HMAS Newcastle returns to Australia after a highly successful deployment

HOME AT LAST

Story – page 5
**INNOVATION STATEMENT BY CN VADM TIM BARRETT**

PLAN Pelorus reflects the priorities that I assumed in my role last year. PLAN Pelorus details the transition to a task group orientated Navy of 2018 and this transition will require significant effort and commitment from us all.


to innovate.

Challenge and innovate – we must consistently put our Signature Behaviour into practice.

Do not wait for someone else to solve a problem – if you see a problem, take action.

Are not discouraged by perceived hurdles and seek help from leaders and superiors.

Communicate innovative ideas clearly and seek support. In addition, I expect all leaders to support their people to take personal accountability for:

- Understand the core aim of PLAN Pelorus and why we need to innovate.
- Challenge and innovate – we must consistently put our Signature Behaviour into practice.
- Do not wait for someone else to solve a problem – if you see a problem, take action.
- Are not discouraged by perceived hurdles and seek help from leaders and superiors.
- Communicate innovative ideas clearly and seek support.

INNOVATION STATEMENT BY CN VADM TIM BARRETT

- **Introduce decision making down.**
- **Understand you are the critical part of the innovation process – you can so easily drive ideas.**
- **Encourage the natural talent of your senior: grow their knowledge around innovation and renewed innovation.**
- **Take action in developing mechanisms to support innovation.**
- **Be aware of risk but commit on opportunity.**

CN VADM Tim Barreert charts a sailors’ forum on PLAN Pelorus and innovation during a visit to HMAS Stirling.

**Interoperability and agility drive innovation on gunnery department**

LEUT Todd Austin

STIRLING’S Gunnery Officer, LEUT Adam Eddy and his team have embraced the concept of innovation to achieve the broader Salvage and ordnance objectives. The team have embraced the concept of innovation to achieve the goal of widespread use of innovation.

The actions of PO Andrew and his team are directly contributing to the capability of PLAN Pelorus to achieve the goal of widespread use of innovation.

**Innovation is being able to change the way we think, act and work. Allowing ourselves to be more creative and resourceful in our approach to overcoming obstacles, big or small.**

LEUT Adam Eddy

HMAS Stirling

- **Do not wait for someone else to solve a problem – if you see a problem, take action.**
- **Challenge the way things are done.**
- **Drive decision making down.**
- **Provide simple innovation ideas into practical solutions.**
- **Understand you are the critical part of the innovation process – you can so easily drive ideas.**
- **Encourage the natural talent of your senior: grow their knowledge around innovation and renewed innovation.**
- **Take action in developing mechanisms to support innovation.**
- **Be aware of risk but commit on opportunity.**

**Check out the case study video developed about this at the Navy Video Library at http://www洗涤s.com/2015/03/26/lasteststopcanada.html**
All wrapped up in love on deployment

CAPT Fiona Bickerstaff

EVERY deployment has its certainties — the absence from family and friends and long hours seven days a week are guaranteed.

Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers there is now another certainty forADF personnel on deployment — a quilt or laundry bag from Aussie Hero Quilts.

Aussie Hero Quilts have been providing Navy personnel with quilts and laundry bags for more than five years now.

Over the course of their deployment, the ship and crew of HMAS Newcastle received a number of handmade quilts and laundry bags which were provided through the generosity of Aussie Hero Quilts.

Task Group Afghanistan recently held a fundraising barbecue as a way to distribute the quilts and laundry bags to personnel.

“During my time here, we’ve received 30 boxes with quilts and laundry bags for personnel in theatre,” she said.

“Everyone has received a laundry bag or quilt, if not both.

“We thought it was time to give back to the almost 200 volunteers who give their time, creativity and money to make these for us.

“The Task Group headquarters raised money through gold coin donations and a raffle for a day off — a coveted prize on operations.

“We managed to raise almost $1000, which I’m told could make more than 90 quilts,” LCPL Lahey said.

“It’s not just about the quilts though, they put a lot of love and care into the packages they come in as well, and they always seem to arrive at the perfect time, just when someone needs it most.

“To know that a complete stranger has put so much thought and care into sending a laundry bag or quilt to you, it puts a smile on your face every time you see it.”

For more information on Aussie Hero Quilts visit www.aussieheroquilts.blogspot.com

Honouring our naval history

CMDR Greg Swinden

A SERVICE was held at the Australian War Memorial on September 8 for a little known, but highly decorated RAN unit from WWI.

The RAN Bridging Train was formed in Melbourne in March 1915, from naval reservists, for service as a horse-drawn bridging and engineering unit on the Western Front.

The Bridging Train served at Gallipoli where 19-year-old ABDVR Charles Schenke died from wounds he received on September 8, 1915.

His story formed part of the service held 100 years on. Born in Spotswood in 1896 he was a member of the RAN Reserve and trained as a fitter and turner. AB Charles had to obtain his mother’s permission to enlist and joined the unit on April 20, 1915, and embarked for active service in the trooopship Port Macquarie on June 3, 1915.

After arriving in Egypt in July, the unit was attached to the British Royal Engineers and diverted to the Gallipoli Peninsula. They landed at Suvla Bay (just to the north of Anzac Cove) on August 8, 1915, and were soon hard at work building wharves to help with the unloading of stores, food, water and ammunition and with the evacuation of wounded personnel.

All of this was done under heavy Turkish shell fire.

On September 5, AB Schenke was badly wounded in the head by shell fragments and, despite being evacuated to a hospital ship for treatment, he died from his wounds three days later and was buried at sea.

His name is now recorded on the Lone Pine Memorial to the Missing. His mate, CPO Edward Perkins, from Essendon, was killed in action on September 6, 1915, when his dugout took a direct hit from a Turkish shell. He was later buried at Hill 10 Cemetery at Suvla Bay.

Relatives of both AB Schenke and CPO Perkins were at the Australian War Memorial a century later to commemorate their service and sacrifice.

The families attended a presentation about the unit, and the Last Post Ceremony where wreaths for both men were laid by family members.

AB Schenke’s grandniece Yvonne Knipe said she was pleased to be able to attend.

“We were very honoured to be invited to this wonderful event where we had the chance to remember Charles’ death 100 years ago,” she said.

“From my earliest days we were told stories about Charles from my Nana, he was her brother, so we felt that affinity for him dying so young at only 19.”

The Bridging Train was at Gallipoli until the evacuation in December 1915 and were the last Australians to leave the peninsula in the early hours of December 20, 1915.

Twenty awards for bravery and devotion to duty were later awarded to the unit for their service there.
Newcastle gets warm welcome

Natalie Staples

AFTER 180 days, HMAS Newcastle returned triumphantly from the Middle East region to Garden Island, Sydney on September 29.

Newcastle intercepted about 1.4 tonnes of heroin, valued at around $1.2 billion while deployed on Operation Manitou.

The ship’s company of 228 were welcomed back by COMWAR CDRE Peter Leavy along with family and friends.

CDRE Leavy said the narcotic seizures were significant and would have an impact.

“This was a remarkable effort that denied terrorist organisations funding and has taken the Australian Navy’s total seizures in the Middle East over the last two years to an estimated street value of $2.3 billion.”

CO Newcastle CMDR Dominic MacNamara said his ship’s company had done an exceptional job.

“Everyone dug in and gave this deployment their all,” CMDR MacNamara said.

“Newcastle conducted 50 boardings and flew 70 sorties. This effort yielded a terrific result, of which we are very proud.

“Each of us is looking forward to sharing our success with our family and friends and thanking them for their support.”

RAN ships have been continuously deployed to the Middle East since the start of the first Gulf War in 1990. Newcastle was the 60th rotation and was replaced on station by sister-ship, HMAS Melbourne.

Defence Minister ‘committed’ to job

New Defence Minister Senator Marise Payne is congratulated by Governor-General GEN Sir Peter Cosgrove (ret’d) after being officially sworn in at Government House.

AUSTRALIA’S first female Defence Minister Senator Marise Payne was sworn in at Government House on September 21.

Senator Payne took over from previous Defence Minister Kevin Andrews and brings a wealth of experience to the crucial role after serving as the chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade for many years.

Senator Payne said there was no more important obligation or duty for government than protecting the safety of our nation and our people.

“The role of Defence Minister in that capacity in the cabinet is significant,” she said.

“I take it on with a great sense of responsibility, a great sense of history and honour and a significant obligation to our nation.

“I want to acknowledge the work the men and women of the ADF do every single day for this nation and tell them they have my absolute commitment to serve as best as I possibly can.”

In 1997 Senator Payne filled a casual vacancy to represent the people of NSW in the Senate. She was then elected in 2001, 2007 and 2013.

Outside parliament, Senator Payne continues to work in the community on issues as diverse as human rights, emerging technologies and the implications of our ageing population.

She is a committed fan of St George/ Illawarra and the Geelong Cats, an enthusiastic supporter of the arts in Australia, spends as much time as she can in the Southern Highlands in NSW and she cooks for therapy.

Senator Payne and her partner live in Mulgoa in Western Sydney.

Above, CPOCTS Sean Hardy holds his son for the first time on the wharf of Fleet Base East after returning home aboard HMAS Newcastle.

Left, CO HMAS Newcastle CMDR Dominic MacNamara hugs his children.

LSATA Warwick Douglas displays a banner proposing to his partner, who is waiting on the wharf, as HMAS Newcastle returns home from a successful rotation of Operation Manitou. Inset, they kiss after she accepted.

Photos: ABIS Tom Gibson

Photo: David Foote

I want to acknowledge the work the men and women of the ADF do every single day for this nation.

– Senator Marise Payne, Defence Minister

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AUSTRALIA'S first female Defence Minister Senator Marise Payne was sworn in at Government House.
Huon’s big bang theory

HMAS Huon has disposed of more than three tonnes of unexploded ordnance, on land and in the water surrounding Quail and Bare Sand Islands, about 65km south-west of Darwin.

The disposal was part of the Department of Defence’s unexploded ordnance (UXO) hazard reduction program on the former Quail Island Air Weapons Range. It was used by RAAF and allied aircraft from WWII until the late 1970s to practice low level bombing and strafing activities.

CO Huon CMDR Richard Caton said the ship and her crew were well equipped and well trained in the disposal of underwater ordnance.

“Huon contains sophisticated seabed search equipment and our embarked clearance diving teams have extensive ordnance disposal experience in the Middle East, South East Asia and the South Pacific,” CMDR Caton said.

“Although we deployed from Sydney to Australia’s northern waters to participate in routine civil maritime security operations, we were serendipitously in the right place at the right time to lend a hand.”

Huon conducted the land disposal of nine items of ordnance on Quail Island, some as large as 45kg, and the underwater disposal of four items of ordnance located in the vicinity of Bare Sand Island.

Assistant Director Environmental Remediation Programs (UXO) Brian Barkworth said the opportunity to use the skills of Huon’s clearance diving teams enhanced the efficiency of the disposal.

“There has been some excellent work carried out by contractors G-TEK Australia and locally based ADF teams in the location and disposal of UXO on land,” Mr Barkworth said.

“The assistance offered by Huon has expedited this process tremendously and we are on track for a successful conclusion of the remediation program.”

The Department of Defence UXO hazard reduction program started in 2011 with the aim of restoring Quail Island, Bare Sand Island and Djedjelbi (sometimes called the Great Islands) to traditional owners as part of the Kenbi Land Claim.
Taking action for health

Michelle Fretwell

As the peak mental health body in the Northern Territory, the NT Mental Health Commission is encouraging people to take action for their own mental health and that of others.

At the recent launch of the ‘Take Action’ campaign, NTMHC executive committee member Dr Eliza MacKenzie said mental health is everyone’s business.

“Mental health affects everyone,” she said. “It affects you, me, our families and friends. It affects our workplaces, our schools and our communities. It’s a global issue, and it affects us all.”

Dr MacKenzie said the ‘Take Action’ campaign was designed to help people take control of mental health and wellbeing.

“There is a lot we can all do to support good mental health and wellbeing,” she said. “It’s about looking out for ourselves and each other.”

Public contributions are being invited as part of the campaign, with people encouraged to give ideas about how they take action for their own mental health or that of others.

The NTMHC is also launching a new online ‘Take Action’ tool, which supports people to take action for their own mental health and that of others.

Dr MacKenzie said the tool was designed to help people look at their own mental health and the mental health of others.

“The ‘Take Action’ tool helps people identify what they can do to support their own mental health and that of others,” she said. “It’s a simple, practical tool that can help people take positive action.”

For more information, visit https://ntmhc.org.au/take-action/.

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Inaugural Indian exercise triumph

THE inaugural bilateral maritime exercise between India and Australia, AUSINDEX15, has concluded in Visakhapatnam, India. The activity brought together ships and aircraft from both countries to strengthen defence co-operation under the Framework for Security Cooperation announced by the Australian and Indian Prime Ministers last year.

Head Navy Capability, RADM Jonathan Mead was on location in India for part of the exercise and said the relationship between the two militaries was strategically significant.

"Economic and strategic growth in South Asia is creating a foothold for the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific," RADM Mead said.

"We have mutual interests in promoting peace and prosperity in the region."

Three RAN vessels and a RAAF AP-3C made the passage to India for the inaugural biennial exercise.

HMAS Sirius, Arunta and Sheean successfully trained with Indian Navy Ships Shivalik, Ranvijayi and Shakti, along with P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft during the week-long activity.

The exercise started with briefings and practical demonstrations ashore, before progressing to sea for surface and anti-submarine warfare and coordinated anti-submarine exercises.

AUSINDEX is expected to be held every two years.

Personnel take birthday celebrations very Siriusly

POML-P Raymond O’Sullivan

The crew of HMAS Sirius took some time out during AUSINDEX to celebrate the ships ninth birthday since commissioning on September 16, 2006.

Built at the Hyundai Mipo Dockyard in South Korea as a commercial tanker, Sirius was purchased by the Australian government and underwent conversion in Western Australia to a replenishment vessel.

With capacity to carry more than 34,000 cubic metres of fuel, Sirius is the largest fuel replenishment vessel in the RAN.

Sirius’ chefs came to the party with ABML-C Kiralee Ekin preparing a mouth-watering chocolate cake to celebrate the occasion.

In keeping with tradition, the youngest member on board, ABBM Stephanie Hourigan, and CO CMDR Darren Grogan were given the task of cutting the cake.

However, in a break from tradition, visiting Indian Navy Liaison Officer LEUT Aravind Bhat was also invited to join in as a third member to help cut the cake.

When asked how he felt to be part of Sirius’ birthday celebration, LEUT Bhat described it as “something I never expected but a privilege to be invited to take part in the ceremony – the cake was also much nicer than on my ship”.

Sirius was not the only one to have a birthday during AUSINDEX.

SWO Jodi Bonney also chalked up another birthday at sea.

“I have had at least 12 birthdays at sea during my 30-year career but am yet to have one as close to a ship or submarine I have served on,” WO Bonney said.

ABBM Stephanie Hourigan, CMDR Darren Grogan and LEUT Aravind Bhat cut the cake to celebrate HMAS Sirius’ ninth birthday. Sirius was at sea supporting AUSINDEX. Photo: LSIS Bradley Darvill
Delving into Navy mysteries

LCDR Jeremy Richardson

CO HMAS Sydney IV LCDR David Murphy recently visited LCDR James Glossop (retd), son of VADM John Glossop who gained fame as the first CO of Sydney I.

Intriguingly, the purpose of the visit was to help solve one of the Navy’s most enduring mysteries connected with the loss of Sydney II.

While there, LCDR Murphy was also shown one of the most significant original documents dealing with the RAN’s early history.

The document, a five-volume war diary, covers the years 1914-18 and was written up daily by VADM Glossop. Stretching across more than 2000 pages, it provides a fascinating insight into the first Sydney’s service during WWI, including the RAN’s initial campaigns in the South Pacific, her victory over SMS Emden at the Cocos Islands and then her activities in the West Indies and North Sea.

A goldmine of information for naval historians, the diaries have now been digitised by the Sea Power Centre – Australia, and will soon be uploaded to the naval history component of the Navy’s website to allow easy access to researchers.

“To hold in your hands the captain’s personal account of the Australian Navy’s first and most famous sea victory is mind-blowing,” LCDR Murphy said.

Coincidentally, VADM Glossop’s nephew, SIG Ian Maxwell, was serving on board Sydney II during her engagement with HSK Kormoran off Geraldton in November 1941. Both ships were lost in the battle, Sydney with all 645 members of her crew.

Subsequently the body of a sailor was found off Christmas Island in one of Sydney’s Carley floats and buried ashore. The identity of these remains has since been subject to intense debate, with a forensic investigation under way since they were exhumed in 2006 and reburied at the Geraldton War Cemetery.

Armed with a DNA test kit, LCDR Murphy paid LCDR Glossop (retd), a visit. CMDR Greg Swinden has been investigating Sydney II’s crew members for possible matches to the Christmas Island body.

“Due to SIG Maxwell’s age, height and not being excluded through dental records so far, he remains a possible match to the unknown sailor,” he said.

The quality of dentistry on the remains indicates a middle-class upbringing. Through further isotope and DNA testing, the bones showed evidence of seafood in his diet, which largely rules out sailors who grew up in rural regions. The evidence also points to a sailor of about 183cm tall, with fair or red hair and blue or green eyes.

“Through a process of elimination, we have been able to reduce the list of possible matches from the crew to less than 100.

“By testing Mr Glossop, we will further reduce that list, or hopefully find a match and solve the mystery,” CMDR Swinden said.

Despite his 90 years of age, LCDR Glossop (retd), who served in the Royal Navy during WWII, was a good sport in providing the required DNA sample, and very happy to assist in solving the mystery.

The results of the DNA test are due in the near future.

Anybody who has a relative who was serving on board Sydney II during her loss is urged to contact Commander Swinden via email on greg.swinden@defence.gov.au

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Transit element recognised

LEUT Des Paroz

DEFENCE personnel of Transit Security Element 77 (TSE 77) assigned to Operation Resolute have been recognised at Darwin’s Larrakeyah Barracks.

The ceremony, held on September 16, recognised the efforts of 83 personnel and was attended by Commander 13 Brigade BRIG David Thompson and Deputy Commander Joint Task Force 639 CDRE Brenton Smyth.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Operational Service Medal – Border Protection to those RAN and Australian Army members of TSE 77 who had not received the award for previous Operation Resolute deployments.

Reviewing officer CDRE Smyth noted the continuing importance of Transit Security Element rotations in the protection of Australian maritime security.

“It is an honour and a pleasure to be here this afternoon, in this fantastic location where the land meets the sea,” CDRE Smyth said. “Particularly for those ‘in green’ this location is symbolic in recognising what you have achieved in going to sea in Australian Navy ships, supporting Resolute which deals with eight different maritime threats.”

Although Resolute is a domestic operation, it is one in which the Australian government has placed a high priority and the awarding of this medal reflects your contribution to defending Australia’s strategic interests.”

MAJ Bob Colligan was the Officer Commanding TSE 77 from 13 Brigade, an Army Reserve brigade from Perth.

“All but two of the Army members of TSE 77 are reservists, so along with one Navy reservist, some 59 of our 83 members are part time members of the ADF,” MAJ Colligan said.

“With TSE 77 members having an average of 43 days at sea, the highlight of our six-month deployment would have to have been the opportunity for soldiers and sailors to work in a joint environment, gaining a greater understanding of each other’s work and roles.”

“Of the 31 missions completed, 29 consisted of mixed Navy and Army teams, so the deployment was a great training opportunity, particularly for our junior leaders.”

Having handed over to TSE 78, the members of TSE 77 are now returning home, with full-time members returning to other duties while the Reserve members will return to civilian work and studies.

Spinning out for Ocsober

LEUT Gary McHugh

IT WAS all aboard the stationary bikes on September 25 as personnel from HMAS Stirling took part in the annual 24-hour spinathon to raise awareness for Ocsober.

About 100 Stirling personnel participated in Ocsober to drink alcohol during October in an attempt to live a healthier life while raising money for Life Education.

The money is then used by the organisation to teach Australian children how to enjoy a healthy lifestyle by not participating in alcohol or drugs.

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The ANZAC Centenary is a milestone of special significance to all Australians, marking 100 years since our nation’s involvement in the First World War. During the ANZAC Centenary we remember not only the original ANZACs who served at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, but commemorate more than a century of service by Australian servicemen and women.
Have cannon will travel

SGT Dave Morley

A SMALL model cannon that was removed from Hobart’s Anglesea Barracks Sergeants’ Mess (ABSM) in October 2014 was returned to the mess on September 25, resulting in a considerable donation to Legacy.

NQG-Tac OPSO, and ABSM secretary, COPOCSM Jamie Schmith said the cannon was originally donated to the mess by senior sailors from the Bathurst-class corvette HMAS Wagga when the ship visited Hobart in 1956.

“A tradition started where the Navy ‘acquire’ the cannon whenever they’re in port and, on relocating it, are required to donate $20 to Legacy and then 50 cents a day while it’s gone,” CPO Schmith said.

“The historic cannon is the soldiers’ version of ‘The Esther Williams Trophy’ with what is felt a lot more history.

“The cannon was in the Dardanelles on Anzac Day this year before being transferred from HMNZS Te Kaha, which ‘acquired’ it from HMAS Arunta, while in Albany commemorating the final embarkation of Anzac forces before sailing for Cairo.”

According to CPO Schmith, the cannon had some interesting new additions.

“It has a plaque from VADM Horatio Nelson’s flagship HMS Victory, the oldest ship still in commission with the Royal Navy, and exlusively run by chief petty officers,” he said.

CPOMT Mark Powell, mess president of the CPO/WO’s mess in HMAS Anzac, accompanied the cannon for the official handover at ABSM.

According to CPO Powell, he took possession of the cannon on the morning of April 25 after receiving it from Te Kaha while off Canakkale in Turkey.

“Anzac took receipt of the cannon before Te Kaha sailed for Operation Manitou, when both ships were moored in the Dardanelles Strait, a fitting chapter to the history of the cannon,” he said. “The transfer was by RHIB.”

CPO Schmith said with the return of the cannon to ABSM, Legacy received donations amounting to $1,500 from its 11-month absence.

“The Kiwis donated $550, the crews of Arunta $500, and Anzac $450,” he said.

After each ‘liberation’ took place, small plaques were added to the base, with additional wooden bases being added as more space was needed, with the current bottom base being made from part of the deck of USS Missouri.

The cannon will remain at ABSM until next time.

The model cannon is returned to Anglesea Barracks (above) after spending some of its 11-months away on board HMNZS Te Kaha (inset) on Anzac Day in the Dardanelles.

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A MAJOR step towards delivering a comprehensive helicopter training system for the ADF occurred on September 12 with the start of a $157 million construction project at HMAS Albatross and Jervis Bay Airfield.

A sod-turning ceremony was held to mark the start of the project, which is the culmination of two years of planning by the Department of Defence to build facilities to support helicopter training for both the RAN and Australian Army.

The project is in support of the introduction of the new Helicopter Aircrew Training System for the ADF, which will allow for students to be trained in real helicopters with the latest training aids and simulation.

The facility will be completed by mid-2017 and will provide the most advanced helicopter aircrew training in the southern hemisphere.

The project includes a new training centre, refurbished hangars and workshops, and new living accommodation.

COMFAA CDRE Vince Di Pietro said the ceremony provided an important opportunity to acknowledge how much had already been achieved and what the project would mean.

“The modernisation of this training base with its proud heritage of being the home of naval aviation is giving it a long awaited facelift, and today we add another footprint on the journey toward this being arguably the most advanced helicopter aircrew training facility in the southern hemisphere,” he said.

“What is currently done with whiteboards and magnetic training aids will be done with computer based modules and simulation.

“Emergencies we currently train for in real helicopters we will do in flight simulators.

“The longevity of what we are doing here today is not lost on any of us here in uniform and we acknowledge and recognise the taxpayers’ trust.”

All works at HMAS Albatross are planned to be completed by mid-2017.

In full flight, the facility will have a training capacity of up to 130 students a year covering pilots, aviation warfare officers, aircrewmen, sensor operators and qualified aircrew returning for instructor training.

Introduction of the new system will allow for students to be trained at the new facilities from 2018.

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**The fight against the IED**

Cpl Mark Doran

TO PROMOTE strategic cooperation in the field of counter improvised explosive devices (CIED), the inaugural International CIED Leaders’ Forum was hosted in Canberra by INTERPOL, the ADF and the AFP from September 2-4.

The forum was attended by close to 300 senior government, law enforcement and military representatives from more than 70 countries and organisations, including the United Nations, NATO, African Union and International Bomb Data Centre.

The aim of the forum was to support the creation of a global alliance that unites and focuses efforts to combat the IED threat.

Your key pillars of work underpin those efforts – component controls, capacity building, public awareness and information sharing.

The key areas for information exchange are IED technologies, precursor materials and the individuals and groups who construct and use IED weapons.

The exchange will carefully balance the need to share principle with the need to know.

VADM Ray Griggs said the CIEDVADM Ray Griggs said the forum increased awareness of common goals and enhanced the ability of military law enforcement agencies to disrupt and neutralise IED networks.

“There is little doubt we need a collaborative global response to the IED threat, and this forum has provided a launching pad for future cooperation and information sharing,” VADM Griggs said.

“The solution does not rest solely with the military.

From here the ADF will continue to work with the AFP and our international partners towards establishing a global CIED alliance and broader consensus on how to address this threat.”

VADM Griggs said the ADF had been involved in a tragic way by the scourge of IEDs over a number of years during its operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was a real issue for us and a number of years ago we set up the CIED Task Force which still exists today and has been doing some world-leading work in association with the AFP and INTERPOL,” he said.

“It was a natural alignment for the three groups to host the forum, which was crucial to the continuation of the fight against IEDs.”

“Information sharing was a big theme, that’s because information sharing is important for us being able to adapt and react to the threat as it changes and evolves, which it does on a regular basis.

“I am pleased we now have the global alliance and look forward to the week to be conducted over the next year or so.”

The global alliance to counter IEDs will encourage participating countries to adopt a whole-of-government approach to focus law enforcement, military and diplomatic channels towards an international response aimed at reducing the IED threat to save lives.

INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock said the world police body stood ready to play its part in moving the alliance forward.

“The discussions underlined that dealing with the threat of IEDs is a complex issue, which cannot be addressed by any single agency or country alone,” Secretary General Stock said.

“IEDs are a number one killer as they pose a danger not only to Defence Force members on the battlefield, but also civilians, as we have seen this year with more than 10,000 casualties from IEDs around the globe.

“We all agree more needs to be done to address this threat and the forum has provided a valuable and constructive way forward, particularly through its support for the creation of the global alliance to counter IEDs.”

SECRETARY General Stock said that the global alliance would focus on law enforcement, military and diplomatic channels to form an international response to reduce the IED threat and save lives.

“INTERPOL will provide its full support to the alliance and our common goal to make the world a safer place,” he said.

“We have a mechanism already in place in Lyon and in Singapore to facilitate information sharing and the exchange of best practice for capacity building and training activities, which will be INTERPOL’s main role in this important international initiative.”

Assistant Commissioner AFP Julian Slater said all members of the forum were aware of the international threat of IEDs.

“We have been working for many years in collaboration with our partners to do what we can to mitigate that threat,” Assistant Commissioner Slater said.

“The forum is the first step in a new initiative that’s going to provide us with a platform to bring us together even more comprehensively than has been the case in the past.

“Information is the key in limiting the impact of IEDs across the globe.

“This sharing can be done with appropriate protocols in place to balance the integrity of investigations with the need to inform our partners.

“A global knowledge bank of IED information can only assist all of us in dealing with these lethal explosives.”

An international forum was held in Canberra to create a global alliance to help combat the threat of IEDs such as those uncovered in Afghanistan (above).

Inset: Among the attendees at the forum were VCDFVADM Ray Griggs, left, Secretary General INTERPOL, Jürgen Stock, and Assistant Commissioner AFP, Julian Slater. Photos: POIS Paul Berry and CPL Mark Doran.

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Emergency detour

HMAS Melbourne’s medical officer LEUT Terri Chapman attended a serious injury involving a merchant vessel in the southern Arabian Sea on September 20. The crew of Melbourne requested a medical response to assist the crew of a merchant vessel, the City of Beijing, which required medical assistance for a critically ill historian. Melbournes’ medical team was deployed to assist the ship at sea.

LEUT Chapman said the patient was a merchant mariner who had sustained a critical injury while working on board the vessel. The medical team treated the patient and ensured that the vessel had a safe and stable platform. The patient was then transferred to a nearby naval hospital for further treatment.

Melbourne’s medical team was highly trained and equipped to handle such emergencies. They were able to quickly assess the situation and provide the necessary medical care to the patient. The team worked closely with the vessel’s crew to ensure a smooth and safe transfer of the patient.

Melbourne’s medical team was highly commended for their quick response and efficient handling of the situation. Their dedication to providing top-quality medical care was evident in the way they handled the emergency. They demonstrated their professionalism and expertise in a challenging and critical situation.

This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of having a well-equipped medical team on board a naval vessel. The team’s ability to respond quickly and efficiently can make a significant difference in the outcome of such emergencies. Melbourne’s medical team is a shining example of the professionalism and dedication required in such situations.
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THIS AUSTRALIAN SHIPBUILDER IS SUSTAINING RIGHT NOW


ABCIS Emma Radford attaches flags on HMAS Stuart. Photo: ABIS Kayla Hayes.

SBLT James Chinnner on the bridge of HMAS Canberra as the ship leaves Townsville during Exercise Sea Series. Photo: LSIS Helen Frank.

General Entry 335, Shipp Division, march off the parade ground at the end of their graduation held at the RAN Recruit School HMAS Cerberus. Photo: ABIS James McDougall.

NEOC 53 members and staff, with six personnel of the Indonesian Navy at HMAS Creswell. The Indonesian sailors are part of an exchange program.

Photo: ABIS Sarah Williams.

NEOC 53 members and staff, with six personnel of the Indonesian Navy at HMAS Creswell. The Indonesian sailors are part of an exchange program.

Photo: ABIS Sarah Williams.
ONE of the most daunting tasks any ADF member can deal with is the death of personnel on operations. It is a little-known or spoken of part of service, but for some personnel the need to deal with this sensitive topic is part of their role.

This is where the ADF Mortuary Affairs Officers Course (MAOC) comes in. A Level 4 MAOC took place at ADF Warfare Training Centre at RAAB Base Williamtown from August 3-6.

Senior instructor WGCDR Lindsay Guerin said the MAOC had been a work in progress for a number of years and had been largely developed by the Directorate of Military People Policy.

“The Level 4 course is pitched at the deployed environment, but the principles are relevant to all activities where a death might occur. The family and friends of a deceased member, and indeed the Defence community as a whole, deserve only the best practice to ensure their loved ones are returned efficiently and with dignity and respect at all times.”

WGCDR Guerin said the aim of the course was to ensure mortuary affairs (MA) was covered in any planning activity and provided officers at the tactical level with the understanding to provide quality advice to their commanders.

“This is achieved by providing students with an understanding of the MA process,” he said.

“It includes identification, scene management and legal jurisdiction, repatriation and case management.”

The course does not hold back on the subject of death and its multi-layered effects. Participants are exposed to content including graphic images from natural disasters, poignant images from many repatriations and a visit to a mortuary.

WGCDR Guerin said personnel selected to attend were either preparing to deploy, appointed as a Mortuary Affairs Officer (MAO), currently posted or preparing to post to a unit appointed as MAO, or posted or preparing to post into planning positions in joint or single service headquarters.

He also mentioned that this year two NZDF students and one NZDF instructor also attended and provided valuable input into their own MA experiences.

LEUT Ian Murphy was on the course and said he encouraged all ADF personnel to develop an awareness of the knowledge and experience provided from courses at ADFWC.

“Particularly the depth of detail which was provided in the MAOC regarding the roles and responsibilities of the MO and other supporting units and agencies,” LEUT Murphy said.

“Given that most units of the RAN undertake Operation Resolute, there is always a strong possibility of encountering humanitarian relief work on operations. So it’s important that personnel have an understanding of the initial actions through the Mortuary Affairs Level 1 Course.”

LEUT Murphy said MAOC provided the next level of training and complemented MA training packages.

“I recommend that where possible, maritime logistics and medical staff undertake training, particularly if deploying or proceeding on operations,” he said.

Also on the course was LEUT David Rose, who noted that MA was not usually an aspect of contemporary logistical planning as operational success is the primary goal.

“For many of us death has a ring of ‘failure’ or ‘the fog of war’ presence about it,” LEUT Rose said.

“However, the course equips the MO with the necessary tools to assist and guide command in this sad but necessary endeavour.”

The initiative for MA training was first launched in 2012 by head of People, Policy and Culture, Richard Oliver, with Level 1 training encompassing a 30-minute online Campus course detailing the importance of MA and equipping ADF personnel with a better understanding of the various administrative functions available to provide the necessary assistance to families in the event of a member’s death.

The course iterates the importance of individual preparedness, including preparation of wills and ensuring PMKeyS is updated with correct details.
FLGOFF Jessica Aldred

MEDICAL care is critical when the (ADF) goes on operations so it is vital to ensure personnel are ready and able to act as needed.

The triservice medical team on board HMAS Canberra was put through its paces during an exercise as part of Sea Series being held in the waters of North Queensland.

The medical team supports the amphibious ready element (ARE) from point of injury ashore through to hospital care aboard Canberra.

An aero-medical evacuation (AME) team works with health specialists on board who include general practitioners, emergency specialists, a surgeon, an anaesthetist, retrieval specialist, nursing officers, a radiographer, theatre technician, a laboratory technician, a pharmacist and a range of medical assistants.

The exercise gave the health team an opportunity to test their casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) process, with a realistic rehearsal based on a motor vehicle accident involving two critically injured patients.

Medical Officer CMDR Ross Mills planned the exercise in conjunction with 2nd Close Health Company, Maritime Operational Health Team (MOHT) and Canberra’s on-board medical team.

“The AME team flew to the accident site in an MRH90 and collected the ‘patients’, returning them to Canberra.

“They required resuscitation en route and were handed over to the specialist trauma team in the ship’s primary care receiving centre,” CMDR Mills said.

“This was a very worthwhile exercise, demonstrating that the CASEVAC system will work well when it is needed,” he said.

For the AME team, this success sets it up to provide critical care for future amphibious exercises and operations.
Serving Reserves and their immediate family can access counselling support via the Reserve Assistance Program.

Call 1300 361 008 for confidential, independent, free counselling.

For more information visit Reserve Assistance Program on People Connect.

IN BRIEF

Reserve review
A TEAM has been appointed to conduct a review of the structure, size, roles and management of the RAN Reserve. The objective of the review is to develop and propose a concept to be considered by Navy’s senior leadership for the optimal future generation, sustainment, employment and management of the reserve element of the Navy. DCN RADM Michael van Balen has appointed CAPT Franke Kresse, RANR, to lead the review team which is also to include a lieutenant commander and senior sailor.

Sight improvement
THE health policy on visual assessment and optical aids has recently been updated with no change to member entitlements. Members who need visual correction will still have routine testing on a three-yearly basis and will be supplied with two pairs of clear lenses and one tinted. However, members who have had spectacles prescribed by an optometrist no longer have to get a referral to an optometrist as well. Members who need correction for both near and distance will also now be initially trialled with multifocal lenses, rather than having multiple pairs of glasses for different purposes. The revised policy is available on the Defence Intranet at http://intranet.defence.gov.au/home/documents/data/ADFPUBS/HPD/HD212.PDF.

Foot policy changes
THE policies for the provision of orthotics and medically indicated footwear have been updated and combined into one policy to streamline the process for assessment and provision of these items. Members who have orthotics should take them with them when being fitted for standard issue boots and shoes. Only members with permanent medical conditions that stop them from wearing standard issue footwear need to have non-standard footwear made for them. These members will usually also need to have their medical employment classification reviewed. The revised policy is available at http://intranet.defence.gov.au/home/documents/data/ADFPUBS/HPD/HD256.PDF.
Recognising pain of peace

Rwanda peacekeepers are remembered at a service 20 years after their mission, Andrew Anderson reports.

The human cost of peacekeeping was highlighted during a recent commemorative service to honour Australia’s long and proud history of peacekeeping and peace-making in trouble spots across the world.

Twenty years after Australia completed its involvement in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), veteran of the deployment AIRCDRE Tracy Smart told the Canberra commemorative service on September 14 that what she and her colleagues experienced in Africa would stay with them always.

“On April 22, 1995, ADF members deployed under UNAMIR II witnessed a massacre of thousands of Rwandans at the Kibeho Internally Displaced Persons’ Camp. “These events have taken their toll on those who bore witness, but if not for the bravery, discipline and restraint of my colleagues who were present during these horrific events, the outcomes would have been far worse,” AIRCDRE Smart said.

“It is a miracle that no Australian lives were lost at that time.”

A study of Rwanda veterans commissioned by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) released last year found more than 32 per cent of those who served had an accepted claim for a mental health condition.

“Those who served had an accepted rate of post traumatic stress disorder. “Learning first hand of the incredible costs of missions such as these, where people may be put in harm’s way without a means to adequately protect themselves, has also been an important lesson for me, and has made me committed to ensuring we do all that we can in Defence and DVA to prevent, treat and manage such problems into the future,” AIRCDRE Smart said.

Since 1947, nearly 90,000 Australians, primarily ADF and Australian Federal Police members, have deployed on peacekeeping roles. Many peacekeepers have served on multiple missions.

Currently there are more than 50 ADF personnel deployed on peacekeeping roles, including Operation Aslan in South Sudan, Operation Paladin in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Operation Mazurka on the Sinai Peninsula, and Operation Palate II in Afghanistan.

“These individuals represent the very best this country has to offer,” AIRCDRE Smart said.

“I feel happy that we helped a country and people in desperate need to get back on their feet. “It is gratifying to see how much progress Rwanda has made. “The country has enjoyed a period of relative stability and economic prosperity since the dark days of the mid-90s.”

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The ADF Careers Expo – Tasmania was held in Hobart from September 18-19. The expo provided an opportunity for students and people interested in careers in the ADF to speak to personnel and learn about the hundreds of exciting and rewarding pathways into the ADF.

More than 70 ADF members from around Australia descended on Hobart to take part in the expo, which attracted more than 3700 visitors including more than 500 students from 15 schools around Tasmania.

Deputy Director Military Recruitment LTCOL Todd Everett opened the event and said Tasmanians turned out in force to support the expo.

“It was a great opportunity for Tasmanians to speak with personnel, and see some of the equipment in their Defence Force,” he said.

“It made me very proud to see how our people interacted with the public and they all represented the ADF to the highest standards.”

“The displays of ADF equipment at the expo and the demonstrations gave the people of Tasmania a rare chance to see and speak to their ADF.”

LSET SM Olivia Brown, of Defence Force Recruiting – Victoria, said the expo was a success.

“It was a great triservice effort, not only from the Tasmanian crew but from personnel around Australia,” she said.

“Community response was fantastic and it provided great exposure for the ADF to promote all careers in the military, but especially critical roles across all three services.”

The two-day event featured demonstrations from the Navy dive teams and Australia’s Federation Guard precision drill team, as well as physical fitness assessments.

Participants learned more about ADF capability with the Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle, Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, Navy flight simulator and G-Wagon vehicle on display.

Crowds were also entertained by performances from the Navy Cadet Band, Army Rising Sun and the Air Force Band.

A formation of Hawk 127 Lead-in-Fighters from No. 79 Squadron at RAAF Base Pearce conducted a flypast and the end of the expo was marked by an Air Force Roulettes aerial display over Salamanca Waterfront.
One split second was all it took for his life to change forever. When he returned home he was told he was the lucky one – he had survived. He tried to wipe it all away. With RSL’s support, his physical and emotional wounds are starting to heal.

At RSL Queensland, we are here to look after the men, women and families of those who cared enough to risk their own lives. To lend a hand. To support and guide. To show respect. And to say thank you.
Tales from the women of WWII

SGT Dave Morley

BEING told, “Hurry up, love, I don’t buy green bananas anymore,” by a female WWII veteran, spurred on an author to complete a book on the wartime experiences of Australian women.


She said the focus of her book was not facts and figures, but more on the efforts, experiences and feelings of the women she interviewed. “I distributed questionnaires during 2011-2013, and the interviewees generously and bravely shared their descriptions and anecdotes from their war years to help create this collection,” she said.

“The book is a living history, told at the 11th hour by a generation that were there, and no history textbook will tell it as well.”

The book covers all facets of WWII service, including the nursing services, the three branches of the forces, volunteers on the home front and women either living or serving overseas during the war.

*Nav News* has a signed copy of an author to complete a book on the wartime experiences of Australian women.

Dadswell grew up in the Victoria grape-growing community of Red Cliffs, which was also a major soldier settlement for those who had survived the horrors of WWI. “Growing up among former soldiers inevitably meant I heard stories of the men who were called on to do extraordinary things – live the life of a signaller in the days before wireless communications,” he said.

CDRE Toz Dadswell (retd) has realised a long dream and self published his first novel. “Twenty years ago I picked up my pen and *The Two Days in Your Life* is the result,” CDRE Dadswell said.

Although CDRE Dadswell spent 40 years in the RAN, he chose an Army setting for his writing, partly inspired by the story of his father who was a signaller in WWI.

“The book is centred on a team of Army signallers challenged by not only their battlefield foe, but also by living a disordered life in strange lands, far from home,” he said.

CDRE Dadswell grew up in the Victorian grape-growing community of Red Cliffs, which was also a major soldier settlement for those who had survived the horrors of WWI. “Growing up among former soldiers inevitably meant I heard stories throughout my childhood,” he said.

“My father also eventually wrote in detail of his experiences, recording life from the day of his enlistment to the time of returning to the community back in Australia.”

These stories led to CDRE Dadswell writing a work of fiction which tells something of the life of Australian signallers in the 1914-18 conflict. “Just like my father I didn’t use a typewriter but laboured with pen and pad over 20 years deciding on the elements which would tell the stories of the ordinary people who were called on to do extraordinary things – live the life of a signaller in the days before wireless communications.

“These were soldiers who ran telephone lines between Australian units, often over open country in full view of enemy soldiers, including snipers. “It was extraordinarily dangerous work and many paid the ultimate price of losing their lives.”

The dangers and the critical need for communications led to mateship among the soldiers that was tested to the limits of human endurance.

“It also led to the soldiers learning about ‘the two days’ which is reflected in the book’s title,” he said. “The ‘two days’ philosophy would help them face each day in battle, even when they feared it might be their last.”

The book is a dramatic re-telling of some of the war’s dramas, dangers and despairs. “It is also about the personal concerns of men far from home and loved ones. Above all, it is a story about human decency.”

For more information or to order a copy of the book, contact tozdadswell@westnet.com.au or call (02) 4442 1476. RRP $38.50 or ebook $7.95.
Don’t let credit get you down

Credit cards often have high interest rates that can quickly get out of hand, ASIC chairman Greg Medcraft writes.

Credit cards remain a hot topic for discussion as the Senate inquiry continues into the disparity between the cash rate set by the Reserve Bank of Australia and interest rates on credit cards.

It is a timely reminder to assess your own situation and take steps to minimise your credit card debt.

Interest rates on credit cards are often high compared to other forms of credit. The interest is calculated daily and compounded monthly.

For example, let’s say you have a revolving balance of $10,000 on your credit card which has an annual interest rate of 19 per cent. Your daily interest rate is 0.052 per cent (19 divided by 365):

- Each day going forward, your interest will be calculated daily and then billed at the end of the statement period. This amount will then be included in the daily interest calculation until it is paid off in full.
- Based on the example above, it is easy to see how credit card debt can spiral out of control.
- Before borrowing money in any form, always think about whether you can afford the repayments.
- Personal circumstances can change and significant debt could cause you financial hardship in the future.
- It is also a good idea to limit the number of credit cards you have.
- Many credit cards have annual fees and having more than one credit card means you may be paying extra fees for no good reason.

Consider alternatives to getting what you want without using your credit card, such as saving or putting an item on lay-by and gradually paying it off.

Interest-free deals can also be a good option, as long as you make sure you repay the total amount in the interest-free period. Be wary however, that many of these deals offered by retailers will require you to sign up for a credit card. Make sure you factor in fees and assess whether the benefit will outweigh the costs.

Interest-free deals shouldn’t be confused with the interest free period offered on many credit cards.

You may think spending up on big things is what gets you into trouble with money, but often it is the everyday little things that end up costing more over time.

ASIC’s MoneySmart website provides trusted and impartial guidance and online tools for Australians on issues relating to money and finances.

Try our budget planner to work out where your money is going or the TrackMySpend app – available on all smart devices – that lets you track your personal expenses on the go.

For more information visit www.moneysmart.gov.au/borrowing-and-credit/credit-cards

WHEN YOU TRANSITION, YOU’RE STILL PART OF THE FAMILY

Defence Health helps you chart a smoother course for your family’s health cover. If you transition to the active Reserves you’ll still get access to our exclusive ADF packages. If you’re leaving the forces, we’ll give your family a 10% discount on our mix and match range of products for the first 12 months following discharge. Join within 2 months of discharge, for bonus hospital and extras waiting period waivers.*

Call 1800 335 425 or visit defencehealth.com.au

*Conditions apply.
Best health service for you

Staff at Joint Health Command have been busy improving services for sailors this year.

UCH has been happening behind the scenes in Joint Health Command (JHC) this year to ensure ADF members are getting the best mental health and psychology services possible.

Early in the year, Garrison Health Operations implemented changes to the way mental health and psychology services were managed. The Mental Health Integration Project has resulted in some significant improvements:

- A single point of contact in each region to facilitate access to mental health and psychology services in your area. This is referred to as "intake" and means that each area now has a dedicated email or phone number for members to contact. It also means that everyone who contacts Mental Health and Psychology Services (MHPS) should get a reply within one to two business days.
- JHC now has processes to ensure people accessing services are allocated to the service provider that best meets their needs. This process means that post operational psychology screens (POPS), in-service requests, emergency support, critical incident mental health support and routine referrals can be better prioritised to meet the needs of the serving member and commanders.
- Sometimes mental health services will be referred off-base. Under the improved model, MHPS staff will monitor outcomes to ensure everyone using mental health services are getting appropriate care and their needs are being met. This means that if something isn’t working as well as it should, it can be changed, and if it is working well, it can remain.

These improvements have resulted in a number of benefits, including: the provision of customised care to serving members; the ability for people to access a range of mental health services and providers; improved access to services; and, a consistent approach in the way services are accessed and provided nationally.

To further improve access to care, JHC staff are also investigating options to have dedicated access to private mental health facilities in some regions. JHC is also looking at opportunities for ADF members to attend appointments with psychiatrists on base. These initiatives may not be possible in all regions, but are being considered for particular locations.

Medical Officer Mental Health Screen Pilot

In addition to the improvements in the mental health and psychology services, JHC is exploring opportunities to ensure accessing mental health care is as easy as possible.

While Defence has several avenues available for personnel to access mental health support, it is often easier for those who have deployed to achieve this because of the operational screening processes in place. The aim is for all members to access mental health services, irrespective of deployment status.

To help achieve this, a Mental Health Screening Continuum has been developed. This provides an opportunity for personnel to complete screening through their medical officer, not just at mental health and psychology sections.

The process is designed to be similar to a POPS and means a questionnaire can be completed when an individual has an existing medical appointment, so there is no need to book another one.

The concept is about to be tested through a pilot program, which will be run in the health centres at RAAF Base Edinburgh and HMAS Albatross. This will help provide feedback and take steps to improve the process before it is hopefully rolled out to all JHC facilities.

Further information is available at http://drnet.defence.gov.au/vcdf/JHC

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HELP AT HAND

SAILORS with mental health issues have a range of options available to help:

- speak to your chain of command;
- All-hours support line – 1800 628 036;
- Defence Family Helpline – 1800 624 608;
- Veterans and Veterans’ Families Counselling Service – 1800 011 046; and

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Still serving?


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HEALTH

Joint Health Command has a range of services to help sailors with mental health concerns.
Well worth wait

WO2 Andrew Hetherington

IT MAY have taken 19 years, but Navy squashed any hope Air Force had of making it back to back back to back national squash titles by winning the final 4-0 at RAFF Base Williamtown.

Navy got to the final after a close call against Army in the semi-finals, where they drew 2-2 at the end of play.

To decide which team would go into the final and play Air Force, a count of points scored by all players was conducted and Navy came out on top of Army by 18 points.

Team captain CPOET David White said this year Navy was able to field its strongest team ever for the finals.

"Since its inception in 1986, the ADF interservice squash title has been shared between Air Force and Army," CPO White said.

We took our winning confidence into the final against reigning champions, Air Force, to walk away with the silverware.

"It was the best I've played in a long time and while it was a gruelling, highly competitive match it was played in the best of spirits with plenty of humour too."

"It was amazing to have the whole tournament watching and encouraging me even though I didn't end up winning. I lost 3-2," CPO White said the service squash committee were trying to raise the profile of squash.

"It is not just for elite level players," he said.

"It was amazing to have the whole tournament watching and encouraging me even though I didn't end up winning. I lost 3-2."
ASRU heads to UK for title tilt

LSIS Jayson Tufrey

THE Australian Services Rugby Union (ASRU) men’s squad, including 10 Navy, 14 Army and four Air Force members, has headed to the UK to take on nine other nations.

The month-long International Defence Rugby Competition (IDRC) is hosted by the British armed forces and features 12 teams from 10 countries.

The IDRC came about when former CDF GEN David Hurley (ret’d) instigated the inaugural comp in 2011. While not officially affiliated with the Rugby World Cup, the concept was for the IDRC to be hosted in the same country and around the same time.

ASRU national operations manager LTCOL Adam Boyd said they finished second in 2011. „We made the final against the British Army who defeated us, so our first pool game this year is a repeat of that match and it could be a bit of a grudge match,” he said.

„The British Army is very much the benchmark. „They are clearly the favourites, although Fiji, in particular, is the dark horse of the competition.”

„Our preparation has gone well – our concentration period is relatively short but that seems the case every year so we do the best with what we have,” he said.

„The team is looking forward to going away and playing an international competition of this standard are few and far between and being in the ADF means we cannot be sure what we will be doing the next time this comes around.”

WO Doherty said this was a culmination of a four-year process. „We have trialled around 120 players over that period and we trialled different teams to see what our depth was going to be like,” he said.

„Our ultimate aim will be to play the final at Twickenham; whoever the opposition is doesn’t really matter, we’d just like to be there.”

Second rower ABATA Aaron Louden, of 816SQN, said he was one of only two guys left over from the inaugural 2011 IDRC.

„I’m expected to take on bit of a mentoring role for the younger players over that period and we trialled different teams to see what our depth was going to be like,” he said.

„My highlight will be playing in front of a crowd that large so that will be a great experience.”

„When we were in New Zealand four years ago the whole country got behind the World Cup, I think England will be just the same – there will be a good buzz, so I think just being in England will be a highlight as well.”

Follow the team’s progress via https://www.facebook.com/groups/ASRUMen or http://www.idrc.org.uk/
**Indigenous footballers to compete in Koori carnival**

**MAJ Felicity Hamblin**

INDIGENOUS players from across Defence are preparing to take part, for the first time, in the Koori Carnival, an indigenous Australian Rules football carnival to be held at the Epsom-Huntly Reserve Football Ground in Bendigo, Victoria, from October 16-19.

The event will attract more than 5000 indigenous members from across Australia with more than 25 teams participating. Chairman ADF Australian Rules BRIG Matt Hall said the carnival was a great opportunity to promote indigenous participation in ADF footy.

“We’re proud of our ability to not just promote men’s and women’s footy but to ensure ADF indigenous members can participate regardless of skill level and locality; our indigenous community brings unique athletic abilities to our national sport and we need to recognise this and harness their skills at every opportunity,” BRIG Hall said.

AB Arthur Bagie, of HMAS Creswell, said he was eager to play in the event.

“I can’t wait to meet all the brothers again from the three services because everyone’s pretty keen and we’re all looking forward to it,” he said.

AB Bagie said events like the Koori Carnival offered opportunities to indigenous members that were hard to beat.

“It’s a milestone for the future and it’s only going to get better from here,” he said.

“The more we take part in events like this the more exposure we will get and it will increase numbers of people wanting to play!”

Footballers across Victoria and the border regions of NSW and South Australia will participate in the carnival, including eight A-grade football teams.

BRIG Hall said he hoped members would see it’s not just about the competition but the lifestyle that goes along with participating in team sports.

“Our aims of this carnival are promoting a healthy lifestyle where each and every person’s talent and ability is welcomed on the field,” he said.

For more information about indigenous football, contact WO2 Mark Mahoney.
POATA Steve Atkins takes out clay shooting title for fifth consecutive year

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