STANDING TALL

Aircraft big and small thrill the crowds at the Williamtown Air Show

SHOWING OFF: A 36SQN C-17A was a major drawcard at the 2010 Williamtown Air Show, attracting a 150m-long line of people eager to look inside its huge airframe. The Roulettes were also a popular attraction, with their formation aerobatic display (pictured inset). Photos: LAC Craig Barrett

Also inside:
Top 100 for Globemaster
Page 3

X-ray vision in Pakistan
Page 5

34SQN’s VIP treatment
Pages 10-11
Pacific Partnership comes to end

AustraliA’s largest contribution to the annual US-led humanitarian assistance mission Pacific Partnership 2010 recently wrapped up in Papua New Guinea, after treating almost 110,000 patients. More than 300 ADF personnel participated in the mission to provide health and dental care to patients at medical clinics and surgeries onboard USNS Mercy, while also participating in health education programs and completing engineering projects.

Medical officer FLTLT Stephen Walker was one of several RAAF members to participate. He is pictured left treating a local at the St Mary’s Vunapope Secondary School medical clinic in Papua New Guinea.

Letter of thanks for Air Force support

From CAF:

RECENT events in Afghanistan have put additional pressure on Air Force and presented a challenge to all involved – a challenge met with the usual professionalism, determination and compassion that Australians are world-famous for.

As in previous years, we have met our operational commitments to both the ADF and our coalition partners. But the recent tragic loss of Australian soldiers in Afghanistan, especially in the past few months, has meant that many of you have had to take on more tasks and put in more hours than ever before.

From the crews and support personnel of the C-130J and C-17A, to the Combat Support Unit personnel in the MEAO and back here in Australia, every one of you has risen to the challenge to meet these important missions to bring home our soldiers who have been killed or injured in action.

I am on the Senior Leadership Team wish to thank all of you who have worked tirelessly this year and in particular over the past few months.

These tasks, which cannot be planned for in advance, have come on top of our operational commitments in the MEAO, on Operations Resolute, Gateway, Astute and Anode, and more recently Pakistan Assist.

It has been a fantastic effort from all of you and one that has been noted outside of Air Force. My personal thanks to all who have been involved for a job well done. Right is a letter that I received from the Chief of Army articulating his personal appreciation.

The last few months have been a particularly trying time for Army as we have come to terms with a number of deaths and serious injuries from operations in Afghanistan. I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you to pass on my personal appreciation for the outstanding service we have received from Air Force in supporting our casualties in recent times.

Your air crew and support staff have always managed the very difficult task of moving our dead and injured soldiers from theatre back to Australia with dignity and care. I have also appreciated the outstanding support we have received from your base commanders as we have conducted our ramp ceremonies at various locations across Australia. These are important events for the families and friends of our soldiers who have been killed in action and the support and understanding of your base staff in accommodating the services has been outstanding. I know you have also been instrumental in moving our people around Australia to attend the various memorial services and funerals for their mates.

Your support in all of these areas has been strongly appreciated by all of those involved in the difficult task of farewellign our fallen soldiers.

Again, Mark, my sincere thanks for the ongoing support of Air Force in these difficult times.

From: Lieutenant General K.J. Gillespie, AO, DSC, DSM
Chief of Army

August 2010

CDF goes on the record

DURING a round-table press briefing on September 13, CDF ACM Angus Houston paid tribute to members of the ADF serving in Afghanistan.

He said the troops wanted to thank the people of Australia for their support and wanted to place on the record his admiration for the job they are doing.

“Morale is high and the momentum is shifting our way,” CDF said.

“It’s important for them and their families to know how much we appreciate the work they do and to recognise the complexity of the task they perform on a daily basis. It is not easy.”

Military campaigns are difficult and we will have setbacks. But it is important that we maintain our resolve, push forward with the strategy and keep the pressure on the Taliban.

He said we remained committed and our efforts were respected and appreciated by the people of Uruguay and our Coalition partners.

“There should be no doubt about the relevance of Afghanistan to Australia’s own security. More than 100 Australians have been killed over the last decade as a result of terrorist attacks which had direct links to Afghanistan.”

CDF goes on the record

GREAT SADNESS: PTE Scott Palmer, the commando killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on June 21.

THE family of PTE Scott Palmer, the commando killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on June 21, has expressed their thanks to the ADF for its support.

In a letter to CDF ACM Angus Houston, Mr Ray Palmer thanked the ADF for the treatment, respect and dignity afforded to his family during their time of grief.

“Scott’s passing has been a period of great sadness and sorrow, but the efforts of your staff to ease our pain have been a great comfort and support,” Mr Palmer wrote.

ACM Houston said he was very pleased to receive the letter from Mr Palmer.

“I particularly acknowledge the efforts of 7RAR, 2 Commando Regiment and the Defence Community Organisation, all of whom combined to provide most of the support to the Palmer family,” ACM Houston said.

“When we lose someone on operations, I am grateful that these grieving families receive such a high level of personal and compassionate support from so many areas within Defence.”

Mr Palmer wrote his family was appreciative of the tireless work by ADF personnel to ensure that Scott’s repatriation, funeral and final resting was done in a dignified manner befitting an Australian soldier.

“We couldn’t have asked for more,” Mr Palmer said.

ACM Houston said personnel involved in supporting all the families who have recently lost loved ones on operations should take great pride in their efforts.
Century up for C-17As

Eamon Hamilton

JUST over a year and 4500 tonnes since their first intra-theatre mission, the Air Force’s fleet of C-17A aircraft has recorded 100 missions in the Middle East. The C-17A has supported Operations Kruger and Catalyst in Iraq and Operation Slipper in Afghanistan.

Crews and technicians fly to the MEAO with each C-17A to conduct their missions for up to a week at a time, before returning to Australia. This has been the case since the first Middle East intra-theatre mission to Baghdad on July 22 last year.

Powered by four turbofan engines, the C-17A can lift up to 70 tonnes of cargo and can accommodate passengers, outsized cargo, vehicles, or aeromedical evacuation patients.

Eamon Hamilton

“Throughout these missions, the pilots and loadmasters at 36SQN have helped in achieving 100 intra-theatre missions.”

The C-17A has delivered a tremendous boost in the airborne logistics capability available to the ADF and its coalition partners. This supplements existing in-theatre assets such as three 36SQN C-130Js which are deployed to Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates.

“During the 100 missions, our C-17A crews have transported Chinook helicopters, protected mobility vehicles such as the Bushmaster and Australian Light Armoured Vehicles, radar units and a variety of stores and supplies,” WGCDR Williams said.

In addition to the 100 missions within the MEAO, Air Force has conducted 91 missions involving the C-17A from Australia to the Middle East since July 2007.

In another milestone, the Air Force’s C-17A fleet recently surpassed 10,000 total flying time since delivery of the first aircraft in December 2006. The hours were achieved in mid-August, during an intense period of activity while 36SQN was conducting Middle East tasking, and concurrent support for Operation Pakistan Assist II.

Command swap for ALG

Eamon Hamilton

CHANGE is afoot at Air Lift Group (ALG).

On October 1, command of 36SQN will be swapped from 86WG to 37SQN, in the first step to deliver a more efficient air mobility service.

OC 84WG GPCAPT Peter Wood will become responsible for all C-130 training and operational capability. Until October 1, GPCAPT Richard Lennon said, “In the last five years, we’ve seen ALG change its fleet of aircraft, its locations, and its operational commitments, but its command structure has remained the same,” GPCAPT Wood said.

“Collocating units like 285SQN and 37SQN under the same wing will allow us to better deliver one of the ADF’s most important capabilities.”

On October 1, Air Movements Training Development Unit (AMTDU) at RAAF Base Richmond will also move from its present command of 84WG to come directly under command of HQ ALG.

Further down the track, 86WG will become responsible for 33SQN in late 2011 when that squadron emerges from command of the Director KC-30A Transition Team.

To better manage 33SQN and 37SQN, heavy airlift capability, 86WG will relocate its headquarters to RAAF Base Amberley by January 2012.

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CDF full of praise for Smith

CDF ACM Angus Houston is looking forward to working with new Defence Minister Stephen Smith.

At a press round-table, ACM Houston said that Mr Smith was a capable and experienced minister who knew all about Afghanistan and had been there when all the big decisions were made.

“He’s a hell of a nice guy,” ACM Houston said.

Mr Smith completed his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Australia. He practised as a barrister and solicitor in Perth, then completed a Master of Laws at London University, and subsequently lectured and tutored in law in London.

Mr Smith has been the Federal Member for Perth since March 1993 and has served on numerous parliamentary committees. Before his appointment as foreign minister he held a range of shadow ministerial positions.

At a press conference, he said he was looking forward to a parliamentary debate on Afghanistan.

“It is a difficult and dangerous mission, and our objective is to enable the Afghan government, the Afghan security services and the Afghan army to take responsibility for security matters in Afghanistan,” he said.

“Our objective is to prevent Afghanistan from again being a breeding ground or a hotbed of international terrorism.”

He said Australians would also focus on the tragedy that our service overseas in conflicts brings but they also recognised the terrible consequences if international terrorism was allowed to run free.

Warren Snowdon is returning as Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Defence Science and Personnel and retaining responsibility for Indigenous Health.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973 and then completed a Diploma in Education in 1975, moving to the Northern Territory to work as a teacher in Darwin.

Between 1978 and 1981, he worked as a researcher at the Australian National University’s Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies.

He was elected to parliament in 1987 and was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for various portfolios.

He has been a member of several parliamentary committees and various caucus committees.

The Minister for Defence Materiel, Jason Clare, was elected to the federal parliament at the November 2007 election. In 2009, he was appointed parliamentary secretary for employment.

Mr Clare holds Arts and Law degrees with Honours from the University of NSW. He was a senior adviser to former NSW premier Bob Carr and an executive at Transurban, one of Australia’s top 100 companies.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, David Feeney, was elected to the Senate for Victoria in 2007. He has served on a number of committees including the Joint Statutory Committee for Public Accounts and Audit.

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Thanks for great job

IN THE course of working tirelessly to provide assistance to more than 4000 flood-affected victims in central Pakistan, Air Force personnel within the Australian Medical Task Force (AMTF) were visited recently by several dignitaries.

Commander of Operation Pakistan Assist II WgCdr Ross Wadsworth escorted Foreign Affairs Minister Kevin Rudd, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Mr George, Chief of Joint Operations (CJOPS) LTGEN Mark Evans, Commander of Joint Operations in the Middle East MAJGEN John Cantwell and Director General of AusAid Peter Baxter to Camp Cockatoo’s medical facility in the Kot Addu region on September 9.

Following the recent visit of the Governor of Punjab Salman Tasser on September 9, the delegation’s visit served as an opportunity to talk to ADF personnel and civilian members of the AMTF, AusAid and Emergency Management Australia to hear accounts of the work being conducted.

During the visit, Mr Rudd announced that an additional $40 million would be allocated to aid relief to Pakistan, increasing Australia’s contribution to $75 million.

Mr Rudd said that while he was troubled to see the extent of the disaster, he was also impressed by the vital assistance being provided by Australia at Camp Cockatoo’s medical facility.

LTGEN Evans addressed the task force and offered his thanks and praise for their persistent efforts.

“I am saddened by the suffering this country has experienced as a result of the devastating July floods – but also heartened by the compassion shown by the AMTF as they go about their duties in treating our Pakistani friends,” LTGEN Evans said.

“I am impressed with what you have already achieved in the short period of time you have been on the ground.

“You have the support of everyone at home and I thank you for your continued efforts on such an important operation.”

LTGEN Evans also met the Commander of the Pakistan Military’s General Officer Commanding Multan, MAJGEN Nadir Zaib, and thanked him for his troops’ support to the AMTF.

Together, the AMTF, AusAid and Emergency Management Australia are working to provide primary health care services to the region including maternal and children’s health, a ward for day treatment and basic diagnostic services including X-ray and pathology, a pharmacy and preventative health program.

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G-Wagon trials on track

SGT Andrew Hetherington

THE first batch of G-Wagons bound for Air Force and Army will be delivered to driver training establishments in February next year.

The 30 new vehicles, part of 1200 on order, are currently being built in Austria. More to be built early next year will be delivered to units in July.

Nine G-Wagons in different configurations were put through their paces on and off road by airmen and soldiers at Puckapunyal in July as part of ongoing evaluation trials.

In a variety of 4x4 and 6x6 variants, including military working dog transports, cab chassis, carryall and station wagons, the vehicles were tested to determine user configuration requirements before they enter service next year.

They were driven and tested by 15 Army and Air Force personnel over more than 25000km for each vehicle.

G-Wagon project manager and OC of the trials, Robert Hudson, from the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), said after completing a five-day G-Wagon drivers’ course, the 15 personnel moved on to testing the vehicles off-road.

“A driver the vehicles from Puckapunyal to Wodonga and back, the drivers deployed onto the Puckapunyal range,” Mr Hudson said.

“We were told there will be nine canine modules built and delivered by the IIS Training Team MAJ Tim Keefie said a new licence code, LR2, was created for the G-Wagon to designate what vehicle category it sits in.

“The dogs while they are deployed in hot conditions will be driven through difficult terrain during day and night, using night vision and with blacked-out lighting.

“They outperformed current in-service Land Rovers by travelling places they couldn’t go, such as rocky and rutted roads and difficult, steep terrain.”

After each phase of the evaluation process was completed, drivers filled out an evaluation sheet, with DMO observers, on how the vehicle had performed.

G-Wagon trial participant and military working dog handler, CPL Paul Williamson, was one of the first Air Force personnel to be issued a G-Wagon licence.

He said the G-Wagon was a major improvement over current vehicles in service.

“Compared to them is like comparing an old HQ Holden to a new HSV Commodore; it really was that big a difference.”

The way the G-Wagon drives is remarkable; the high comfort levels it offers and the ability for it to drive over difficult terrain was easy, as you can lock diffs from inside the cabin.”

CPL Williamson and his dog Tex, who also participated in the trials, were also happy with a new canine module to be delivered to military working dog units.

“We were told there will be nine canine module versions built and delivered.”

“It will run an air conditioning filtration system through to the dogs on the back of the vehicle and will include a fridge to keep fresh meat and bones for the dogs while they are deployed in hot environments.”

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ZET1302 Project Administration
ZET1000 Project Systems/Modelling
ZET1503 Project Management Body of Knowledge

Further information on the G-Wagon can be obtained from WO2 Roger Nixon on (03) 9202 3425 (for drivers and operators) or WO2 Neil Taylor on (02) 9055 4352 (for maintainers).

MULTI-FUNCTION: The new G-Wagon comes in several variants, including this model which comes with a canine module designed for military working dog handlers.


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Battle’s 70th marked

Andrew Stackpool

AIR FORCE commemorated one of the most pivotal battles in history when it took part in the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in Hobart on the weekend of September 11 and 12. Headed by CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin, the Air Force representation included the Roulettes, which conducted a flypast of the Hobart Cenotaph on the 11th. No. 29 (City of Hobart) Squadron, Australia’s Federation Guard and the Air Force Band.

29SQN played an important role by coordinating the Air Force elements and providing support personnel. Other services were held across the country, including Martin Place in Sydney, which was attended by members from RAAF Base Richmond.

Speaking at the memorial service in Hobart, CAF said that the battle was as familiar to Australians as Gallipoli, Tobruk and Long Tan.

Some of “The Few” still walked among us and some of their aircraft still fly as well. “When we talk of 1940, we can almost reach out and touch the experience,” AIRMSHL Binskin said.

“CAF believed that these qualities started with the aviators of WWII, including those of the Australian Flying Corps and, what we now call our aviators, and how the RAAF well in war and peace. He also noted that in 1950, the RAF provided pilots to fly with 77SQN as it battled North Korean MiG-15 fighters.

“When we talk of 1940, we can almost reach out and touch the experience,” AIRMSHL Binskin said.

“CAF believed that these qualities started with the aviators of WWII, including those of the Australian Flying Corps and, what we now call our aviators, and how the RAAF well in war and peace. He also noted that in 1950, the RAF provided pilots to fly with 77SQN as it battled North Korean MiG-15 fighters.

“The accolades heaped on the shoulders of the men Churchill described as ‘The Few’ are truly deserved,” he said.

“The 1503 Allied airmen who lost their lives during the Battle of Britain, the many thousands who survived the battle and the ground crews have truly earned their place in the annals of air power history. To them and to the men who came before and after we owe a debt of gratitude. They have given us a heritage that knows no peer. They have set for us a benchmark to aspire to and they have laid upon us the burden of passing on their legacy – unblemished – to future generations,” AIRMSHL Binskin said.

The Battle of Britain was the first major battle fought solely by aircraft in WWII. It is recognised as the beginning of modern air power.

In July 1940, the Luftwaffe intensified its raids on England, trying to win control of the air prior to invasion. The skill and tenacity of the fighter pilots and the effectiveness of the Hurricane and Spitfire aircraft were critical in the battle.

The fighting reached its peak on September 15, when the Luftwaffe lost 56 aircraft, forcing Hitler to abandon his plans to invade Britain.

During the battle, 22 Australians flew with Fighter Command; 14 died. Five of 47 Australians who flew with Bomber Command during the battle died, as did eight from Coastal Command.

HOBART TRIBUTE: Above, the Roulettes fly over the Hobart Cenotaph during the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain on September 12, attended by CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin and Governor of Tasmania Peter Underwood (pictured top right). Photos: Andy Hall

SYDNEY SALUTE: Right, LACW Danielle Burns of 22SQN presents arms during a Battle of Britain commemorative service at Martin Place in Sydney on September 16. Photo: LACW Casey Gaul

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Peacekeepers remembered in Canberra

SGT Andrew Hetherington

SIXTY-three years after Australia’s first peacekeepers deployed with the United Nations to Indonesia, more than 50 ADF and Federal Police peacekeepers gathered to mark Australian Peacekeepers Day in Canberra on September 14.

The anniversary memorial service was held at the future site of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Parade.

Principal guest speaker at the service was MAJGEN Ian Gordon (ret’d), who had commanded soldiers on three peacekeeping missions in the Western Sahara, East Timor and Jerusalem.

He said that since 1947 the Australian Government had deployed more than 90,000 military, police and civilian personnel to more than 60 UN and other peacekeeping missions.

“Australians are universally admired within peacekeeping missions,” MAJGEN Gordon said.

“Peacekeeping is not easy and usually takes place at the intersection of the interests of host nations and nations in conflict.”

He said peacekeepers’ work took place in difficult, frequently very dangerous and sometimes traumatic circumstances, isolated from the support normally found on overseas operations.

During the service, attendees were encouraged to donate to the Peacekeeping Memorial Fund.

Chairman of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project MAJGEN Tim Ford (ret’d) said before construction of the memorial on Anzac Parade began the project needed more donations.

“We have raised nearly $800,000 so far and need another $2.7 million to ensure the memorial opens on September 14, 2012,” MAJGEN Ford said.

To make a donation to the fund, visit the project website at http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/index.php

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Basics of Naval Architecture, 9-10 Nov

Occupational Health and Safety/Laser Safety
Laser Safety 1 & 4 Day (Adelaide), 25-28 Oct

Project Management
Managing Integration Projects, 28-29 Oct

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System Dynamics Modelling Practicum, 23-25 Nov

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MARKING THE PAST:
Above, CAF AIRMSHL Mark Binskin joins MAJGEN John Calligari, representing CA, to lay a wreath to mark Australian Peacekeepers Day in Canberra on September 14. Right, the Catafalque Party 63 years after Australia’s first peacekeepers deployed with the UN to Indonesia.

REMEMBER THEM:
Chaplain GPCAPT Noel Williams delivers the opening prayer at the service, which was held at the future site of the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Parade. Photo: David McDaniel
ABCIS Melanie Schinkel

A PROJECT team of ADF and civilian personnel has begun implementing a plan to better manage hazardous chemicals in Defence workplaces and adherence to current and future OH&S regulations.

Phase one began at Russell Offices in Canberra. The Defence Hazardous Chemicals Projects (DHCP) board of 14 met in Canberra recently to discuss the progress of phase one at Russell Offices.

As part of the DHCP’s roll-out, workplace support teams will train, coach, mentor, provide advice and assure workplace remediation efforts.

The first phase of remediation will require workplaces to identify all the hazardous chemicals present in the workplace, register them in ChemAlert, check to ensure that labels meet compliance requirements and then flag for disposal any surplus or obsolete hazardous chemicals.

Teams of five will support units Defence-wide to achieve compliance within two years or Comcare will take enforcement action.

Director General of Occupational Health, Safety and Compensation Lindsay Kranz said the DHCP was developed to provide safer workplaces for Defence personnel and to respond to Comcare’s 2009 pro-active investigative and enforcement work into Defence’s management of hazardous chemicals.

Mr Kranz said Comcare investigated 16 randomly selected Defence sites, which were indicative of about 1045 sites that used hazardous chemicals.

“Comcare found that Defence was not compliant with the regulations and hadn’t been for some time,” he said.

In response to Comcare’s findings, CDF and the Secretary of Defence signed a legally binding enforceable undertaking, which requires Defence to develop and implement a consistent, comprehensive and inclusive system for the management of hazardous chemicals across all Defence workplaces.

Defence must comply with the terms of the enforceable undertaking within two years or Comcare will enforce it through legal action in the courts.

Mr Kranz said the improved Defence hazardous chemicals management system being developed was based on the Defence business model.

“This system will involve the adoption of consistent procedures across all Defence workplaces and throughout the lifecycle of hazardous chemicals,” he said.

“This will include engagement with Defence contractors to ensure that they support the effective adoption of the hazardous chemicals management system across Defence.”

“The DHCP’s schedule is in line with the enforceable undertaking’s deadline, and Defence groups and services have been allocated certain responsibilities to achieve this under a joint directive issued on June 18.

“For example, all Defence workplaces are required to implement ChemAlert as the system for registering hazardous chemicals in the workplace.”

Improved training and the increased access and usage of standardised systems such as ChemAlert would assist the safe-handling of hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

ChemAlert provides members with access to information about hazardous chemicals and is the register for material safety data sheets (MSDS) for all the substances Defence purchases and produces.

“It is to be used as the Defence register for the chemicals used in individual workplaces and provides personnel with information on how to use chemicals, such as storage and disposal methods, and what PPE to wear during use,” Mr Kranz said.

“Some personnel will need to be re-trained on handling hazardous chemicals and safety practitioners will need demonstrations and instructions on maintaining ChemAlert’s registers.”

To find out more information on the DHCP, visit http://ohsc.defence.gov.au/Programs/HazardousSubstances/hazchemproject.htm.

Full support: Lindsay Kranz, DG OHS, discusses OH&S issues with service chiefs and VCDF. Photo: Bryan Doherty

What’s happening first

DHCP’s phase one for workplace remediation is expected to be complete by December this year.

Phase one is as follows:

establish and mandate remediation plan; implement ChemAlert; conduct workplace ‘upfront’ training; complete review of hazardous chemicals; mark surplus and obsolete chemicals; mark unknown chemicals; register all workplace hazardous chemicals; ensure MSDSs are available for all workplace chemicals; address incorrect labelling, storage or signage; record initial corrective actions; and do compliance checks against regulations 6.12 Use of MSDS, 6.13 Use of Labels and 6.14 Register of Hazardous Substances.

Message from CAF:

AIR FORCEn has been working closely with the Defence Hazardous Chemical Projects board to ensure that we get the control of our hazardous chemicals right.

We actually began our own preliminary remediation program last year, just after the Comcare inspection.

I am very pleased to see that the vast majority of units have picked up that program and run with it—well done. We now need to finish the job.

We have now formalised that preliminary work into the Air Force Hazardous Chemicals Remediation Program.

The first round of activity concerns stocktake and other ‘housekeeping’ type activities, and is due to be completed by the end of October.

The next phase will concentrate on improving our processes for managing and handling these chemicals. To be successful, the Air Force Hazardous Chemicals Remediation Program requires two things.

Firstly, Air Force leaders must drive the reform, playing an active role through knowledge of hazardous chemicals in the workplace and supporting the remediation program.

But they will not succeed on their own. The remediation is a team effort.

[And secondly], those who use chemicals in the workplace need to get involved: avoid being a passenger, know your workplace chemicals and how to safely conduct work.

Successful implementation of this program will result in greater protection of our people.

I am relying on you all to achieve this outcome.

The Defence program will coordinate the efforts of Air Force with those of other groups so that we achieve a consistent, comprehensive and inclusive system involving all of Defence.

Meanwhile, Air Force people and organisations need only be concerned with following the requirements of the Air Force program.

Further information on the Air Force Hazardous Chemicals Remediation Program can be obtained from the Air Force Safety Intranet site or DDAFS POC FLT Lt Dianne Jackson on (02) 6266 2773.

New rules on hazards

A PROJECT team of ADF and civilian personnel has begun implementing a plan to better manage hazardous chemicals in Defence workplaces and adherence to current and future OH&S regulations.

Phase one began at Russell Offices in Canberra. The Defence Hazardous Chemicals Projects (DHCP) board of 14 met in Canberra recently to discuss the progress of phase one at Russell Offices.

As part of the DHCP’s roll-out, workplace support teams will train, coach, mentor, provide advice and assure workplace remediation efforts.

The first phase of remediation will require workplaces to identify all the hazardous chemicals present in the workplace, register them in ChemAlert, check to ensure that labels meet compliance requirements and then flag for disposal any surplus or obsolete hazardous chemicals.

Teams of five will support units Defence-wide to achieve compliance within Comcare’s two-year timeframe and prepare for updated OH&S laws which are expected to come into force early next year.

Director General of Occupational Health, Safety and Compensation Lindsay Kranz said the DHCP was developed to provide safer workplaces for Defence personnel and to respond to Comcare’s 2009 pro-active investigative and enforcement investigation into Defence’s management of hazardous chemicals.

Mr Kranz said Comcare investigated 16 randomly selected Defence sites, which were indicative of about 1045 sites that used hazardous chemicals.

“Comcare found that Defence was not compliant with the regulations and hadn’t been for some time,” he said.

In response to Comcare’s findings, CDF and the Secretary of Defence signed a legally binding enforceable undertaking, which requires Defence to develop and implement a consistent, comprehensive and inclusive system for the management of hazardous chemicals across all Defence workplaces.

Defence must comply with the terms of the enforceable undertaking within two years or Comcare will enforce it through legal action in the courts.

Mr Kranz said the improved Defence hazardous chemicals management system being developed was based on the Defence business model.

“This system will involve the adoption of consistent procedures across all Defence workplaces and throughout the lifecycle of hazardous chemicals,” he said.

“This will include engagement with Defence contractors to ensure that they support the effective adoption of the hazardous chemicals management system across Defence.”

“The DHCP’s schedule is in line with the enforceable undertaking’s deadline, and Defence groups and services have been allocated certain responsibilities to achieve this under a joint directive issued on June 18.

“For example, all Defence workplaces are required to implement ChemAlert as the system for registering hazardous chemicals in the workplace.”

Improved training and the increased access and usage of standardised systems such as ChemAlert would assist the safe-handling of hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

ChemAlert provides members with access to information about hazardous chemicals and is the register for material safety data sheets (MSDS) for all the substances Defence purchases and produces.

“It is to be used as the Defence register for the chemicals used in individual workplaces and provides personnel with information on how to use chemicals, such as storage and disposal methods, and what PPE to wear during use,” Mr Kranz said.

“Some personnel will need to be re-trained on handling hazardous chemicals and safety practitioners will need demonstrations and instructions on maintaining ChemAlert’s registers.”

To find out more information on the DHCP, visit http://ohsc.defence.gov.au/Programs/HazardousSubstances/hazchemproject.htm.

Full support: Lindsay Kranz, DG OHS, discusses OH&S issues with service chiefs and VCDF. Photo: Bryan Doherty

What’s happening first

DHCP’s phase one for workplace remediation is expected to be complete by December this year.

Phase one is as follows:

establish and mandate remediation plan; implement ChemAlert; conduct workplace ‘upfront’ training; complete review of hazardous chemicals; mark surplus and obsolete chemicals; mark unknown chemicals; register all workplace hazardous chemicals; ensure MSDSs are available for all workplace chemicals; address incorrect labelling, storage or signage; record initial corrective actions; and do compliance checks against regulations 6.12 Use of MSDS, 6.13 Use of Labels and 6.14 Register of Hazardous Substances.

Message from CAF:

AIR FORCEn has been working closely with the Defence Hazardous Chemicals Projects board to ensure that we get the control of our hazardous chemicals right.

We actually began our own preliminary remediation program last year, just after the Comcare inspection.

I am very pleased to see that the vast majority of units have picked up that program and run with it—well done. We now need to finish the job.

We have now formalised that preliminary work into the Air Force Hazardous Chemicals Remediation Program.

The first round of activity concerns stocktake and other ‘housekeeping’ type activities, and is due to be completed by the end of October.

The next phase will concentrate on improving our processes for managing and handling these chemicals. To be successful, the Air Force Hazardous Chemicals Remediation Program requires two things.

Firstly, Air Force leaders must drive the reform, playing an active role through knowledge of hazardous chemicals in the workplace and supporting the remediation program.

But they will not succeed on their own. The remediation is a team effort.

[And secondly], those who use chemicals in the workplace need to get involved: avoid being a passenger, know your workplace chemicals and how to safely conduct work.

Successful implementation of this program will result in greater protection of our people.

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FEDERAL ELECTIONS aren’t just a test of political nerve.

For the Air Force’s VIP Operations (VIPOPS) cell and for 34SQN, the most recent 35-day election campaign was comparable to a major operation.

From July 17 to August 21, the VIPOPS cell coordinated 277 tasks, which flew 800 hours, and coordinated 10 aircraft on average each day.

It was the first election as CO 34SQN for WGCDR Warren Crouch, but others in the unit lent their experience.

“Some members of our team had seen it all before, so they steered us all in the right direction,” WGCDR Crouch said.

“I was always completely confident that we’d deliver.”

While speculation of a coming election was rife as early as May, 34SQN could only make definite preparations from July 17 when the official announcement was made.

“I liken it to a squadron preparing for involvement in a major exercise, but not sure exactly when it’ll kick off, or exactly how much will be expected,” WGCDR Crouch said.

“People in the squadron had spoken about the coming election at length and everyone was keen to get on with the job.”

At the campaign’s outset, 34SQN’s fleet stood at two Boeing Business Jets (BBJs) and two Challenger CL-604s.

A third Challenger would remain in its scheduled maintenance for most of the campaign.

Both the Challenger and BBJ are flown by Air Force crews but supported by technical staff from Qantas Defence Services.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott were each allocated a BBJ for their campaign.

They were shadowed by civil charter aircraft that were carrying the media.
Flight deck crews for each BBJ were kept together for five to seven days, before being exchanged with a replacement crew when opportunities permitted.

BBJ flight commander SQNLDR Christian Martin said the arrangement simplified manning of tasks, and allowed some work-life balance.

“Our workload definitely increased during the election, not from a flying hours point of view, but from the amount of time spent at work and away from home,” SQNLDR Martin said.

“Ours schedules were very dynamic, and sometimes unpredictable.

“VIPOPS staff did an excellent job managing the frequent changes to tasking and last-minute notifications.”

For the first time, a pair of 38SQN King Airs were used alongside 34SQN’s Challengers to support candidates.

All of these aircraft – civilian and military – came under the responsibility of the VIPOPS Cell.

VIPOPS became a constant hub of activity for the campaign.

Working in the VIPOPS cell, FLGOFF Jason Meyers described the election as a 10-fold increase in their activity.

“We went to 10-hour shifts to ensure information wasn’t lost in the handovers and coordinating up to 12 aircraft from different squadrons and charter companies,” FLGOFF Meyers said.

“It required a constant flow of information to ensure everyone was up-to-date in the ever-changing election campaign.”

A subtle change from a campaigning side could have meant a dramatic impact on how 34SQN could meet the task, making communication through VIPOPS crucial.

“We needed to relay all relevant information to our support staff and charter companies, no matter how small the change was,” FLGOFF Meyers said.

Managing that flow of information carried across VIPOPS staff as well as crew attendant and pilot tasking, VIP terminal and Qantas Defence Services staff.

There was also the unit’s security element, supplemented by a detachment of 2AFDS personnel, to ensure safety of passengers and aircraft.

Above all of this were the unit’s executive, administration and logistics staff who ensured 34SQN and VIPOPS continued to run smoothly.

Aside from one technical fault with a BBJ which meant Ms Gillard travelled with a chartered aircraft instead, 34SQN and VIPOPS were able to deliver customers to their destinations on time.

Candidates appreciated the efforts made by Air Force personnel.

WGCDR Crouch said: “They’re always very appreciative of the support we provide, our continuing attention to detail and the manner in which our team always maintains such a good sense of humour.

“Our team considers it a privilege to provide a service to the most important officials in the country.”

I liken it to a squadron preparing for involvement in a major exercise, but not sure exactly when it’ll kick off, or exactly how much will be expected.

— WGCDR Warren Crouch

**BUSY, BUSY:** From July 17 to August 21, the VIPOPS cell at 34SQN coordinated 277 tasks, which flew 800 hours, and coordinated 10 aircraft on average each day.

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**federal election**
Dentists up to speed

THE stuff of the dental section attached to 3 Expeditionary Health Squadron (3EHS) has come up to speed with its new equipment during Exercise Validation 2010.

The team comprised SQNLDR Alex Kwaan, FLTLT Khai Nguyen, FLTLT Harry Mohan, SGT Red Dudgeon, CPL Laura Kelly, LACW Crystal Lauer, LACW Sarah Bate and AC Sergey Semenischev.

FLTLT Mohan said the exercise was held at RAAF Base Richmond from July 26 to 30.

“Validation 2010 was planned in coordination with 37SQN and, acting as a deployed element, the flight’s deployed dental section established itself in the 37SQN headquarters compound and conducted real-time annual dental examinations and hygiene services for 37SQN’s personnel,” he said.

“It was designed to simulate a deployed situation so we could test our deployable capabilities by treating 37SQN personnel.”

The flight also used the opportunity to determine the best layout for its new Weatherhaven tent. It is a testing ground and conducted real-time annual dental examinations and hygiene services for 37SQN’s personnel,” he said.

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 flavoured by the Defence Materiel Organisation over the next few months, 3EHS is well poised to integrate these new capabilities into its existing kit.”

SQNLDR Kwaan said that the exercise was very successful and worthwhile.

“It allowed personnel from the section who have not used the Dental Field Portable Unit or the new tents to set up and use the kit in a controlled environment,” he said.

The rollout of the new equipment in the ADF began last year and we received ours in the first half of this year,” FLTLT Mohan said.

“They replace the old Trelleborg inflatable tents which we had. The Weatherhaven tents are erected using a metal framework rather than an inflatable frame work. This means that once they are erected, they do not require further maintenance to keep them upright, unlike the Trelleborg tents which could have had air leaks, punctures, etc.

“Each section at 3EHS has at least one Weatherhaven tent as part of its deployable capability,” he said.

While the initial construction of the new tent did provide some initial head-scratching and animated discussion in the section, once it was erected, it provided ample space for clinical duties, as well as sound protection from the elements during a week of low temperatures and a steady, solid downpour.

“We’d never put one up before so it took a while to get the hang of it. practice makes perfect. However, at the end of the exercise we were able to dismantle and put it up again a lot more easily.”

With construction completed, the dental section was then able to modify the tent’s floor, electrical and lighting plans to best suit its requirements in preparation for future real-time deployments.

“With the new deployable X-ray kit and dental chair being rolled out by the Defence Materiel Organisation over the next few months, 3EHS is well poised to integrate these new capabilities into its existing kit.”

Knowing the drill: Above, dental officer FLTLT Harry Mohan goes over the operating instructions for 3 Expeditionary Health Squadron’s deployable dental suite; left, dental hygienist CPL Laura Kelly performs an annual dental check on CPL Leon Ward as dental assistant AC Sergey Semenischev stands by to provide gauze.

FLTLT Mohan said the exercise was very successful and worthwhile.

“It allowed personnel from the section who have not used the Dental Field Portable Unit or the new tents to set up and use the kit in a controlled environment,” he said.

many interesting subjects will be discussed at the symposium, updates will appear at expsupport.org.au; www.CRAHEX.com

NSW Military Health Symposium 2010 >>

TO THE TEST:
CPL Paul Banks treats one of the ‘casualties’. Photo: CPL David Gibbs

IN THE lead-up to the 2010 Defence Force Air Show, RAAF Base Williamtown conducted a Crash Exercise (CRASHEX) to test out the base’s revised Airfield Emergency Plan and current command and control structures.

The CRASHEX scenario featured a large aircraft with 45 passengers and five crew suffering a heavy landing causing catastrophic failure of its undercarriage. Parts of the aircraft fuselage subsequently broke up and impacted with a fast-jet awaiting departure, in which the pilot was killed.

As well as the airfield emergency, medical and operations centre staff were further tested with a second incident on base involving a simulated motor vehicle accident.

Senior ADF officer AIRCDRE Mel Hupfeld said it was vitally important that base personnel practiced responses to emergency situations such as the one simulated in the CRASHEX.

“These exercises provide the opportunity for base personnel to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures and ensure our plans and communication strategies are well rehearsed and effective,” he said.

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Powering back after 25 years

After 25 years absence from RAAF Base Williamtown, an ADF air show was held there on September 18 and 19, with spectacular success.

On top of two great days of fun and flying, this year stood out because it was hard not to notice the generational change that was taking place in Air Force’s capability.

The latest assets, the F/A-18F Super Hornet and Wedgetail were there for the first time, and sadly for a great many of the more than 60,000 people who attended, the F-111 put on its last display at an air show before retirement.

One aircraft which continually draws more people than most is the C-17A. From 9.30am on the first day, the line of people waiting to step inside its huge airframe was more than 150m long – and it didn’t shrink for two days.

36SQN loadmaster FSGT Paula Ivanovic said the C-17A was a massive drawcard simply because of its size.

“They had never seen anything as big as this before,” she said. “They were also amazed at what it can carry and how far it can go.”

Other aircraft that had big crowds go around and through them were the C-130, Hawk 127, PC-9, F/A-18 Classic Hornet, F/A-18F Super Hornet and, of course, the F-111.

The 2SQN Wedgetail was splendid to look at – all new, shiny and with that air of mystery surrounding it because no one was allowed inside it.

Air Force’s various ground units had displays and Defence Force Recruiting was once again informing people about careers in the ADF.

Former Air Force pilot Matt Hall took people’s breath away as he performed aerobatic stunts in his Giles 200, and later in the P-51 Mustang. It was his first opportunity to fly publicly at his old base from where he left the Air Force in 2009.

The air show, like all major events, did have its ups and downs. Commander ACG AIRCDRE Mel Hupfeld said they had some teething problems but their experienced team worked through them to make sure the Sunday ran more smoothly.

“One challenge was integrating with the airport and their operations,” he said. “It was successful, but they had a few delays and arrivals that interfered with our displays so we had to modify our scheduling.”

Unfortunately a number of displays, including the C-130, had to be cut from the program on Saturday but was made up for on Sunday.

“I had a walk around during the day and saw how large the lines for food were and that is a planning lesson we have learnt,” AIRCDRE Hupfeld said.

He said even though the delays caused problems, it was his experienced team that got them through.

“GPCAPT Mike Kitcher and his team did a fantastic job at coordinating the flying program,” he said.

“The skills and professionalism of those people shone through.”

One notable success was the roads and traffic management plan that was put in place.

“Even though there was a limited number of ways to get into the base the traffic ran quite smoothly.”

Personnel from the base were employed to do all the background work from car park attendants to rubbish collection and AIRCDRE Hupfeld said their efforts did not go unrecognised.

“I am proud that our people were able to deliver the air show,” he said. “There was a lot of work behind the scenes and a lot of patience, tolerance and professionalism shown by all personnel involved.”

The last word has to go from one of the tens of thousands of people who took the time to attend.

Mark O’Leary and his son, Sean, 13, from Medowie said he hadn’t been to an air show in 25 years.

“We had a brilliant day and they should do these things more often,” he said. “I pay tax and don’t mind seeing it spent on this type of stuff.”
During the 2010 Williamtown Air Show a very public and symbolic changing of the guard took place. The F/A-18F Super Hornet was introduced to the Australian public for the first time and the much-loved F-111 was farewelled in its last air show before retirement.

Speaking on behalf of 82WG, CO 1SQN WGCDR Glen Braz said from a 1SQN perspective it was great to show off the Super Hornet to the public for the first time and give them some idea of what the aircraft can do.

"From an 82WG perspective, it was an historic day because it was symbolic of the changeover," he said.

"That is an indication of the change we are going through in 82WG and Air Combat Group. It was good for people to see them together."

He said for the two aircraft it was like a high-five as they swapped jobs.

"The Super Hornet is impressive," he said.

"The F-111 is on its way out, but it remains impressive despite its age and has done an amazing job for the Air Force." He said the F-111 winning the popularity contest at air shows, it was good to be able to reassure people that the Super Hornet is a great replacement.

"We have a bright future with the Super Hornet," WGCDR Braz said.

"While it is sad to see the 'old lady of our skies' go, it is good to see some brilliant aircraft come along after it. What you can do with the Classic Hornet and Super Hornet is incredibly impressive."

WGCDR Braz said a lot of people came and looked at the Super Hornet and the crew manning the display handed out many brochures.

"It is important to us that we maintain that public support," he said.

"We are the 'people’s Air Force' and it is good that we are able to interact with them and show them what we are doing."

"The Super Hornet is welcomed as the mighty F-111 is farewelled, writes LAC Aaron Curran.

The Super Hornet is welcomed as the mighty F-111 is farewelled, writes LAC Aaron Curran.
IN A SCENE straight out of the hit TV series Top Gear, a Porsche 911 Turbo went up against a 76SQN Hawk 127 in a performance demonstration at the 2010 Williamtown Air Show.

The demonstration was organised to raise funds for the charity Make a Wish Australia with Porsche Cars Australia and Air Force jumping at the opportunity to be involved.

76SQN Qualified Flying Instructor FLTLT Tim Ireland was the pilot up against the Public Relations Manager for Porsche Australia, Paul Ellis, in four demonstrations over the two days of the air show.

Two were a 1000m demonstration from a standing start and the remainder were a rolling start over the same distance and then back again.

FLTLT Ireland said the demonstrations went really well.

"As expected the Porsche was pretty quick off the line," he said.

"It can do 0 to 100km/hr in just over three seconds, and the poor old Hawk is pretty heavy in comparison from a standing start."

Mr Ellis said that from a standing start traction always beats thrust over the initial acceleration period, but it was the rolling start where the power of the Hawk got up on the Porsche.

"I came in as slow as I could, which was around 250km/h, and flew over the top of the Porsche who took off when signalled," FLTLT Ireland said.

"The 1km up and back was always going to be the one for me to win."

Mr Ellis said the Porsche had a tighter turning circle but the Hawk had a lot more speed so he wasn’t surprised when it flashed past his side window on the way back.

Out of the four seats available in the Porsche, two were auctioned on eBay and the other two at the 76SQN stand at the air show.

"But my second passenger was from the Air Force and he had an absolute ball and couldn’t encourage me to go fast enough."

It was at the last auction where Make a Wish did well.

"I only saw this type of thing done on Top Gear and definitely did not expect this to happen with us," FLTLT Ireland said.

Asked at the end if he preferred a $400,000 Porsche or a Hawk, FLTLT Ireland’s rather diplomatic reply was, "I don’t have the space in my garage for a Hawk, so it’s got to be the Porsche."
FLT LT Skye Smith

SQNLDR Stephen Chappell has earned the rare honour of a US Air Force (USAF) Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) for his outstanding service to the US as an exchange officer.

An F/A-18 pilot at 81 W G, SQNLDR Chappell served as the Assistant Director of Operations at the 65th Aggressor Squadron, 57th Adversary Tactics Group, at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada from December 2005 to December 2007.

During the two-year exchange, SQNLDR Chappell made USAF history as the first to successfully complete the Aggressor instructor and syllabus instructor upgrade in 20 per cent of the allotted time.

LtCOL Murray Nance, current commander 65th Aggressor Squadron, wrote in a letter to OC 81 W G GPCAPT Gavin Turnbull that it was an honour to present the MSM to SQNLDR Chappell.

“The USAF Meritorious Service Medal is normally reserved for squadron commanders and elite field grade officers. Chaps’ approval is simply testament to his hard work, professionalism and service,” LtCOL Nance wrote in the letter.

SQNLDR Chappell displayed exceptional initiative and vision while authoring five critical papers ranging from new communication standards to high off-boresight weapons employment and threat missile systems.

Chief of Staff Air Combat Group (ACG) GPCAPT Michael Smith presented SQNLDR Chappell with the MSM in front of his fighter colleagues at ACG.

“SQNLDR Chappell’s uncompromising work ethic, superb technical capacity and insightful leadership were instrumental to the 65th Aggressor Squadron meeting the USAF Chief of Air Staff’s initial concept of operations within six months of unit reactivation,” GPCAPT Smith said.

SQNLDR Chappell led the 65th Aggressor Squadron in seven Red Flag exercises, four USAF Weapons School mission employment phases and one Maple Flag exercise. His efforts were essential to training more than 2000 allied aircrews from 15 different countries.

SQNLDR Chappell said the award was a reflection of the training he received in the RAAF and the people he was working with in the USAF.

“Serving with the 65th Aggressor Squadron was a highlight of my career and I am appreciative of the opportunity to have represented ACG and the RAAF on the exchange,” he said.

“The exchange position, at the world’s premier adversary tactics squadron, has assisted Air Force air combat integration with the USAF and also increased our understanding of future potential threat air force tactics, techniques and procedures.

“The opportunity to represent my country and experience the thrill of living overseas with my family is something I’ll cherish forever.”

PROUD RECIPIENT: SQNLDR Stephen Chappell with his USAF Meritorious Service Medal.

Photo: LACW Katharine Pearson

Pilot’s US recognition

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NEW SNCO: Above, SGT Gerard Barradeen of 6SQN shows off one of his new rank slides after being promoted at RAAF Base Amberley.

Photo: CPL Mark McConnell

SPECIAL VISIT: Right, FLGOFF Melody Earl stands with Ardrossan Primary School student Alysha Gurney just before a Black Hawk helicopter (shown in the background) lands in Ardrossan. The helicopter crew and support personnel from the Aircraft Research and Development Unit visited the local school in the small coastal township on the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia after completing training exercises in the area.

Photo: LACW Shannon McCarthy

ON THE RADAR: Above, communication electronic technician AC Tim Kasapis from 44WG Detachment Darwin stands in front of an air traffic control radar at RAAF Base Darwin during the recent Exercise Pitch Black 2010.

Photo: LAC Glynn Jones

DREAM CHASER: Above, new acquaintances FSgt Brad Pitcher and young Air Force hopeful Lachlan Connell from Melbourne meet at the ADFA Open Day, held in Canberra recently. Lachlan, 16, saved up enough money from a part-time job to fly up for the open day to pursue his dream of becoming an Air Force pilot. FSgt Pitcher not only offered Lachlan a lift back to the airport that day but also loaded him up with Air Force souvenirs to help keep his dream alive.

Photo: WO2 James Nicholson

FOR THE AMBOS: Below, from left, NSW Ambulance members Geoff Clarke and Murray Scanlon are presented a cheque for $2040 by 37SQN members SGTs Garreth McKnight and David Poole at RAAF Base Richmond. The donation was raised by squadron members at the annual Tim Kelly Memorial Golf Classic, held in honour of CPL Tim Kelly, a general hand at 37SQN who died in August 2006.

Photo: LAC Michael Green

LEGACY IS KEEPING THEIR PROMISE TO MY DAD

CHARLOTTE

A promise was made to a dying soldier in the trenches of WWI. With recent conflicts, our work is as important today as it was when we began. A promise that his family would be looked after. Buy a badge and help keep the promise.

LEGACY WEEK 29 AUG – 4 SEP

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The RAAF’s reputation as a regional leader in aeromedical evacuations (AMEs) is reflected in the regular attendance of foreign military personnel at RAAF-run AME courses.

Recent courses have included students from the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.

New Zealand will soon join the list, with plans under way to include participants from the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) in the next AME course (scheduled for November).

The course is run by the Health Operational Conversion Unit (HOCU) at RAAF Base Amberley. HOCU is responsible for operational and clinical training for RAAF medical personnel and the wider ADF medical community.

The AME course, one of many run by HOCU, trains personnel to transfer their clinical skills into the aviation environment with a particular focus on C-130, C-17A and rotary wing platforms.

During the most recent AME course, RNZAF flight nurse SQNLDR Judith Telford attended as an observer.

“My time in Australia was an awesome opportunity to visit the RAAF’s AME course,” SQNLDR Telford said.

“I was able to look at [the course’s] structure and content as well as review the training opportunities for both countries.”

She said it was great to share lessons learnt with her RAAF counterparts and seek common ways of teaching and coordinating training which will hopefully result in cross-crediting of courses and invitations to attend specific or specialised training in each country.

“Being familiar with each other’s medical kit will allow a much easier approach to the demands each country faces in the AME arena,” SQNLDR Telford said.

Among the graduates of a recent AME course was MAJ Erikson Gob, a medical officer from the Philippines. The course was also observed in action by the Malaysian CDF during his visit to Australia.

The international flavour of the AME course is further strengthened by the knowledge that HOCU instructors have successfully completed the USAF Flight Nurse course at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

HOCU plans to conduct three AME courses next calendar year. The course schedule and other training information can be viewed on the HOCU website: http://intranet.defence.gov.au/raafweb/Sites/HOCU

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**Back to school for Tindal cooks**

It was back to school for two members of 322 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron’s Catering Section on August 31, when they paid a visit to Katherine High School to cook up a storm for students.

SGT Bradley Horlin and LAC Bradley Tellam instructed the school’s hospitality class for the day as part of the ADF’s community engagement program.

The hospitality class, consisting of nine students, is counted towards a Certificate I in Hospitality as part of a special program run by the school.

Under the instruction and supervision of the two RAAF Base Tindal cooks, the students were guided through the processes of producing a varied and wholesome menu.

Student Mary Cunningham found “the presence and assistance of the Air Force cooks produced a great learning experience”, while teacher Jon Buckley said “it was a pleasure to work with such professional and knowledgeable chefs”.

**YUM YUM:** LAC Bradley Tellam demonstrates the art of making Singapore noodles.

**TEAMWORK:** RNZAF flight nurse SQNLDR Judith Telford (right) discusses training methods with CO HOCU WCDR Sandra Riley in a C-17A at RAAF Base Amberley.

Photo: LAC Dan Pinhorn
**Personnel**

**A MilHOP, SKIP AND A JUMP TO A BETTER HEALTH FUTURE**

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**For your subsidy**

THE Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) is reminding all personnel who receive a subsidy from the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) to inform DVA of changes to their personal circumstances as they arise.

Nearly 11,000 current and former ADF personnel receive a subsidy under DHOAS. Since it began on July 1, 2008, the scheme has continued to grow as more members access benefits to help meet the costs of home ownership in today’s housing market.

As scheme administrator, DVA works closely with Defence to ensure members’ DHOAS subsidy payments are managed effectively.

Director Relocations and Housing Alan McClelland said there were a number of changes in circumstances that could affect a member’s subsidy, including the status of their ADF service, DHOAS home loan contract and the use or occupancy of their subsidised home.

“For this reason, it is important that members inform DVA of these changes as soon as possible, using the DHOAS Change of Circumstances form available on the DHOAS website,” Mr McClelland said.

“This will ensure members continue to receive the correct subsidy payment each month so they do not have to repay any excess subsidy.”

In particular, if you are posted and you have to move out of your DHOAS-subsidised home before you meet the 12-month occupancy requirement, it is important that you advise DVA before you move out.

If advised in advance, DVA can arrange an exemption to the occupancy requirement (if you’re eligible for it) before you shift. This will ensure there is no disruption to your subsidy payments.

If you wait until after you have moved, your subsidy may be ceased or suspended and you may have to repay any overpayments.

See the breakout box above for details on when you need to contact DVA.

For more information, visit www.dhoas.gov.au or call 1300 434 627.

**Update for your subsidy**

**Time for a change?**

You will need to advise DVA about other changes in circumstances, including:

- Any changes to the status of your DHOAS home loan;
- A change that affects the way in which your DHOAS service credit is calculated. For example, this may include moving to or from the reserves, no longer providing effective ADF service or separating;
- A reasonably significant change to the property that is subject to your DHOAS loan, including the destruction of the house or a renovation;
- If the subsidised property starts to be used for the purpose of carrying on a business, trade or profession;
- Construction is completed on a property over which there is a DHOAS home loan, or a construction loan is discharged;
- A change in the nature or extent of the interest held in the property by you or your partner;
- You and your partner or dependants stop occupying the property within 12 months of first receiving the DHOAS subsidy;
- You change your name (for example, following a marriage);
- A separation of partners, which results in a change of ownership in the property and/or a change in the mortgagees on the DHOAS home loan.

**THE Ceremonial Band will support the SATC graduation parade at RAAF Base East Sale from 1.45pm.**

**October 2:** Force 10 and the Catalina Chamber players will provide support to the Defence Lake Attack dinner at the Hotel Windsor, Melbourne, from 7pm.

**October 8:** The Ceremonial Band will support the OTS graduation parade at RAAF Base East Sale from 11.30am.

**October 12:** Air Power Brass will support the RAAF Base Wagga Heritage Centre opening from 10am.

**October 13:** Air Power Brass will provide support to the 77SQN plaque unveiling at RAAF Williams, Point Cook.
NO. 462 Squadron has become the first unit in Air Force to adopt a mentor group on the back of The CDF Action Plan for the Recruitment and Retention of Women.

While there are almost 8000 women in the ADF, they make up little more than 13 per cent of permanent, full-time members.

The Mentor Group for Females at 462SQN meets once a month, and together they set short and long-term goals focused on their education, development, health and personal life.

Members from 460SQN have also recently joined the group.

OIC SqnLdr Emma Lovett said the group disregards rank in order to enable forthright discussion of the matters affecting women in the Air Force.

“We regularly invite influential and successful women in the ADF to join us, and share their experiences on personal and professional challenges throughout their career,” she said.

In the Air Force alone, there are more than 1300 women, and they make up 16.9 per cent of permanent, full-time members. This is despite the fact women can now serve in 93 per cent of employment categories across the military.

CDF ACM Angus Houston released the Action Plan late last year, after nearly 18 months of consultation with the CDF Reference Group on Women and 17 roundtables with 200 ADF women across Australia.

The Action Plan targets six areas: enlistment, workplace flexibility, accountability, career management, mentoring and communication.

The 462SQN Mentor Group for Females specifically focuses on the mentoring component of this plan.

CO 462SQN WGCDR Darren May said he fully supported this initiative for the women in the squadron.

“It is a hands-on measure to set the example to other women in the Air Force,” he said.

Group 2IC SGT Nerissa Ruming said: “We take ‘homework’ away from each meeting and present these ideas to the group for everyone’s benefit – which can be both personal and confronting but it’s also very educational.

“Meeting outside of the workplace encourages all of us to feel comfortable to share our opinions.”

It is hoped the 462SQN Mentor Group for Females will encourage other Air Force groups, wings, squadrons and units to follow suit, in a push for a more sustainable and representative ADF workforce.

For information on how to start a mentor group in your unit, contact SqnLdr Emma Lovett on (02) 6127 4530 or emma.lovett@defence.gov.au
Toll Transitions now manage all your relocation requirements including:

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Handy hints for your upcoming relocation

**Do’s**

- The sooner you lodge your Pre-AFR and AFR the sooner you will be able to get the house you want.
- Lodge your Pre-AFR and AFR online www.tolltransitions.com.au/defence
- Read the Defence Relocation Guide before you complete your AFR. The guide contains hard copy forms to be completed if you can’t lodge online.
- Once your AFR is approved you will be given a Case Manager. Your Case Manager is there to assist you. Call them if you need advice.
- Advise your Case Manager of any special requirements that may affect your relocation.
- Provide Toll Transitions with current and alternate contact details throughout the relocation.
- For general assistance or after hours assistance call our Customer Service Centre on 1800 819 167.

**Don’t**

- Wait till the last minute to lodge your Pre-AFR or AFR.
- Get stressed if you are lodging online. Call us if you need assistance.
- Forget to call your Case Managers if you need advice.
- Lodge your AFR in hard copy unless you can’t lodge online. Remember online lodgement is Defence’s preferred lodgement method.

Remember

Your Case Manager is able to assist with any questions about the relocation process or contact our Customer Service Centre on 1800 819 167 or visit www.tolltransitions.com.au

Toll Transitions: Freecall 1800 819 167

Are you relocating over the coming months?

Some things have changed since you last moved.
Look before you leap

ASIC Chairman, Tony D’Aloisio, examines the risks associated with online day trading.

Keeping up with the latest technology can give you a strategic advantage over your competitors. At first sight, day trading software can appear a great way to beat the market. If you are thinking of buying a day trading software system or attending a seminar on day trading, there are some risks to consider. Don’t rush to sign up. Invest with your head, not your heart.

What is day trading?
Day traders try to make money from making lots of trades within a short timeframe. They do this by taking advantage of small price movements in shares and other investments.

Day trading systems are trading strategies, systems or computer programs that direct when traders should buy shares and other investments with the goal of building wealth over time. Spending lots of money on software does not guarantee success, regardless of what glossy sales brochures might suggest.

The rules
1. Be cautious of promoters who encourage day trading or sell systems that advertise easy profits with minimal risk. Do your research and make sure you completely understand what it involves.
2. Watch out for ‘churning’. Churning happens when the provider encourages you to make lots of trades. Every trade you pay a commission – so churning generates more commissions for the provider or broker. Be sure to understand how the provider makes money from your trades and how the trading system works generally.
3. Only commit if you have lots of time to devote to trading. Professional day traders spend many hours every day studying the market, and even then they find it difficult to consistently make profits. Ask yourself if you have the knowledge and time to compete with them.
5. Only use day trading systems if you can afford to lose the money you put in. These systems can cost thousands of dollars – can you really make that back?
6. Check the promises made to you by promoters. The advertised performance of day trading systems may be based on simulated or hypothetical trading, not actual trading results. Impressive-looking graphs and projections may not factor in costs such as commissions, spreads and real (actual) pricing, or the cost of buying the system or training.

Investing between the flags
Before investing time and money in risky day trading software, it pays to remember the essential principles of smart investing.

Whether you’re looking at day trading or any other type of investing, you’ll need to consider buying share trading software.

In this respect, share trading operates like other businesses, like trading cars or antiques. It demands skill and ability.

A day trading strategy is not ‘long-term investing’. Long-term investors buy shares and other investments with the goal of building wealth over time.

Knowledge is power: Day trading is touted as a way to make big money fast, but you can get badly burned along the way if you’re not adequately prepared.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: Day trading is touted as a way to make big money fast, but you can get badly burned along the way if you’re not adequately prepared.

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Easy does it

Training at home has its rewards, but LT Rob Orr says safety must come first, especially where equipment is concerned.

When training with home exercise equipment, knowing the exercises as well as the equipment is important. Home gymnasiums have led to serious injuries and consideration is needed when training at home.

Treadmills
While a treadmill may seem innocuous, children have suffered horrific burns and worse due to inattention around the treadmill. To protect yourself and your family:
- Ensure children do not have access to treadmills. Even unplugged, belts still move and cords still dangle. Also ensure you have sufficient clearance around the treadmill (check user guidelines);
- Clean your treadmill properly and regularly with the right products (like warm soapy water). Remember to clean underneath your treadmill as well. Belt movement can cause dust and dirt to collect under your machine engine and if the engine gets hot, a potential fire risk is created;
- Ensure the treadmill is the right one for you. Check weight restrictions and power requirements (it should meet Australian standards).

Kettlebells
Kettlebells have become a popular way of performing explosive movements with weight. With the centre of the weight away from the hand, momentum can be difficult to control compared to a dumbbell. With this in mind, some safety guidelines include:
- Start light, much lighter than you can lift with a dumbbell. The momentum can easily cause a loss of control and lead to serious muscle and joint injuries;
- Make sure your training area is clear of people and obstacles;
- Make sure you have a secure grip at all times and stop when fatigue or sweat causes a loss of grip. Towing the hands and kettlebell between sets or using chalk can minimise loss of grip from sweat;
- Take the time to learn correct exercise techniques (like the ‘punch up’ during the ‘snatch’) to prevent serious wrist injuries.

Balls
Fitballs, Swissballs, stability balls, medballs, (and the nomenclatures continue) and half balls, like the Bosu ball, are still popular in home gyms. Unfortunately, many home trainers put themselves at risk by not treating them as training tools but more like toys. To train safely with these devices:
- Ensure you have the right ball and right size. Most importantly, ensure your ball is anti-burst. This means air will escape slowly rather than burst suddenly;
- Treat the ball with respect. The balls are used for exercise, not kicking, punching or volleyball;
- Do not store near heat or in direct sunlight as this can deform the ball and create weak points;
- Ensure the ball is inflated correctly to maximise training gains. Also remember to continually reinflate the ball as pressure is lost over time;
- Clear a space. Ensure you have sufficient space to move and to ‘catch’ yourself during a potential fall without hitting objects;
- Inspect your ball before every session. Look for wear points, poor inflation and signs of ill repair and replace when needed.

Finally remember exercise safety does not hinder, but enhances, exercise performance.

Reservists, share your skills with us

If you’re a Reservist, you’ll soon have the opportunity to help the Australian Defence Force learn more about you. The Civil Skills Data collection e-survey starts soon and is your chance to tell us about your civil skills, qualifications and experience. It will help us to gain a more complete picture of who you are, and it could help your career and deployment opportunities. You’ll be paid for completing the e-survey. We’d like you to take part and we’ll send an information pack to your home address. Watch this space!

To ensure you get the Civil Skills Data information pack, check your address details on PMKeyS.
Air Force takes up the fight at ADFA fencing titles

SqnLdr Michael Spencer was Air Force’s best performer at the ADFA fencing titles annual tournament on September 11 and 12. He finished ninth in the open tournament, having been knocked out in the round of 16.

Twenty fencers contested the tournament at the ADFA Indoor Sports Hall, which attracted ADF and civilian fencers. The focus was on Fencing Australia.

Air Force’s other representative was OFFCDT James Sheltton.

2808km of wheel power for charity

It might have seemed they were going nowhere, but cyclists from the ADF Investigative Service (ADFIS) raised $3234.15 for Hartley Lifecare and ACT Rescue and Foster by riding 2808km from August 30 to September 3.

Deputy Provost Marshal of the ADF WgCdr Andrew Roberts said a mix of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Defence public servants took turns on stationary bikes to simulate a cycling relay from Canberra to Wellington, New Zealand.

Unit members took turns cycling each day. They worked in teams of two.

Flt Off Bree Baker said the idea was put through the unit at one of their weekly meetings and she couldn’t miss out on an opportunity to show her support.

“I signed up to cycle every day throughout the event. How could you refuse to do something like this?” Flt Off Baker said.

“I felt tired but it was for such a good cause.” Hartley Lifecare provides accommodation support and respite care to children and adults with physical and complex disabilities in the ACT.

ACT Rescue and Foster is an association of people who rescue dogs from euthanasia and foster them temporarily while they are found homes.

Footy fundraiser

Two Australian football teams comprising staff from 1 Recruit Training Unit versus staff and trainees from the RAAF School of Technical Training raised $5540 in a charity match at RAAF Base Wagga on September 3.

The money will be split evenly between the National Breast Cancer Fund and the Cancer Council.

The game was played on base in front of trainees, recruits and staff who were asked to dig deep for the charities.

Shakeitground makes ADF’s day

Defence personnel and their families enjoyed seven races sponsored by Defence organisations at Queanbeyan Raceway on September 12.

The highlight was the 1600m CSC Defence Force Cup which was won by Shakeitground who was followed closely by Don Luigi and El Merroo.

Search for coach who’s ready, willing and stable

IN AN attempt to turn around its sagging form, the Australian Services Australian Football Association (ASASA) is seeking a senior coach for the men’s All Stars team.

The team is selected in April at the end of the ADF national carnival in Melbourne, drawing from the best available players from Air Force, Army and Navy.

In previous years the coach of the winning service team has been invited to coach the All Stars against the Australian Combined Emergency Services (ACES) team in Adelaide as a curtain-raiser to the Port Power versus St Kilda AFL game on the Anzac Day weekend.

The Defence All Stars dominated the clash for a number of years; however for the past two years, ACES has assembled strong squads and recorded convincing wins.

It is hoped that this new tack will stop that.

The intent is that the successful applicant will not hold a coaching position for their respective service.
Bring it on, Kiwis

THE Australian Services Rugby Union (ASRU) team will have to hit the ground running in the Pacific Nations Military Cup (PACMILCUP) in Canberra in October.

Its first game will be against defending champion the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) – and Australian coach CAPT D.J. Cahill rates the Kiwis as the ones to beat.

“They could put a 54th XV on the field and it would still be strong,” he said.

Four teams – ASRU, the NZDF, the Tongan Defence Services and the Papua New Guinean Defence Force teams – will contest the PACMILCUP at Viking Park from October 14 and culminating on October 23.

As always, the make-up of the ASRU team will be complicated by players being released from work commitments.

“I think we’ll perform pretty well, but a lot of it will come down to the availability of our top line players,” CAPT Cahill said.

That might be tested this time as they cobble a team together.

Of an initial squad of 26, at least 11 have been made unavailable (due largely to Exercise Hamel), and a further seven are doubtful.

That’s good news for some Air Force players.

In the original squad, prop/hooker CPL Richard Falkenmire was the sole Air Force player.

But AC Chris Tuttiett and CPL Richard Lucker have now been called into the squad, and FLTLT Andre Holmes, AC Shaun Connolly and LAC Bodine Luscott are also expected to receive late call ups.

LAC Alex Chan and LAC Brian White would have been selected for this senior ASRU side, too, but both are unavailable.

The ASRU comes into this tournament with some reasonable form behind it.

In July, an emerging ASRU team beat United States Combined Services 2-0 in a series in Australia and that gave CAPT Cahill a good chance to see some of the players in action.

This will be the third PACMILCUP.

The first one in 2006 was won by Fiji, which beat ASRU in the final. In 2008, it was an all-New Zealand final. The more experienced NZDF team toppled a younger NZDF Academy team.

Next year, the International Defence Rugby Championships will be held in Canberra in October.

This will comprise military teams from Britain, New Zealand, US, China, South Africa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and the ASRU.
Double triumph

GP Capt Phil Tammern and SQNLDR Hilton Hunter, Roger Kropman and Rob Saunders, from Logistics Branch – Air Force (LOGBR-AF), had two reasons to be jubilant when they crossed the finish line together after walking 100km in the Sydney Oxfam Trailwalker.

The team members, competing as team No. 463 and calling themselves Log Jam, raised more than $3000 for Oxfam charities. “Before the start, we spent the next 30 hours clambering over rocks, dodging tree roots waiting to trip you over and wondering just how much punishment our feet could take,” SQNLDR Saunders said.

“Fortunately we were still able to laugh and encourage each other. The final 11km push took 21 minutes.”

“Would we do it again? We’d say yes. It was a significant challenge, at times very tough and painful, but extremely rewarding,” he said.

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“At each checkpoint, our support team – WGCDR John Shepherd and SQNLDRs Mal Leonard, Sean Banforth and Jim Veino – ensured that lots of food, hot drinks and our personal support bags were ready so that we could stick to our planned 20-minute stops (we had chosen not to sleep during the event).

“The bacon and egg sandwiches they prepared for the 6am breakfast on Saturday morning really boosted our spirits. By the 60km mark, the four of us were hurting. Blisters, aching joints and muscles, a few scrapes and bruises, and burning feet were taking their toll,” he said.

“Fortunately we were still able to laugh and encourage each other. The final 11km push took 21 minutes. “Would we do it again? We’d say yes. It was a significant challenge, at times very tough and painful, but extremely rewarding,” he said.

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“The results were a bit unsettling but I’ve had some good training sessions lately and I’m feeling good now,” says FLGOFF Lisa Flint. “The results were a bit unsettling but I’ve had some good training sessions lately and I’m feeling good now,” says FLGOFF Lisa Flint. 

“We spent the next 30 hours clambering over rocks, dodging tree roots waiting to trip you over and wondering just how much punishment our feet could take,” SQNLDR Saunders said.

“The final 11km push took us through Seaforth, over the Spit Bridge, through the sands of Balmoral Beach and a final stair climb up to Georges Heights Oval in Mosman.

“With hardly any energy left, the cheers of the crowd drove us across the finish line late Saturday afternoon in a time of 31 hours and 21 minutes.

“Would we do it again? We’d have to say yes. It was a significant challenge, at times very tough and painful, but extremely rewarding and one of the best team-building activities you could undertake.”

“If you have any information for a sports story in Air Force News, contact John Martin, (02) 6265 7219 or john.martin@defence- news.gov.au.

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Go get ‘em at Games marathon

From Back Page

The last marathon she contested, she won – and convincingly, too, with a qualifying time for the Commonwealth Games.

But that was the Melbourne marathon in October last year, after which she was spoken in athletics circles as the next big thing in women’s long-distance running.

Since then, she has only run shorter races – as short as a 5km cross-country race and only as long as two half-marathons (in which she finished second in Christchurch, New Zealand in June, and sixth at the Australian titles on the Gold Coast in July).

While those races, under the eye of coach Scott Westcott, have been good for getting some speed into her legs, she said the results, the Gold Coast one particularly, haven’t been great for building her confidence.

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Go get ‘em at Games marathon

From Back Page

The last marathon she contested, she won – and convincingly, too, with a qualifying time for the Commonwealth Games.

But that was the Melbourne marathon in October last year, after which she was spoken in athletics circles as the next big thing in women’s long-distance running.

Since then, she has only run shorter races – as short as a 5km cross-country race and only as long as two half-marathons (in which she finished second in Christchurch, New Zealand in June, and sixth at the Australian titles on the Gold Coast in July).

While those races, under the eye of coach Scott Westcott, have been good for getting some speed into her legs, she said the results, the Gold Coast one particularly, haven’t been great for building her confidence.

“The results were a bit unsettling but I’ve had some good training sessions lately and I’m feeling good now,” says FLGOFF Lisa Flint. “The results were a bit unsettling but I’ve had some good training sessions lately and I’m feeling good now,” says FLGOFF Lisa Flint. 

“Would we do it again? We’d have to say yes. It was a significant challenge, at times very tough and painful, but extremely rewarding and one of the best team-building activities you could undertake.”

“If you have any information for a sports story in Air Force News, contact John Martin, (02) 6265 7219 or john.martin@defence-news.gov.au.

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Go get 'em, Lisa

John Martin

FORGET about the pressure on FLGOFF Lisa Flint to perform well in the women’s marathon at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi on October 14 – perhaps the most stressful mission will belong to her father, Bruce.

FLGOFF Flint, a pharmacist with 2 Expeditionary Health Squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown, is not confident that’s going to be an easy snack to find in India.

Still, that’s what she will be craving for over those 42.2km. Well, that and a good performance (dare we mention the prospect of a medal)?

FLGOFF Flint is due to leave Australia on September 30, and plans to soak up the atmosphere by marching in the opening ceremony on October 3.

“I’m pretty excited at the moment,” she said.

“My build-up hasn’t been quite like I’ve planned. I’ve had some races that I wasn’t happy with, but I’m getting ready to race and am confident it’ll all come together.”

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Footnote:

FEELING GOOD: FLGOFF Lisa Flint, a pharmacist with 2 Expeditionary Health Squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown, is all set.

Photo: LAC Craig Barnett

When FLGOFF Lisa Flint was growing up in Queensland, swimming was her passion.

“I wanted to go to the Olympics for swimming when I was 12,” she said.

She trained each morning and idolised some of the big names in the Australian swim team.

It’s no surprise then that FLGOFF Flint hopes to catch some of the swimming events at the Commonwealth Games.

She is not sure exactly how much free time she’ll have between her involvement in the opening ceremony on October 3 and the women’s marathon on October 14.

“There are two distance coaches going over, so they’ll be guiding us,” she said.

But she hoped to see some swimming, and hockey. Why hockey?

“Hockey is one of India’s national sports. They’re very strong, and the Australians have super good teams too. There will be a lot of Indian support for hockey, and every chance of Australia versus India in the final. I just think the atmosphere would be amazing at one of those matches.”

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