WORLD STAGE

Prince Harry launches 2018 Invictus Games in Sydney

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Invictus athletes ready for games

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World Stage

Cpl Mark Doran

THE start of the 500-day countdown to the 2018 Invictus Games was announced at Admiralty House in Sydney on June 7.

The function was attended by Patron of the Invictus Games Foundation HRH Prince Harry, Chief of the General Staff General Sir Peter Cosgrove, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Chairman of Invictus Games Sydney Lt-General Peter Leahy (ret'd).

They spoke to about 50 members of the 2017 Invictus Games Australian training squad who were joined at the launch by family and friends, as well as squad coaches and medical and support staff.

Later in the day the Invictus Games squad showcased some of the adaptive sports on the 2018 program at the Overseas Passenger Terminal and an ADF team conducted a sailing demonstration on Sydney Harbour.

Prince Harry said he was delighted Australia had hosted the Games and aided their success as the new team selection to represent Australia, and that it was an opportunity to explain the importance of the games.

“arly in February, 2018, I was forced to leave Afghanistan where I had been serving as an officer with the British Army until my presence on the frontline leaked to the press,” he said.

“I could no longer stay with my soldiers as it would have put them at greater risk. It was a decision over which I had no control, but the guilt of having my guys behind was hard to swallow – as anyone who has served would understand.”

Prince Harry said it was the flight home from Afghanistan which put him on the path to create the Invictus Games.

“We will still waiting to board, a coffin with a Danish soldier was loaded onto the plane, along with three young wounded British soldiers,” he said.

“All three were wrapped in plastic, some with missing limbs, and tubes coming out of them everywhere. The sacrifices we ask our servicemen and women to make came home to me so powerfully in those moments.”

Four years later, after another tour in Afghanistan, Prince Harry began to look for ways to support veterans who had returned with injuries that in previous years would have been unsurvivable.

A visit to the US Warrior Games in 2013 was a demonstration of what needed to be done and how sport could make a difference.

Prince Harry said in 2018 the games would be held in one of the most “sports mad” and iconic cities in the world, Sydney, which would be the custodian of the Invictus spirit.

“It will be the focus of hundreds of men and women using the games to motivate their recovery from physical and mental injuries,” he said.

“I know people from across the country, from Perth to Sydney, from Darwin to Adelaide, will embrace the games and show their support for the competitors. They will witness the very best of human spirit, courage, inspiration and defiance on the track, on the court and in the pool as they give it all to cross the line first then use what breath they have left to encourage others to achieve their own goals.”

“The Invictus Games shows us it is possible to overcome adversity and that the impossible is possible if you have the will.”

Prince Harry said the spirit championed by the games extended far beyond the competition and was demonstrated after the Manchester bombing in May.

“Wounded veterans, including Invictus team members, immediately offered themselves to provide advice and support to the victims during their recovery process,” he said.

“The commitment to serve is ingrained in every member of the armed forces and is an embodiment of the Invictus spirit.”

The sacrifices we ask our servicemen and women to make came home to me so powerfully in those moments.

- HHF Prince Harry

Soldiers ready for Ex Talisman Sabre

Cpl Max Bree and WO2 Andrew Hetherington

AUSTRALIAN and US forces are gearing up for mid-to-high intensity warfare against “near-peer” adversaries on the monthlong exercise Talisman Sabre (TS17), which begins at the end of June.

Forces will clash in conventional, irregular and cyber battles in the Northern Territory and around the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA).

More than 30,000 Australian and US personnel will undertake operations at sea, in the air and on land, with small contributions of personnel participating from New Zealand, Japan and Canada.

Director-General ADF Simulation and Training Cdre Allison Norris said the exercise would be conducted at locations in the US, Australia and on three seas.

“Personnel will operate in Hawaii, Korea, Japan, the Northern Territory, Queensland and on the Timor, Coral and Arafura Seas,”

Cdre Norris said.

“For the first time, the exercise will also use a non-Defence training area around Stagune Bay, to the north of the SWBTA, for amphibious operations.”

TS17 is a US-led, Australian-supported, combined and joint warfighting exercise, which Cdre Norris said would expose the 30,000 personnel to a wide range of military capabilities and training experiences.

“Australia’s Army contribution will be from brigades and units from Forcecom, 1 Div and Second,” Cdre Norris said.

Air Force will contribute a range of aircraft and personnel with RAAF Bases Darwin, Tindal, Townsville, Cairns, Amberley and Williamtown all being used during the exercise.

HMA ships Canberra, Choules, Anzac, Toowoomba, Ballarat, Darwin, Melbourne, Success, Diamantina, HMAS Gascoyne and Melville are also involved.

The US contribution will come from an aircraft carrier, amphibious ships and land units.

The exercise is scheduled to finish on July 26.
Maj Joel Domigan, who received a US Marine Corps Air Medal with Combat Valour, stands in front of an ARH Tiger at Robertson Barracks, Darwin.

Marnie Hobson and Sgt Dave Morley

AN AUSTRALIAN pilot involved in a firefight in Helmand province, Afghanistan, in 2010 has been awarded the Air Medal with Combat Valour.

During a ceremony at Robertson Barracks, Darwin, on May 26, Lt-Col Brian Middleton, of Marine Rotational Force – Darwin, and Commander 16 Avn Bde Comd Brig Stephen Jobson presented the medal to Maj Joel Domigan for his heroic achievement.

On exchange from 1 Avn Regt, then-Capt Domigan was assigned as an AH-1W pilot to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Sqn 169, 3 Marine Aircraft Wg, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the deployment, Maj Domigan launched in the lead aircraft of two AH-1W Cobra attack helicopters on a joint tactical air-strike request for close-air support for a squad of marines pinned down by enemy fire in Garmsir, Helmand province.

During the firefight, communication was lost with the forward air controller and coordination was conducted directly with the people I work with here at 1 Avn Regt,” he said.

Maj Domigan said he was “just in the right place at the right time” to be able to make an impact for the marines on the ground.

“Joel did not hesitate to put himself in harm’s way for his adopted country. I believe, but the remainder of the patrol was there.”

Lt-Col Middleton relayed a message from Commander Marine Light Attack Helicopter Sqn 169 Lt-Col Joseph Lagoski, who could not attend the ceremony, but served as section leader on Maj Domigan’s mission on that day almost seven years ago.

“Joel did not hesitate to put himself in harm’s way for his adopted service and the marines on the deck,” he said.

“His accurate and lethal 20mm rounds destroyed the enemy personnel and relieved that pinned-down squad, which was running low on ammunition due to being in a firefight for several hours.

This award represents the tight bond of marine aviation with our ground brothers and it signifies the inseparable bonds of our two nations, whose service members have fought alongside one another from Darwin Harbour to Afghanistan and Iraq. Joel is a true credit to the Australian Army.

I’m truly proud of his service and continued efforts to training and preparing ARH Tiger pilots to deploy on operations when called on.”

Maj Domigan said he was still in touch with the JTAC from E Coy, 2 Marines, and another friend from the USMC was still in touch with the patrol commander.

“A lot of my mates at 1 Avn Regt have congratulated me and been quite supportive, and it’s nice to have it received that way,” he said.

“They’ve asked me a few questions about what happened, but it’s not a particular incident I’ve spoken lots about to all the guys – it’s generally been tied in with other lessons during my deployment with the marines.”

Marnie Hobson and Sgt Dave Morley

US Marine Corps honour for Aussie pilot
Unmanned capability

Wasp provides soldiers with a ‘set of flying binoculars’

A NEW world-class surveillance and reconnaissance capability will give soldiers an edge on the frontline.

Government approved Project Land 129 Phase 4A on June 1, with Defence Minister Marise Payne and Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne announcing the $101m investment into small unmanned aerial systems (SUAS).

Minister Payne said the capability would be acquired in two tranches, with the Wasp All Environment (AE) SUAS chosen as the preferred option for the first tranche to meet an immediate need.

The $101m in funding is for the first tranche of the capability.

When speaking to a student on a recent Wasp training course, Land 129 Phase 4A Project Manager Maj Simon Millsted, of AHQ, said the words “this is a good piece of kit” were what every AHQ staff officer wanted to hear about the equipment he or she helped bring into service.

The student, one of 16, was attending a course to train operators and instructors on the Wasp AE.

The course was conducted by the School of Artillery at Puckapunyal in May and, following the classroom lectures covering airworthiness and Civil Aviation Safety Authority requirements, the students spent the majority of their time in the training area using the equipment and learning how to use the Wasp.

“IT’s exciting to deliver the equipment at the end of the process,” he said.

The Wasps currently in use were acquired as an Army Innovation Day initiative in 2014 and will continue to be used during the roll out, but will have reached the end of their useful life by the time they are replaced by the newer and updated Wasp AE SUAS.

Army has acquired the Wasp through X-Tek, an Australian company operating in Canberra, which will provide ongoing support to the Wasp AE while in Army service.

“IT is truly an all-environment capability with the ability to cope with river crossings, monsoonal weather and fly in most weather conditions,” Lt-Col Joyce said.

“It really is a good piece of kit.”
Eyes of the future fight

Soldiers trial unmanned ground vehicles

“They allow us to see inside buildings, rooms and even identify the enemy, without being seen.”

– Cpl Ricky Rhodes, A Coy, 1RAR

Lt Matt Tyler

SOLDIERS of 1RAR are trialling unmanned ground vehicles (UGV) to determine if they will improve combatants’ ability to see without being seen.

As part of an Army HQ-led trial, the soldiers are assessing the Recon Robotics Throwbot XT and QinetiQ Dragon Runner 10.

Observations from the trial will enable Army to decide whether UGV technologies are worth pursuing.

Initial indications suggest UGVs are useful when conducting clearances in urban terrain.

A Coy Assault Pioneer Section Commander Cpl Ricky Rhodes said the UGVs were an excellent and novel platform.

“They allow us to see inside buildings, rooms and even identify the enemy, without being seen,” he said.

“This has enabled greater surprise and targeted action when conducting clearances.”

The Throwbot XT and Dragon Runner 10 already show promise in other applications, including:

- remote identification of unexploded ordnance;
- observation around corners and other vulnerable points;
- inspection of vehicle undercarriages;
- infiltration;
- early warning; and,
- clearance of dead spaces.

Perhaps of greatest benefit is that they can reduce the need for soldiers to enter a building or room ‘blind’ by forewarning them of what lies within.

OC B Coy Maj Glenn Neilson said the Throwbot XT enhanced the situational awareness, survivability and lethality of soldiers.

“It allows them to see without being seen,” he said.

“It forewarns them of potential enemy action and it allows them to identify enemy locations for subsequent engagement or assault.”

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Recon Robotics
Throwbot XT

The Throwbot XT is a small, lightweight and ruggedised robot capable of surviving a 36m throw or drop.

It is equipped with a microphone and forward facing camera with an infrared optical system that activates automatically when the ambient light is low, enabling the operator to see in complete darkness.

The Throwbot is in service already at the fire-team level within the US Army.

QinetiQ Dragon Runner 10

The Dragon Runner 10 is a larger tracked UGV similar to the in-service EOD robots.

It is a lightweight, compact, multi-mission remote platform developed for supporting small unit dismounted operations.

A larger UGV, it is able to traverse terrain the small wheels on the Throwbot would struggle to clear.

It is equipped with a front and rear day/night camera and on board microphone and is able to be customised to fit additional sensors, cameras, manipulation arms and even payload.

This photo and above: 1RAR soldiers test unmanned ground vehicles at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville.

Soldiers trial unmanned ground vehicles

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A MOBILE training team from 8/9RAR deployed to Port Vila, Vanuatu, last month to train Vanuatu Police Force (VPF), including Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF), personnel in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as part of Exercise Vanuatu Alliance 2017.

The three-week international engagement activity was supported by several units, sponsored by International Policy Division.

It is a core component of the Defence Cooperation Program with Vanuatu.

The exercise aimed to train VMF personnel in the planning and conduct of operations in response to a natural disaster, enhance VPF capacity, and strengthen the relationship between Vanuatu and Australia.

Mobile training team commander Maj Mick Spruce said responsibility for the exercise transitioned from 51FNQR to 8/9RAR, which resulted in a slight shift in focus from traditionally covered topics such as coastal surveillance and patrol planning.

"While we revised these skills, given the mobile training team construct and varied capabilities, we were able to expand the focus on how the VMF can best support disaster-affected communities in their role as part of the VPF," he said.

"This included training in initial disaster relief response, small craft handling and maintenance, advanced first aid and casualty evacuation, site survey and situation reporting, and the management of incident sites with particular focus on evidence collection and scene preservation."

The mobile training team, comprising infantry, engineers, medical and military police personnel, delivered a two-week residential training program at Cook Barracks, the home of the VMF, as well as RVS Mala Base, the home of the VPF’s Maritime Wing and their patrol boat RVS Tukoro.

The training culminated in a week-long exercise where a VMF platoon planned, deployed and participated in a scenario-based humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response operation on the northern coast of Efate Island.

"The aim of the exercise was to help the VMF practise their "specific to role" tasks in a disaster relief environment," Maj Spruce said.

"They were able to use lessons during the preliminary theory component in realistic training scenarios.

"The exercise also involved Tukoro, which escorted VMF small craft on the coastal transit to and from the exercise area, similar to what they may be required to do in a real situation."

Members of 8/9RAR are planning to return to Vanuatu next year to build on this year’s training and further strengthen the relationship with the VPF.

7 Bde troops lend a hand in the Pacific

Capt Jacob Malouf

A Vanuatu Mobile Force soldier explains his first aid strategy to LCpl Jess Pollard, of 1 MP Bn, during Exercise Vanuatu Alliance.
Simple, faster service on hand

ADF members who enlisted after June 30, 2004, and have an injury or disease related to their service, are invited to trial the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) new online tool: MyService.

MyService is aimed at making it fast and simple for ADF members and veterans to request cover from DVA.

Through MyService, clients will be identified using electronic verification, removing the onerous paper based proof-of-identity process;

view the requirements to be covered by DVA for their injury or disease; and,

save incomplete requests so they can be accessed and completed at a future point.

People can register online using their PMKeyS number, date of enlistment and driver’s licence or Medicare card. People will also need to have the details of their diagnosed condition on hand, which should be available in Defence medical records.

To speak to someone before registering, email myservicesupport@dva.gov.au – leave a number and you will be called back. To register, or for further information, visit www.dva.gov.au/myservice

Show of firepower

Combat reconnaissance vehicles display their capability at Puckapunyal

Cpt Max Bree

CANNONS thundered and tracers flew over Puckapunyal range as Army’s potential new fighting vehicles showed off their weapons during a firepower demonstration on June 7.

The BAE Systems Australia Patria AMV35 and Rheinmetall Boxer CRV sent cannon and coaxial machine gun fire downrange at a time when the two are vying to become Army’s new combat reconnaissance vehicle (CRV) and replace the in-service ASLV.

Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne climbed into both gunner’s seats to fire the cannons for himself after the demonstration.

“I’ve never fired a rifle in my life,” he said.

“No!” the soldiers.”

“A more experienced gunner, Tpr Jacob Watkins, was behind the controls of the Boxer’s Mk30-2 30mm cannon during the demonstration.

“It’s simple to use but really effective,” he said.

“We’ll put a three-round burst pretty much through the exact same hole out at 2.5km.

“The turret’s amazing; we were looking through the sights picking targets out to greater than 5km, which is a big bonus for our job with recon.

“I’ve gone straight to a cannon. I’ve never fired a rifle in my life,” he said.

“It’s the same muzzle velocity but twice the range. The blast is a lot bigger than the 25mm, you can really feel it.

“I wouldn’t like to be on the receiving end.

“It’s a step up from the ASLV – there are a lot more computer screens and comfy chairs.”

The project will cost between $4-5 billion and both vehicles are going through a year-long risk mitigation activity with a decision to be made in early 2018.

“The Army must have the best CRVs money can buy. We want value for money, but we must have a capability,” Mr Pyne said.

“Australian industry content will be important and all of those things will be weighed up.

“This is a project that is years in the making – you don’t go down to a delicatessen and buy yourself a CRV.”
Sgt Dave Morley and Nicole Rollinson

STAFF and trainees from the Army Logistic Training Centre (ALTC) showed what they were made of when about 500 soldiers participated in two back-to-back freedom of entry marches in cold, wintry weather on May 20.

It was the third time the honour has been bestowed upon the unit, with personnel previously being granted freedom of entry to the cities of Albury and Wodonga in 2001 and 2007.

Comdt ALTC Col Andrew Maclean said the freedom of the city tradition stemmed from medieval times when cities allowed friendly Army units to march through the city with “swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying”.

“It behoves all members of ALTC to show the citizens of this region we are worthy of the trust and respect that comes with this honour,” he said.

The morning parade was reviewed by Albury Mayor Kevin Mack and the midday parade by Wodonga Mayor Anna Speedie. Local state police commanders provided the traditional challenge.

Cr Speedie acknowledged the huge role Army played in the community, with both individuals and families forming an integral part of the city’s social fabric.

“We work with the Army on many projects and we were proud to see its members out in full force in our city as part of their ceremonial right of privilege to enter the city,” she said.

“The parade made for a great visual spectacle and it was fantastic to see hundreds of people turn out to recognise and honour the contribution of ALTC and the ADF.”

Trainee driver Pte Nicole Wapper, of the Road Tpt Wg at the Army School of Transport, said participating in the parade was a great honour.

“Marching through the streets of Albury and Wodonga, and being part of such a significant and historic parade, made me feel really proud to be a soldier,” she said.

“Seeing so many local people out watching us made me feel part of the wider community.

“It’s really important for us to acknowledge that the people of Albury and Wodonga share a good relationship with ALTC – the parades helped consolidate this.

“Marching in formation with weapons, banners, bands playing and streets lined with people is something I’ll always remember.”

RSM ALTC WO1 Don Waddingham said the parade was a great success.

“I’m really proud of all the soldiers who took part in this event as they helped to make the day so memorable,” he said.

“Despite the grey skies, the rain held off and we were able to parade the five corps banners, which is a great honour to show the communities of Albury and Wodonga.

“This parade signified the excellent relationship ALTC shares with the cities of Albury and Wodonga, and I commend the effort of all soldiers and officers involved.”

Musical support for the parades was provided by the AAB-Kapooka, Albury City Band and Wodonga Brass Band.
Memorial marks end of long journey

**Sgt Dave Morley**

ATTENDING the Chief of Army’s annual history conference in 2010 inspired Sg t Nigel Webster, of Sydney University Regt, to form an ACT Branch of the National Boer War Memorial Association and later become its chairman.

He said there had been talk of a Boer War memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra and, when Federation came three years later, they became the first to serve the new nation in conflict.

In this war, in an unforgiving land, against a resourceful and determined adversary, the true Australian spirit was illuminated on the international stage,” Gen Cosgrove said.

“Through their deeds, service and sacrifice, these men and women showed to each other, and to the world, what it meant to be Australian, with their qualities of loyalty, mateship and solidarity, their belief in a fair go, a touch of larrikin, and irrepressibility.

“These are things we pride in ourselves and the ADF to this day,” Gen Cosgrove said.

Work on establishing the memorial started on the centenary of the Boer War in 1999.

The dedication on May 31 coincided with the 115th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty at Vereeniging in South Africa.

**Tribute to a forgotten war**

Boer War memorial unveiled in Canberra

**Sgt Dave Morley**

WHAT is often called Australia’s forgotten war will no longer be so with the dedication of the National Boer War Memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra, on Boer War Day – May 31.

Governor-General Gen Sir Peter Cosgrove said the memorial provided “a stirring companion piece to the other great memorials that adorn this most revered avenue of national remembrance and reflection”.

“This war is sometimes called Australia’s forgotten war, well that is not the case today, nor will it ever be the case again,” he said.

In 1899, soldiers and nurses from all six Australian colonies volunteered to serve in the Boer War and, when Federation came three years later, they became the first to serve the new nation in conflict.

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“Sixteen thousand Australians served in the Boer War, including James Webster, who served as a sergeant with 1st NSW Mounted Rifles, and went back for a second tour with 2nd NSWMR as SM.

“My research shows he had a cutting wit and was well liked by the members of both contingents. He was also a competent and professional soldier,” Sgt Webster said seeing the Governor-General dedicate the memorial was an emotional occasion and the end of a long journey for him.

“On the day, I remembered individuals like the Royal Navy’s 18-year-old Midn Cymbeline Huddart, of HMS Doris, a native of Ballarat, who was awarded a posthumous Conspicuous Service Cross for his leadership at Graspam on November 25, 1899,” he said.

“Also, Sister Fanny Hines, who died of enteritis at Bulawayo, Rhodesia, on October 7, 1900, and became the first Australian woman to die on active service.”

Sgt Webster said the National Boer War Memorial Association would continue its existence, but would evolve over time to keep alive the memories of the Australians who served.

This war provided the genesis of the digger tradition and it should not be forgotten,” he said.

“Sixteen thousand Australians did their year’s stint in Australian units and another 8000 or so served in British or South African colonial units, so there are many fascinating stories still to be told.

“Like the digger in WWI, the Boer War bushmen left a legacy of which all Australians should be proud.”

A plaque’s unveiling coincided with the ninth anniversary of the cessation of the training team’s operations. WO1 Jim Carroll, of DSCM-A, deployed with the first training team to Iraq and attended the unveiling ceremony.

“I get a sense of achievement in developing others,” he said.

“Instructional roles are one of the things I’ve really enjoyed throughout my career.

“Passing on information and knowledge is great, and having that opportunity overseas was extremely satisfying.”

Director of the Australian War Memorial Brendan Nelson paid tribute to those who served with the training team.

“Those soldiers saw themselves not as soldiers, but as aid workers, diplomats and teachers,” Dr Nelson said.

The plaque will be mounted in the memorial’s gardens.

**Fitting recognition for Iraq training team**

**Maj Al Schmidt and Cpl Max Bree**

THE efforts of the Australian Army Training Team – Iraq (AATTI) were recognised at the Australian War Memorial on June 1 with the unveiling of a plaque.

The AATTI operated in northern and southern Iraq, training 33,000 Iraqi personnel.

Providing instruction in a range of professional military and practical skills, 485 personnel from the Army and Air Force trained Iraqi forces in everything from orders implementation and fitness to weapon handling and protection.

Originally called the Iraqi Army Training Team, they were renamed in honour of the Australian Army Training Team – Vietnam.

The first AATTI CO, Col Iain Cruickshank (retd), said recognition of the training team was as important as the naming of the unit.

“The change of title proved sound with the Iraqi team making a meaningful contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq in the midst of a significant counter-insurgency environment,” he said.

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— Lt-Gen Angus Campbell, Chief of Army
for our Army

Combat brigades embrace changes

Lt-Col John Holloway

ADJUSTMENTS to the combat brigade structures will include the transfer of APCs and PMVs to infantry battalions to provide an integral mounted capability and enhanced protected mobility.

The vehicles will be transferred to the infantry battalions from the combat service support battalions and armoured cavalry regiments (ACR) co-located in the same brigade.

In 1 Bde, 5RAR will receive the PMVs. In 3 Bde, the PMVs will be transferred to 1RAR and, in 7 Bde, 8/9RAR will receive the vehicles. The transfer of PMVs from 1CSSB to 5RAR has already started.

Concurrently, an infantry battalion in each combat brigade will receive APCs from its co-located ACR lift squadron.

In 1 Bde, the APCs will transfer to 7RAR; in 3 Bde to 3RAR; and in 7 Bde to 6RAR.

The provision of the APC is an interim measure to enable Army’s transition to the Project Land 400 Phase 3 Infantry Fighting Vehicle capability.

2RAR will remain Army’s specialist amphibious infantry battalion.

Adjustments to the ACRs will see an enhancement to the combat brigade reconnaissance capability and capacity with the addition of a second cavalry squadron in each ACR.

The strategic context

THE Defence White Paper 2016 specifies that: ‘...the future force will be more agile and potent. The future force will be more capable of conducting independent combat operations to defend Australia and protect our interests in the immediate region. This force will also enhance Australia’s ability to contribute to global operations... Achieving Australia’s strategic Defence objectives requires land forces that have the mobility, firepower, protection and situational awareness to deploy quickly to where they are needed, achieve their missions safely and return home. The government will make significant new investments in our land forces, including new combat vehicles...’
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Tragedy remembered

Sgt Dave Morley

PROUD sappers posted to Kapooka-based units had the honour of taking part in a solemn service on May 21 to remember their fallen in one of Army’s worst training accidents – the 1945 Kapooka Tragedy.

In his address to a large gathering of families, locals and ADF members, ARTC Comdt Col Mick Galloway said “although these men didn’t die on the battlefield, their sacrifice was no less than those who died on foreign fields”.

“The devastating loss felt by the families and loved ones of those 26 men is no less than the loss felt by the families of young sailors, soldiers and aircrew lost in battle,” he said.

“The shock felt by their mates and by their families from what should have been a normal day of training, when they should have completed the practice and returned to camp for dinner, is difficult for most of us to imagine.”

Sgt Dave Morley

Wagga’s 1945 Tragedy

May 21, 1945, trainee sappers from 1RTB, 13,000 population lined the streets to pay their respects to the fallen diggers.

As it was unlikely the detonators would accidentally come into contact with the explosives, which were stored on the far side of the dugout, it wasn’t considered dangerous in that era.

While no one can be sure what went wrong, the explosion killed 24 of the 27 diggers in the bunker instantly.

Two more died shortly after, and only three, Spr Allan Bartlett, 18, survived, having been shielded by two mates. Spr Bartlett needed to be dug out of the bunker wall and was left badly burnt and deaf, but went on to live into his late 80s.

The remains of Sgt Pomeroy and three young trainees were never fully recovered and Sgt Pomeroy was only able to be identified by his engraved watch.

The funeral three days later was described as “the day Wagga stood still”.

More than half of Wagga’s then 14,000 population lined the streets to pay their respects to the fallen diggers.

The sappers are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery on Kooringal Road, Wagga, alongside a number of airmen killed in WWII training accidents around RAAF Base Wagga.

Posting soon or just posted to a new location? Is your partner looking for work? Help is available.

The Partner Employment Assistance Program starts 1 July 2017.

In each posting location, partners of ADF members can apply for up to $1,500 funding to contribute towards employment related initiatives such as resume preparation, job search and job interview techniques, as well as job placement advice. It also can assist with professional re-registration costs when moving from one state or territory to another.

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Tried and tested

Lt-Col Dave Heatley and Maj Hudson

ARMY now has its own specialised and accredited agency for ensuring new capability is evaluated against operational conditions.

The recently formed Land Test and Evaluation Agency (LTEA) works with soldiers across all trades and ranks to ensure that new or potential equipment is evaluated against realistic operational conditions and combatants requirements, using realistic testing. The purpose of LTEA test and evaluation activity is to ensure Army understands the consequences of new capability acquisition, sustainment and disposal. Consequences can include changes to training, changes to organizational structure, revised maintenance and support requirements, and understanding if related systems work together as expected.

The LTEA received its official quality management system accreditation from Head Land Capability Maj-Gen Kath Toohey in April.

Deputy Director LTEA Lt-Col Thomas Dowsett said the accreditation under the International Standardisation Organisation 9001 (ISO 9001:2015) quality management system meant LTEA had been independently assessed as meeting industry standards for quality management.

“This accreditation represents the Army’s ongoing commitment to improving test and evaluation in support of modernization,” he said.

“LTEA was raised as an outcome of the First Principles Review decision to disband the Capability Development Group and its subordinate Australian Defence Test and Evaluation Office (ADTEO).

“The raising of LTEA reflects the need for Army to plan, manage and assure test and evaluation for capabilities from cradle to grave,” Lt-Col Dowsett said.

In the formation of the LTEA and its accreditation, Army now has its own independent accredited test agency that is directly accountable to Head Land Capability - Army.”

To gain its accreditation, Lt-Col Dowsett said LTEA was assessed by external accreditation agency, BSI Group – an international business standards assessment agency – for the robustness of its technical processes and capabilities for ensuring and conducting test and evaluation for land capability.

LTEA is staffed by skilled uniformed personnel working in the positions of trials managers from the rank of O2 to Lt-Col. LTEA personnel come from a broad range of careers and experience and, when posted to LTEA, staff are required to attain and maintain additional, specialised professional qualifications.

"LTEA personnel are regularly audited and LTEA trials and reports are peer-reviewed and audited to confirm they meet the high standards required to maintain accreditation. "LTEA works closely with the Defence Science and Technology Group, functional commands and their units, HQ staff and the delivery groups’ project offices to enable independent, evidence-based, operationally focused capability assessments for CA in support of capability decisions," Lt-Col Dowsett said.

One of the teams, led by Lt-Col Dave Heatley, is working on phase two of the Land 440 project.

“On behalf of Defence, this team is conducting test and evaluation to assess the potential next-generation combat reconnaissance vehicles, using Army crewmen, in an operationally representative environment,” Lt-Col Dowsett said.

He said soldiers were an essential part of contributing to the success of Army’s test and evaluation activities.

"LTEA trials involve placing potential future capability in the hands of experienced soldiers, commanders and planners," he said.

"Participating in a land trial is one of the few opportunities soldiers have to directly influence capability development. These soldiers are also among the first personnel exposed to future systems and the feedback they provide is captured in the formal reports and has a direct input to decision makers in Army.

“The trials are conducted in operationally realistic environments, conducting realistic training wherever possible, to make sure user feedback reflects operational realities. This is how we identify the real-world consequences of Army’s capability decisions.”

Lt-Col Dave Heatley and Maj Hudson

Head Land Capability Maj-Gen Kathyn Tooney presents a certificate of accreditation to Deputy Director Land Test and Evaluation Agency Lt-Col Thomas Dowsett at Russell Offices in Canberra.

Strong US alliance strengthened by visit

Sgt Dave Morley

THE importance of the military alliance between Australia and the US, stretching back to July 4, 1918, was reinforced by US Senator John McCain during a Memorial Day address at Russell Offices in Canberra on May 29.

The Arizona Senator, a former Vietnam War POW, laid a wreath alongside CDF ACM Mark Binskin at the Australian-American Memorial in Blamey Square after a short address.

Senator McCain said he was honoured to join the many ADF and APS members at the Australian-American Memorial on a day Americans observed as Memorial Day.

“Our lands’ shared history of military service has always been deeply personal to me,” he said.

“These are the stories I grew up on and while Memorial Day may be an American occasion, I cannot think of a more fitting place to mark this special day than here with you in Australia.

“Tiger since the Battle of Hamel in WWI, Americans and Australians have left the lands they love and gone off into the world and served together, fought together, loved together and lost together.

“We’ve done so for each other as allies and to this day, we do so still as our sons and daughters stand bravely together on fields of battle across the world, so all of us may enjoy a precious measure of peace.”

US Senator John McCain at the Australian War Memorial during his visit to Canberra.

Photos: Jay Cran

US Senator John McCain on (02) 6265 7285 or email thomas.dowsett@defence.gov.au

For further information or to request support from LTEA, contact Lt-Col Thomas Dowsett on (02) 6265 7285 or email thomas.dowsett@defence.gov.au
Next step forward

Soldiers at Simpson Barracks embrace local Indigenous communities

Capt Lucy Saaroni

"THE Australian Army is better for the contribution of our Indigenous members."

These were the words of Head Land Capability Maj-Gen Kathryn Toohey, who represented the Chief of Army at Simpson Barracks, Melbourne, for the base’s celebration of National Reconciliation Week. On June 2, hundreds of Indigenous students, Defence members and Aboriginal service personnel participated in a day of activities to acknowledge and celebrate the special relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land at Simpson Barracks.

For the first time on the base, a walking tour was organised to visit and discuss culturally significant scar trees located near the Defence Force School of Music. Commander 4 Bde Brig David Westphalen said the ADF valued Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members and communities for the skills, knowledge and support they provided.

"It was a special experience for me to visit the culturally significant scar trees...."

– Brig David Westphalen, Commander 4 Bde

from this area and some of my own soldiers," Brig Westphalen said. “As the commander of Victoria’s brigade, I work to ensure we embrace cultural, social and workplace diversity in all we do.”

In addition to a smoking ceremony carried out by Waruganj Elder Uncle David Wandin, interactive military displays, an Aussie Rules 9s carnival and a barbecue allowed visitors to get up close to Victoria’s military personnel and equipment.

"Trying out the military equipment and meeting the soldiers was ‘deadly’," said one student from Worawa Aboriginal College, in Healesville. "When I leave school, I’d like to join the ADF. It was helpful to speak with the soldiers about their work."

For members of 4 Bde, it was a great opportunity to share their experience as reservists and speak to the Indigenous students about the employment and educational opportunities the Army provides.

The theme of National Reconciliation Week for 2017 was “Let’s take the next steps” and the day’s activities helped pave the way for military and Indigenous people to make that happen.

Queensland on road to recovery

THE Queensland government has resumed full responsibility for the state’s recovery efforts following Tropical Cyclone Debbie, allowing Defence to conclude its support effort.

Brig Chris Field completed his appointment as the Queensland State Recovery Coordinator on June 2.

Brig Field and a small Defence planning team worked closely with the Queensland government and eight of the most affected councils to develop the State Plan 2017-19 Operation Queensland Recovery, which will guide ongoing recovery efforts to be managed by local government authorities.

“The focus of Operation Queensland Recovery is to support Queenslanders working to recover, reconnect and rebuild more resilient communities following the March cyclone,” Brig Field said.

In the wake of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, more than 1600 ADF personnel were deployed to provide a rapid response to assist communities across the Whitsunday region, Mackay, Moranbah and Rockhampton.

The duties of the State Recovery Coordinator will transition to the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, Brendan Moon, supported by deputies from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Police Service.

Soldiers at Simpson Barracks inspect a traditional animal skin worn by Aboriginal people.

Photo: Sgt Danyal Alaku

An online resource for ADF members and their families to find information on their posting location.

www.defencecommunityhub.org.au

A joint initiative of Defence Community Organisation, Defence Families of Australia and Defence Housing Australia.
Capt Megan McDermott

The 7RAR soldiers deployed to Afghanistan are known as “Guardian Angels” for the overwatch they provide for Australian embassies working in mentoring and advisory roles at Headquarters Resolute Support (HQRS) in Kabul.

The Adelaide-based soldiers deployed to Afghanistan as part of Force Protection Element 7 (FPE-7) early this year after completing three months of mission-specific training for Operation Highground.

As Guardian Angels, the 18 FPE-7 soldiers based at HQRS provide close personal protection, transport and general support for the mentors. A typical day includes two-to-three mounted security runs in and around Kabul city, facilitating key leadership engagements.

HQRS Force Protection Commander Capt Daniel Kirkham said it was a heavy responsibility for the soldiers who were mostly privates. “For close personal protection tasks, responsibility starts with the individual soldier – often a private – and extends to the mentor who is often a senior officer.”

While Capt Kirkham described his role as “one of the best deployed roles in the Royal Australian Regiment”, he noted it could be challenging at times, particularly regarding the level of coordination involved.

“The junior soldiers and NCOs exercise independent tactical command and conduct reports and returns, while providing intimate security to their mentor who is often a senior officer,” Capt Kirkham said.

When the Guardian Angels are not providing security, they can be found delivering incident response training to the mentors, including care of the battle casualty as well as vehicle extraction training.

“The training strengthens the working relationship between our soldiers and the mentors so we are comfortable working as one complete team,” Capt Kirkham said.

With the training, the mentors will be confident in what they have to do in the event of an incident.”

Commander Task Group Afghanistan Brig Michael Prickett said the HQRS Australian embeds were among the few coalition force elements who had their own dedicated force protection.

“With the training, the mentors will be confident in what they have to do in the event of an incident.”

Force Protection role remains essential to operational success in Afghanistan

THIRTY additional Australian troops will deploy to Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led Resolute Support training mission to help Afghan forces secure their country and fight the global scourge of terrorism.

The extra personnel will increase the ADF train, advise and assist mission to about 300 people.

In a joint statement on May 29, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Defence Minister Marise Payne said Afghanistan was facing a challenging security environment.

“This extra support from Australia will help deny terrorists the safe havens that threaten the international community,” the statement said.

These additional advisers will provide crucial extra support and expertise to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces.”
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Solders of 6RAR are impressed with Army's new grenade launcher, Cpl Max Bree reports.

A N EERIE silence follows the “pop pop pop” of a Mk 47 firing before crunching explosions light the target area in a clearing on a nearby hill. It's near a small Qld Defence Sergeant, of 6RAR's Direct Fire Support Weapons Pl, would need to be in if "Especially if you've ever seen a barrage of grenades." It wouldn't be out in the open (to be hit by shrapnel coming down and about)." Soldiers of 6RAR qualified on the Mk 47 lightweight automatic grenade launcher in late May as part of the weapon's rollout, which started last year to replace the ageing Mk 19 launcher.

"The biggest difference is accuracy and the use of a sight," LCpl Davide Sargeant, of 6RAR, says. "You can be the only one, with no aiming and engage straight away. We can have pre-designated points for other things we spot out there, and then we can jump from target to target."

The sight module features a giant glass view mounted on the right of the weapon next to smaller lenses and lasers. This provides range finding, ballistic computing, thermal imaging and 3x magnification delivered to the weapon's display screen.

"A Canadian says this means their first rounds from the Mk 47 will be on target."

"With the Mk 19 you'd have to directly lay onto the target using iron sights that didn't account for wind or human error," he says. "But the Mk 47 takes those into account and pretty much works itself out for you. First rounds on target is a huge thing for us – it enables us to defeat an enemy a lot sooner, and lets the rifle companies go in and do their jobs."

The Mk 47 uses a recoil-operated, belt-feed system to fire 40mm grenades at a rate of about 275 rounds per minute, but Pte Jones isn't concerned this is a slightly reduced rate compared to the Mk 19.

"It is a little bit slower but that enables a new way of firing. The complete Mk 47 system weighs around 20kg, which is lighter than a complete Mk 19. At just 5kg, the Mk 47's tripod is a welcome change from the Mk 19's 20kg tripod."

The best thing I've noticed is the tripod being so light," LCpl Sargeant says. "We can easily pack it all down and chuck it in the Bushy with all the weapon systems we'll have in there. Then, instead of having one dude just carry the tripod up to the line, he could carry the tripod and receiver or more ammo."

The Mk 47 can be fitted with standard or airburst barrels to fire regular or pre-programmed high explosive 40mm grenades. Manufacturer General Dynamics boasts the Mk 47 can reach targets to 2000m, but doctrinally the weapon is employed on point targets to 1200m and area targets to 1500m.

"It's an area weapon system, to suppress an enemy and keep their heads down low before a rifle company moves in and conducts its assault," LCpl Sargeant says. 6RAR received its Mk 47s and the system is expected to be rolled out to Army and Air Force units by the middle of this year.

**Explosive facts**

- **Calibre:** 40x53mm high velocity
- **Muzzle velocity:** ±240 m/s
- **Rate of fire:** 275 rounds per minute (±40)
- **Operation:** automatic, recoil
- **Feed:** disintegrating link belt
- **Gun weight:** 18kg
- **Complete system weight:** 45kg
- **Range, point targets:** 1200m
- **Range, area targets:** 1500m
- **Ammo:** Regular and pre-programmable high explosive 40mm grenades
RENOWNED for some of the harshest environmental conditions in Australia, the Mount Bundey Training Area didn’t ease off as 1 Bde hosted international elements from the US 25 Inf Div, Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D), and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces (JGSDF) for Exercise Southern Jackaroo 2017.

Southern Jackaroo is the ADF’s annual trilateral exercise with the US and Japan, where elements conduct foundation warfighting and combined arms activities within a field and live-fire environment.

Commander 1 Bde Brig Ben James says the exercise, held from May 18 to June 2, was about improving the way our soldiers operate and fight together. “It’s really important they go through key training activities to better understand how we each move, shoot and communicate, so we can conduct operations across the region and further afield if need be,” he says.

Brig James says while all of the training areas in the Northern Territory are “pretty tough, demanding, and uncompromising environments”, the brigade has a favoured maxim: “train hard, fight easy”.

“And we did that in spades at Mount Bundey,” he says. “Soldiers from all three countries learned tough lessons about surviving in the field and how to best work alongside each other. It was a great exercise.”

Specialist Daniel Davison, of the US Army, says the environment is like nothing he’s experienced. “Even just stepping off the plane was pretty brutal, just trying to acclimatise to the heat, but we’re getting used to it now,” he says.

“Understanding different tactics and watching how Aussie troops react to a contact or do urban operations is so different to what we usually do on our own. It’s been a great experience so far.”

Echoing these words, Brig James says “when you have a relationship as important as the trilateral relationship between Japan, the US and Australia, it’s important we develop the foundation skills to make sure soldiers from all three countries can work effectively together”.

More than 1000 soldiers participated in the exercise, drawn from the JGSDF’s 17 Regt, 2 Bde Combat Team from 25 Inf Div (US Army), MRF-D and soldiers from across 1 Bde.

Troops from the US, Japan and 1 Bde join forces in the Top End on Exercise Southern Jackaroo, Capt Dean Muller reports.
SRAR soldiers from Direct Fire Support Weapons Pl fire the 12.7mm M2 heavy barrel QCB machine gun.

Photo: Capt Dean Muller


Photo: Capt Dean Muller
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Securing the future

Members of Task Group Taji 4 help build the Iraqi Army’s special forces capability, Capt Sharon Mascall-Dare reports.

ASK Group Taji (TGT-4) is helping the Iraqi Army to build its special forces capability by offering bespoke ‘train-the-trainer’ courses, as well as training in weapon handling and infantry tactics.

The training marks the culmination of five months’ collaboration between the combined Anzac task group and the Iraqi Army, which is seeking support from Australia and New Zealand to build capacity for stabilisation and security operations in preparation for the recapture of Mosul.

TGT-4 Training Team Leader Lt Joshua Rousseau says the aim is to give members of the Iraqi Army’s Special Forces Bn the ability to train themselves and maintain high standards of professionalism into the future.

“At first, my team provided training to the Special Forces Bn before transitioning to train-the-trainer courses as part of our mission to build partner capacity,” Lt Rousseau says.

“We’ve worked with them closely over the past five months and we’ve got to know them well. We’ve developed them as individuals and collectively, up to company level operations.”

“The Iraqi Ministry of Defence hopes to raise an entire brigade of special forces troops to continue the fight against Daesh and maintain security so our work is having an impact here.

“We’ve provided them with the tools their officers and senior soldiers need to train and develop themselves.”

Task Group Taji has trained more than 22,000 members of the Iraqi security forces since it began operations in June 2016.

“In the last five months they have shown us how to train ourselves,” Lt-Abas Aldlaami says.

“This is important for us into the future. They are helping us to prepare for operations after Mosul.”

Train-the-trainer courses will continue to be delivered by the next rotation of Australian and New Zealand Defence Force members, who are in the process of taking over.

“My experience here, being deployed to Iraq, has been great,” Cpl Tyson Lindley says.

“I’ve really enjoyed my time here and I’ve developed personally.”

We trained them on machine guns and then taught them how to deliver the same training to their own soldiers...

– Cpl Tyson Lindley, Task Group Taji 4

“We have been training with the Australian and New Zealand armies for several months now and they have shown us how to train ourselves.”

For the Iraqi Army, which is seeking support from Australia and New Zealand to build capacity for stabilisation and security operations in preparation for the recapture of Mosul.

“We began with infantry minor tactics, moved into more advanced operations and now we’re moving into an instructor phase,” Cpl Lindley says.

“For example, we trained them on machine guns and then taught them how to deliver the same training to their own soldiers – they’ll now be able to conduct training of their own forces.

“The train-the-trainer package is critical for the Special Forces Bn to train, mentor and develop its own soldiers into the future.”

For Cpl Tyson Lindley, an infantry instructor phase, “We began with infantry minor tactics, moved into more advanced operations and now we’re moving into an instructor phase,” Cpl Lindley says.

“The train-the-trainer package is critical for the Special Forces Bn to train, mentor and develop its own soldiers into the future.”

Ranger Bn Pl Commander Lt Mohammad Fadel Abas Aldlaami says the Iraqi soldiers have reacted positively to the training, which emphasises mutual respect between the TGT-4 trainers and trainees.

We trained them on machine guns and then taught them how to deliver the same training to their own soldiers...

– Cpl Tyson Lindley, Task Group Taji 4

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OFFICERS at the School of Armour are looking forward to putting their training into practice on Exercise Reaper’s Run in July. School of Armour Adjutant Capt Chris Cates says the ROBC officers are just about to complete all the technical phases of their training before they move into the tactical phase.

“They’ll combine all the technical phases into a tactical scenario, where they shoot, move and communicate in a troop environment,” he says.

“So far they’ve done well and the next 10 weeks will be an introduction into a more complex environment.

“Reaper’s Run will be the culminating activity for Tactics Wing, where they’ll be put in a combined arms setting in a combat team environment and tested and evaluated for troop manoeuvre in that setting to replicate job standards.

“The exercise is one of the biggest combined arms activities the school will run this year and a lot of agencies from Puckapunyal support the ROBC members to qualify them as troop leaders.”

Tank ROBC Lt Jodie McCart says the course highlight so far is driving the Abrams tank on the driver training area.

“We went through different obstacles to see the tank’s capability – how high we can go, how low we can go, trench crossings and knife-edge mounds,” she says.

“So basically we’re getting an understanding of what the vehicle can do so we know what we can ask a driver to do within safe limits.”

Lt McCart applied for the course because she was previously RAEME and wanted a more hands-on role.

“I’ve enjoyed the gunnery training as it’s the first time I’ve been hands-on with the weapons. I also enjoyed doing the fire commands in the simulator, and working as a crew team has also been good,” she says.

Lt Tyler Shewell, also on the tank, ROBC, says he is looking forward to Reaper’s Run and live firing from a tank in a troop environment.

“If there’s one thing you want to do in the Army, it’s be a tank troop leader – firing on a battle run, giving the command to fire, seeing the breech jump back at you and the smell of cordite in the air,” he says.

Lt Shewell applied for RAAC because he “wanted to be a doer rather than a bystander.”

“I’d readily recommend RAAC to RMC staff cadets looking for a career option – it’s definitely something you’ll want to be part of,” he says.

Lt Leah Swain is on the cavalry ROBC and training on the combat reconnaissance vehicle (CRV). She says the guns and live-fire component are the best parts of the course.

“What I enjoyed about the firing was the fact you’re in charge of a 25mm chain gun and it’s just the coolest thing when it goes off,” she says.

“Driving the ASLAV through the bush is really good fun, too, other than the fact you’re wielding 13 tonnes of armoured vehicle, there’s nothing like it. It was awesome.

“The instructors are great, so you feel completely safe.”

Lt Swain chose to join RAAC because of the diversity the CRV gives to Army and the capability it provides.

“Also, just having the opportunity to work with the men and women of the corps – they’re all motivated and love what they do.”

Lt Jesse Wilkinson has been through the Driving and Servicing Wing, the Comms Wing and the Gunnery Wing during the cavalry ROBC.

“Probaby the Driving and Servicing Wing has been the best for me so far,” he says.

“I’m looking forward to Reaper’s Run because we’ll have a lot of things happening at once, and we will gain competency in troop command and tactics as a culmination of a lot of hard work.”

Junior officers at the School of Armour will soon be put through their paces as troop commanders, Sgt Dave Morley reports.

Lts Jodie McCart (left) and Jesse Wilkinson take part in their ROBC at the School of Armour.

Photos: Sgt Dave Morley

Reaping the benefits at Puckapunyal Junior officers at the School of Armour will soon be put through their paces as troop commanders, Sgt Dave Morley reports.
INFANTRY soldiers are back in the saddle again with APC capabilities being transferred to them as part of the rebalancing of Plan Boerhaave.

School of Armour Adjutant Capt Chris Cates says the school moved quickly to transition APC training to infantry soldiers after being given notice of the change.

“We made sure we had infantry personnel here, who could train in driving and crewing the APGs as we convert to mechanised battalions,” he says.

“Integration of the infantry into APC courses will help Army design the crewing solution and training requirements for the eventual transition to the infantry fighting vehicles (IFV) when they’re introduced.

“Army is well prepared for the transition to the combat reconnaissance vehicles (CRV) and IFV and is training hard towards mounted combat excellence.”

APC instructor Sgt Troy Day, formerly of 57RAR, has been an infantry sergeant for 16 years.

He says the mechanisation and motorisation of infantry is a good idea because it provides integral mobility and additional capabilities to the dismounted combat elements.

“It allows infantry to have a multi-purpose role, rather than just being light infantry all the time,” he says.

“You can now integrate the mounted and dismounted capabilities to achieve better outcomes.

“Although the infantry trainees haven’t been here that long, they have a positive attitude about the course.”

7RAR PMV driver Pte Kevin Hunter says he put his hand up for the course because he saw it as a step up from his current role.

“I reckon it’ll be pretty exciting driving a carrier – it’s beat walking – and it’ll be good for the battalion getting the capability back,” he says.

“I’m definitely looking forward to driving them, and firing from the turret will be good, too.”

Pte Jye Fisher volunteered for the course because he thought it would be useful.

“I’ve never worked with APGs before – I’ve never even been in one – so I’ll be moving straight from foot to tracks,” he says.

“I’m really looking forward to getting into an APC and driving it in the field and firing the .50 cal from the turret.”
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Lt Julian Thompson, of Task Group Taji 4, paints at the Taji Military Complex in Iraq. Inset right: Lt Thompson’s artwork, “Powhiri (Welcome): The Meeting of the Anzacs in Taji, Iraq.”

Strokes of Taji

The harsh Iraqi landscape might not inspire everyone to pick up a paintbrush, but for one artistic officer it provided inspiration for a series of paintings, Cpl Kathryn Rooney reports.

As he draws to the end of his six-month deployment in Iraq, keen painter Lt Julian Thompson has created a unique record of his experiences.

As a radiographer deployed with Task Group Taji 4, Lt Thompson has been working out of the Taji Military Complex hospital, just north of Baghdad, providing diagnostic health support to the men and women of the task group.

“I provide x-ray images for the doctors,” he says.

“I look after our Anzacs and foreign nationals, the majority of whom are from the US Army.

“My role is to assist with the overall health services of the hospital, which in turn enables our soldiers to continue to train the Iraqis with the aim of defeating Daesh.”

Away from his day job, Lt Thompson has applied his eye for detail and passion for imagery in a different way.

Before joining the Army seven years ago, Lt Thompson worked as a landscape painter.

He has found inspiration in the brown dust and the concrete T-Walls of Taji that make up his current landscape.

“It is a stimulating environment, being in a theatre of operation,” he says.

“The Army offers a lot of compelling visual imagery, and this totally changed my artistic focus.

“I am very much interested in the symbolism, both of what soldiers do and the history and traditions of the Army itself.

“I’m also interested in the passage of time, and the image of a line of walking soldiers has been a recurring theme in my work.”

While his Taji paintings depict a variety of themes, including subjects that characterise deployment such as body armour, weapons and military hardware, there is one painting that stands out.

“I was privileged to witness the arrival of our CDF and his traditional welcome by the New Zealand component of our task group,” Lt Thompson says.

“The partnership between our countries goes back a long way – I felt this was a historically significant event, as it showed two partnered armies coming together in an active theatre of operation. I felt compelled to create a painting.”

The result, “Powhiri (Welcome): The Meeting of the Anzacs in Taji, Iraq” is on canvas, more than 2m wide, and has given Lt Thompson the opportunity to give something back to his fellow Anzacs by raising more than $3000 for veterans’ charities.

“By collaborating closely with one of my Kiwi counterparts, we have created a series of prints of the painting,” he says.

“The numbered and signed prints have been sold to members of the task group with all profits being directed to Legacy in Australia and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association.”

Lt Thompson is looking forward to returning to Australia in mid-2017, but leaving Iraq won’t be the end of his artistic journey.

“When I get home, I plan to take a well-deserved rest and reconnect with my family in Brisbane,” he says.

“I will continue to make images based off my impressions of Taji for some time to come – it’s not a pretty landscape, but it makes for distinctive paintings.”

Works from the deployment and previous military exercises will be exhibited at the Pine Rivers Gallery in Brisbane in September and at the Noosa Regional Gallery in 2018.
Our heritage is in good hands

CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell recently recognised the unsung endeavours of the Army museums’ volunteers in a letter of thanks. Head of the museum network Neil Dailey spoke with Maj Conway Bown about this dedicated group that most people know little about.

Few would realise the Army has 18 museums throughout Australia, and even fewer would know they are operated by a workforce of Army Reserve and APS personnel with almost 1000 volunteers. These volunteers offer their time and skills to keep the heritage of the Army alive, providing the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU) with an irreplaceable capability.

Head of the museum network Neil Dailey says the museum with the largest number of volunteers is the Army Museum of WA in Fremantle, which has more than 130 volunteers. They are managed by a small reserve cadre, but managing all the volunteers is a significant undertaking.

“We work within the guidelines of Volunteering Australia using individual volunteering agreements,” Mr Dailey says. “These are contracts between us and the individual volunteer. It spells out what we expect from them and what we – the Army – will do for them.”

The AAHU has been operating for almost 20 years and providing oversight of the network of museums and volunteers falls under its responsibility. As part of that oversight, the volunteers are provided with the resources needed to preserve our story, including equipment and training.

“The AAHU runs a curatorial course once a year for about 20 volunteers,” Mr Dailey says.

“Some of our museums have curators so our volunteers can help the curatorial staff with their work. The course goes for one week and is similar to an IET course where the basics are taught. It’s about how not to do any damage. If we have a rare document or artefact, we teach them how to handle it and look after it.”

The curatorial course was first held in higher learning institutions using university lecturers, but as more staff with tertiary qualifications and experience joined the AAHU the unit was able to create its own course, which now attracts attendees from the other services and overseas’ militaries.

“We hold the course at the Museum of Military Engineering at Holsworthy, NSW,” Mr Dailey says. “They have lecture halls and all the exhibits and equipment. It runs for one week and accommodation is provided on the base so the course is extremely good value for the output generated. Once that course is complete, we hold shorter, more intensive specialised courses such as conservation and curatorial duties and, soon, exhibition design. With nearly 1000 people, we must ensure there are sufficient personnel who have this training.”

The background of the volunteers is diverse, ranging from those with military experience, such as a retired major general and two RSM-As, to a national serviceman who spent one year in uniform. But there are also many volunteers with no military service.

“About 25 per cent have not served in uniform at all,” Mr Dailey says. “We had a parliamentary librarian who worked for the Prime Minister roll up one day and say: ‘Can I run your library for you?’ All the volunteers bring a raft of experience, but it is the non-military people who bring...”
safe hands

the most amazing and unusual skills: fitters and turners; artists; paper restorers; librarians; and doctors. They’re an amazing group of people.

The work output varies depending on the amount of time each volunteer can provide. “In winter we lose some of them because a lot go caravanning up the coast but, generally speaking, once they come into our environment they’re very happy,” Mr Dailey says. “Some of them are a bit old school and have challenged present-day workplace health and safety requirements, but they come around because they realise that safety is paramount when working with rare artefacts and around dangerous equipment.

“The age range is wide also. The youngest volunteer we have is 15, which is really encouraging, while the oldest is one of the last Kokoda veterans, Cyril Allender, who is 92 and as sharp as a tack. We recently did an oral interview with him on his experiences at Kokoda.”

While most of the volunteers have retired from the services or from the workforce, some have not even begun. “The 15-year-old and a 17-year-old work at Singleton,” Mr Dailey says. “They come in on weekends for duties and they love it. We’d like to get other young people who are interested in military history, or who may be in the cadets, to get involved.”

“We bring a number of volunteers to Canberra so they can learn from the Australian War Memorial (AWM) staff and tour the Mitchell storage centre (where much of the AWM’s collection is), and they can take back what they’ve learnt to their home museums. In return, we provide the AWM’s staff with training such as weapon handling. We have a great relationship with the AWM.”

The AAHU has access to a wide range of equipment to add to its collection that is out of the reach of other collectors.

“We have several Leopard tanks, for example,” Mr Dailey says. “I recently saw a brochure from the Bundeswehr [German Army] showing a tank cut in half as an exhibit. I thought that we could do that. One of the staff suggested we contact the Navy because they had cutting gear that could cut through ships’ hulls.”

[Then] Head Modernisation and Strategic Plans–Army authorised it and he was able to get Fleet Support to come on board. We hope to have it finished soon.

“The two halves will be split apart with a gearbox and engine straddling the halves. People will be able to ‘walk in’ from the front of the tank and see how a crew works inside.”

The value of the volunteers is almost unquantifiable, but Mr Dailey provides some insight into exactly what this dedicated band brings to Army.

“We used an average labour rate of $25 per hour with information on volunteer activity from our sitreps and calculated the hours volunteered. We estimate the volunteers provide about $3.4m of labour per year. That’s free labour!”

To all the volunteers and other museum supporters and staff, Army says “Thank you”.

IN EVERY state of Australia, Army museums preserve the legacy of the institution’s long and proud history of service. Furthermore, the museums provide an opportunity for serving members and the Australian public to reflect and learn.

While the Australian Army History Unit has the responsibility to manage the museums, it is the volunteer workforce, numbering almost 100 people, who enable the museums to operate as professionally as they do on a day-to-day basis.

From all walks of life and all age ranges, including many veterans and non-military professionals, our volunteers give their time freely to ensure that the Australian Army’s proud history is collected, maintained and explained.

“From all walks of life and all age ranges, including many veterans and non-military professionals, our volunteers give their time freely to ensure that the Australian Army’s proud history is collected, maintained and explained.”

– Lt-Gen Angus Campbell, Chief of Army

Our volunteers give their time freely to ensure the Australian Army’s proud history is collected, maintained and explained...

The generosity of the volunteers, whose selfless effort enables this to happen, is acknowledged by a grateful Army and all those who value our military history.

It is widely accepted that Australia has a long and proud history of volunteering. The volunteers within Army’s museums are maintaining this tradition and providing a direct and substantial contribution to my responsibility of ensuring that our history and heritage is protected and maintained for current and future generations.

On behalf of all members of the Australian Army, I congratulate all those involved in volunteering at Army’s museums and thank you for your service.

– Lt-Gen Angus Campbell, May 5, 2017

Above: AAHU is looking to cut a Leopard tank in half to show the working conditions for the crew, similar to this Centurion tank in the British Tank Museum, Bovington. Once completed, the Australian Leopard will be on display at Puckapunyal’s Armoured Corps Museum.

Left: The curator of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Museum in Quezon City, Capt Anthony Contreras (left), took part in a course run by the AAHU at the Museum of Military Engineering at Holsworthy, NSW, in 2015. He was mentored by the museum’s curator, Sebastian Spencer (right).

The AAHU has access to a wide range of equipment to add to its collection.
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**BOOK REVIEW**

**Honouring Vietnam War vets**

*Vietnam Remembered – Updated Edition*
Edited by Gregory Pemberton
New Holland Publishers 2017
RRP: $45.00
Reviewer: Sgt Dave Morley

Unlike many books on the Vietnam War, this one covers it all from start to finish—and then some.

Nine authors contribute to the book, with one, Greg Lockhart, having served in Vietnam with the AATTV in 1972-73, and the remainder having lived through Australia’s turbulent 1960s.

A number of chapters follow the progress of the war in Vietnam, from the initial deployment of military advisers in the early 1960s, through the major battles many readers will be familiar with, to the draw down in 1972-73.

Other chapters come to grips with events on the home front, including the increase in dissent among the younger generation, the growth of the anti-war movement and the frequent street clashes between police and the “long-hairs”.

The final chapter, After the War was Over, focuses on the success stories of the South Vietnamese immigrants who settled in Australia post-1975.

Dozens of rarely-before-seen high-quality colour and black-and-white photos, as well as detailed maps, put the nine different stories into perspective.

Honouring Vietnam War vets
Brig Leigh Wilton said the single big data in the system must be as up to date as possible for processing well before the cut-off dates. "As a member or supervisor, make sure all your requests and approvals are correct: you are aware of are in the system before cut-off begins." Everyone should complete the pre-go live checklist, which can be accessed at https://ciogmainstaffinitiatives/DefenceOne/Pages/Resources.aspx.

Accuracy key to success

Tammy Meacham

DEFENCE One, the new pay system for ADF members, is scheduled to go live on August 7. The new system will provide increased self-service functionality and automated payments. To ensure that the cut-over to the new system is smooth and that payments are made in a timely manner, all data in the system must be as up to date as possible before cut-off begins on July 27.

Director General Personnel – Army Brig Leigh Wilton said the single biggest factor in ensuring member payments were correct on ‘go live’ was accurate data. "All commanders, managers and supervisors must ensure the members they supervise correct their data or complete the appropriate forms to have incorrect data remedied," she said. "Additionally, before ‘go live’, all approvers should ensure that leave and other approval tasks are either completed or deleted from the system. "Manual input such as higher duties may affect tax and benefits, to determine whether these options are financially advantageous before committing to the program.

Visit www.defence.gov.au/dco/family/partners for further information. For more information visit: Defence Home > Groups > CIOG > For CIOG Staff > CIOG Initiatives > Defence One

Are you Ready...

Defence One is the new pay system for Defence that will mean that APS, Reserves and ADF members are all on the same HR & payroll system. The integration of HR and payroll data is a key element of the new system, and allows many allowances (both eligibility and payment rates) to be automated based on information from PMKeyS and inbound interface data from external parties.

Defence One will Go Live 7th August 2017! How can you prepare? Take early action!

Self Service will be unavailable for approximately 10 days during the implementation of Defence One R1a. Members are to log into PMKeyS Self Service and ensure the following details are correct:

- Rank (ESS > My ADF Pay > Payslips ADF)
- Contact details (ESS > My Personal Details > Personal Data)
- Emergency contact details and next of kin (ESS > My Personal Details > Emergency Contacts)
- Dependant details (ESS > My Personal Details > Dependant/Beneficiary)
- Categorisation (ESS > My ADF Pay > Payslips ADF)
- Position details including location (ESS > My Personal Details > Personal Information Summary)
- Allowances (ESS > My ADF Pay > Payslips ADF)
- Leave data – including absence entitlement, outstanding absence applications and denied absence applications (ESS > My Leave)

Remember: You are responsible for your pay, allowances and deductions.

For further information visit: Defence Home > Groups > CIOG > For CIOG Staff > CIOG Initiatives > Defence One

Please visit the Defence One Website regularly for further information and updates.

Winners

Small Business: Hackham Medical Centre
Medium Business: Executive Risk Solutions
Large Business: Commonwealth Bank
Public Sector: City of Ballarat Not-For-Profit: Balchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education

Above and beyond
Pte Kylie McKinnon, of 13BOSC, at the wheel of a Land Rover during Exercise Damour at the Bindoon Military Training Area in Western Australia.

Photo: AB James McDougall

Above: Tpr Pieter Murtagh, of Task Group Taji 4, sits inside a Bushmaster PMV at the Taji Military Complex in Iraq. Below: Pte Qemajl Kafexholli, of Task Group Taji 4, demonstrates M-16 rifle handling drills to an Iraqi soldier at the Taji Military Complex in Iraq.

Photos: Cpl Kyle Genner

Above: Gnr Tom Magee (right), of 8/12 Regt RAA, demonstrates the use of the 84mm Carl Gustaf recoilless rifle to a trainee during a visit by members of the Army Indigenous Development Program to Robertson Barracks.

Photo: Cfn Priyantha Arachchi

OUTGOING DEPUTY CHIEF OF JOINT OPERATIONS MAJ-GEN STUART SMITH (LEFT) WELCOMES INCOMING DCJOPS MAJ-GEN GREGORY BILTON AT THE TRANSITION OF AUTHORITY CEREMONY AT HQJOC IN BUNGENDORE, NSW, AS CJOPS VADM DAVID JOHNSTON LOOKS ON.

Photo: Cpl Dan Pinhorn

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If exercise is a sore point, recovery is the answer, WO2 Andrew Hetherington writes.

MOST of us would have completed a strenuous PT session with an enthusiastic PTI or competed in an arduous event in our own time, and pulled up sore and stiff the next day.

Other than being mega-fit, you can use a number of easy methods to minimise the pain.

PTI Cpl Jeff Langdon, of AHQ, said a proper recovery routine was as important as the exercise itself.

“Recovery allows the body to go through its healing processes, since when we train we stimulate the body, tear muscle tissue, we stress our cardiovascular system, tendons and skeletal system, and can cause inflammation in joints,” he said.

Stretching and using foam rollers are simple methods of preventing soreness after exercise.

“A cool-down and in-depth stretching session, and the use of a foam roller at the completion of any training session are vital to assist with the recovery process,” Cpl Langdon said.

“Stretching and foam rollers help dissipate and flush out the by-products, such as lactic acid, in our muscle tissues and they reduce the feeling of fatigue.

“Stretching lengthens the muscles, makes them stronger and allows them to increase their ability to contract.”

Drinking a protein powder or sports drink, staying hydrated after exercise, avoiding large amounts of caffeine and eating healthy foods are other simple recovery methods.

“Drinks replace essential amino acids and salt, which are lost through sweat and urine during exercise and throughout the day,” Cpl Langdon said.

“These supplements are easily ingested but, unless users stick to their training program and have a healthy diet, any gains they might receive from supplements could be minimal.

“It’s also important to remain hydrated or you will begin to feel tired and lethargic and your motivation to go out and exercise again will diminish.

“A good indicator of being adequately hydrated is checking throughout the day that your urine is a clear colour.”

Cpl Langdon said ice packs, ice baths, running in water and swimming were often under-utilised ways of reducing aches and pains after exercise.

“The water creates external pressure around the joints, reducing inflammation. Adding a running or swimming activity in the water introduces a low-impact cardio element to the recovery session,” he said.

Simple and portable devices for providing relief are also available.

“Lates, thick bands or floss bands can be placed on a limb to restrict the blood flow to muscles. They work the same way ice does. After the bands are released from the limb, the blood flows back into the muscle, flushing out the acidic byproducts,” Cpl Langdon said.

“Another innovation is a trigger-point ball, which is the size of between a golf and a hockey ball. It is smooth or has soft spikes, and is used in the same way as a foam roller.

“It can provide targeted muscle relief when you roll it onto specific areas such as pectoral muscles and the neck.”

“A rest day at least once a week is also important.

“Often people overtrain and, for example, if you were to wake up in the morning and notice your resting heart rate is a few beats higher than normal, this would be an indicator your cardiovascular system needs more time to recover,” Cpl Langdon said.

“You should listen to your body. When it is not performing at its normal level it’s a sign you are overdoing it.”

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Stretch your self

- Stretch using traditional stretching techniques.
- Use a foam roller or a trigger-point ball to provide relief to muscles.
- Rehydrate and maintain hydration throughout the day, by drinking water and recovery drinks containing essential amino acids and salts.
- Steer clear of drinks containing caffeine. If you do drink one cup of coffee, tea or a caffeine-rich energy drink, follow it up with the equivalent volume in water.
- Run or swim in water at a beach or pool.
- Take an ice bath or use ice on a specific area to reduce inflammation.
- Try to avoid overdoing it – mix up your training schedule, avoid consecutive intensive exercise sessions and build a rest day into your week.
- If you need advice on your training and recovery program see your local PTI.
British surfers drop in

ADF surfers go up against best of the British Army and RAF during International Surfing Festival

Some of the ADF’s best surfers took on and defeated British Army and Royal Air Force (RAF) surfing teams at the inaugural International Surfing Festival (ISF) from May 1-15. Overall, the ADF came out the victors, taking home the trophy with the highest overall points tally and firsts in every individual event and the teams category.

The ADF Surf Riders Association (ADFSRA) hosted the event near Ulladulla on the NSW South Coast, with 26 Australian and 45 British surfers competing.

ADFSRA President Maj Myles Conquest said the festival consisted of an orientation week for all international competitors to adapt to the local conditions, followed by competition in shortboard, longboard, body board, men’s, women’s and team events.

“After the orientation week, travelling to surf locations along the NSW coast, the British visitors familiarised themselves with Australia’s surf conditions and participated in cross-training delivered by other Australian competitors,” he said.

The training was designed to increase the surfers’ lung capacity and simulate the same rough conditions experienced when being held down by larger waves.

“Joining the full complement of the ADF surf team during the second week of their visit, the RAF and British Army members competed in heats with the top-scoring surfers going through to the finals,” Maj Conquest said.

“With near perfect surf conditions during the heats, surfers displayed extreme courage in 6ft surf fighting against strong currents and simulated the same rough conditions when being held down by larger waves.”

Surfers displayed extreme courage in 6ft surf fighting against strong currents...

- Maj Myles Conquest, ADFSRA President

With four-time (1979-1982) Australian world champion surfer Mark Richards in attendance, and a cliff-top audience watching on for the final day of competition, the pressure was on.

In surfing, points are scored through an accumulation of different board manoeuvres in the critical section of the wave. During the ISF, the highest single-wave score and highest combined heat score went to PO Jordan Dank of the RAF third, he said.

The ADFSRRA is an officially accredited sporting association bringing together full-time and reserve members of the navy, Army and Air Force under the one banner.

The association promotes professionalism, teamwork, respect, individual fitness and resilience against a backdrop of competitive surfing.

For further information, visit www.armysurfridersassociation.com

ISF Results

Sponge:
1. AB Luke Adams (RAAF)
2. AB Daniel Grieve (RAN)
3. LS Dylan Skipsey (RAN)
4. LCPt Steve Nicholson (British Army)
5. Rob Maughan (RAF)
6. LAC Robert Kohler (RAAF)

Longboard:
1. AB Cam Stewart (RAN)
2. Pte Josh Hughes (British Army)
3. Dave Wild (RAF)
4. LS Tim Harrison (RAN)
5. Capt Jason Griffiths (Aus Army)
6. Maj Myles Conquest (Aus Army)

Water polo teams make a splash in Tassie

The ADF women’s and men’s water polo teams made a splash at the Australian Country Water Polo Championships in Hobart from May 17-20. The women’s team played off for the bronze medal against Victoria, while the men finished sixth.

The ADF women trailed 5-2 at half time, but the players dug deep and levelled the scores at three-quarter time, taking the lead in the fourth quarter to win 10-9.

Tournament organiser and men’s coach Leston Batley said Army’s Kate Berwick led the charge in the final, scoring seven of the 10 goals. Lest Batley said the men’s team lacked experienced players.

“We are in the development stage – it was a great opportunity to give them exposure against highly competitive teams,” he said.

Spr Maximilian Martin and Pte Matthew Brady were selected for the Australian Country team to represent Australia at the 2017 Princess Chulabhorn Water Polo Cup in Thailand in November.

They will play 16 teams from countries including UAE, India, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and Thailand to defend their 2016 title.

For more information, email DefenceWaterPolo.Admin@defence.gov.au or join the Facebook group ADF Waterpolo.
Bush footy steps up

Sgt Dave Morley

KAPOOKA threw open its rugby grounds to the public on May 20, hosting four well-fought charity games between a combined Riverina ADF Rugby Football Club (RARC) and Wagga team and the Griffith Blacks.

Family was the theme and $18,000 was the figure as the RARC teamed with the Wagga Waratahs, who play in the Southern Inland Rugby Union competition.

Waratahs first-grader and RARC veteran ARTC DComdt Lt-Col Sean Kearns said the RARC and Waratahs were proud of their combined efforts.

“This really was a rugby community project and it’s fantastic the recruits, our sponsors and supporters could all get involved,” he said.

Donning an RARC retro commemorative strip for the occasion, the RARC/Waratahs played in front of a crowd of more than 1000, including recruits, staff and Riverina rugby enthusiasts.

Lt-Col Kearns said the activity attracted overwhelming interest.

“As servicemen, as a rugby community, as Australians, we have all been touched by families that desperately need community support,” he said.

“This RARC initiative is aimed at raising funds and awareness for Kurrajong Therapy Plus, which delivers a critical service to transient ADF families posting to the Riverina.

“The event was further evidence that bush footy is alive and well.

“It’s a privilege to play alongside our recruit instructors, exemplifying Army’s values of courage, initiative, respect and teamwork in front of their recruits.”

IRTB PTI Cpl Alicia Bloom played for the Waratahs in the Women’s 7s. Her side went down 17-12 to the Griffith Blacks Women’s 7s, but she said they could have done better if they’d had a bit more peripheral vision and gone deeper on their own set plays.

“We should have also set our line of defence up hard and fast so others weren’t taking the brunt,” she said.

Sgt Cox said they were going well in the first half, but then got overexcited and lost their composure.

“We could have done a lot better by playing our game for the full 80 minutes,” he said.

The large crowd was treated to some exciting running rugby and some shattering defence during the day.

Rules of reconciliation

Leut Ben Willee

A SMALL group of ADF Indigenous Aussie Rules players participated in Indigenous community activities during the AFL Sir Douglas Nicholls Dreamtime round in Melbourne in late May.

The ADF Australian Rules Football (ADFAFAR) Indigenous development program, in its third year, uses sport to promote personal development and diversity within Defence and as a recruitment tool.

The Melbourne activities included working with KPMG Indigenous reconciliation partners, Defence’s Directorate of Indigenous Affairs, AFL Victoria and the Richmond Football Club.

The ADF players took part in The Long Walk at the MCG and watched the Richmond game between Richmond and Essendon.

Sgt Rhiannon Busch, of 10FSB, said the activities were important to her because she often had to put her job first, which meant she missed significant events within her community.

“Reconciliation Week and the AFL Dreamtime events are historical events that mean so much to our people,” Sgt Busch said.

“An opportunity to represent the ADF while being able to celebrate with our mob is important.

“I love that the ADF is striving in its reconciliation plan and moving even further in developing our very own Indigenous ADF AFL program.”

It was also an opportunity for Indigenous players from other teams to gain insights about life in the military.

ADFAFAR Chairman Maj-Gen Matthew Hall said the plan was to expand the program, including establishing a women’s Indigenous football program similar to the men’s and conducting a mentoring program for young Indigenous women.

For more information on ADF Aussie Rules visit www.adfar.org
ADF surfers host British counterparts for International Surfing Festival on NSW South Coast