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CONTACT

AIR LAND & SEA

THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

**BATTLING COLD AND
INSURGENTS**

OP SLIPPER

**CAN'T KEEP A
GOOD MAN DOWN**

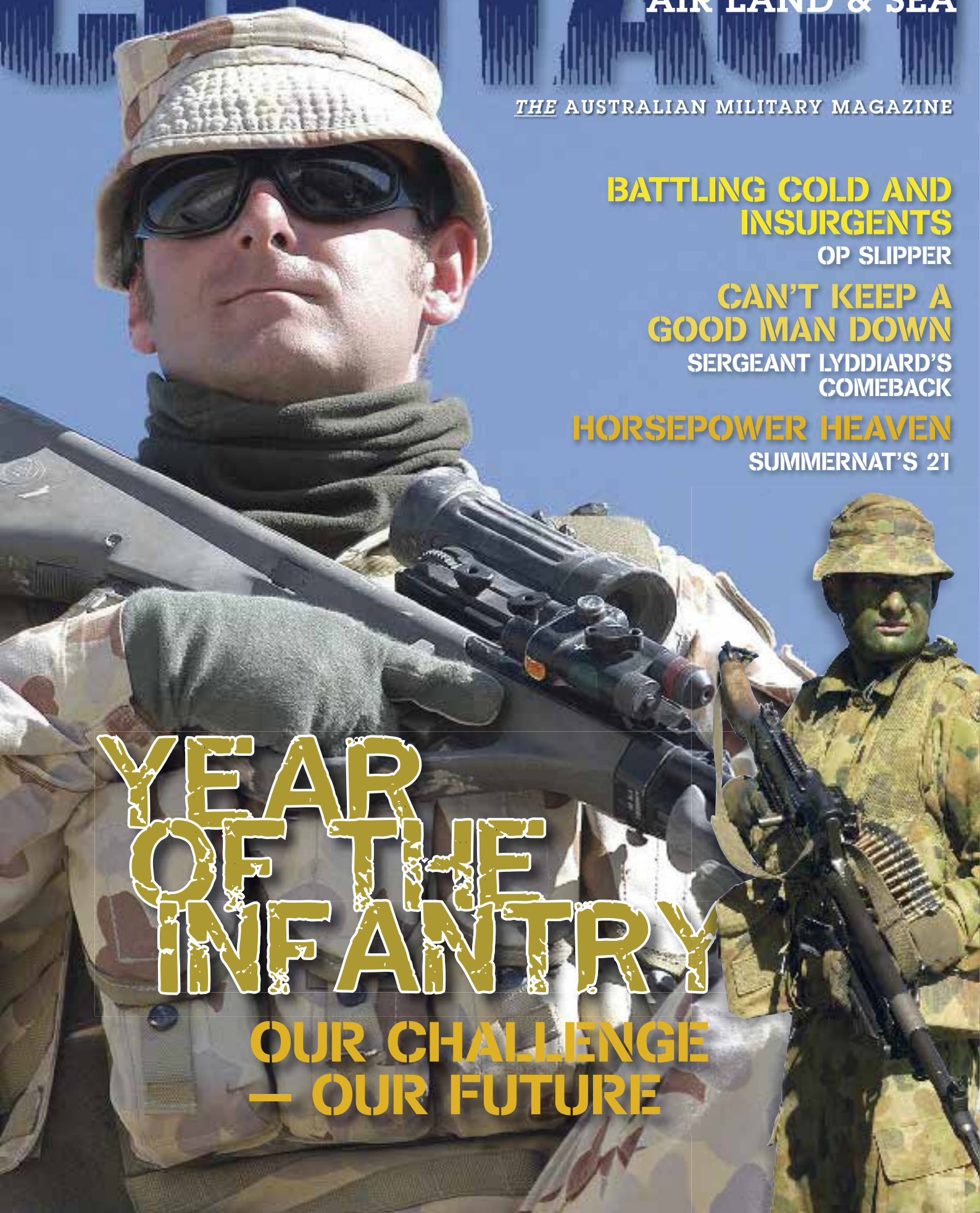
SERGEANT LYDDIARD'S
COMEBACK

HORSEPOWER HEAVEN

SUMMERNAT'S 21

**YEAR
OF THE
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— OUR FUTURE**



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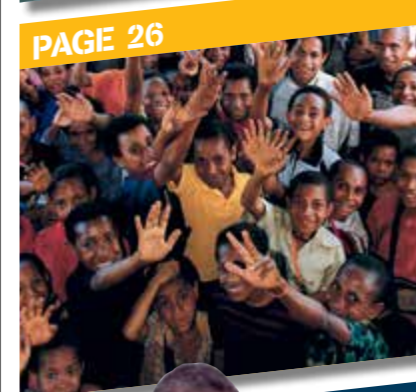
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CONTENTS

ISSUE 17 – MARCH 2008



- 10 THE BIG PICTURE**
The Desert Cup
- 12 HEADS UP**
Latest snippets from Australia and around the World
- 18 LOST IN BATTLE**
Private Luke Worsley killed by the Taliban in bomb-factory shootout
- 24 ON GULF PATROL**
HMAS Arunta on station in the Northern Persian Gulf
- 26 BACK ON TRACK**
Aussies rush aid to Kokoda after severe floods kill dozens
- 28 IN THE CHORA VALLEY**
Diggers and Afghans battle cold and insurgents around Tarin Kowt
- 32 YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN**
Sergeant Lyddiard back on duty
- 38 YEAR OF THE INFANTRY**
COMPLEX WARFIGHTING
Our challenge – our future
- 46 SUMMERNATS 21**
Celebrating with horsepower
- 50 COURT IS IN SESSION**
New, fully-deployable military court
- 52 NETTING THE BEST**
Recruiting wins in basketball
- 58 SOMALIA PART XVII**
Easy Money
- 62 MILITARY FITNESS**
- 66 JUST SOLDIERS**
- 70 GAME REVIEWS**

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THE EDITOR'S LETTER

Issue 17 – March 2008

CONTACT

AIR, LAND & SEA



Cover Story

Complex Warfighting
Our Future - Our
Challenge
Full story page 38

Pic: RTF overwatch, Tarin
Kowt, Afghanistan, Oct 2006
by Brian Hartigan

Editor	Brian Hartigan editor@militarycontact.com ph: 0408 496 664
Art Director	Tony Kelly tkelly57@tpg.com.au
Advertising Manager	Vivienne Long advertising@militarycontact.com phone: 0401 863 425 fax: (02) 6241 0634
Subscriptions and Business Manager	Rosie Hartigan subscriptions@militarycontact.com phone: (02) 6241 0634
Contributors	Darryl Kelly, Don Stevenson, Travis Faure, Jim Brabon, Ken Wright, AJ Shinner, Al Green

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Authors and photographers may submit articles and high-quality photos for consideration for publication, however, the editor accepts no responsibility for any material submitted and does not undertake to publish all submissions. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if material is to be returned.

In December we increased the size of CONTACT from 68 pages to 76 to better accommodate the wealth of stories that were around. While that was intended to be a one-off, we've had to do it again. There's just so much good material out there we didn't have the heart not to run as much of it as we could squeeze in. And yet, there's so much more that we just couldn't fit – like the cadet gathering in Tasmania, flood relief in Queensland, operations in Timor and Solomons, HMAS Sydney I mast dedication – the list goes on.

Our main feature in this issue is a very powerful and candid speech delivered by the Chief of Army to an Infantry Corps conference. While this is a step outside our usual 'tone', I thought who better to lay the ground rules for the future of infantry generally and for CONTACT's 'Year of the Infantry'.

We continue to get good feedback, encouragement and considerable interest in our 'Year of the Infantry' theme for 2008 – but, unfortunately, not a lot of input in terms of telling us your stories. Are you shy? Are you thinking "there's plenty of time"? Well, now is the time to contact us before it's too late. Write a story, long or short, about your experiences in infantry, or about a particular incident, exercise or operation. Or, tell us your story over the phone and let us write it for you.

You'll also notice from an exchange on the letters page that we have decided to expand the scope of 'Year of the Infantry' to cover all of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, not just RAR. So, get your writing caps on, put pen to paper, or mouth to telephone and get those stories flowing before it's too late.

Last issue I told you that Wayne Cooper was taking a well-earned break from recounting his experiences in Somalia – thank you for your effort thus far, Wayne – and a new man was taking up the pen. Well, I have great pleasure in introducing former 1RAR Private AJ Shinner to the stage to tell how he remembers Somalia through an infanteer's eyes. AJ isn't a stranger to CONTACT. We already met him in issues #7 and #8 when he took us "Into Harm's Way" as a security contractor in Iraq. So, knowing his pedigree and his easy writing style, you know you're going to enjoy his tales from Somalia. If the reaction of proofreading staff here is any gauge, I'm sure you too will be left begging for more!

I think the most touching story in this issue is the one about Sergeant Michael Lyddiard who survived against the odds when a bomb was trying to defuse literally blew up in his face. Not only did he survive – albeit with massive injuries – but, less than six months later, he's back in uniform and telling his boss he's ready for duty. As the saying goes, you really can't keep a good man down.

Another heartwarmer (though 'warm' is probably the wrong term, under the circumstances) is a report from Captain Al Green in Afghanistan. While Al outlines how the Aussies, their coalition partners and the Afghans are working together to overcome the Taliban, the heartwarming part, for me, is in the detail of how the Aussies are looking after each other. Cav and infantry working together in extreme conditions and looking after their mates.

Makes me proud to be an Aussie!

Brian Hartigan
Managing Editor

Brian Hartigan, East Timor, 1999



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INCOMING

FRIENDLY FIRE...

Great magazine and article about 7RAR. I had the privilege of serving alongside the 'Pig Battalion' as a section commander in 2RAR/NZ in Vietnam, 1967-68-70-71. The Fighting Seventh was a great battalion and, over the years, produced some very professional junior NCOs and some great characters.

However, I'm sure the old and bold junior NCOs over the past 60 years in the Royal Australian Regiment who served with distinction in Korea, Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam, and faced the same problems that junior NCOs face today, would not agree with RSM WO1 Dave Allen's statement nor the Chief of Army's view, that 'the modern soldier, especially at the junior NCO leader level, has a greater weight of responsibility on his shoulders than his predecessor'.

I think junior NCOs should be encouraged to research the history and official war diaries of the Royal Australian Regiment's magnificent battalions and they will come to realise that their level of responsibility in today's army is no greater or smaller than their predecessors.

Looking forward to 2008 and the 'Year of the Infantry'.

Barry Seeley former WO2, 2RAR - 3RAR - 4RAR - 2/4RAR INF CENTRE, via email

RETURN FIRE

Further to Dr Richardson's reply to Bonnie W's query with regard to why there isn't a Royal prefix to the Australian Army (CONTACT issue 16, Dec '07)... both the Australian Navy and Air Force are homogenous bodies, while the Australian Army is an elemental organisation made up of a number of corps, services and departments (hence the plural term, military forces).

The Australian Defence Force is based on the British system in which a person can enlist straight into either the Navy or the Air Force - however, one does not join the 'army'. In the UK, a person is enlisted straight into a regiment or a corps (for example, the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the Guards and so on) and recruit training is carried out by that formation.

The Australian Army's enlistment procedure is slightly different - men and women wishing to become regular soldiers are enlisted into the Regular Army, trained at one establishment, and then allocated to a corps (however, people wishing to join an Army Reserve unit are enlisted straight into the corps or regiment of their choice). Under the British system, because there is no 'army' as such, corps and regiments may be granted the title 'Royal'. This principle applies here in Australia too.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial, via email

BIGGER TARGET...

It's great to see that you've declared 2008 the 'Year of the Infantry' in CONTACT.

However, your editorial comments give the impression that the magazine's interest is confined to the Royal Australian Regiment and the period from 1948.

By doing this, you eliminate the State infantry regiments and their reserve battalions, most of which can trace their lineage back to the colonial era.

While recognising that 23 November 2008 is the 60th birthday of the RAR, you appear to have overlooked that 14 December 2008 is the 60th birthday of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

To confirm these facts, check my book **Redcoats to Cams - A History of Australian Infantry, 1788-2001**, published by Australian Military History Publications.

If you were to recognise the birthday of the Corps, you would allow all Australian infantry regiments and units, regardless of their status, to be part of CONTACT magazine's celebration of the 'Year of the Infantry'.

**For your consideration,
Ian Kurning, Singleton, NSW**

Ian, I am delighted to be corrected on this occasion and will, of course, broaden the scope of our coverage to include all RA Inf, as you suggest.

However, I am sure that your book (and others) has more than adequately covered the 'history' of pre 1948 infantry. Since I am not an historian, I wish to limit the scope of my efforts to modern times and solicit participation from members of the Corps with first-hand experiences to recount. In other words, I want to hear from people who were there and lived through it.

Anyone who would like to participate should call 0408 496 664, email editor@militarycontact.com or visit our web site www.militarycontact.com if you have a post-1948 Royal Australian Infantry Corps story to tell.

TWO CODE BLUE WINNERS



Thanks to our friends at Traser Australia, CONTACT is pleased to announce the winners of the magnificent **P 6508 Code blue** double watch giveaway from the December issue:

Heather Jones, Gatton, Queensland, and Donna Trahair, via email.

The new Traser P 6508 Code blue is based on the original military watch P 6500 Type 6.

It is equipped with a different bezel (5-60 minutes), a red second hand and, of course, with blue illumination. Traser H3's permanent and constant illumination provides safe, unfailing and unlimited night-time readability. All Traser H3 watches are top-quality, Swiss-made, extremely robust and equipped with mb-microtec

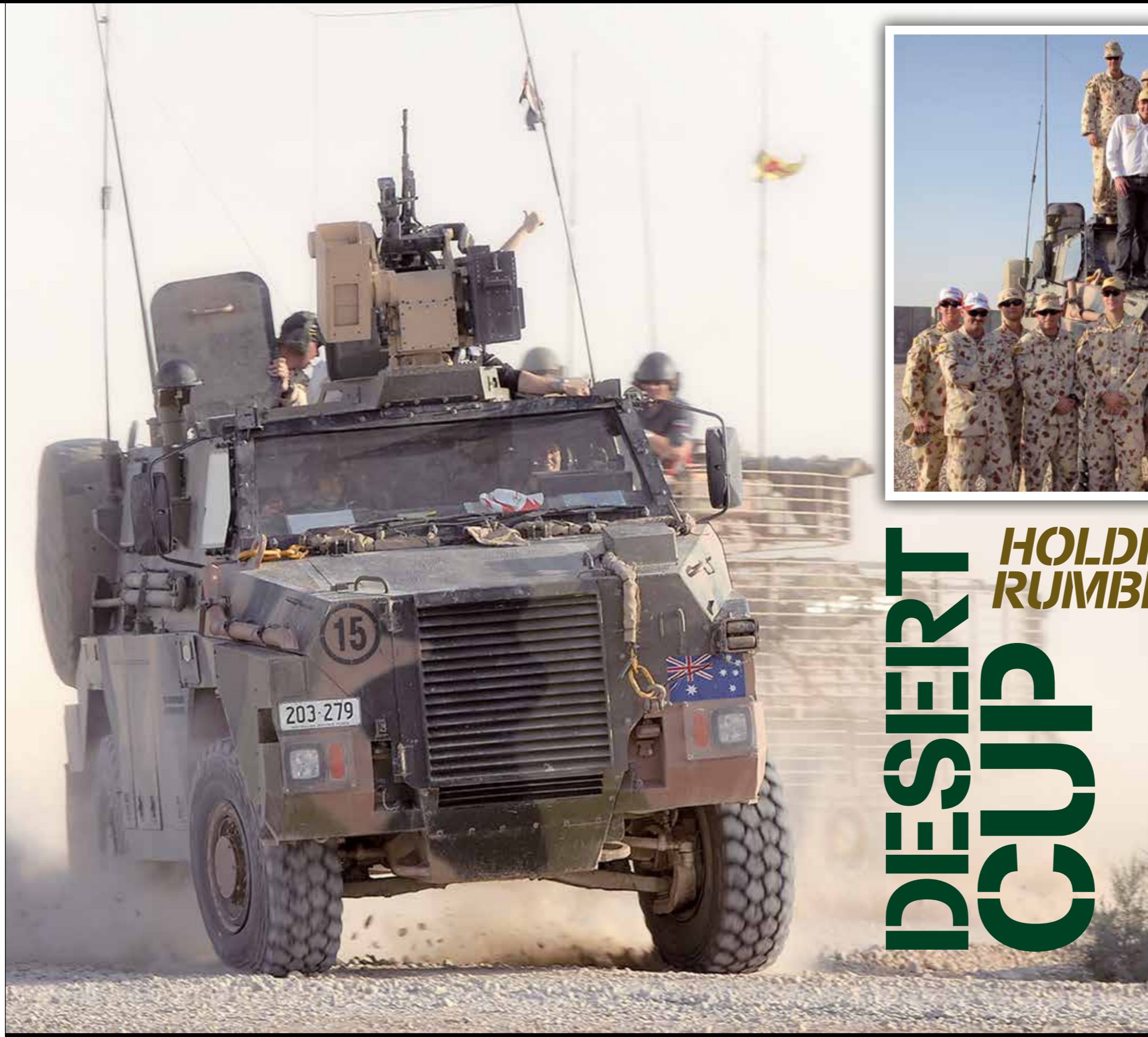
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Please keep your letters short and to the point, to fit more in. The Editor reserves the right to abbreviate and otherwise edit letters for any reason, including to make them fit.

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DESERT CUP

HOLDEN V FORD WAR RUMBLES IN MEAO

Holden drivers Rick Kelly and Greg Murphy with Ford counterparts Craig Lowndes and Jason Bright visited Australian troops in southern Iraq following their Round-12 V8 Supercar Championship meeting in Bahrain.

The drivers flew in by C-130 Hercules to meet the troops who were almost at the end of a six-month rotation.

After a question and answer session with soldiers, the drivers jumped at a chance for a little more racing in the desert, giving the soldiers' vehicles a workout at Camp Terendak, Talil.

Swapping high-octane petrol for diesel, the racing-car heroes pitted a Bushmaster infantry mobility vehicle against an ASLAV in three laps of the Australian compound in a race dubbed the Desert Cup.

Rick Kelly and Greg Murphy took line honours in the Bushmaster called Runterplausen, under the supervision of Corporal Dan Metcalf from Townsville's B Squadron, 3/4 Cavalry Regiment.

Rick Kelly said the visit was a great opportunity he wouldn't have missed for anything.

"When they asked me to go, I didn't have to think twice," he said.

"What we do as race drivers is sometimes perceived as dangerous, but these guys know real danger.

"They are obviously doing a great job in that area, and we wish them well."

Australia's Overwatch Battle Group West-3 is comprised mostly of soldiers from Darwin's 5RAR and 2 Cavalry Regiment.

Craig Lowndes finished third in last year's V8 Supercar Championships with Rick Kelly close behind in fourth. Greg Murphy finished thirteenth and Jason Bright twenty-first.

NEW BOSSES MAKE HOLIDAY VISIT

Less than three weeks after being sworn in to office, new Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and new Minister for Defence Joel Fitzgibbon visited Australian troops in the Middle East just before Christmas.

The pair also met with Australian and Coalition military leaders as well as their government counterparts in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

During the visit Prime Minister Rudd told troops of the Overwatch Battle Group (West) that they could expect to finish their rotation in June as planned, but that they would not be replaced.

However, Mr Rudd said that hundreds of Defence members involved in support

and security work in Iraq and elsewhere in the Gulf would remain.

There are currently about 1575 Australian Defence Force personnel deployed on Operation Catalyst – Australia's contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq. About 550 – those comprising OBG (W) – will be brought home.

In Afghanistan, the Prime Minister told troops that Australia was committed to that theatre for the long haul.

Australia's commitment in Afghanistan was approximately 970 personnel in mid-2007 and is expected to peak at around 1000 by mid this year.



PEGASUS CHARGED WITH HISTORY

Birthday honours were bestowed upon 5 Aviation Regiment during a parade in Townsville on November 20 when Governor General Major General Michael Jeffery presented the unit with its own guidon.

Chief of Defence Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston and Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy were among the many dignitaries on parade for this historic event.

The regiment becomes the first and only Australian aviation unit to receive such an honour.

Guidon is derived from the French guydhomme – a flag carried by the leader of horse into battle, and is second only to a standard in military heraldry. In the Australian Army, standards or guidons are carried by armoured units or regiments while Queen's and regimental colours are carried by the Royal Military College, Duntroon, infantry battalions and university regiments.



Pics Sergeant John Carroll

TIGER SIM DELIVERED – EVENTUALLY

A suite of aircrew and ground training devices for the Army's new armed reconnaissance helicopter was handed over by Australian Aerospace at a ceremony at the Army Aviation Training Centre, Oakey, in December.

The suite of devices includes a state-of-the-art full-flight and mission simulator (FFMS), a gun-system trainer, centre-fuselage trainer, underwater-escape trainer and environmental-control-system trainer. All of the devices will be located at Oakey with the exception of the underwater-escape trainer which will be installed at Darwin.

Australian Aerospace CEO Joseph Saporito said the program was very challenging because the Tiger is a very complex flying system to simulate.

Perhaps reflecting this complexity, the

systems were delivered late – causing DMO to stop Project AIR87 progress payments in June last year.

In a statement issued more than a month later, DMO said it had exercised its rights and stopped payment to Australian Aerospace on 1 June 2007 because the contracted milestone for ARH initial operational capability – which depended heavily on the simulators for training – had not been achieved.

Support for Tigers already delivered was not affected by the funding freeze, however, and scheduled flying operations continued in the interim.

Training of air and ground crews has now begun on the new training systems, with some Tigers and crews expected to be available for operational service mid this year.



Pic Australian Aerospace

BOOT CAMP MARCHES OUT

Basic recruit training for the Air Force has moved out of RAAF Base Edinburgh, ending more than 40 years of recruit training in South Australia.

RAAF's Number 1 Recruit Training Unit (1RTU) saw the last South Australia-based marchout in December – course 19/2007 making history – before shutting up shop for its move to RAAF Base Wagga Wagga in NSW.

The new-look 1RTU is expected to turn out its first recruits in April from a \$60 million facility, custom built on the base.

Left: Course 19/2007 becomes the last RAAF recruit course to graduate from RAAF Base Edinburgh. Pic Leading Aircraftman Leigh Cameron



With much of the RAAF's technical, trade and post-graduate training now conducted at the RAAF base, and with Army recruit training completed across town at Kapooka, Wagga Wagga has become a major centre for Defence Force education. The town also boasts a major civilian university campus.

More than 40,000 recruits have graduated from 1RTU since it commenced training in 1954 at RAAF Base Richmond.

This is the second time 1RTU has called Wagga Wagga home, having been located there from 1960 to 1964.

20 YEARS YOUNG

Two decades after STS Young Endeavour first unfurled her sails, the sail training ship manned by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), celebrated the anniversary at a ceremony in Sydney in January.

The 44-metre square-rigged tall ship was gifted to the people of Australia as a Bicentennial gift from the United Kingdom in 1988.

During her 20 year's service, more than 8500 young Australians have taken to the high seas to learn leadership, teamwork and sailing skills under the watchful eye of RAN personnel.

Just two months earlier, Young Endeavour received a prestigious award from Sail Training International that recognised the youth-scheme's innovation and best practice in sail training for young people.

C-17 ORDER FILLED

Boeing delivered the fourth and final C-17 Globemaster III to the RAAF in January at a ceremony in California.

The aircraft features the 'Block 17' configuration – the most modern variant of C-17s built by Boeing, with upgraded software and avionics.

With this delivery, the worldwide C-17 fleet totals

181; 171 with the USAF, four with the RAF and two in the Canadian Forces. The UK and Canada will get two more airframes this year, while the USAF has 19 on order.

Just two years after Australia decided to purchase four Globemasters, the accelerated acquisition program has delivered the giant aircraft on time and on budget – \$2.2billion, which includes new facilities for 36 Squadron and its support agencies at RAAF Base Amberley and significant improvements to facilities at RAAF Bases Darwin, Townsville, Edinburgh and Pearce.

AUSTRALIA BUYS SATELLITE

Australia has agreed to finance a sixth satellite to be added to the US Air Force's Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) system being built by Boeing.

"This is a unique, win-win arrangement between the Australian and US governments," vice president Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems Howard Chambers said.

"A sixth WGS satellite adds to the system's overall capacity and flexibility and will benefit both US armed forces and our allies."

A memorandum of understanding signed by both governments allows the ADF to access WGS services worldwide in exchange for funding the constellation's sixth satellite.

The system supports data rates of up to 311 Megabits per second – more than 200 times faster than most cable or DSL connections.

A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket successfully launched the first WGS satellite from Cape Canaveral in October and its first transmissions were, aptly, detected by Australian ground stations.

The sixth satellite is expected to be launched in 2012.

'GAP YEAR' SUCCEEDS

The Gap Year program to give school leavers paid opportunities to try a career in the ADF for just 12 months (see CONTACT #16 for a closer look) seems to have worked well thus far.

By early December, all Gap Year positions for Navy and Air Force had been filled.

Army, with more places to fill, was also confident of success.

As at 20 December, the program had generated more than 4260 enquiries and

1318 applications, with 630 successful.

Navy and RAAF initially offered 100 positions, with 500 in the Army.

The ADF Gap Year program was launched in August 2007 as a \$306 million element of a \$3.1 billion recruitment and retention program.

HELICOPTER SIM CONTRACT LET

Defence has announced that CAE, partnered with Thales, has been awarded a \$180million contract to provide MRH-90 flight simulators.

The full-flight and mission simulators will be delivered

in 2012 to new facilities at the Army Aviation Training Centre at Oakey, Queensland, and to 5 Aviation Regiment in Townsville.

"These MRH-90 full-flight and mission simulators are critical to the training of Army and Navy helicopter crews in the demanding military aviation operational environment," said Major General Tony Fraser, Head of the Helicopter Systems Division, said.

"These two simulators will be of the highest capability – level D – and will enable the aircrew training to match the capabilities of this outstanding helicopter."



Liz Cosson is promoted to Major General by Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, assisted by her husband Colonel James Baker.

MODERN MAJOR GENERAL

Elizabeth 'Liz' Cosson has become the Australian Army's first two-star officer after being promoted to major general in a private ceremony at Russell Offices in November.

She joined the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps in 1979 and has had numerous supply and administrative appointments.

In 1991 she was responsible for logistics support to army aviation and was commended for her work in improving the availability of the Black Hawk fleet.

She was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross in the 2001 Australia Day Honours List for her work in logistics planning support to INTERFET and as Chief of Staff to the Peace Monitoring Group, Bougainville.

In 2006 she became Director General Regions and Bases, giving her overall responsibility for the service-support delivery to bases across Australia.

She came to public attention in 2006 after leaving her report into the death of Private Jake Kovco in an airport terminal.

Major General Cosson is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College, Queenscliff (1994) and the Defence Strategic Studies Course (2005). She holds a Graduate Diploma in Management Studies, a Bachelor of Social Sciences and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies.

Following her promotion, she is appointed Head, National Operations, Defence Support Group.



Pic Able Seaman Paul Berry

MOVEMBER

Sergeant Wayne Hodder of Townsville and Leading Aircraftman Adam Day from the Sunshine Coast flourish the moustaches they grew to support 'Movember' fundraising efforts for prostate-cancer and male-depression research.

A Herculean effort by members of 37 Squadron not only raised money for charity but raised the morale of colleagues – and the ire of some Warrant Officer Discipline types, no doubt!

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MRH 90 ARRIVES

Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) accepted delivery of the first two MRH 90 multi-role helicopters (MRH) in Brisbane in December.

Under Project AIR 9000, 46 MRH 90s have been ordered for the Navy's Sea King and Army's Black Hawk fleets as well as additional air-mobile support.

These aircraft are the first two of four MRH 90s to be assembled in France, with the remaining 42 aircraft to be assembled by Australian Aerospace in Brisbane.

Head of Helicopter Systems Division Major General Tony Fraser said the acceptance of the first two MRH 90s was a critical milestone in the project.

"It will provide our sailors and soldiers with a new troop-lift helicopter designed for the demands of modern

combat operations over land and from ships," he said.

MRH 90 is the first true fly-by-wire helicopter in the world. It is equipped with a forward-looking infra-red system for flight in low light and has the same helmet-mounted sight and display as used in Tiger.

The 10-tonne-class helicopter has a larger cabin than Black Hawk with capacity to carry two pilots and 18 full-equipped combat troops over 900km at up to 300km/h.

Australia chose MRH 90 under AIR 9000 to modernise and rationalise its military-helicopter fleets, initially ordering 12 MRH 90s in 2004 but subsequently increasing that to 46.

Initial operational capability is scheduled for Navy in 2010 and Army in 2011.

MISS BEHAVIN



Pic Able Seaman Paul Berry

Australian aircraft in the Middle East stand out from the coalition crowd thanks to the artistic flair of Queensland Leading Aircraftman Simon Rush.

In the best tradition of military aviation, the ground-crewman with 37 Squadron from Richmond, NSW, has applied nose art to three C130-H Hercules aircraft in his spare time.

"The art adds a bit of character – people can relate to it," he said. LAC Rush illustrated the designs Miss Behavin, The Rainmaker and Snake Eyes with a limited palette of wax-based chinagraph pencils.

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A RHIB from HMNZS Canterbury in action
Pic New Zealand Navy

CANTERBURY DESIGN TARGETED

On July 10, 2007, HMNZS Canterbury lost her port-side RHIB (rigid-hull inflatable boat) and damaged her starboard RHIB while crossing the Bay of Plenty in a severe storm.

An inquiry into the incident, released in December, cleared the captain and crew of any wrongdoing or shortcomings in their response to the storm and laid blame squarely on the ship's design. "Both incidents occurred as a direct result of the design of the ship," the report said.

The loss and damage to the RHIBs was caused by large volumes of water entering the ship's alcoves in which the boats were stowed, ripping the port RHIB from its fastenings and causing structural damage to the starboard RHIB.

Water ingress occurred because of a combination of ship roll, the position of the alcoves relative to the waterline, 6m waves and the wave direction.

It was noteworthy, the report said, that both RHIBs were affected, given that the ship was on a recommended heading relative to the storm designed to protect the leeward alcove.

Total damage to the ship and equipment was estimated at more than \$300,000.

HMNZS Canterbury was designed and built in Australia by Tenix and the problem of flooding in the RHIB alcoves was identified early, during tank testing. A lesser incident resulting in RHIB damage had occurred during the

ship's delivery voyage across the Great Australian Bight.

Minister of Defence Phil Goff has asked for an independent review of the acquisition and introduction into service of the ship.

■ Meanwhile, the findings of a separate inquiry into the death of a Canterbury crewmember have been delivered.

On 5 October in the vicinity of Spirit's Bay off Northland, a routine sea-boat recovery drill resulted in an accident where the RHIB capsized, killing Byron James Solomon, a Navy Able Hydrographic Systems Operator.

The Solomon and Carkeek family subsequently released a statement in which they said they were grateful to the Navy for keeping them in the loop in all aspects surrounding Byron's tragic death.

"We understand there are some issues regarding the equipment used on the Canterbury and, naturally enough, the Navy is keen to complete further investigation so that they can establish whether or not they have the safest options available.

"This process is critical as conditions are dangerous enough for our servicemen and women without the added concern of sub-standard equipment or design," Bill Solomon, Byron's father, said.

"We applaud Mr Goff's comment that 'safety must always be the first priority' and we await with interest the results of the review he has requested."

SKYHAWKS RETIRE DESPITE ASSURANCE

Despite RNZDF officials refuting media speculation on a possible sale of Skyhawks (as reported in CONTACT #16), the New Zealand government has finally confirmed their intent to sell the ageing fleet.

All 17 aircraft have been mothballed and moved to outdoor storage pending consent for the sale from the US State Department.

The aircraft were moved from their Woodbourne hangar to make way for a C-130 life-extension project that will see the Hercules continue operating until at least 2017.

The Skyhawks have been coated with a spray-on latex membrane to protect them against the elements. They are said to be in very good condition for their age.

MEDAL THEFT

At about 1.10 am on Sunday 2 December a burglary at the Army Museum at Waiouru robbed the New Zealand Army of a major portion of its proud history.

The offenders gained entry via a fire escape and went directly to the Valour Alcove where they broke into a display case and stole a number of medals including nine Victoria Crosses.

Museum security systems activated but the burglars acted quickly and had left by the time a security guard arrived.

Officer in Charge of the investigation Detective Senior Sergeant Chris Bensemann said that a number of useful pieces of information had been located during the forensic examination of the scene. CCTV footage had also been helpful.

The New Zealand Army seconded 20 Military Police officers to assist in door-to-door enquiries in the local town. Accommodation, meals and other assistance was also provided by the Army barracks to Wellington-based investigators.

Chief of Army Major General Lou Gardiner said the medals were awarded for extraordinary valour and had come to symbolise the huge sacrifices all New Zealanders made in the many conflicts fought for the freedoms the nation had come to accept.

"Their theft is a theft from New Zealand and as such is a serious crime calling for the co-operation of all New Zealanders in their recovery," he said.

A reward of NZ\$300,000, posted by private interests, was announced in January. It constitutes New Zealand's largest ever reward.

KIWI WINS AUSTRALIAN AWARD

A young Gisborne man won the Chief of Army prize at the Australian Defence Force Academy graduation in Canberra in December.

Officer Cadet Nathan Williams commenced studies at ADFA in 2005 as one of two officer cadets selected to represent the NZ Army on a four-year scholarship.

"One of the appeals of the Army was the chance to travel, which is something I love," he says.

"So when I was offered the chance to live in another country within two weeks of joining up, I leapt at it."

The former Campion College student completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in history and politics, in which he maintained a distinction average, and won three other academic and military prizes at the awards ceremony.



Officer Cadet Williams said he wanted to experience life at a military academy, as opposed to a civilian university – something that is not available in New Zealand.

OCDT Williams will undertake a further year of training at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

SECOND IPV LAUNCHED

The second of four in-shore patrol vessels built entirely in New Zealand by Tenix was launched in Whangarei Harbour in December.

HMNZS Hawera is one of seven new ships being introduced into the Navy under Project Protector.

A week earlier, sister ship HMNZS Rotoiti successfully completed her sea trials after being launched in July.

By the end of this year, the Protector Fleet will comprise seven ships of three different classes; one multi-role vessel, two off-shore patrol vessels and four inshore patrol vessels.

Tenix has commenced the ship's fit-out for a scheduled official handover to the Navy mid this year.

Hawera is the third ship of the name to serve in the RNZN, the first was a Loch-Class frigate that, among other things, saw operational service in Korea. The second was a Lake-Class patrol vessel that carried out some of the same multi-agency tasks on which the new vessel will be focused – including activities in support of the Ministry of Fisheries, Customs and the Department of Conservation.

OLD WORKHORSES RETIRE

Two of the remaining three in-shore patrol craft, HMNZ Ships Wakakura and Kiwi formally decommissioned from operational service in December at the Devonport Naval Base, marked by two special events.

First, at 6am, the Maori (life force) was lifted, before the formal decommissioning ceremony at 10am.

It was an emotional farewell for Kiwi's commanding officer Lieutenant John McQueen and Wakakura commanding officer Lieutenant Grant Judson and their respective crews as they left their ships for the last time.

Sister ships Hinau and Moa were decommissioned in January last year.

The fifth vessel of the class, HMNZS Kahurangi, will remain in service as a navigational and seamanship trainer.

TRADITIONAL MAORI WELCOME

Newly arrived soldiers from the New Zealand Army who arrived in Timor Leste just days before Christmas, formally received their new force commander Australian Brigadier John Hutcheson with a traditional Maori powhiri at their headquarters in Dili.

The powhiri is a traditional Maori ceremony where strangers are welcomed onto someone's land or village, in this case the New Zealand Army's forward operating base in Dili called 'Kiwi Lines'.

The traditional ceremony starts with the village's finest warrior going out to greet the most senior person coming to the village and offer a challenge to determine whether or not the visit is for peaceful or war-like purposes.

After ceremonial speeches, the New Zealand soldiers performed a welcoming

haka for the Australians, while the Australians in return performed a rousing rendition of Waltzing Matilda.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Brigadier Hutcheson and the New Zealanders performed the traditional hongi, the gentle pressing of noses and foreheads between new friends, to symbolise the unity that now exists between the Australian and New Zealand troops.

Both Brigadier Hutcheson and the commander of the New Zealand company, Major Chad Preece, spoke of the unique bond between the Australian and New Zealand defence forces born on the beaches of Gallipoli and the importance of that relationship in undertaking their joint mission to help the people of Timor Leste.



Pics Leading Aircraftman Guy Young



Private Luke Worsley, an Australian Commando serving with the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan, was killed in battle with the Taliban on 23 November 2007 – the third Australian in-theatre fatality in two months.

Dead at age 26, there's no doubt Luke Worsley died doing what he loved – serving on operations with his mates.

There's also no doubt that Private Luke Worsley was a very fine soldier – the accolades and powerful words of family, friends, commanders and colleagues attest to that.

"Luke was sometimes called 'Mr 110 per cent'; his brother-in-law Tim told almost 1000 mourners packed in to St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney for the funeral service on 4 December.

"That's part of the reason Luke loved his job in the army so much – he wanted to be the best soldier possible – and serve with the best – and that's exactly what he did."

In an earlier media statement, his family said that although they were devastated at Luke's loss, they knew the Army was his chosen profession.

"We are extremely proud of our boy and we know that we lost him doing a job he was trained for and loved doing.

"When he was growing up, we would never have thought of Luke as a soldier.

"But, he loved the Army, its discipline, training and spirit.

"Luke had strength of mind, body, character and will.

"The Army was the life Luke wanted and he was happy.

"Our son chose his profession and, as fate would have it, he paid the ultimate sacrifice."

Private Luke Worsley enlisted into the Australian Regular Army in October 2001 and, after completing recruit training, was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

After completing Initial Employment Training at Singleton he was posted to the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in Townsville and was deployed to East Timor.

After two years with 1RAR, Luke was looking for a new challenge and applied for selection with 4RAR (Cdo). He was successful, and went on to complete the commando suite of courses, qualifying in 2004.

Luke deployed with Delta Commando Company Group to Afghanistan in 2006. On return from this first rotation, he was posted to Bravo Company and redeployed to Afghanistan in September 2007.

About half way through this deployment, Luke participated in an Australian Special Operations Task Group action against a known enemy compound.

Chief of Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said the assault followed several weeks of monitoring and intelligence gathering and targeted Taliban leaders and

their supporters in Oruzgan Province as well as an identified bomb-making facility.

"No other Australian troops were killed or wounded in this protracted engagement, during which our soldiers acquitted themselves magnificently. [The engagement] was characterised by heavy, close-quarter fighting," he said.

Private Luke Worsley was first through the door at the bomb factory and was met by heavily armed enemy who opened fire, killing him almost instantly.

The ensuing battle, which lasted several hours, resulted in no further Australian casualties, but a large number of enemy were either killed or captured.

"We are taking the fight to the Taliban. We're going after these bomb makers. We're going after their leadership," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

"We will not rest from that task.

"But, any time you take the fight to the enemy, any time you conduct offensive operations, from time to time you will take casualties."

Private Worsley's remains were returned to his family in a solemn ceremony at RAAF Base Richmond, before the public funeral service in Sydney.

His parents, John and Marjorie Worsley thanked Defence for their support, kindness

and attention to detail, all of which had made a very difficult time more bearable.

"Luke's military family has been so kind and generous to us in the days since Luke died.

"When they brought our son home, no detail escaped their attention.

"We had feared the grief of the day would be too much to bear, but instead, the dignity of the occasion made us stronger.

"Since the death of our son, we have been overwhelmed by the kindness of a number of people who have assisted us through this difficult time.

"We've received lovely messages from many people, including Luke's army mates. They have been kind enough to tell us about how Luke could always be relied upon to lift people's spirits and encourage them to go farther when they'd had enough.

"Our family is so proud of all our soldiers. They were Luke's mates, his comrades, and they entrusted each others' lives into each others' hands and did the best they could for each other.

"They are bonded. It's something money can't buy.

"Luke was only one of our soldiers and they're all the same – they're all equal – they're wonderful and they represent this country."



After completing his IET course at Singleton, Luke Worsley presented the following poem to his father. It was read during the proud soldier's funeral service.

'The Final Inspection'

The soldier stood and faced God – which must always come to pass. He hoped his shoes were shining just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, you soldier. How shall I deal with you? Have you always turned the other cheek? To My Church have you been true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders and said, "No, Lord, I guess I ain't, because those of us who carry guns can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays and at times my talk was tough and sometimes I've been violent because the world is awfully rough.

I know I don't deserve a place among the people here – they never wanted me around, except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord, it needn't be so grand, I never expected or had too much, but if you don't, I'll understand."

There was a silence all around the throne, where the saints had often trod, as the soldier waited quietly, for the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you soldier, you've borne your burdens well. Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets, you've done your time in Hell."

LOST HIS LIFE IN BATTLE

WORDS BRIAN HARTIGAN
PICS SERGEANT KATRINA JOHNSON



WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF OUR BOY AND WE KNOW THAT WE LOST HIM DOING A JOB HE WAS TRAINED FOR AND LOVED DOING



MAY HE REST IN PEACE

A soldier serving with the 2RAR Battalion Group in Timor-Leste was found dead in his room in Dili on 5 November.

Chief of Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said Private Ashley Baker had died of a single gun-shot wound while in a barracks area.

"A full investigation will be conducted by staff of the Australian Defence Force Investigative Service," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

"Additionally, a formal CDF Commission of Inquiry will be completed, consistent with new military justice arrangements.

"Any death of an ADF member is a tragic and sad loss for the entire ADF community."

Private Baker, was a member of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, since November 2006.

He was 19 years old.

Private Baker's funeral was held in his home town of Calliope, near Gladstone,

north of Brisbane, his coffin carried by members of the 42nd Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment, into the local RSL Hall.

Mourners at the funeral were joined by Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, Commander 1st Division Major General Richard Wilson, Commander 3rd Brigade Brigadier John Caligari and Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army Kevin Wood.

The congregation remembered Ashley and celebrated his life and the career he loved.

Captain Lachlan McKenna and Corporal Norman Donaire from 2RAR spoke about the soldier who was highly regarded by those who served with him.

"Our heartfelt sympathies are with his family and friends at this difficult time," Lieutenant General Leahy said.

Major General Wilson spoke of Private Baker as a dedicated and professional soldier.

"Ashley was a well-respected and valuable member of 2RAR, and we are saddened by his loss," he said.

Private Baker's remains were taken by gun carriage, escorted by his mates from 2RAR, and buried with full military honours in the presence of family and close friends.



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FALLEN ANGEL RETURNS

WORDS BRIAN HARTIGAN
PICS CORPORAL NEIL RUSKIN

Lance Corporal John Gillespie, a medical assistant with 8 Field Ambulance killed during an ill-fated helicopter medical-rescue mission in Vietnam, has finally been brought home 36 years after his death.

In the presence of his widow Carmel Hendrie, and daughter Fiona Pike, soldiers of the 1st Combat Services Support Battalion solemnly carried a casket containing the remains of Lance Corporal Gillespie to a waiting RAAF C130 at Hanoi International Airport for his belated return to Australia in December.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Alan Griffin said the ramp ceremony was a fitting tribute for a fallen soldier.

"Today's ceremony marks army medic Lance Corporal Gillespie's final journey home after being killed in action in 1971," he said.

"His family and comrades have been able to receive his remains in a dignified and respectful fashion."

"TODAY'S CEREMONY MARKS ARMY MEDIC LANCE CORPORAL GILLESPIE'S FINAL JOURNEY HOME AFTER BEING KILLED IN ACTION IN '1971"



Minister Griffin thanked the government of Vietnam for facilitating the recovery of Lance Corporal Gillespie's remains and thanked Jim Bourke and his Operation Aussies Home colleagues for their tireless efforts in locating the crash site.

"This final journey will be one of healing for Lance Corporal Gillespie's family and it has been an honour to share this with them.

"Soon, Lance Corporal Gillespie will be laid to rest at home, where his family can say the goodbyes that have been denied them for so long."

Lance Corporal Gillespie was killed when the 9 Squadron Huey he was travelling in was shot down over South Vietnam on 17 April 1971 during an attempted evacuation of a wounded South Vietnamese soldier in the vicinity of the Long Hai hills near Vung Tau. The aircraft came under heavy fire and crashed.

On impact, the helicopter caught fire and Lance Corporal Gillespie was trapped in the wreckage. The intensity of the blaze, which kept would-be rescuers at bay, was also thought to have consumed the soldier's remains.

Intense fighting in the area prevented further retrieval attempts.

A group of former servicemen under the banner 'Operations Aussies Home' have long been dedicated to finding and repatriating the remains of six Australian servicemen left behind in South Vietnam after Australia withdrew from the country.

Lance Corporal Gillespie's return marks the third success for the group after the remains of Lance Corporal Richard Parker and Private Peter Gillson were returned to Australia for burial in June 2007 – 42 years after being listed MIA (see p18, CONTACT #15).

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ARUNTA PATROLS



Seaman Luke Fiddes maintains watch

THE GULF



RHIBs are launched for personnel transfers and navigational exercises

The ANZAC-class frigate HMAS Arunta is currently deployed to the Northern Persian Gulf as part of Operation Catalyst.

She is tasked to assist in the protection of Iraq's offshore assets such as oil platforms, which allows Iraq to generate much-needed funds to support reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

HMAS Arunta also assists with the detection, interception and deterrence of vessels suspected of undertaking illegal activity within Iraqi waters.

HMAS Arunta, in the capable hands of Commander Timothy Brown, is the second of the Royal Australian Navy's eight ANZAC class frigates, and the second ship to carry the name.

The original Arunta was commissioned in 1942 during World War II and served with distinction in New Guinea and the Pacific between 1942-1944, the Battle of Leyte Gulf in 1944 and Lingayen Gulf in 1945.

'Arunta' is derived from the Arrente Aboriginal people in central Australia, around Alice Springs.

The Arrente Council presented HMAS Arunta with a flag displaying a Perrente lizard, an animal from the dreamtime of the Arrente people. The lizard features on the nose of HMAS Arunta's Sea Hawk helicopter.

Members of the Arrente nation joined family and friends of the crew to farwell the ship from Garden Island, WA, in November.

It is the ship's second tour of the Persian Gulf and its company of 183 men and women are deployed for six months.

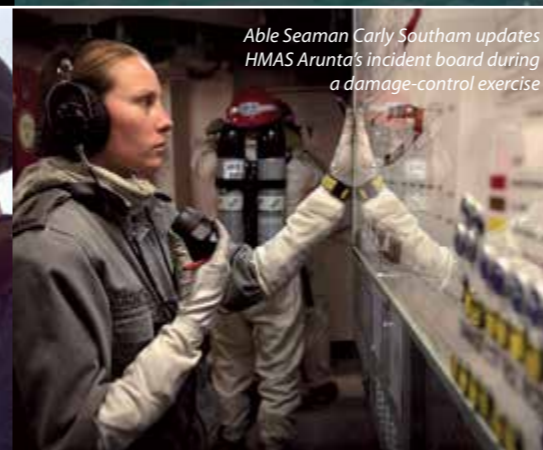
Commander Brown is the ship's captain and has taken command of the frigate after a career spent aboard submarines.

Operation Catalyst is the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq. Working with the Iraqi Government, the ADF continues to contribute to Multi-National Force efforts to develop a secure and stable environment in Iraq, assist national recovery programs and facilitate the transition to Iraqi self-government.

Seaman Ian Hamilton stands guard



Able Seaman Carly Southam updates HMAS Arunta's incident board during a damage-control exercise



Sub Lieutenant Andy Devene and Able Seaman Danielle Briggs receive updates on damage control during an exercise



STATS

Launched:	28 June 1996
Commissioned:	12 December 1998
Displacement:	3600 tonnes
Length:	118 metres
Beam:	14.8 metres
Armament:	5 inch Mk45 Mod 2 gun Mk41 vertical-launch system with Evolved Sea Sparrow anti-air missiles 2 x Mk32 Mod 5 triple mounted torpedo tubes 4 x 50 cal machineguns Nulka active missile decoys
Main Machinery:	1 x General Electric LM2500 gas turbine 2 x MTU 12V 1163 diesels driving two controllable-pitch propellers
Speed:	More than 28 knots

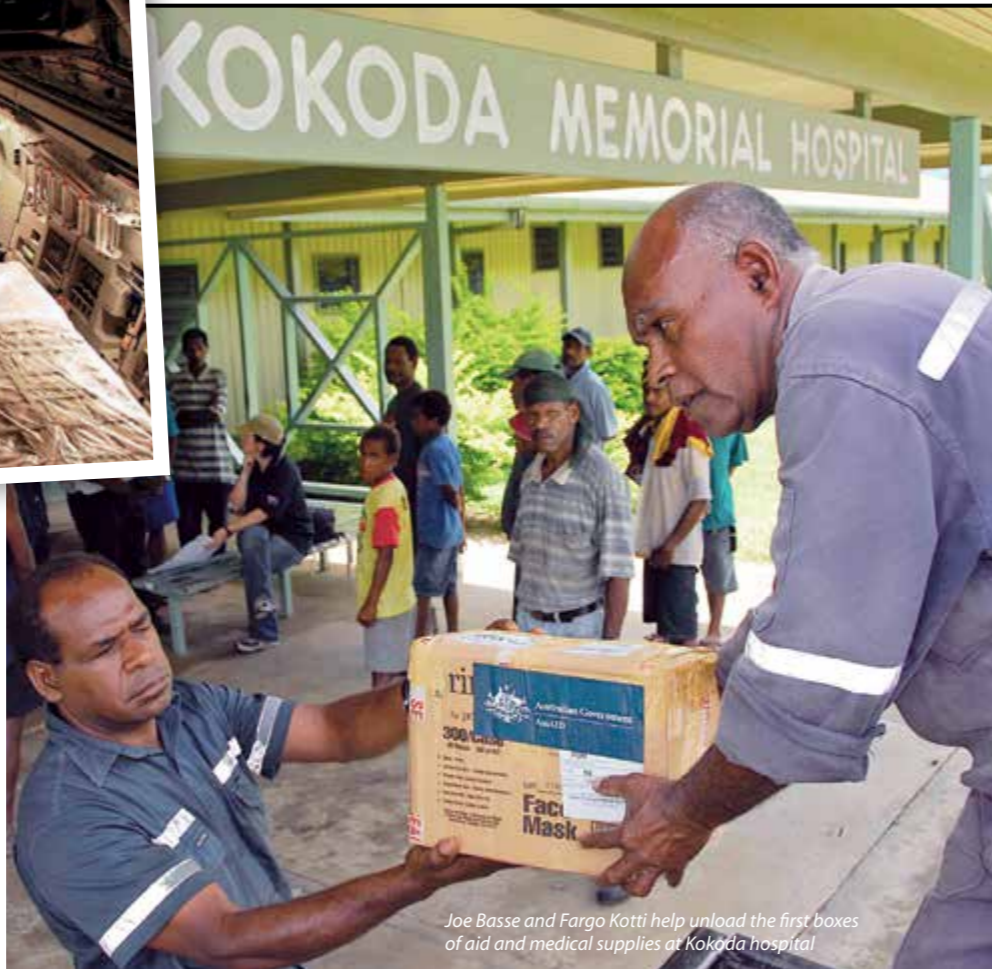


Lieutenant Karen Guselli is treated by a medic during a damage control exercise

An RAAF C-17 Globemaster loaded with 14 pallets of emergency supplies



The people of Kokoda and surrounding areas were hit hard by Mother Nature in the run-up to Christmas – the ADF and other agencies were quick and efficient in their response to a call for help.



Joe Basse and Fargo Kotti help unload the first boxes of aid and medical supplies at Kokoda hospital

BACK ON TRACK

Following devastating floods in the wake of Cyclone Guba in November last year, AusAID, the ADF and several other agencies were quick to respond to a PNG Government call for assistance, sending personnel and logistic assets to Oro province to assess damage and distribute emergency relief aid.

Operation PNG Assist, the ADF's PNG disaster-relief mission, began in earnest as Royal Australian Air Force Caribou aircraft carried Defence, AusAID, Oxfam, Care and Papua New Guinean disaster relief coordinators to the province where more than 150 villagers were killed by the floods, and thousands more were left homeless.

The Australian Army also sent a King Air fixed-wing aircraft to conduct aerial reconnaissance of the area, assessing damage and guiding relief efforts.

An RAAF C-17 Globemaster provided strategic lift capability for tonnes of emergency relief materiel required. Two C-130 Hercules also carried humanitarian stores and personnel to the disaster area,

while three Caribou aircraft and three Black Hawk helicopters provided access to more remote and isolated regions.

Royal Australian Navy heavy landingcraft HMAS Wewak transported tonnes of rice, oil and other stores from Lae to distribution points at Gona Beach and Oro Bay.

Navy clearance divers were also used to conduct assessments of harbour and wharf facilities used in support of relief efforts.

Health and engineering teams were deployed to assess damage and report on health requirements.

On one typical sortie, a Caribou landed at Kokoda where RAAF aircrew delighted local children with gifts of lollies, while assessment teams handed out basic foodstuffs to older villagers who had been without adequate fresh water or food since floods washed away their crops, destroyed rainwater tanks and cut off all road access to the outside world. The region suffered substantial damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges and telecommunications, making accurate reporting difficult.

As the Joint Task Force expanded in the initial days of the mission, almost every village was visited and assessed and substantial disaster-relief aid was distributed.

In all, more than 150 ADF personnel were deployed at short notice from many parts of Australia to assist PNG police, soldiers and aid officials to help the people of Oro province.

An estimated 410 tonnes of humanitarian aid materiel including food, medicine and shelter supplies were airlifted from Port Moresby to where they were needed most, with the Caribou aircraft distributing more than 380 tonnes within Oro province. HMAS Wewak also moved more than 220 tonnes of much-needed supplies.

An estimated 60,000 to 100,000 people were in some way affected by the flooding which left at least 153 people dead.

The mission began to wind down about three weeks after it started, with the lives of those affected by the pre-Christmas flooding back on the track to recovery.

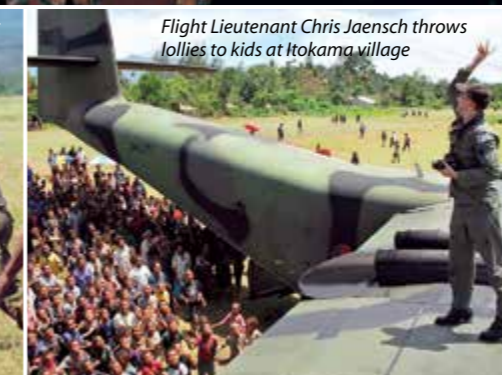


Warrant Officer Ken Flint and Flight Lieutenants Craig Taylor and Chris Jaensch enjoy the company of locals at Itokama village

PNG Defence Force personnel coordinate movement of supplies at Girua airfield



Flight Lieutenant Chris Jaensch throws lollies to kids at Itokama village



Warrant Officer Class 2 Anthony Johnson starts a human chain to load aid supplies at Girua airfield



Despite freezing temperatures, Australian soldiers have now driven a wedge into Taliban territory by helping locals construct an Afghan Army base in Chora.

But, while Dutch forces and the Australian Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) provide the security and are involved in tradework and supervision, it's the local Afghans who are contracted to do the actual building.

In this environment, the Australian Army engineers focus on quality control and mentoring, as well as providing services unavailable from local industry, such as heavy earthworks.

Plant Operator Sapper Mick Quinney says the Australian involvement complements local efforts.

"Even though the Afghan builders are accustomed to working on any surface, they appreciated us making it easier for them by building stable platforms for the foundations with our heavy equipment," he says.

That the local population feels safe enough to work in places like Chora is largely thanks to the security network

that is already in place. Air, infantry, cavalry and artillery fire support are on call to the Australians who are ready to take on any insurgents looking for a fight.

For cavalry patrol commander Sergeant Justin Smith, this means leading armoured patrols around the Chora Valley.

"As a deterrent, we patrol the area and occupy ground to watch over the base," he says.

It's the view of Engineer Captain Ben Jarratt that the Afghans who benefit from employment are unlikely to support Taliban attacks that undermine their new prosperity.

Captain Jarratt says the progress made so far certainly undermines the legitimacy of the Taliban's anti-coalition policy.

"It's pretty hard for a Taliban commander to make negative statements about our work when we're actually helping the locals to help themselves in a peaceful and practical way," Captain Jarratt says.

Sapper Quinney also says that the Chora Valley is a more peaceful place since Operation Spin Ghar, late last year.

"It's changed a lot since we first came here," he says.

"The people are a lot more friendly and many of them have volunteered to work hard on this base."

Respect has also played a big role in winning over the locals. Infantryman Lance Corporal Joseph Rears says many soldiers have made a big effort to try and learn the local Pashtu language.

"If you make an effort to help then you can see they'll make an effort back to help us against the insurgents," he says.

"They can see we're a professional army and we're making life easier for them."

Spending more than a month operating in such remote areas, at sub-zero temperatures, seems to have brought out the best in the Australian soldiers. Like many of the diggers with the RTF, Lance Corporal Rears has spent most of the deployment in the field. He says mateship had proven critical to their survival.

"If we go out on a patrol, there's usually a hot brew waiting for us when we get back," he says.

Soldiers work to harden their position to maximise security during construction of a police outpost near Tarin Kowt. Pic Corporal Jamie Osborne

AFGHANISTAN

IN THE CHORA VALLEY

DIGGERS AND AFGHANS BATTLE COLD AND INSURGENTS

WORDS CAPTAIN AL GREEN PICS ADF

Private Robert Matheson from Darwin-based 7RAR provides security during a mission to assess a village for reconstruction assistance. Pic Corporal Ricky Fuller

OPERATION SPIN GHAR

Afghan and ISAF Forces launched a major operation to target and clear Taliban from the area around Tarin Kowt in Uruzgan Province in October designed to consolidate an enduring security presence in the area.

Soldiers from the Afghan National Army and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) participated in Operation Spin Ghar (meaning white mountain) to identify and target Taliban forces and drive them out of their strongholds.

The operation's key objective was to create a secure environment for the citizen of Uruzgan and to support the provincial government in its efforts to bring vital reconstruction and development projects to the province.

Australia's Reconstruction Task Force's major role in the operation was the creation of a series of security check points across the contested Chora Valley to allow the Afghan Police and Army to stabilise the area.

An Australian SAS soldier, Sergeant Matthew Locke, who had been decorated for gallantry on an earlier mission, was shot and killed on the first day of Operation Spin Ghar during a gun battle with the Taliban.

The campaign, which lasted several weeks, featured the cooperation of Afghan, Dutch, US, Canadian, British and Australian forces working together to find and eject the Taliban.

ISAF spokesman Wing Commander Antony McCord said Operation Spin Ghar would enable the Afghan National Security Forces and ISAF to have freedom of movement in the area around Tarin Kowt by pushing the Taliban out. "This will set the conditions for an enduring presence and set the conditions for long-term reconstruction and development," he said.

"It is crucial that the Taliban are prevented from terrorising the local people so that they can go about their daily lives without fear of intimidation."

Aussie soldiers chat with locals during a mission to assess regional reconstruction needs. Pic Corporal Ricky Fuller

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Dutch, Australian and US vehicles park in front of the newly opened checkpoint at Nyazi during Operation Spin Ghar. Pic Corporal Hamish Paterson

"It was minus 12 and hailing when some of the boys came back one day. They were cold and soaking wet from the patrol and, when they went to bed, the Bushmaster drivers got the sleeping soldiers' uniforms and dried them on the exhaust of the vehicles. So, when the diggers woke up they had dry gear to get back into."

That's really looking after your mates. Cavalryman Sergeant Smith echoes Lance Corporal Rears' sentiments.

"We've got a tight group here who can operate for long periods in extreme weather and short turn-around times between tasks," he says.

"The ability of the boys to remain flexible and to handle the hardships with good humor amazes me."

With so many projects on the go nothing is done in isolation. Security enables

construction; construction builds goodwill and employment among the people, which in turn improves security in the longer term.

The combat engineers, protected by Task Force security elements, are able to enter Taliban-influenced areas but, in more peaceful areas, a different approach is used.

In these areas, projects are planned and managed by a small group of Army project engineers, as most of the work is conducted by local contractors and workers. Works supervisor Warrant Officer Class Two Matt Daldry says that in this environment, the main role for the Australians is to monitor and mentor the locals in areas such as skill and knowledge application, quality control and occupational health and safety.

And the Australians have found their input is welcomed by the people.

"The local workers and trades people

want to learn to improve the quality of their workmanship," Warrant Officer Class Two Daldry says.

"When they see what they can achieve, even with small input from us, that's a motivating factor toward progressing their own projects in the future," he says.

Also helping the local industry develop and improve are institutions such as the RTF Trade Training School, which is helping to create a skill base capable of taking the workforce capability to new heights, a process that Warrant Officer Class Two Daldry says is giving the local population more confidence to help themselves.

The Task Force strategy is one of enfranchising the local population to the point where they reject Taliban influence. On the ground, it seems that reaching that point is a realistic possibility in 2008.

WHEN THEY WENT TO BED, THE BUSHMASTER DRIVERS GOT THE SLEEPING SOLDIERS' UNIFORMS AND DRIED THEM ON THE EXHAUST OF THE VEHICLES - THAT'S REALLY LOOKING AFTER YOUR MATES



Australian soldiers provide security during a patrol. Pic Corporal Ricky Fuller



Engineers work on the construction of a police outpost near Tarin Kowt. The strategically-sited out-post was completed in six days under trying circumstances, including two Taliban attacks. Pic Corporal Jamie Osborne

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YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN

Battered and broken, an Aussie digger steps up for another crack at life – and soldiering.

In recent times, the dangers of Afghanistan have been masked by a certain secrecy surrounding special-forces operations, but it continues to be a very dangerous place nonetheless.

Australian forces operating in southern parts of the country have faced danger for years but, more through good fortune than anything else, have avoided serious casualties – until now.

In the latter part of 2007, separate incidents saw the deaths of three Australian soldiers in quick succession. Several others were injured. One in particular was scarred for life – but, in a commendable display of the Aussie

An undaunted spirit sees Sergeant Michael Lyddiard back at work with the support of his wife Katri. Pic Corporal Mike McSweeney



Sergeant Michael Lyddiard takes a break from demolitions training in Timor-Leste in 2006. Pic Sapper Glenn Power



Sergeant Michael Lyddiard's base fitness helped save his life – his mates did the rest

WHILE SERVING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN RECONSTRUCTION TASK FORCE (RTF) IN ORUZGAN PROVINCE, SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN ON 2 NOVEMBER 2007, MICHAEL LYDDIARD WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WHEN A ROADSIDE BOMB BLEW UP IN HIS FACE.

soldiering spirit, he has faced his fears, his injuries and the media to declare to the world that he's ready and willing to carry on.

Sergeant Michael Lyddiard, a 30-year-old Townsville-based soldier, is a highly qualified and experienced combat engineer trained as an explosive ordnance disposal expert.

While serving with the Australian Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) in Oruzgan Province, southern Afghanistan on 2 November 2007, Michael Lyddiard was seriously wounded when a roadside bomb blew up in his face.

The improvised explosive device (IED) was detected along a route to be used later in the day by other Australians heading out on a construction task for local security forces.

When faced with such devices, several options are available to the experts, one of which is to defuse the device and later examine it to gain knowledge of how it was made. Its construction 'signature' may even lead the professionals to discover who built it, but at the very least, lead them to a better

understanding of how to counter this insidious threat in the future.

Unfortunately for Michael Lyddiard, the construction of such devices has seen significant developments over the years. As coalition forces introduce new or better ways to counter the bombs, the enemy develop new and better ways to make them more effective. In this case, it would seem, the device was designed to explode if anyone tried to defuse it – the first tamper-proof bomb encountered.

As his training (and common sense) dictated, Sergeant Lyddiard approached the bomb very slowly and carefully. Tension would, undoubtedly, have been high, his pulse elevated, senses on edge, a bead of sweat on his brow.

He inched forward on his stomach, examining his target as he went. His colleagues, on standby should the bomb-disposal expert require tools or other assistance, looked on as they had done many times before. One offered words

of encouragement as his sergeant crept forward on his stomach.

Then, without warning, the bomb went off, lifting Lyddiard off the ground and slamming him down on his back.

"I blacked out during the blast, but I woke immediately, as soon as I landed on my back," he says.

"I felt the sensation of blood and I heard my mates coming to my aid."

It is the actions of those mates that Michael Lyddiard credits with saving his life in the critical minutes that followed.

"Despite being treated like a hero since returning [to Australia], it was the actions of my mates that deserve recognition," Sergeant Lyddiard says.

"It was the heroic deeds of the corporal who immediately took control of the incident site and directed first aid, the three diggers who provided immediate first aid and the sergeant who coordinated security and medical evacuation, which saved my life."

As he lay on his back, Michael bled heavily from a right arm that was partially blown away. His face and his left hand were also in bad shape and the whole package would have presented an horrific sight to the colleagues who very quickly rushed to his side as the dust was still settling.

Because Michael was obviously alive and conscious, the first priority was to stem the flow of blood.

But more important to the victim, at least in hindsight, was the mental support and encouragement his colleagues gave him as they worked frantically on his broken body.

"They encouraged me," he says. "Being mates, they talked about my wife, they talked about my child and, more importantly, they talked about me getting back to work."

"They controlled my blood loss, but they supported me – they kept me going mentally."

With their patient's immediate needs attended to, but with his life still very much in the balance, the young Aussie soldiers helped load their sergeant onto a Black Hawk that arrived on site in short order.

Michael was transferred, first to the field hospital at Kamp Holland, the Australian home away from home and, within hours, was transferred to a military hospital in Germany.

Here, after dramatic surgery that saw the removal of half his right arm, his right eye and two fingers from his left hand, Michael Lyddiard awoke to find his wife, Katri, by his side.

"Sorry," was the first thing he said to her, having failed to look after himself as promised.

Three months later, Sergeant Michael Lyddiard is back at work at Lavarack barracks in Townsville. Starting on light duties, the recovery process will be a long, hard road.

"I have had some bad times and I know there will be plenty more, but it's best I get through these with my family and the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment – our second family."

While his physical injuries are extensive, they have not dampened his passion for soldiering.

"I'm a proud Australian digger and it is through mateship and a larrikin sense of humour that I plan to recover," he says.

"I also look forward to a well-earned stubby with my mates when they return."



Warrant Officer Class Two Christopher Dabbs talks to his mate Sergeant Michael Lyddiard

A mate's dedication

WORDS AND PIC CAPTAIN CAMERON JAMIESON

The sun was starting to set over the dry, jagged, Afghan mountains that dominate the Chora Valley when the world changed forever for two Aussie mates.

Under a clear sky, evening shadows stretched out across the valley as Sergeant Michael Lyddiard approached an improvised explosive device (IED) that lay in wait for a Coalition convoy.

The device had been discovered by fellow soldiers from the Australian Reconstruction Task Force Three (RTF-3) as they cleared a route for an engineer team heading north on a task.

Known for his professionalism, calm and bravery, Michael methodically assessed the device and elected to destroy it in place. Carefully, he inched towards the device as two of his soldiers waited nearby to assist as needed.

Five kilometres away, long-time mate Sergeant Chris Dabbs was working at the tactical command post. Michael and Chris had been firm friends for more than 12 years. Chris was a welcome and frequent visitor to the Lyddiard home, back in Townsville.

As per normal, the small field post was crowded but organised when the radio burst into life with the terrible news that an IED had exploded – and Michael Lyddiard was badly injured.

Noted for remaining calm and focused on his job, this time would be no different for Chris Dabbs, despite being shocked at the news of his mate.

Meanwhile, at the blast site, Corporal Warren Gunning and Sapper Adam Powell worked feverishly to save Sergeant Lyddiard's life. There is no doubt that without their immediate first aid, Michael would not have survived.

As night descended, an aéro-medical-evacuation helicopter arrived to whisk the critically injured soldier back to the hospital at Kamp Holland, home to RTF-3.

Staying at his post, Sergeant Dabbs wondered if his best mate would live through the night.

Sergeant Lyddiard's injuries were terrible. He would lose an eye, half his right arm, the thumb and index finger from the left hand and was left with sight and hearing impediments – but never gave up the will to live.

In line with standard Australian medical processes, Michael was quickly evacuated to a NATO hospital in Germany while, back in Australia, news of his injuries was broken to his wife and family, and arrangements were made to fly them to his bedside.

Movement plans were also afoot in Afghanistan. Commanders in the Middle East allowed Sergeant Dabbs to fly to Germany to help support Michael's wife and family in their dark hour.

RTF-3 commander Lieutenant Colonel David Wainwright says Chris Dabbs spent a few days in Germany with Michael and was a great help to his wife Katri and his father, a Vietnam veteran.

"Chris is a selfless senior non-commissioned officer who will do anything for the soldiers, and we have made a pact to look after Michael," he says.

That pact is now in full swing with Sergeant Dabbs organising regular telephone calls from the troops to help Michael keep his spirits up.

"We keep it positive so he keeps his enthusiasm," he says.

"Now that Michael has returned to Townsville, I'm organising for our boys on leave to visit him."

"I was going to go skiing, but now I think it's a lot more important to see Michael."

Flowers with fruit or chocolates for the Lyddiards to share, along with a note from the troops, regularly turn up in Townsville.

For Christmas Michael received a huge package of seafood from Chris, and there are more plans for the future.

"I've spoken to Katri," Chris says, "and when I get back I'll take Michael out each Sunday, so she can have some time to relax."

"The boys here are keen to help too, and they want to take him fishing and driving."

"Our first activity will be Anzac Day, and all the boys want to see him. He's still a part of our unit in Australia, and he's keen to get back to work."

Recently promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two, Chris Dabbs sees his dedication to his mate as an everyday fact of life.

"If there's any support I can give, I'll give it," is his philosophy.

For Lieutenant Colonel Wainwright though, the bond between the two mates is proof that the Anzac spirit lives on.

"You never let your mates down," he says.

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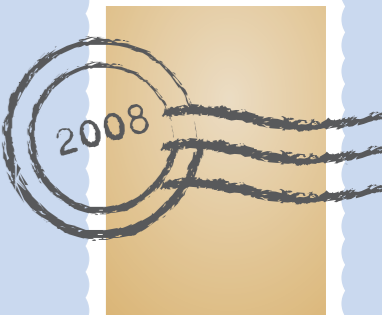
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POSTCARDS HOME

Taking the old saying 'Build it and they will come' to heart, Katherine's Corporal Matt Loadman did just that during his posting to the Middle East. Matt, who is one of 170 Air Force personnel supporting surveillance patrols over the Persian Gulf, saw that recreational facilities were in short supply so, the Tindal-based physical training instructor decided to build some himself.

"Two days after I got here, I started clearing an oval, ripping up weeds," he says. "But I've not been alone – others have come out and swung a shovel with me."

"I've also asked for a tractor, but in the mean time we have to make do with a conventional lawnmower."

As anyone with a backyard

would attest to, mowing an oval has proved no mean feat, but all the effort is towards a worthy cause.

"In two weeks I'm hoping to run my first soccer match," Matt says.

When not busy as a groundsman, Matt's 'real' job is to run physical training activities for the contingent.

"One circuit I run is designed to push people to their limit," he says.

"I also do a fair bit of basic rehab and stretching here, as well as some basic consultation."

Combining physical exercise with a bit of fun, Matt has also organised social events such as a 'Near-Beer Regatta' where competitors build boats out of plastic water bottles and then play smash-up derbies on the oval.



Pic Able Seaman Paul Berry

**KATHERINE,
Northern Territory**

It's a long way from Toowoomba to the humid and impoverished streets of Aileu in the mountains of Timor-Leste, but for former resident Private Sky Erbacher the journey has been an excellent experience.

Normally based in Townsville with 2RAR, Private Erbacher is currently deployed on Operation Astute, the Australian Government's effort to help restore peace in the world's newest democracy.

Three months into his six-month deployment, Sky, aged 22, is enjoying a busy, broad-ranging role with the Timor-Leste Battle Group.

His job includes everything from classic infantry patrolling tasks, liaising with village chiefs and the

Timor-Leste and UN police, to making sure the hospitals are stocked.

"It's great to get out here among the Timorese people," Sky says.

"We've been able to help restore security so the people can get on with their lives."

This is Sky's second tour of duty in Timor since joining the Army four years ago, and he's seen some big changes since he was first here in 2006.

"The country is definitely a lot more secure now – fewer rocks, slingshots and weapons like that on the streets."

Sky is looking forward to some family time with his wife Jessica and his parents, Toowoomba residents Patricia and Scott Erbacher, when he gets home.



Pic Corporal Rachel Ingram

**TOOWOOMBA,
Queensland**

Lillydale's Leading Seaman Lincoln Stewart, 29, was a crewmember aboard HMAS Adelaide on its recent historic voyage around South Asia – the frigate's last deployment before decommissioning.

"I went to Lillydale Heights, graduating year 12 – but I was very sporty, keen on boxing, scuba diving, squash, body-boarding and golf – and my first career choice was boxing!" Lincoln says.

"But then I retired from that and, although I was a qualified scuba instructor, that was too seasonal."

"I needed to get a stable career, take a break from boxing – though I still have ambitions to train again later – so I decided to join the Navy, at age 25."

He says he finds his job very rewarding, specialising as a combat systems operator.

He also likes to challenge himself by setting goals like breaking fleet times for emergency exercises or damage-control incidents. He was awarded a Captain's commendation for his enthusiasm and effort.

Lincoln has spent a lot of time at sea in the past four years and is looking forward to a shore posting.

"All that sea time teaches you to appreciate the simple luxuries in life. I have learnt to appreciate so many things I would usually take for granted."

"Even now my heart still lies with boxing, but I have enjoyed the Navy experience and will use it as a platform to further my career options."



Pic Able Seaman Nadia Monteith

**LILLYDALE,
Victoria**

Modbury's Lieutenant Commander Andre Clay, 45, has just returned from a unique voyage – the last operational cruise of Adelaide's namesake frigate.

Andre decided to join the Navy straight from school and, after 16 years, was one of the first five sailors to achieve a university degree at ADFA, opening the door to an officer's commission.

During his latest trip, he was in charge of the frigate's supply department – a team of 32 people involved in catering, finance, material logistics and medical matters. As a secondary role, he also ran the flight-deck team for helicopter manoeuvres.

This was just the latest of many

overseas deployments for Andre, which so far have included South Korea, the Philippines, the Andaman Islands, Kiribati, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vanuatu, Norfolk Island, Christmas Island, New Zealand and the Persian Gulf.

"I have worked with some great people over the years," he says.

"I led boarding parties in the Gulf and I especially appreciated the team I had to work with there."

"In the Navy, you are constantly working within a team environment."

"I like the sense of community and working with good people."

Finishing his latest deployment in home-town Adelaide, 30 years after enlisting "and at the pinnacle of my career", was a fantastic opportunity.



Pic Able Seaman Nadia Monteith

**MODBURY,
South Australia**

It's funny how hobbies turn into careers.

More than 10 years after she joined cadets, Northam's Corporal Tami Leslie has made a career of the Air Force and has been deployed on operations to the Middle East.

Corporal Leslie joined Northam's 8 Flight Air Training Corps when she was 13 and later joined the RAAF, working in Force Protection.

She says cadets are a good stepping stone for teenagers considering a military career.

"It teaches you discipline and respect," Corporal Leslie says, adding that she stayed in cadets for years because it was so much fun.

Normally posted to 382 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron in Queensland, Leslie was deployed to the Middle East in September last year for a four-month tour of duty.

Although her job involves a policing role, she says it is more focused on protecting the personnel of the Maritime Patrol Task Group.

"I like the fact we're here to protect our people," she says.

The former Northam Senior High School student says this is her first time out of Australia.

"It's great to see how people in another country live – it's a very different culture here to what we're used to in Australia."



Pic Able Seaman Paul Berry

**NORTHAM,
Western Australia**

Wanniasa native Private Chris Collins, 23, spent more than a month in the tropical heat of Timor-Leste in the run up to Christmas – and still had five months to go.

Chris is a member of 2RAR, normally based at Lavarack Barracks in Townsville, serving with the International Stabilisation Force in the fledgling nation.

"We assist Timor-Leste authorities and UN police to patrol towns, provide security for engineers and do other general escort duties," he says.

This is Chris' second overseas deployment since joining the Army in 2006, having previously served in Iraq.

"I've enjoyed the challenging experience, seeing a different

culture, being with the boys and patrolling at night," he says.

Chris comes from a proud military family. His grandfather was a 'Rat of Tobruk' with the 2nd/3rd Anti-Tank Regiment in WWII.

"I joined the military because I wanted to serve the country, deploy overseas and get the experience."

"My most memorable moments in Timor-Leste are spending time with the New Zealand soldiers, flying in their helicopters – and playing soccer with the local kids," he says.

When he is not trying to improve the lives of Australia's overseas neighbours, Chris enjoys four-wheel driving, watching Saint Kilda in the AFL and supporting the Brumbies rugby union team.



Pic Craftman Stephen Cunningham

**WANNIASSA,
ACT**

HMAS Adelaide has been decommissioned and will now be sunk off the NSW coast.

However, one member of her crew, Petty Officer Andy Fairfield, 38, has no interest in her future role as a tourist attraction.

For Andy, her demise marks the end of seven years as a senior stoker in the machinery and control rooms of the Navy's oldest frigate.

His job meant long hours below deck maintaining antiquated marine technology and machinery developed and built in the 1960s.

The engineering department of any big ship is a close knit 'family', but in Andy's case, the faces of the technicians in his team are particularly familiar, many having

passed through his class at Cerberus where he instructed for 12 months.

Andy's heart and family remain in Hobart where he married his childhood sweetheart, Heather, shortly after joining the RAN.

Andy is frank about the downside of being away from home for extended years. His eldest daughter, Sophie, now 5, was born while he was serving in the Persian Gulf.

Following the arrival of a second daughter, Emilie, just over a year ago, Andy now hopes his next posting is to Adelaide's sister ship, HMAS Newcastle.

With Newcastle's homeport being Sydney, the posting would mean a much shorter commuter flight home to his family in Hobart.



Pic Able Seaman Nadia Monteith

**HOBART,
Tasmania**

Complex warfighting



RTF, Afghanistan, 2007
Pic Corporal Jamie Osborne

OUR CHALLENGE – OUR FUTURE

Being an Australian infantryman is a way of life – an identity, rather than a job. Once you have served in ‘the corps’ the sense of belonging lasts a lifetime. There is a unique bond among infantrymen which is intangible but nonetheless real.
– Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy
in a speech to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps

Who better than the Chief of Army to outline the future for the Army’s largest corps and, although his thoughts were delivered some time ago, they are just as relevant today – and set the scene perfectly for CONTACT’s – **‘Year of the Infantry’**



1RAR, Sabina Point, Shoalwater Bay, 2003
Pic Petty Officer Kev Bristow



Private James Wiles, 4RAR, East Timor, 2001
Pic Sergeant W Guthrie



Private Nathan Bick, 1RAR,
Afghanistan, 2007
Pic Corporal Hamish Paterson

Today I want to tell you about the direction that Army is heading in. I want to harness the leadership of the Infantry Corps, to seize the intellectual and ethical leadership of Army as it advances along our development axis.

These are very challenging times. We are an army at war in a nation that feels as though it is blissfully at peace. It is very easy to be lulled into a false sense of comfort and security in these times.

Yet even as we convene here today, Australian infantrymen are on active service in the Middle East, engaged in a very tough struggle in Iraq.

That contrast between the intensity of conflict in Iraq and opulent contemporary Australia is illustrative of the complex world we now inhabit.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union and the dynamic transformation of the global community under the rubric of 'globalisation' have combined to produce a radically different environment. Indeed, both the nature of the nation-state and the nature of warfare have been radically transformed by the interaction of these complex phenomena.

I am not one of those idealists who think we are on the verge of a golden era of peace. However, I do not think that the epic state-versus-state conflicts that forged the reputation of the earlier generations of Australian infantrymen will continue to define the nature of conflict.

War will continue to be the prosecution of politics by other means.

But, as the politics of the era of globalisation become more complex and diffuse, so too will the warfare conducted in the pursuit of political goals.

From the perspective of professional soldiers, the most significant trend in our lifetimes is likely to be the change in the nature of the nation state and the international system which began with the fall of the Berlin Wall. That trend accelerated on 11 September 2001. It will continue for some years to come.

Our analysis of the effect of these trends on warfare is expressed by our recently endorsed lead operational concept – 'Complex War Fighting.'

Essentially, it is our assessment that the world did change on 11 September 2001.

The trends towards diffusion of threat and the proliferation of non-state actors were already developing apace. But their convergence with an apocalyptic, intractable, religious ideology, marked a very dangerous escalation.

'Complex War Fighting' accepts the assumption that we can no longer plan exclusively for state-on-state conflict with generous lead times. We will increasingly be fighting in a complex environment.

That complexity will be comprised of geographical, human and political factors.

You are all familiar with the USMC depiction of the 'Three Block War.' I have

described the complex-war-fighting environment as the three-block war on steroids.

This will confront us with many dilemmas. We will be operating in a cluttered environment against adversaries with high-lethality weapons. They will seek to neutralise our advantages in precision and situational awareness through hugging population centres and significant cultural sites. This will permit them to strike us at very short engagement ranges in the hope of forcing us to use indiscriminate or disproportionate force.

This is not new. Ever since the introduction of the musket, soldiers have been forced to operate in terrain where their weapon ranges are greater than their ability to detect targets. However, the complexity of which I am speaking is of a different order of magnitude to anything that has confronted us before.

We got a taste of it in Somalia and East Timor, where we were operating in a very ambiguous environment, populated by militias, conventional forces, NGOs, refugees and multi-national media to name just a few. And, of course, our people in Iraq today face these same challenges in a very dangerous environment.

But to those who dismiss this as business as usual, I argue that the military effects that can now be generated by individuals and small groups, represents a revolutionary change in the nature of conflict.

The dark side of globalisation is the diffusion of the means of violence to non-state actors. Just as the trans-national corporation can rival the economic power of the state, so too can criminal gangs and terrorist cells generate strategic effects which were once the monopoly of the state.

The nightmare scenario which now confronts us, is the potential for the use of a weapon of mass destruction against our vulnerable civilian population centres.

This is the ultimate in asymmetric warfare – a small cell of highly motivated terrorists can threaten the viability of a powerful state. And, because they are willing to die in the effort, they are impossible to deter.

Moreover, there can be no conventional response to such an attack if no obvious state sponsor of the assault can be identified.

Of course, prevention is more important than cure in this instance. Much of that effort is within the province of our police and intelligence agencies. However, there is still a role for conventional land forces in the era of complexity and the Global War on Terror (GWOT).

As events in Afghanistan demonstrated, trans-national terrorists require bases and mounting areas. And, as we are learning in Iraq, they are truly trans-national – thousands of foreign jihadists have infiltrated to fuel the insurgency there. Large concentrations of Western troops will draw Islamic extremists like a magnet regardless



RTF, Afghanistan, 2007. Pic Captain Haydn Barlow

“WE ARE AN ARMY AT WAR IN A NATION THAT FEELS AS THOUGH IT IS BLISSFULLY AT PEACE”

of the nature of the operation we are undertaking.

The term 'operations other than war' is surrendering real meaning in this environment of highly lethal criminals and terrorist cells. Land forces must be able to provide governments with a full suite of options against this threat.

These range from find-and-strike operations against terrorist command nodes and infrastructure, to stabilisation operations in distressed states.

This is another paradox of the current era characterised by asymmetric warfare – that weak and failing states are often a more immediate security threat than stable states.

Land forces will provide the decisive effect in all of these scenarios. And infantry will remain at the core of the combined-arms team, which is the key package through which we will deliver land power.

Let me dispel some myths today. Firstly, no one has solved the problem of the 'final 50 metres'. Close combat is an essential, indeed the essential component of warfare. The role of an army is to seek out and close with, to kill or destroy the enemy – you know this well.



Private Shane Bolton,
4RAR, East Timor, 2001
Pic Sergeant W Guthrie

Land forces will always rely on the precision fires provided by our 'joint' brethren – let there be no doubt about that. But, the enthusiastic claims made about the transformative impact of special forces cueing air- and sea-based fires do not withstand scrutiny.

The efforts of Coalition special forces in destroying the Taliban through applying precision fires were superb. Our own SAS Regiment was at the cutting edge of this mode of warfighting. But the real lesson of that conflict was that the SF detachments were a prodigious force multiplier for Northern Alliance forces who fought in a conventional manner. Indeed, the Northern Alliance and Taliban often engaged in bloody frontal assaults on trenches, reminiscent of the First World War. There was nothing glamorous or hi-tech about most of this conflict and too many armchair experts drew misleading conclusions from it.

Again, in Iraq, the powerful effect of precision was evident. But, as in Afghanistan, precision strike from air and sea platforms acted as a force multiplier to highly capable land forces.

The Iraqi conventional forces were destroyed by careful orchestration of joint effects. This was achieved with fewer heavy

formations than were required to expel Saddam's forces from Iraq in 1991. The Coalition fielded three divisions for its rapid assault on Baghdad.

However, this does not provide justification for lighter land forces or the so-called 'SF plus air-power' option. The Coalition needed to prevail in closed combat at decisive points in the conflict. There were bloody break-in battles in Nasiriyah, Basra and Baghdad itself. And my earlier point about the diffusion of lethal man-portable weaponry was confirmed in brutal fashion by the activities of the Fedayeen.

Air power was a vital force multiplier. But the Baath Party would still be in power had the Coalition not closed with and destroyed the instruments of its rule – namely the Republican Guard and the Fedayeen. This was achieved by highly capable land forces, which were able to survive hits from RPGs and continue to fire and manoeuvre.

Moreover, the events since the collapse of the Baath regime have confirmed our description of the complex warfare environment. Land forces have been required in very large numbers to stabilise the country amid the complete failure of key utilities and infrastructure.

“**HNA IS NOT AN ARMoured CORPS CONSPIRACY TO MARGINALISE THE INFANTRY. YOU MUST RISE TO THE OCCASION OR RISK FORFEITING THE LEADERSHIP THAT IS YOUR BIRTHRIGHT AS THE LARGEST CORPS**”



1RAR, High Range, Townsville, 2001
Pic Warrant Officer Class Two Gary Ramage

First and foremost, they have been conducting counter-insurgency operations in complex urban terrain. This has been dangerous and demanding for all the reasons I have already discussed – the difficulty of distinguishing civilians from insurgents; cultural and language barriers to communication and intelligence collection; and, the range of humanitarian and governance tasks which have fallen to the military to perform.

Despite their doctrinal rejection of 'nation building', US strategic planners now have to master the largest and most complex nation-building mission since the end of World War II. And the most significant lesson from Iraq in recent months is that there are never enough infantry.

Stabilisation operations are manpower intensive.

It gives me no joy to say that events in Iraq confirm our assessment of the nature of contemporary conflict.

How are we responding? Our primary response is the 'Hardened and Networked Army'.

You have all heard about the HNA. My aim today is to separate fact from fiction.

Firstly, the HNA is not an RAAC [Royal Australian Armoured Corps] conspiracy to marginalise the infantry. Whether you are marginalised is entirely in your hands. You must rise to the occasion or risk forfeiting the professional and intellectual leadership of the Army, which is your birthright as the largest corps.

Essentially, the HNA end-state is to transform the Australian Army into a light-mechanised rather than a light-infantry force. By 2012, I want every soldier in the combat force, including combat support and combat service support, to be seated in an AFV [armoured fighting vehicle] as they manoeuvre in the battle space.

The proliferation of highly lethal man-

portable weapons demands this response. We must be able to survive a hit and retaliate with even greater precision and force.

Some of you may be concerned that this change is a threat to our ethos and identity. It is not. It is the inevitable response to the rapidly changing threat environment. Regardless of how we deliver our troops to the fight, there will be an enduring requirement for unique infantry skills to win the close battle.

In this, we will always be the cutting-edge, supported arm. Well into the future I believe that the combined-arms team will continue to be the building block of army fighting power. And the infantry soldier will remain the bedrock on which the combined-arms team is built.

So, you do not need to be paranoid and filled with self-doubt. Rather, I need you to seize the high ground and lead the development of the combined-arms team of the HNA.

The combined-arms team will be built around the infantry component.

But I think the IT revolution will allow, indeed will compel us, to operate in smaller-force packages.

The threat and mission will dictate the design of the team and its relative balance. It will always need a high level of protection and mobility.

It will also require networking. Ultimately, the individual soldier will become a node in a vast sensor/shooter network through which information will be exchanged in realtime throughout the battlespace.

This is not as revolutionary as it sounds. Our special forces have already mastered these skills in their operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Again, some of you see HNA as a special forces conspiracy against the Infantry Corps. It is not.

Over time, I envisage that these skills will migrate into the conventional forces.

The devolution of the shared operational picture down to the lowest levels will herald an era of the 'strategic private'.

Increasingly, our combined-arms team will be able to reach back to joint fires that are enabled by space-based assets.

We must master this mode of conflict or risk irrelevance.

But, over the sweep of history, this is not as fundamental a change as the uninitiated think it is.

This vast array of information technology systems and sensors are there to enhance our ability to close with the enemy and destroy him.

This is the timeless truth of conflict on land and, in that sense, we have not reached an historic watershed such as with the invention of the musket.

From that time onward, fire replaced shock as the decisive ingredient in success in battle. That is still the case despite the awesome range of technological devices that act as force multipliers to our troops.

Enhanced precision and pervasive situational awareness are refinements rather than revolutionary changes to the application of fires.

Therein lies the challenge to the professional infantrymen of the future.

You do not have the luxury of resisting the tide of history. Nor need you despair about the future. However, you do need to adapt and master the latest techniques in war fighting.

This will involve cultural change.

The complex environment will place extraordinary demands on soldiers, especially the infantryman. In addition to the devolution to individual soldiers and section groups of a wide spectrum of battlefield effects, the individual soldier will need to be even more adaptable and versatile than he is today.



Corporal Simon Innes, 2RAR, East Timor, 2002
Pic Sergeant W Guthrie



Private Jonathon Morison, 6RAR, Afghanistan, 2006
Pic Corporal Ricky Fuller



RTF, Afghanistan, 2006. Pic Corporal Ricky Fuller

“COMPASSION
TOWARDS
SUFFERING
PEOPLE
HAS REALLY
STAMPED THE
AUSTRALIAN
SOLDIER AS
A NOBLE
WARRIOR”



1RAR, High Range, Townsville, 2000
Pic Warrant Officer Class Two Gary Ramage



RTF, Afghanistan, 2007
Pic Corporal Jamie Osborne

The conflation of diverse missions and roles has dictated that our forces be capable of rapid transition between war fighting and humanitarian assistance or governance operations. The soldier who can accomplish this will be first and foremost a warrior.

The battlespace is still brutal, lethal and unforgiving.

But, in addition, that same soldier must possess a vast range of skills and attributes that will allow him to achieve control over populations through winning hearts and minds. He or she will need to be acutely aware of the political end-state and the cultural factors that support achievement of it.

Recall the disastrous events in Abu Ghraib prison. A handful of very junior soldiers completely undermined the centre of gravity of the entire Coalition mission. Their despicable behaviour literally ended up in the West Wing of the White House, with the President of the United States forced to respond to their excesses. The consequences of their conduct are likely to undermine Western credibility in the Middle East for years to come.

Accordingly, the individual soldier must now possess the judgement and sophistication to operate in very provocative circumstances, under the gaze of an intrusive media and a host of NGOs, who will rarely be sympathetic to him.

Professional mastery of war-fighting skills will be fundamental to his skill set. But he will also need language and cultural skills and the ability to assess the implications of his conduct on the political end-state.

The possession of these skills by our special forces is one of the reasons that our government consistently calls on them as the force of first resort.

This continues to frustrate many of you. However, the ball is firmly in your court. The big difference between a soldier from 4RAR and a soldier from 1RAR is the amount of training each has.

You must address this within the context of the Hardened and Networked Army. The HNA will demand cultural change. Decision-making will be dispersed throughout the battle space. This means that we must implement directive control and not merely talk about it. Our infantry will operate in smaller teams and the bloke on the spot will call the fight the way he sees it.

This is how our special forces are currently operating.

Over time, I see you stealing their turf rather than the other way around. But you must ensure that your people have the skills and the versatility to operate in this fluid environment.

This will involve developing a more innovative approach to training. It will demand an educational rather than a training regimen. The important determinant will be teaching our soldiers 'how to think' rather than 'what to think'.

Fortunately, the Australian infantryman has thrived in the face of such challenges. In every conflict in which we have been engaged, our soldiers have won the acclaim of the world for their bravery, resilience, skill and common sense. But they have also possessed two major distinguishing characteristics, which I think, has set them apart as a unique force for good – a sense of humour and a strong sense of decency.

In recent years these qualities have revealed themselves in the way we have conducted the complex humanitarian missions, which we have been called to mount at very short notice. The

discrimination in the use of force and the compassion towards suffering people has really stamped the Australian soldier as a noble warrior.

If any army can adapt to the challenges of the complex war environment it is ours. The quality of our soldiers, especially our infantry has never been in doubt. The 'Hardened and Networked Army' is designed to capitalise on their strengths and to reduce their vulnerability, especially their need for greater protected mobility.

The future holds enormous challenges for the Infantry Corps. You must adapt to these and not become diverted into tangential battles about the structure of the battalion or what hat badge the bloke providing your fire support is wearing.

The complex environment and network-centric warfare is ruthlessly effects based. Approach the future, secure in the knowledge that infantry combat is an enduring feature of war. But be prepared to slaughter sacred cows to avoid the slaughter of our young men on operations.

Let me close by making one thing very clear – I am a traditionalist. Neither our ethos nor our values are negotiable. And I am acutely conscious of the role that unit and corps identity plays in nurturing those qualities.

The Army looks to the infantry as the most exemplary role model of its values of courage, teamwork and initiative.

But, to be worthy of the title 'professional' we must constantly review whether we are capable of meeting the unforgiving standard of the modern battle space.

I have every confidence that we will continue to meet that standard.

A lone horse watches over almost 1000 of his colleagues in the guise of Armygeddon's blown 7 litre block

W

ith an ASLAV, a heavy recovery vehicle, a flashy prime mover, two Tiger helicopters and, of course, Armygeddon in a marquee, anyone would be proud to step out at the annual horsepower-driven Summernats car festival in Canberra. And Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy was as proud as anyone to be there.

"We're very proud to support Summernats, very happy to be exposed to so many excellent cars and, more importantly, to meet so many young people who are interested in cars," the Chief says.

"Unashamedly, for us, participating in this event is about recruiting."

With Defence set to expand by about 5000 people over the next 10 years – and with well-publicised skills shortages across the country – Defence and the Army are thinking outside the square, trying many and varied approaches to make that all-important first contact with potential new recruits.

Lieutenant General Leahy says the Army is doing quite well in recruiting infantry, officers and reservists, but it needs a lot more technical people to maintain all its tanks, helicopters, trucks and thousands of other pieces of equipment on its books.

But is Summernats the right place to find the right kind of people to man an army? "Are you confident you could get this type of person to polish boots?" one reporter asks as she makes an all-encompassing wave toward the Summernats crowd.

"Well, we don't actually polish our boots anymore – but that aside, these people spend a lot of time polishing cars, don't they?"

"Look – we need trades people, and there are lots of young people here who are obviously very technically minded – and I want to talk to them."

Lieutenant General Leahy says he believes many young people join the Defence Forces today because they want to do something important, they want to contribute to a team – "and we can offer them a very professional team to be part of," he says.



A30-005 – the first Australian-built Tiger – intrigued many horsepower heroes at Summernats

Armygeddon lays down a smoke screen at Summernats



In the Team Army pit crew this day are vehicle-mechanic trainees Craftsman Veronica Page and Private Steve Richardson, both aged 22, both about two months into an 18-month trade course, but both from quite different backgrounds.

Craftsman Page, from Melbourne, was a car detailer in civvie street and as such saw being a vehicle mechanic as a natural thing to progress to.

She joined the Army intent on getting the VM qualification – but, like every other soldier, she first had to complete basic training at Kapooka, near Wagga Wagga.

While she says this was a real shock to the system at the time, now that it's over, she admits to actually enjoying it overall.

As for training as a mechanic while wearing a military uniform – she has no doubt she's receiving much better training and in better facilities than she would have received as an apprentice in Melbourne.

Private Richardson, a former sales rep and security technician from Brisbane, joined the Army to be an infantry soldier, completed recruit training at Kapooka and infantry initial employment training at Singleton (hence the rank difference), before being encouraged to look at technical trade training by an aggressive internal advertising campaign.

Rather than feeling he is losing out on the chance to be an infantryman, Steve is happy knowing he has the best of both worlds ahead of him – "we still do some military training alongside our trade training," he says, "and I'm sure we'll get plenty of chances to go bush and stuff too".

Summernats organiser Chic Henry, a former Army apprentice from the 1964 intake, says he is proud to support Army's efforts to recruit his patrons.

"I can honestly say that I am a product of the training and experience I gained in the Army and I am very proud of the time I spent in the service," he says.

"So now, anything I can do to support Defence and the Army here, I do it with pride and thanks for all that I gained from my time in uniform."

Lieutenant General Leahy says the Army and Defence Recruiting would not continue to participate in events like Summernats if the strategy wasn't working for them.

"We've supported this event for four or five years now and I think we'll be coming back for quite a few years more."

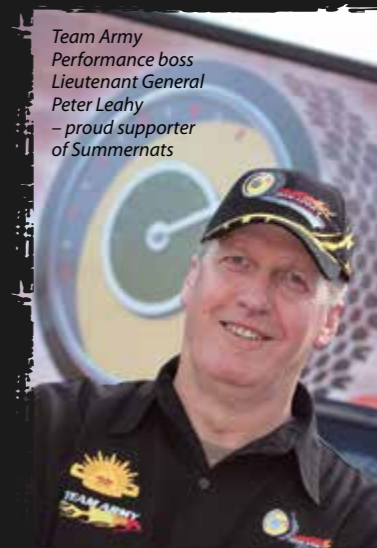
The centerpiece of Army's participation at Summernats was, as usual, the heavily modified and by now famous Armygeddon – a six-wheeled Land Rover on mechanical steroids.

In a cacophony of engine roars and tyre screams, and producing its own smoke screen without grenades, the vehicle can thrill the most discerning 'burnout' crowd with its ability to selectively spin any combination from one to five of its six wheels.

Wearing a new black and grey cam-pattern colour scheme with murals, and sporting a blown 7-litre motor that nudges 1000 horses, Armygeddon never looks out of place or outgunned – even at Summernats.



Summernats organiser Chic Henry gets a tour of the Tiger helicopter while Chief of Army Lieutenant General Peter Leahy watches Summernats action close by



Team Army Performance boss Lieutenant General Peter Leahy – proud supporter of Summernats

Power and the Glory

Summernats turned 21-years-old this year – and Team Army brought loads of horsepower to the nation's capital to help the rev-heads celebrate.

WORDS AND PICS BRIAN HARTIGAN



AUSSIES RULE THE GULF

Completing a five-month assignment in the Middle East, 30 Australians assigned to the command group of Task Force 158 in the North Arabian Gulf have returned home.

This was the third time Australian Defence force personnel led TF158 – the multi-national mission to protect Iraq's territorial waters and oil-loading facilities in the Gulf, mainly Khawr al Amaya Oil Terminal (KAAOT) and al Bakr Oil Terminal (ABOT).

The oil that flows through these two offshore platforms generates some 90 per cent of Iraq's gross domestic product and, as such, they are crucial to Iraq's ability to fund reconstruction and provide for its own future.

During the Australian's five months of command, more than US\$17 billion worth of oil was loaded onto 110 tankers at the two platforms.

TF158 consists of a Coalition flotilla and marine security forces.

Home for the Australians during their in-command mission was initially a barge moored to the side of the Khawr al Amaya Oil Terminal, followed by a spell in new accommodation and workspace modules on the terminal itself.

Commander TF158 Commodore Allan du Toit says the Task Force was very much a Coalition operation. "We had ships from the US, the UK, Australia and increasingly from Iraq," he says.

"This was the third time Australians have led the task force, and it was a great honour and a privilege as an Australian to lead the team."

The Australian command group's deployment to TF158 was conducted as part of Operation Catalyst, the Australia Defence Force's contribution to international efforts to develop a secure and stable environment in Iraq and assist with national recovery programs after the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Following this most recent mission, the Australians handed over command of TF158 to the US Navy, appropriately, on Australia Day.



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Court is in session

Hot on the heels of major reforms to the Defence military justice system put in place in recent years comes a new, fully deployable, Australian Military Court.

WORDS BRIAN HARTIGAN PICS ADF



First Chief Military Judge of the Australian Military Court Brigadier Ian Westwood (centre) with permanent military judges Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Woodward and Colonel Peter Morrison

The Australian Military Court is a 'service tribunal' under the Defence Force Discipline Act and forms a very important part of the military justice system, contributing to the maintenance of military discipline within the ADF. It replaces the old system of individually convened trials by Court Martial or Defence Force Magistrates.

A key feature of the new court is its preparedness and ability to sit anywhere in Australia or overseas. Although based in Canberra, the court is fully deployable, allowing cases affecting military discipline and morale to be dealt with at the source, thus minimising interruptions to military operations.

The Australian Military Court was born out of a senate-committee report into the effectiveness of Australia's military justice system, tabled in 2005. The report made 40 recommendations, of which 30 were accepted in whole, in part or in principle, with alternative solutions adopted or proposed to meet their intent where necessary.

But why does Defence have a separate system of law?

Discipline is integral to the effectiveness and efficiency of any professional fighting force. Ingrained habits of discipline, to instantly obey lawful directions and orders,

are important in preventing error or oversight that could have disastrous or fatal consequences in peacetime or at war.

Breaches of military discipline must be dealt with quickly and sometimes more rigorously than if a civilian engaged in similar conduct. Some offences are far more serious when committed in a military context – for example assaulting a superior, petty theft or drug offences.

The Defence Force Discipline Act also provides for offences that are specific to the conduct of military operations – for example, absence without leave, desertion and mutiny – for which there are no equivalent civilian offences or punishment.

Defence personnel are still subject to civil law, but must obey military law as well. Where appropriate (and available), however, civilian criminal offences committed by uniformed personnel will always be referred to civilian jurisdictions.

The new Australian Military Court, which commenced on 1 October 2007, will provide the ADF with a fair and impartial military court system. Its blend of jurisdiction, military judges, military juries and rights of appeal is unique to Australia.

Independent of the chains of command, the court replaces the previous trials by courts martial (military line-officer presiding with panel members and a judge advocate)

and defence force magistrates (legal officer appointed by command), but will deal with the same types of offences as those dealt with under the previous system.

Trial procedures in the Australian Military Court are very similar to those of civil courts, including the presumption of innocence for the accused unless and until the prosecution can prove the case beyond reasonable doubt.

Depending on the severity of the offence, trials are conducted in front of a military jury of either six or 12 members. In certain cases a military judge can preside alone.

A range of punishments may be considered by the presiding military judge if an accused is found guilty, including fines, reduction in rank or, in the more serious cases, imprisonment or dismissal from the ADF.

To enhance impartiality, military judges are independent from the service chains of command in the performance of judicial functions. They are appointed (or dismissed) by the Governor General for fixed 10-year terms and they report directly to parliament.

An independent Director of Military Prosecutions is responsible for bringing all cases before the court, and a new Director of Defence Counsel Services will provide free legal representation for the accused.

The Australian Defence Force Investigative Service (ADFIS) is a new joint-service unit created to assist in maintaining discipline through the lawful, ethical and effective investigation of service offences and incidents. It was formed, along with a number of other new agencies, in response to a Senate-committee report into the effectiveness of Australia's military justice system, tabled in 2005. Three ADFIS investigators are currently assigned to Operations Catalyst and Slipper in the Middle East Area of Operations – one in Baghdad, Tallil and Tarin Kowt – with a reach-back capability in Australia that allows for extra staff to be flown forward to assist with major incidents.



Left: Captain Chris Woodhouse bags 'evidence' in Baghdad, Iraq. Pic Captain Cameron Jamieson

Above: Sergeant Troy Fuller takes crime-scene notes at Tallil, southern Iraq. Pic Leading Seaman Phillip Cullinan

Below: Warrant Officer Class Two Lee Roberts lifts fingerprints at Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. Pic Corporal Hamish Paterson



Enhanced rights of appeal, available to either the accused or the Director of Military Prosecutions, are also available through the Defence Force Discipline Appeals Tribunal, whose members may be federal, state or territory justices or judges.

An independent merit selection process was used for the appointment of the Chief Military Judge and two permanent military judges. The process considered attributes such as experience, professional knowledge and expertise, and personal qualities. The inaugural appointees were selected from current-qualified permanent and reserve ADF legal officers and others who satisfied the statutory selection criteria.

The first Chief Military Judge appointed is Brigadier Ian Westwood, who was officially sworn in at a ceremony in Canberra in October. Also sworn in the same day were the two new permanent military judges, Colonel Peter Morrison and Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Woodward. Then Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Bruce Billson said Brigadier Westwood had shown outstanding service in his role as the Chief Judge Advocate before this appointment.

"As the inaugural Chief Military Judge of the Australian Military Court, Brigadier Westwood will be responsible for, among other things, ensuring the orderly and expeditious discharge of the business of the Australian Military Court and managing the administrative affairs of the court," Mr Billson said.

Chief of Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said Brigadier Westwood would also sit as a military judge on the court, nominate the military judge to conduct particular trials and make an annual report to parliament.

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BASKETBALL NETS THE BEST

Flight Lieutenant Megan Hurley



Private Kelly Nelson



Petty Officer Narelle Ponder



WORDS AND PICS BRIAN HARTIGAN

Recruiting and fitness are two aspects of life that are dear to the heart of the Defence establishment – so it makes sense when the two come together.

With Defence Recruiting taking on naming-rights sponsorship of the National Women's Basketball League for the second year running, Recruiting's exposure to a key demographic in the general Australian population seems to be well targeted and paying off.

But Defence's commitment to basketball doesn't just stop with a fat cheque and some courtside signage – the sponsorship deal isn't about just hanging out some tinsel to attract the girls into a Defence career and then have them forget about the game they love to play.

Fitness and sport is encouraged, applauded and supported in Defence probably more than in most other employment streams – as it has always been.

Sure there are operational and work commitments that get in the way, but at the end of the day, if it's at all possible, men and women of all ranks and skill levels are encouraged and assisted to play sport – for fun, recreation, fitness or even at elite, semi-professional levels.

Take Petty Officer Narelle Ponder for example. As a senior sailor in the Navy, Narelle spends months at a time at sea as a Communication

and Information Systems specialist on a Collins-class submarine, HMAS Rankin.

As a mother, wife and keen sports person, she also spends a lot of time doing 'normal' stuff – including playing basketball and netball.

CONTACT met Narelle recently as a member of the Australian Defence Basketball Association team taking on the New Zealand Army at the Australian Institute of Sport in an WNBL preliminary match.

After an entertaining and aerobically strenuous game, the six-foot-something, blue-eyed blonde explained how she combined her love for the sea with the other aspects of her life – including basketball.

"Defence has not just given me a job – it has given me a lifestyle," she says.

"Before I entered the services I had this perception that it would be a bit like bootcamp – a lot more regimental than it actually is.

"In reality, Defence has provided me with a work environment in which I get paid to travel and see our great country – and I can play basketball and get paid to do that too."

I had to ask though – how does a big girl, ideally built for basketball, cope with confined spaces on a boat like Rankin?

"You learn to duck," she says with a laugh. "Leg room, especially climbing up and down ladders, is the hardest part, but, like anything, you learn the right way to do it pretty quick – especially after a few bruises."

She says game skills can get a bit rusty after a long stint under the waves, but she does have access to exercise bikes, pilates mats and other equipment that at least help her maintain a good base level of aerobic fitness while at sea.

"And better fitness is not just good for your game, it's good for your mind as well, which in turn is good for your job and for the ADF – or any job."

Number 6 for the ADBA team that same night was Flight Lieutenant Megan Hurley – a powerhouse in centre court, she's also a powerful woman in the air.

During 10 years service with the RAAF thus far, Megan has flown Hawk lead-in fighter jets, helicopters on exchange with the Navy and is currently awaiting conversion to BBJ – the VIP business-jet fleet.

"The RAAF has given me excellent opportunities and experiences," she says. "I'd recommend it for any active, adventurous-type people looking for a challenge."

"While it is not always possible to get away to certain tournaments or games, the services really do try to be supportive of sport where possible."

"And when you do get away with a team it's really the social aspects and the interaction with other services – and services from other countries – that really make it a great thing to be involved with."

Army's Private Kelly Nelson, highest scorer on the night, is another who loves her basketball and her job.

A former South Australian and New South Wales State leagues player, the 21-year-old clerk admin based at Holsworthy, is very impressed with the level of support she gets from the army to pursue her passion – even if she can't always get away from her job.

"I've been lucky enough to tour with the team to Darwin, Melbourne, Brisbane, Singapore and Malaysia so far," she says.

"This game tonight here in Canberra was a lot of fun too."

"It's really good fun playing against good teams, especially overseas teams – even when they beat you!"

Looking into the future, Private Nelson says she's looking forward to many more trips promoting basketball and educating people – especially women – about the level of support for sport in the ADF.



Petty Officer Narelle Ponder



Private Kelly Nelson

GAME CALL

Australian Defence Basketball Association (ADBA) took on the New Zealand Army on Friday 30 November 2007 in an entertaining precursor to the WNBL matchup between the AIS and the Christchurch Sirens.

New Zealand Army emerged the winners in a close game – 26 to 20.

Key players for New Zealand were Rebecca Brand, who scored 6 points, Kate Hockings, with 8 rebounds, Rose King contributed 6 rebounds and Sarah Cosgrove played a great defensive game.

ADBA also had its standouts with Kelly Nelson matching Rebecca Brand's 6 points, Karen Herbert adding another 5 and Megan Hurley keeping the ball in play with 4 rebounds and 5 steals.

Megan Hurley says it was a fun game and a great tussle. "I think we played a good game generally – we just couldn't seem to finish it off."

And, just for the record, AIS beat Christchurch 87-83 in a very intense game.

Results:	1st half	2nd half	Total
NZ Army	11	15	26
ADBA	6	14	20



Newly promoted Major General Liz Cosson was on hand to congratulate both teams

ADELAIDE RETIRES

HMAS *Adelaide* was decommissioned at Garden Island in Western Australia in January after 27 years of service in the Royal Australian Navy. She was Australia's oldest serving frigate.

During the decommissioning ceremony, the ship's Australian White Ensign was lowered for the last time and handed to her commanding officer, Commander Robert Slaven.

"Today is an historic occasion, one which the crew of *Adelaide* is proud to be a part of," Commander Slaven said.

Adelaide is the second of the Adelaide-class frigates to be decommissioned, the first being HMAS *Canberra* in November 2005. Their four sister ships, *Sydney*, *Darwin*, *Melbourne* and *Newcastle* remain in service.

Adelaide was constructed by Todd Pacific Shipyard in the United States and commissioned into the RAN on 15 November 1980. She was the second ship in the RAN to bear the name – her predecessor was a light cruiser that served from 1922-1946.

Adelaide has proudly represented

Australia in a number of theatres of conflict during her years of service. She was one of the first Australian warships to be deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1990. *Adelaide* was again deployed to the Gulf on two more occasions in 2002 and 2004. She also participated in both major East Timor operations in 1999 and 2006.

In peacetime, one of *Adelaide's* more notable achievements was her involvement in the high profile search and rescue of solo yachtsmen Thierry Dubois and Tony Bullimore from the Southern Ocean in 1997.

The name *Adelaide* will not be missing from the Australian fleet for long, with one of the forthcoming Canberra-class Landing Helicopter Docks to bear the name.

Adelaide will be gifted to NSW and sunk off the Central Coast at Terrigal as an artificial reef and dive attraction.



HMAS *Adelaide* visits the City of Adelaide for the last time before decommissioning. Pic Leading Seaman Helen Frank

Top: HMAS *Adelaide* is escorted into the City of Adelaide for the last time. Pic Leading Seaman Helen Frank

Middle: Army's 48 Field Battery fire Howitzer field guns in reply to a 21-gun royal salute fired by HMAS *Adelaide*. Pic Leading Seaman Helen Frank

Above: HMAS *Adelaide* crewmembers fold the ship's White Ensign for the last time. Pic Able Seaman Lincoln Commene



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A tangled mess containing up to 12 different fishing nets, floating aids and dead sea creatures – and weighing between 12 and 15 tonnes – has been successfully retrieved from the Arafura Sea near Maningrida in the Northern Territory in a joint operation involving the Djelk Sea Rangers, Customs and HMAS Tarakan.

A death trap for marine life caught in its tangled reach and posing potential quarantine risks, the net's presence in Australian waters was closely monitored by the local sea rangers, but proved too large for them to handle.

Assigned the retrieval task by Border Protection Command, HMAS Tarakan sailed from Cairns to rendezvous with the sea rangers, 10 nautical miles off Maningrida, for an escort to the net's precise location.

Djelk Sea Rangers Brenton Cooper and James Woods led Tarakan to the 'ghost-net' where considerable effort was eventually required to drag the hulk from the water.

'Ghost nets' are fishing nets that have been lost, deliberately discarded or otherwise abandoned at sea, left to float with the currents. Unfortunately, they continue to 'fish' indiscriminately, catching and killing fish and mammals, including endangered species, as they cruise the seas.

Six weeks before the Maningrida net was hauled in, Hydrographic Survey Vessel, HMAS Melville, stumbled upon it's own ghost net in the Arafura Sea – only this time, the discovery proved a little more fortuitous for some of the marine life ensnared in its web.

Upon investigation, Melville's crew discovered that five turtles were caught up in the net and, more importantly, they were still alive.

'All hands on deck' was called to effect the rescue of these protected marine creatures as recovery of the net became a whole-ship evolution.

First objective was to release the five trapped turtles, which fell to Petty Officer Marcus Efferett and his boat crew.

With the turtles successfully released, the task of hauling the net onto Melville to prevent the capture of further marine creatures began – an easy task in theory, but the execution proved to be another story.

Using the foc'sle's capstans, lines were rigged in a pulley system to heave the net in. While the system worked initially, the sheer weight of the net began to take its toll, forcing it to break under its own mass and fall back into the sea.

The task became more challenging when, in addition to the pulley system used to heave in the net, strops were attached to the stores crane to lift the bulk of the soaking, heavy net out of the water.



After four hours of careful juggling, however, the crew finally succeeded in bringing the last portion of netting onto the deck.

While it is near impossible to estimate the number of 'ghost nets' there are in the sea, the problem is a world-wide phenomenon that is a grave concern to environmentalists and governments alike.



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EASY MONEY

WORDS AJ SHINNER PICS ADF AND SHINNER COLLECTION

Wayne Cooper is taking a break from his account of 3/4 Cav Regt's tour of duty in Somalia in 1993. Rather than drop the series, however, Wayne has passed the baton to AJ Shinner, a former 1RAR digger, to recount the same mission from an Infantry perspective...

PROLOGUE

The visit to the War Memorial with my fiancée had been a bit disappointing. The post-Vietnam section was being renovated and the chance to easily explain a part of my past with pictures, maps and dioramas was lost for the time being.

After working our way through the memorial and browsing through the shop for a few minutes, we found ourselves standing at the entrance to the honour-roll courtyard. Lisa would comment later that I had unknowingly gripped her hand tighter as we walked into the open space, which was far from inviting on that cold winter's day.

While standing there – like the tourist I was, with my camera around my neck – a sudden morbid curiosity took hold of me. As I looked around trying to get my bearings, a non-descript guy in his late 30s came down the nearest steps. As he walked closer, with a gait that can't easily be explained but is instantly recognised, we both saw what lay behind the eyes, understood each other's pedigree and, in unison, nodded our respects.

He was a few metres past me when he looked back and said, "New section's up to the right, mate." I forced a smile and nodded again. "Thanks mate."

True enough, tucked away in the far right-hand corner on one of the newest – and maybe over optimistically – one of the last panels available on the wall, it reads: SOMALIA 1992-1995, AUSTRALIAN ARMY, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT, 1 BATTALION, MCALINEY.S.

Although I could never claim to be a mate, standing in front of, and touching Shannon's name on the polished black wall was a surprisingly moving moment for me.

That night, I called one of my long-time mates, J Conway, to tell him I'd been asked to write a few words about Somalia for CONTACT magazine, and to generally shoot the shit.

We talked about old times, the up-coming 1RAR reunion in Townsville and getting together with old mates, both of us stubbornly ignoring the fact that with finances, work and family commitments, neither of us, in all probability, would be attending.

After chatting for a while, I confessed that writing about Somalia was turning out to be a bit harder than I expected. I was never conscientious enough to keep a diary of my time spent in Somalia and, therefore, could never hope to give an accurate chronological account of Operation Solace above our platoon level.

But it wasn't as simple as that – there was more to it – things that are hard to articulate at the start of this project.

So, for now, what follows, in no particular order, is simply a collection of yarns involving a group of young dusty diggers far from home. And how four short months serving our country so long ago opened our eyes, shaped our lives and, for better or worse, set our moral compasses forever.

MAIN PHOTO: The author, Private AJ Shinner, on 21 January 1993

Front gate duty at the Biadoda Airfield was easy money. During the early stages of Operation Solace the gun pit next to the gate was hardened with sand bags to give it a more permanent and sturdier appearance. It was originally the chassis of an old Soviet command vehicle which, like the Fiat armoured-car hull on the opposite side of the boom gate, had seen better days.

Several speed bumps, wire and improvised chicanes were also built along the 200 metres of road that separated the standing-patrol position and the main gate.

At the time, to those of us at the bottom of the food chain, it all seemed a bit uninspiring and defiantly in the 'half-assed' category.

The deal was simple enough – during the day, a machinegun was manned in the gun pit next to the gate. During the night, the gun was moved to the flat rooftop of

security guards coming and going. These NGO groups would arrive to meet with the big-wigs at HQ to discuss food drops, infrastructure construction and this or that.

It was our job at the gate to check everybody's credentials, search vehicles and to hold all weapons until they departed.

The local hired guns could easily be divided into two main groups. There was the older guys who seemed happy, I guess, to be earning a few extra bucks and were generally easier going. Most of these guys were ex-servicemen themselves, hardened in battle against the Ethiopians years before.

And then there were the younger guys who were cocky, arrogant and basically looked at us with hate-filled eyes.

Even though we had been assured by those above that all locals had been vetted, we were certain that some of these guys were friends by day and foe by night.

The fact we had to deal with them at all, let alone allow them on base, was a sore point.

The weapons they carried could also be split into two groups, which was another cause for concern. The older guys generally had older weapons, immaculately maintained, thanks to their past training, but with older, corroded ammo, they couldn't afford any better. The young pups, on the other hand, carried newer weapons, not as well maintained, but with, for the most part, new, shiny, Com-Bloc ammo.

The parade of exotic weapons being handed in at the gate was astounding. Every variant of AK known to man, AR 18s, H&K G3s, to our surprise a nice South African R4, and even a German WWII MP44 still sporting an eagle with swastika stamp, all made an appearance at the gate at one time or another.

played with his AK and that he should have a nice day. Smurf, Abs and myself, grinning like village idiots as we waved him and his group goodbye knowing that all his magazines had been crimped and his firing pin was now a good 2 or 3mm shorter.

Night routine at the gate was mind-numbingly boring.

Apart from the arrival and departure of foot patrols through the gate, the only source of entertainment while on gun picket was watching rabbits humping in the surrounding fields through the thermal imager.

But one of these nights did leave me with one of my most vivid memories of the whole deployment.

The building our platoon was housed in while manning the gate was about 50 metres back and directly in line with the

ladder from the roof and walked towards my sleeping bag. I remember it was a fantastically clear night, the scorching heat of the day had finally been replaced by a refreshing coolness. I removed my kit, vest and shirt, loosened my boot laces and climbed into the open sleeping bag using my flak vest as a pillow.

As always, after laying down, I placed my Browning pistol on my chest and started counting the billion or so stars in the sky while waiting for sleep to come.

Decadently, I sat back up and removed my boots. It was a rare occurrence for me to sleep with my boots off – I much preferred to be ready to move quickly if things turned nasty. It wasn't that I was becoming complacent or unprofessional, but more in some way trying to briefly slow down the tinea, fungus and rot which had taken my feet hostage.



Steve with the South African R4

if I know what I would have done if it went into the bag, but thankfully it took a left turn on my stomach – probably thanks to the smell produced by my manky feet.

Finally the snake's tail passed my nose, leaving a cold strip across my face and chest. I opened my eyes and listened as it headed through the grass towards the camel-thorn bushes from where it had come.



Hardening the gun pit next to the main gate at the Biadoda Airfield



Jerry manning the standing patrol position 200m in front of the main gate



M113 in local cam

a nearby building where a thermal imager was positioned and used to spot potential threats approaching along the road or through the fields next to the wire.

During the day, French, Yank and Aussie vehicle patrols headed out and back through the gate.

As a bit of an AFV spotter and amateur photographer from way back, I enjoyed chewing up a bit of the spare time cataloguing the plethora of different combat vehicles used on the deployment by us and our allies.

Early one morning I was given a heads up by Smurf to get my camera ready as a patrol of Cav boys in their M113 'buckets' came rumbling in. Rumour had it, they were out near the border region for a tad too long and had gone a bit feral, repainting their 'buckets' in trippy, psychedelic cammo patterns that Rommel himself would have been proud of.

There was also a continual stream of expat NGO officials with their locally hired



Polly on the roof top

Like well-trained hotel bellhops we would politely take charge of said weapons, enquire how long sir would be on site and, as soon as they were out of sight, heading towards HQ, we would pounce on the new toys. Of course, there was the standard taking of posed photos as well as field-stripping them for our amusement.

Apart from very informal training on the Vietnam-era AK 47s out of the Battalion Museum back in Townsville, we had very little knowledge of some of the weapon systems we were handling. Suffice to say it was very embarrassing the first time Gus and myself played with a H&K G21 and got caught red-handed by its owner arguing with each other on how to reassemble the bolt group, while the rest of the weapon resembled a pile of mechano on the ground.

One morning a particularly arrogant little shit had the hide to tell us in broken English that if anybody touched his rifle we'd be in big trouble. After returning to the gate two hours later, we assured him that no one had

approach road to the gate. When we first arrived for our first stint at the gate, the platoon's usual suspects had bolted into the small building and taken up residence. By the time the rest of us riffraff had gotten to the door there was bugger all space left.

In my infinite wisdom, I informed any bastard that would listen that cramming the whole platoon into a small building with only one entrance while being lined up with the road was begging to be wiped out by a car bomb. In disgust I found a flat piece of dirt behind the building and unrolled my farter bag in the open air. I tried to justify the move further by thinking that being outside put me closer to my Minimi which would be used on the roof during the night, leaving me with only my Browning 9mm pistol.

On the night in question, I was on the roof doing my two-hour stint on gun picket with Gus. It was about 0330hrs when I was relieved by J Conway. After a brief, whispered chat, I headed down the

I didn't zip up the bag.

As I lay there in my open sleeping bag, twiddling my freed toes, boots now placed in arms reach next to my head, I sensed something was wrong – not a noise, just a feeling.

I slowly raised my right hand and, in a practiced, slow, silent movement, gripped and pulled back the hammer on my pistol.

For a brief moment, I lay there, feeling like a goose, but was eventually rewarded by a noise next to my head. I slowly tried to crane my neck in the direction of the noise.

Estimating the size or species of the snake that knocked over my boots and slid over my face that night is impossible. What I do know is that it was big – very bloody big!

In a disciplined way that I will never again in my life duplicate, I closed my eyes and let the snake slither over my face and down onto my chest. For a second, it stopped to inspect the Browning pistol and then continued over it, down towards the open sleeping bag and my crotch. I'm buggered

As soon as I knew I was out of danger, I jumped up, screaming obscenities, while hopping around in circles trying to free myself of the sleeping bag around my legs.

Looking up, I saw the silhouette of J peering over the edge of the roof.

"What's your fucking problem?"

"Snake," I stammered, standing there with pistol in hand, still shaking slightly, feeling the cold patch across my face and chest.

"Nice one, shit lips!"

After J's silhouette disappeared, I heard a brief muffled conversation, laughter, then silence, bar the distant hum of generators further away inside the base.

Next day – after a very sleepless night – I swapped an issued clasp knife with a Yank for a stretcher bed and found a spot just inside the door. At the time, a car packed with explosives running the front gate seemed much less scary than a cobra or black mamba sinking its teeth into any part of me.

Cardio Training

"Running? From What?"

Let's face it, for years the military has had an almost pathological obsession with distance running. No one can explain where it came from and no one can give you a good reason why millions of soldiers, sailors and airmen the world over think that by pounding out 5k runs that they'll magically develop the type of fitness that's going to save their butts in combat.



The reality is that steady-state aerobic training is one of the worst things that military personnel can do to prepare for real-life and combat situations. Any moderate to long-distance aerobic workouts suffer from several problems and, in this article, I'm going to outline those problems and offer some suggestions as to how your cardio training can be modified to greatly improve its relevance to operational fitness.

The problems of steady-state cardio

1. Any form of repetitive cardio carried out at relatively constant intensity lacks functionality. Apart from pack marching, virtually all other military-fitness activities revolve around repeated bursts of high-intensity exercise with short breaks between efforts – and steady-state cardio is a very poor way to train for this type of work.
2. Running on hard surfaces can cause injuries such as stress fractures and shin splints. Some people cope well with distance running but many people don't and, if you make road running the foundation of your cardio conditioning, the chances are that at some stage you'll end up with an over-use injury.
3. Steady-state cardio is a waste of precious training time. If you run for 30 minutes you only get better at running, but military fitness has many dimensions and these are often neglected with programs that focus on running.

4. Many people find steady-state cardio boring (it is!) and thus fail to do enough to improve their fitness.
5. Research indicates that steady-state cardio is not the most efficient way to develop aerobic capacity and also does little to improve anaerobic tolerance, which is a critical component of military fitness.

So, what can be done to make running and other cardio activities relevant to military fitness?

The answer turns out to be very simple. All you have to do is manipulate the way cardio sessions are planned into routines and then carried out so that training effect is maximised and time wastage minimised.

The vast majority of running workouts and programs can be greatly improved through a few simple steps.

1. Reduce the number of runs and only do one run of more than 5km a week.
2. Apart from one long run a week, make all running sessions interval work in various formats.
3. Do as much of your running as possible on grass.
4. Add variety and challenge to your running sessions by doing stairs, hill sprints and sprints with a weight vest.

Better yet, replace your dependence on running with a program that includes various other modes of cardio conditioning. Outside, you can use kettlebells or strongman training to develop speed, strength and power, all while still taking care of your aerobic and anaerobic fitness.

In the gym, the most under-used piece of cardio equipment is the rower. When done properly, rowing workouts are extremely effective and have the added benefit of giving your body a break from the impact of running. Rowing is so intense that a workout as short as four minutes added to the end of your gym program can be as effective as 30 minutes of riding a bike or pounding a treadmill!

Follow these basic tips and then try a few of the workouts listed below at the end of your regular gym program.

Rowing tips

1. Try to find a gym that has a 'Concept 2' brand rower. They are the world standard. If possible, find the owner's manual and learn to set up the computer for interval workouts.
2. Set the resistance to about 4–6. Jacking it up to 10 doesn't give you a better workout!
3. Focus on long, powerful strokes and drive with the legs. Good rowers go faster by driving harder, not by doing 60 strokes a minute.
4. Drive with the legs, followed by the back, then finish with the arms.

Rowing workouts

Tabata rowing – set the rower (or use another clock) for 20 seconds of effort followed by 10 seconds of rest. Row as hard as possible for 20 seconds and rest for 10. Repeat eight times for a 4-minute workout. If you have worked as hard as possible during each interval you'll understand that cardio doesn't have to be long to be effective.

500m repeats – just like repeated 400m runs, doing 500m rowing intervals with a 1-minute break is great functional cardio. Aim to complete four to six intervals in less than 1min 45sec each.

Two x 1000m with 4 minutes rest – row 1000m as fast as possible and then, after resting, try to match it. Aim to complete each 1000m in under 3min 30sec.

2000m – the gold standard of rowing workouts. This takes a bit of pacing because going too hard in the first 500m leads to oxygen debt and a very painful last 500m. Start conservatively and ramp it up at the end. If you can do better than 7min you are in fairly good shape.

For more information and individual training programs email fitness@octogen.com.au



ONE MIND, ANY WEAPON

Military training often involves the learning of principles which have been established and validated on past and present operations. Military principles are usually simple to remember, easy to learn and apply, and follow common-sense guidelines. When these principles are not followed, disaster often occurs.

Military Self Defence (MSD) training is no different to other military training and has a number of key principles which soldiers are taught. The main principle is: 'One mind any weapon.'

Hunter Armstrong, the world's leading hopologist (the study of the evolution and development of human combative behaviour) coined the term, 'one mind any weapon', which has been adopted by the Australian Army and the USMC as their primary principle to inculcate the desired combat mindset behind the weapon systems used by modern armies. But what does, 'one mind any weapon' really mean?

'One mind any weapon' is the embodiment of connecting the brain behind the action – that all functions, decisions and actions are controlled by the brain. Regardless of the weapon system, the same mindset is maintained.

Whether you are using a knife, baton or rifle, the intent does not change.

'A fool with a tool is still a fool.'

Neurological man has been hardwired to respond a certain way for thousands of years. Although the weapon systems may have changed, the neurological hardwiring has not had time to evolve and change. Ninety per cent of human evolution has been spent as a hunter gatherer. It's only recently, in the past 10,000 years, that we have developed agriculture and there has been a shift to a more sedentary existence. In fact, most of the world's population is still heavily involved in agriculture.

Modern man (*homo sapien sapiens*) evolved 80,000 to 100,000 years ago. Our evolution has been based on our ability to survive in the changing environment. There is very little difference, if any, between us and our ancestors of 30,000 years ago.

Our basic genetic makeup has not changed and has been based on a hunter-gatherer society. Our culture has changed rapidly in that time, but our genome has not had the time to change.

Our actions and reactions have been programmed from when we were hunter gatherers. This was when our primal survival instincts played a greater part in our ability to survive life-threatening encounters.

So what impact has this had on man's fighting skills?

Thousands of years of using thrusting tools such as the spear and knife have resulted in the co-ordinated development of our muscle, skeletal and central nervous systems to maximum efficiency. Certain forward thrusting actions have evolved to be very powerful. These actions include pushing and pulling. They related to thrusting and throwing types of activities.

It is a natural movement to thrust your arms forward and drive off your rear leg, for example when throwing a javelin or a ball. This action is neurologically hardwired so any action that is counter productive to this will result in the skill being difficult to learn.

Humans have evolved to be very strong off the rear leg. This can be seen when push-starting a car. In this situation, the pusher lowers their centre of gravity placing their legs well back behind this point and commences a forward-action push.

Humans work best when facing the desired direction that they intend to work in. That is, we are able to produce maximum power when working in the same direction as the

activity. We like to manipulate objects within arms reach and our own body space. It is difficult for us to manipulate things at arms reach and awkward angles.

Our focal (eye sight) development has also had an impact on our fighting ability. Humans prefer to face the direction they are moving. In hunter-gatherer times this would have been important to be able to see the prey they were hunting.

What impact has this had on modern self-defence techniques?

Our evolution has neurologically hardwired certain responses to various stimuli. Any skills that use a throwing action off the rear leg will feel natural and strong. These skills include punching and kicking, pushing and pulling. For example take-downs found in wrestling that incorporate an explosive forward movement.

Under pressure, we naturally want to face the target and not have to go focal to see the target. Techniques that manipulate the opponent from a position of postural strength, yet keep the opponent in an inferior position, will be most beneficial.

Human culture evolution is rapid compared to our underpinning genetic make-up. Understanding the hardwired impact of thousands of years of certain types of movements will enable self-defence/defensive-tactics instructors greater insight into the types of techniques they should be teaching students.



Quality not Quantity

Special Forces and other combat units around the world are making the move towards shorter, higher-intensity training – and the results are definitely speaking for themselves.

On a recent workshop tour of the US, I had the opportunity to speak to members of the US Marine Corps' elite Force Recon, as well as infantry soldiers from the renowned Arctic Warriors (25th Marine Regiment).

As expressed to me by Lieutenant Colonel Minter Ralston of the AWs, and echoed by many of his troops, both infantry and special operations units are looking for more efficient and effective conditioning regimes that will avoid much of the wear and tear attributed to more traditional physical training programs.

Like many similar units throughout the world, Marine Corps physical training sessions have previously focused on highly repetitious, endurance-based training, with most PT sessions lasting between one and two hours and, more often than not, involving some form of distance running or forced marching.

In more recent times, unit commanders have recognised the benefits of shorter, more intensive training sessions, believing that these workouts yield far greater results than training for longer periods at lower intensity.

"Though endurance has always been of critical importance to marine infantry units, our recent combat operations have reinforced the belief that working soldiers need a range of high-intensity, load-bearing activities to more closely reflect the operational requirements of the modern soldier," Lieutenant Colonel Ralston said.

Below is a workout we created for Lieutenant Colonel Ralston's men to

improve their ability to move at speed through an urban environment. The workout incorporates the Tabata Protocol (see description below).

Activity One: Leopard crawls

The soldier starts in the prone firing position. On GO! he leopard crawls as fast as possible for 20 seconds. On STEADY! the soldier rests for 10 seconds in the prone firing position. He repeats this movement pattern eight times in total.

Activity Two: Vaulting

The Soldier stands beside a hip-high vaulting horse (or in the case of the Marines, a low banister running alongside the PT area). On GO! the soldier places both hands on the banister and vaults over the fence, swinging his legs to his right. He then turns back towards the fence and vaults back over, this time swinging his legs to his left. He repeats this as many times as possible in 20 seconds. On STEADY! the soldier rests for 10 seconds in the standing position. He repeats this movement pattern eight times in total.

Activity Three: Low Sprints

The soldier starts in the combat-crouch firing position. On GO! he runs forward, as fast as possible for 20 seconds, maintaining a semi-crouched stance, with weapon raised. On STEADY! the soldier rests for 10 seconds in the combat-crouch firing position. The soldier repeats this movement pattern eight times in total.



Activity Four: Fire and Movement

The soldier starts in the prone firing position. On GO! he leaps up and sprints forward five steps as fast as possible, and drops to the kneeling firing position. He then jumps up again, sprinting forward another five steps before dropping to the prone firing position. He continues to alternate between the two firing positions as many times as possible in 20 seconds. On STEADY! the soldier rests for 10 seconds in the prone firing position. The soldier repeats this movement pattern eight times.

NOTE: To gain the best results from this type of intensive training, soldiers should perform all exercises in patrol order, including weapon (or mock rifle) and body armour.

Though this workout focuses mostly on speed, agility and muscular endurance, the same concept can be applied to PT sessions to achieve dramatic improvements in strength, power and even cardio-vascular conditioning.

Tabata Protocol

Doctor Izumi Tabata of the National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Tokyo, Japan, first created the Tabata Protocol to improve the fitness of the Japanese speed skating team. It has since been implemented by military and law enforcement personnel the world over, including the Canadian Infantry School.

The protocol calls for the athlete to complete 20 seconds of a given exercise at the highest intensity, followed by 10 seconds of active or passive recovery – repeated eight times.

For more information contact the Tactical & Operational Readiness Group (TORG) at chief@tacticalconditioning.org



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The ANZAC 'Bushido'

BY WO1DARRYL KELLY

Sergeant Harry Freame, 1st Battalion AIF, crawled out each night through the hole shown behind him – with Privates Morris and Elart – to scout enemy positions in front of Quinn's Post, Gallipoli. Australian War Memorial Negative Number G01029

In August 1914, in the New South Wales town of Glen Innes, a man with somewhat unusual features presented himself for enlistment in the AIF. He gave his birthplace as Kitscoty, Alberta, Canada.² Many assumed him to be of Eskimo extraction; some thought perhaps he was an American Indian; others believed him to be Mexican. In fact, the newly-recruited Wykeham Henry 'Harry' Freame was none of these.

Harry Freame was born in 1880 in the Japanese city of Osaka. His parents were William Freame, an Australian working in Japan as an English teacher, and Shizu Kitagawa, whose Japanese ancestry dated back to the Shoguns of the 16th century.³

The young Harry faced an upbringing of vast complexity – influenced by the inner peace of his mother's Shinto beliefs and the strict ideals and dominance of his Western father.

Not surprisingly, Harry was sent to England at the age of 15 to further his education.

Though well-educated and fluent in English and Japanese, Harry chose the life of an adventurer. He fought in the Mexican Wars, serving as intelligence officer to

President Porfirio Diaz and later confided to friends to joining a band of international mercenaries in German East Africa, to assist in suppressing the native uprising of 1904.⁴

He returned to Mexico in 1910, but when the Diaz government collapsed, Harry became a wanted man with a price on his head, and was forced to escape the country by packhorse. Making his way to a Chilean port, Harry boarded a ship bound for Australia.⁴

With the outbreak of World War 1, Freame enlisted in the AIF and was allocated to the newly-formed 1st Battalion. Because of his experience, Harry was promoted to lance corporal and assigned the crucial job of battalion scout.²

As the desert training at Mena in Egypt

intensified, the skills and knowledge Harry had acquired during his involvement in earlier campaigns began to surface. His confidence, swashbuckling manner and air of individuality that would soon make him an ANZAC legend were slowly evolving.

First, he modified his uniform by attaching leather pads on elbows, knees and the insides of ankles. This allowed for easy movement when leopard crawling around no-man's land. Next, he discarded the standard .303 rifle and opted for a pair of pistols, worn on the hips. These were ideal for the close-in style of combat of the scout. A stout Bowie knife was sheathed in a boot scabbard. The last weapon included in his armoury was a small pistol, worn in a shoulder holster under his shirt.

As a final touch, Harry added his trademark black and white bandanna, worn around his neck.⁴

Storming ashore at Gallipoli on the morning of 25 April 1915, Freame was attached to D Company, 1st Battalion, which landed in the second and third waves. With their backs to the sea, the Diggers of the battalion fought their way up the steep cliffs and through the rugged scrub. The battle-weary troops continued to push inland until mid afternoon when they were able to consolidate in small pockets along a bedraggled line.

Freame found himself in a location alongside an area nicknamed The Nek. The position was under the command of Lieutenant Alfred Shout, who would subsequently be awarded both the Victoria and Military Crosses.

Called away from his post, Lieutenant Shout left Harry in charge. Unbeknown to both, the Turks planned to launch a savage counterattack later that afternoon with the sole purpose of driving the intruders back into the sea.

Under a formidable onslaught of small-arms fire, the Turkish attack was launched.

Harry called for his 14-man force to number off. During a brief pause in the bombardment, he again called for his men to respond, but this time only nine answered.

There was no respite as the Turks pressed home their relentless attack.

When Lieutenant Shout arrived back at the scene, he ordered the force to fall back towards ANZAC Cove. On this call, only one voice was left to reply – Freame.⁵

The next day, small pockets of men were still fighting independently. The commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Dobbin, was starved of vital information as to the plight of his men. Freame volunteered to make the steep climb into Monash Valley to assess the situation.

On reaching his objective, he found that the

Turks not only held the immediate front but also the exposed flanks of the ANZACs.

In semi-darkness, Harry made his way slowly towards the stranded men. He found them exhausted and parched with thirst, but still fighting. Accompanied by an unknown New Zealander, Harry descended part way into the valley, obtained the much needed water and then renegotiated the steep climb – amid Turkish gunfire – back to the beleaguered soldiers.

Then, knowing that the information he had gathered was required by his commanding officer, Freame sprinted down the valley, drawing a furious hail of Turkish rifle and machine-gun fire as he went. Only after completing his report to Dobbin did Freame admit to being hit by sniper fire on the last mad dash – twice. For his actions during those first hectic days at Gallipoli, Freame was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.⁶

The war historian, Charles Bean, believed that Freame warranted the Victoria Cross, but at this point in the war no such award had been made to an Australian and his commanders were uncertain of the criteria for recommendation. Some believe that Harry Freame's racial origins were a major factor in the award of the lesser decoration.

On 28 April 1915, Harry Freame was promoted to the rank of sergeant.² Reports of his actions had spread throughout the ANZAC trenches. Many credited him with having an uncanny sense of direction, an ability to find his way even in the pitch-black darkness of no man's land. He continually made forays toward the Turkish lines, noting various 'safe' entry and exit points for patrols.

However, Harry was fallible and made the mistake of using the same point twice. Two Turks had observed Freame on a previous sortie and they lay in wait for his return. As he approached, they pounced. Realising that resistance was useless, Harry surrendered.

He handed over his two 'hip' pistols and his trusty Bowie knife, but fortunately, he was not searched, and his small pistol remained hidden under his shirt.

The Turkish interrogation officer found Harry Freame to be a perfect gentleman and was amazed that an Australian could speak other languages. Freame was invited to share coffee and cigarettes with his captor.

'Pleasantries' over, Freame had little doubt that the Turkish officer's next move would be to arrange for his execution. After all, Harry had been captured in the Turkish lines – the action of a spy.

He was placed in the custody of six Turks, to be marched under guard to the headquarters, some 8km away. The guards surrounded Freame, two in front, one on each side and two at the rear.

Although Harry acted as a defeated foe, with head down and moving at a sluggish pace, he was formulating a plan of escape. He was pinning his hopes on soldiers being soldiers, no matter what country's uniform they wore.

As he was marched away, his guards were alert and vigilant. After about a kilometre and a half, and out of direct sight of their officers, the guards relaxed. They slung their weapons and proceeded to chat animatedly among themselves. Harry saw his chance. He reached inside his shirt and drew the tiny revolver. Firing in a circular sweep and aiming for the third button above the waist belt, he hit both the front guards, missed one of those on his side and one at the rear. The surviving guards scattered in fright leaving Harry to scamper over an embankment and make his way back to his mates.⁴

On 6 June, Freame was sent out to assess the success of an earlier attack and to eliminate a troublesome machine-gun. He was accompanied by two young privates, one of whom had only recently arrived on the peninsula. Their job was to attract fire by throwing bombs into the trenches and then count the number and note the type of weapons that responded.

His two companions were to protect Harry's rear. Making their way towards the trench, they spied the gun. Harry stood up and emptied his pistols toward the trench and threw his bombs. The only weapon to respond was a single Turkish Mauser. With his mission complete, Harry returned to his escort and, crawling along the ground to avoid detection, the three made their way back towards the Australian lines.

Although aware that a friendly patrol was outside the perimeter, an Australian sentry heard a noise and immediately fired in its direction. The round found its mark, hitting one of Freame's escorts in the eye. The round continued through his neck and shoulder and exited to strike the second man. Harry dragged both men into the safety of the trench. The first man had been mortally wounded and died in hospital some 11 days later. The other was able to return to duty after treatment.⁷

For his actions, Harry Freame was Mentioned in Despatches by General Sir Ian Hamilton, commander of the Gallipoli campaign.

In August 1915, a crucial action against the Lone Pine trenches was launched and, during one of the many Turkish counterattacks, a single group of Australians was to suffer 31 dead or wounded. Among those wounded was Sergeant Harry Freame.

Harry had suffered a serious gunshot wound to the right arm, fracturing the elbow. He was first evacuated to the Greek island of Lemnos, but, because of the severity of the wound, he was forced to undergo further treatment at the Harefield Military Hospital in England. Harry could not be rehabilitated sufficiently for him to return to active duty and he was repatriated to Australia. He was discharged as medically unfit on 20 November 1916. The master scout's days of fighting were over.²

After the war, Harry was joined by his English wife and settled on a farming property in the New England district of

Armistale, New South Wales. In 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War, Harry was seconded to again serve his country as an undercover operative. His job was to infiltrate and gain the confidence of Sydney's Japanese community.

In the latter part of 1940, Freame was appointed to the Australian legation in Japan as an interpreter. It is believed that, before his departure for Tokyo, his undercover activities were discovered and relayed to Japan. In 1941 it was reported that he had succumbed to a serious throat condition, and he returned to Australia for treatment.

Freame himself, however, was adamant that, in fact, Japanese military intelligence agents had attempted to murder him by garroting. He died in agony five weeks after his return.⁴

Harry Freame was an adventurer, a soldier of fortune, and was reputed to be the most trusted scout on Gallipoli. In times of war, he was fearless, impulsive and always prepared for the unknown. His penchant for excitement and his daredevil disposition may well have been a legacy from his Japanese ancestors. Perhaps his preferred way of life can best be summarised in the ancient expression, '... worthier to die a hero than live as a man of straw'.



Sergeant Harry Freame, 1930. Barker, David – crayon with brush and ink heightened with white – 22.2 x 22 cm Australian War Memorial (ART11836)

- 1 Bushido: In Japanese, literally means 'military knight's way'. It is a code of honour and morals evolved by the Samurai.
- 2 National Archives of Australia: B2455, WWI Service Records, 764 Sergeant WH Freame, DCM
- 3 Shogun: A Japanese hereditary commander-in-chief and virtual ruler pre-1868
- 4 B Tait, The Gallipoli Samurai, The Weekender, 22 April 1995
- 5 Bean, CEW, The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918, Volume I, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1936
- 6 AWM 28, Recommendation Files for Honours and Awards, AIF, 1914-1918
- 7 Bean, CEW, The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918, Volume II, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, 1936

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT LINE



The letter that every family dreaded finally came to the Wright household, through the Reverend, Mr Madsen of Richardson Street, Essendon...

No. 151 Pte Wright H.J, was killed by shell fire whilst asleep at 4pm 19-9-1918 and partially buried and badly wounded in the head and died instantly. Map reference; burial place [In the vicinity of Ascension Wood, 3500 yards South West of Bellicourt] Sheet 62B.N.W.G.25.b.50.70. A Regimental cross was erected on the grave.

[Signed] W.R.Wadsworth, Major, for Lt Col, T Commanding 14th Battalion, A.I.F.

On 3 February 1919, Henry's wife Pauline wrote to Australian Base Records Department...

Dear Sir,

*I have received a letter from Captain Wilson who is commanding the 14th Battalion telling me of my husband's death in France. No 151 Pte H.J.Wright, 14th Battalion who was killed in action 19th September 1918. Captain Wilson informs me that the official position of his grave is sheet-62 B.N.W.G27. a 90.10.**

As I am the next of kin and wife, I would very much like to have a photograph of his grave and also for his mother. Could you possibly send me two photos for which I would be very grateful and if any of his relatives apply such as cousins and aunts will they also get a photo. Also one of his cousins is thinking of erecting a stone to his memory. Will that be allowed, as I am his wife and feel that should be left up to me.

Trusting you will grant me a reply and thanking the Defence Department for all treatment in the past as I feel there are some too ready to find fault with those who I am sure have tried to do the best for the dependants of the Australian Soldier.

*Yours faithfully,
Pauline Wright.*

*Note the different coordinates.

Pauline was not sent the following response but notified of its contents...

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.
130, Horseferry Road, London, S.W.1
28th April 1919

151. Pte H.J.Wright. 14th
Battalion. A.I.F. Deceased.

...In due course the remains of soldiers buried in isolated graves will be exhumed and re-interred in the nearest Military Cemetery.

The A.I.F. Photographic Section now operating in War areas will

eventually photograph graves of all Australian Soldiers which have been located and registered by the Graves Registration Units.

On receipt of the negatives for this grave, two prints will be forwarded to you for transmission to the next of kin.

It is the intention of the Imperial War Graves Commission to erect permanent headstones on all graves in France and Belgium and the policy adopted by the Commission will not permit of the relatives erecting private memorial stones on the grave.

May Mrs Wright be advised in accordance with the text of this communication please.

RW Murphy Capt
Lieut-Colonel-Officer i/c Records

Between the time Pauline sent her request for photographs and 18 August 1923, fresh developments were to cause more heartache for the Wright family.

Dear Madam,

With reference to the photographs forwarded to you purporting to depict the final resting place of your husband, the late No.151 Private H.J.Wright, 14th Battalion in the Jeancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, I am in receipt of advice intimating that as the result of further investigation, it has now been ascertained that the cross is of a memorial nature only, and does not mark an actual grave. According to information in the possession of the War Graves Commission, the remains of your husband were originally interred in an isolated grave in the vicinity of Ascension Wood, and as all burials in this area were finally concentrated into the Bellicourt British Cemetery, the presence of a cross in the Jeancourt Communal Cemetery Extension immediately invited enquiry, and it was

only then that the regrettable fact was disclosed that no actual grave existed and that the cross was purely of a memorial nature.

Unfortunately, the present site of your husband's grave cannot now be identified as no record exists of his exhumation and removal to the Bellicourt British Cemetery. The only possible action remaining is to provide for the inclusion of his name and regimental particulars, etc, on one of the collective memorials to the missing in France and Belgium. This will accordingly be done, and despite the fact that no individual headstone will mark his resting place, you have the assurance that his death will be commemorated in a manner no less fitting than the memory of other of his comrades who laid down their lives in the Great War.

Assuring you of the Department's profound sympathy and regret at the distressing circumstances arising, Yours faithfully,
Captain i/c Base Records

[PS] It is noted in this connection that Mrs M.E.Wright, the mother of the late soldier, is also in possession of a number of copies of the above mentioned photographs and as presumably you are in intimate touch with her, I should be very much obliged if you would kindly arrange to make her acquainted with the contents of this letter.

There are more than 10,000 1914-18 war casualties commemorated on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, erected to commemorate Australian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium, their dead and especially those whose graves are not known. Henry Wright is just one of them.

CONTACT wishes to thank Henry Wright's nephew, Ken Wright, for contributing this personal story and the supporting images that accompanied it.



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CALL OF DUTY 4: MODERN COMBAT

Activision
www.callofduty.com
Xbox 360, PS3, Nintendo & PC

If ever a game was set to be defined by a three-minute experience, it's *Call of Duty 4*. Back in 2002, 11-minutes of footage gathered by a UAV observing an AC130 strike on a Taliban position found its way onto the web. That video showed the world that the Spectres' motto – "Don't run ... you'll just die tired" – was highly appropriate. It is one of those clips that dominated military circles and predated most of the combat vision now finding haven within *YouTube* and *LiveLeak*. Those who saw it will remember the footage for the sheer one-sidedness of the fight – there is no way to out-run an AC130.

Call of Duty 4: Modern Combat lets you unleash that same combination of 25/40/105mm hell in a different part of the world. The *Modern Combat* developers, Infinity Ward, took the brave step of leaving the battlefields of Europe behind and thrusting the well-established franchise into the modern era. They also delivered a single-player experience that was previously just a way to get to grips with the game before jumping into multiplayer mayhem.

Modern Combat's single-player storyline, although relatively short, is one of the finest gaming experiences to date and, just like the AC130 mission, the most memorable are those that must be completed in an extremely tight timeline.

The single-player mode has a player switching between members of 22SAS and USMC

Force Recon in an attempt to avert a nuclear disaster. The mixed storyline keeps things fresh and also allows the obvious plot linkage towards the end of the game.

On X360 the game is a visual and aural triumph that creates an amazingly immersive environment. On PC, if you've got the graphics pruned in your system, the refined mouse/keyboard control makes it even better.

Each single-player mission can stand on its own as a great experience but some, such as the AC130 close-air-support activity 'Death From Above', the long-range sniping task in 'One Shot, One Kill' and the frantic assault through a former soviet nuclear missile site in 'No Shooting in the War Room' are missions that will leave a lasting memory.

Such is the detail, realistic activity and overall scripting of the missions that *Call of Duty 4* is more like being part of an interactive movie than a traditional game. In fact, during some parts of the game, it takes a while to figure out what's a cut-scene and what is actual a gameplay element.

The multiplayer experience of *CoD 4: Modern Combat* is where the longevity of this title really excels. Like the *Battlefield* franchise, *Modern Combat* lets players gain experience points to unlock new equipment and weapon systems. Tweaks are endless, with myriad sighting systems and other enhancements to try out, making the whole experience quite addictive.

The Australian on-line scene is huge on both PC and console so, getting a game, despite the system, is relatively easy.

It does have a drawback, though, and that is simply the tactical prowess of the player's character. While your in-game trooper can run, jump and crawl or adopt the standing, kneeling or prone positions, using cover is not one of his strong points. With no lean/peek feature it's still a case of shooting first rather than shooting tactically. *Medal of Honor – Airborne* has perfected shooting from cover and, now that I've experienced it, I'm lost without it. The really frustrating thing is all of the non-player characters, including the enemy, use cover brilliantly.



Call of Duty 4: Modern Combat must be a front-runner for game of the year in 2007 and I'd fully endorse that if it were to win the award.

This is a must-buy game – just make sure you watch the credits because there's a surprise once they're over.

4.5 out of 5



ACE COMBAT 6: FIRES OF LIBERATION

Namco Bandai Games
www.acecombatsix.com
Xbox 360

Arcade flight sims are an interesting experience for someone with any military knowledge or background. A game like *Ace Combat 6* poses even more of a dilemma when the list of companies associated with the development start scrolling through the screen – aircraft developers, weapons manufacturers, C2 system designers – a who's who of military tech. Overlay the pedigree of the development with some of the most photo-realistic graphics seen to date and the flight simmers in particular start to drool.



Ace Combat 6: Fires of Liberation is the latest in a franchise of modern flight combat that, on consoles at least, is really only rivalled by *Over G Fighters*.

For those unfamiliar with the *Ace Combat* storyline, think Japanese Manga movies using current and future weapon systems. In fact, the cut-scenes between missions might as well be direct from an Anime classic.

Essentially, *Ace Combat 6* is about taking on the persona of a pilot, callsign Talisman, and leading Garuda flight in the most hectic of missions, to retake your homeland of Gracemeria (and, as someone who grew up near Gracemere in Central Queensland, I can assure you they didn't head that way for inspiration).

Ace Combat 6 is an arcade flight sim set within the realities of modern air combat.

CLOSE COMBAT: MODERN TACTICS

Matrix Games
www.matrixgames.com/games/game.asp?gid=350
PC

CSO Simtek and Matrix Games have released the second of their joint ventures to breathe new life into the now-classic *Close Combat* franchise. *Close Combat: Modern Tactics* is a creative conglomeration of two titles developed as military decision-making trainers.

While some gamers may be aware of the 2004 release of *Close Combat: Marine* (and, if they were really keen, subscribed to the *USMC Gazette* to get a free copy), very few would have heard of the similar title, *Close Combat: RAF Regiment*.

Somewhere in that family history (it is better left unstated) is the abortion of a commercial title *Close Combat: Road to Baghdad* – those who suffered with the red-headed stepchild, you have my sympathies.

Close Combat: Modern Tactics has refocused the game on the US Army, but in an environment never seen in the commercial *Close Combat* series before.

While still constrained by the basics of the original game mechanic, *Close Combat: Modern Tactics*, for the first time, allows true multiplayer, with up to five players per side. It also introduces digging-in and mounting and dismounting vehicles throughout the game. Maps are also much larger than previous commercial variants, with most about one square kilometre (larger 4km x 1km maps can be downloaded) providing



ample manoeuvre space for what is a tactical game.

Importantly though, the new map size reflects the increased lethality and range of modern weapon systems, so a well-sited Javelin crew can have a devastating impact on the flow of a battle.

Like earlier *Close Combat* titles, *Modern Tactics* includes off-map artillery and close-air-support options throughout the game. Maps included in the game provide a variety of environments in which to fight. Those crafty enough to spot it will also see some Australian military training areas reflected in a couple of the maps. My favourites, however, are the Afghanistan/Iraq rural/urban maps.

An included scenario, 'Red Ball 7', is a great example of just how difficult it is to securely transit an urban area with a logistics convoy.

Of course, the other added benefit of *Close Combat: Modern Tactics* is that the enemy, can, if required for the scenario, closely reflect those engaging Coalition and ISAF forces every day. Militias, civilian cars, technicals and the now-ubiquitous RPG volley-fire emerge from confined alleyways, strike hard and disappear back into the landscape.

However, a significant piece of the modern fight is unfortunately missing. *Close Combat: Modern Tactics* cannot replicate 'war among the people' because of limitations in the game engine. Only protagonists appear within the game and, unless a player imposes some significant self-control over their rules of engagement, the abundance of indirect and close-air-support options allow



for a pretty one-sided affair as targets are vaporised without concern for infrastructure or the civilian environment.

Despite the great advances in the *Close Combat* family that *Modern Tactics* offers, it will not appeal to some gamers. It is essentially a multi-player game for head-to-head gaming. There is no campaign to play through and the 25 scenarios included are difficult to play off the bat, as the victory locations are hidden.

In the case of 'Red Ball 7', the mission order tasks a player to securely escort a convoy through a town, yet the victory locations that must be captured to win the game are well outside the immediate area of influence for the convoy protection task. Thankfully, though, the fully optioned editor, including the ability to label maps, has allowed user-made scenarios to fill this gap.

Close Combat: Modern Tactics is one of those games that will play tremendously well on a LAN with several mates or against a good friend online, but those without the multiplayer option will feel a little cheated without a campaign. It is a great example of just what the *Close Combat* engine is capable of – if only to fill the gap before the release of *Close Combat Six*.

3.5 (4 if you can get into the multiplayer) out of 5

Securing your FUTURE

WORDS BRIAN HARTIGAN

In December, Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Warren Snowdon released a report on a *Review into Military Superannuation Arrangements*.

The report was commissioned by the previous government, presented to them in July 2007, but not released for public scrutiny until now.

With this release, the new government is providing opportunity for public comment about the review's findings and recommendations and will then take time to consider its own attitude to the report after the consultation period closes on 31 March.

Terms of reference for the report included a consideration of the unique nature of military service and the need to compensate members of the ADF for that uniqueness.

The report was commissioned to examine military superannuation as a condition of military service and to examine whether improvements to current arrangements might make the ADF a more attractive employer and encourage serving personnel to serve longer.

However, the benefits of any proposed changes would obviously have to be balanced against the cost of implementing them.

A key feature of the report's findings, in my opinion, is that its authors have recommended the establishment of a completely new super scheme to replace the current MSBS, which they deemed "falls well short of best practice contemporary superannuation and does not contribute significantly towards recruitment and retention".

DFRDB was rated well below MSBS.

Of 18 recommendations made in the report, Recommendation 3 holds the greatest potential impact for most members – it says in part, the new superannuation accumulation plan for retirement should be fully funded and taxed, and that employer contribution rates of 16% of superannuation salary for the first six years of completed service, 23% for the next nine years and 28% after 15 years should apply (compare this with the current rule – 18% for the first seven years, 23% from 8-19 years and 28% for more than 20 years – which is unfunded and only calculated at discharge on final average salary).

It is also recommended that former members who might be attracted back into service would have their previous military service recognised in calculating the above contribution rates.

There should be flexibility, the report recommends, for members to set their own contribution rate from after-tax salary, through pre-tax salary sacrifice, or they may opt not to contribute at all. A default rate of 5% would automatically apply if the member did not nominate a preference.

Members would also have some flexibility to select their investment-risk profile within the scheme, and to continue making contributions after separation from the ADF.

Despite the apparent considerable increase in employer contributions, the report maintains that the long-term cost to government is comparable with current arrangements – a phenomenon "explained by the transfer of risks from government to members". It says, "the proposed new scheme will meet the report's guiding principles far more closely than the existing schemes, though members will bear more

of the risks". In my limited understanding, however, this risk would seem to be in the areas of a member's choice of investment profile, inflation, how long you live after retirement and so on – things either desired by discerning members of other schemes or beyond their control anyway.

Probably a key stumbling block for the adoption of this report and its recommendations is the initial up-front cost associated with bringing forward the previously unfunded liabilities accrued under MSBS and DFRDB.

"This will require an immediate funding on introduction of the proposed scheme of about \$7-8bn (based on a 2009 commencement)," the report says.

Too much? Only time will tell.



Pic Clayton Hansen

CONTACT's opinion: On face value, the proposed new scheme seems to be a considerable improvement on current arrangements, bringing it in line with contemporary civilian schemes. However, this is an opinion and not a recommendation – we recommend that in this, as in any financial matter, individuals should study the facts carefully for themselves and seek professional advice from specialists in the field.

Opportunity for public comment on the report into a proposed new military superannuation scheme closes on 31 March. The full report can be viewed and downloaded from www.defence.gov.au/militarysuperreview

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There is one job like no other, a job requiring employees to be educators, counsellors, safety advisers, community workers, public speakers and instructors as well as rescuers.

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The responsibilities of firefighters are diverse – firefighters don't just fight fires.

A main emphasis of the job is fire prevention.

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Disaster response is also an integral part of the job.

Furthermore, firefighters are required to undertake ongoing training, skill maintenance and study towards career progression.



as sure-FIRE career SAVING lives

Since joining the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service in January 1999, Firefighter Jodie Lynch has experienced more in her career than most people experience in their entire lifetime.

But as tough as Jodie's job can be, she says if she'd known how rewarding being a firefighter is, she would have joined much sooner.

But as tough as Jodie's job can be, she says if she'd known how rewarding being a firefighter is, she would have joined the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service much sooner.

"No situation is ever the same, which is exciting as well as challenging," says Jodie.

"The diversity of the job is fantastic. The job ranges from teaching kids about safety to cutting people out of motor vehicles when there has been an accident.

"The ongoing training and the opportunity for career promotions are also good."

Jodie says she enjoys being a part of a team and putting in the hard yards.

"When I first started out I was like a wound up spring.

"They said my eyes were like dinner plates when I was called out to my first incident."

Even though being a fire can be thrilling, Jodie stresses there are downsides to her job.

"Seeing people lose everything they own in a house fire is hard.

"There are also some really dreadful accidents.

"You just have to remember that you are there to help."



CONTINUOUS recruiting
T 131 304 www.fire.qld.gov.au

initial requirements FOR application

Before an applicant can apply for a position as a firefighter with Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, the following requirements must be met and evidence provided:

- > One year C class manual driver's licence or manual Medium Rigid Vehicle (MRV) licence;
- > Australian resident status;
- > Current Senior First Aid Certificate;
- > Successful completion of year 12 or year 12 equivalent; and
- > Minimum two years full time general work history or equivalent.

Once an initial application has been accepted, applicants are asked to undertake a number of assessments – Aptitude Assessment, Characteristics Assessment, Fitness Assessment and Physical Assessment.

In the final stage of the recruitment process, applicants must provide evidence of the following:

- > Current Advance Resuscitation Certificate;
- > Current Manual Medium Rigid Vehicle (MRV) licence; and
- > Final medical assessment.

For a full explanation of the requirements visit www.fire.qld.gov.au/employment.



firefighter application PROCESS

Step 1 The applicant obtains an Information Kit from www.fire.qld.gov.au/employment or by contacting ph: 131 304.

Step 2 The applicant completes and submits the application form with all required certified documents.

Step 3 A letter is sent to the applicant advising that their application has been accepted. The letter includes assessment information and dates.

Step 4 Assessments are completed in any order that is convenient. The applicant receives a letter advising of their progress after each assessment.

Step 5 As vacancies occur, the applicant's entire application is reviewed for shortlisting.

Step 6 Shortlisted applicants attend interviews and medical assessments.

Step 7 The most suitable applicants are chosen for further consideration and final checks are undertaken. Applicants also participate in a Clinical Psychological Assessment.

Step 8 QFRS undertakes final checks – Criminal History Check, confirmation of current Senior First Aid Certificate, certified copy of current manual MRV licence, certified copy of current Advanced Resuscitation Certificate and approval of Clinical Psychological Assessment results.

Step 9 Successful applicants receive a Letter of Appointment.

Step 10 Applicants commence employment with QFRS and begin recruit training.

For information regarding firefighter recruitment phone 131 304 or visit www.fire.qld.gov.au/employment.



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AUS WEBGEAR PTY LTD is owned and operated by Infantry SNCO's with extensive operational **EXPERIENCE** in Somalia, Cambodia, Rwanda, East Timor and Iraq. Our products are designed and manufactured with our intimate **KNOWLEDGE** of what is required of a soldier's equipment.

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