with firepower from the Australian Army's M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks, M113AS4 armoured personnel carriers, artillery and mortar support, as well as F/A-18 Hornets from the RAAF. The exercise was designed to enhance Australian Defence Force members' warfighting skills within a combined arms environment. Exercise Predators Run is part of the 1st Brigade's 'Predator' series of exercises, designed to prepare soldiers for operations as the brigade moves towards the 'Ready' phase in the Australian Army's force generation cycle, in 2016.





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POMS & CEREMONY FOR CHINA VISIT

More than 1100 soldiers and 230 horses joined HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, the Prime Minister, Senior members of Cabinet, the Lord Mayor of London, the Mayor of London, and Defence Chiefs of Staff to welcome The President of The People's Republic of China and Madame Peng Liyuan to Britain on 20 October.

Weeks of preparation went into the spectacle, which involved seven military bands and 10 military units. On Horse Guards Parade, filled with immaculate lines of Foot Guards from the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and the Household Cavalry, accompanied by the Band of the Grenadier Guards and the Band of the Household Cavalry, a medley of British-themed music was played by the Band of the Grenadier Guards and the Band of the Household Cavalry, accompanied by Drum Horses Adamas and Mercury while, in Green Park, the Band of the Royal Artillery entertained crowds with The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in position for a ceremonial Gun Salute.

As the President alighted from his car and placed his foot upon the first step of the Royal Pavilion, ceremonial Gun Salutes were fired across London – a 41 Gun Salute from Green Park by The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery and a 62 Gun Salute at Her Majesty's Tower of London by the Honourable Artillery Company.

The Captain of the Horse Guards Guard of Honour, Major Benjamin Jesty of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, marched forward and presented his Guard of Honour to the Chinese President in perfect Mandarin – "The Guard of Honour of 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards is present, formed up and ready for your inspection Sir".

Afterwards, The President, accompanied by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, left Horse Guards in a carriage procession, and were escorted to Buckingham Palace by The Sovereign's Escort, with two Standards, provided by the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. Along the route, the Mall was lined by troops from Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards, F Company Scots Coldstream Guards, The Band of the Scots Battalion Welsh Guards, with music played by The Band of the Irish Guards at Marlborough Road, and The Band of the Irish Guards at Duke of York Steps.

On arrival at Buckingham Palace, a Guard of Honour from 1st Battalion Welsh Guards was formed up in the Quadrangle, with musical support from The Band of the Welsh Guards.

Dismounted troopers from The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment lined the stairs for the arrival into the Palace.



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British Army Photographer of the Year Sergeant Rupert Frere

The winners of this year's Army Photographic Competition have been announced today at a ceremony held at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, with Sergeant Rupert Frere, Royal Logistic Corps (RLC), winning no fewer than five top professional categories in the annual competition that highlights the work of professional British Army photographers.

The London District photographer, whose ceremonial images are admired the world over, was shocked that so many of his photographs

captured judge The Times staff photographer Richard Polhe's eye. "It's pretty amazing to win. I'm gobsmacked," said 34-year-old Rupert, who transferred from a role in bomb disposal to become a professional photographer in the RLC.

For this year only a new category was introduced to reflect the professional photographers' work in Afghanistan during a decade of Operation Herrick. Rupert's portfolio was judged the best out of a crop of stunning portfolios. He also claimed the best Op Herrick

Portrait and runner-up Op Herrick Portfolio with images from three separate tours of duty in Afghanistan.

"I spent three tours on Op Herrick from 2009 to 2012/13. I had lots of friends there and unfortunately lost some friends there, too.

"So, to have these images that remind people of what we went through out there, it means a lot to me, personally, that they've chosen my photos," Sergeant Frere said.



This spread – Sergeant Rupert Frere's winning Operation Herrick portfolio.

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Far left top: 'Knobbly Knees' from 1st Pro Portfolio
 Far left bottom: 'Sword Dance' from 1st Pro Portfolio
 Left: 'Senior Service' from 1st Pro Portfolio
 Below: 'Royal Salute' from 1st Pro Portfolio
 Above: Best Overall Army PR Image





Winner – Best Overall Herrick Image by Sergeant Rupert Frere

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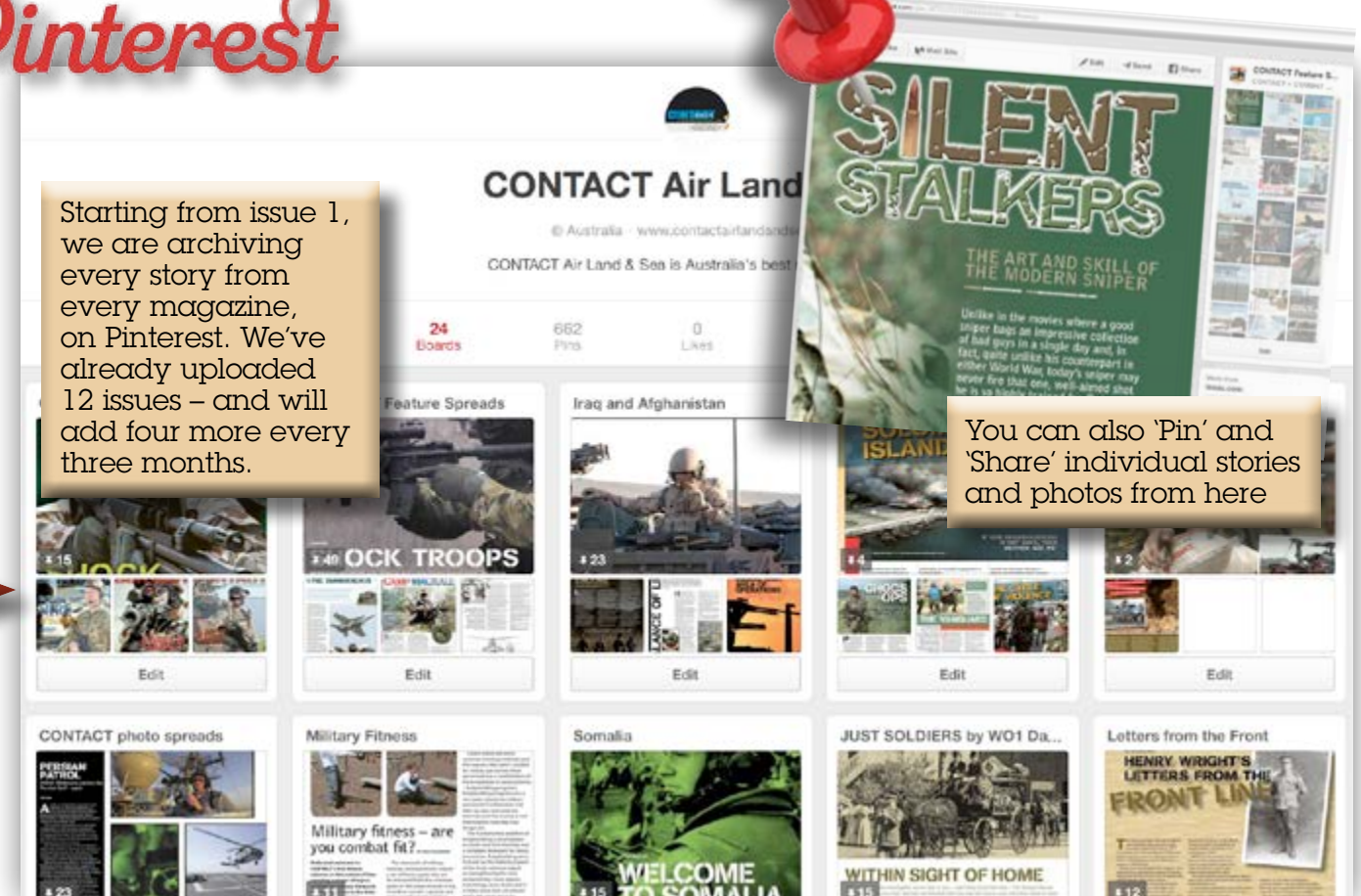
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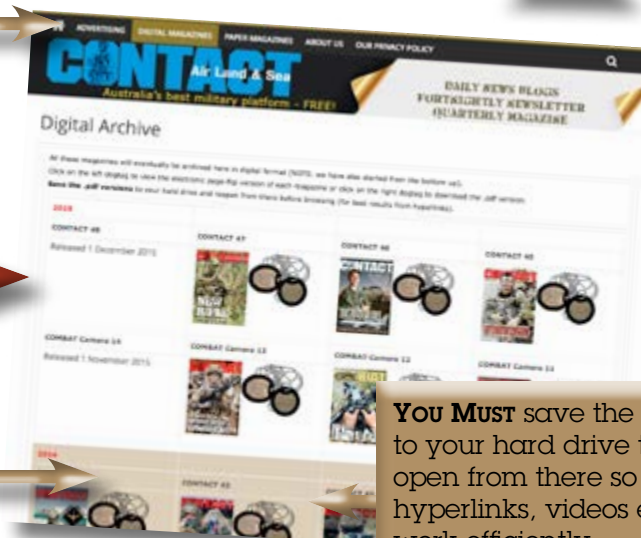
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Exercise Chong Ju is an annual live-fire exercise conducted at the Australian Army's Combined Arms Training Centre at Puckapunyal in northern Victoria, to showcase Defence capabilities to Army's next generation of combat leaders.

Exercise Chong Ju 2015 included demonstrations from the M1A1 Abrams tank, ASLAV (Australian Light Armoured Vehicle), M113 armoured personnel carriers, 81mm mortars and M777 155mm howitzer field guns.

Aerial support included Tiger armed reconnaissance helicopters and FA/18 Hornets from the Royal Australian Air Force.

Exercise Chong Ju is named after a battle in North Korea in 1950, when the 3rd Battalion,

Royal Australian Regiment, supported by tanks and artillery, attacked and captured a large North Korean defensive line near the Yalu River.

WATCH VIDEO





WATCH VIDEO



The RAAF hit a significant milestone on 23 October when it accomplished the first combat refuelling by a KC-30A Multirole Tanker Transport of an E-7A Wedgetail using its new-technology computerised refuelling boom.

The flying boom system allows for faster transfer of fuel than the hose-and-drogue system and will allow the RAAF to refuel appropriately

equipped aircraft such as the C-17 Globemaster, the E-7A Wedgetail and eventually the F-35 JSF.

The KC-30 and E-7A operating in Iraq are serving with the Air Task Group (ATG), the RAAF's air combat group operating within a US-led international coalition against Daesh.

ATG comprises six RAAF F/A-18 Hornets, an E-7A Wedgetail, a KC-30A and 350 personnel.



A new Australia C-27J Spartan from No 35 Squadron, RAAF, conducted its first air-drop training sorties from RAAF Base Richmond in October 2015.

The flights dropped four container delivery systems (CDS) to the Londonderry Drop Zone in Sydney's north west.

A single CDS was delivered in each pass, allowing the aircraft's crew to build their experience in the correct methods of air drop from the Spartan.

A fleet of 10 C-27J Spartans are being acquired for the Royal Australian Air Force to serve as battlefield airlifters, fulfilling the tactical air-lift gap between Army's rotary-wing fleet and larger Air Force transports.

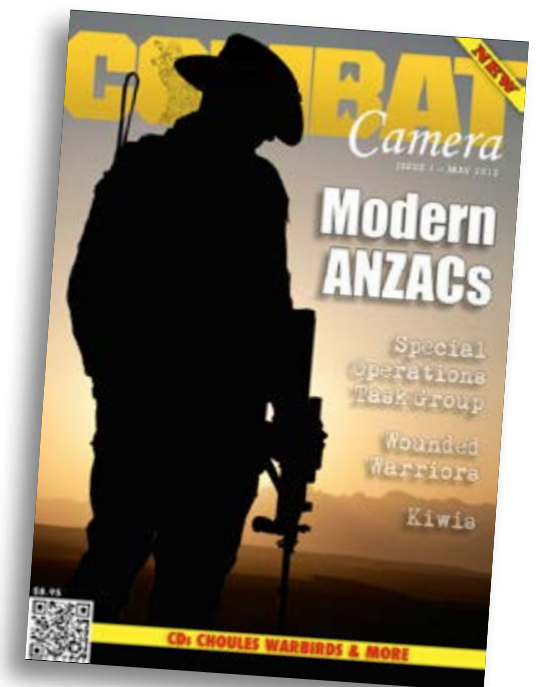
A CDS is a common means of delivering cargo such as water, rations, ammunition or other supplies by air, and is compatible across the fleet of RAAF transports.

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ALL IN THE FAMILY



Exercise Predators Run featured many of 1st Brigade soldiers with interesting stories to tell, but the story of Warrant Officer Class Two Michael Keefe and Private Linda Keefe was a one-of-a-kind.

Michael, originally from Tasmania, and Linda, from Perth, met in Newman, WA, in January 2012 and married on 11-12-13. They have 3 children between them.

After three postings together in three different states, and in an uncertain employment market,

Linda decided "if you can't beat them, join them", so that's exactly what she did – enlisting in the Army in May this year as a quartermaster storeman at 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, where her husband serves as the training warrant officer.

Here they proudly display the 7RAR flag on Linda's first ever bush exercise, Predators Run.

The message from 1st Brigade was, "All the best to both of you – though, we're sure Linda's still the boss at home!"



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