Soldiers test capability at Land trials

Chief visits units in northern Australia
Page 3

Regional cooperation on Bersama Lima
Pages 4-5

Invictus Games spirit on display
Pages 10-11
Chief meets soldiers in Iraq

Capt Anna-Lise Brink

CDF Gen Angus Campbell met with Australian, New Zealand and Singaporean troops in Iraq during his first visit to the Middle East since undertaking his new role.

New Zealand soldiers performed a Powhiri – a warriors' challenge and greeting, including a Haka – to welcome Gen Campbell to the Taji Military Complex near Baghdad, where they and the Australian troops have trained Iraqi Security Forces since 2015.

Gen Campbell told the men and women of Task Group Taji they were “part of something great”.

“You are doing extraordinary things, working with an extraordinary global coalition and partner nations,” Gen Campbell said.

“Remember that each day, during the hard days and during the easy days, when someone will be doing it harder than you.

“The easy days should be shared with each other so that we support each other, build great teams and leave with our heads held high, our mission achieved and we have brought everyone home.”

Gen Campbell’s visit to Iraq was part of a wider trip to the Middle East Region with Defence Minister Christopher Pyne.

Both men spent time with Australian troops in Afghanistan before CDF travelled to Iraq. There he also met Iraqi Army leaders of the Baghdad Fighting School, where Task Group Taji is partnering with local trainers to prepare Iraqi Army Brigades for combat.

Gen Campbell also visited members of the Australian Special Forces in Task Group 632, which is deployed to Iraq to advise and assist the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Service.

Since 2015, Task Group Taji has trained more than 34,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces and law enforcement.
Power of three as spears go on parade

Cpl Sebastian Beurich

FAMILIAR faces gained a new identity as the Regional Force Surveillance Group (RFSG) became Army’s newest formation on October 4 at Darwin’s Larrakeyah Defence Precinct.

The occasion was also the first time traditional spears were paraded alongside unit colours.

The new formation formalises command and control arrangements and knowledge sharing between the three Regional Force Surveillance Units (RFSU) – Norforce, 51FNQR and the Pilbara Regiment – under a new headquarters.

It also establishes the Indigenous Development Wing, to deliver key indigenous pathway programs for Army, including the Army Indigenous Development Program – NT and the RFSG Education and Development Course.

CA Lt-Gen Rick Burr said the parade brought together three unique and independent units, each with their own history, to achieve a capability “greater than the sum of its parts”.

“The RFSG is present in communities right across the north, from Cardwell in the east to Geraldton in the west, Alice Springs in the south to the Tiwi Islands and Torres Strait in the north, as well as dozens of locations in between,” Lt-Gen Burr said.

“The new unit will improve the coordination and operational planning of the work done by the RFSUs in support of Australia’s sovereignty and border security.

“I’m incredibly proud of all our people engaged in these activities and excited by the potential of the RFSG and the fine Australians who serve in it.”

The RFSU soldiers on parade, many of whom had travelled outside their local communities for the first time, said they were proud to put on their new unit patches.

“It was great to be a part of such a historical event, with all three units able to be together as they formed one unit,” the Pilbara Regt’s Pte Dean Anderson said.

“The whole Group was happy with what they’d achieved and proud to be a part of history.

“Coming from Cairns didn’t prepare 51FNQR’s LCpl Hape Manaena for Darwin’s tropical conditions during the build-up.

“It was arduous on the parade, but it was a great experience. It was the first time a lot of the soldiers had experienced a full-blown parade,” LCpl Manaena said.

“It wasn’t my first rodeo, but many of the soldiers’ Army experience has been in the field and they just haven’t practised things like drill.

“As we got further through the practice and at the end of the day, I could really feel the sense of pride they had in being part of the Army.

“The CA also visited each of the RFSUs across Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia on either side of the parade, gaining a unique perspective on the RFSG capability and the size and diversity of the group’s tasks and area of operations.
The Five Power Defence Arrangement’s Exercise Bersama Lima 2018 has concluded in Malaysia and Singapore.

The multinational combined joint task force included defence personnel from the UK, Singapore, Malaysia, NZ and Australia from October 1-19.

Established in 1971, the Five Power Defence Arrangement is the longest standing in the region and the member nations put their air, land and sea interoperability on show.

Commander of the Australian Contingent Gp-Capt Nicholas Pratt said the exercise was a great success and tested the Five Power Defence Arrangement nations across a wide range of security activities.

“Our relationship has never been better, we have been able to operate a combined task force from Changi Naval Base with assets dislocated throughout the region,” Gp-Capt Pratt said.

“The air, sea and land assets simulated maritime attack, amphibious lodgement and air-to-air combat scenarios, which afforded great training value for all personnel involved.”

The exercise directly contributed to the security and stability of the region and included 800 ADF personnel.

“The exercise is important for Australia as it develops five member nation security and my role here ensures we have the correct operational products and procedures to direct the combined joint task force,” he said.

The exercise is one of three Five Power Defence Arrangement activities conducted each year – along with Bersama Shield and Suman Warrior.
AUSTRALIAN soldiers took part in an urban operations training activity with member countries from the Five Power Defence Arrangement on Exercise Bersama Lima in Malaysia and Singapore.

Sgt Owen Rice said the new combat training package came about due to hard lessons learnt in Afghanistan.

“Gone are the days where we rush in to clear rooms and buildings,” Sgt Rice said.

“The training now is focused on lethality and survivability, we take time to appreciate the situation and our training reflects that.”

The Australians were also quick to point out similarities in training drills by other member nations.

Tp Comd Lt Hayden Murphy said the training on Bersama Lima diversified the skills of participating nations and developed the long-standing relationships.

“Bersama Lima is important for Australia as the Five Power Defence Arrangement ensures our training is interlocked and demonstrates our commitment to the region,” Lt Murphy said.

The soldiers formed part of the land warfare component which contributed to the combined joint exercise.

Gone are the days where we rush in to clear rooms and buildings. The training now is focused on lethality and survivability, we take time to appreciate the situation and our training reflects that.

– Sgt Owen Rice
When Brig Robert Walford (retd) took control of a Bell 206B-1 Kiowa in 1973, he was strapped into Army’s latest and greatest helicopter. On the first advanced flying course to use the aircraft, he was happy not to be assigned Kiowa’s predecessor the Bell 47G Sioux.

“Once I’d learned to hover, it was really good,” he said.

“It was a bit more twitchy than the Sioux from what I understand, but it was very easy to control and we enjoyed flying it, particularly in low-flying reconnaissance and night flying.”

A 420hp turbo-shaft engine powered the Kiowa to about 220km/h to a range of more than 550km.

“The Sioux was a little slower than the Kiowa which was newer and more exciting, plus the Sioux had limited utility,” Brig Walford said.

Decades after Brig Walford’s first flight, Kiowa engines were shut down for the last time as the aircraft retired on October 18 at the Army Aviation Centre, Oakey.

Army received the first of 56 Kiowas in 1971 to replace the Sioux in its aerial reconnaissance and light-observation role. The last was delivered in 1977.

They were to be named the “Kalkadoon” after an Aboriginal tribe near Mt Isa, but “Kiowa” was adopted as the aircraft resembled the Bell OH-58A Kiowa Army leased from the US in Vietnam.

171 Air Cavalry Flight in Holsworthy became the first unit equipped with the Kiowa.

“In the early days we would take unit commanders to do things like route recce or scouting for enemy positions,” Brig Walford said.

“When we got into more advanced tactics, a troop [of Kiowas] would do that on behalf of the ground commanders and report back.”

Kiowas later deployed to Timor-Leste and helped in numerous domestic operations and disaster responses — including rooftop rescues during the '74 Brisbane floods, according to Brig Walford.

About 45 years after Brig Walford’s first flight, Lt Tanya Udycz qualified in early 2018 as the last Army Kiowa pilot.

Before getting inside, she had to accept the cockpit doors were removed.

“I wasn’t expecting that,” she said.

“I’m pretty scared of heights and initially didn’t want the instructor to bank too far to the right because there was no door.”

Lt Udycz moved past her fears and on to the basics of helicopter flying.

“The more you thought about it, the more you were going to have issues with the controls,” she said.

“When I first learned to hover, it wasn’t intuitive after flying fixed-winged, but now I don’t really think about it, it’s become natural.”

Soon after, Lt Udycz was into low-level flying.

“It’s a feeling almost like a rally car driver,” she said.

‘Over the top of hills, into creek lines, between trees and into landing areas guided by your co-pilot, that really put you on the edge of your seat doing it for the first time.”

“It really made you appreciate your instructor’s experience and the courage they had to let a student fly those profiles for the first time,” Lt Udycz has since stepped into the MRH90 simulator and been on a familiarisation flight.

“It’s a little bit overwhelming coming from the humble Kiowa to the tech-savvy MRH90, there’s a lot of new systems, a lot of buttons,” she said.

“From what I’ve been exposed to, it’s a lot more automated, you’re managing the system more than directly flying the aircraft.”

The EC-135 trainer should give new pilots a really good grasp on how to manage systems.

After 20 years of on-and-off flying, Brig Walford notchted up about 3,600 flying hours in the Kiowa; a modest amount compared to those who instructed for longer periods than himself.

“Kiowas got us into different modes of tactical, low-level and instrument flying and flying with night vision,” he said.

After more than 480,000 combined flying hours, the Kiowas were finally farewelled during Army Aviation’s 50th anniversary parade.

“It will be a long time before the next Army aircraft serves as long as the Kiowa did,” Brig Walford said.

“Our corps song is Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines.

“The emphasis is always on the ‘magnificent men’; we might talk about aircraft, but there’s always a team of people around it.”

End of an era

After decades in the air, the Kiowas have taken their last flights for Army, reports Sgt Max Bree.

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End of an era

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The Kiowas were the height of capability when reported in Army in 1972.

Then Capt Robert Walford, in the left Kiowa, at an Oakey flying display in 1978. The right Kiowa will be delivered to the Australian War Memorial.

A Kiowa heads out on a mission in East Timor in 2000. Photo: Cpl Kevin Piggott

The Kiowas were the height of capability when reported in Army in 1972.
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Supporting neighbours

Capt Dean Benson

ABOUT 1500 soldiers, sailors and air-
men will form a Joint Task Force this
month as part of the ADF’s commit-
tment to Operation APEC 18 Assist.

A memorandum of understanding
between PNG and Australia was the tip
of the iceberg for the operation in which
the ADF has played a key role.

What hasn’t been so visible is the
behind-the-scenes, round-the-clock
work taking place across the country
to ensure the mission is a success.

Commander Joint Task Force 658
(JTF658) Maj-Gen Paul McLachlan
said the staff at HQ 1 Div with support
from Navy, Air Force and HQJOC have
done a remarkable job planning this
operation was no small feat.

“Let’s not forget the significant help
from across the ditch,” McLachlan
said.

“We’ll have HMAS Adelaide and its
crew, in addition to more than 350
support personnel, will arrive in PNG ahead
of APEC Leaders’ Week,” Maj-Gen
McLachlan said.

“It’s exciting to see now the first
wave of personnel arrive in country.

“The deployed joint headquarters
will also be on hand throughout the
event to provide further advice and
assistance, if requested, to ensure
APEC is safe, secure and successful.”

NZ Army Lt-Col Bradley Taylor, in hisole as lead operations planner, with
ADF staff at 1 Div HQ in Brisbane.

Photo: Sgt David Hicks

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True team effort

Capt Dean Benson

OPERATION APEC 18 Assist has been
the ultimate team effort.

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between PNG and Australia was the tip
of the iceberg for the operation in which
the ADF has played a key role.

What hasn’t been so visible is the
behind-the-scenes, round-the-clock work
taking place across the country to ensure
the mission is a success.

Commander Joint Task Force 658,
Maj-Gen Paul McLachlan said the opera-
tion was no small feat.

“One of the key strategic outcomes
of this unique operation is that the ADF
is working in support of a neighbouring
sovereign nation to reinforce our stand-
ing as a security partner of choice,” he
said.

Most of the planning took place at
the Deployable Joint Forces HQ (HQ 1 Div)
in Brisbane, with some significant help
from across the ditch.

NZ Army Lt-Col Brad Taylor, embed-
ded with HQ 1 Div, lead the planning
phase of the operation.

Lt-Col Taylor said he and his team
learned a lot on the journey, which start-
ed after the planning effort for Operation
Hannah – ADF’s support to PNG elec-
tions in 2017.

“The opportunities didn’t resonate
with the planners until we started work-
ing alongside the PNGDF and we real-
ised we were planning a true joint opera-
tion, it’s a completely unique environ-
ment and with strategic considerations,” he
said.

“These restrictions meant the force
to have to be austere, but agile. We also
quickly realised the need to generate effi-
ciencies between services.

“While the conventional threat is low,
other risks have taken precedence.

“It’s a great opportunity to coordinate
the planning for a unique and challeng-
ing problem set that includes considera-
tions from the political level, right down
to the lowest tactical level.”

ADF assets allocated to Operation
APEC 18 Assist were tailored to enhance
existing capabilities within the PNG
Joint Security Task Force, the lead agen-
cy responsible for delivering a safe and
secure APEC.

“This is truly a triservice and
interagency contribution,” McLachlan
said.

“We’ll have HMAS Adelaide support-
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ing F-18s and unmanned aerial systems
soaring above, and Socomd Bowering to
help lay the foundations for the
ADF’s support.

This team was joined by around
130 Army and Air Force personnel,
who deployed on board a 36 Sqn
C-17A Globemaster out of RAAF
Base Townsville.

MAJ-GEN PAUL McLACHLAN,
Comd JTF658

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in...
Invictus spirit shines bright

Australia hosts inspiring competitors, Sgt Mark Doran writes.

Invictus Games Sydney 2018 proved to be an inspirational success for Team Australia with personal best performances. With the strong support of friends, families and the Australian community, the competitors’ spirits were high as they demonstrated the healing power of sport and their determination to achieve on their home ground from October 20-27.

The Games involved 500 competitors from 18 nations accompanied by about 1000 family and friends. For the 4000-strong crowd at the opening ceremony at the Sydney Opera House – it was an emotional experience.

Prince Harry paid tribute to the competitors and said they were an example of a new generation of servicemen and women – the Invictus Generation.

“You are the unconquered generation,” he said.

“You are the optimistic generation. You are the new generation of service and you are the role models to us all.”

Invictus spirit shines bright

Australian team captain Capt Ruth said the support of the home team made this year’s Invictus Games even more special.

“We had tremendous family support in the crowd,” she said. “It was also incredible to have people like Mark Donaldson, VC, cheering us from the stands and congratulating us.”

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5 Bde soldiers show their support for competitors during the opening ceremony.

Photo: Sgt Mark Doran

Sgt Sonya Newman competes for gold during swimming finals at Sydney Olympic Park.

Photo: Cpl Jake Sims

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex with the medal winners at the Invictus Games driving challenge on Cockatoo Island, Sydney.

Photo: Sgt Ricky Fuller

Cpl Sonya Newman competes for gold during swimming finals at Sydney Olympic Park.

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The Duke and Duchess of Sussex with the medal winners at the Invictus Games driving challenge on Cockatoo Island, Sydney.

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The Australian Invictus Games team arrives for the opening ceremony at the Sydney Opera House.

Photo: Sgt Mark Doran

Prince Harry opens the Invictus Games at the Sydney Opera House.

Photo: Sgt Mark Doran

Pte Luke Jones deflects the ball during a sitting volleyball match against France.

Photo: Cpl Jake Sims

The Australian Invictus Games team arrives for the opening ceremony at the Sydney Opera House.

Photo: Cpl Kyle Genner

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Drone racing reaching new heights

Maj Conway Bown

THE Australian Army has swept the team events hosting the New Zealand Defence Force team, British Armed Forces team and RAAF teams at the inaugural Military International Drone Racing Tournament (MIDRT).

This MIDRT Cup was presented by the Governor-General Gen (retd) Sir Peter Cosgrove to Army team captain Cpl Zac Martin Taylor, of 3CER, after the successful tournament at Victoria Barracks from October 18-20.

“It has been fantastic,” Cpl Martin Taylor said.

“A number of international teams have attended and raced hard, but the camaraderie and team work that we have attended and raced hard, but the Army Drone Racing Association and its members are encouraged to race while serving as this is a serious sport for Army,” Maj-Gen Toohey said.

“Our drone racers are encouraged to race while serving as this is a serious sport for Army,” Maj-Gen Toohey said.

“Our racers have represented the Army at competitions and public events since 2017 and I look forward to seeing them all defend their titles next year.”

World champion drone racer Thomas Bitmatta participated and passed on knowledge to the racers.

“It speaks to the amazing personnel of the ADF as the racing was awesome, they work so hard as military personnel but also as racers,” Mr Bitmatta said.

Capt James Jenkins, of 2RAR, was a close second in the individual race.

“Only a year ago we formed the team. We had great support from our senior leadership group, but also we had a lot of people following the event on social media, on the live stream tracking the leader board, also having schools and cadets here, we really generated a conversation.”

Capt James Jenkins, of 2RAR, was a close second in the individual race.

“Drone racing is an emerging sport with new audiences and we are pleased to be at the forefront of activities that encourage greater interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics for our soldiers,” Maj-Gen McLachlan said.

Cpl Martin Taylor said it was great to compete against the best racers in the world.

“To participate at the first tournament of its kind and then to win the team event in our home country was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” he said.

Signallers first on the scene

Cpl Julia Whitwell

AFTER rolling his truck on the side of the Stuart Highway, a driver, his passenger and their 10 horses were relieved when a packet of vehicles from 1CSR turned up.

The signallers were returning to Darwin from a month on Exercise Predator’s Run in Caltana when they came across the vehicle on its side.

Cpl Luke Hancock stopped his vehicle to assist and said they were two hours from the closest town – in either direction.

“We were just lucky they happened to be there,” Mr Cole said.

“We split up, put our guides out – front and back – to warn traffic. The CFA from my packet grabbed her first aid kit and treated the two men, and we called emergency services with our sat phone.

“There were 10 horses and a few of them were out and about, so we rounded them up and escorted them to a holding area up the road.”

The 1CSR team stayed on the scene for three hours before handing over to the emergency services.

The vehicle passenger, Phil Cole, said the team handled the situation with professionalism.

“They were great, they had everything under control,” Mr Cole said.

“We were just lucky they happened to drive past – we would have been in a lot more trouble if they weren’t there.

“I want to thank them all for the way they conducted themselves and helped. They made our life a lot easier for the day.”
THE Australian Army Combat Shooting Team owned the night in Canada, tasting success at the annual Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Competition (CAFSAC).

The team won the machine gun night shooting competitions against teams from the US, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Cpl Matthew Hawker, of 1RAR, said the team achieved what it went to achieve.

“We learned valuable lessons from, and developed valuable links with, some of the best military shooting teams in the world,” Cpl Hawker said.

“In addition, we established the benchmark for combat shooting, shooting at night and leading soldier combat equipment.”

The best eight combat shooters – four from 1RAR, two from 2RAR and one from 7RAR and 3CSSB – were selected from this year’s Australian Army Skill at Arms Meet to compete at CAFSAC.

Coaching staff were provided by HQ CATC, ASEME and 1RTB. During August, the team prepared in Townsville, enabled by 1RAR and CATC, before heading to Canada in September for the two-week competition.

Cpl Scott Clark, of 1RAR, said the other teams were impressed with the team’s leading combat behaviours.

“They were also blown away with our combat equipment, weapons, ancillaries, SC&E and night fighting equipment,” Cpl Clark said.

Cpl Hawker said the value of participating in such competitions inspired “one to be truly expert at combat shooting and combat behaviours”.

“It also allows you to validate, and improve, what and how you train, against the world’s best – feeding those lessons learned back into our units and training centres,” he said.

“It is a great feeling to represent our Army, and Australia, on the international stage.”

Assistant coach Sgt Tom Squires, of 1RTB, said the competition was a “world-class marksmanship competition”.

“The opportunity to test our training and equipment against international military athletes should continue to be pursued and embraced into the future,” Sgt Squires said.

Austalian infantry soldiers familiarise themselves with Range A before participating in the Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Competition in Ottawa, Ontario.
S

OLDIERS have given the hard word on some of Army’s new equipment during a land trial held at Townsville Field Training Area from October 8-26.

The soldiers, from 3, 6 and 17 Bdes, got hands-on with equipment already being rolled out, like the Rheinmetall MAN HX77 and HX40m, Black Hornet unmanned aerial vehicle and enhanced night-fighting equipment, as well as equipment yet to enter service, like the Hawkei and Dry Support Bridge.

Head Land Capability Maj-Gen Kathryn Toohey said the trial was the first networked protected mobility trial.

“This is an exciting time for Army, as we are transitioning from testing and evaluating individual pieces of equipment, to testing and evaluating our capabilities as part of a complete system,” Maj-Gen Toohey said.

Trials focused on how systems integrated with each other through a number of combat team exercises, including a focus on the Battle Management System. The team put the equipment through its paces to ensure the kit was “ready for the fight”, according to Deputy Director Land Test and Evaluation Agency (LTEA) Lt-Col Thomas Dowsett.

“Thanks to the soldiers’ feedback, we are getting better at understanding feedback on this equipment line, so we can ensure they have the right kit to fight when they need it,” Lt-Col Dowsett said.

“The trial had activities focused on survivability – that is, can the soldiers survive in an at-threat battlespace where people are seeking to do them harm?” Lt-Col Dowsett said.

“The soldiers’ input, combined with the feedback from technical experts, will ensure our future equipment is combat-ready,” he said.

The soldiers’ input will be included in reports that will be handed to the Army’s future Land 121 vehicle programs.

Soldiers put equipment to the test to determine exactly how combat-ready it is and what improvements need to be made.
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The process for submitting applications for payment under the ESPS is changing.

From 1 January 2019, applications for payment under the ESPS must be lodged online.

Webforms AD138-1 to AD138-4 will not be accepted from that date.

To find out more about the changes: www.defencereservessupport.gov.au
High in the Australian Alps, the soldiers of 1RAR learn to survive in hostile conditions.

Soldiers of 1RAR braved freezing temperatures and wind-ravaged mountains for the brigade’s first back country ski and alpine survival expedition in about 20 years.

They first learned to survive in sub-zero temperatures, drag heavy sleds and ski carrying 25kg through the Australian Alps in late August and early September.

This wasn’t an easy task for LCpl Ash Lockwood.

“It was awkward and difficult,” he said.

“We just didn’t seem to be able to make any progress and the deep snow made moving very difficult.”

As the weather closed in and everyone was soaked by sleet, tents were declared off limits and it was time to dig snow caves.

Many were apprehensive about spending the night in a cave which they feared would collapse on them.

Pte Nathan Austin-Brin spent most of the night awake, green whistle and torch in hand, checking the ceiling at every noise.

“The roof dropped 40cm during the night,” he said.

One focus area was resilience and personal and group morale, but Cpl Tara Sweet discovered this wasn’t always easy.

“Displaying cheerfulness in the face of adversity helps in any situation,” she said.

“Except when you are wet and freezing in a snow cave.”

Freezing, soaked gloves and socks needed to be dried each night between thighs.

Pte Angus Read was told to think “warm, dry thoughts” when his sleeping bag became soaked and he asked how to dry it.

Another was overcoming the mental horror of using a “wag bag” for the first time.

Strict national park rules say all waste has to be removed and some soldiers managed to hold off for long periods. The second phase started with a gruelling 500m climb through Dead Horse Pass in 50cm of newly laid powder.

There was little conversation in the tents that evening as the temperature plummeted.

Initially sunny conditions for the approach to Mt Kosciusko concealed an impending blizzard that made visibility drop to about 30m. Cpl Ron Hannah said steep ground offered significant fall lines whose depths could not be seen.

“I figured people were going to fall into the abyss, never to be seen again – it was like being in a film,” he said.

The dropping temperature was also a challenge as exposed skin on hands and faces would quickly freeze.

A temp of minus eight degrees was quickly brought down to minus 20 by a 60km/h wind chill.

Communication was difficult and any pause in activity potentially dangerous.

In spite of the challenging conditions, resilience shone through as the team made it to the summit for the swiftest of group photos.

The final night on the exposed high ground saw winds increase to about 80km/h and little sleep due to the banging of the tents in a storm.

Soldiers were digging their way out of tents the following morning.

For the final day of the expedition the weather switched to sunny and calm, so participants could experience the more gentle contrast of a ski day at Thredbo.
Flipping table on cancer

When one digger was diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, he wasn’t going to take it sitting down, writes Cpl Bill Solomou.

RIFLEMAN Pte Matthew “Willy” Williams’ recent efforts have received a flip-flop lot of attention.

Diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer, the 22-year-old from 7RAR, set his sights on raising funds for, and awareness of, the deadly disease.

Pte Williams became an ambassador of the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation and organised a tyre flip day, flipping an 80kg tyre for 2km on October 27.

After returning from Operation Highroad and on his birthday, Pte Williams found out he had a life-threatening battle on his hands.

“I had a headache that would not go away: I managed it with medication but after a few days it was still there,” he said.

“My SNCO said he had a mate die from a brain aneurysm, so he made sure I went to medical.”

Now, eight months since his diagnosis, Pte Williams is undertaking six months’ treatment after completing his first six-month course.

“I started the blog on my Instagram account to get the message out to my family and friends,” he said.

“I’ve incorporated exercise as part of my treatment and thought the tyre flip would be a fantastic way to get others involved and raise awareness and funds.”

Strangers thanked him for his efforts in promoting the cause and offered financial support to raise money for cancer research.

“Initially I set a target of $2000 but got that on the first day, and now I have more than $30,000 pledged,” he said.

“The response has been outstanding.

“I was happy to get 20 to 30 mates down there and then have a swim in the ocean, but it now looks like 400 or more will attend.”

Starting at 10am at the Largs Bay Jetty in South Australia, the event has been aligned with 14 other events around Australia to start.

“People participated in the flip from Townsville, to Hobart and in my home town of Warrnambool in Victoria,” he said.

You can follow Willy’s story on Instagram @willy.beating.cancer where you will also find the links to donate.

Flipping table on cancer

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Read Toll’s “Your Defence Relocation Guide”
The next generation of joint terminal attack controllers on Exercise Black Dagger, writes Flg-Off Dean Squire.

IT’S a five-minute flight in a fast jet from RAAF Base Townsville to the Field Training Area. It’s a six-week journey to earn the right to call in an air strike on a designated target on that range. That’s how long it takes to train the next generation of joint terminal attack controllers (JTAC).

JTACs are the boots on the ground directing firepower from the air with devastating impact and pinpoint accuracy.

Exercise Black Dagger, from September 10-23, had the class of 2018 taking turns on Ant Hill calling in the F/A-18A Hornets from No. 75 Squadron onto targets 4km away.

The experience is as close to combat conditions as it gets and the release of high explosives doesn’t disappoint.

During this exercise a huge fireball from the strike confirmed a successful attack. The sound of the explosion took several seconds to reach LBdr Beau Saddler who’d called it in.

LBdr Saddler is into year five of his career with the 8/12RAR in Darwin. He’s used to the noise. He’s in an artillery regiment but his JTAC role is so different. More complex, challenging, reactive. It demands a cool head with quick decisions and clear language all done in the heat of battle.

“We’re definitely at the pointy end of the spear,” LBdr Saddler said.

“Apart from the serious part of the job, dropping bombs, I need to manage the airspace so all the aircraft can move about safely.”

JTACs on the front line share obligations with combat team colleagues to shoot, move and communicate. Then comes the time to put down your weapon and identify a target. Mark it, range it and call in an asset.

While still under fire they need to consider the safety of pilots and their aircraft, manage an approach that avoids collateral damage and keep friendly forces out of harm’s way.

The battlefield is a 3D landscape constantly changing right up to the very second the release of a bomb is authorised. Job done, the JTACs pick up their weapons once again and move on.

Forward Air Control PC-9/A aircraft from No. 4 Squadron supported Black Dagger.

CO 4 Sqn Wg-Cdr Michael Duyvene de Wit said there were 11 students during this exercise, which provided realistic experiences for them.

“Trainees get to coordinate a range of operational fires and effects under supervision before eventually going forward to conduct that role on combat operations,” Wg-Cdr Duyvene de Wit said.

The Queensland sunshine can be punishing. More so when loaded with the means to fight along with multiple radios to call in machine-gun fire, artillery rounds or air support.

On the final assessment of Black Dagger, LBdr Saddler moved through the long grass to enter a village. His team immediately came under heavy fire.

The enemy was just 200 metres away as he started coordinating a strike from a 4 Sqn PC-9/A turbo-prop over head. Close air support continued for 30 minutes as he cleared the village, building by building.

Back in the shade LBdr Saddler was given a forensic debrief on his every move during the encounter. Only then was he told that he had become a JTAC and his delight was obvious.

“If you want to be in charge of millions of dollars of equipment and see the effect you’re having first hand, then being a JTAC is for you,” LBdr Saddler said.
Spreading his wings

A mascot is growing into a high-flying celebrity, Cpl Julia Whitwell writes.

Whether on parade, in the workshop or at the footy, wherever 2 Cav Regt goes it goes with courage – Tpr Courage III, that is. The seven-year-old wedge-tailed eagle joined the unit in August and RSM 2 Cav Regt WO1 Jason Moriarty said the mascot had integrated well.

“He’s a massive part of our regimental life,” WO1 Moriarty said.

“The bird handlers get him out and he’ll go down to the compound and watch the soldiers work. He’s at all our sporting events and at our parade.”

WO1 Moriarty said although the 3.2kg bird was familiar with administrative processes, he still pushed the boundaries.

“He has received corrective training for not coming to his handler when he was supposed to,” he said.

“We haven’t charged him yet for failure to attend but it’ll come.”

Bird handler LCpl Aaron Orr said Tpr Courage III’s behaviour was standard for a young digger.

“He’s marched in as a trooper but he still has ongoing training,” he said.

Hopes were high for the eagle to fly on parade one day.

“If it’s a while before he does. It took 10 years before WO1 Courage II did and Sgt Courage I didn’t at all,” LCpl Orr said.

“He steps on the glove when we call the command and we increase the distance over time. At the moment it’s just a couple of centimetres. He knows how to salute. The handler raises his arms and he puts his wings out.”

Tpr Courage III’s drill has become increasingly important as his calendar fills up with official engagements. The bird has met the prime minister and is often sought for community events.

“He’s a celebrity in Townsville,” LCpl Orr said.

“He’s there for open days and we take him to all the sporting events the regiment is involved in. The Cowboys (NRL team) request him all the time.”

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Maj Claire Harvey, sews a poppy head onto a stem during a poppy making workshop at RAAF Pearce, WA.

Meredith Knoop, of the Not for Profit category winner, Uniting Wimmera with Lt Delphine Astier, at the Defence Reserves Support Council’s annual Employer Support Awards event in Melbourne.

Pte Tessa McConkey, of HQ 1 Bde, in front of an MRH90 during Exercise Predator’s Run.

Capt Robert Yan and Principal Horsham Primary School Christopher Walter with Pte Brent White, at the Defence Reserves Support Council’s annual Employer Support Awards event in Melbourne.
It is sometimes easier to identify unethical behaviour than it is to do something about it.

Prepare for action

T MAY feel intimidating to speak to someone about their unethical behaviour, especially when it's a peer, a commander, manager or supervisor.

However, we all have a duty to stand up and speak out about the right thing.

Our Defence Values require us to display the courage to honour our convictions, stand up for what we believe is right and speak out robustly and openly against what is wrong. It is easier to speak out against unethical behaviour as it arises than it is to publicly defend inaction and negligence.

Recent research suggests people are more inclined to act with integrity when they come up against unethical behaviour where they have taken the time to create an action plan. The next time you come across an unethical situation, plan to do the right thing by using the following questions as a guide to make an integrity action plan.

Who do I raise the issue with?

If you feel the issue more accurately speaks to the better, addressing integrity issues early can mean the difference between a behavioural management issue and a major incident where the public loses trust and confidence in Defence.

* You can raise the issue directly with the person involved, which is important if they are your subordinate. If the behaviour is a genuine mistake or a failure to follow procedure, you may be able to address and correct the issue immediately. The Dealing with Misconduct page on the PeopleConnect site provides steps to support you in managing unacceptable behaviour.

* You can raise the issue with your manager or CO.

* If it is not practical to discuss the issue with your manager or CO, you can ask the team at the Defence Ethics mailbox for suggestions on how to proceed.

* If the issue is serious and involves potential fraud or corruption, you can access the Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Scheme on 1800 673 502, or email Defence PID@defence.gov.au. It offers legislative protection against reprisal, bullying and other malicious actions that may arise as a result of reporting unethical behaviour.

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If you disagree, seek advice on identifying and reporting unethical behaviour.

Difficult Conversation Quick Reference Guide on the PeopleConnect intranet site for tips on how to raise and manage the issue.

How do I approach the situation?

Is there legislation, a Defence instruction or a manual relevant to the issue? These documents guide behaviour in Defence and can refer to them to help you build a clear and objective argument against unethical behaviour.

Take the time to write out your concerns about the situation and reference the legislation or policy that supports your position.

If you are still uncertain how the legislation or policy applies to your situation, the Defence Ethics mailbox can provide you with tailored advice and guidance.

What can I do if the issue is ignored or minimised?

If you have questions about what to do next, or what ethical behaviour in a particular situation might be, contact the Fraud Control and Investigations Branch via the Defence Ethics mailbox.

If you feel the issue is a serious breach of ethics or a contravention of the law, you may wish to raise a PID to an authorised officer via the Defence PID mailbox. Under the PID Act, you have the right to protection from reprisal. If you submit a PID or refer an incident to the Fraud Control and Investigations Branch, your information will be treated in confidence and managed in line with Australian Privacy Principles. Your identity will not be released outside the Directorate of Investigations and Recovery unless it contacts you and obtains your consent.

Finally, remember that maintaining integrity requires honest and ethical behaviour and the highest standards of probity in personal conduct. Integrity is more than knowing what is right; integrity is doing the right thing even in the face of adversity.

Officer convicted, jailed

AFTER an investigation into allowance theft by the ADF Investigative Service in early 2017, a lieutenant colonel was convicted of four counts of obtaining a financial advantage contrary to the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982 (DFDA) and the Criminal Code Act 1995.

The officer joined the ADF in the early 1990s and was a distinguished and capable commander during his career, while occupying a rental property, and not using rental allowances (RA), the officer decided to sublet a room to a friend, initially for $150 a week, before raising that amount to $170 a week. Defence Housing Authority (DHA) was never notified of the arrangement lasting several years and the officer completing annual reviews.

The ADF Investigative Service became aware of the officer's criminal conduct via a tip-off and commenced an investigation. The investigation determined that:

* the officer did not meet their obligation to tell DHA of a change of circumstances when it occurred;

* the action resulted in personal gain to the officer; and

* the officer not only received the full amount of RA, but also received additional payments from the person staying with them.

The presiding magistrate said: “It is well recognised that where there is a breach of trust involved, that is a significant factor... The military relies on the honesty of its members in relation to the payments of allowances such as rental allowance. Where there is an abuse of trust, as in the present matter, that breach of trust must be dealt with by way of the [appropriate] punishment.”

The officer was found guilty of fraud and consequently:

* sentenced to 60 days’ imprisonment at the Defence Force Correctional Establishment and was terminated and the amount was repaid in full.

Recent Case Studies

TERMINATED

OVER a 65-month period, an ADF member received $160,087 in rental allowance they were not entitled to after a change in their personal circumstances. The matter was investigated as a result of a Public Interest Disclosure (PID). The member was found guilty under the Criminal Code Act 1995 and is awaiting sentencing. The member’s service was terminated and the amount was repaid in full.

FORGERY FINE

AN ADF member was found to have forged a receipt for a trust fund loan of several thousand dollars. The matter was investigated as a result of internal checks. The member was found guilty of offences under the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982 and the Criminal Code Act 1995. The member was fined and severely reprimanded.

UNFIT

AN ADF member falsified a fitness assessment record. The matter was investigated as a result of an internal report. The member was found guilty under the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982. The member was subject to a fine and a reprimand.

RENTAL FRAUD

AN ADF member was found to be in receipt of Rental Allowance they were not entitled to for two months. The member was classified as Member without Dependents (non-sharing), while sharing with another person. The matter was investigated as a result of a PID. The member was found guilty of offences under the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982. The member was subject to a fine and a reprimand.

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Darwin: 26 NOV 18 (Robertson Bks)
Adelaide: 28 NOV 18 (RAAF Edinburgh)
Perth: 28 NOV 18 (Irwin Bks)

Further details regarding venues and timings please refer to -
Seminars to improve transition

ADF members and their families transitioning from the ADF will have access to a more tailored approach to manage the process thanks to a refresh of the way support is delivered.

Defence Personnel Minister Darren Chester announced in October that the format of the ADF Member and Family Transition Seminars had been revised to better meet the needs of those leaving the permanent ADF.

“We have responded to feedback from ADF members and their families to ensure the seminars are family-friendly with an emphasis on early engagement,” Mr Chester said.

The seminars are now a one-day expo-style format.

Concurrent information sessions will be held covering topics such as health, finance and career planning with representation from state and territory governments and ex-service organisations.

“The new seminar format and enhanced online content provides flexibility for families who have other commitments or are based interstate at the time. Family members who cannot make it to the session that the member is attending can still register to attend on another date or location, or access the information online at any time,” Mr Chester said.

The first one-day seminar was held at Melbourne Park Function Centre, Rod Laver Arena, on October 10.

More information is available at: defence.gov.au/DCO/Transition

Credit cards tested September 1-30, 2018

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The sample testing of credit card transactions during September 2018 has resulted in nil transactions being referred to Audit and Fraud Control Division for further investigation. A review of the credit card testing program is underway to make it more targeted.

Forum to support innovative thinkers

THE Australian Defence College is supporting the innovative thinking of our junior leaders through the third Defence Entrepreneurs’ Forum (DEFAUS) on November 15-16 at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Maj Kate Tollenaar attended the previous DEFAUS events and pitched an idea at the 2016 forum. She was keen to contribute to 2018 planning for this year’s forum, as part of a triservice team based at Command and Staff College.

“DEFAUS is about empowering Defence’s junior leaders, and aims to help ideas become reality,” Maj Tollenaar said.

“We want to continue building a network of disruptive thinkers and foster Defence’s culture of innovation.

“We welcome all ranks to attend the Forum, even if they don’t have a specific idea to pitch.”

The two-day forum kicks off with keynote speakers from Defence and academia addressing advances in technology and how it may shape future warfighting.

Throughout the forum, participants are encouraged to engage with each other and DEFAUS facilitators to hone their ideas.

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Tight test against rivals

Leut Kiz Welling-Burtenshaw

A SEA of colours enveloped RMC’s Portsea Oval from October 12-13 as eight South Pacific nations fought it out for the Pacific Military and Police Rugby Union Cup.

It was the first Defence women’s rugby 7s competition aimed at Pacific participation and included Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu.

Fiji’s Vika Matarugo said the memories she took home were far more valuable than the results.

“The whole week has been something we will never forget,” Ms Matarugo said.

“The welcome function we attended where each team shared a dance or song from their country was a highlight.

“I enjoyed the environment off the field, making friends and sharing our love of rugby, as much as my time on it.”

The final match came down to the familiar rivalry between New Zealand and Australia, with neither side giving an inch forming an intense start to the match.

After a game with many twists and turns, the Kiwis lifted the inaugural cup after winning 14-12.

Fiji played strongly throughout the tournament and took out bronze, while Tonga took home the Plate in fifth place.

1CHB, 2CHC’s Cpl Nicola Emsley was thrilled to play in such a close-fought final that provided highlights both on and off the pitch.

“Having the opportunity to participate in the Cup has been beyond incredible. It’s given a group of girls the chance to achieve their goals and play the game they love,” Cpl Emsley said.

“We were able to create strong friendships and forge relationships on an international scale. Meeting and hosting the other nations was a first for many girls was taken full advantage of.

“Although coming second wasn’t our ideal finish, hopefully the legacy we’ve created is one to be proud of and build on in the future.”

ADFRU chair RAdm Michael Rothwell attended both game days and shared the sentiment.

“It provided an excellent opportunity to recognise women competing in sport at an international level and the contribution they make to their nations’ defence and police forces,” RAdm Rothwell said.

“It was remarkable to see the eight teams competing fiercely, but then forming a real sisterhood based on joy and celebration.

“The importance of such an outcome is becoming increasingly clear as we continue to tackle common security challenges.”

Although originally planned as a four yearly event, organisers are investigating making the cup a more regular fixture.

Army leads pack of ADF clay shooters

TYING for Army Champion Shot, both Cfn Ramsay Fish and Pte Chris Barber shot 706/775 in the ADF Clay Target Association (ADFCSTA) Combined Services Championship at Wagga Wagga Gun Club in September.

The six-day competition took 34 competitors from across Defence and pitted them against each other in three clay target shooting disciplines: skeet, down-the-line (DTL)/trap, and sporting clays.

Cfn Fish said sport shooting needed a different set of skills from those he used at work.

“Rifle shooting is focused on precision, whereas shots are more about instinct,” Cfn Fish said.

“Having the opportunity to participate in the Cup has been beyond incredible. It’s given a group of girls the chance to achieve their goals and play the game they love,” Cpl Emsley said.

“We were able to create strong friendships and forge relationships on an international scale. Meeting and hosting the other nations was a first for many girls was taken full advantage of.

“Although coming second wasn’t our ideal finish, hopefully the legacy we’ve created is one to be proud of and build on in the future.”

ADFRU chair RAdm Michael Rothwell attended both game days and shared the sentiment.

“It provided an excellent opportunity to recognise women competing in sport at an international level and the contribution they make to their nations’ defence and police forces,” RAdm Rothwell said.

“It was remarkable to see the eight teams competing fiercely, but then forming a real sisterhood based on joy and celebration.

“The importance of such an outcome is becoming increasingly clear as we continue to tackle common security challenges.”

Although originally planned as a four yearly event, organisers are investigating making the cup a more regular fixture.
Unconquerable team

Sgt Mark Doran

INVICTUS Games Sydney teed off at the NSW Golf Club where competitors, family and friends enjoyed a day of social competition on October 19.

Road cyclists tested themselves against the clock and each other at the Royal Botanic Garden on October 21 while Sydney Harbour provided a spectacular backdrop for the Invictus Games debut of sailing.

There was unbridled excitement when Capt Emma Kadziolka, Tiffany White and Cpl Sarah Pettell won gold, silver and bronze during the women’s IR6 four-minute endurance event.

Cpt Kadziolka said it was a fantastic day for the indoor rowing team in Sydney.

“When there were personal bests and a few medals, but the best part was the incredibly supportive hometown spectators,” she said.

“This year I tried to concentrate on my race plan and stick to it, rather than letting the environment and the overwhelming noise of the crowd get to me.

“Our training also changed slightly and focused on patterns and our technique, which I think paid off in the end.

“The best parts of the Invictus Games are the Australian crowd, the visiting schoolchildren and the opportunity for more friends and family to watch us compete.

“We’ve definitely demonstrated sport is an important tool for recovery and rehabilitation.”

Capt Kadziolka also picked up a silver medal for her effort in the IR6 one-minute sprint. With a strong effort in the sitting volleyball, Team Australia unfortunately did not proceed past the pool competition after narrowly losing their first match against Poland, though they did beat the French team in their second match of the non-medal competition.

Although a newcomer to sitting volleyball, Cpl Sonya Newman said she loved the game and the match-up on the court.

“It’s fast-paced and our match against France was incredible, especially with the atmosphere of the hometown crowd,” she said.

“I think the spectators were surprised and thrilled to watch us play.

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“I think the spectators were surprised and thrilled to watch us play.

“When I competed in Toronto I used the Invictus Games as a stepping stone for the real world after the challenges I experienced as a new amputee.

“Last year was tough. I thought it was the beginning of the end and I wouldn’t see the other competitors again.

“Now I realise I’ve mates for life – these people don’t go away!”

Team Australia’s Cpl Taryn Barbara and Capt Ruth Hunt swam strongly in the women’s ISD 50m freestyle heats to qualify for the next day’s swimming finals.

In the IP3 women’s heavyweight competition the Australian women stole the show by winning all three medals.

Cpl Sarah Pettell won gold with 88kg, Tiffany White was awarded silver with a lift of 80 kg and Brigid Baker took bronze with 75kg.

Pte Luke Jones competed in the men’s heavyweight event and said the men’s team knew it would be a tough competition.

“I contested the US team at the Warrior Games and knew they would do some heavy lifts,” he said.

“My best lift in Sydney was 145kg, but my personal best is 155kg.

“I love the thrill of powerlifting and beating the person next to me, but I still get excited when they do a good lift.

“The Invictus Games have been great, especially meeting the competitors, hearing their stories and seeing them overcome injuries worse than my own – they’re inspirational people.

“It’s been important to have my girlfriend and family here to support me as they were there when I lost my leg and are always there to pick me up when I was feeling down.”

The Australians hit the wheelchair rugby court for the first of one of most anticipated events at the Invictus Games during the round robin clashes where they destroyed France 14-1, NZ 12-3 and the US 8-4.

During the evening’s swimming finals Team Australia blitzed the competition with outstanding success in the pool winning a swathe of medals.

Cpl Newman inspired the crowd as she won four gold medals in the women’s ISD events and a silver in the women’s 4x50m freestyle relay.

Capt Hunt also raked up an impressive medal tally by winning five medals in the ISD events.

Spr Tom Foster and Capt Taryn Barbara, were also high performers who won medals in their events.

Capt Hunt said she did not really look at other competitors again.

“I just swam the best I could to see what came out in the wash,” she said.

“Our success in the pool was from the dedication of the team during their training and the commitment of our physiotherapists.”

Capt Emma Kadziolka
Cpl Sonya Newman responds to the cheers from the crowd during the swimming finals at the Invictus Games in Sydney.

Photo: Sgt Ricky Fuller

November 1, 2018

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Page 27

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