

*In memory of Pte Alec Campbell  
Our last Gallipoli Veteran*

The True Ordeal

When you feel the lift of the troopship's deck  
At the screws first fitful turn,  
And you gaze your last on the land you own  
Through the veiling mists astern.

Then your heart beats high and your thoughts range free  
And your mounting spirits soar,  
As the wine of adventure fires your blood  
With the age-old lure of war.

No thought for the eyes that will smile through tears  
So bravely put to last  
Nor heed for the hearts that will know no peace  
Till the holocaust is past.

For you rise to answer the war-gods call,  
Eager to take your place  
In the ranks of those who go forth to prove  
The courage of their race.

But you learn that war is a deadly game  
As your mates fall one by one,  
And your spirit shrinks from the questing steel  
And the all-destroying gun.

Yet you grimly drive your reluctant flesh  
Through the blinding hail of lead,  
Nor flinch, as you win to a flame-limned breach  
O'er a mounting pile of dead.

But a prayer goes up from that reeking hell,  
From the lips of the silent slain,  
That their cause may live, and their sacrifice  
Shall not have been in vein.

So you grasp the torch from their nerveless hand  
And bear it once more on high,  
To bring new hope to a world enslaved,  
Or show them how men can die.

And the Great Recorder, who lives above,  
Shall take up His golden pen,  
To write, as their serried ranks pass on,  
"There are still some good men".

Written by an Australian Soldier in Gallipoli (Name unknown)



## *The Horse's Mouth*

# *The Newsletter of the* **RAEME Association** **of WA (Inc.)**

## **Winter 2002**

This newsletter is the official journal of the **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)**. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for January, at 7.00pm, ANZAC House, 28 St. George's Terrace, Perth. Membership or other enquiries may be made to any of the committee members. A list is printed on Page 2 of this journal.

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*Volume 5 No. 2*

**The RAEME Association of WA (Inc.)**  
**PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6053**

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**DEADLINE**

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than 23rd of August 2002.

**DISCLAIMER**

Thoughts expressed in articles in THE HORSE'S MOUTH are those held by the writer/contributors and not necessarily those of the Association.

**From the President**

Sitting at my desk I am looking back five years, because this is our 5th year of formation and it also my fifth term as your President just having being re-elected.

I have just read through the first edition of the "Horses Mouth", and I must say we have come a long way since. I am still pleased to say that the way the Association has taken is going in the right direction, because without the help of the committee we would be lost. I must therefore thank all that have

supported the cause, they have kept alive the spirit of the Corps and the aim and purpose for which the Association was established. Our aim is to maintain fellowship between serving and former members of the Corps and to create social activities, but we can only achieve this by pulling together

We have established good communications with all other RAEME Associations in Australia and I hope we can keep this alive.

The future of the Association is in the hands of the members and great

but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.

Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone.

**Things to ponder!**

If you throw a cat out of the car window, does it become kitty litter?

If you choke a Smurf, what colour does it turn?

Is it OK to use the AM radio after noon?

What do chickens think we taste like?

What do people in China call their good plates/dishes?

What do you call a male ladybug?

What hair colour do they put on the driver's license of a bald man?

When dog food is new and improved tasting, who tests it?

And how can it be improved if it is new?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

**Wisdom with age**

\* I live in my own little world. But it's OK ... they know me here.

\* I saw a woman wearing a sweatshirt with "GUESS" on it. I said, "Implants?"

\* I don't do drugs any more 'cause I get the same effect just standing up really fast.

\* Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

\* I got a sweater for Christmas. . What I really wanted was a screamer or a moaner.

\* If flying is so safe, why do they call

the airport the terminal?

\* I don't approve of political jokes . . . I've seen too many of them get elected.  
 \* The most precious thing we have is life, yet it has absolutely no trade-in value.

\* There are two sides to every divorce-yours and Shithead's.

\* If life deals you lemons, make lemonade; if it deals you tomatoes, make Bloody Marys. - But if it deals you a truckload of hand grenades... now THAT'S a message!!

\* I am a nobody, and nobody is perfect; therefore I am perfect.

\* Everyday I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

\* If carrots are so good for the eyes, how come I see so many dead rabbits on the highway?

\* Why is it that most nudists are people you don't want to see naked?

\* The next time you feel like complaining, remember: Your garbage disposal probably eats better than thirty percent of the people in this world.

\* Snowmen fall from Heaven unassembled.

\* Every time I walk into a singles bar I can hear Mom's wise words: "Don't pick that up, you don't know where it's been!"

**Answer to Think Outside  
Your Box**

He simply answered: "I would give the car keys to my old friend, and let him take the lady to the hospital. I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the woman of my dreams."

Sometimes, we gain more if we are able to give up our stubborn thought limitations. Never forget to "Think Outside of the Box."

Of course another option would be to run the old lady over and put her out of her misery, make love to the perfect woman against the bus stop and drive off with the old friend.

'flashbacks'. I don't think you can call them flashbacks if that day has never been out of my mind.

I hope that when you do see the movie it will fill you with pride and awe for the Rangers that fought their hearts out that day. Believe me, they are made of the same stuff as those kids at Normandy Beach. When 1LT Tom DiTomasso, the Ranger platoon leader

on my aircraft, told me that we did a fantastic job, I couldn't imagine ever receiving higher praise than that. I love my wife and children, but the greatest thing I've ever done is to be a Nightstalker Pilot with Task Force Ranger on 3-4 Oct 1993.

Capt. Gerry Izzo (Super65)  
"NSDQ"  
Nightstalkers Don't Quit

### Life According to Perry

Here is the latest offering from our own home spun Philosopher Perry.

#### Words of Wisdom:

Tact is for those without enough wit to be sarcastic.

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.

When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial cost and blamed it on the cost of living.

Just remember...if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.

You can't have everything; where would you put it?

The things that come to those that wait are usually the things left by those who got there first.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

It was recently discovered that research causes cancer in rats.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you

hear them speak.

Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic.

Stupidity got us into this mess - why can't it get us out?

Love is grand; divorce is a hundred grand.

Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common. They should both be changed regularly and for the same reason.

There is always death and taxes; however death doesn't get worse every year.

People will accept your ideas much more readily if you tell them that Benjamin Franklin said it first.

In just two days, tomorrow will be yesterday.

I am having an out of money experience.

I plan on living forever. So far, so good.

I am in shape. Round is a shape.

I have kleptomania, but when it gets really bad, I take something for it.

I am not a perfectionist. My parents were, though.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time,

thought should be given to future committees, as to a change at the top end maybe. I have been in the chair for five years and I would like to see the younger generation take on the responsibility of running the committee with new fresh ideas. There is enough young blood out there to start thinking of taking the reigns and steer the Association into the future.

I am still aiming to encourage members to attend meetings, which are only held once per month. The regular members that do attend always seem to have something to talk about and they are having a good time. So set your schedule for the first Thursday of each month and come join us.

Well, that's it from me, hope you can make it for the next meeting.

John Klein

**Arte et Marte.**

### Vietnam Veterans Sons & Daughters WA Regional Reference Group

As the result of a federal government initiative, the Vietnam Veterans Sons and Daughters Regional Reference Group has been formed. The group consists of seven daughters and two sons of Vietnam Veterans, who have expressed interest in participating in the group via focus groups held through the VVCS.

The group has just finished their intensive learning period, where they have listened to speakers inform them about issues such as PTSD and suicide. Now that the group are well informed, they will be moving on to the

action side of things – designing programs and services they feel will be beneficial to Vietnam Veterans Sons and Daughters.

Current ideas include information evenings dealing with a wide range of issues including parenting skills, providing information about the Vietnam War, PTSD and suicide prevention.

If you are interested in joining the group, feel you have something to contribute or would just like some more information please do not hesitate to contact the **Vietnam Veterans Sons and Daughters Project Officer Valerie Vicich on (08) 9481 1955.**

**Ed:** We think that this group deserves all the moral support we can give to them. If you are the child of a Vietnam Veteran we would suggest that you look into the group. If you are a Vietnam Veteran with young adults in your family, encourage them to find out more about the group.

### Report Endorses Government Initiatives to Stamp Out 'Rough Justice'

Federal Government initiatives to address 'rough justice' in the military have been endorsed by the recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Danna Vale today released the Government's response to the 2001 Committee report from an inquiry which looked at allegations of brutality in the Army's parachute battalion, 3RAR.

"Of the report's eight recommendations, six were being implemented by Defence

prior to the Committee report,” Minister Vale said.

“This highlights Defence’s pro-active response to addressing unacceptable behaviour in the military.

“Today’s Federal Government response to the Committee report provides a valuable update on this important issue and demonstrates that progress is being made to stamp out ‘rough justice’.”

Prior to the Committee handing down its report, the Federal Government initiated a wider inquiry into military justice within the ADF. The Burchett Audit of Military Justice was presented by Mr. James Burchett QC on 13 July 2001. Defence is committed to fully implementing the recommendations of the audit.

Minister Vale said the Committee endorsed the actions of Defence, such as the full military stand down in February 2001. The Committee Report notes that “action taken by the senior leadership of Defence to raise the profile of justice and harassment.... should ensure that Defence personnel are aware of their rights. This will go a long way to ensuring that this type of incident does not occur again”.

“Importantly, like the Burchett Audit, the Committee found no evidence of widespread systemic avoidance of Military Justice procedures in the Australian Defence Force,” Minister Vale said.

“However, as has been said before, there is no place in the ADF for ‘rough justice’.

“Allegations of unacceptable behaviour will be investigated, and if there is a case to answer, alleged offenders will be subject to the Military Justice System,” she said.

Minister Vale said the overwhelming majority of recommendations in the report, including a review of the Defence Legal Service and implementation of programs to educate Defence personnel about their rights were under way before the Committee reported.

The Government will shortly announce the appointment of an Inspector General of the ADF to permanently scrutinise the conduct of Military Justice. This position will be directly responsible to the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF). In addition, the Government aims to establish the position of an independent Director of Military Prosecutions later this year.

The Government’s Response to the Joint Standing Committee’s Report on Rough Justice? An investigation into Allegations of Brutality in the Army’s Parachute Battalion is available on the Defence web site at <http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/Valetpl.cfm?CurrentId=1338>

### Sick List

We wish our member Denise McWhinnie all the very best after her hospitalisation in Joondalup. We all hope that you are over your problems and are rapidly recovering. We miss you at our monthly meetings. Definitely one of the roses among all us thorns. Get well soon.

Our old Secretary is off to the chopping block at Hollywood again. Talk about dropping his new Assistant Secretary right into it. John will be in Hollywood for about two weeks from 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2002 with another complete knee replacement. Back to the crutches and grumpy disposition again. Doing this is probably the only way Clare will have

done for the night.

The final group of aircraft were the 4 MH6 gunships, and the command and control Blackhawk and the Search and Rescue ‘Hawk’. They were

Barber 51-54 MH6’s  
Super 63 C&C  
Super 68 SAR

In the movie, the gunships are shown making only one attack. In fact, they were constantly engaged all night long. Each aircraft reloaded six times. It is estimated that they fired between 70 and 80,000 rounds of minigun ammo and fired a total 90 to 100 aerial rockets. They were the only thing that kept the Somalis from overrunning the objective area. All eight gunship pilots were awarded the Silver Star. Every one of them deserved it!

Next is Super 68. The actions of this crew were very accurately portrayed. The only difference was that they were actually hit in the rotor blades by an RPG. This blew a semicircle out of the main rotor spar, but the blade held together long enough for them to finish putting in the medics and Rangers at the first crashsite. It was then that they headed to the airfield. What they did not know, was that their main transmission and engine oil cooler had been destroyed by the blast. As they headed to the airfield all 7 gallons of oil from the main rotor gearbox, and all 7 quarts from each engine was pouring out. They got the aircraft on the ground just as all oil pressures went to zero. They then shutdown, ran to the spare aircraft and took off to rejoin the battle. They were in the air just in time to affect the MEDEVAC of Super 62, which had landed at the seaport. The pilots of this aircraft were CW3 Dan Jollota, and MAJ Herb Rodriguez. Both men were later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Major Rodriguez is retired from the Army now and he teaches middle school with my wife in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Finally there is the Command and Control Blackhawk, Super 63. In the back of this aircraft was my battalion commander, LTC Matthews, and the overall ground commander, LTC Harrell.

In the movie, there is a scene where the men on the ground were begging for MEDEVAC. By this point in the battle we had 5 Blackhawks out of action, either shot down or shot up so much they couldn’t fly anymore. Of the two assault force and four blocking force ‘hawks’, only myself and Super 67 were left. I fully expected LTC Harrell to send us in to try to get those men out. I jacked a round into the chamber of my pistol and my M16. I knew that the only way to do was to hover with one wheel balanced on the roof of the building. Then the Rangers would be able to throw the wounded in. I knew that we were going to take a lot of fire and I was trying to mentally prepare myself to do this while the aircraft was getting hit. My friends had all gone in and taken their licks and now I figured it was our turn. (Peer pressure is such a powerful tool if used properly.) Quite frankly, I really thought that we were at best going to get shot down, at worst I figured we were going to be killed. The way I saw it we had already lost 5 aircraft, what was 2 more? I had accepted this because at least when this was all over General Garrison would be able to tell the families that we had tried everything to get their sons, fathers or husbands out. We were even willing to send in our last two helicopters. Fortunately for me LTC Harrell realized that the time for helicopters had passed. The decision was made to get the tanks and armored personnel carriers to punch through to the objective area. Once again, the dialogue in the movie is verbatim. What you don’t hear is me breathing a sigh of relief! I remembered thinking that maybe I was going to see the sunrise after all.

I guess I got a little carried away. I really didn’t mean to write this much. People ask me if this movie has given me

Randy were put in Super 62 was struck in the fuselage by an antitank rocket. The whole right side of the aircraft was opened up and the sniper manning the right door gun had his leg blown off. The aircraft was able to make it out of the battle area to the port area where they made a controlled crash landing. (This is not depicted in the movie.)

Next was the Ranger Blocking Force. This consisted of 4 Blackhawks:

Super 64 (CW3 Mike Durant, CW4 Ray Frank)

Super 65 (Me, Cpt Richard Williams)

Super 66 (CW3 Stan Wood, CW4 Gary Fuller)

Super 67 (CW3 Jeff Niklaus, CW2 Sam Shamp)

The mission of the blocking force was to be inserted at the four corners of the objective building and to prevent any Somali reinforcements from getting through. In the movie there is a brief overhead shot of the assault. My aircraft is depicted in the lower left-hand corner of the screen. This is the only part of the film where I come close to being mentioned. As the assault is completed, you hear the Blackhawks calling out of the objective area. When you hear, "...Super 65 is out, going to holding..." that's my big movie moment. There is also a quick shot of an RPG being shot at a hovering Blackhawk. I did have one maybe two fired at me, but I did not see them or the gunner. I only heard the explosions. We were not able to return fire, although some of the other aircraft did. Make no mistake. I am fully aware of my role in this mission. My job was the same as the landing boat drivers in "Saving Private Ryan." Get the troops in the right place in one piece. I am very proud of the fact that my crew and I were able to do that. After having done this in Grenada, Panama and Somalia, I can identify with the bombardiers of World War Two. You

have to ignore all of the chaos that is going on around and completely concentrate on the tasks at hand. That is holding the aircraft as steady as possible so the Rangers can slide down the ropes as quickly and safely as possible.

Okay, Okay, enough about me. Super 64 was shot down also with an RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade). They tried to make it back to the airfield, but their tail rotor gave way about a mile out of the objective area. They went down in the worst part of bad guy territory. The dialogue for the movie appears to have been taken from the mission tapes as it is exactly as I remember it. (This was the hardest part of the movie for me to watch). The actions on the ground are as described by Mike Durant, as he was the only one from the crew to survive the crash and the gun battle. It was here the Gary and Randy won their Posthumous Medals of Honor.

Super 66 was called in at about 2000 hours to resupply the Rangers at the objective area. Some of the Rangers were completely out of ammunition and were fighting hand to hand with the Somali militiamen. (Also not depicted in the movie). Stan and Gary brought their aircraft in so that they were hovering over the top of the Olympic Hotel with the cargo doors hanging out over the front door. In this way they were able to drop the ammo, water and medical supplies to the men inside. Stan's left gunner fired 1600 rounds of minigun ammo in 30 seconds. He probably killed between 8 to 12 Somali militiamen. As Stan pulled out of the objective area, he headed to the airfield because his right gunner had been wounded, as had the two Rangers in the back who were throwing out the supplies. Once he landed, he discovered that he'd been hit by about 40-50 rounds and his transmission leaking oil like a sieve. Super 66 was

of keeping him home!

To all those out there who are feeling the best, let us know. We may be of some help to you.

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### Vale Maureen Humpston

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of one of our Associate Members, Maureen Humpston. Maureen, whose husband, Peter is a founding member of the Association Committee, lead a very fruitful life that was not without its share of tragedies.

Maureen was born Mary Teresa Sheedy in County Cork, Eire on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1923. Her family were prominent farmers from Kilmallock, County Limerick. She lost her mother when she was 10 years of age, but formed a very deep and special relationship with her stepmother.

In 1943 she left Ireland for England to help with the war effort. After working with the NAAFI (who we all know!), she volunteered for overseas duty and was posted to the Canal Zone in Egypt. In 1948, she went to Benghazi in Cyrenaica where she met her future husband, Peter, who at that time was a dashing young Technical Warrant Officer. Peter was about to take a position in the British Foreign Office and was seconded to the personal staff of Emir HH Said Idris El Senussi.

Maureen and Peter were married in the Benghazi Cathedral on 6<sup>th</sup> of January 1951. Their first child, Seamus, was born at Benghazi in October of that year.

Maureen and Peter then moved to Malaya where Peter had secured employment in the mining industry. In Malaya they were blessed with two more children, Peter and Sharon. They would move between Kuala Lumpur and

Singapore during this period, finally settling in Singapore in 1965. However tragedy struck in 1978 with the accidental death of their eldest son, Seamus. Maureen never really recovered from the shock of Seamus' death.

Peter moved to Bahrain and Maureen followed after settling all their affairs in Singapore and attending their son Peter's wedding in Melbourne. In 1981 they again moved to the Sultanate of Oman where Peter was given a work contract. Sharon, their daughter was married in Oman and settled in Muscat with her husband.

Maureen and Peter then returned to England where they set up a Guest House. Sharon and her husband and Maureen's new granddaughter moved to Peterborough and lived a short distance from Maureen. At this time Peter was offered, and accepted, another contract in Oman. Maureen was to come to Oman regularly to see Peter. However, the Gulf War prevented her from doing so. They only saw each other a couple of times in that two years.

Maureen sold the Guest House and moved to Perth to be with her son, Peter. Her husband, Peter, was to join them later as soon as he left Oman. Maureen was devastated to find that her husband had Cancer and the Australian Government would not grant him a visa. It took five long years of treatment before Peter was declared clear of Cancer and he could join his wife.

In 1997, Maureen was hit with another tragedy when Sharon her only daughter died in the UK at the age of just 42. She returned to England for her daughter's funeral and to see her husband for the first time in four years. Peter saw what a derogatory effect Sharon's death had had on Maureen.

At least they were finally together when she was able to bring Peter to Australia in 1998.

Maureen has left a loving husband and an equally devoted son. All their friends in the Association mourn Maureen's passing. With the suffering she has had in her lifetime she has her place in paradise where she can be happy. To Peter and Peter we would express our very deep condolences in their loss of their wife and mother.

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### **The 2002 Budget**

Apart from being screwed by the politicians as usual here are two small benefits that may help some of our members.

#### **War Veterans**

Australian War Veterans aged 70 or over with post World War II qualifying service will qualify for a Gold Card providing access to free health care and treatment for all conditions and concessional pharmaceuticals under the Repatriation Benefits Scheme. The measure will cost \$93.1 million over four years.

#### **War Widow Support**

War Widows' Income Support Supplements which boost the War Widows' pensions will be indexed twice per year in line with Service Pension inflation. The move will apply from September 20<sup>th</sup> this year and will raise the current level of Income Support Supplement ceiling of \$124.90 according to the inflation levels at the time.

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### **Reserve Company to East Timor**

Army Reservists will play a greater role in Australia's East Timor operations,

the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Danna Vale, announced today.

"A company manned largely by Reservists will deploy to East Timor as part of the next Australian rotation later this year," Minister Vale said.

"This will be the first time since World War II that a formed combat arms unit of Army Reserve soldiers has deployed on operations."

Minister Vale said the decision delivered on the Howard Government's commitment in the 2000 Defence White Paper to make greater use of the Reserves to support and sustain ADF operations for extended periods.

"The Government's Defence White Paper articulated a new strategic role for Reserves to stand shoulder to shoulder with their Regular counterparts in contemporary military operations," Minister Vale said.

"This is a significant move away from Reservists' past role where they served as a mobilisation base for the ADF in times of major conflict or threat.

"Already Reservists have been successfully deployed as part of Army units, such as the 6 RAR Battalion Group that went to East Timor in 2000.

"Reservists working alongside regular Army personnel have made an invaluable contribution to Australia's efforts in East Timor, proving they can do the job they have been trained to do."

In order to commence the necessary force preparation and pre-deployment training, Army will shortly call for Reservists to volunteer for 12-14 months' full-time service in the infantry company.

The Reservists will deploy with the same conditions of service and allowances as their regular counterparts whilst on

The author of the below E-mail, Gerry Izzo, is currently a Captain at Comair. He flew one of the UH-60s on the mission that is depicted in the movie "Blackhawk Down."

During the last few days many pilots have come up to me and asked me if I had seen the movie "Blackhawk Down." I don't mind talking about the movie, and I welcome the opportunity to talk about the heroism and valor of my friends. I just wanted to post some comments here about the movie and my impressions. Also I wanted to try to answer some frequently asked questions.

First of all, I and many of my friends that also flew on the mission thought that the movie was excellent! It is technically accurate and it is dramatically correct. In other words, the equipment, lingo and dialogue are all right on. By dramatically correct, I mean that it very effectively captured the emotions and tension that we all felt during the mission. It did this without being a cartoon, (like TOP GUN) or being over the top, (like FIREBIRDS). It's true that the screenwriters had to consolidate two or three people into one, but this was necessary because otherwise there would have been too

many principle characters to keep track of. Also in the actual mission we had nearly 20 aircraft in the air that day. In the movie they had 4 Blackhawks and 4 "Little Birds". The unit could not afford to commit the actual number to the filming of the movie. However, through the magic of the cinema, they were able to give the impression of the real number. Our force mixture was as follows:

Super 61 - Lead Blackhawk  
Star 41-44 Little Bird Assault  
Super 62 - Trail Blackhawk

These aircraft made up the assault force. Their mission was to go into the buildings and capture the individuals who were the target of the day. Super 61 was shutdown, killing both pilots. (They were CW4 Cliff Wolcott and CW3 Donovan Briley. The three of us shared a room at the airfield.) Star 41 landed at the crashsite and the pilot CW4 Keith Jones ran over and dragged two survivors to his aircraft and took off for the hospital. Keith re-enacted his actions in the movie. Super 62 was the Blackhawk that put in the two Delta snipers, Sergeant First Class Randy Shughart and Master Sergeant Gary Gordon. They were inserted at crashsite #2. Shortly after Gary and

### **Can We Help You**

The RAEME Association is concerned about the welfare of RAEME members in Western Australia, Particularly if they have a disability or getting a bit on the elderly side. We would like to set up a practical help and support group who can provide a voluntary service such as gardening, home help, transport, or assistance with shopping, etc.

So, if you are fit and healthy and are willing to give a little of your time to help other members of the Corps, contact the Secretary and let him know. We will maintain a database of helpers and expertise.

If you need assistance because of age or infirmity, let us know. We will be only too glad to make sure that you have the help you need. And the best part of it is that it is all part of the service.

forces stems from their lack of a central organizing structure. "They don't play by the traditional rules of war," complained one spokesman. "They come in all shapes and sizes, united only by their single-minded desire to destroy the Empire before it destroys them."

The Emperor closed his comments today by stating that "the cowardly attack on the Death Star left a deep scar on the Empire. However, we will not stop fighting until every last evildoer has been brought to justice." He paused for several moments, wiping away a tear and then added with determination, "We will never forget."

"I wish we could all just get along," said one of the mourners. "But it's hard to offer an olive branch to a cult of religious fanatics whose main tool is violence and who insist on calling us the Dark Side.'

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### **And Who Said the IRA Couldn't Help!**

An old man lived alone in Ireland. He wanted to spade his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, a member of the IRA who would have helped him, was in Long Kesh Prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and mentioned his predicament.

Soon afterward he found this message on his telephone answering machine; "For HEAVEN'S SAKE Dad, don't dig up the garden, that's where I buried the GUNS!"

At 4 A.M. the next morning, a dozen British soldiers showed up and dug up the entire garden, without finding any guns.

Confused, the old man wrote another note to his son telling him what happened, and asking him what to do

next. His son's reply was: "Now plant your potatoes, Dad. It's the best I could do at this time."

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### **So THAT's it!**

(A) The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

(B) On the other hand, the French eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

(C) The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

(D) The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans

(E) Conclusion: Eat & drink what you like. It's speaking English that kills you.

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### **A Soldier's Eye-View of "Blackhawk Down"**

A retired Major General friend of mine sent this to me. It is an interesting validation of the movie "Blackhawk Down." Whatever you think of the military or that particular day in Somalia, you must respect the heroism depicted in that movie. If you haven't seen it, I can tell you it is an excellent film, but may be hard for many to watch. The movie is 2 1/2 hours long, but once the battle starts it is like watching the 30-minute opening sequences of "Saving Private Ryan" for 90 minutes.

Don

MILINET: A Soldier's Eye-View of "Blackhawk Down"

Contributed By: LTC Greg Wilcox, USA (Ret)

operations.

Minister Vale said the Federal Government recognised that balancing the needs of Reserve service with workplace requirements could be difficult for some businesses.

"Reservists bring extra skills to their workplace, and the experience gained on operational deployments such as this will be of great benefit to businesses which employ Reservists," the Minister said.

"In addition, eligible employers will also be able to access the Federal Government's Employer Support Payment scheme which provides compensation to businesses for releasing employees to serve in the deployment."

"The men and women of the Army Reserve are an essential and integral part of the Army and I am confident that the Reserve company will repeat the success of Reserve contributions to previous deployments."

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### **ATM Scam**

This next little article has been sent to the Editor from the UK. It is one which can effect every one of us who have a "Plastic Fantastic".

The latest ATM scam involves thieves putting a thin, clear, rigid plastic 'sleeve' into the ATM card slot. When you insert your card, the machine can't read the strip, so it keeps asking you to re-enter your PIN number.

Meanwhile, someone behind you watches as you tap in your number. Eventually you give up, thinking the machine has swallowed your card and you walk away.

The thieves then remove the plastic sleeve complete with card, and empty

your account. The way to avoid this is to run your finger along the card slot before you put your card in. The sleeve has a couple of tiny prongs that the thieves need to get the sleeve out of the slot, and you'll be able to feel them.

The police would like as many people as possible to be aware of this scam, so pass this on to your friends.

**Ed:** I thought about putting this article in the HM. But then I read the following article in the West Australian on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2002. I thank the "West" and Grant Taylor for publishing it and bringing the scam to the attention of the public.

### **Police Alert over ATM loop scam**

Police fear a teller machine scam which tricks bank customers out of their debit cards and PIN details is headed for WA.

Perpetrators put a plastic loop into the teller machine. It grabs a customer's card after insertion and prevents its return.

Det-Insp. Peter Lavender, of the Commercial Crime Division, said the scam operator would approach the customer and say that they had the same problem which could be fixed by typing in the card's personal identification number or PIN.

The offender would then watch the customer type in the PIN and return later to pull the card out by the loop's concealed ends.

Insp. Lavender said the scam had netted big sums in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria and it is only a matter of time before it appeared in Perth.

Another version of the scam involved a note being left on the teller machine. It said that due to technical difficulties, the machine might retain cards but

advised customers that typing in their PIN number three times would return it.

If this failed, customers were advised to contact their bank in three days.

If the customer followed the note's directions, the scam artist would then have three days to withdraw money from the account or make purchases.

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### **Medal Recognition For Personnel Involved In The International Coalition Against Terrorism**

Australian Defence Force personnel serving as part of Australia's commitment to the international coalition against terror (ICAT) will be recognised with the awarding of a new clasp Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Danna Vale announced today.

Australian personnel serving in Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf and surrounding region, are playing a vital role in the global coalition against terror, Minister Vale said.

They have received widespread international recognition for their efforts, and their achievements at sea, on land and in the air have brought great credit to themselves, to the Australian Defence Force, and to our nation.

The Federal Government believes these men and women also deserve tangible recognition of their achievements, through the awarding of the Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp ICAT.

The award will be issued under the following conditions:

Service of one day or more by members of the ADF in forward areas with Operation Slipper, which commenced on 11 October 2001. This is subject to being allotted for service with the

operation; or service of 30 days or more, in the aggregate, in Diego Garcia from the period which commenced on 11 October 2001 in association with Operation Slipper; or

Service of not less than an aggregate of 30 days, or 30 sorties, for official visits, inspections or occurrences of a temporary nature in connection with Operation Slipper; or

Operational sorties will also qualify at the rate of one sortie into the forward areas by personnel allotted to Operation Slipper, or 30 sorties into Diego Garcia.

Medals and clasps are a tangible way our grateful nation can give our thanks to the men and women who serve to protect our nation and our Australian way of life, Minister Vale said.

Recognition of this service is also an important reminder to all Australians of the volatile nature of this campaign.

Application forms may be found at the Defence Internet site on:

**[http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe\\_site/honours\\_awards/resources/forms/ac694.pdf](http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/resources/forms/ac694.pdf) and should be mailed to the ADF Medals Section as indicated on the form.**

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### **The Adventures of a Boy Soldier**

Peter Humpston is rather busy at the moment and cannot provide the next chapter of his Boy Nostalgia. We look forward to his adventures in coming issues of the Horse's Mouth.

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### **For Sale**

1 Electronic AP Sports Exercise Bike. Hardly ever used because of injury. \$50.00. **Call Clare 9271 4520**

destroyed in an attack by fanatic Rebels, who used small, single-person crafts to infiltrate seemingly impenetrable defenses. Thousands of mourners were on hand to remember and pay tribute to the victims and their families.

"We lost our innocence that day," reflected one mourner. "I guess we thought we were immune from the kind of violence that happens in other galaxies. We were wrong."

"I lost hundreds of buddies that day," said one teary-eyed Stormtrooper. "Guys whose only crime was trying make the Universe a safer place."

Although the day was colored by sadness, the mourners found some relief in the news of a decisive victory over the Rebels.

In an attack led by Darth Vader, Empire forces were able to rout hundreds of Rebels from a network of caves underneath the surface of the planet Hoth. "We're not sure we got them all," says a Vader spokesman. "There are a lot of places to hide in those caves. But we've delivered a powerful blow to the terrorist's infrastructure, that's for sure. Today, the Empire has struck back."

Initial reports are unclear as to the fate of Luke Skywalker, a hero among the Rebels, who is rumored to have delivered the fatal blow to the Death Star. Skywalker, a former desert-dweller from the planet Tatooine, became a part of the Rebellion after family members were killed. Skywalker was trained by a militant wing of the Rebels, known

as "Jedi Knights." Fanatical in their religious beliefs, the Jedi Knights claim to derive their power from the mystical "Force."

It's believed that Skywalker was specifically trained by infamous terrorist O bin Wankanobi. Wankanobi, occasionally called "Ben" and easily recognized by his bearded visage and long, flowing robes, achieved near-martyr status among the Rebels after his death last year during a spy mission. His more fervent followers believe that Wankanobi lives on within them today, some even claiming to hear his voice during times of duress.

The attack on the Death Star came shortly after the Empire's destruction of Alderaan, a planet whose government was known to harbor terrorists. Responding to criticism over the total annihilation of the planet, Vader stated, "There is no middle ground in the War on Terror. Those who harbor terrorists are terrorists themselves. Alderaan was issued ample warning. The fight for continuing Freedom is often burdened by terrible cost."

The cost of this war can still be seen today in the continuing efforts to build a coalition government on Tatooine. Longstanding animosities among the planets various ethnic groups, including the Jawas, Tusken Raiders and scattered human settlers, have been an impediment to the peace process. The Empire continues to maintain a small peace keeping force until a provisional government is finally in place.

Much of the difficulty in fighting the Rebel

### **Don't Forget**

The HORSE'S MOUTH welcomes any correspondence, letters to the Editor, moans or groans. If you have a point of view, let us know. You can send contributions to the Editor at the address on page 2. Remember that you are responsible for what you write. The journal has a disclaimer, also on page 2. So let's have the articles and points of view that are just busting to get out.

over and tapped him on the left arm. The startled Marine turned his body toward the president and received his returned salute!

I was so impressed by this true act of respect for our military people by our president! He really does get it. Most any other person of his stature would have just continued his journey, disregarding the neglected return salute. Not George W. Bush. He is earning the respect of the military community, not expecting it - as most would.

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## **Mathematics in Life**

### **Romance Mathematics**

Smart man + smart woman = romance  
 Smart man + dumb woman = affair  
 Dumb man + smart woman = marriage  
 Dumb man + dumb woman = pregnancy

### **Office Arithmetic**

Smart boss + smart employee = profit  
 Smart boss + dumb employee = production  
 Dumb boss + smart employee = promotion  
 Dumb boss + dumb employee = overtime

### **General Equations Statistics**

A woman worries about the future until she gets a husband.  
 A man never worries about the future until he gets a wife.  
 A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend.  
 A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

### **Happiness**

To be happy with a man, you must understand him a lot and love him a little.  
 To be happy with a woman, you must love her a lot and not try to understand

her at all.

### **Longevity**

Married men live longer than single men, but married men are a lot more willing to die.

### **Propensity To Change**

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.  
 A man marries a woman expecting she won't change, but she does.

### **Discussion Technique**

A woman has the last word in any argument. Anything a man says after that is the beginning of a new argument.

### **How To Stop People From Bugging You About Getting Married**

Old aunts used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "You're next!" They stopped after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

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## **War On Terror Not Over Yet"** **Emperor Declares**

**Ed:** This story may sound a little familiar. Read it and may enjoy the irony of it.

**CORUSCANT**-Presiding over a memorial service commemorating the victims of the attack on the Death Star, the Emperor declared that while recent victories over the Rebel Alliance were "encouraging, the War on Terror is not over yet."

"We will continue to fight these terrorists, and the rogue governments who harbor them, until the universe is safe, once and for all, and the security of the Neo-New Cosmic Order ensured."

It was one year ago today that the Death Star, perhaps the greatest symbol of the Empire's might, was

## **Medal Extension To Recognise Defence Service**

Eligible Australian Defence Force personnel who served in Vietnam, the Middle East, South East Asia and Irian Jaya will receive greater recognition for their service and sacrifice through extended medal entitlements, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, the Hon Danna Vale MP, announced today.

Minister Vale said the extension would see more service personnel receive this important, tangible mark of respect and thanks from a grateful nation.

"The extension of entitlements for the Australian Service Medal and Australian Active Service Medal will also help address some anomalies in the granting of these medals to our servicemen and women," Minister Vale said.

"In particular, the Government is pleased that anomalies in respect of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 for Vietnam have been removed.

"The extension of the AASM 1945-75 to personnel serving in South Vietnam from 31 July 1962 allows some land-based personnel who had previously not been eligible, and the crew of HMAS Quiberon and HMAS Queenborough to be awarded the medal for their service in early 1963."

Minister Vale said personnel in approved third country deployments with the United States and United Kingdom forces in Iraq between 16 July 1991 and 1 October 2001 would be recognised by the awarding of the Australian Service Medal with Clasp 'IRAQ';

"Personnel involved with survey operations in South East Asia between 6 May 1975 and 22 August 1975 will be recognised by the awarding of the

Australian Service Medal with Clasp 'SE ASIA,'" Minister Vale said.

"Personnel involved with the CENDERAWASIH series of survey operations in Irian Jaya between 1976 and 1981 will be recognised by the awarding of the Australian Service Medal with Clasp 'IRIAN JAYA'."

The Minister said applications would be processed in order of date of receipt. Applications forms are available from Federal Members and Senators, or on Defence Internet site:

[http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe\\_site/honours\\_awards/resources/forms/ac694.pdf](http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/resources/forms/ac694.pdf)

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## **The \$0.00 Cheque**

Thursday, 24 January piece as read by Derek Guille on his afternoon ABC program on Thursday 24th January 2002. In March 1999 a man living in Kandos received a bill for his as yet unused gas line stating that he owed \$0.00. He ignored it and threw it away. In April he received another bill and threw that one away too. The following month the gas company sent him a very nasty note stating they were going to cancel his gas line if he didn't send them \$0.00 by return mail. He called them, talked to them, they said it was a computer error and they would take care of it. The following month he decided that it was about time that he tried out the troublesome gas line figuring that if there was usage on the account it would put an end to this ridiculous predicament. However, when he went to use the gas, it had been cut off. He called the gas company who apologised for the computer error once again and said that they would take care of it. The next day he got a bill for \$0.00 stating that payment was now overdue. Assuming that having spoken to them the previous

day the latest bill was yet another mistake and he ignored it, trusting that the company would be as good as their word and sort the problem out. The next month he got a bill for \$0.00 stating that he had 10 days to pay his account or the company would have to take steps to recover the debt. Finally, giving in, he thought he would beat the company at their own game and mailed them a cheque for \$0.00. The computer duly processed his account and returned a statement to the effect that he now owed the gas company nothing at all. A week later, the manager of the Mudgee branch of the Westpac Banking Corporation called our hapless friend and asked him what he was doing writing cheque for \$0.00. After a lengthy explanation the bank manager replied that the \$0.00 cheque had caused their cheque processing software to fail. The bank could therefore not process ANY cheques they had received from ANY of their customers that day because the cheque for \$0.00 had caused the computer to crash. The following month the man received a letter from the gas company claiming that his cheque has bounced and that he now owed them \$0.00 and unless he sent a cheque by return mail they would be taking steps to recover the debt. The man then tried to file a debt harassment claim against the gas company. It took him nearly 2 hours to convince the clerks that he was not joking but convince them he did. They subsequently provided statements, which were considered substantive evidence of the aggravation, and difficulties the man had been forced to endure during this debacle. The matter was heard in the Magistrate's Court in Mudgee and the outcome was this: The gas company was ordered to:

[1] Immediately rectify their computerised accounts system or show cause, within 10 days, why the matter should not be referred to a higher

court for consideration under Company Law.

[2] Pay the bank dishonour fees incurred by the man.

[3] Pay the bank dishonour fees incurred by all the Westpac clients whose cheques had been bounced on the day our friend's had been.

[4] Pay the claimant's court costs; and

[5] Pay the claimant a total of \$1500 per month for the 5-month period March to July inclusive as compensation for the aggravation they had caused their client to suffer.

Date published: 24 01 2002 (ABC WEB SITE)

**Ed:** Thanks to the ABC for drawing this little story to our notice. This same thing happened to me about twenty years ago, just when computers were starting to take over. After many letters backwards and forwards the Bailiff turned up on my front door step to seize goods to the value of \$0.00. He thought that it was a huge joke. After writing a cheque for \$0.00 and presenting it to the Bailiff, all was forgiven. It did, however take a number of years to get back my good credit rating.

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### **Education Boost For Children of Defence Personnel**

Children of Defence personnel will be given extra educational assistance under a new national program launched in Townsville today by Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Danna Vale.

Minister Vale said the Federal Government would provide \$2.45 million over three years from July 2002 for 25 Defence School Transition Aides to

### **Jim's Life in the US**

Jim has come up with a couple of good articles for us in this issue. They are well and truly worth reading.

#### **Why and How the Military Salutes President Bush**

Have you noticed a difference in the salute given by our military men and women as President Bush walks by? Most folks would not notice anything, but military people see it right away. Watch: when President Bush leaves his helicopter or Air Force One, the honor guards salute and face him as he disembarks, then turn their faces towards him as he passes by. They continue to salute his back as he walks away. This kind of salute has not been seen in the previous eight years, though it is customary courtesy to the Commander-in-Chief.

You see, soldiers aren't required to turn and face the President as they salute. They are not required to salute his back. They are only required to salute. They can remain face-forward the entire time. And that is what they did during Bill Clinton's entire Presidency. Our soldiers were forced to obey Clinton's orders, but they were not forced to respect him. From their salutes, we can surmise that they did not.

Why is such respect afforded to President Bush? He doesn't even know how to bite his lower lip and he gets teary-eyed whenever he speaks! The following incident from Major General Van Antwerp may give us an insight. Gen. Antwerp is president of the Officers' Christian Fellowship. He lost nearly all his staff when the Pentagon was attacked Sept. 11. His executive officer LTC Brian Birdwell was badly burned and in the hospital when President Bush visited him. Our President spent time and prayed with

Brian. As he was getting ready to leave, he went to the foot of Brian's bed and saluted. He held his salute until Brian was able to raise his burned and bandaged arm, ever so slowly, in return. The Commander-in-Chief never initiates a salute, except in the case of a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. The injured soldier did not have to return the salute. But he did, out of respect to his President - a Soldiers' President.

Congressman JC Watts (R. Oklahoma) said, "Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking. In this time of war and danger, I am so grateful to have a President whom the soldiers salute - fully." On Special Report with Brit Hume, at the close of the show when they normally have some funny video clip, they showed President Bush and the First Lady on their way to Marine One to leave for Camp David for the weekend. As the video starts, the First Lady is leading the way into the helicopter with the spaniel dog on the leash, and the president is right behind her with the Scotty on the leash. As the First Lady entered the chopper, the Marine at the gangway saluted and held his salute. The Scottie the President was walking decided it wanted to squat right when he got to the steps. The president pulled on its' leash, but the stubborn Scottie persisted in squatting. The President bent down and scooped up the pooch and entered Marine One. After he entered, the Marine cut his salute and returned to the position of attention. Moments later the president reemerged from the helicopter and out onto the steps. The Marine was standing at attention, head and eyes straight ahead. The president leaned

## One-Line Groaners

**Sent in by someone who wishes to remain anonymous, just incase there is repercussions.**

1. A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.
2. What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway.)
3. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
4. A backward poet writes inverse.
5. In democracy, it's your vote that counts. In feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
6. She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.
7. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
8. If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
9. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
10. Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft, and I'll show you A flat minor.
11. When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.
12. The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
13. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
14. You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
15. Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
16. He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
17. Every calendar's days are numbered.
18. A lot of money is tainted. It taint

yours and it taint mine.

19. A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
20. He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
21. A plateau is a high form of flattery.
22. The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
23. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
24. Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
25. Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
26. When an actress saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
27. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
28. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
29. Acupuncture is a jab well done.
30. Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

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## Japanese Bank Crisis

According to our inside contacts the Japanese banking crisis shows no signs of ameliorating. If anything, it's getting worse. Following last week's news that Origami Bank had folded, we are hearing that Sumo Bank has gone belly up, and Bonsai Bank plans to cut back some of its branches. Karaoke Bank is up for sale and is going for a song. Meanwhile, shares in Kamikaze Bank have nose-dived and 500 back office staff at Karate Bank got the chop. Analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank and staff there fear they may get a raw deal.

help children of Australian Defence Force personnel settle into new schools.

"The Federal Government recognises that many Defence families face extra challenges unique to service life, such as regularly moving interstate away from friends and family," Minister Vale said.

"This can impact on the children of Defence personnel through their schooling as they are forced to make new friends and deal with different education systems in different states.

"This important initiative will see Aides employed to help children at their new school, assist teachers to understand the particular needs of ADF children, and help parents settle into the school community."

The national initiative would build on the success of a recent pilot program based at Kirwan, The Willows and Annandale State Schools in Townsville.

"The local community recognised the particular needs facing the children of families posted to Townsville, and the Federal Government responded by funding an initiative which has been so successful, it is now being exported to the rest of Australia.

"From July more Townsville children will be now able to access this important school-based resource with extra positions provided at Rasmussen, Vincent and Weir State Schools, as well as Ryan Catholic College, Holy Spirit School, Southern Cross Catholic School and The Marion School."

Minister Vale said ADF families and local schools found the positions had proved invaluable in helping children make a smooth transition to a new school.

"These positions will not only help Defence personnel and their families as they are posted to new locations, but will also help address some important mobility and retention issues facing the Australian Defence Force."

**For anyone who wants a list of participating schools please contact the Secretary of the RAEME Association of WA by email [curtisj@bigpond.com](mailto:curtisj@bigpond.com), phone or letter (see Page 2 for address or phone numbers).**

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## Profile John Curtis

I have been told that it is the Secretary of the Association's turn to provide the profile. Well here it is.

What can I say about myself. "When I was born I was very young..." etc etc.

Seriously, my first contact with the Armed Forces was in the RAAF in 1958. As a fifteen-year-old, I joined to serve an apprenticeship (Gudday to all those Appies out there!) which turned into being qualified as an Armament Fitter. In those days all Armament Fitters were trained in the gentle arts of everything that explodes. The RAAF used us where the Army used specially trained Ordnance Corps members. We used to say that all our training was Bombs, Bullets and Bullshit. I trained on all facets of my trade, from aircraft to weapons, to ground defence, to missiles (air to ground and air to air) to what was known as Bomb Disposal, now Explosive Ordnance Demolition or EOD. We even trained on that dreaded subject Trade Administration or the RAAF equivalence to EME OPS.

Once I left the three years of training I was posted to RAAF No. 2 Aircraft Depot at Richmond working with major

overhauls (similar to a Base Workshop) on all types of aircraft equipment. The aircraft I worked on were Vampire Fighters and Trainers, C47 Transports, Neptune Bombers (P2V5 and P2V7's), P3A Maritime Surveillance, Canberra Bombers, C130A Hercules Transports, and CAC27 Sabre Fighters. A pleasant interlude from this work saw me at Woomera Rocket Range working on Bomb Flight Trials. Another interlude was the cleaning out of the Bomb Dump at Snake Creek, just outside Adelaide River in the Northern Territory.

From Richmond, I went to Pearce where I worked at the Flying Training School. In those days we spent a lot of time at the Muchea Range or arming aircraft with Bombs, Bullets and WAIT FOR IT—Rockets. (Had you going there didn't I?). I only spent 12 months at Pearce (carefully plugging in Rockets with my left hand just in case they went off and burnt my arm off. It never happened to me, but those three-inch rockets caused quite a few one armed Armourers to be employed in the RAAF).

From here I went onto Active Service with 78 Wing in Malaysia during the Indonesian Confrontation. This is where all the training came to the fore. We were not playing now and it was for real. I served in Malaysia working on Sabre Fighters, Iroquois Helicopters and Canberra Bombers from the beginning of 1964 to the end of 1967. This included several tours to Singapore, a tour of Labuan Island in Borneo, visits to the Thai-Malaysian Boarder areas and three tours of Ubon in Thailand. It was in Thailand where I became involved with "Operation Rolling Thunder", the American Bombing of North Vietnam.

Back home to Australia where I served

in 81 Wing at Williamstown, NSW on Sabre and Mirage Fighters and all the associated Bombs, Bullets and Bullshit. (Now where have I heard that before?)

From Williamstown, I graduated to Darwin where I spent the next two and a half years working in Bomb Disposal (it's easier to say EOD). At that time there was still a very large number of Japanese, American and Australian aircraft crashed in the jungle and other places that seemed good to land on. I must have had a very successful tour, because all of us in our team still have their fingers and toes. Not one blown off, although I could tell some fairly hairy stories. When we weren't working EOD we still had to service all the explosives in Frances Bay Bomb Dump, no mean feat in itself because we had, not only our own ordnance, but the RAF ordnance as well. If we had any time to spare we worked at staging aircraft through Darwin. In 1971, I had the dubious honour of marshalling the first Boeing 747, into dispersal, on its arrival in Australia.

Leaving Darwin, I arrived back at Pearce. Here I stayed for the next few years in various jobs, but maintaining my qualifications in EOD. I spent some time as the Base Armourer at Pearce, just when "Single Service Management" came in. Because of this management process I had quite a lot of dealings with the old Perth Workshop Company and made quite a few friends there. Just like a family we still had our arguments, especially over Maximum/Minimum holdings for a weapon workshop. I was also given the extra job of Range Warden at the Muchea Range. My little crew and I spent many pleasant days at the range looking for unexploded ordnance, or growing our vegetables in

tailored nylon clothing but ensure you have paid a ludicrous price for this.

- ❖ Place an "office circular" cover sheet on TV guides and newspapers.
- ❖ Run a competency-based system for the use of simple electrical appliances around the house. For the use of simple equipment, such as a blender, run a two-day course with 15 minutes break every twenty minutes, including lessons on safe use with warnings such as "don't place your hand in the blender when it's running".
- ❖ Every year modify this course so that all those previously qualified no longer are.
- ❖ Once a year take all of your important household documents and records, lose half of them and mail the remainder to yourself via the Tasmanian postal exchange.
- ❖ Conduct all of your simple household administration through a neighbour. Ensure this neighbour is uncontactable whenever you are free.
- ❖ Employ someone to guard your house and check that everyone visiting your house is authorised. Have this person let absolutely anyone in anyway.
- ❖ Pay a contractor to do your cooking and cleaning and gardening, ensuring that the contract stipulates that they do a half-hearted job, act uncooperatively and work only when relentlessly nagged.
- ❖ Have someone go into your fridge when you are out and eat and drink your groceries. When you have people over for dinner serve the meal over the course of three hours and ensure the toilet is locked throughout.
- ❖ When members of your family are playing up do not actually confront them with the issue. Tell other relatives that they are actually very amiable and try

to have them go live with these other relatives.

- ❖ Every time you use the car fuel it up completely and wash it, even if you've only gone out to get the paper.
- ❖ When eating TV snacks have the youngest member of the family walk around serving them like a waiter. They can also sell raffle tickets for the bottles of beer and wine that no one buys.
- ❖ If members of the family have a pulse and are able to run marginally faster than a three-legged dog have them wear a badge on their clothing to let other people know this.
- ❖ After identifying the need for a car or other major item spend two or three years assessing that need and scrupulously research every possible option. Having found the most practical and cost effective option have your local member of parliament decide which is the best choice from the point of view of employment in your district.
- ❖ When purchasing household equipment save a dollar or two by not buying the instructions with it – have two members of the family devote the next two years of their lives writing and rewriting their own instruction book.
- ❖ Litter conversation with your spouse with words like "overarching", "symmetry", "holistic" and "visibility".
- ❖ If someone stubs a toe or incurs any other minor injury in the house suspend that activity and develop an awareness course.
- ❖ Patronisingly remind every member of the family on an annual basis not to steal from or molest one another and not to do stupid things like sticking knives into toasters.

## **Federal Members and Senators to Experience Life in the Australian Defence Force**

Members and Senators from Federal Parliament will participate in an Australian Defence Force awareness program launched today by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Fran Bailey.

The 2002 ADF Parliamentary Program will build on last year's pilot scheme aiming to continue to strengthen the quality of debate on Defence issues.

"The ADF Parliamentary Program is designed for members of both houses and all parties to become more familiar with Defence at a working level," Ms Bailey said.

"Members and Senators will work beside the men and women of the Australian Defence Force and experience what really happens on the Navy ships and in the Army battalions and Air Force squadrons.

"Parliamentarians will also see the value of the Defence Dollar and how it is being spent.

"This program will showcase the professional commitment of our serving Defence personnel and highlight the often arduous aspects of service life," she said.

"The program will also provide opportunities for discussions with senior Australian and foreign military officers and experts on strategic issues.

"Members and Senators will be accorded appropriate respect but not 'red carpet' treatment," Ms Bailey said.

"ADF Parliamentary Program

participants will not be given any equivalent rank - they retain their own status as elected representatives and will be able, as is normal in the community, to relate equally to all regardless of rank or status."

Individual attachments will last five or six days and offer Members and Senators the opportunity to participate in naval work-up exercises, pre-deployment Army training for East Timor, Air Force operations or Defence's joint operations.

There are seven options for Parliamentarians wanting to join the awareness program that will be conducted during non-sitting dates for Parliament from next month to July.

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## **Applying Military Standards and Practices to Domestic Life**

- ❖ Inform family members two days beforehand that holiday plans have been afoot for six months have been changed at the last minute and you are now going to Bali not Fiji.

- ❖ Enforce rigorous medical and dental standards on family members before allowing them to go on holidays. If they fail to meet them let them go anyway.

- ❖ Develop a Pulheems system and aptitude testing to ensure chores are given to those in the family that are most suitable.

- ❖ Charge a monthly fee to be a member of the dining room. Once a week cook a couple of toasted sandwiches and watch family members fight over them.

- ❖ Buy an enormous property but only allow people to walk on paths around it.

- ❖ Spend weekends in cheap poorly

a peat bog. At that time the range was 57,000 acres in size and I think that I walked over the whole area. I could tell some great stories about Army exercises on that range when they didn't know what unexploded ordnance was in the area. (Another story!). I continued with my EOD work, which included sweeps right down the WA coast. We were looking for what the Australian and American forces left on little islands and exposed reefs from during World War II. When I was not doing this sort of work I spent a lot of time working in Macchi Trainers (and whatever else appeared).

The RAAF saw, in all its wisdom, that I should be posted to Amberley in Queensland, where I was trained on the Crem de la Crem of aircraft, the F111C, variously known as the Aardvark (its real name) or the PIG! This posting saw me all over the world. Because I was posted unaccompanied, I got all the good attachments, from the Far East to the United States and everywhere in between.

I finally left the RAAF in 1979, but because of the talents I had, still had to report in for regular training. From there I joined W.A.I.T., now known as Curtin University, where I worked as a technician, one of the few "Nuts and Bolts" technicians that they had. While I was there I worked most of the way through a Physics Degree and completed a Design Degree in the field I was working in. I took an early retirement from Curtin at the end of May 1997.

I had not been in Curtin very long when I was advised to join the Reserves, so off to Recruiting I went. The RAAF, whom I was still working with under the terms of my discharge, actually knocked me back. As I was leaving, a

funny looking sergeant in green said, "PSST! Want to join the Army, we need Armourers". Says I, "Why not?" The rest, as they say in the classics, is History. I was posted to 5 EME Services at Fremantle and two weeks later I was managing the first Fitter Armourer Course that they had conducted for quite some time.

I stayed with 5 EME Services (named changed to 113 Field Workshop in 1988) until 1989. Just before I left 113 Field Workshop, Clare, my wife, and I were married by Rev. Howard MacCallum, our Association Chaplain, during, would you believe, an annual training exercise. Check a photograph on page 276 of the Corps History Book, "Craftsmen of the Australian Army" for the Doubting Thomas'.

When I left 113 Field Workshop, I was posted to 10 Light Horse as their Gun Tiffy. They still had the Scorpion Turrets on their Carriers. I was not there very long when I was posted to 16 Battalion, on promotion, as their ASM.

After 5 years in that posting, I was returned to 113 Field Workshop as EME OPS Warrant Officer, a position I held until my retirement in December 1997. One of my secondary jobs at the Workshop, and probably the most satisfying was the post of Occupational Health and Safety Officer. Quite a few will remember the Grumpy Old Bastard giving them a hard time over breaches of the rules. This job was done without fear or favour. A few of the upper echelon even locked horns with me over various issues. My last six months in the system was particularly enjoyable for me as I was given the OH&S task of improving the signage and bringing up the workshop to international standards for workshop safety marking. On a recent visit to the unit, it is interesting

to see that the work I did is still actually visible.

Well, that's me, a total of nearly forty years in the Services and I wouldn't change a single day of it. Well! Not really many anyway!!! Well one, or two, or three, or..... Hmmmm they always said I was a slow learner.

JC

### Think Outside Your Box

You are driving along in your car on a wild, stormy night. You pass by a bus stop, and you see three people waiting for the bus:

1. An old lady who looks as if she is about to die.
2. An old friend who once saved your life.
3. The perfect man (or) woman you have been dreaming about.

Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing that there could only be one passenger in your car. Think before you continue reading. This is a moral/ethical dilemma that was once actually used as part of a job application.

You could pick up the old lady, because she is going to die, and thus you should save her first; or you could take the old friend because he once saved your life, and this would be the perfect chance to pay him back. However, you may never be able to find your perfect dream lover again.

The candidate who was hired (out of 200 applicants) had no trouble coming up with his answer.

THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE YOU LOOK ON PAGE 31. THINK THINK THINK. WHAT DID HE SAY?

### Did You Know?

The Cruise Liner, Queen Elizabeth II, moves only 6 inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

### Welfare Corner

Just a very quick Welfare Corner this issue and only one article of importance.

### Boiling water

This message was passed to the Editor by a friend. It is felt that everyone should be informed of the possible consequences of doing what is described.

HEATING WATER in MICROWAVE.

I was very glad to get this email from a friend, because I have been guilty of heating water in a microwave many times. You'll be glad you read it. I also suggest passing it along to friends and family.

About five days ago, my 26-year-old son decided to have a cup of instant coffee. He took a cup of water and put it in the microwave to heat it up (something that he had done numerous times before). I am not sure how long he set the timer for but he told me he wanted to bring the water to a boil.

When the timer shut the oven off, he removed the cup from the oven. As he looked into the cup he noted that the water was not boiling. Then instantly the water in the cup blew up into his face.

The cup remained intact until he threw it out of his hand but all the water had flown out into his face due to the buildup of energy. His whole face is blistered and he has 1st and 2nd degree burns to his face, which may leave scarring. He may also have lost partial sight in his left eye.

While at the hospital, the doctor who was attending to him stated that this is a fairly common occurrence and

within certain parts of the engines of diesel-powered equipment, particularly when mixed with air under compression in the cylinders. New policy dictates that no diesel vehicle, generator or other equipment is to be started unless its tanks are completely drained of fuel. This will minimise any risk of explosion, within or near the engine bay or within any component of the engine itself.

2. The radiation emitting from transmitting radio antennas has been found to have a miniscule effect on the internal heat levels of members working nearby (as per RADHAZ guidelines). To eliminate this problem, all radio equipment must be used only to receive transmissions. The use of radios as transmitters is not allowed. Technicians will be tasked to remove the transmit function on all ADF radio equipment, on a unit-to-unit basis.

3. Surveys among Army personnel have shown that the risk of stubbing a toe or banging a shin against low vegetation is greatly increased at night, therefore no movement is to be made after dark. All members are to be within their bedding before last light, and are not permitted to rise until dawn breaks, regardless of enemy activity. Firing from sleeping bags is allowed, provided the bag has been modified with heat-resistant covering, there is no vegetation within 15 metres of the weapon (this creates a fire hazard) and the weapon complies with serial 4.

4. Intensive studies of the F88 Austeyr and F89 Minimi have revealed that both weapons have a tendency to discharge small metallic objects at very dangerous speeds, found to be as much as 930 metres/sec in some cases. In addition, the noise level of both weapons exceeds the allowable sound pressure level for an ADF work environment (the maximum allowable level of noise within the ADF is currently measured as the

hum of the computer you are sitting at). To combat both of these problems, all F88 and F89's must have their firing pins removed before use. (NB: It is also anticipated that this policy will reduce the average number of unlawful discharges by as much as 60% per annum).

5. Studies conducted by Physical Training Instructors have revealed dangerous levels of stress to the musculo-skeletal system of members attempting Basic Fitness Assessments, in the form of increased heart rate and muscle fatigue for periods of up to 5 minutes following an assessment. To combat this, the new standards for fitness assessments are as follows: 200-metre run/walk, to be completed in under 8 minutes 10 seconds, but no less than 25 seconds. Members are also required to correctly identify a BFA push-up. The number of Personal Incentive Levels has been reduced to one and this constitutes completing the 200-metre walk/run in less than 4 minutes and further identifying a BFA sit-up. To eliminate confusion, these standards apply to all members regardless of gender and age. It has also been suggested that cigarette machines be installed in ADF gyms to assist the respiration process of older members immediately after Fitness Assessments.

6. Finally, the physical impact on the body during contact drills has been shown to exceed safe working levels. Therefore, no contact drills are to be conducted during exercise or operation. During contact, members are expected to remain in the standing position and return fire from the hip, ensuring that the weapon has been modified to comply with serial 4 and the weapon is clear of vegetation as outlined in serial 3.

undertaking works as part of the ATSC Army Community Assistance Program (AACAP) to help improve health infrastructure in indigenous communities in the West Kimberley of Western Australia. Next year, as part of AACAP, Holsworthy's 17 Construction Squadron will help upgrade and build new housing for Palm Island communities off the Queensland coast.

"Through the Parliamentary Defence Program I was fortunate to be able to join 17 Construction Squadron last year as they undertook work in remote indigenous communities at Yarralin, Mialuni and Lingari in the Northern Territory.

"Our nation salutes the men and women of the Royal Australian Engineers for their service, in times of conflict and peace, to our nation.

"The Engineers are first in, last out in any deployment. They are well known for their ingenuity, resourcefulness, and tenacity in doing the job."

As the other "Engineering" Corps in the Australian Army, we, at the RAEME Association of WA, would like to congratulate the Royal Australian Engineers on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their founding.

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### **Army Training Gains Quality Status**

The Australian Army's management of its training system is to be recognised by the ACT Accreditation and Registration Council (ACTARC) at a ceremony in Canberra today (Thursday, 21 March) following its registration as a quality endorsed training organisation (QETO).

This acknowledges the Army's

management of a training system, ensures its products and services meet or exceed defined quality standards and are subject to continuous improvement.

The Commander of the Army's Training Command, Major General Frank Roberts, will accept the award from the ACT Minister for Education and Community Services, Mr. Simon Corbell.

Quality endorsed status means the Army is now able to self-manage training accreditation and issue nationally recognised qualifications and statements of attainment within the National Training Framework (NTF).

Soldiers' qualifications gained in the Army will be recognised as coming from an organisation that meets the highest training standards. In turn the skills attained by soldiers through civilian vocational education and training will be acknowledged by the Army training system.

"Individual training has traditionally been a great strength of the Australian Army, and remains so today due to the dedication and commitment of the people responsible for the development and conduct of training in the Army training establishments", MAJGEN Roberts said.

Quality endorsement will ensure the Army remains part of a nationally consistent, high quality vocational educational and training system.

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### **Army OH&S Issues**

Although giant steps have been taken in the last decade with respect to OH&S policies in the Australian Defence Force, many shortfalls still exist.

The following amendments will be implemented in the near future:

1. Diesel fuel has been found to combust

water (alone) should never be heated in a microwave oven. If water is heated in this manner, something such as a wooden stir stick or a tea bag should be placed in the cup to diffuse the energy.

Here is what our science teacher has to say on the matter:

"Thanks for the microwave warning. I have seen this happen before. It is caused by a phenomenon known as super heating. It can occur any time water is heated and will particularly occur if the vessel that the water is heated in is new.

What happens is that the water heats faster than the vapor bubbles can form. If the cup is very new then it is unlikely to have bubbles to form. As the bubbles cannot form and release some of the heat that has built up, the liquid does not boil, and the liquid continues to heat up well past its boiling point. What then usually happens is that the liquid is bumped or jarred, which is just enough of a shock to cause the bubbles to rapidly form and expel the hot liquid. The rapid formation of bubbles is also why a carbonated beverage spews when opened after having been shaken."

Please pass this on to everyone you know, it could save a lot of pain and suffering.

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### **Defence People "At the Sharp End"**

The Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Danna Vale today strongly rejected claims that the Australian Defence Force's capacity to defend Australia was at risk.

"Our successful role in East Timor, and

our role in the International Coalition Against Terrorism, both of which have been highly praised by the international community, are evidence of how wrong those claims are," Minister Vale said.

"Highly skilled and trained ADF personnel are doing the jobs they should be doing, defending Australia's interests and taking their place alongside the rest of the world in military operations.

"Over the past ten years the ratio of Defence personnel in combat roles has increased by over 20 per cent. In June 1991 just over 40 per cent of the ADF were at the sharp end of capability, today that figure is 62.4 per cent.

Minister Vale said both retention and recruitment rates for Defence personnel were increasing.

"ADF separation rates over the past eight months have shown a marked improvement, particularly in the current economic environment," she said. "Historically, a healthy economic environment means an increase in separation rates.

"As at 31 March 2002, the annual separation rate for Army was 11.9 per cent, Navy 11.45 per cent and Air Force 11.11 per cent. These rates represent a significant shift downward when compared to the ADF three-year average of 12.97 per cent.

"This change represents the first shift against what was an ascending trend over the previous three financial years."

Minister Vale said in the last financial year the ADF had recruited 7,697 personnel, a 34 per cent increase over the previous year.

"So far this year the ADF has recruited 6,725 personnel, 757 more people than at the same time last year."

Minister Vale acknowledged that Defence recruitment was below ideal levels, a difficulty shared by all Western volunteer forces which faced great competition for highly skilled applicants in good economic times.

However she said the trends indicated Defence was on track to meet its targets in the near future.

“Our Defence personnel are serving Australia proudly in operations throughout the world, and have received great praise for their professionalism, skill and dedication,” Minister Vale said.

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### **Darwin Awards**

It’s that time again. They are finally out. You all know about the Darwin Awards. They’re the annual honors given to the persons who did the gene pool the biggest service by killing themselves in the most extraordinarily stupid way. (Last year’s winner was the fellow who was killed by a Coke machine that toppled over on top of him as he was attempting to tip a free soda out of it.)

The nominees were these:

**Semifinalist #1** A young Canadian man, searching for a way of getting drunk cheaply, lacking money to buy alcohol, mixed gasoline with milk. Not surprisingly, this concoction made him ill, and he vomited into the burning fireplace in his house. This resulting explosion and fire burned his house down, killing him and his sister.

**Semifinalist #2** Three Brazilian men were flying in a light aircraft at low altitude when another plane approached. It appears that they decided to moon the occupants of the other plane, but lost control of their own aircraft and crashed. They were

all found dead in the wreckage with their pants down around their ankles.

**Semifinalist #3** A 22-year-old Reston, VA, man was found dead after he tried to use octopus straps to bungee jump off a 70-foot railroad trestle. Fairfax County police said Eric Barcia, a fast food worker, taped a bunch of these straps together, wrapped an end around one foot, anchored the other end to the trestle at Lake Accotink Park, jumped, and hit the pavement. Warren Carmichael, a police spokesman, said investigators think Barcia was alone because his car was found nearby. “The length of the cord that he had assembled was greater than the distance between the trestle and the ground!” Carmichael said. Police say the apparent cause of death was “major trauma.”

**Semifinalist #4** A man in Alabama died from rattlesnake bites. It seems that he and a friend were playing a game of catch, using the rattlesnake as a ball. The friend, no doubt a future Darwin Awards candidate, was hospitalized.

**Semifinalist #5** Employees in a medium-sized warehouse in west Texas noticed the smell of a gas leak. Sensibly, management evacuated the building, extinguishing all potential sources of ignition; lights, power, etc. After the building had been evacuated, two technicians from the Gas Company were dispatched. Upon entering the building, they found they had difficulty navigating in the dark. To their frustration, none of the lights worked. Witnesses later described seeing one of the technicians reaching into his pocket and retrieving an object that resembled a cigarette lighter. Upon operation of the lighter-like object, the gas in the warehouse exploded, blowing pieces of it up to three miles away. Nothing was found of the technicians, but the lighter was virtually untouched by the explosion.

His peers had never thought of the technician, suspected of causing the blast, as being “bright”.

### **\*\* Now the winner of this year’s Darwin Award:**

The Arizona Highway Patrol came upon a pile of smoldering metal embedded into the side of a cliff rising above the road at the apex of a curve. The wreckage resembled the site of an airplane crash, but it was a car. The type of car was unidentifiable at the scene. Police investigators finally pieced together this bizarre mystery. An Amateur Rocket Scientist! It seems that a guy had somehow gotten hold of an old JATO unit (Jet Assisted Take Off — which is actually a solid-fuel rocket) that is used to give heavy, military-transport planes an extra push for taking off from short airfields. He had driven his Chevy Impala out into the desert and found a long, straight stretch of road. Then he attached the JATO unit to the car, jumped in, got up some speed and fired off the JATO! The facts as best as could be determined are that the operator of the 1967 Impala hit the JATO ignition at a distance of approximately three miles from the crash site. The prominent scorched and melted asphalt at that location established this. The JATO, if operating properly, would have reached maximum thrust within 5 seconds, causing the Chevy to reach speeds well in excess of 350 mph and continuing at full power for an additional 20-25 seconds. The driver — and soon to be pilot, most likely would have experienced G-forces usually reserved for dog fighting F-14 jocks under full afterburners, causing him to become insignificant for the remainder of the event. However, the automobile remained on the straight highway for about 2.5 miles (15-20

seconds) before the driver applied and completely melted the brakes. He blew all the tires and leaving thick rubber marks on the road surface, then becoming airborne for an additional 1.4 miles and impacting the cliff face at a height of 125 feet, leaving a blackened crater 3 feet deep in the rock. Most of the driver’s remains were not recoverable; however, small fragments of bone, teeth and hair were extracted from the crater and fingernail and bone shards were removed from a piece of debris believed to be portion of the steering wheel.

**Epilogue:** It has been calculated that this moron attained a ground speed of approximately 420-mph, although much of his voyage was not on the ground.

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### **Military History Comes Alive At Moorebank**

Army and the local Hughes community will celebrate 100 years of Army Engineering at Steele Barracks, Moorebank, this weekend, 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2002. Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence and Federal Member for Hughes Danna Vale said major extensions to the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering would also be opened as part of the Military History Day celebrations.

“The Royal Military Engineers are nation-builders,” Minister Vale said.

“From constructing colonial buildings for the early Australian nation, to constructing schools and community buildings for the new East Timor nation, the Royal Military Engineers have made a vital contribution to our military and social history and that of our regional neighbours.

“Local Army Engineering unit 21 Construction Squadron is currently