

**NOW ON
SALE IN**

Fiji, Indonesia, Korean, Malaysia, Singapore and
Taiwan with subscribers in 10 other countries

ISSUE 11 **\$8.95**

AIR, LAND & SEA

CONTACT
THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

OUTSIDE THE WIRE

**ADGies – DEFENDING
AIR OPERATIONS**

**WARFIGHTING
EQUIPMENT**

WHAT WORKS AND
WHAT DOESN'T IN IRAQ

THE BIG PICTURE

CYCLE OF VIOLENCE
IN EM & SI

HARDENED ARMY

**ABRAMS READY
FOR DELIVERY**



Real homes. Real fast.

Anywhere.



TEKTUM.com.au

FOR ALL YOUR MILITARY
& LAW ENFORCEMENT
EQUIPMENT NEEDS



353 Lt Bourke St,
Melbourne, 3000,
Victoria, Australia
Phone 03 9602 4303
Fax 03 9602 4302

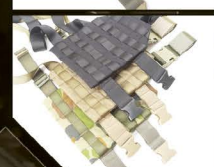


MEOP Modular Extended Operations Pack

- High storage Volume 80 litre internal + 20 litre external pouches
- Modular lid and side pouches
- Majority of pack constructed from IR treated 1000d DuPont Cordura®
- PAL5 on front, side and lid of pack
- Twin side pockets remove and attach together to form a 20 litre daypack
- Internal aluminium frame
- Sway reducers on shoulder straps and hip belt
- Sternum strap with built in whistle
- Separate base compartment
- Main compartment compression straps
- Front and back lift loops
- Capacity 100 Litres.
- Manufactured from all MILSPEC fittings and materials



TOUGH GUY Leg Rig



Chisel Chest Rig

For general enquiries and private purchases:
platatac@platypusoutdoors.com.au

Government and Wholesale enquiries:
sales@platypusoutdoors.com.au

Telephone: 03 9796 5355

Facsimile: 03 9796 3844

SAS Pack MkIX



Sierra One

Sniper Pack



New Catalog COMING SOON

WWW.PLATATAC.COM

© Copyright 2006



38

10 THE BIG PICTURE

Big-bird bellyflop - rookie pilot brings his bird home

12 HEADS UP

Latest snippets from Australia and around the World

18 REASSIGNED

With its primary task complete, the Al Muthanna Task Group moves on to new frontiers

22 ON THE GROUND IN IRAQ

Examining the kit that worked and the kit that didn't

26 SOLOMONS REBIRTH

AFP boss Mick Keelty explains why we must keep the lid on

29 CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

While Honiara smoulders, Dili flares up - and our boys go in

32 POWER LIFTER

C17 shows how it's done

34 WEAPON POSTER

Sig Sauer SP2022

36 CATAPILLAR CLUB

Life on a silken thread

38 OUTSIDE THE WIRE

Resilient, innovative and armed to the teeth - ADGs on the defensive

46 HARDENED ARMY

Abrams - on time and on target

50 EXERCISE RIMPAC 06

54 SOMALIA PART 11

Remote control - Part I

58 MILITARY FITNESS

Crossfit - it doesn't have to be fun

60 REVIEWS

62 FRONT-LINE LETTERS

64 JUST SOLDIERS

Gunner Robert Buie

66 BACK BRIEF

Highlights from our forums



18



26



29



36



46



64



22

REMEMBER THE FAMILIES OF OUR FALLEN HEROES.

Since 1923 Legacy has kept their promise to Australian veterans and taken care of the families of those who have died or become incapacitated as a result of their service.



SHOW YOU CARE BY DONATING AT LEGACY.COM.AU

Caring for the families of deceased and incapacitated veterans.



THE EDITOR'S LETTER

Issue 11 – September 2006

CONTACT AIR, LAND & SEA

Editor **Brian Hartigan**
editor@militarycontact.com
ph: 0408 496 664

Art Director **Tony Kelly**
tkelly57@tpg.com.au

Advertising Manager **Rod Rayward**
17 Breakwater Cres
Point Cook, Victoria 3030
advertising@militarycontact.com
phone: 0425 759 134
fax: (03) 9395 8458

Subscriptions Manager **Rosie Hartigan**
subscriptions@militarycontact.com

Contributors Wayne Cooper, Darryl Kelly,
Don Stevenson, Travis Faure,
Ken Wright, Ian Bostock

Published by Contact Publishing Pty Ltd
PO Box 897, Dickson, ACT 2602, AUSTRALIA
www.militarycontact.com

Printed by Pirion, Fyshwick, ACT

CONTACT – AIR LAND & SEA is published on the first Friday of March, June, September and December each year. All subscription and general enquiries should be addressed to the editor. Advertising queries should be directed to the Advertising Manager.

Subscriptions \$34 per year (incl GST, postage and handling within Australia). Check web site for costs to other countries. Fill out credit card details on the subscription form available in this issue, send a cheque or money order made payable to Contact Publishing, with the completed form, to the Subscriptions Manager, or use our secure on-line credit card subscription page on our web site – www.militarycontact.com

All material appearing in this magazine is copyright and may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the express written permission of the editor. The views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual authors, except where otherwise attributed, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or of the editor.

This magazine strives to report as accurately and honestly as possible on the people, activities and equipment of the Australian Defence Force and on the defence forces of other countries and on any matter of interest to military-minded readers. Current editorial staff and the publisher have a close affinity with the soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Australian Defence Force and seek to portray their activities and circumstances honestly. The publisher does not accept responsibility for any claim made in this magazine by any author or advertiser. Readers are encouraged to seek professional advice where appropriate. Authors and photographers may submit high-quality articles and photos to the editor for consideration, however, the editor accepts no responsibility for any material so submitted and does not undertake to publish all submissions. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if material is to be returned.

RIGHT: Editor CONTACT Air Land & Sea Brian Hartigan gets physical on the bayonet assault course at Kapooka during basic training in 1990.

The CONTACT phenomenon rolls along apace. We are now sold in six countries, with subscribers in 10 more. Also, we recently launched what we hope will be a long line of CONTACT merchandise, starting with our flash and fashionable selection of baseball caps – you know you have to have one! Head to our web site for easy order and purchase options.

But, now, back to the serious business of this month's issue of your favourite military magazine. Inside, variety is as wide as ever – and yet, there is neither the space nor the time to do justice to all the great and exciting things our soldiers, sailors and airmen are doing all around the world. Exercises Singaroo, Pitch Black, Fincastle, Neptune, Aces North and Suman Warrior; major Navy news, like our guys taking over command on a US ship or the comings and goings, commissionings and decommissionings in our own fleet; our forces in Afghanistan; and a host of other important activities – all miss out, for one reason or another, on the coverage they deserve.

Even as we wrap this issue up, a new battlefield has opened in what is increasingly a volatile world – this time in the Middle East. Here too, our military personnel were involved in some way. We had RAAF assets, air crew and ADGies on the ground in Cyprus; soldiers helping desperate Aussie citizens get out of Lebanon; and, I'm sure, a few other things I'm not awake to. While, hopefully, their work is just about done, the UN continues to deliberate over peacekeeping options – are we about to spread our forces even thinner yet?

But, enough of what we didn't cover. What we do have for you this issue is a good selection of diverse interests, starting in Iraq.

We drop in on our guys as they move out of Al Muthanna Province. While we wish them well, we also look forward to dropping in on them in their new home next issue. On another Iraqi front, Ian Bostock takes an interesting look at soldier feedback from the front line – US troops giving us their thoughts on the equipment that works and doesn't work.

Last issue we covered the unrest in Honiara. Since then, Dili has followed suit, descending into an all-too-familiar cycle of violence. Why? What does it all mean? Who better to explain the ramifications for Australia of this fresh unrest in our neighbourhood than AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty, a man very close to the heart of the matter.

For this issue's main feature, I travelled to Enoggera to learn more about Airfield Defence Guards. Obviously, I "knew" about ADGies before, but I must admit I didn't know much about them. Frankly, I was surprised and excited by what I learned. Interestingly, a story on ADGs has been your second-most requested topic, behind SASR. So here, finally, you've got it.

By the time you read this, the first of our Abrams tanks may well be landed on the docks in Melbourne, ready to roll across the wide brown land. In what will most certainly not be the last article you'll see on this vehicle, we take a close look at the big new tank with the kangaroo on the side.

And, finally, our usual array of regular columns and features are sure to entertain, amuse and inform as always. Enjoy!

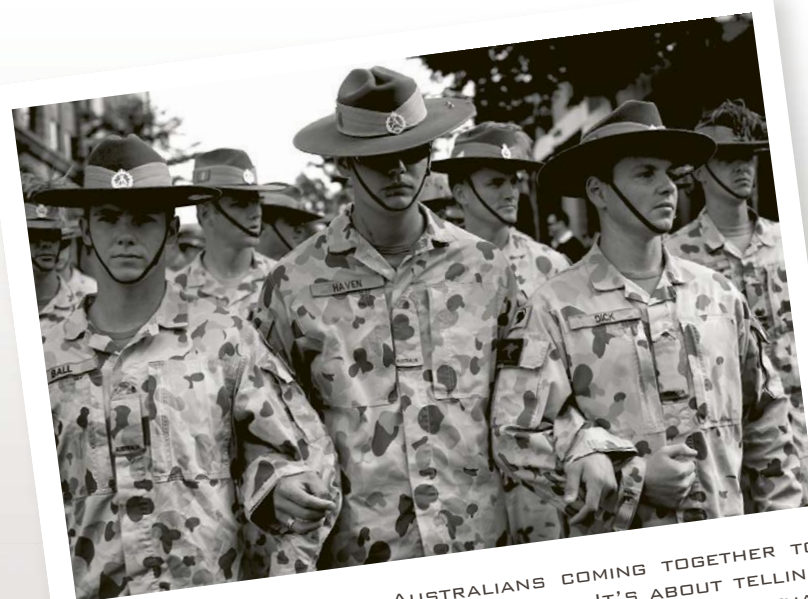


Brian Hartigan
Brian Hartigan
Managing Editor

Subscribe free at www.aussiecombat.com



SOLDIER ON HELPING OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS



SOLDIER ON IS ABOUT AUSTRALIANS COMING TOGETHER TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR OUR WOUNDED. IT'S ABOUT TELLING OUR DIGGERS THAT WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE THEIR BACKS; THAT WE WILL REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE COME HOME, AS WELL AS THOSE THAT HAVE DIED. IT'S ABOUT GIVING THE WOUNDED THE DIGNITY THEY DESERVE AND THE CHANCE TO DO AND BE WHATEVER THEY CHOOSE.

SOLDIER ON IS ABOUT THE ANZAC SPIRIT, AND MATESHIP AND ALL AUSTRALIANS KEEPING THEIR PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS.



INSPIRE, ENHANCE AND EMPOWER

Our wounded have done their part for Australia, they have given their best. Thousands have wounds, some you can see and some you can't. It is now Australia's turn to look after them, please give generously and make a difference in our wounded warriors lives.



Got something to say?
E-mail: editor@militarycontact.com
Or visit the feedback section on our web site



INCOMING

FRIENDLY FIRE...

Great cover shot on your last issue! Your mag has been very informative with lots of interesting articles and images.

I especially enjoy the 'Heads Up' section - one of the very few places where you seem to be able to get un-biased, factual information on what the world of defence is up to.

And don't feel you have to be 'balanced' by printing the incoherent ramblings of the armchair analysts. We all know these clowns exist. So spare us, PLEASE!!

Michael D, Cairns, Qld

You guys and girls who keep this magazine alive are inspiring me to pursue my dream of becoming a pilot. I gave up hope for a while and I needed a little encouragement, and your magazine helped me with that.

So, great work guys and girls. Keep it up 'cause you're keeping my spirit alive!
Corey, via web-site feedback

So, I walked into a newsagent the other day a little depressed. It had been 34 days since the last CONTACT mag had graced the stands of my local newsagents and I had already read the latest issue cover to cover too many times to count.

In a moment of weakness, my hand grabbed up a copy of another defence magazine.

What greeted me was disappointment. There was no snappy writing, no clear and cleverly placed photos, no compelling stories and nothing that caught my attention.

You could say I felt dirty for having expected CONTACT quality in another publication.

So, I'm 18 and am looking at applying for the SFDRS at the end of the year and the stories that you have run regarding the scheme have been extremely useful to me.

You've done a great job on the mag over the years and, as far as I can tell, you give the most accurate depiction of what's going on in the Australian armed forces.

Keep up the good work and keep the best ADF mag coming.

Pete C, via Hotmail

As an English teacher with 10 years experience in a government school from the Ministry of Education in Singapore, I constantly navigate the Internet's virtual library for a

wealth of knowledge and gather information that can make my lessons in class more interesting for my young students. Anything audio-visual will especially be an added boon to create that extra "wow!" factor when real-life situations are shared in class.

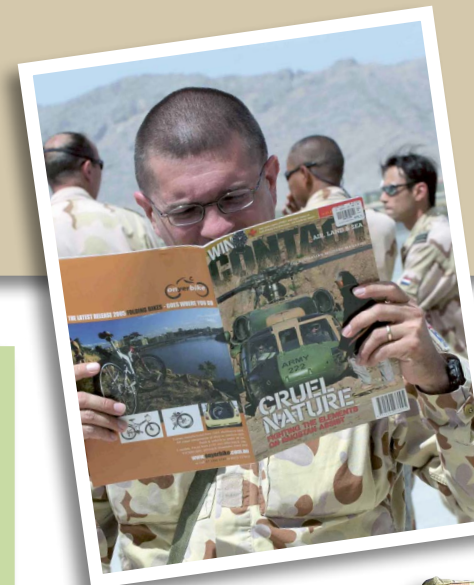
I am serving part-time as an army reserve in the Singapore Armour Regiment and teaching full-time.

For a few years, I was fortunate to be sent by my unit to Exercise Wallaby in Queensland for training with the Australian Armour Regiment.

When I came across your wonderful website yesterday evening, it certainly helped me to reminisce my good old days in the Army when I went through thick and thin with my buddies.

Thank you.

Alan A, via web-site feedback



EVERY DAY,
"SOMEONE"
TAKES TIME
OUT FOR A
QUALITY
READ!
THANKS BT

SUSTAINED BURST...

While reading your article on Military Parachuting in CONTACT issue #10, I was surprised to see your claim that military parachute training in Australia commenced in 1951.

The first military parachute course in Australia was actually conducted by the RAAF at Richmond, NSW, between 27 May to 4 June 1926. All descents were freefall and involved the training and familiarisation of aircrew. It appears that the RAAF then conducted parachute courses for aircrew at Point Cook, Victoria, during the late 1920s and throughout the 1930s. This info comes from the book, *Ripcord Australia* by WW Johnston.

A decision to form an Australian Army parachute company was made in September 1942 and on 3 November that year, a joint RAAF/Army unit known as the Parachute Training Unit (PTU) was formed at Laverton, Victoria. On 16 November, PTU moved to Tocumwal, NSW, and its first course, for 18 personnel, using DC-2 aircraft, was conducted from 17 December 1942 to 30 January 1943.

On 12 April 1943, PTU moved to Richmond, NSW, and training recommenced on 20 April.

During its existence, PTU trained approximately 2000 paratroopers for the 1st Australian Paratroop Battalion, 1st Australian Mountain Battery plus RAA and special operations personnel for the Allied Intelligence Bureau. From *Eagles Alighting - a history of 1 Australian Parachute Battalion* by JB 'Lofty' Dunn.

[As outlined in your article,] the Parachute Training Wing, with army and air force instructors was formed at RAAF Williamtown in September 1951.

I hope this information is of use to you and your readers. I became aware of most of it while doing a research project on *Australian Army parachute operations during World War Two* for the Army History Unit.

**Ian Kuring
Singleton, NSW**

Thanks Ian, I appreciate your correction. While the official Army web site (from where I got my information) starts its history in 1951, I incorrectly assumed this to be the start of the Australian parachuting story - Ed

ON TARGET...

Our Star letter writer wins a 3ltr Hydrapak worth \$115, from Cool Kit Australia - visit www.coolkit.com.au

This may sound surprising (or weird at least) that I'm a 14-year-old girl who is interested in the military.

This is my first time of purchase. I have to say that your magazine is awesome! The articles are very informative and the photographs are great! I have been looking for this kind of magazine for so long. So I begged my mum and she agreed to subscribe to it as my birthday present!

Anyways, thanks a million guys, this mag rules!

Amelia, via web-site feedback





1



2



3



4



5



6

BIG BIRD BELLY FLOP

PICS ADF

On 18 July, a routine training flight for Flying Officer Peter Komar and Flight Lieutenant Luke Warner turned pear-shaped when the left main wheel fell off their aircraft shortly after takeoff.

The incident was witnessed by air traffic control tower personnel and the pilot was informed.

What followed was several hours of intense activity on the ground, while the pilot and navigator flew around in a holding pattern to burn off fuel – and discuss how best to get down again. In the end, a wheels-up landing was settled on – and performed flawlessly.

Flying Officer Komar, aged 29, had graduated from F-111 conversion just two weeks earlier.



NAVIGATOR, FLIGHT LIEUTENANT LUKE WARNER (LEFT) AND PILOT, FLYING OFFICER PETER KOMAR ARE ALL SMILES FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL WHEELS-UP LANDING.



WATCH VIDEO

LAND ROVER BOWS OUT

The chances of the next-generation Land Rover Defender replacing Army's aging fleet of 4x4 and 6x6 Perentie (Land Rover Defender 110 Series) general service vehicles are all but gone with the news that Land Rover Australia (LRA) has pulled out of the \$3 billion Project Overlander vehicle replacement program with just weeks to go before bids were due to be lodged in late June.

LRA had hooked up with Tenix Defence, and the last-minute decision not to bid has left Tenix high and dry. It is understood that Tenix subsequently partnered with DaimlerChrysler Australia-Pacific and will supply selected modules from the Mercedes-Benz range of vehicles.

**IRAQ INSURGENT DRUG CHEATS**

Numerous media and anecdotal reports from those who have been there tell of how many of the insurgents running around in Iraq are fuelled up on amphetamines to psyche them up in the face of Coalition forces.

Nicknamed the 'courage drug' and 'pinky', the drug is given to individuals before and during battle to supposedly make them less fearful of personal injury or death. Reports indicate that the drug – which contains the highly addictive stimulant methamphetamine – provides a massive boost in energy and adrenaline and boosts

US MARINES FIELD M-32

The US Marine Corps' new 40mm M-32 Multiple-shot Grenade Launcher (also known as the MGL-140) has been christened in battle. The weapon was fired in Iraq in April. Able to fire all six 40mm grenades in about three seconds, the M-32 is a one-man, direct-fire support weapon manufactured in the US and currently being issued to Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. The USMC has ordered 9000 M-32s with first deliveries taking place in January.

The M-32 will replace the old M-79 break-open single-shot grenade launcher as well as the M203 launcher typically attached underneath the M16 assault rifle.



A US MARINE GETS FAMILIAR WITH HIS M-32 MULTIPLE-SHOT GRENADE LAUNCHER

confidence for anywhere between 15 and 60 minutes.

British forces in Basra, for instance, say that that city is heavily infiltrated by drug dealers, with pinky and other types of amphetamines readily available on the streets.

CANADIANS KEEP LEOPARD 1, OPT FOR RG-31

As part of a shift towards retaining a well protected armoured-fighting-vehicle capability, the Canadian Army has

recommended to government that plans to buy 66 Stryker 8x8 Mobile Gun Systems (MGS) from General Dynamics Land Systems be scrapped. It favours instead keeping a portion of its Leopard C1 main battle tanks until about 2015.

The decision not to proceed with the US\$540 million MGS acquisition has apparently been made based on observations of US and British operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the concern being that the MGS's level of armour protection is inadequate to cope with the threats being encountered.

Meanwhile, 50 RG-31 4x4 mine-protected vehicles are being delivered to the Canadian Army's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Afghanistan, where it will be employed as a patrol vehicle.

Introduction of the 8-tonne RG-31 has enabled the PRT to withdraw its uparmoured Mercedes-Benz G-Class light general service vehicles back within the relative safety of its compound perimeter.



M113 UPGRADE UNDER FIRE

NEW ZEALAND'S NEW MULTI ROLE VESSEL BEFORE COMMENCING SEA TRIALS

**KIWI MRV ON WAY**

The Royal New Zealand Navy's new 8000 tonne Multi Role Vessel (MRV) underwent contractor sea trials off the coast of the Netherlands in July. Due to be commissioned into RNZN service in early 2007 as HMNZS Canterbury, the 131m vessel will fulfil the roles of tactical sealift, long-range patrol and at-sea training. As such it will have the ability to carry up to 250 troops plus armoured and soft-skinned vehicles, 33 20ft ISO containers and embark four NH 90 battlefield helicopters. Two 23m landing craft are

also carried, and would mate with the stern ramp for the ship-to-shore transfer of vehicles and cargo.

Armament will be restricted to the same as that on Australia's Armadale-class patrol boats – a stabilised 25mm cannon in a marinised and stabilised lightweight naval gun mount, plus a pair of M2 12.7mm heavy machine guns.

The MRV will self-ferry to the Tenix Defence shipyard at Williamstown to complete outfitting in late September before final acceptance in New Zealand.

CHINESE REVEAL 4X4 APC

China's Shaanxi Baoji Special Vehicles Manufacturing Company has provided details of its ZFB05 series of 4x4 armoured personnel carriers (APC). With around 100 so far delivered to the People's Liberation Army, the company is seeking export customers for the vehicle.

Based on a licenced-built Iveco NJ2046 cross-country truck to which has been fitted an all-welded steel body to provide protection against small-arms fire and shell splinters, the ZFB05 has a crew of two and can accommodate between seven and nine troops in the rear compartment. Crew and troop exits are provided by a door either side and at the rear.

Powered by a four-cylinder turbo-charged diesel engine developing 87kW (116hp), the vehicle is capable of 110km/h on road and has an operating range of approximately 800km.

Typical armament would see a cupola fitted with a 7.62mm or 12.7mm machine gun in a pintle mount, or an externally-mounted 23mm automatic cannon. A bullet-proof shield can be fitted to provide protection for the gunner.

Other variants of the ZFB05 APC include command post, reconnaissance, ambulance and internal security vehicles.

**APACHES CLOCK UP BIG MILES**

According to a Boeing statement, US Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopters have racked up more than 700,000 hours flying combat missions since September 11. This includes all deployments, including those to Afghanistan, the Balkans, Iraq and elsewhere.

**INDIAN LAND ATTACK MISSILE**

India has confirmed it is acquiring a new land attack missile for its fleet of Project 877EKM (Kilo) Sindhughosh-class submarines. The Indian Navy will soon take delivery of 28 Russian Novator 3M14E Klub-S submarine-launched cruise missiles at a cost of around A\$240 million.

WEDGETAIL DELIVERY SLIPS

Delivery of the RAAF's fleet of Boeing Wedgetail airborne early warning and control aircraft has been delayed by up to 18 months due to development and integration problems with hardware and software components. Boeing, which will be penalised financially for the delays, has pledged to deliver all six aircraft by the end of 2008.

**EXTRA FRIGATES FOR MALAYSIA**

Kuala Lumpur has formally requested a quote from BAE Systems for an additional two F2000 Lekiu-class light frigates for the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) in a deal likely to be worth, should it go ahead, more than A\$1.2 billion. Contract signature is expected in late 2006 or early 2007. The RMN already operates two Lekiu-class frigates.

FIRST C-17 ROLLS OUT

The first of four C-17A Globemaster III heavy airlifters for the RAAF has come off the Boeing production line in California, and is expected to arrive at RAAF Base Richmond later this year. The remaining three aircraft will follow in 2008.

AUSTRALIA'S MRH 90 WILL BE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THE GERMAN ARMY NH 90 TTH.



The follow-on order for an additional 34 MRH 90 tactical transport helicopters has cemented the all-composite European helicopter as the cornerstone of the ADF's rotary-wing fleet, and sealed the fate of the Army's 36 S-70A-9 Black Hawk and the RAN's Mk 50 Sea Kings.

A total of 46 MRH 90s will be procured for the ADF under the multi-phase Air 9000. In a deal estimated to be worth close to A\$3 billion, the RAN's Sea Kings will be replaced on a one-for-one basis by the MRH 90 before 2010, when they will take over the maritime utility and vertical replenishment roles. The Army's 5th Aviation Regiment will receive 40 aircraft.

Deliveries of the first MRH 90s will take place in December 2007, and the Army expects to have the initial batch of 12 before the end of 2009, with final deliveries replacing the last of the Black Hawks in 2015.

New Zealand was also expected to approve the acquisition of eight MRH 90s to replace its Iroquois as this issue went to press.

C-130H HERC FUTURE UNCLEAR

Release of the new 2006-2016 Defence Capability Plan has not shed any further light on the future of the RAAF's 12 H model Hercules transport aircraft, with a decision yet to be taken under Phase 1 of Project Air 8000 on whether to replace or refurbish the fleet to extend its life-of-type out to 2020.

With a budget allocation of A\$750 million to A\$1 billion, any refurbishment

under Phase 1 would likely involve structural, hardware and software upgrades to permit the aircraft to operate effectively and safely in the global inter- and intra-theatre medium airlift roles.

Should outright replacement of the H models be the preferred option, the new aircraft would enter service between 2013 and 2015.

C130 HERCULES - VENERABLE WORKHORSE OF THE RAAF. PIC BRIAN HARTIGAN



UAV TRIALS FOR NORTH WEST SHELF

Trials of two high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) are scheduled to commence in September and run into October to test the feasibility of surveillance by UAV of the resource-rich maritime approaches of the North West Shelf, about 1500km north of Perth.

Led by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation and involving input from all three services of the Australian Defence Force plus the Joint Offshore Protection Command, the trial will be jointly conducted with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, with one of the company's Mariners (a derivative of its MQ-9 Predator B UAV) and the slightly larger Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk.

A Mariner UAV has already been modified specifically for the Australian trial, and will be fitted with sensor and communications suites tailored for the maritime broad-area surveillance mission.

The Global Hawk flights, however, will be simulated at Northrop Grumman's Cyber Warfare Integration Network (CWIN) facility in California. Factors such as sensor configurations, target types and densities, geographic information and flying conditions can be effectively simulated in the virtual CWIN.

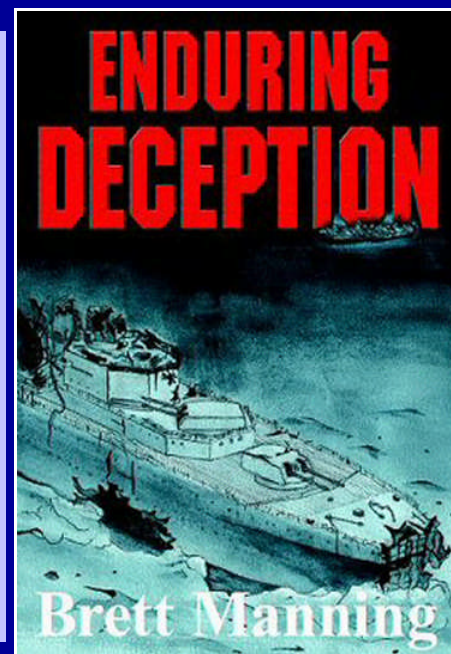
The trials will assess the potential of UAVs to operate under a joint, integrated surveillance capability in partnership with the RAN's new Armidale-class patrol boats, two of which will be homeported in the North West Shelf region at Dampier.

645 AUSTRALIAN SERVICEMEN LOST WITHOUT TRACE!

Incredible but TRUE. On the 19th of November 1941, HMAS Sydney vanished with all hands following an encounter with the German merchant raider, the Kormoran, off the Western Australian coast. 318 German sailors survived the battle and were taken prisoner but not a single Australian body was ever recovered. November will mark the 64th anniversary of this tragic loss that affected so many Australian families and still we are no closer to unravelling Australia's greatest unsolved maritime mystery.

In the first fictionalised account of the loss of HMAS Sydney, Author Brett Manning weaves the folklore that surrounds the Sydney's loss into a compelling tale of action, survival, conspiracy and political intrigue.

Manning's fiction novel paints HMAS Sydney as the unwitting victim of international deception on a grand scale.



"Manning revisits a couple of popular 'conspiracy theories' and creates a few of his own to paint a scenario as disturbing as it is enthralling."

Gary Warner
Geraldton Guardian Newspaper - 16 March 2005

"Manning's descriptive narrative puts the reader's mind on the bridge of several ships, so convincingly that you can all-but feel the salt air and smell the marine diesel..."

Brian Hartigan
Contact: Air, Land & Sea - 3 June 2005

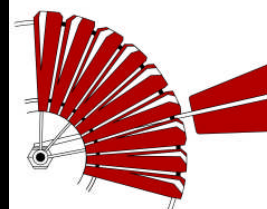
ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

Available online at www.17milewell.com.au

Or you can find your nearest stockist listed under "Participating Outlets" on our website. Alternatively, to receive your copy postage free, send your address and cheque for \$25.00 to:

17 Mile Well Publishing Pty Ltd at Po Box 703 GOSNELLS WA 6990

Those wishing to order by credit card can download an Order Form from the website.



17 Mile Well Publishing



NEWS IN BRIEF

EADS CRACKS AMERICA

Eurocopter has made a significant breakthrough in the American market with a contract for 352 UH-145 Light Utility Helicopters signed in June with the US military.

Under the deal, worth US\$3 billion, the aircraft will be built in the US by an EADS subsidiary, in partnership with Sikorsky Aircraft as well as WestWind Technologies and CAE USA.

YANKS BOMB AUSTRALIA

A US strategic bomber training program has commenced, with a B-2 Stealth Bomber flying in from Guam to unload on Delamere Air Weapons Range in the Northern Territory.

US Pacific Air Force personnel and aircraft will undertake a regular program of training visits to the NT that will include long-range navigation training as well as weapons-delivery sorties.



MORE PATROL BOATS ORDERED

DMO has order two additional Armidale class patrol boats from WA-based shipbuilder Austal on behalf of the Royal Australian Navy.

The order brings to 14 the total fleet of the 56 metre vessels which are expected to be fully delivered by late next year.

Meanwhile, the US Navy has extended its lease of Austal's fast catamaran 'WestPac Express' for a further 55 months starting in February next year. The ship has been part of the US Navy's Military Sealift Command fleet since 2001.

HEAVY TORPEDO APPROVED

The Government has approved commencement of full-rate production of the MK 48 Advanced Capability Common Broadband Advanced Sonar System (ADCAP CBASS) Mod 7 heavyweight torpedo.

A product of a joint engineering, development, manufacturing and support project between Australia and the US, the torpedo will be the primary weapon aboard both countries' submarines.

Modifications to HMAS Waller, the first submarine to be converted to handle and fire the new weapon, are being carried out during its current full-cycle docking.

Sea trials are scheduled for mid 2007.

HEADS UP

FIRST EXPORT ORDER FOR BUSHMASTER

Australia's first indigenously-developed armoured vehicle since WWII, the ADI Limited Bushmaster, has secured its first export order, with 25 vehicles bound for Dutch forces serving in southern Afghanistan.

Netherlands Ministry of Defence awarded the contract to Thales-ADI on 28 July to meet an urgent operational requirement for protected patrol vehicles, in part brought about by the increased threat from improvised explosive devices.

With Canberra approving the deal, the 25 Bushmasters will be pulled from the pool of 160-plus vehicles already delivered to the Australian Army, most of which are the Infantry Mobility Vehicle variant. An additional 25 vehicles will be added onto the ADF's order for 300 vehicles to compensate.

Bushmaster won the contract, the value of which has not been disclosed, against

competition from the Krauss-Maffei Wegmann Dingo 2, BAE Systems Land Systems OMC RG-31 Nyala and the Iveco Light Multipurpose Vehicle.

According to ADI, the Dutch Bushmasters will feature a number of improvements over the standard issue ADF version, including increased ballistic protection and a roof-mounted remote weapon station.

The contract calls for all 25 Bushmasters to be ready for transport to Afghanistan by 28 August, and operational with Dutch forces by mid September.



M113 UPGRADE UNDER FIRE

A serving Army officer currently on staff at the Australian Command and Staff College has outlined at what he sees as a lack of firepower on Australia's yet-to-be-upgraded fleet of M113AS4 armoured personnel carriers (APC).

In an article - 'Putting the Fight into Infantry Fighting Vehicles' - published in a recent issue of Australian Army Journal Lieutenant Colonel Mick Rizzoli says the upgraded APCs are just that, and can not be regarded as fighting vehicles. He says they possess a

distinct lack of firepower for the fighting role and, in fact, carry less weaponry than the older models on which they are based - a single .50cal machinegun replacing a .50cal and a .30cal.

Lieutenant Colonel Rizzoli asks, 'How can this vehicle meet the HNA [Hardened Networked Army] aim of hitting harder?'



WHO USES CARINTHIA...

AUSTRIAN ARMY
BELGIAN ARMY
BRITISH ARMY
CHILEAN ARMY
CYPRES ARMY
ESTONIAN ARMY
FINNISH ARMY
GERMAN ARMY
HUNGARIAN ARMY
INDIAN ARMY
NETHERLANDS ARMY
NORWEGIAN ARMY
PORTUGUESE ARMY
SLOVAKIAN ARMY
SLOVENIAN ARMY
SWEDISH ARMY
SWISS ARMY
TURKISH ARMY
U.A.E ARMY

NETHERLAND AIR FORCE
GERMAN AIR FORCE
FINNISH AIR FORCE
ROYAL AIR FORCE
PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE

SPECIALIST USERS

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE
ALPINE TROOPS - GERMANY
DANISH SPECIAL FORCES
ESTONIAN SPECIAL FORCES
FRENCH SPECIAL FORCES
GSG-9 GERMANY
GREEK SPECIAL FORCES
IRISH ARMY-EAST TIMOR
KSK - GERMANY
LATVIAN SPECIAL FORCES
ROMMANIAN SPECIAL FORCES
ROYAL MARINES
US SPECIAL FORCES - UZBEKISTAN
UK SAS



PEOPLE WHO KNOW.

CARINTHIA

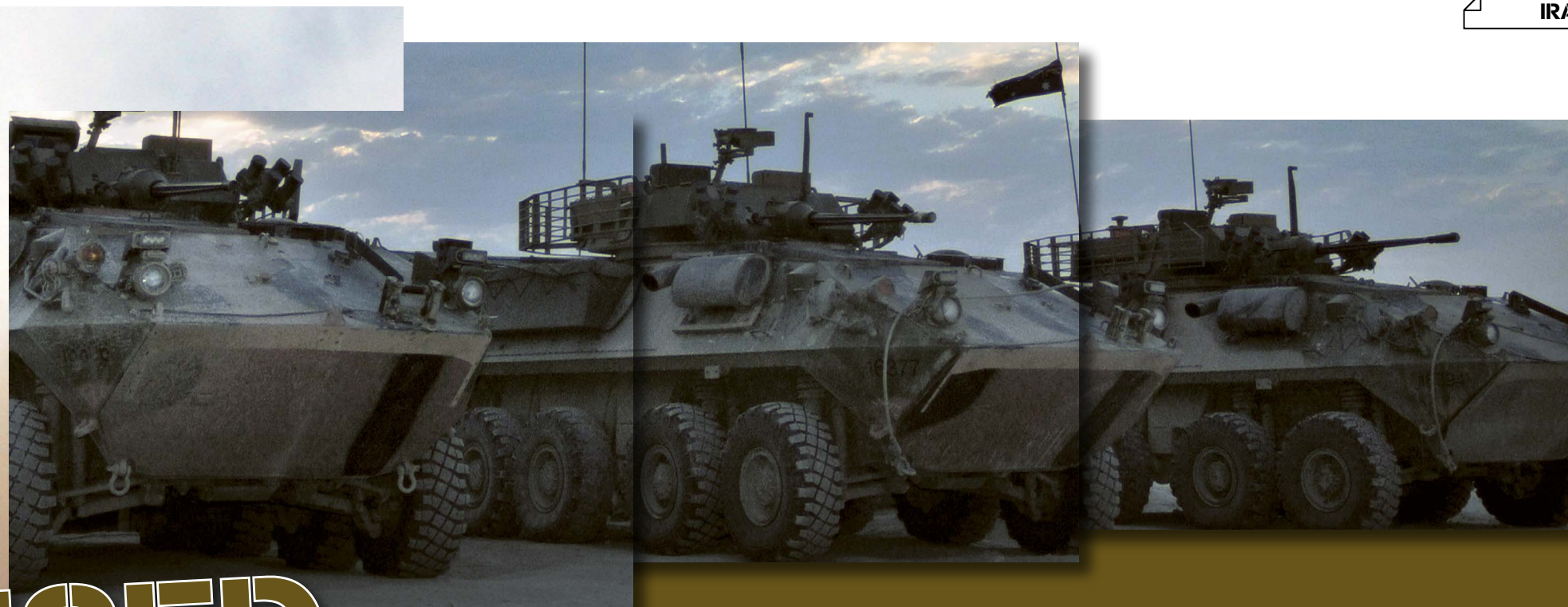
DISTRIBUTED IN AUSTRALIA BY
PREMIER DEFENCE AGENCIES PTY LTD
02 9708 2475 INFO@PREMIERDEFENCE.COM.AU
WWW.PREMIERDEFENCE.COM.AU

Find, like, share at **facebook**

YouTube

issuu

Pinterest



REFOCUSED AND

AUSTRALIAN TROOPS
ON THE MOVE



THE BATTLE GROUP AT TALLIL AIR BASE WILL BE SIMILAR IN SIZE AND STRUCTURE TO THE AL MUTHANNA TASK GROUP

REASSIGNED

Less than 18 months after its inception and with its assignment successfully complete, the Al Muthanna Task Group will be broken up and replaced by a new battlegroup based in southern Iraq.

WORDS BRIAN HARTIGAN PICS ADF

ommencing operations on Anzac Day last year, the Al Muthanna Task Group, with its 40 ASLAV (Australian Light Armoured Vehicles), rolled into the southern Iraqi province to provide a secure area of operations for a contingent of Japanese military engineers.

Now, Prime Minister John Howard has announced a change of focus for ADF personnel in southern Iraq with a battle group to be based at Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriah.

Mr Howard told parliament that the ADF contingent would relocate from its base in Al Muthanna province to the coalition air base at Tallil, 80km to the south-east, in the province of Dhi Qar.

The announcement came after Iraq's Prime Minister, Nuri al-Maliki, said the Iraqi forces in Al Muthanna were ready to assume responsibility for security in the province.

Defence Minister Brendan Nelson elaborated on the plan saying that some of the Australian troops currently serving in Iraq would move to the basic training center in Tallil while others would go to the counterinsurgency unit at Taji, about 20km north of Baghdad. Others would move south to the Saudi border, to provide mentoring, training and support for Iraqi border patrols, while still others could remain in Al Muthanna Province to provide backup to the Iraqi security forces the Australians had trained there.

The Japanese Iraq Reconstruction Support Group, which the Australians were initially deployed to support and protect, have completed their mission and pulled out of the country.

Mr Howard said the battle group at Tallil Air Base would be similar in size and structure to the Al Muthanna Task Group.

"It will comprise two combat teams – one cavalry combat team drawn from 2/14LHR, and one motorised infantry combat team, drawn from 2RAR."

The Prime Minister said that from its base in Tallil, the ADF would contribute to coalition operations in south-east Iraq in Operation Overwatch – the coalition effort to support the handover of primary responsibility for security to Iraqi authorities.

"Our forces will have two responsibilities. The first will be to continue to engage with Iraqi security forces and local authorities, building on the relationships we have developed, and the successful ADF training and mentoring program that has been under way since April last year," Prime Minister Howard said.

The second responsibility would be to support Iraqi authorities in crisis situations.

"Should situations develop that are beyond the capacity of the Iraqi security forces to resolve, the Iraqi Government may call on the Coalition to provide them with back-up.

"This could involve the ADF providing support in areas such as communications, command and control, intelligence and surveillance and, in extreme cases, through direct military action."

While Mr Howard maintained that intelligence assessments indicate the areas in which the ADF will be operating in its new role have among the lowest threat levels in comparison to the rest of Iraq, he did admit that the ADF's new role will involve higher risk.

"The Government is keenly aware of the risks associated with this new mission and will ensure that the ADF has the resources it needs to carry out its tasks as safely and effectively as possible."

The new Australian force will also incorporate the ADF training team of about 30 personnel that began training and mentoring Iraqi instruction personnel at the Iraqi Army Basic Training Centre at Tallil in June.

2/14LHR (QMI) (2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry)) is a composite regular/reserve unit based at Enoggerra in Queensland. Equipped with ASLAVs, it is the oldest continuously serving unit in the Australian Army.

2RAR (2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment) is a regular Army infantry unit based in Townsville.

Tallil Air Base, located near An Nasiriyah, 310km southeast of Baghdad, is the second-largest airfield in the country after Baghdad International. During the first Gulf War

in 1991, the busy fighter base with two parallel runways was attacked by coalition forces, destroying many aircraft but leaving the runways largely intact. Saddam did not use the airbase again after the war because it was within the 'southern no-fly zone' patrolled by the Americans.

Today, the base is a key Coalition air hub and ground logistical supply point.

The area was the scene of heavy fighting during the combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom in early 2003.

**TALLIL AIR BASE,
NEAR AN NASIRYAH,
IS THE SECOND-
LARGEST AIRFIELD
IN THE COUNTRY
AFTER BAGHDAD
INTERNATIONAL**



Financial Advice @ a not-for-profit price

"Fees, fees & more fees where can I get a financial planner that doesn't charge HUGE FEES ? "



**Over a 20 year financial plan,
FEES can reduce your WEALTH
by up to \$21,694***

APS Financial Planning is a not-for-profit financial service provider. Ensure you look at the difference fees can make to your financial plan - your financial freedom.

*This compares two \$50,000 investments with set up costs (including plan & entry fees) of \$495 for APS Financial Planning & \$2,000 for a rival financial planning company, an 8% p.a. gross return with 0.6% & 1% ongoing charges respectively. All fees are deducted from the gross investment before commencement. No returns or capital values are guaranteed and any change in investment rates or fees would vary the outcome. For further details on APS Financial Planning's fee structure, please contact APS Financial Planning Pty Ltd to obtain a Financial Services Guide. APS Financial Planning Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of APS Benefits. APS Financial Planning is a Corporate Authorised Representative of Futuro Financial Services Pty Ltd. AFSL No. 238478.

Toll Free 1300 131 809



Australian Public Service Benevolent Society
Exclusive to Government & the Public Sector



All Purpose - One Stop Loan Service

Borrow up to \$6,000 @12.4% p.a. unsecured

Don't pay 16% or even 25% on your personal loan

Consolidate your expensive credit card debts

Don't pay establishment FEES

No penalties for paying out your loan early

Use our Mortgage Broking Service FREE

**Call APS Benefits on 1300 131 809 or
visit our web site on www.apsbs.com.au**



Membership of APS Benefits automatically entitles you to a funeral benefit issued by APS Benefits. Consider our PDS (available on our web site) before making any decision to become a member. Warning: The comparison rate and nominal rate are identical. Interest rate calculated using a \$1,000 to \$6,000 unsecured loan on a 1-3 year term based on fortnightly repayments @ 12.4% interest p.a. A \$40 top-up fee is not included in the comparison rate. A comparison rate schedule is available from APS Benefits or our web site at www.apsbs.com.au

ON THE GROUND IN IRAQ

The following is a round-up from a variety of sources about the popularity and effectiveness of a wide range of weapons and kit used by the US Army and US Marine Corps since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in March 2003. It calls upon some formal government reports and some not-so-formal anecdotal information. In the case of the latter, only themes that were consistent and from more than one source have been included.

HERE'S WHAT WORKED AND WHAT DIDN'T

WEAPONS

☹️ **M16A2/A4** – The very fine sand reportedly caused jamming problems, which may or may not be confined to the M16. Many soldier reports of malfunctions were attributed to improper or inadequate cleaning and preventative maintenance.

Some reported the M16A2 unwieldy for operations in confined spaces such as the backs of armoured vehicles and in urban terrain.

☹️ **M4 CARBINE** – Troops were pretty happy with the overall utility of the M4 5.56mm carbine, and especially liked its compactness for urban ops and the ability to mount various sights and optics. Preferred over the M16A2, although once fitted with all the sights and optics, ends up weighing as much as its predecessor.

To increase the available firepower, one US MC division recommended that its 9mm service pistol be replaced by the M4.

The most consistent criticisms of the M4 centred around its lack of effective range in comparison to the enemy's AK-47 (7.62mm) and in long-range firefights of 400-500m or more across open terrain. The Army's 101st Airborne Division has issued the old

7.62mm M14 at squad (section) level to overcome this problem.

The 5.56mm rounds of the M4 also seemed to lack the ability to drop an enemy with anything other than head or chest shots.

☹️ **M249 Squad Automatic Weapon** – The US version of the Minimi 5.56mm light machine gun, the M249 received mixed reviews, although most thought that it fulfilled the role of squad machine gun well. The M249E was particularly well suited to urban ops.

Overall the weapon provided the required close-quarter firepower at squad level, its moderate size facilitating ease of use in urban terrain.

The soft fabric ammo pouches were preferred over the original green plastic boxes, although the 200-round fabric pouch tended to let the ammo get twisted and tangled.

☹️ **M240B** – The Marines have only just discovered the MAG-58 7.62mm machinegun (Yanks call it the M240) and, not surprisingly, love it to death. Nothing but praise for this weapon: hard hitting, reliable and capable of dropping enemy with ease and punching through cinderblock building structures common throughout the theatre. Can also shoot through doors and some walls as required.

IRAQ FACTS

- It is estimated that at least 70 per cent of all US casualties in Iraq have been caused by IEDs of some kind.
- Estimated at 20,000-30,000 strong, the insurgency is made up of around 90 per cent Iraqi Sunnis, with the other 10 per cent consisting of foreign fighters and criminal groups.
- Combat ranges during fire fights in which small arms are used are short – generally less than 100m and often 20-30m. Even sniping ranges are generally only 200-300m.
- On average, each US Marine spends around US\$400 on individually purchased items of kit before deployment.

Frontline feedback on the equipment US forces use in Iraq – from the troops doing the fighting



☹️ **SHOTGUN 12 GAUGE** – Used predominantly for door breaching and room clearing. A shorter, handier version of the Mossberg or Benelli was recommended by some.

☹️ **XM107** – Been around for some years but the Barrett 12.7mm anti-materiel rifle continues to impress, cited by one report as the 'most useful piece of equipment for the urban fight'. Regularly used to engage both vehicular targets and personnel out to 1400m. Effect on target was said to be a major psychological factor, as the following testifies:

"My spotter positively identified a target at 1400 metres, carrying an RPG, on a water tower. I engaged the target. The top half of the torso fell forward of the tower and the lower portion remained on the tower." – 325th Battalion sniper, US Army, Iraq 2003

☹️ **M2 12.7mm HMG** – Praise all round for the venerable M2 .50 cal heavy machine gun. Performed well in the harsh environment, although vehicle-mounted weapons in pintle mounts suffered from poor accuracy. The 'ultimate fight stopper' one report declared, 'puts their dicks in the dirt every time.'

☹️ **M9 PISTOL** – US troops are not particularly fond of their Beretta 9mm pistol; they invariably reported that it lacked sufficient stopping power. There were numerous reports that the magazine

was troublesome, as the spring had lost its tension (probably because the troops carried a fully loaded mag, which compresses the spring over time to the extent it loses much of its tension). Feed problems were thus experienced. Troops were reportedly not satisfied with advice from higher up the food chain that they ought to only load 10 rounds into the magazine instead of the full 15 rounds.

Some Marine units have received new and rebuilt Model 1911 .45 calibre semi-auto handguns, much to the envy of other units. This gun can be relied upon to put a man down with a torso hit.

Many personnel authorised to carry a sidearm have switched to the M4 as a personal-defence weapon.

☹️ **M14** – Being re-issued to many soldiers in bulk as the 'M21', mostly to special forces operators. Modifications to this classic semi-auto include lightweight synthetic stock and red-dot sight. Very reliable in the sandy/dusty environment.

☹️ **M24 Sniper Rifle** – Issued mostly in .308 but some in .300 Winchester Magnum. Reliable and combat effective. There is a rumour doing the rounds that one Marine sniper racked up more than 100 kills with his M24.

☹️ **Blast Weapons** – Explosives, grenades, TOW 2, AT-4 one-man assault weapon, C4, Bangalore torpedoes and Shoulder-

launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon (SMAW) proved highly effective against holed-up groups and enemy formations en masse.

Grenades still work well and do the job intended, but the enemy (as all enemies have done since Gallipoli) has a habit of throwing grenades back, so troops have learned to wait a few seconds after pulling the pin and throwing at the last instant.

The US Marines' SMAW became an essential weapon, with consistent reports that the Marines are using a thermobaric round (uses atmospheric oxygen instead of built-in oxidizer) with devastating effect on enemy hiding in buildings. Some Marine SMAW gunners learned where to hit a structure so that the entire building would collapse, mincing insurgents firing from the rooftop and within.

On a single day in early November 2004 during the second battle for Fallujah, Lance Corporal Derek Fetterolf of India Coy, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, destroyed no less than 12 buildings with 14 SMAW rounds. One Marine disintegrated a one-storey masonry building with a single thermobaric round fired from 100m.

Marine Corps AH-1W Cobra helicopter gunships have used, with good effect, a new version of the Hellfire air-to-ground missile fitted with a thermobaric warhead.

"THERE IS NO ONE TECHNIQUE FOR HOUSE CLEARING. SOMETIMES I'LL BE NOISY TO DRAW FIRE, SOMETIMES I'LL SNEAK IN. I'LL FEINT AT THE FRONT DOOR AND ENTER THROUGH THE KITCHEN. TRAINING GIVES YOU THE BASICS. AFTER THAT, YOU HAVE TO ADAPT." – SERGEANT TIMOTHY CONNORS, ALPHA COY, 1ST BATTALION, 8TH MARINE REGIMENT, USMC, AUGUST 2005



WEAPON CLEANING

Comments about the standard-issue CLP lubricant were not good, with the talcum-powder-like sand seemingly attracted to wherever it lay on the weapon. A product called MiliTec was allegedly a better solution for lubricating individual and crew-served weapons.

BODY ARMOUR

The key message here was – never leave home without it. Body armour gave the troops added confidence and definitely saved lives. Armoured vehicle crews were also known to suit up.

According to US Army Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General James Lovelace, when US Army forces crossed the berm from Kuwait into Iraq in March 2003, all soldiers had some form of body armour but only 10 per cent had the new Interceptor Body Armour (IBA). By March 2006, that figure had changed with the fielding of more than 750,000 sets of IBA and 173,000 Deltoid Axillary Protectors.

NVG

Standard-issue night vision gear and infrared equipment is proving very popular to the extent that US forces claim they 'own the night'.

COMS

US troops liked the new Blue Force Tracker locating device, which pinpoints the location of every soldier in the area carrying a transmitter.

Satellite communications was often the only form of reliable comms in the field and appreciated by all.

CLOTHING ETC

In addition to the general soldier gripes (no matter what army) about the standard-issue cammo uniforms not being cool enough, hard wearing enough etc, there was a consistent call for pockets on the sleeves.

The current-issue Kevlar helmet saved lives, with one field report citing a case where a Marine corporal was hit fair in the front of his helmet by a 7.62x39mm round. The Kevlar structure absorbed the bullet's impact and the Marine escaped injury.

EYE PROTECTION

Soldiers appreciated the WileyX sunglasses, although they fogged up fairly quickly from sweating and the lenses scratched easily. Apparently, cleaning the lenses with toothpaste prevents them fogging up.

GLOVES AND PADDING

The Nomex gloves were not overly popular; too thick and hot for the prevailing climate. Soldiers often purchased their own. Gloves also help to keep soldiers' hands relatively clean, helping to ward off disease and illness.

Apparently, common baby wipes are excellent for maintaining personal hygiene.

The 'turtle shell' knee and elbow pads were popular and prevented injury and discomfort, but could restrict movement and circulation.

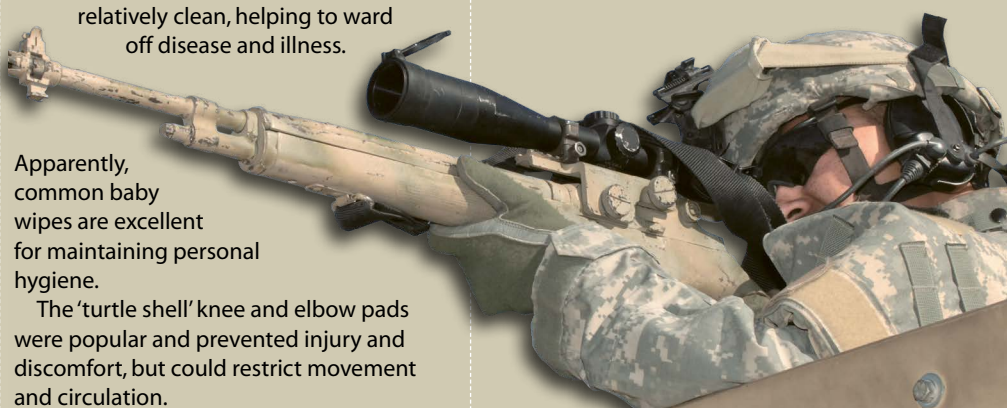


UAVS

At any one moment during the night, US forces have up to 200 unmanned aerial vehicles patrolling the skies to detect and track targets operating under the cover of darkness, on highways, city streets and in alleyways, able to pick up every cat, dog and human venturing outdoors. They are even able to identify insurgents carrying weapons.

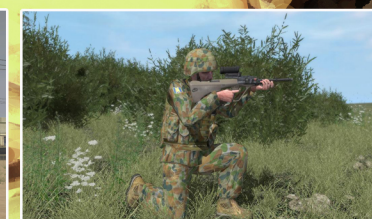
TRANSPORT

Some convoys were huge, containing as many as 75 trucks. The US Army's ageing truck fleets are experiencing excessive wear and decreased reliability as a result of operational tempo – five to six times that encountered during peacetime.



VBS2TM.COM

High Fidelity Military Simulation - Affordable COTS Technology



- The VBS 3D engine provides large (up to 100x100km) terrain areas at high levels of detail.
- Includes networking capability to support large multi-user sessions.
- Play as Infantry or drive or fly any vehicle (for combined arms or convoy training).
- Artificially Intelligent semi-automated forces add realism to the battlespace.
- After-Action Review capability allows any mission to be recorded and replayed.
- Forces can be controlled and mission elements modified in real time through the VBS Instructor Interface.
- An advanced Offensive Fire Support simulation is available (providing mortars through to MLRS).
- Currently employed as a collective training solution by the Australian Army, USMC and US National Guard.



VBS1TM has a wide range of Add-on packs available which include:

- Terrain Packs 1
- Terrain Packs 2
- Terrain Packs 3 (New)
- USARMY Pack 1 (New)
- Australian Defence Force Pack 1 & New ADF2 Just Released.
- OPFOR Pack 1
- USMC Pack 1
- US Special Forces Pack 1
- Animal Pack 1
- AAR 3 and Observer Modules
- UAV Module
- Convoy Trainer Module and Instructor Interface (New)
- Artillery Module (New)
- Command Engine Module (New)
- Development Tools to create all models and worlds

More information can be found at our website.

VBS1TM is available for purchase from our on-line store at:

www.virtualbattlespace.com

VBS1TM also presents Australians In Vietnam:

<http://www.australiansinvietnam.com>

Copyright © 2006 Bohemia Interactive Studio. All Rights Reserved.
"VBS1"TM is a trademark of Bohemia Interactive Studio.

www.VBS2.com

**Bohemia
Interactive**
AUSTRALIA

SOLOMON ISLANDS

THE BIG PICTURE

'IF OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD IS NOT SAFE, THEN NEITHER ARE WE'

WORDS BRIAN HARTIGAN PICS ADF AND AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE



Less than three years after the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) began – and seemed to be going so well – large parts of Honiara were razed in a mob rampage that also left more than 30 peacekeepers injured and a peace-starved community scarred anew.

Spark for the destruction was rooted in long-held political and racial prejudices beyond, perhaps, the comprehension of most outsiders.

But, as we have witnessed all too often in the recent past, the Solomon Islands are not alone when it comes to corruption, civil unrest and the rule of lawless men with guns.

One man better positioned than most to explain Australia's involvement must surely be Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty. In an address to the Security in Government 2006: Regional Policing for National Security conference on 9 May 2006, Commissioner Keelty outlined the Government's, AFP's and his own

philosophy on Australia's engagement in regional affairs.

"I think we all accept that weak and failed states can have an enormous impact on our own community. For example, we have seen in the past how some small Pacific states have been used as money-laundering centres for Russian organised crime. We are yet to unravel the role, if any, of Taiwanese and Chinese influences behind the recent violence in the Solomons. These complex influences are exacerbating an already difficult relationship between the Malaitans and the Guadalcanalese. To what extent, if any, is Chinese organised crime influencing the corruption of the PNG government or its officials?

Add to the mix the recent violence between the East Timor Defence Force (F-FDTL) and the East Timor Police Force (PNTL) and what that means to the balance of power in the East Timor Government.

As the Attorney General stated this morning – if our neighbourhood is not safe, then neither are we.

September 11, the bombings in Bali, the Jakarta hotel bombing, the bombing

outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta and the Indian Ocean tsunami, all happened outside of our borders, yet they touched the lives of Australians and dramatically altered government and community expectations on how to deal with threats to our society.

The protection of vulnerable nations within our region has become a greater priority for government. This in turn has profoundly affected policing in Australia and the context of Australian and regional policing, particularly in the past five years.

The AFP now plays a key role in the Australian Government framework which recognises the critical importance of assisting regional law enforcement to build a sustainable capacity to develop and deliver effective, efficient and accountable police services.

This is very different to the role security played on the government's agenda a decade ago. Where policies of the past focused heavily on health and education – and rightly so – we have seen a shift in emphasis to security, especially during the past two Federal elections.

So, we as a security community, can not afford to be parochial, or to work as silos in respect to national security.

In some ways we are already well down the track.

The Bali bombings engaged DVI [disaster-victim identification] experts from all jurisdictions. And RAMSI engages all jurisdictions.

What I would like to highlight is that the majority of our work in the regions is not an AFP solution – it is an Australian policing initiative towards which the Australian policing community is contributing.

As we all know, the Asia-Pacific is an incredibly diverse region, comprising 53 countries and more than 60 per cent of the world's population.

Each of these countries has its own political, economic and social structures – often incorporating different cultures, languages, beliefs, values and practices – as well as levels of wealth and development.

But despite differences in character and composition, the communities of each nation share a common desire for peace and justice.

Crime represents one of the clearest manifestations of these principles being violated. Illegal activities such as fraud, corruption, organised crime, terrorism or illicit drug trade come at a high social and economic cost.

Unfortunately today, no society is immune to these forms of crime. If we look at the Asia-Pacific, it is known as a major production and distribution hub for illicit drugs. It is also a preferred base for international syndicates involved in the trafficking of human beings, especially women and children, for forced and exploitative labour. And it has been chosen as a base by many organised crime groups – including terrorist organisations such as Jemaah Islamiyah.

One of the great concerns about organised criminal groups is that they tend to target weak and vulnerable countries struggling with poor governance structures and social, political and/or economic instability.

Such conditions allow these groups to set up and conduct operations with relative

ease and a substantially reduced risk of detection than would otherwise be the case in a strong, functional society."

In his speech, Commissioner Keelty goes on to explain the size and function of the AFP's International Deployment Group – set up three years ago and comprising about 500 personnel, now engaged in a range of missions in the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Nauru – and other policing engagements across the globe, before moving on to discuss the Solomon Islands specifically.

"In the case of the Solomon's, it has been one step forward, two steps back. For instance, until three weeks ago, we had the first elections successfully completed against a backdrop of relative peace and calm. There had also been a significant positive impact economically.

During the times of the greatest civil unrest, the Solomon Island economy is estimated to have contracted by 14.3 per cent in 2000. The Central Bank of Solomon Islands estimated in its 2004 Annual Report that the economy had grown by 5.6 per cent in 2003 and again by 5.5 per cent in 2004 – the fastest rates of growth since the early 1990s.

More than 3700 weapons and 300,000 rounds of ammunition had been seized, more than 7000 arrests made and more than 10,800 charges laid.

But it was more than that – women and children had begun to return to the streets.



MORE THAN 3700 WEAPONS AND 300,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION HAD BEEN SEIZED, MORE THAN 7000 ARRESTS MADE AND MORE THAN 10,800 CHARGES LAID

This is an example of how the changing work of the AFP extends beyond law enforcement outcomes to impact social and cultural outcomes.

But of course, all of that has now changed. We need to monitor the economic development of the Solomons over the next 12 months to understand the impact of the most recent violence and the loss of local business in the capital, Honiara.

We eventually need to reach the goal where the people of these countries acknowledge that their quality of life and their future has improved because of our presence.

On that score, I caution that some of the observations and criticisms made over the course of the past two weeks have been made by people with vested interests that are not always declared or are done with 20/20 hindsight.

There are many examples around the world where failed states have reached

programs are fast becoming the largest investment by government into the AFP. As I mentioned earlier, the cost of this means that other areas of public policy may not be receiving the same level of attention from government, which places a heavy onus upon us to understand and measure our performance.

Flinders University and the Australian National University are conducting a joint study on our work in the Solomon Islands, because, despite political differences, it has always been my view that when we enter a foreign country we do not impose our own values and systems of judgment upon them. Instead, we need to listen and learn how they do their business on their patch.

What have we learnt from listening? What does the Solomon Islands need? What does East Timor need?

One key lesson is that policing in the regions requires long-term, sustainable help.

solutions in the region require a long-term commitment and plan.

Bomb-making techniques are widely known. They've been taught in a number of training camps around the world, and a number of people have undergone that training. That's one of the focuses, not only of the AFP and the Indonesian National Police, but of police forces right throughout the region – and, indeed, intelligence agencies around the region.

I have deliberately focused on regional and international efforts of the AFP in addressing security in the Australian community. I have avoided talking about the domestic work in security by the AFP because, outside of aviation security, much of that work involves matters currently before the courts.

In addressing the regional and international work of the AFP, I want



the first stages of governance by having successful elections, but the population needs to take ownership and interest in the outcomes. You can see from the pictures here that many in the Solomons community took pride in tearing apart what had been slowly built up in recent years.

More disturbing is the violence used against RAMSI personnel and equipment reminiscent of the very actions from which the people of the Solomons were rescued only three years ago. [Now] we need the thousands of Solomon Islanders who danced and sung their way through the very public celebrations of the first anniversary of RAMSI to speak out against what has happened.

The longer the security situation remains unstable, the less likely that foreign investment will be attracted to Honiara and the people will remain worse off because money will need to be poured into security instead of health, education and employment.

But what difference, if any, have we made in the Solomons and how do we measure that?

Again, to me, these are important questions because the capacity-building

Australian policing is not the only option – we must be there in partnership, paying particular attention to the cultural and social differences to our way of policing.

In East Timor we are still addressing the security issue. However, there is little economic investment and we still don't have occupation for the youth. If you do the policing right you can then not only create security, but create other things that can benefit the community well beyond what policing can do on its own.

The point I am making is that with all of the challenges we face in our world today, we need to recognise that from a more strategic perspective, this period represents a time in our history when we must understand the long-term nature of the problem and manage our expectations of the time it will take to turn things around.

RAMSI is a key example of trying to provide long-term solutions. Another timely example is the AFP's full-time presence in Indonesia. The AFP and the Indonesian National Police (INP) continue to work closely in the fight against transnational crime and terrorism.

The discovery, last week, of more suicide bombs in Indonesia highlights why policing

to emphasise that we are working in collaboration with many Australian agencies such as AusAID, DFAT and Defence, as well as our international partners. These are, as I say, long-term commitments.

The vulnerability for the security of the community caused by weak or failed states in our immediate region cannot be understated. Exploitation of their jurisdiction is but one side of the story – we also see many examples of the exploitation of their natural resources without regard for future environmental sustainability.

While the task is complex and a difficult one for us, it has been an area of significant growth for us. Mindful of that, the AFP has gone to some lengths to ensure that we are accountable through assessment and evaluation conducted by experts outside our organisation.

Others will talk more about domestic security but, in a globalised world, from financial transactions to international travel, we are only ever going to be as secure as the weakest link in our region. We understand that and we want to work with others to deal with it.

The consequences of walking away or ignoring it are not worth contemplating."

THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

WHILE HONIARA SMOULDER, DILI FLARES UP



As a mere observer, one can but shake one's head in disbelief at the cycle of mayhem in our neighbourhood in the recent past – earthquakes, tsunami, cyclones – bombings, riots and civil unrest – what the hell is going on?

On top of all that, there were the 'normal' operations – Catalyst, Slipper, Anode, Chiron, Astute, Acolyte – the list goes on – and on.

Surely our soldiers, sailors and airmen must be asking, when will it end and, what next?

I know it isn't the same individuals deploying on each occasion but, as a collective, our Defence Force is working harder than ever, with no sign of letup.

The latest (at least at time of writing) task for our hard-working service personnel was a familiar stomping ground for many, East Timor – or Timor-Leste – that saw almost 3000 personnel rushed to the aid of a country sliding into anarchy.

With the capital Dili burning and a large part of the population fleeing to the hills, the ADF prepared itself for the inevitable.



Brigadier Mick Slater, overall commander of the international operation, was disappointed that the good, honourable, hard-working people under his command didn't seem to get a fair shake from an over-impatient media, especially in the early stages. He was quoted in some circles as complaining that media outlets showed footage of a soldier standing by while homes burned, but failed to show that the soldier was actually guarding a fireman going about his business.

Channel 9's Jessica Rowe probably regretted probing the brigadier on the security situation and the necessity to have armed guards standing by.

"Jessica, I feel quite safe, yes. But not because I've got these armed soldiers behind me that were put there by your stage manager here to make it look good."

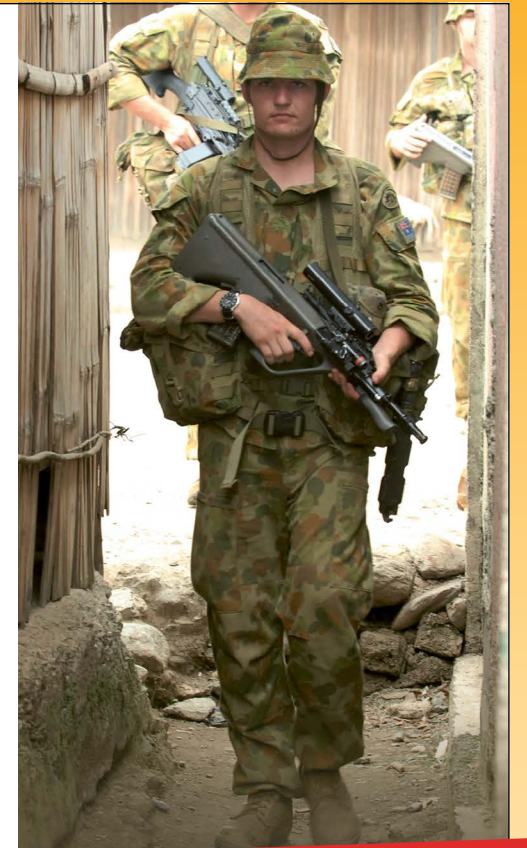
On this front – as on the task at hand – we feel Brigadier Slater fairly won the battle.

The Australian-led mission, commanded by Brigadier Michael Slater, included about 2600 ADF personnel, approximately 1900 of which were ground troops who actually landed in Dili to patrol its streets. These ground forces were quickly engaged in the ultimately successful security operations in the capital.

While the initial concern and focus was on cantoning the heavily armed military and police forces, with that achieved, attention was quickly turned to suppressing and eliminating the communal and gang violence that had taken hold.

By late July (when this report was compiled) the situation in Timor-Leste had been substantively stabilised and Australia's contribution to another mission had been scaled back.

While we have not and will not – according to Foreign Minister Alexander Downer – turned our back on our near neighbour, the majority of our military forces have since returned to their bases in Australia to prepare for the next push – wherever that may be.



THE DEPLOYMENT TO TIMOR-LESTE INCLUDED

- > an infantry battalion group based on the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment – 3RAR;
- > a commando company group from the 4th Battalion (Commando), The Royal Australian Regiment – 4RAR (Cdo);
- > 33 M113 armoured personnel carriers and supporting armoured vehicles from B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment;
- > C-130 Hercules aircraft and crew;
- > eight Black Hawk helicopters and crews;
- > two Sea King helicopters and crews;
- > a detachment of Royal Australian Air Force Air Field Defence Guards;
- > amphibious landing ship HMAS Kanimbla – in Dili harbour to provide medical, communication, accommodation and other support facilities as required;
- > amphibious landing ship HMAS Manoora;
- > heavy landing ship HMAS Tobruk;
- > landing craft heavy HMAS Balikpapan;
- > landing craft heavy HMAS Labuan;
- > landing craft heavy HMAS Tarakan;
- > guided missile frigate HMAS Adelaide; and,
- > auxiliary oiler HMAS Success.

Many of the soldiers who would form the core of the force to be deployed were already in Townsville training in preparation for future, as yet theoretical, combined-arms missions and were quickly re-focused for what looked to be an inevitable new operation.

Following receipt of a formal and inevitably necessary request for outside assistance, the Australian Government gave the green light late on Wednesday 24 May and our troops were ready, eager and waiting to respond.

With the diplomatic go-ahead in place, Vice Chief of the Defence Force, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie travelled to Dili the following day to negotiate terms and conditions for the deployment.

As these talks were taking place, forward elements of the Australian force secured Comorro airfield to facilitate the landing of follow-on forces and logistic support.

Of most serious concern to the deploying service personnel and their leaders as they hit the ground was the fact that the army of Timor-Leste and its police force were on opposite sides of the violence, both heavily armed and mostly trained by Australia.

In one incident where the two sides had come together, it is alleged that up to nine police officers were killed and 27 (including two UN officers) injured after surrendering to the army.

Australian forces worked quickly and

closely with the Timorese Government, their international partners and the feuding factions to stabilise the security situation on the ground and facilitate the separation of the various conflicting groups.

Shortly after the Aussies arrived, the army and police retreated to their respective barracks and were disarmed.

Unfortunately, that left the streets of Dili to the lawless gangs who seized the opportunity to create mayhem in the city that had already seen too much trouble in its recent history. As the city burned, its citizens prayed for Australian success – again.

But despite the impatience of the media on the ground, the situation was brought under control relatively quickly, calmly and without further bloodshed (at least 30 people had been killed to this point).

Australian Federal Police officers also deployed in numbers and, patrolling with the Army in what may be a formula for the future, assisted with the eventual restoration of law and order.

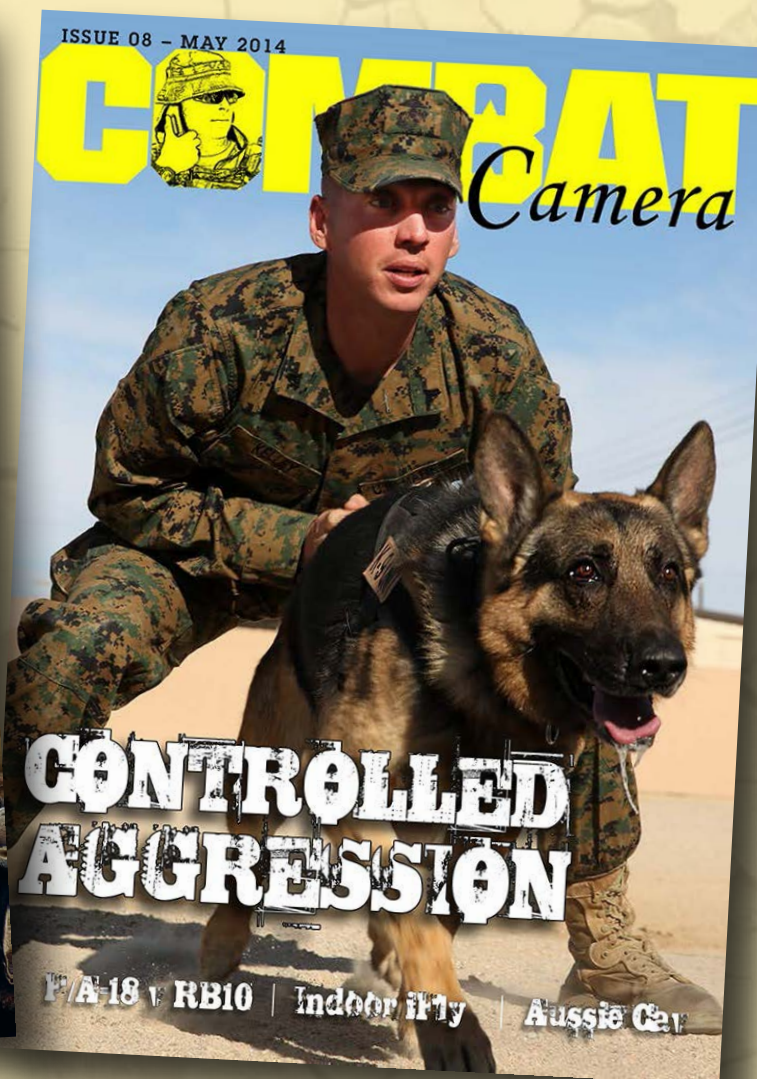
New Zealand and Malaysian defence personnel and police also deployed to give the operation an international, regional flavour.

Former colonial masters, Portugal, also deployed heavily armed special riot police – the Guarda Nacional Republicana, or GNR – which complimented, and cooperated with the Australian-led force, but did not come under its command.

SHORTLY AFTER THE AUSSIES ARRIVED, THE ARMY AND POLICE RETREATED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE BARRACKS AND WERE DISARMED



BOTH ELECTRONIC BOTH FREE



IF YOU ALREADY ENJOY
THESE TWO GREAT
E-MAGAZINES

PLEASE ENCOURAGE ALL YOUR
COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS
(INCLUDING ON FACEBOOK) TO
REGISTER FOR THEIR OWN FREE
SUBSCRIPTION VIA

WWW.AUSSIECOMBAT.COM

C-17 GLOBEMASTER III

HEAVYLIFT
PREVIEW

WORDS CONTACT & USAF PICS USAF

In what was both a practice demonstration of Australia's weakness in strategic air-lift capacity and an excellent rehearsal for Australia's soon-to-be up-rated ability in the field, US Pacific Command sent a small part of its airlift capability to help out on Operation Stabilise.

At the request of the Australian Government, two C-17 Globemaster IIIs from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, first moved equipment and troops from the Solomon Islands back to Australia before flying to Townsville and on to Darwin to help position Aussie assets in East Timor.

Planning and executing the real-world missions with the American aircraft was a welcome training opportunity for the Australian military personnel.

"We are actually getting four C-17s online next year," Warrant Officer Vivianne Northover, Joint Movement Control Office at RAAF Base Townsville, said.

"This enables us to actually get hands-on practice with the C-17, which will enable us to transition more easily next year when they come online."

In two days, the two giants moved more than 500 tonnes of supplies, equipment and personnel.

Australia is the first country outside the US to buy C-17. The \$2 billion deal includes four aircraft (at a nominal \$220 million each) plus spares, training and long-term support.



CONTACT

AIR, LAND & SEA

SIGSAUER
SP 2022

Sig Sauer's SP 2022 9mm semi-automatic pistol delivers optimum safety, reliability and accuracy at an affordable price. Superior quality materials, including hardened stainless steel, carbon steel and special barrel steel are used to resist corrosion. A serrated finger rest on the trigger guard allows for better control when firing. Grips have been refined to enhance retention and provide faster, safer decocking. The chamber indicator offers both visual and tactile control of the gun status. Also the diverse variety of trigger sizes and systems, grips and floorplates, as well as calibre options, accommodate individual needs and preferences. Other notable enhancements include easier disassembly for cleaning and maintenance and a built-in transponder (optional) that stores vital information about the pistol. The Sig Sauer SP 2022 is also equipped with a Picatinny rail for optional laser/light-modules.

The French Police recently purchased 250,000 Sig Sauer SP 2022's.

Sig Sauer is distributed in Australia by XTEK.

Specifications

Calibre:	9mm
Magazine capacity:	15 rounds
Weight incl. magazine:	760g
Length:	187mm
Height:	144mm
Width:	35mm
Barrel length:	98mm



XTEK LTD



THE CATERPILLAR CLUB

WORDS KEN WRIGHT

In the world of aviation, there is a very exclusive club that costs nothing to join and has no committee meetings, offices or staff. Anyone can join. It is a club with just one simple condition for membership – the applicant must have saved his or her own life in a genuine emergency descent by parachute.

It was such a terrible tragedy that a suitable parachute was not available to WWI aircrew. In 1919, American Leroy Irvin, designed a parachute with a silk canopy 32 feet in diameter and with 24 silk rigging lines, packed into a canvas container that could be worn on a harness. After a few modifications, trials proved so successful, the American Air Corps adopted Irvin's design as standard equipment for all aircrew.

Seeing the potential in this new life-saving device, some of Irvin's friends suggested he start a club for future users of his innovation. The idea was discussed and the Caterpillar Club was born – honouring the humble silk worm which lowers itself to the ground on a silken thread. The new club's slogan would be, 'Life depends on a silken thread'.

The Caterpillar Club is one without joining fees, committee meetings, offices, or staff, and is open to all nationalities irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. It is a club whose members have all saved their own lives in a genuine emergency descent using a parachute. Once accepted, the member receives a simple certificate and a small, gold caterpillar pin with his or her name, rank if applicable and the date of the occurrence engraved on the back.

World War II saw membership of the club soar. Most applications were from service personnel during WWII, with a large percentage from POWs – and mostly from the Allied side. Although they were eligible, no Luftwaffe pilots applied during the war, but a few did – and were accepted – after war's end.

Group Captain Keith Parsons, as the commanding officer of Binbrook



ABOVE: FLYING OFFICER RS LOWRY OF SYDNEY, NSW, WEARS A SMALL CATERPILLAR EMBLEM BELOW HIS WINGS TO INDICATE HIS MEMBERSHIP OF THE CATERPILLAR CLUB.
LEFT: A CATERPILLAR CLUB CERTIFICATE

Station where 460 Squadron was based, occasionally broke the rules by going on operations himself. One such 'illegal' flight was almost his last.

"We were flying at about 19,000 feet with no navigation lights on – as we always flew in complete darkness – when suddenly this Lancaster appeared out of the murk and was heading at 45 degrees straight for us. I took 'George' the autopilot off and shoved the stick hard forward and this bloke wiped right across the top of us, smashing the canopy on the top and collected my two port engines. Actually the engines chewed off his rear gunner and turret.

We pulled up and almost did a roll and I tried to level the bloody thing, but she wasn't behaving very well, and we went into a tight spin. I called to the crew to, 'Bail out, bail out'.

When we went past 7000 feet, I realised I wasn't going to get out because there wouldn't be time. As the canopy had been shattered on the top, I said, 'Bugger it, I'll try going over the top'.

I managed to get my head and shoulders through and then my chute

got caught. I broke great chunks of the Perspex with my hands and dragged the chute through.

The spin on the aircraft was so tight I actually stood on the top of the fuselage quite comfortably, and then I gave one hell of a push off and pulled the ripcord.

There was a bang as the chute opened and I bruised the inside of my legs as it hit so hard. The next minute, I was on the ground.

I later found out that my chute had been ripped from the bottom to the apex. Under normal circumstances, as soon as it filled with air, it would have streamed [collapsed] straight away. I actually hit the ground just before it started to stream, possibly from around 100 feet up."

Today, there are more than 100,000 members of the Caterpillar Club – Keith Parsons is but one Australian airman who survived to tell his tale.

FOOTNOTE: Leslie Irvin, despite making more than 300 parachute jumps, never became eligible for membership of the club he inaugurated.

Don't just switch off



switch over!

Are you unhappy with your current private health fund?
Consider switching to Defence Health today!

As a full-time or part-time member of the ADF or a Department of Defence employee, Defence Health can help you take control of your family's health care needs. With staff committed to serving the needs of the ADF community you know you'll be in good hands. And if you transfer to an equivalent level of cover we will recognise any waiting periods already served with your previous fund.

Switching to Defence Health private health insurance couldn't be easier.
To find out more, visit www.defencehealth.com.au or call Defence Health on 1800 241 651.

1800 241 651
www.defencehealth.com.au
Defence Health Ltd is a Registered Health Benefits Organisation



OUTSIDE THE WIRE

WORDS BRIAN HARTIGAN PICS BRIAN HARTIGAN & ADF

ADGies – DEFENDING AIR OPERATIONS

Resilient, innovative, open-minded and armed to the teeth, but “definitely not special-forces” – that’s what you’ll find if you take a closer look at the Royal Australian Air Force’s Airfield Defence Guards.

Far from being a typical ‘guarding’ entity, patrolling a base and checking IDs at the front gate, Airfield Defence Guards – or ADGies, as they are affectionately known – are very much a mobile, outside-the-wire fighting force of considerable capability. They are also a relatively small group of people with a heavy responsibility, thereby necessitating proficiency in a wide range of skill sets, equipment and weapon systems.

ADGies have been around since the Vietnam War, when the RAAF owned Australia’s battlefield helicopter fleet, where many were employed as door gunners. In fact, an ADGie was one of the very last Australians to lift his feet off Vietnamese soil, during the evacuation of Saigon at the end of Western involvement in that country.

But it was in 1997 that today’s ADGies really found their contemporary niche – during the evacuation of Cambodia on Operation Vista, when Australian aircraft on the ground in a hostile foreign environment

came under threat, not so much from marauding insurgents or warfighters, but panicked crowds desperate for a seat on the only flight out of Dodge. The vulnerability of our aircraft under such circumstances, and the invaluable presence of the ADGs on point security that day, was painfully obvious.

While the loss of a single aircraft, such as a Caribou, Hercules or, in the near future, a C17 Globemaster or Airbus A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport on a tactical mission may be quantifiable in monetary terms, the loss of the scarce strategic asset could be decisively detrimental to Australia’s interests.

Today, the Aircraft Security Operations aspect of the ADG suite of responsibilities sees the RAAF’s foot soldiers deployed world wide in just about every recent theatre of Australian involvement – Solomon Islands, East Timor (INTERFET and current), Indonesia, Pakistan, Iraq and even Cyprus during the recent evacuation of Australians from Lebanon.

This, though, is but one aspect of what

ADGies actually do in potentially difficult, dangerous and complex environments.

ADGies are non-commissioned members of the Royal Australian Air Force who provide the specialist ground defence force required to protect air-power assets from the effects of hostile ground action in and around air-force bases and installations. They are responsible for protecting our air assets, infrastructure and personnel against attack by enemy ground forces – or even from the passengers within an aircraft.

Put simply – as the situation dictates, ADGies can be tasked with the security of single or multiple aircraft or facilities anywhere from the cockpit door out to several kilometers from the perimeter fence. Or even more succinctly, ADGs provide the security necessary to sustain air operations.

A summary of the tasks engaged to achieve this goal could also include; protecting (mainly cargo and passenger) aircraft at foreign landing sites – whether established airports or remote landing

Airfield Defence Guards



strips; securing forward-operating bases by conducting vehicle check points and patrolling operations or, denying an enemy the freedom to approach to within striking or reconnaissance distance of a protected airfield, whether that enemy be an insurgent rabble or highly-skilled special forces.

One thing that needs clarification before further explanation, though, is to say that ADGs are essentially an operational, warfighting force, very similar to and closely modelled along infantry lines. What they are not – as is often wrongly assumed – is a peacetime, established-base guardian. This role falls to Service Police and civilian contractors.

That said, however, the skillsets inherent in the ADGs make them ideally suited for peacetime, home-base taskings such as the delivery of weapon and security training to other base personnel, search and rescue tasks, off-base security tasks such as at crash sites, and a host of other ad-hoc tasks as requested by higher commands who know they are calling on a very capable and highly trained group of professionals.

Officer Commanding Airfield Defence Wing at RAAF Base Amberley near Brisbane, Wing Commander John Leo concedes that the name 'guard' may conjure up a false impression of what these people actually do.

"Yes, we guard an airfield – but it's not a static kind of guarding. We are very much a mobile force and, in that regard, we are very much comparable with infantry in the Army," he says.

"Where we differ from the infantry is in the fact we can operate almost autonomously in very small groups – often in half-section sized, five-man groups.

"In that respect, our people often experience command and control responsibilities at a much more junior level."

In looking at the makeup of the RAAF's ADG 'mustering', it may be enlightening to further compare their structure and overall capabilities in comparison to the more easily recognised infantry – remembering all the while that central to the ADG role is a countering capability to the conventional tactics of infantry and, indeed, special forces.

An ADG rifle section is made up of 10 men – as opposed to nine in an infantry section. This basic building block (which is often split into two teams of five), carries an array of weapon systems as appropriate to the task at hand. Notable, however, is the fact they carry, as standard, two 7.62mm Mag 58 machineguns, as well as 5.56mm F89 Minimi Light Support Weapons. While the Army dropped the Mag 58 in favour of the Minimi some years ago for the basic section patrol (but are set to re-adopt perhaps one per section), the RAAF never let the capability go in the first place. As Wing Commander Leo says, "there's no such thing as over armed. If you turn up for a fight – you want to win".

Building on the rifle section, three rifle sections come together to form a rifle flight, with a headquarters element of four (as opposed to three in infantry) making a total of 34 men per flight, compared to 30 in an infantry platoon. That, by simple maths, equates to eight heavy-hitting Mag 58s per flight.

Also in the ADG armoury are 9mm Browning pistols, 9mm MP5 sub-machineguns, 12-gauge shotguns, F88 Steyr (carbine/sniper-scope variants), 7.62mm and .50cal sniper rifles, 66mm anti-armour rockets, 84mm Carl Gustav anti-tank recoilless rifles, hand grenades, Claymore mines and an assortment of police-type batons, cuffs and accoutrements.

Outside in the vehicle compound is an array of motorbikes, quad bikes, Land Rovers (some being the cut-down, weapon-mounted 'gun-buggy' variant) and, as a recent addition, Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicles.

These latter are modified (or about to be) at ADG request, with three weapon mounts on the roof (as opposed to two in infantry guise) and 10 seats (nine for infantry). Interestingly, however, these two major after-market modifications may well be adopted by the Army after examining the ADG capability.

Unlike infantry, which form the basic building blocks on which an army is built, ADGs are not in or of themselves, a primary target for an enemy. Airfields have a wide range of high-value targets – including key equipment, personnel and infrastructure – much more important to an enemy force.



Understanding this is a key enabler to the ADGs' unique, flexible and imaginative selection and use of weapons, equipment and tactics on their battlefield.

The list of weapons above points to one particularly interesting capability (among the many) embedded in the Airfield Defence Guard suite of assets – a sniper pair, trained by the Army, but acting very much in a counter-sniper mindset. Contrary to traditional sniping, where a marksman and his number two can spend hours or days stalking a prey or simply waiting for an opportune target, ADG snipers are mobile, inserting into an intelligence-identified

potential kill zone or relocating quickly to an area where an enemy has been detected. They do this on cross-country motorbikes, dropping and camouflaging these short of a target area before proceeding on foot – stealthily – for the engagement. Often, knowledge of the mere presence of this capability is sufficient to put an enemy on the back foot.

Likewise, knowledge of the presence of or, when the fight starts, hearing the din of a Mag 58 in action, or the crack of 7.62mm rounds close by, can have a profoundly negative psychological impact on an enemy's disposition.

Central to the ADG *modus operandi* is the notion that an enemy must first reconnoitre an airfield before he launches an attack. Hearing or seeing a Mag 58 in action might cause him to think there is a far larger force (since infantry only carry Mag 58s in a large-force support role) protecting the airfield and thus cause him no inconsiderable degree of angst or miss-judgment in attempting his reconnaissance.

With enemy psychology in mind, ADGs also often work in cooperation with the base Military Working Dog Section. The presence of a dog, backed up by the impressive firepower, can also be a debilitating deterrent to even the most skilled enemy's plans.

To test this in an exercise environment, ADGs have in the past secured a base against the attentions of the Australia Special Air Service Regiment in an enemy role. Was this effective, or even taken seriously by either side? Well, as one ADG put it, "we were determined to prove ourselves and I'm quite sure they didn't want to be shown up by a bunch of RAAFies". But, while both sides probably claimed the victory, there's no doubt both groups learned a great deal from each other.

Wing Commander Leo sums up the ADG/infantry comparison by pointing out that the Airfield Defence Guard fraternity is a much smaller group of people, operating a much wider array of weapons and equipment.

"While the infantry as a whole may use much the same kit as we do, it tends to be used more by specialist parts of the infantry, whereas we have a lot more of our people involved in delivering these capabilities.

"Because we have such small numbers covering such a large area of responsibility, we have to use every aid available to us. We try to be as well armed as we can and employ every possible tactic and technique to get the job done."

So, how does one become an ADG? Entry to this exciting and, one would have to say, attractive employment stream is, in theory, relatively straight forward. The mustering is open to males only, between 17 and 50 years old, with passes in Year 10 maths and English.

After completing the RAAF's general-entry recruit course of 10-weeks duration at RAAF Base Edinburgh, South Australia (moving soon to Wagga Wagga), potential ADGs then





GROUND DEFENCE OFFICER

While ADGs are non-commissioned members of the RAAF, the closely aligned commissioned officer ranks belong to a separate mustering.

A junior Ground Defence Officer leads ADGs as the commander of a rifle flight and is very much a hands-on member of the team, carrying weapons, patrolling and leading his men in the field.

He also, of course, has a good deal of responsibility for the management and welfare of the men under his command.

A Ground Defence Officer completes basic RAAF officer training at Point Cook, near Melbourne, before entering the Royal Military College, Duntroon to undergo a full 18-month Army officer training course.

Once posted, his duties may also include: advise base commanders on ground-defence policy and options; train other base personnel; control an armoury; and, conduct combat-survival continuation training.



complete 14.4 weeks training at the RAAF Security and Fire School (RAAFSFS) at RAAF Base Amberley near Brisbane. This intense course is about to get even longer, however, expanding by a further three weeks to accommodate the demands of increasing roles and equipment suites.

Training at RAAFSFS is provided on small-arms weapons, high-explosive weapons and explosive stores, radio communications, field engineering, battle-craft and tactics, map reading and navigation, nuclear, biological and chemical defence, and first aid and casualty handling. New elements to be added shortly may include tactics surrounding the introduction of the new Bushmaster IMV.

The basic ADG course is physically very demanding. Accordingly, students are recommended to have a high level of physical fitness before commencing training.

Twenty-five-year-old Aircraftsman Brendan O'Brien from Brisbane, interviewed at the week-10 stage of training on the Basic ADG Course, says he was up to the course's challenges.

"I was a personal trainer before I joined the RAAF, so I was well prepared for this. I am enjoying the physical side but, to be honest, I haven't been pushed very hard so far," he says.

"On the other hand, I reckon any young bloke who is active and plays a bit of sport – particularly any of the footy codes – will definitely not find this course beyond them."

It is the physically demanding nature of the training, though, that may well be an aspirant's downfall. Of 46 starters on the Basic ADG Course that commenced in mid May, 12 had been removed by the 10-week mark, half through mainly minor injury (while the others had decided that being an ADG was not to their liking after all and were discharged from the RAAF at their own request). This is not the end of the line for the keen recruit, however. After recuperation and remediation, they are placed on the next available course at roughly the same stage of training at which they dropped off.

Nineteen-year-old Brendan Walker, a former student and part-time salesman, was one of those given a second chance after

being injured on an earlier course. He says his training so far has been "awesome fun" and he has learned a lot.

In an operational squadron, ADGs typically conduct an hour's physical training five days a week, first thing in the morning. Three of these sessions are formal lessons with a physical training instructor, while the other two are usually dedicated to sport and team-based activities.

Chief Instructor at the RAAF's Security and Fire School Squadron Leader Damien Fauser says that while there are other very tough jobs in the RAAF in terms of working in confined spaces or with extreme temperatures and so on, he has no doubt that Airfield Defence Guards work in a very demanding job.

"But it's not just from the physical side. We also encourage a high degree of lateral thinking and initiative in our training," he says.

"While there are some basic skills that we train to the point of being instinctive, we also look to develop people's ability to apply their own solutions to the wide variety of problems they may encounter in their operational service. This is especially true as individuals progress through their careers."

There's no doubting ADGs work hard. Shake hands with any one of them and you will instantly recognise the vise-like grip of strong, confident men.



"We need to deploy the best capability for the limited number of people we have – therefore we must have appropriate mobility, appropriate comms and at least equal if not better firepower than what we expect to come up against."

Wing Commander John Leo, Officer Commanding, Airfield Defence Wing, Amberley





ADGs work as a team, in groups of five to 10 men. Some typical tasks performed by ADGs are:

- patrol over extended periods, often over arduous terrain, regardless of climatic conditions, carrying the personal and mission equipment necessary to the task;
- patrol on foot and by vehicle by day or night in and around established and bare-base airfields;
- provide close protection to aircraft and infrastructure;
- construct field defences and obstacles such as weapon pits and bunkers, fences and roadblocks;
- conduct aircraft, vehicle, personnel or building searches and clearance operations;
- man crew-served weapons such as machineguns and anti-armour weapons;
- instruct other RAAF personnel in the handling and use of small arms such as rifle, shotgun and machinegun; and,
- provide close personal protection for high ranks or VIPs.



ADG riflemen are frequently absent from their home base and family for several months in any one year. During operations and exercises, they work in all terrains and climatic conditions by day and night and must be able to function in extreme conditions for indefinite periods and endure high levels of fatigue. One ADG told me he had often felt he had reached the limit of his endurance but, when he hit 'the wall' he realised that to quit would simply mean his mates would have to carry his load as well as their own – "and you just can't do that to your mates".

Far from being a downside to the job, though, this young man assured me it was 'character building'. Recognising I might think he was regurgitating a cliché, he clarified that such experiences had built upon his mental toughness just as surely as the physical exertion had built a stronger body. And he loved the job even more for providing those challenges.

The basic fitness standard required of a young ADG is that he be capable of running 2.4km in less than 10 minutes and complete 10 chin-ups and 40 sit-ups (without the feet being held). Some concessions are allowed for older members.

On graduating from training, an ADG will be posted to a rifle flight in an airfield defence squadron – either No 2 Airfield Defence Squadron (2AFDS) at Amberley in south-east Queensland or 1AFDS headquartered at RAAF Base Edinburgh near Adelaide.

1AFDS is a unique beast, though. In a reshuffle scheduled to be fully sorted out by January next year, this unit will be a composite full-time/reserve unit. But, uniquely, it will have elements scattered right around Australia – thereby affording opportunities for would-be part-time ADGs to join this challenging muster in their own capital city.

Another opportunity still open to ADG reservists – one that the Army gave away some years ago – is the old Ready Reserve Scheme – or at least a version of it. Under this scheme, reservists can join the RAAF, complete basic recruit and ADG training and the balance of 11 months full-time service – as far as possible in the same

calendar year – and then fulfill a remaining four years and one month on the basis of 50 days' service per year. While the older scheme has continued to run very successfully over recent years, further conditions to be introduced under the new High Readiness Reserve scheme will see very attractive sign-on, retention and medical-support bonuses payable to those who commit part time.

Wing Commander Leo sees the main challenge for the future is keeping sufficient numbers of new people coming through the school, as well as keeping those people we have, properly trained, so we can continue to provide the right people to fulfill the effect the Air Force is seeking.

"That may become a strategic challenge in the future as the job market dries up and competition for that diminishing resource becomes tighter.

"Currently, to be honest, recruits are queuing up at the front door to join the permanent force, but we do need to get the message out about the new High-Readiness Reserve and the excellent new conditions of service that offers."

If you haven't been convinced already that to join the ranks of the Airfield Defence Guards is an attractive proposition by dint of the personal and team challenges, the opportunities for travel and operational service and so on, then consider this. An ADG rifleman, straight out of basic training, earns more than \$45k a year. While this is similar to an infantry rifleman, wider skills, competency-based progression and quicker career advancement will see this base salary increase much quicker than in most other areas. The actual base pay group may also increase after attaining core skills and completing advanced courses. All ADGs keep a competency log book to record key achievements to facilitate this.

In the end, while it may sound like a strange argument, if you are into physical and mental challenges, teamwork and mateship, and advanced levels of weapons training – in other words, everything you would traditionally associate with the Army and particularly the infantry – then perhaps you should take a closer look at what the RAAF's Airfield Defence Guards have to offer.



If the hat fits

If you're a person who's always wanted to be a Police Officer now's the time to act!

There's a new era in Northern Territory Policing.

Substantial new funding will place an extra 200 police on the beat in the Northern Territory which means, right now, we're recruiting record numbers of new Officers.

If you fit the following description, we strongly urge you to apply now.

We're looking for people with career and life experience who want to make a change in their lives and our community's future.

We're looking for people who want more personal challenges and better professional rewards than their current careers offer.

And we're looking for people who respond to opportunities with a will to succeed.

To earn our uniform (and wear our hat) we expect a lot. But we offer a lot in return.

A Police Force job isn't one job... it's many jobs.

From front line enforcement, to investigation, to technical support, to management, to forensics, to instructing, to search and rescue and community relations, the Northern Territory Police Force offers more training opportunities and career paths than almost any other employer.

Police pay and conditions are excellent.

The pay starts on your first day of training... and so do the challenges!

So what are you waiting for? If you've always wanted to join the Police, the Northern Territory Police Force want to hear from you now!

For recruitment information:

Call 1800 005 099

Or visit www.nt.gov.au/pfes



There's a New Era in Territory Policing. Make the change. Join the force!

The Northern Territory Police Force is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women, indigenous people and people from non-English speaking background are particularly welcome.



HARDENING THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY

WORDS ROD RAYWARD PICS ADF

Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy had the vision and strength to not only see the argument through to its logical conclusion but now, to see its successful conclusion, as the first of the Australian vehicles will be delivered into Melbourne in September before being shipped to the training schools at Puckapunyal and Bandiana. These zero-kilometre/zero-hour Abrams M1A1 AIM MBTs will ensure Australia maintains a supportable, survivable and interoperable tank capability for years to come.

The Abrams Main Battle Tank will provide the Australian Army with widely acknowledged first-rate and battle-proven equipment, increased firepower, mobility and survivability for our soldiers on the battlefield. The replacement of the current Leopard 1 tank means that the Army will again have the protection and the firepower to accomplish any likely mission without undue risk to the soldiers.

As the current conflicts around the world have shown, the proliferation of

lethal anti-armour weapons and other improvised explosive devices has made Leopard very vulnerable and dangerous for our troops to operate safely in the face of a determined enemy. The acquisition of the Abrams M1A1 AIM (D) means that the Australian Defence Force will have a tough and survivable tank offering excellent reliability and outstanding network-centric-warfare potential.

This tank is a proven design and remains in current production for the United States. Defence sources have also confirmed that the US Army will be keeping their Abrams M1A1 AIM for a considerable period into the future. Within Australia, defence planners are already seeing the tanks used well into the 2020s.

The Abrams will improve the Army's network-centric-warfare capability, supporting the development of a networked, combined-arms approach to operations – where armour, infantry, artillery, aviation and engineers work together to support and protect each other. That would provide increased

protection for deployed personnel, improved fire control and sensor suites, comparable to, or superior in capability to regional systems with a high level of interoperability to other forces with whom Australia has traditionally operated.

The Chief of Army's key concern with the replacement of the old Leopard tank was to make sure that our soldiers, when they were deployed on operations, had the equipment they needed to do the job with minimum risk and with the best chance of success. Even on peacekeeping missions the number of hand-held anti-armour weapons means that it is automatically a very dangerous place – even in a tank. General Leahy's unswerving approach has been to make sure that when the Australian Army deploys its troops into harm's way that they have the best equipment, and that they are able to enter these incredibly dangerous places with the expectation that they will succeed and survive.

The acquisition of the tank is not a one-off for the Army. The M1A1s will

THE NEW ABRAMS TANK – ON TIME AND ON TARGET!

In March 2004 the Australian Government announced that it would equip the Australian Army with a fleet of 59 Abrams M1A1 'Abrams Integrated Management' (AIM) main battle tanks to replace Australia's ageing Leopard AS1. At a price tag of \$550million it was an absolute bargain. It was a bold move by the Army brass who had for some time argued strongly that Australia's close combat capability was in real danger of becoming ineffective, not only on the world stage, but also in the region and, in the process, putting the lives of Australian soldiers at risk.



work closely with the newly delivered Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, the additional NH90 troop lift helicopters, upgraded M113 armoured personnel carriers, Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAV), Bushmaster vehicle, Javelin missiles and other direct-fire weapons, which have all recently been purchased. All of these systems are contributing to a much harder and network-centric Army. This means the Australian Army will therefore become harder to hit with its improved protection, communications and mobility, plus be capable of hitting a whole lot harder through the Abrams awesome firepower.

The Abrams tank also contains a proven and fully integrated radio and battle-space management system – part of what the Army means by network-centric warfare. Through these systems they are able to bring all of the elements of the ADF – the Army, the Navy and the Air Force – into one integrated whole – a real joint force.

The Abrams will have digital communications inbuilt, which means it will be able to talk with the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, Airborne Early Warning and Communications aircraft and other network-centric elements. The precision firepower and excellent sensor systems in this tank will enable the Australian Army to reduce the potential for collateral damage and allow significantly greater discretion, especially in complex terrain such as within towns and cities.

The Abrams tank will be delivered on time and on budget and is a showpiece for the Defence Materiel Organisation. Its purchase is a reflection of the improved acquisition process and very close cooperation between Army and the Defence Materiel Organisation. Land 907, as the tank purchase is known

within DMO, will deliver a complete tank capability, including logistical support of the tanks, armoured recovery vehicles, tank transporters, tactical fuel trucks, and a complete training package that will include gunnery and driving simulation systems.

DMO has taken a low-risk and eminently sensible approach to this acquisition with the majority of the Project Land 907 acquisitions being managed through the United States Government Foreign Military Sales Program. All tanks procured under this project have been rebuilt under the Abrams Integrated Management program to an as-new, zero-km/zero-hour standard.

The first five Australian tanks off the production line were shipped to Fort Hood, Texas, to support the training of

Australian soldiers, which commenced in March 2006. That training has gone remarkably well, with the Australian maintainers and crews proving to their American counterparts that when it comes to knowing the business of armoured warfare, Australian soldiers are exponents of the art.

For their part, the Australian tank crewmen have been greatly impressed with the advanced gunnery systems of the Australian Abrams. Crews have consistently achieved first-round hits on moving targets during battle runs on the Fort Hood training areas.

The last Aussie troops completed their US-based new-equipment training in mid July. With that initial training completed, the first of the tanks are ready, and on schedule to land Down Under this month.

ABRAMS M1A1 MAIN BATTLE TANK

Manufacturer:	General Dynamics
Crew:	4
Armaments:	120mm smoothbore gun .50 cal machinegun 7.62mm machinegun
Engine:	Lycoming Textron AGT 1500 gas turbine
Power:	1500 horsepower (1119 kW)
Speed:	72km/h (45mph) on road
Transmission:	Allison X-1100-3B – four forward, two reverse gears
Suspension:	Torsion bar
Range:	450km+
Armour:	Chobham*
Length:	9.78m (26ft)
Width:	3.64 m (12 ft)
Height:	2.43 m (8 ft)
Weight:	67 tons (approx)

* Chobham is a composite armour developed in the '60s at the British tank research centre, Chobham Common, UK. Exact composition is classified, but is believed to comprise ceramic tiles layered between metal plates.

Under the M1A1 AIM program (as purchased by Australia), used M1A1 Abrams tanks are completely stripped down and refurbished, then fully reassembled, painted, tested and accepted by the Army in as-new condition.



ADVERTISING IN

CONTACT Air Land & Sea + **COMBAT** Camera
the Australian military magazine

- costs less than any competitor*
(find our rate card [here](#))
- reaches 10,000+ subscribers
 - four, eight or 12 times a year
- is hyperlinked FREE
- with free 'gear-review' opportunities, and
- editorial/advertorial considered

EMAIL ADVERTISING@MILITARYCONTACT.COM
OR PHONE BRIAN ON 0408 496 664

* We'll beat any competitor's current invoice by 20% or better

RIM OF THE PACIFIC 2006

PACIFIC ARMADA

PICS ADF

Australia joined with six other Pacific rim nations, plus the UK, to participate in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006, a major maritime exercise conducted in the waters off Hawaii in June and July.

RIMPAC 2006 brought together maritime forces from Australia, Canada, Chile, Peru, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States including 35 ships – including the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group – six submarines, more than 160 aircraft and 18,000 personnel.

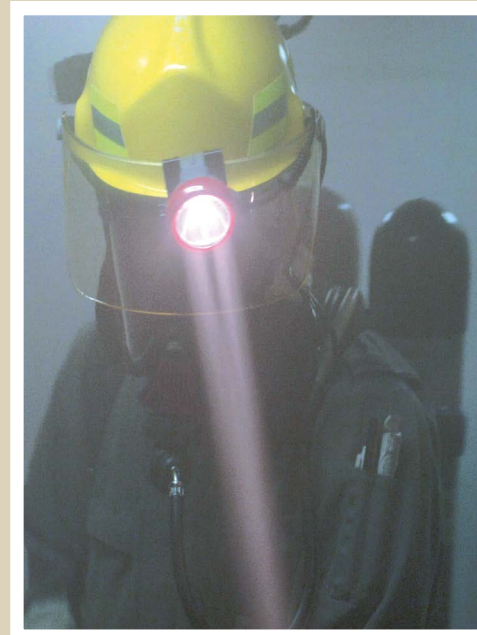
Australian units, HMA Ships Stuart, Manoora and Rankin, Australian Clearance Diving Team One, two AP3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft and an infantry company represented Australia.

RIMPAC is intended to increase the tactical proficiency of participating units in a wide range of combined operations at sea.

This year's exercise is the twentieth in the series of RIMPAC exercises conducted since 1971.

Exercise RIMPAC 06 involved an intense series of drills and training which included live missile and torpedo firings, gunnery exercises, air defense, surface and undersea warfare, maritime interception operations, boardings, mine warfare and amphibious operations.

The main objective of the RIMPAC series is to enhance warfighting skills and interoperability.



The Elite Force

We understand the demands of military use. That's why our tritium illuminated watches deliver the ultimate in durability and performance in the most extreme conditions.



Nite MX20-004

Nite MX10-001

Issued to Special Forces
NATO Stock No.
6645-99-133-5227

Nite – the best tritium illuminated watches you can buy - RRP from: \$335

- Stainless steel gunmetal titanium nitride PVD case
- GTLS illumination
- Double-toothed buckle and locking clasp
- Scratch resistant sapphire glass
- Long life battery
- 2 year warranty (GTLS 10 years)
- Water resistant to 200m (MX10 100m)
- Strap options include:
Polymer, metal bracelet & velcro strap with watch cover

Technically advanced Gaseous Tritium Light Source (GTLS) for ultimate dial illumination.

Guaranteed for ten years with no batteries or charging by light required.



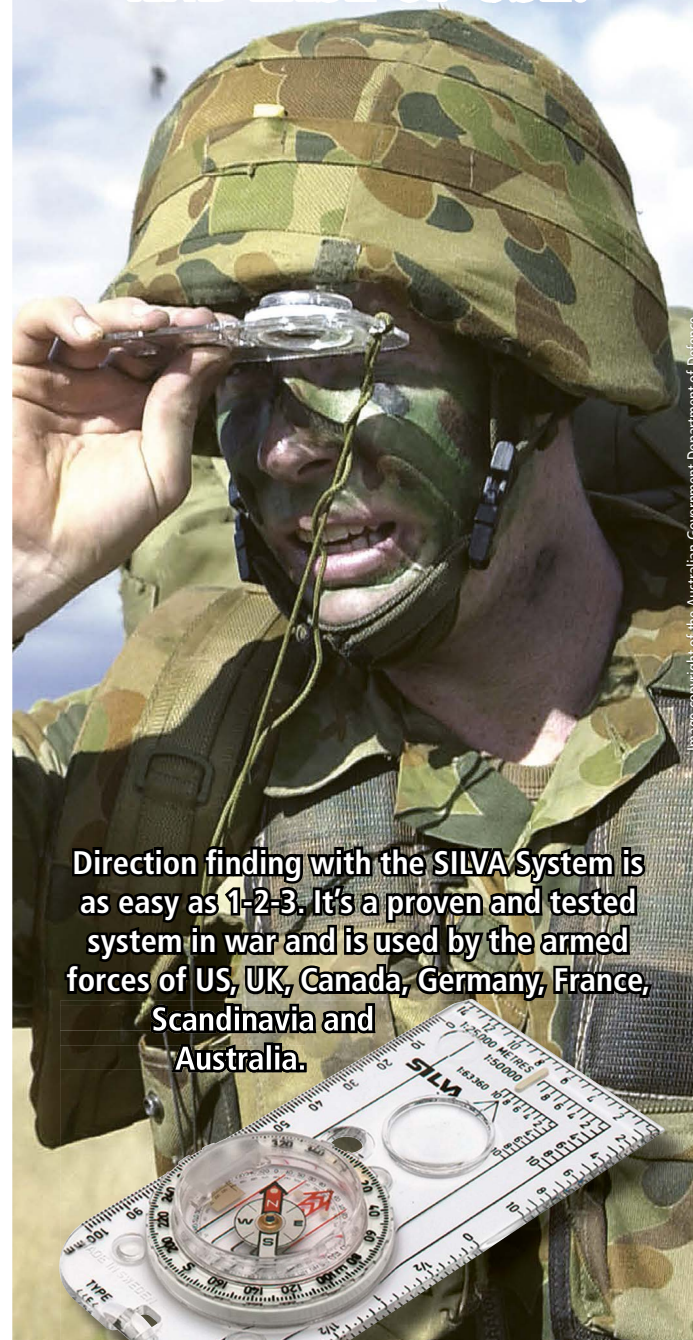
Call (03) 9489 9766 for a full colour brochure, RRP price list and nearest stockist.

Trade enquiries welcome.
Email: info@macson.com.au
See www.macson.com.au for more information.

nite | 
time pieces

NOTHING BEATS A SILVA

**COMPASS FOR SPEED
AND EASE OF USE!**



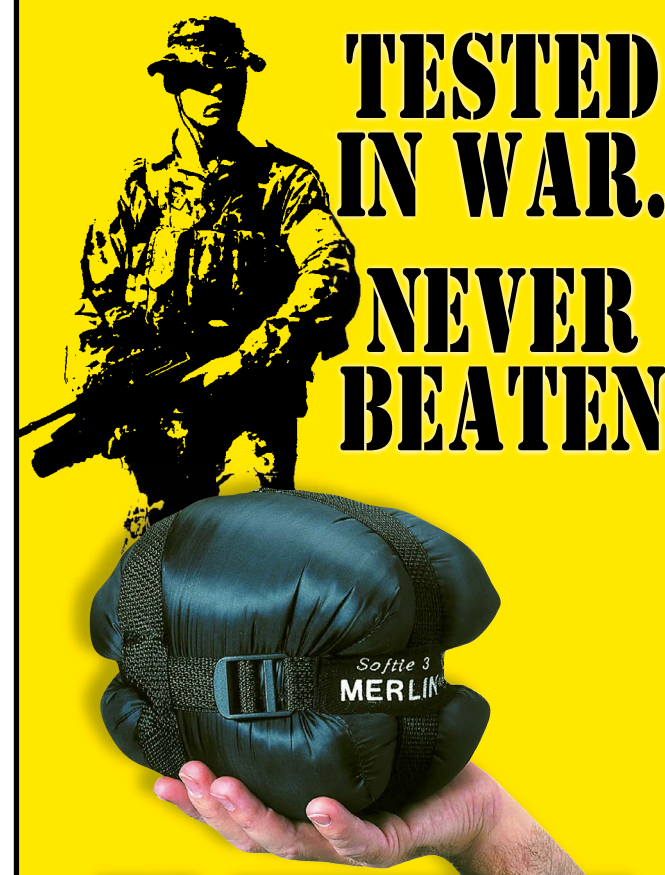
Direction finding with the SILVA System is as easy as 1-2-3. It's a proven and tested system in war and is used by the armed forces of US, UK, Canada, Germany, France, Scandinavia and Australia.

Illustrated is the Silva 54/6400/B prismatic military compass graduated in 6400 mils and 360°. (DoD Stock No. 6605/661414493)

RRP approx \$289 from major military equipment retailers and Corps Shops throughout Australia.

For bulk sales, service and spare parts, contact Australian distributors MACSON TRADING CO
Ph: (03) 9489 9766. Email: info@macson.com.au

www.macson.com.au



**TESTED
IN WAR.
NEVER
BEATEN**



sleeping bags

The original and genuine UK-made **Snugpak** 'Softie' sleeping bags as used by Armed Forces internationally. Super lightweight, small packing, thermally efficient. NATO stock numbered. Temperature ratings from 0°C to -20°C. Weights as low as 900g



Snugpak Sleeka Reversible

Tried and tested in every conflict since the Falklands War. Often copied, never beaten. Filled with Snugpak's own Softie insulation with superior moisture wicking and breathability. Reversible olive to black. Rated for very cold -10°C outdoor use. Approx 800g. RRP \$380

Contact us for a free catalogue, price list and nearest dealer.
Australian Distributors: Macson Trading Company Pty Ltd
Tel: (03) 9489 9766. Fax: (03) 9481 5368.
Email: info@macson.com.au

www.macson.com.au

SILVA L1 *the brightest* LED headlamp in the world!



The Silva L1 Camo headlamp sets the standard with its high-performance, ultra-bright, true 3-watt Luxeon™ LED making it the most powerful LED headlamp available today!

Powered by 4 AA batteries (included), the L1 punches out a night-piercing 63 metre beam for up to 4 hours, or up to 200 hours in 'Power Save' floodlight mode for close-range work.

It has an electronically controlled feature that automatically switches down to 'Power Save' mode when only 15% of battery capacity remains, ensuring hours of extra light – no annoying or unpleasant surprises.

Delivered with an external battery case for 4 x C class batteries which increases discharge time by 300%! Waterproof to IPX6 standard.

\$199 from major outdoor adventure shops

SILVA

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS:

Macson Trading Company Pty Ltd

Tel: (03)9489 9766. Fax: (03)9481 5368

Email: info@macson.com.au

www.macson.com.au

REMOTE CONTROL PART 1

After several months in Somalia the 1RAR Battalion Group had begun to extend its activities to some of the more remote parts of its area of operations. Intensive peace-enforcement operations in and around the inland city of Baidoa had managed to quell much of the lawlessness and mayhem that had beset the region before the arrival of the Australians. The taming of Baidoa and its surrounding villages had allowed the Aussies to look further afield to where the organised tribal militia had retreated.

WORDS WAYNE COOPER
PICS ADF AND COOPER COLLECTION

To fulfill its operational objective of dominating the landscape, the Battalion Group had to make its presence

felt throughout its entire sphere of influence. This meant maintaining a sustained presence in the outlying regions of the Baidoa Humanitarian Relief Sector. A strong presence would serve to reassure the people of these remote areas that the Australians were serious about their security, and also let the bad guys know there was nowhere we wouldn't come looking for them.

For cavalry and infantry soldiers this meant extended operations away from the Battalion Group's base at the airfield in Baidoa. Hundreds of kilometers away from logistical support, the infantry/cavalry groups would have to be self sufficient and able to defend themselves if they came up against a sizable enemy force.

With sketchy intelligence, bad maps and little idea of what sort of reception to expect from the locals, we set out to tame a new frontier.

2 Troop had been tasked with lifting Charlie Company who had been assigned the most remote section of the AO.

The company had recently been in the midst of some of the most intense activity in and around Baidoa. Through February and March it seemed that just hanging around Charlie Company would be enough to get you into a stoush.

The infantry company and APC troop would be divided into platoon/section groups, with each group working independently from a town or village within an assigned section of the Charlie Company AO.

23 Section would be working with 8 Platoon, a platoon we had worked with several times before. The town we had been allocated was the furthest from Baidoa. An Aussie base would be established and Dinsoor would be a place we would get to know well in the coming weeks.

8 Platoon had had more than its fair share of the action since we had arrived in Somalia. Among other contacts, the platoon had been ambushed on two successive nights in Baidoa and had sustained light casualties. During the second ambush, the section involved had

managed to turn the tide on their attackers and win the firefight. By the time we were set to descend on Dinsoor the boys in 8 Platoon were ready for a change of scenery.

The chance to work at platoon/section level was welcomed by both the infantry and the cavalry. The larger company/troop-level operations were usually more cumbersome and, at the lower levels of the hierarchy at least, we felt having the company HQ directly involved often hindered more than helped our ability to react appropriately. Sometimes having more autonomy allowed us to respond to situations more effectively, without having to wait for guidance or permission from above.

While we were happy to be getting out of Baidoa again and looked forward to breaking some new ground, the operation was not without its downsides. The area we were to be operating in had never been entered by Australian or any other UN forces since the start of the US-led Operation Restore Hope.

What little intelligence had been gathered indicated there was a high level of organised bandit activity and that the area was heavily mined.



Now, the chance to mix it up with a decent-sized group of bad guys was actually a plus for most of us. We had been itching for a standup fight after the hit and run skirmishes of the past few months. But the prospect of driving into a heavily mined region with no intelligence on the whereabouts of the menace was not so attractive.

The night before we were due to leave, my section commander, Moose Ferriday, gave orders for the morning's convoy out to Dinsoor, and the news of the mine threat managed to subdue the usually energetic discussion in the back of his M113 APC.

While we were happy to back our skill and discipline against almost any human enemy, there was just nothing sporting about the prospect of running over an unseen anti-tank mine. The 7 kilos of high explosives in the old Russian mines that

grounds in AO TIGERS. The region was to the west-south-west of Baidoa and the town of Dinsoor, 23's destination, was at the westernmost boundary of TIGERS.

With a population of several thousand, the town would serve as a patrol base for 8 Platoon and 23 Section for the next two weeks.

As the troop sped down what passed for a highway in this remote region, the APC sections, with their infantry passengers, peeled off the main service route (MSR) as they reached their individual AOs.

Separated by many kilometers, the infantry/APC groups would have to fend for themselves and would not be able to rely on immediate support from the other groups.

By mid afternoon, we in 23 Section were on our own, heading west with 8 Platoon and the spanners in tow, toward what we hoped would be happy hunting grounds.

we proceeded in line-ahead, which meant only the lead vehicle was at risk of striking a mine as the other vehicles followed directly in its tracks.

We had discussed in orders the night before how we would proceed at this point and the section shook out into line-ahead. As luck would have it, my driver Pete and I had drawn the short straw and would lead off first, with the understanding that Moose would rotate the vehicles through the dangerous lead position.

"Two-Three Charlie this is Two-Three, lets go," Moose announced over the radio.

Pete put the vehicle into drive and we rolled nervously from the bitumen of the MSR onto the dirt road.

"Charlie, Two-Three, further to my last – you might as well lead until we reach our objective," Moose added, deadpan.

I resisted the urge to flick him the finger



CRAFTSMAN MICK GURNEY AND CORPORAL JAQUES REYNOLDS PREPARE FOR THE TRIP TO DINSOOR



23 SECTION DRAW A CROWD IN DINSOOR

littered the Somali countryside would dramatically remodel a lightly armoured M113 – and severely ruin your day.

As Moose went on to explain the section would be accompanied by a fitters' track, crewed by two vehicle mechanics, I sat quietly and pondered the odds of encountering a mine. Despite their prevalence in the region we had not yet had a major mine incident, though plenty of the hidden horrors had been excavated and destroyed by the engineers around Baidoa. While you could do your best to be wary of the threat and look for tell-tale signs, the chances of spotting a mine, that had been buried for more than a decade, while travelling at speed in an APC were next to none. It was just a matter of putting the problem out of your mind and worrying about the things you could do something about.

Early the next morning the troop set out with Charlie Company on the long drive to what would be our new stomping

To the west of a small town on the MSR from Baidoa, the section pulled up at the T intersection that marked the point where we were to strike south for Dinsoor. The road also marked the point where the mine threat became serious. The little intelligence we had, told us this road had been heavily mined during the civil war as it was the boundary between two of the warring factions. From here on in we were in uncharted territory.

The usual section configuration for movement into an unsecured area is a two-up formation. This has two vehicles leading in parallel, some 50 to 75 metres apart, with the section commander's vehicle the same distance to the center-rear, and the fourth vehicle 50 metres behind the commander, covering the rear. However, in the event of a high mine threat the section's tactical security is weighed up against the wisdom of having three vehicles travelling over unproven ground. As we were under no direct threat of coming into contact,

AS WE BARRELLED ON INTO THE UNKNOWN, OUR DISMISSIVE CONFIDENCE WAS TO BE SHORT LIVED

as I looked back at the grinning faces of my fellow crew commanders, all of whom were waving bye-bye to Pete and I.

Pete put his foot to the floor and our M113 launched down the road – no sense in mucking around – what will be will be, we reasoned.

Besides, we could see a clearly defined set of wheel ruts ahead and Pete kept one of our tracks on the well-travelled section of the road at all times. Although the APC was much wider than a car, we could at least reduce the total area of un-cleared ground we had to drive over by running a track in a rut. But, as we barrelled on into the unknown, our dismissive confidence was to be short lived.

REUNION

It has been more than 10 years since I was a member of the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment. And, while I have moved on personally and professionally, the unit will always represent a very important and exciting period in my life. Even having spent the first three years of my military career in 1st Armoured Regiment, and the last several in Army Public Relations, I really only think of the time spent as a 'Stinger' as my real Army experience.

Heading up to Townsville in June this year for the unit's 40th Birthday celebrations stirred up many memories and emotions and, in a lot of ways, it was like going home.

The 40th was seen as the last hurrah by some, because the unit's M113's – the vehicle that had been its relentless workhorse since before the amalgamation of the 3rd and 4th Cavalry Regiments – were soon to be replaced by the Army's new, wheeled Bushmaster troop carriers. With what many of us saw as the impending relegation of our proud cavalry unit to a transport role, we made plans to gather at Lavarack Barracks one more time.

The unit and the 3 Cav Association had planned a busy week of activities and functions for past and present members to enjoy. But the recent turmoil in East Timor saw the 'Stingers' return to that troubled nation for another short-notice tour, leaving only a skeleton crew behind to play host to the unit's previous members. And, while the scope of the week's agenda had been considerably reduced, what remained of the current



BACK, LEFT TO RIGHT - WAYNE COOPER, ADAM GOLDING, SHANE ABDOO, DARREN FERRIDAY, SGT WAYNE CHETCUTI, TROY DILLON, WO2 MICK JOLIFFE, GLEN GOUGH. FRONT LEFT TO RIGHT - DANE BECK, ALAN EDWARDS, WES HALL, JOHN BURKE, WO2 KEN NELLIMAN, LT-COL MICK HANNA, SHAUN VOSS.

generation of 'Stingers' turned on a reception of which all members, past and present, could be proud.

For me, the time among my old friends was both cathartic and a little sad. I had forgotten how important these people were to me and how much I enjoyed their company. To be with those irreverent and steadfast men again was truly uplifting.

As for the former members of 23 Section, we had the strongest turn out of any

Somalia-era section. With Andrew Johnston in East Timor, Tino Siliato in Iraq, and Pete Reeves tied up with work commitments, the other five members of 23 got together for the first time in almost 13 years. Moose, Kenny, Micky P, Eddy and I bullshitted and laughed our way through four days and nights and, while we didn't waste much time talking about the good old days, for a few days there it sure felt like we were living them again.

We had only travelled about a kilometer when we came upon the first hard evidence that the mine threat was more than just nasty rumour – the barely recognisable remains of a burnt-out truck lay on its roof beside a large crater in the road. While the incident had seemingly happened some time ago, the threat of more mines in the surrounding area was little diminished by the passing of time, and the hulk only served to demonstrate the destructive power of these hidden killers.

I reported the obvious to Moose as we rolled past the wreckage. The grunts in the back of the vehicle stared silently at what was left of the vehicle. Moose acknowledged my report and, with an irony that was not lost on any of us, flippantly instructed me to proceed with caution.

Pete accelerated once more. There really was no point driving slowly and trying to spot a mine. You will never see the one that gets you, so better to cover the ground quickly and just get there.

After several more kilometers of anxious trail blazing, Moose told us to slow down and let 23B take the lead. As a dusty, smiling Micky P rolled past us in the turret of Bravo, I let out a subconscious sigh of relief. While not wishing my friends harm or wanting them to take risks on my behalf, we had done our shift and I was glad it was someone else's turn to break ground for a while.

The road to Dinsoor turned up other apparent mine victims. Along the dusty stretch, we came upon a pair of shredded cars, also in close proximity to craters. From the position of the wrecks, it seemed that after seeing the first car destroyed, the second had steered around it only to hit another mine off the side of the road. We rolled on regardless.

By luck, or good management, we arrived unscathed on the outskirts of Dinsoor in the late afternoon. With the direct risk of a mine incident behind us, we shook out into a more tactically appropriate formation to enter the town. As we rolled into Dinsoor

for the first time, the entire population rushed out to meet us, and any semblance of a tactical entry was lost completely.

As hundreds of locals filled the town's central square, we carefully manoeuvred our vehicles through the throng into a vaguely secure position with our ramps backed up together. People swarmed all around us, staring up at what were possibly the first white men they had ever seen.

Glad to have the gauntlet of the road behind us, we relaxed and stared back at our excited new hosts.

Over the next few months, 23 Section and several of the other APC sections would travel the long stretch of cratered road from Dinsoor to the MSR numerous times without incident. After a while we almost forgot that we had ever thought it dangerous. It wasn't until after the last of several return visits to the Dinsoor region that we heard that UN engineers had since cleared dozens of live anti-tank mines from the road.

If you've been following the past few articles in CONTACT, you'll know I'm a big fan of kettlebell training for military personnel, particularly for anyone deployed away from a gym or base fitness centre. But, what should you be doing if you DO have access to time, space and lots of equipment?

CROSSFIT

It doesn't have to be fun! BY DON STEVENSON

How about a system comprised of functional movements, an endless variety of new challenges and intense workouts that are guaranteed to improve all aspects of your fitness?

There is a system that fits all of these criteria and which is ideal for military personnel when they are in barracks and which can be adapted for use when deployed. This system even uses kettlebells!

The system is Crossfit. Developed by US coach Greg Glassman and tested and refined by hundreds of coaches and athletes all over the world. I like Crossfit because it is tough and supremely effective, it develops all the fitness qualities a soldier, sailor or airman needs and it does it with great efficiency. The full Crossfit program calls for a huge amount of equipment and is best suited to a barracks

environment, although, as we'll discuss later, you can adapt workouts to the resources available.

The fundamentals of Crossfit are as follows.

Power – The main aim of a workout program should be to improve your power output. This means being able to perform the maximum amount of physical work in the shortest possible time. In Crossfit, many of the workouts are timed and the aim is to reduce your time as your fitness increases.

Functionality – No bicep curls or leg extensions here! All the exercises used in Crossfit are highly functional or have excellent carryover to real-world situations. Crossfit employs exercises from a wide variety of sources including gymnastics, track and field, and weightlifting. The focus is on movements such as the squat, deadlift, overhead press, chin ups, sit ups, running and rowing.

Variety – Combat is full of unexpected events. A Crossfit program is highly variable and presents new challenges every day. Run 5km today, max deadlifts tomorrow and work

on handstands and calisthenics the day after! Each day a fresh workout is published on the Crossfit website and all you have to do is step up to the challenge. At first, it may seem that you never do enough of any one thing to improve on a Crossfit program, however, experience has shown that Crossfit does an excellent job of developing all-over fitness, and this has made it the program of choice for many police and military personnel the world over.

Benchmarking – Crossfit has a series of workouts called "The Girls". These benchmark workouts occur with reasonable regularity in the Crossfit program and are used as a measure of progress. The first kettlebell workout from CONTACT's last issue (run, swing, chinups) is called "Helen" and, by comparing your times with other Crossfit adherents, you can get an idea of where you stand, fitness wise.

Adaptability – The Crossfit program, as prescribed on the website, often calls for some insanely high levels of fitness to complete or for equipment

such as gymnastic rings that some gyms may not have. In recognition of this, the Crossfit system allows for scaling and substitution to accommodate a wide variety of people. For example, it is unreasonable to expect a 50kg female to use the same weights as a 100kg male, so, the workouts can be scaled with lighter weights. For beginners, scaling is important because some of the workouts, particularly the 'girls', can deliver quite a beating to an unsuspecting exerciser.

In addition, the Crossfit system can be adapted to emphasise different aspects of fitness or compensate for a lack of available equipment. If you don't have access to a full gym, you can perform many of the Crossfit workouts with rocks, jerry cans or sand bags and, of course, there is always bodyweight work.

To get you started with Crossfit, try the eight-day mini cycle of workouts below. On first inspection, this workout plan may seem very strange – just remember that there is no 'arms' day in combat and neither should there be in your program. Try these workouts and you'll very quickly discover the benefits of Crossfit.

Once you've completed that, have a look at www.crossfit.com and read the 'FAQ' and 'getting started' links. You'll find a wealth of information on exercises, technique and fitness on the site, and the daily workouts are posted free.

If you are in Sydney or Townsville, try a workout at Australia's two Crossfit affiliates. Links to these can be found at www.octogen.com.au

- DAY 1:** "Cindy" – complete as many rounds as possible in 20 minutes of, five pull-ups, 10 pushups and 15 un-weighted squats.
- DAY 2:** Dead-lift five sets of five. Record the load you use.
- DAY 3:** Four rounds of 400m run + 50 un-weighted squats. Record your time.
- DAY 4:** Rest.
- DAY 5:** "Fran" – Three rounds, 21, 15 and nine reps of 42kg front squat plus overhead press and pull-ups, trying for best time.
- DAY 6:** Row 2000m. Record your time.
- DAY 7:** "Angie" – 100 pull-ups, 100 push-ups, 100 sit-ups, 100 squats, trying for best time.
- DAY 8:** Rest.

MODERN MILITARIES' CLOSE-COMBAT TRAINING

BY MAJOR TRAVIS FAURE

Modern warfare's technological advances have not eradicated the need for expertise in close combat techniques. Most modern militaries have adopted some form of self-protection training for their personnel, which is viewed as essential to building the warrior ethos.

There seems to be three broad approaches to this training;

- develop dedicated courses that meet the operational requirements of the modern battlefield,
- develop a new combative system of training which matures into a combative art, and
- adopt civilian martial arts as the core of training.

The first of these is based on a training need being identified and a course developed to satisfy it, while the second reflects the development of military self-defence systems which have then been successful and commercialised as a civilian program. The third reflects a cultural connection with nations that have a strong martial-arts history.

This article looks at the different approaches by some militaries compared to ADF programs.

Dedicated Courses

Dedicated courses provide militaries with the ability to tailor training to meet operational requirements. They are usually developed in-house with experts from various fields having input. Not based on any particular style (martial-arts agnostic), these courses choose the most appropriate technique for the scenario. A disadvantage of dedicated courses is the lack of progression provided once the course is completed – continuation training is dependant upon the interest of participants. The Australian Army, USMC and British Army take this approach.

The Australian Army

The Australian Army has formally conducted self-defence courses since the 1950s and currently has three: Defensive Tactics, Close Quarter Fighting (CQF) and Military Self Defence (MSD). Courses range from five to 10 days of intensive training, followed by periods of continuation training. Initially developed as skills training, with the recent raising of the Military Unarmed Combat Cell (more detail next issue) there is a shift towards embedding a self-defence-training culture.

USMC

The US Marine Corps places strong emphasis on self-defence training and has developed a school called the Martial Arts Centre of Excellence (MACE), dedicated to instructing the Marine Corp Martial Arts Program (MCMAP). The school motto, 'One Mind,

Any Weapon' symbolises an integrated approach towards training delivery. The school focuses on producing instructors for the USMC, who are then responsible for delivering MCMAP techniques back in their units. MCMAP has similar techniques as MSD, but differs in duration, the focus on producing instructors and the use of what they term 'tie-ins' – what we'd call war stories – to foster the warrior ethos.

British Army

The British Army's Personal Safety and Public Order (PSPO) is a dedicated self-defence course born of their Northern Ireland experiences. It is designed for all corps, is five days duration and with a strong emphasis on arrest and restraint techniques. PSPO has some similarities to MSD with a focus on use-of-force rules, basic armlocks, simple defence techniques and teamwork.

New Combative Systems

It's interesting to note that the two combative systems discussed below have evolved from dedicated courses. Perhaps as a dedicated course matures, it evolves towards a complete combative system. An advantage of this approach is the opportunity for progression through continuation training. A disadvantage is, as the course becomes a system, it is less responsive to the changing operational environment which it was designed to support.

Israeli Defence Force Unarmed Combat

The Israel Defence Force (IDF) has developed a self-defence system called Krav Maga to deal with close-combat situations, which has many similarities to MSD. Both systems have a strong reliance on gross motor skills, natural responses and quick and efficient techniques that work under extreme pressure to capture and control a situation. The difference is that Krav Maga has been successfully commercialised.

Russian Unarmed Combat

SAMBO – which in English means 'self protection without weapons' – is a system of martial techniques taught to Russian Special Forces' Spetsnaz. Tactics such as debilitating strikes, dangerous captures, suffocation and strangulation methods, plus tactics using arms such as spade, sabre, bayonet, knife and baton are included. The aim is the total destruction of an enemy in the most expedient manner. At this stage, no similarities can be drawn with the ADF's MSD.

Civilian Martial Arts

Nations with a history of combative arts often use these – or modified versions – as their primary self-defence system. Most Asian countries have native



fighting systems that have evolved into the civilian martial arts practiced today. It is interesting to note that the US Army has adopted a grappling-based system for their self-defence instruction. Grappling is not native to the US as compared to the native systems of South Korea, Thailand and Japan, discussed below.

Republic of Korea Army

The Republic of Korea Army has developed a combative program called Tuk Kong Sul, designed to deal with real-life combat, such as the silent and effective dispatch of enemies, particularly in the demilitarised zone (DMZ).

Royal Thai Army

The Royal Thai Army learn a self-defence system called Lerdrit – a martial art that uses open hands and is basically a modified version of Muay Thai. It places strong emphasis on knees, elbows, palm, kicks, grappling, locking and clinching.

Japanese Self Defence Force

The Japanese have a great history in martial arts, which is practiced widely for self-development. There's a strong emphasis in the Japanese military to train daily in the civilian arts of Aikido, Jiu-Jitsu, Kendo, Karate and Judo.

US Army

The US Army has moved away from dedicated self-defence to more sport- and competition-orientated programs with the adoption of civilian grappling systems. The emphasis is no longer on operational environments.

MSD, over time, may evolve into a uniquely Australian combative art, however, this needs to be approached with caution to ensure it remains agile and responsive to Australian military requirements.

My preference is for specialised self-protection programs designed for military members in full kit (protective vests, Kevlar helmets, webbing and weapon systems) taking into consideration stress response, types of missions, fatigue and limited time. These courses assist in developing the military combative mindset – essential on operations.

ANZACS WILL GET FREE SIM

On this page last issue we told you that the ADF was about to start handing out free copies of *Steel Beasts Pro* to all serving members of the ADF and NZDF. We can now confirm that it's true – well almost.

The ADF has, in fact, purchased a license from eSim Games to reproduce *Steel Beasts Pro Personal Edition* (not the full-version *Steel Beasts Pro*) and is currently mass producing the necessary copies for wide distribution, initially to Battle Simulation Centres, Land Warfare Centres and Combat Training Centre (Battle Training Wing).

An Army spokesman confirmed for CONTACT that the program will also be made available to individual units for personal use, via the Land Warfare Development Centre Battle Simulation Centres and Land Warfare Centres.

Steel Beasts Pro Personal Edition is a variant of the full-version *Steel Beasts Pro* designed to familiarise personnel with the main simulation's operation and interface (see review in CONTACT issue #10).

Under this deal, the simulation will be distributed to serving members of the ADF and NZDF only.

GAME REVIEW

GHOST RECON: ADVANCED WARFIGHTER

www.ghostrecon.com | UBISOFT



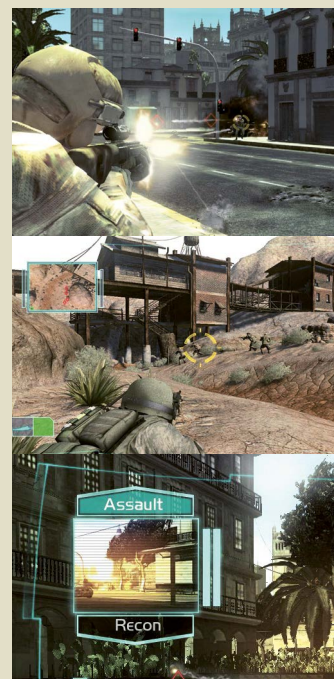
Captain Scott Mitchell is back in the thick of things (anyone would've thought the poor bugger would be promoted by now) with his battle-hardened Ghosts. This time it is a coup in Mexico timed to coincide with a visit from POTUS. Of course, as can only happen in movies, novels and drug-induced imaginations, the president's security team were having a day off and let their principal get bagged. As always, the first response of the United States is a military one that has the Ghosts, and several other special-forces teams inserting into downtown Mexico to find and secure their President and assist the rightful Mexican Government in restoring law and order.

From the outset, *Ghost Recon Advanced Warfighter* (GRAW) has taken the immersive qualities of a first-person game to a new level. Insertions, whether by HALO parachuting, fast roping from an MH60 or just tooling along in the back of a Stryker, are fully modelled. While in essence only eye candy, it does set the scene for the coming mission and increase the illusion of realism applied to the game.

Unlike previous titles in the series, weapon selections have been scaled back to a realistic armoury including the SCAR, Mk46 and AS50 anti-materiel weapon. Each weapon can be 'fruited up' with various enhancement kits such as vertical fore-grips and Aimpoint scopes.

The single-player campaign unravels across 15 maps, each with a number of sub-missions. Thankfully the developers' pre-occupation with future technology negating the need

for boots-on-the-ground support has been scaled back in GRAW. While still in the game, a player only needs to take on the whole Mexican Army as an individual in a couple of missions. Most missions are Captain Mitchell and his team wreaking havoc against everything from Mexican conscripts to fanatical special forces led by a charismatic general.



While the remainder of Captain Mitchell's team are in the game, they have essentially been relegated to 'disposable.' If a team member is killed, he will miraculously reappear at the insertion point for the next mission. Unlike the first games in the series, characters do not gain experience or need a break from combat operations.

It is here that GRAW's all-platform approach shows on the PC game. On consoles, the game, while similar, is different enough to offer a new experience. Captain Mitchell can only rely on the direct support of one other Ghost in most missions but has the ability to operate captured crew-served weapon stations,

something that is missing in the PC version. The console version has a different look and feel and, in my experience, makes more use of the Cross-Com C2 system employed in the game.

In the PC version the real-time overhead imagery is a God-send but there is little need for a reliance on the Ghost helmet-cam vision. On the console, helmet-cam vision was integral to completing the mission.

A new addition to the series, and something, that if realistic, will give a significant advantage in urban settings, is the tactical or micro-UAV. Essentially a type of small helicopter that can hover over the battlefield and provide situational awareness on the enemy a couple of blocks out, the UAV was indispensable when offered up during missions.

GRAW, like previous titles in the series, has no implementation of those other battlefield effects that soldiers need to concern themselves with such as collateral damage and, in a horribly frustrating decision, players cannot pick up dropped weapons from killed friend or foe.

Online, GRAW has already built an impressive following, whether on Xbox Live or through GameSpy. Unfortunately, cheating has already become prevalent, and the online community is petitioning the developers for some type of protection.

GRAW has taken the franchise to the next level in both immersion and game play. It was my first return to PC FPS titles in quite a while and it completely reaffirmed my appreciation of the PC over consoles in this type of game. Having said that, the console version has been significantly tweaked to ensure it is an enjoyable experience on that system. As a launch title for the Xbox 360, it also has high-definition graphics that must be seen to be believed.

Score: 4.5/5

GAME REVIEW

FULL SPECTRUM WARRIOR: TEN HAMMERS

www.fullspectrumwarrior.com

THQ



The original *Full Spectrum Warrior* holds the title of the first game I fully played through on my Xbox. At the time, it was gritty, realistic and innovative enough to completely capture my attention when new and impressive titles were being launched weekly. I looked forward to the sequel, *Ten Hammers*, from the moment it was announced.

Maybe it was that prolonged wait, or perhaps my disappointment stemmed from finding nothing really new, but I have not had the same experience with *Ten Hammers* that I vividly remember from the original.

Ten Hammers, like the original is a tactical, strategy game rather than a squad-based first-person shooter. Essentially the player is given two fire-teams (which form a complete squad) to manoeuvre and fight within a restrictive Middle-Eastern urban environment. The storyline for the fictional Zekistan operation is part Afghanistan, part Iraq and a little bit of Somalia – something not all that removed from what thousands of Coalition troops are facing daily.

The game plays out through the narration of an embedded journalist (who waxes so lyrically I prayed for the option to lock him in a Bradley) attached to the squad. The original was one of the first games to portray the impact of media on the modern battlefield but the player is not readily given enough freedom to influence that reporting. It is impossible to cause an atrocity that will be negatively reported and the embedded journo is so pro-US he will never criticise the operation. Considering the FSW series is being used

to train US Army troops, this is one area they are going to be sorely unprepared for.

With a new operation, *Ten Hammers* has also introduced the ability to break down into two-man buddy teams (essentially giving a player four manoeuvre elements) and added in some options that have tended to take the game more towards a FPS and away from its strategy roots. Players can now control precision fire by the rifleman in addition to controlling the employment of grenades of various types. A new scouting option allows a player to send a single soldier forward for a quick recon, and support options such as mechanised elements and air strikes are now more prevalent. *Ten Hammers* also introduces more height to the game, with players now required to fight vertically in the built-up environment.

Yet, despite all of these enhancements, *Ten Hammers* is just *Full Spectrum Warrior* all over again. The storyline is not engaging enough to draw a player into the game and the increased micro-control required in *Ten Hammers* is actually a detriment from the previous version. I want my soldiers to be smart enough to react appropriately in any given situation by employing their weapon systems, finding cover and reporting in. In *Ten Hammers* I was constantly micro-managing to the point of tediousness.

On the PC, the keyboard and mouse set-up just does not provide the intuitive control required for this game (and I think this was my major frustration). On the console, the gamepad control allowed quick and easy orders to fire teams. I would definitely suggest purchase of a gamepad controller if the PC version is your only option.

Score: 3.5/5

RUGGED COMPUTERS GET MOBILE



The usual solution to supporting operational military computing needs in the field has been to put specially designed, embedded computers into vehicles. Albeit a very expensive solution, for years this has been the best way to provide military vehicles with technology that can reliably withstand rugged environments.

JLT has a range of rugged computers designed and tested to withstand shock, dust, heat, cold, vibration and water. The computers use the fastest available processors which do not require cooling by a fan, with a range of screen sizes available. Storage devices are either rotating hard drives in easy environments or solid-state flash drives in the harshest conditions.

These rugged mobile computers are designed to be fixed-mounted in or on vehicles and are of one-piece construction.

There is also a range of Field Tablet PCs (hand-held) available that are ultra lightweight, with a daylight viewable, resistive-touch screen and IP-65 water- and dust-proof rating. A hot-swappable battery ensures that work can continue without recharging or rebooting.

Contact David Croxford of Control Synergy on (02) 49665211, email info@controlsynergy.com.au or visit www.controlsynergy.com.au for more details.



Thanks to Ubisoft, CONTACT has one copy of *Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter* for PC and one copy of *Over G Fighters* for Xbox 360 to give away. Tell us in 50 words or less which game you would like to win and why. The best entries as judged by the Editor will win. Don't forget to include name, address and contact details.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT LINE



After surviving the trenches of Gallipoli with wounds that required his evacuation to England, Henry finds himself on the road to recovery and, as has been his want on his grand adventure, pens a lengthy letter home. We take up the commentary as Henry finds himself heading back to war – in the trenches in France...

Our three days trip from Marseilles to a place called Baielui was through the prettiest country I ever saw. We were within 8 miles of Paris and could see the Eiffel Tower plainly. It was a certainty that if they took us through Paris, we would have taken leave and had a look around Paris.

We were only a little over a week at Baielui, about 10 miles from the trenches. We could plainly hear the booming of the heavy guns. We also saw plenty of aeroplane fights which were interesting to watch.

The English and French airmen are much superior in the air than the Germans and our fellows would soon hunt the German home to his lines.

An aeroplane is most useful in warfare and is used mostly for spying out guns and watching movements of troops. I saw as many as 26 of our aeroplanes in a mob going on a raiding expedition.

When our airmen fly over the German lines, old Fritz opens up a terrible bombardment with their aircraft guns, but our fellows take no notice but go on with their work.

Sometimes the Germans score a hit and bring our man down but there are always plenty more only too eager to take his place.

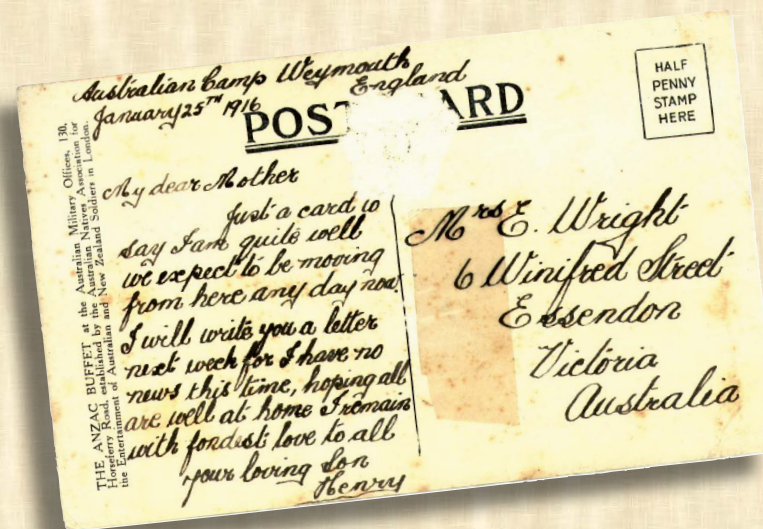
These aeroplanes are all fitted up with wireless apparatus and they watch the result of our gunner's fire and wire back the result. Too far, too short as the case may be until our gunners eventually blow up the object they are after.

Now here is a story of one of our airmen, an Englishman who was known as the

Mad Major. This man was supposed to have consumption and only had a few months to live, so did not care if he was killed.

I have heard this story from Englishmen, Australians and Canadians who have seen him often. He would fly over the German lines and swoop right down on their trenches and drop bombs. He had the most lucky escapes and often the planes [wings] were riddled with shrapnel, and bullet holes. He would often loop the loop over Fritz's lines and end up with turning his machine guns on them. He is credited with bringing down many a German machine, for he would attack any number of them single handed.

Here is another story of the Mad Major but I will not say it's true. One day he was flying over the German lines when something went wrong with the works and he had come down and had just fixed it up when he was surrounded by a couple of German Officers. They thought they would like to be planed a couple of miles back to their camps and, each with a loaded revolver, commanded him to fly there. He agreed and got in his machine and strapped himself in. The two German Officers were seated behind, covering him with their revolvers. He flew up into the air and looped the loop which threw out the Germans. He then came back to our lines. Of course you can believe this if you like, but I reckon it beats Sexton Blake hands down "eh what".



To be continued...

traser H3 permanent light technology



H3 watches have been part of the standard equipment of special units such as the Army Rangers, Green Berets, U.S. Navy SEALs, and EOD (Explosives Ordnance Demolition) Teams. The light sources are self-illuminating - they never need batteries or charging by means of daylight and are maintenance free for their entire service life. They are up to one hundred times brighter than traditional luminous paint.



Day View
Model P6502
Navigator



A no nonsense, proven performer. This model is based on the US Armed Forces issued Type 3 watch (MIL-W-46374F) of which many thousands have been sold. All Traser H3 watches employ the patented Swiss Made permanent light technology. Authentic military dial.

NEW MODEL
P 5904 | Trooper
Steel case PVD coated
Illuminated second hand
Sapphire crystal



Traser H3's permanent light technology combined with the advantages of solid titanium construction makes the P6506 Commander series top of the line in military style watches. Why compromise, when you can have the best. 2 models to choose from.

P 6506 | Commander
Titanium case



NEW MODEL
P 6506 | Commander 100
Titanium case
Titanium bezel

P5900 and P6500 series professional

Contact us now for your FREE catalogue including all new models!

T: 03 9832 0665 E: info@traser.com.au W: www.traser.com.au

CARINTHIA
EUROPEAN COLD
GEAR SPECIALISTS

USED BY PROFESSIONALS WORLD-WIDE.



AVAILABLE FROM:

MILITARY GEAR - BRISBANE
ISOLDIER - BRISBANE
INFANTRY MUSEUM - SINGLETON
WARLORD INDUSTRIES - SYDNEY
SOUTHERN CROSS EQUIPMENT - SYDNEY
COMBINED ARMS - WAGGA WAGGA
PINNACLE OUTDOORS - MELBOURNE
SAS SPORT - SWANBOURNE



G-LOFT ULTRA



MIG 2.0 JACKET



HIG 2.0 JACKET



HIG TROUSER

DISTRIBUTED IN AUSTRALIA BY
PREMIER DEFENCE AGENCIES P/L
WWW.PREMIERDEFENCE.COM.AU
info@premierdefence.com.au
02 9703 2475



HENRY A. FULLWOOD
DEATH OF BARON VON RICHTOFEN 1918
WATERCOLOUR WITH PENCIL AND CHARCOAL
253 X 352 (104 X 138 IN)
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL (ART02456)

BY WO1 DARRYL KELLY

Robert Buie was born in the little village of Brooklyn, New South Wales.¹ He earned his livelihood fishing the waters of the Hawkesbury River, then selling his catch to markets in and around North Sydney.

By October 1916, the Great War had been raging for two full years. AIF casualties were high following the fierce battles in the Somme Valley, particularly at Pozieres and Fromelles. Reinforcements were desperately needed.

Buie volunteered for war service at the recruiting depot in the country town of Grafton and was posted to the 10th Reinforcements of the 1st Pioneer Battalion.¹ He was sent by train to the Sydney Show Grounds, which the military had taken over as a training camp for new recruits.

Allocated to the 53rd Battery, Buie not only proved himself a competent gunner but also an excellent machine-gunner – with the ability to operate a Lewis gun with lethal accuracy.

Following the collapse of the Russian Front, the German Army's main thrust could now be directed at the Allied line. Strengthened by the arrival of additional divisions from the east, the Germans launched a savage attack along the British and French fronts. As units reeled under the ferocity of the attack, the Allied line began to crumble. The Australian, New Zealand and Canadian Divisions were rushed from the south. If the German push was not stopped, and the vital Channel ports fell to the enemy, Great Britain would be isolated.

The 53rd Battery was heavily engaged in the fighting, its 18-pounder guns bombarding the

drone of aircraft. He took little notice, as this was a familiar sound at the front line. He was engrossed with the task in hand – cleaning his Lewis gun – when he heard the frantic warning, "Air raid! Air raid!"

Grabbing his gun and slamming a drum of ammunition into the breech as he ran, he dashed to his post.

Buie scanned the skies looking for the approaching aircraft. He glanced at his mate 'Digger' Evans who manned the Lewis beside him.³ They exchanged a conspiratorial thumbs up, then watched with interest as the aircraft flew towards them, locked in aerial combat. The German squadron was dominating the Allies – two British planes had gone down in flames and now a third spiralled towards the ground.

At the last moment, the pilot pulled back on the throttle, levelled out his aircraft and headed towards the Allied lines, a German plane in hot pursuit. The British pilot used evasive tactics to shake his enemy tail, but the German seemed able to anticipate every move, peppering his opponent with bursts of machinegun fire.

A second Allied aircraft was attempting to manoeuvre above and behind the German, but was too far away from the fight. On the ground, Allied machine-guns fired unsuccessfully at the German plane.³

Bombardier JS Seccull, who commanded the 53rd Battery's anti-aircraft guns, watched as the two planes approached them.³ As they came closer, he noticed the unmistakable red tri plane. "Bloody hell! It's the Baron!", he yelled.

Both Evans and Buie sighted the aircraft, but the position of the Allied plane impeded their having a clear shot. Evans was the first to shoot, but his fire was ineffective. Buie held his breath and prayed for the plane to break right. Suddenly, there was the Red Baron, directly in front of him. He fired his gun, aiming directly at the cockpit. He watched as the bullets found their mark – bits of aircraft flew off as the damaged plane plummeted towards the ground.

The Diggers sent up an almighty cheer as

investigation gave Buie credit for bringing down the Red Baron.¹

A couple of weeks later, the 'brass' visited. "Well done, Gunner Buie", General Birdwood congratulated as he shook hands with the Digger. They chatted about the events leading up to the action and Birdwood mentioned that it would have been better if the Red Baron had been wounded and taken prisoner.

As he was about to depart, Birdwood paused to admire the anti-aircraft sight atop Bob's Lewis gun. The old general whispered to Buie, "Do you mind if I have this as a memento, lad?"⁴

Bob Buie was given a week's 'Blighty' (R&R in England) as a reward for his actions. He was also formally congratulated in Divisional Routine Orders.¹

Buie continued to serve with the 53rd Battery throughout the spring of 1918. Although his records do not indicate it, he was gassed – causing damage to his body that would affect his future health. On 29 July, Buie's condition was such that he required hospitalisation. It was severe enough to warrant his evacuation to England in the first week of August.¹ (An eye witness stated that Bob was hospitalised for a gunshot wound which he suffered on 8 August 1918 – again, not noted in his service records.)

While in England he was diagnosed with myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, which required hospital treatment for a further two months.¹

On 19 December 1918, Buie sailed for Australia on board the troop transport ship, HMAS Somali. He spent Christmas and New Year aboard ship but, with his poor state of health, he didn't feel like celebrating.

On his return to Australia, Buie was admitted to the military hospital at Randwick and was eventually discharged from the AIF as medically unfit on 7 September 1919.¹

The military authorities ruled that as Buie's illness was not 'war related' he was not eligible to receive a war pension – but, as he had been gassed and suffered a bullet wound, he should not have been denied this financial support.

To add to his woes, there was renewed controversy around the death of the Red Baron.

The official Australian war historian, CEW Bean believed that it was not Buie who brought down the German air ace, but another machine-gunner, Sergeant Cedric Popkin of the 24th

Machine Gun Company.³ Also, Canadian pilot Captain Roy Brown – who was in command of the third aircraft involved in the action at the time of the Baron's death – was adamant he had brought down the German, by firing from behind and above the triplane. However, close examination of the Baron's body showed that all wounds were to the front – no wounds at all were suffered from the rear, hence Brown couldn't have fired the fatal shot. It is a controversy that remains unresolved.

Buie returned to his life as a fisherman but was constantly plagued by ill health. Times were hard and, without the support of a war pension, he struggled to provide for himself.

In 1936, with the country gripped by the Great Depression, he moved to Paddington and sought work wherever and whenever.

A fire robbed him of his service medals, his Returned from Active Service Badge and his discharge papers.⁵ As ex-servicemen were given priority in the job line, the lack of proof of his military service made obtaining work all but impossible.^{6,7}

Buie returned to his hometown of Brooklyn. He repeatedly applied for a War Service Pension, but was refused each time.

He married a local divorcee, Laurel, who supported him through the difficult years that followed. His health continued to deteriorate, but he was forced to spend his days and nights fishing on the Hawkesbury River, trying to eke out a living for his family, who at times existed on a diet of a few stringy vegetables.

In 1956, Buie applied to Army HQ, Melbourne, for replacements of the medals which had been destroyed in the fire. In the letter of reply, he was informed they would cost more than one pound three shillings – an amount the family could not afford.⁸

Eventually, Bob applied for and was granted a meagre invalid pension that was barely enough to survive on.

On ANZAC Day 1964, just a few days after the 46th anniversary of the death of the

Red Baron, Buie took his boat out for a night of fishing. Next day, when he failed to return, with his family understandably worried, son Kelly launched a search. He found the fishing boat drifting in a tributary and, slumped across its seat, the body of the old Digger.⁸

A few days after Bob's death, Laurel Buie wrote a heartfelt letter to Army Headquarters advising them that she and her family had been left destitute by her husband's death. She requested his service record to enable her to apply for some form of assistance. At the same time, she asked for information regarding the Victoria Cross which she believed her husband had been awarded for shooting down the Red Baron.⁹

A reply came the following month – Gunner Robert Buie had neither been awarded nor recommended for the VC.¹⁰ The family was devastated. They were sure he had received something for bringing down the German ace.

Laurel again wrote to Army Headquarters requesting a copy of her husband's medals. In the letter, she outlined that Bob had earlier applied for a replacement set and she was now able and willing to pay the 23 shillings to obtain them for his children.¹¹ But, the right to obtain replacements had expired upon his death.

At this point, the Brisbane Waters Branch of Legacy stepped in to assist Laurel and her family with food and education expenses.

The Buie family continued to fight for recognition. If not a VC, then perhaps the next best thing. In 1973, daughter Merleine attempted to have Bob posthumously awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, which she felt sure her father had earned but never claimed.¹² Again, the family were

informed that no manner of decoration had been awarded or recommended.

Bob Buie, the man who so many believe shot down the Red Baron, was laid to rest in Brooklyn Cemetery. His family continues to fight for the recognition they believe he so justly deserves.

AS THE
TWO PLANES
HEADED
TOWARDS
THE DIGGER,
HE CONCENTRATED HIS
SIGHTS ON
THE SECOND

AIRCRAFT, MUTTERING UNDER HIS BREATH,
"BREAK RIGHT. BREAK RIGHT". HE HELD HIS FIRE
UNTIL THE ALLIED PLANE HAD PASSED OVERHEAD,
THEN, AS THE PURSUING ENEMY AIRCRAFT
CROSSED THE SIGHTS OF HIS LEWIS GUN, THE

DIGGER
SQUEEZED
THE TRIGGER,
SENDING A
STREAM OF
BULLETS
TOWARDS HIS
TARGET.

*Author's note:
My sincere thanks to Bob's nephew,
Morrie Buie, Bob's son, Kelly,
and the entire Buie family
for providing some of the
personal details relating to
Gunner Bob Buie's post-war life.*

BARON BEWARE

In early January 1917, the camp was agog with rumours that Buie's draft was scheduled to embark for England any time within the following three weeks. Buie decided to snatch a little extra pre embarkation leave. On 10 January, a warrant was issued for his arrest as a deserter.¹ It isn't clear whether Bob was arrested or surrendered, but he did embark on the troopship Anchises on 24 January.²

In late March, after the long voyage to England, Buie marched into the Pioneer Training Battalion based at Fovant. He soon realised 'pioneer' work was not to his liking and in November 1917 he transferred to the field artillery, with the rank of gunner.¹

enemy positions day and night. At Villers-Bretonneux, the Australians held their ground against repeated attacks by the seasoned German troops.

It was Sunday 21 April 1918 and the Australian gun lines stretched across the Bray-Corbie Road.³ With their guns dug-in and ammunition at the ready, the Diggers prepared themselves for the next German onslaught – determined to stay and fight to hold their position.

Buie was the 53rd Battery's anti-aircraft gunner. As he sat on an empty ammunition box, a hot brew resting on the ground between his feet, he could hear the distant

the aircraft skidded to a halt in a field a couple of hundred metres away. They rushed to the smouldering wreckage where they found the lifeless body of Baron Manfred Von Richtofen.

Controversy surrounded the death of the German ace. Everyone who had fired a shot during the aerial dogfight wanted to claim the kill. To settle the matter, the Allied high command launched its own internal investigation. About a month after the incident, Buie was called into the battery command post. "Well done, mate", praised the gun-position officer as he handed Buie the despatch from General Rawlinson, commander of the Fourth Army – the

To participate, go to www.militarycontact.com then the Forums and Surveys links


Posted subject: Australian Defence Force recruiting – Your current situation

Author: Gerty Posted: 7:27 am Tue 6 Jun 2006	<p>I went Reserves first while at school. If anything, it made me think, 'why the hell am I wasting my time at school?'</p> <p>I've heard of the trouble of transferring from Reserve to Regular, but you can easily bypass all that by just going through the application process, instead of trying to slip through the back door.</p> <p>I say do it. Go Reserves. It might also give you a good look at what it's all about, and you might even reconsider going Reg. The Army isn't for everyone, even if you are keen on joining. Plus you have the tax-free beer tokens to consider, and the fact that they actually send Reserves places nowadays.</p>
Author: Icelord Posted: 9:51 pm Wed 7 Jun 2006	<p>...a suitability check can take time. It shouldn't take as long as my case but it does from time to time. If you go through your regiment it would be easier, as you're still enlisted and your regiment recruiter is able to get a lot more done than Defence Force Recruiting.</p> <p>It's hard to not be discouraged, but luckily my heart is set on joining the ADF, and every setback has taught me something new and I swear I'll make it, dang nam it.</p>
Author: Trappy Posted: 3:48 pm Tue 20 Jun 2006	<p>Perhaps you or anyone else can offer some advice to my dilemma. Have had my joes day and assessment day – the thing is the psych said I have "under-lying issues" with my partner and she feels that I am not sure that this is really what I want. How can they say that to someone who has thought about this from around 8 years-of-age???? Apart from that, my Defence interviewer said I was basically there, just have to lose a touch of weight.</p>
Author: Pete793 Posted: 8:23 pm Tue 20 Jun 2006	<p>Good luck Trappy. They told me to take six months to make sure it was what I wanted before I continued, as well as to get my acne fixed up.</p> <p>Every day I spent thinking about it makes me want it more, but I seriously took some time, had a look at alternatives, really thought about it. If anything it has made me more keen.</p> <p>Remember knowledge is power – research your ass off till you know everything.</p>
Author: seth1138 Posted: 5:58 pm Fri 23 Jun 2006	<p>Well I did it, I successfully made it through my assessment day (a long day it was too). Just counting down the days and working even harder on my fitness (letting my guard down tomorrow night though for a few beers with some mates to celebrate this achievement that's been five years in the making).</p> <p>I'll let you guys know more as soon as I have the official word and dates.</p> <p>Take Pete's advice, "knowledge is power" so research your ass off for your chosen career in the ADF. I did and it's paid off for me.</p>

Posted subject: Why do you want to join the ADF?

Author: Pete793 Posted: 8:00 pm Sun 18 Jun 2006	<p>Personally, I've always loved weapons, tactics, abseiling, rock-climbing, and anything to get the adrenaline pumping and the competitive nature in me out. And SF is where I would be able to do activities that no other job can offer. I want to learn more about leadership and improve both my leadership and teamwork skills as well as meet a whole new bunch of people.</p> <p>Also, I want to devote myself to an idea and fight for a cause. It might sound stupid but I don't take everything I've grown up with for granted and I want to give some back. Mainly I want to achieve something bigger with my life than a nine-to-five office job would afford me.</p>
Author: Jakub Posted: 10:22 am Thu 22 Jun 2006	<p>I love the great outdoors, I love doing stuff with my mates and working in a team and I can't go past having the chance of doing all that and more.</p> <p>To tell you the truth, I don't know, maybe there's too many reasons or it's just hard to explain. It's just something that's in me, a need to fulfill a goal. I always aim high and I see the Army as something hard, rewarding and something you can say you're proud to do.</p>

Do you support Australia's new deployment of troops to East Timor?

Yes  96.4% (134)
 No  3.6% (5)

Total Votes: 139

POSTED COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE POLL

- Was reading Issue 2 on a train to the city yesterday and it was talking about what happened in Rwanda. Way I see it, if we didn't help we may have had a Rwanda repeat – **Lore, 4.20 pm, Mon 29 May 2006.**
- The way it was explained to me by a RAAF WOD, small countries left to fall in on themselves create little cesspools for terrorism to get a grip. If many little pools come together they form a flood, then we have a big problem on our hands. East Timor being so close to Australia would be reason enough to stop this from happening – **Shiny, 10.13 am, Mon 3 Jul 2006.**