

“Along with the ongoing work in Padang, this mission by HMAS Tobruk is another good example of how the ADF and AusAID continue to play an important role in supporting our Pacific neighbours to respond to humanitarian crises.”

Tobruk will make a port call to Townsville later this week to embark loading craft to assist accessing the remote islands.

AFTER BEING MARRIED FOR 44 YEARS, I TOOK A CAREFUL LOOK AT MY WIFE ONE DAY AND SAID, “FORTY-FOUR YEARS AGO WE HAD A CHEAP APARTMENT, A CHEAP CAR, SLEPT ON A SOFA BED AND WATCHED A 10-INCH BLACK AND WHITE TV, BUT I GOT TO SLEEP EVERY NIGHT WITH A HOT 21-YEAR-OLD GIRL”.

NOW I HAVE A £500,000 HOME, A £20,000.00 CAR, NICE BIG BED AND PLASMA SCREEN TV, BUT I’M SLEEPING WITH A 65-YEAR-OLD WOMAN. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU’RE NOT HOLDING UP YOUR SIDE OF THINGS.’

MY WIFE IS A VERY REASONABLE WOMAN. SHE TOLD ME TO GO OUT AND FIND A HOT 21-YEAR-OLD GIRL AND SHE WOULD MAKE SURE THAT I WOULD ONCE AGAIN BE LIVING IN A CHEAP APARTMENT, DRIVING A CHEAP CAR, SLEEPING ON A SOFA BED AND WATCHING A 10-INCH BLACK AND WHITE TV.

AREN’T OLDER WOMEN GREAT? THEY REALLY KNOW HOW TO SOLVE YOUR MID-LIFE CRISIS

DEFENCE HONOURS AND AWARDS TRIBUNAL INQUIRY INTO RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE IN PNG AFTER 1975

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, announced today that the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into recognition for members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for service in Papua New Guinea after 16 September 1975.

“I am pleased that the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into recognition for service in Papua New Guinea (PNG) after 1975. This inquiry is another in a series of reviews into long-standing Defence honours and awards issues identified by the Australian Government in late 2007,” Dr Kelly said.

A call for submissions will be released shortly in the national press. Submissions to the inquiry close on Monday, 23 November 2009.

“Many people have raised the issue of recognition for ADF service in PNG after 1975 with the Government, and I would encourage them to now take advantage of this opportunity to make a submission,” Dr Kelly said.

The Tribunal can be contacted at:

Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal
Locked Bag 7765
CANBERRA BUSINESS CENTRE ACT
2610

or via email to DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au Defence to implement the recommendations,” said Dr Kelly.

The terms of reference for the inquiry and guidance on how to make a submission can be obtained at: www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au

INQUIRY INTO RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY SMALL SHIPS SECTION

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, today announced that the Government has accepted the recommendations of the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal Inquiry into Recognition for Service with the United States Army Small Ships Section.

The Report recommended that:

1. Australian civilian personnel who served in ships operated by the United States Army Small Ships Section between 1942 and 1945 be recognised as eligible for Australian or Imperial recognition for that service on the same basis as members of the Merchant Navy; and 2. There should be no requirement for those personnel to relinquish any US awards that they may have received in respect of their service in the United States Army Small Ships prior to receiving Australian recognition for that service.

“The release of the findings fulfils a Rudd Labor Government election commitment. The Government has accepted the Tribunal’s findings, and I have directed

Former Australian members of the United States Army Small Ships Section, and the families of deceased former members, who believe they may now be entitled to medallic recognition, are invited to make application to the Directorate of Honours and Awards. Application forms can be obtained from www.defence.gov.au/medals/ or by calling the Directorate of Honours and Awards, toll free, on 1800 111 321.

As official records of service with the United States Army Small Ships Section are not held by Australian Government agencies, applicants must provide documentary evidence of theirs, or their relative’s service. In some cases, it will be necessary for applicants to first source this evidence from authorities in the United States. Applicants can obtain contact details for this purpose by calling the Directorate of Honours and Awards toll free telephone number.

Completed applications with supporting documents should be made to the following address:

Directorate of Honours and Awards
Department of Defence
PO Box 7952
CANBERRA BUSINESS CENTRE ACT
2610

“I would like to thank the Tribunal for the objective and conscientious manner in which this inquiry was conducted. The release of the Tribunal’s report and the acceptance of the recommendations clearly demonstrate the Government’s commitment to the independent review of long-standing Defence honours and awards issues.”

OPERATION RENDER SAFE CLEARS THE DEADLY REMNANTS OF WAR IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Australian Defence Force has completed the latest in a series of deployments in support of Operation RENDER SAFE, working to rid the Solomon Islands of unexploded ordnance left in the wake of some of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

The latest Operation RENDER SAFE deployment, which finished on the 24th of October, saw HMA Ships Gascoyne and Yarra sail to the Solomon Islands, to dispose of explosives which accumulated in the waters off the South Pacific nation during heavy fighting between allied and Japanese forces in World War II.

Using data from a previous survey performed by the hydrographic ship HMAS Melville, the minehunters Gascoyne and Yarra and their Ships' Companies worked in the waters off the island of Malaita and Shortland Harbour in the Solomon Islands, pinpointing 15 explosive objects on the seabed using the extensive state-of-the-art mine detection systems fitted in both vessels.

A Royal Australian Navy Clearance Dive Team was then able to locate and dispose of the ordnance, which ranged in size from artillery shells through to a large British Mark IV Sea Mine.

Lieutenant General Mark Evans, Chief of Joint Operations Command, said that although the ADF has been involved with explosive ordnance disposal previously in the South Pacific, Operation RENDER

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SAFE is the first enduring operation of its type.

“The ADF’s previous involvement with the removal of unexploded ordnance was on a case-by-case basis such as operations conducted in the Marshall Islands and Kiribati,” Lieutenant General Evans said.

“The success of these previous operations and requests to help clear unexploded ordnance has led to the creation of Operation RENDER SAFE - an enduring assistance operation providing explosive ordnance disposal support to South Pacific nations.”

Lieutenant General Evans says Operation RENDER SAFE, like Pacific Partnership 2009 and Operations ANODE in Solomon Islands and ASTUTE East Timor, is indicative of the ongoing support offered by the ADF to Australia’s South

Importance of Walking

1/ Walking 20 minutes can add to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$7000 per month.

2/ My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60... Now he’s 97 years old... and we haven’t a clue where the hell he is.

3/ I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

4/ The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

5/ I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I’m doing..

6/ I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven’t lost a pound... apparently you have to actually go there.

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AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE TO SAMOA AND TONGA

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Stephen Smith, and the Minister for Defence, Senator John Faulkner, today announced further Australian support to Samoa and Tonga following the tsunami that devastated both communities on 30 September.

The Royal Australian Navy’s heavy landing ship HMAS Tobruk will depart Sydney today, loaded with a range of goods, equipment and relief aid destined for the two countries.

“The Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade has donated a fire truck to Samoa to replace one destroyed during the tsunami,” Mr Smith said.

“A large consignment of heavy machinery and donated goods from the Australian community – including the Samoan and Tongan communities in Australia, non government organisations and several businesses – will also be delivered to both Samoa and Tonga.”

“Tobruk will carry earth movers, generators, cement mixers and other heavy machinery, provided by the Australian Government, to be used in Tonga to clear debris and rebuild over the next 12-18 months.”

Total Australian assistance to Samoa and Tonga now stands at \$13 million.

This includes \$3 million for emergency relief and recovery activities (\$2 million to Samoa and \$1 million to Tonga) announced in the days immediately

following the tsunami.

It also includes Australia’s contribution of \$5 million of reconstruction assistance for Samoa announced on 11 October with New Zealand Foreign Minister, Murray McCully, and matched by New Zealand.

The further \$5 million announced today will be provided to Samoa for additional recovery and reconstruction activities, including:

– \$2.5 million to help re-establish infrastructure and ensure affected communities have access to essential services such as power, water, health and education. Australia will also provide support to help businesses re-establish quickly, and improve disaster monitoring and warning systems;

– \$1.5 million for recovery and relief operations, including \$500,000 to Australian Non Government Organisations; and

– \$1 million to assist the Government of Samoa’s own reconstruction planning and coordination.

Senator Faulkner said, “HMAS Tobruk will enable access to the remote island of Niuaotupapu in Tonga, where the delivery of the earthmoving equipment will allow reconstruction efforts to begin earlier and at a faster pace than would otherwise be possible.”

“This assistance mission will provide tangible support to the people of Samoa and Tonga rebuilding their lives in the weeks after the tsunami,” Senator Faulkner said.

conduct fundamental enabling research projects, provide senior academic input, and specialist equipment and infrastructure support to DSTO's dedicated research team on physical employment standards.

It has been allocated funding of \$2.5 million over 3.5 years through the Hardened and Networked Army Initiative.

**IMPROVED DEATH AND
INVALIDITY BENEFITS FOR
MEMBERS OF THE
MILITARY
SUPERANNUATION AND
BENEFITS SCHEME**

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, announced today that the Rudd Government will improve death and invalidity benefits for members of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS).

Mr Combet announced that the Rudd Government has decided that, backdated from 1 July 2007, benefits for death and invalidity payments will be calculated in line with recent changes to the compulsory retirement age for ADF members.

“For those eligible, this decision will result in an average increase in death or invalidity payments for eligible persons of approximately 20 per cent, depending on their circumstances,” Mr Combet said.

The previous Government changed the compulsory retirement age for the majority of ADF members from age 55 to age 60

from 1 July 2007. That change was not intended to impact on the Superannuation benefits of ADF members and no funding for any such changes was provided at that time.

The policy decision taken by the Rudd Government makes this intention clear and funds this decision.

“Benefit payments paid after 1 July 2007 that may have eligibility will be reviewed as a matter of priority and, where necessary, adjustments will be made,” Mr Combet said.

“Affected parties will be advised of any change in benefits as soon as the review has been completed and any increased benefit amount will be paid with interest.

I am also pleased that increasing prospective service to calculate death or invalidity benefits for the Military Superannuation Benefits scheme results in a positive outcome for ADF members and their families, especially in their time of need,” Mr Combet said.

Mr Combet said that death and invalidity benefits for members of the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme are not affected because benefits in this scheme are based on a percentage of salary and not linked to age.

Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Heart only good for so many beats, and that it... Don't waste on exercise. Everything wear out eventually.. Speed up heart not make live longer; that like say you can extend life of car by driving faster. Want live longer? Take nap.

7/Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

8/ I do have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

9/ The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, 'Well, he looks good, doesn't he.'

10/ If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

11/ I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years... just getting over the hill was enough.

12/ We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our skulls. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

AND

13/ Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

**DEFENCE SUPPORT TO
FAMILIES**

Recent media reporting that Defence will cut 74 jobs from the Defence Community Organisation (DCO), reducing the services provided to Defence families is inaccurate.

In the current high tempo environment, DCO and the support it provides to Defence families are of the highest priority to the Chief of the Defence Force and the Service Chiefs.

For this reason, the Defence White Paper has actually provided DCO with additional staff and resources, meaning more 'front line' capacity.

Head of Defence Support Operations, Major General Elizabeth Cosson, said that a workforce review is being conducted to ensure that DCO positions its workforce in

the right places to provide the best support to ADF personnel and their families.

“The options under consideration in the workforce review are designed to enhance the support provided to Defence families in a balanced and sustainable way,” Major General Cosson said.

Major General Cosson also said the review remained underway and no final decisions had been made.

DCO is the lead agency within Defence for the provision of support services to families. The services provided include crisis and bereavement support, through to access to childcare, education assistance and community support.

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: No, not at all. Wine made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine. That means they take water out of fruity bit; get even more of goodness that way. Beer also made out of grain. Bottoms up!

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: If you have body and you have fat, ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, ratio is two to one, etc.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Cannot think of single one, sorry. My philosophy: No Pain...Good!

Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not! When you exercise muscle, it get bigger. You should only do sit-ups if want bigger stomach.

High Court SCRA Decision

As many will know & for the benefit of those who don't know, there has been a case recently by Slater & Gordon in which the High Court decision was that there be a difference in assessment for left & right medical condition of the knees IF it affects mobility i.e. "difficulty with Grades, Steps and Distance" which equals a 20% assessment and lump sum payment under table 9.5 of the Comcare Permanent Impairment Guide (SRCA).

There would be many people who have made claims over the years in which Table 9.5 was used and received reduced compensation payments because of the one payment for the two injuries. If you know someone who has made a claim previously or are one of those who are affected then you need them or yourself to be seeking a re-assessment of the condition and ask for a new decision.

The other thing you could do is submit your original decision asking that it be set aside and amended appropriately taking into account the *Fellowes v MRCC* (2009) HCA 38 (23 September 2009) decision of the High Court.

This means you get two separate payments i.e. 20% for EACH knee plus pain and suffering.

Given that Comcare has been conducting a review of the Permanent Impairment Guide, they may make amendments to reduce the payments of any reassessments in the future by making claims under any revised PIG retrospective.

ESO representatives should inform their pension claims officers. Not to do so is neglecting the ex-service people we try to assist.

WORLD WAR II DIGGERS TO BE LAID TO REST IN PNG

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, today announced that recently identified human remains of Australian soldiers killed during World War II will soon be laid to rest in Bomana War Cemetery in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG).

"The remains were recovered from the battlefields around Buna, Sanananda and Popondetta and have been identified by an Army investigation team," Mr Combet said.

"An Army team positively identified two of the men from archived Army records.

They were Lieutenant Talbot Tim Logan of the 2/12 Australian Infantry Battalion, and Lance Sergeant James Garrard Wheeler of the 2/1 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

"Lieutenant Logan was killed near Buna on 1 January 1943 and Lance Sergeant Wheeler was killed near Sanananda on 1 December 1942.

full military honours at Bomana War Cemetery in Port Moresby, PNG on 1 December 2009.

"The bodies of both men lay buried in temporary battlefield graves until discovered. The Army investigation team undertook painstaking research over several months before the identities of the two men were able to be determined.

PHYSICAL STANDARDS FOR MILITARY SERVICE TO BE BENCHMARKED

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, today announced the establishment of a Centre of Expertise to accurately evaluate the physical requirements of service in military occupations.

"The Centre of Expertise will assist the Australian Defence Force to develop objective benchmarks for physical employment assessments to ensure soldiers have physical capacity commensurate with the performance of critical tasks, regardless of trade classifications, rank, age, or gender," Mr Combet said.

"The Centre will develop physical employment standards for Army, with a view to later assessing requirements for Air Force and Navy and will ensure that fitness-for-duty tests adequately represent the physical requirements of today's military services.

"Physical Employment Standards allow soldiers' physical capabilities to be assessed against the occupational requirements of their job, using a standardised set of test procedures.

"Adoption of Employment Standards will help guide recruits to occupations for which they are most physically suited and could also potentially facilitate access to occupations traditionally closed to particular groups on the basis of task physical readiness.

"They could also potentially contribute to significant savings for Defence as a result of lower health care and compensation costs by reducing trade-related injuries."

The Centre of Expertise in Physical Employment Standards (PES) is a partnership between the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the University of Wollongong.

The University of Wollongong will

Bayswater Hotel

The Baysie allows the Association the use of their Function Room every month for our meetings. This they have done at no charge as the Association is a non-profit veteran's organisation. All members are welcome to come along. Remember that our meetings are on the first Thursday of each month except January.

Dinner, at the Baysie, is from 1800 hours to 2030 hours and is relatively cheap, wholesome food. It is served as a Buffet Style meal and you can have hot dinners or a cold salad style meal. Should you wish to go more up-market you can order from the Al-a-Carte menu. If you wish to have a private function with a buffet style meal the Baysie staff is only too pleased to cater for you.

If you drive to the Baysie there is a Carpark at the rear with room for about 100 cars. Alternatively you can get to the Baysie by train. The Hotel is about 100m the north side of the railway line from the Bayswater Railway Station.

Further information can be supplied by the Secretary.

**RESERVISTS THANKED
FOR OUTSTANDING
EFFORT DURING
VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, today hosted a function to thank Australian Defence Force Reservists for their involvement in the ADF operation in support of the Victorian bushfires, Operation Vic Fire Assist.

“While the employment of Australian Defence Force personnel to assist the Australian community during times of natural disaster is not uncommon, this Operation was unique in that it was a task given primarily to reservists,” Dr Kelly said.

“Members of our Navy, Army and Air Force Reserves worked together with their full time counterparts as part of Joint Task Force 662, and these members showed great skill and flexibility during the Operation.”

Over 100 Reservists were thanked at the function which was held at Maygar Barracks, Melbourne.

More than 1300 Reservists were involved in the two-month Operation, which saw the Australian Defence Force assist Victoria police and emergency services during the bushfire emergency.

Dr Kelly said employer and community support is vital to Australia’s Defence capability.

“Employer support gave Reservists the ability to assist their fellow Australians

during this tragic natural disaster,” he said.

“The new Defence White Paper highlights the important role our Reservists play now and the increased role we want them to play in the future.

“We need employers of Reservists to continue offering their support.”

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?
A: You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does cow eat? Hay and corn. What are these? Vegetables. So, steak nothing more than efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef also good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable). And pork chop can give 100% recommended daily allowance of vegetable products.

YES, I’M A SENIOR CITIZEN!

I’m the life of the party..... even if it lasts until 8 p.m.

I’m very good at opening childproof caps... with a hammer.

I’m usually interested in going home before I get to where I am going.

I’m awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I’m smiling all the time because I can’t hear a thing you’re saying.

I’m very good at telling stories; over and over and over and over...

I’m aware that other people’s grandchildren are not nearly as cute as mine.

I’m so cared for — long term care, eye care, private care, dental care.

today announced that the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into recognition for Defence Force personnel who served as peacekeepers since 1947.

“I am pleased that the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal will inquire into recognition for peacekeeping service. This inquiry is another in a series of reviews into long-standing Defence honours and awards issues identified by the Australian Government in late 2007,” Dr Kelly said.

A call for submissions will be released shortly in the national press. Submissions to the inquiry close on Monday, 21 December 2009.

“Many people have raised with the Government the issue of separate additional recognition for Australian Defence Force peacekeeping service and I would encourage them to now take advantage of this opportunity to make a submission,” Dr Kelly said.

The Tribunal can be contacted at:

Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal
Locked Bag 7765
CANBERRA BUSINESS CENTRE ACT
2610

or via email to
DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au

Q: Aren’t fried foods bad for you?
A: YOU NOT LISTENING!!! Foods fried in vegetable oil. How getting more vegetables be bad for you?

“The families of both men have been informed of their identification and are now receiving support from the extended Army family through the Defence Community Organisation.

“The Army team’s findings are the result of painstaking investigation, including the use of DNA, and represent almost a year’s work. I thank them for their hard work and dedication,” said Mr Combet.

“These men can now be laid to rest alongside their mates and their burial places formally registered after all these years.”

There were two further sets of remains which the team has been unable to identify. They will also be respectfully buried alongside Lieutenant Logan and Lance Sergeant Wheeler with a headstone marked “Known Unto God”.

A further four sets of remains currently in the custody of the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby are believed to be those of Japanese soldiers who died of unknown causes during World War II. Arrangements are currently being made to hand these remains to the Japanese Embassy in Port Moresby so they can also be afforded a dignified reinterment.

**DEFENCE HONOURS AND
AWARDS TRIBUNAL
INQUIRY INTO
RECOGNITION FOR
PEACEKEEPING SERVICE
FROM 1947 ONWARDS**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP,

LAST OPERATIONAL PATROL FOR M113A1S

M113A1 Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) have a long and proud history in the Australian Army since they were first introduced in 1965.

After nearly 45 years of service to the nation, three M113A1's, one of which saw service in Vietnam, had their last street patrol in East Timor before being cleaned in preparation for shipping back to Australia.

Three Black Hawk S70's, also on operational deployment in East Timor, over-flew the APCs as they turned and headed back to base.

"This is a big milestone for the 1st Armored Regiment to see the last M113A1s on an operation," Troop Leader, LT Nathan Scott said.

"The end of forty years of proud history."

Driving LT Scott's vehicle, Lance Corporal (LCPL) Zachery Williams, who at 21 years of age was born 23 years after the APCs came into service with the Australian Army, praised the simplicity of the M113A1.

"Part of the reason the vehicle has been so successful is its simple design," LCPL Williams said, speaking from experience as a certified driver, loader and gunner on the Abrams M1A1 AIM tanks.

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"The M113 is easy to maintain and keep running". LCPL Williams said.

"It is also straight forward to upgrade, and there have been many variations of the vehicles since its introduction in the 1960s."

The M113A1s have been an important part of Australia's mission in East Timor since they were first used to secure the Dili area when INTERFET inserted in 1999.

Since 2006 the APCs have been used to carry the Quick Response Force (QRF), made up of Australian and New Zealand infantry who were dispatched to deal with any outbreaks of civil unrest in the capital.

With the improved security situation in East Timor, the New Zealand Queen Alexandra Mounted Rifles will now transport the QRF in Pinzgauer armored light operational vehicles.

LT Scott said his troops have worked closely with the Kiwis to ensure that they could pick up where the M113A1s left off and the camaraderie between the armoured personnel has been high.

"With there being an ANZAC Battle group here in East Timor, I think it was great this morning to have a New Zealand troop sergeant out here on the last M113A1 operational patrol. It embodies the ANZAC spirit."

The six M113A1s that have been in service in East Timor arrived with the

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Mildura to Sale and Echuca to Warnambool.

While in Honiara and surrounds, the employers had the opportunity to see their Reservists on Operation Anode, the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands.

"The three-day program highlights the vital capability Reservists bring to the Australian Defence Force, in addition to highlighting the skills Reservists gain from being in the ADF and how those skills can benefit civilian employers," said Dr Kelly.

"Reserves are bringing increased levels of capability to the Navy, Army and Air Force and this experience can flow directly to the civilian workplace."

As well as providing much needed support during the devastating Victorian bush fires, 4th Brigade has in recent years served across the globe, including the theatres of Iraq, Afghanistan, East Timor and Solomon Islands.

For details about the many employer programs coordinated by Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division (CRESD) visit www.defence.gov.au/reserves or call 1800 803 485.

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: You crazy? HELLO ... Cocoa beans! Vegetable!!! Cocoa beans best feel-good food around!

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming good for figure, explain whales to me.

Hello!

For a long while, there was no answer.

Losing

Hope, Snow White again shouted,

'Hello! Is

Anyone down there?'

Just as she was about to give up all hope, she

Heard a faint voice from deep within the mine,

Singing;

'DOCKERS for Premiers in 2010!!'

Snow White fell to her knees and

prayed, 'Oh,

Thank you, God! At least Dopey is still alive.'

BENEFITS OF EMPLOYING RESERVISTS HIGHLIGHTED ON BOSS LIFT TO SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP commended the involvement of twenty-two employers of Defence Reservists who recently travelled to the Solomon Islands on 2 July 2009 as part of Exercise Boss Lift — a Defence program designed to encourage employer support for the Reserves.

Participating employers visited soldiers from Melbourne-based 4th Brigade who are currently on a four-month deployment to the Solomon Islands. 4th Brigade is the face of the Army Reserve in Victoria, with over 2000 soldiers based in depots from

contribution to Defence capability and work alongside Permanent Force members with dedication and integrity,”

“I wish to personally thank all employers of Reservists for their outstanding support. Without this support, it would not be possible for the skills and expertise of Reservists to be utilised by our Defence Force,” said Dr Kelly.

INCREASE IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYERS OF RESERVISTS

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP today announced that Employers of Defence Reservists who claim financial assistance through the Employer Support Payment Scheme will now receive more money.

Employer Support Payments (ESPs) rose on 1 July from \$1123.30 to \$1183.10, for every week full-time employee Reservists are away from their civilian jobs, once the qualifying period of two weeks and other eligibility criteria are satisfied.

“The Scheme was introduced to provide financial assistance to both employers and self-employed reservists,” said Dr Kelly.

“The weekly payment helps offset the costs associated with the absence of Reservist employees who are performing Defence service.”

For Reservists in part-time employment, a pro-rata amount of the applicable

Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE) is calculated based on their weekly working hours. ESP support is also available to self-employed Reservists whose business provides their main source of income.

In order for an employer to qualify for ESP payments, their Reservist employees must perform Defence service for five or more consecutive days after completing the qualifying period.

Employers can download claim forms at www.defence.gov.au/reserves. Defence Reserves Support specialists are available on 1800 803 485 or esp@defence.gov.au to help resolve any queries about the claims process.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

The seven dwarfs always left to go work in the mine early each morning.

As always, Snow White stayed home doing her domestic chores.

As lunchtime approached, she would prepare their Lunch and carry it to the mine.

One day as she arrived at the mine with the lunch, she saw That there had been a terrible cave-in.

Tearfully, and fearing the worst, Snow White Began calling out, hoping against hope that the dwarfs had Somehow survived.

‘Hello...Hello!’ she shouted. ‘Can anyone hear me?’

International Stabilisation Force following the outbreak of violence in East Timor in 2006.

After they return to Australia the vehicles will be converted into M113AS4s.

Media Note:

Interviews with the Commander of the International Stabilisation Force can be

arranged by contacting Defence media.

Imagery is available at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/opEx/global/opastute/images/gallery/2009/1201/index.htm> and

<http://www.defence.gov.au/opEx/global/opastute/images/gallery/2009/1210a/index.htm>

There is a group doing demining and humanitarian work and has been operating in Cambodia, Laos and is doing a road construction project in Vietnam. They also were partners in the reconstruction of the orphanage at Dutch Bar Batticaloa District Sri Lanka post tsunami. This group started with an idea by a former 1 Fd Sqn RAE soldier some 8 years ago.

The name is the MiVAC Trust (Mines Victims and Clearance Trust and is currently working with Phoneix Clearance on the Plain of Jars in LAOS PDR.

They have DGR status albeit via a third person but have lodged a claim for DGR with the Tax Office and Foreign Affairs. They are also registered in all states as a charity for the purposes of raising funds.

Their web site is at www.mivactrust.org and is about to be redesigned.

I would ask that you give this widest dissemination as members and their skills are always required.

Any further info contact Paul Jeffress at: jeffress@optusnet.com.au or aussiefrass@gmail.com for further information.

If you're having a difficult end of year, try this to brighten up your day and give a brief thought for a few others doing it tough through little or no fault of their own: <http://www.maginternational.org/multimedia>

Take a quick peek at a day in the life of a villager living with a post war legacy. Might I suggest you start with

“Legacy of a secret - lethal trade.”

MAG (Mines Advisory Group) is a neutral and impartial humanitarian organisation clearing the remnants of conflict for the benefit of communities worldwide. MAG is co-laureate of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, awarded for its work with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which culminated in the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty -

the international agreement that bans anti-personnel landmines, sometimes referred to as the Ottawa Convention.

MAG moves into current and former conflict zones to clear the remnants of those conflicts, enabling recovery and assisting the development of affected populations. MAG consults with local communities and works to lessen the threat of death and injury, while releasing reclaimed and safe land and other vital resources back to the local population, helping countries to rebuild and develop their social and economic potential.

It is difficult to imagine a more worthy group to support in all our personal post conflict endeavours in the sure and certain knowledge that we're actually doing something positively good. This organisation MAG you may recall was one of the last world wide charity groups seen to be supported by Princess Diana before her untimely death and is continuing to be supported by her two sons.

Might I suggest you visit MAG's home page and seriously consider a donation towards this charity this Christmas. I have just bought a T-shirt, added a donation and feel pleased I did it. <http://www.maginternational.org/about/>

Imagine what just one Australian ESO group could achieve in this country if it decided to get behind this in a big way and really push it to the point where every Australian gave one dollar to MAG. Equals \$22M; pretty impressive even for little leaguers like us. One move better would be to see all ESOs united in a common purpose with this activity instead of persistently occupying the ground that continues to separate us.

Please give this some serious thought as we commence this our second decade of the 21st Century and let's begin to think more positively and constructively as to how we can move forward for ourselves as well as helping some others along the way. As in all things diplomatic we'll achieve far more by highlighting the purposes that bind us, than continuing to underline those that divide us.

I had lunch yesterday with the Consul-General from IRAQ and not unsurprisingly the difficulties being experienced by his people both here in Australia and back in his own country were remarkably similar to our own native born citizens. The world must not remain an aftermath of war zones.

At the AGM on Sunday it was decided that there would be no committee meeting held in Dec and Jan 10 as there was not business to attend to. So the next gathering of Assn will be the 4th Feb 2010.

complete confidence in the Tribunal.”

“The release of the Tribunal's report and the acceptance of the recommendations clearly demonstrate the Government's commitment to the independent review of long-standing Defence honours and

awards issues.”

The Tribunal's full report is available at www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au. Further information on Defence honours and awards is available at: www.defence.gov.au/medals/

A warning for those of you who may be regular Bunnings customers.

This one caught me by surprise. Over the last month I became a victim of a clever scam while out shopping. Simply going out to get supplies has turned out to be quite traumatic. Don't be naive enough to think it couldn't happen to you or your friends.

Here's how the scam works: Two seriously good-looking 20-21 year-old girls come over to your car as you are packing your timber and hardware. They both start wiping your windshield with a rag and Windex, with their breasts almost falling out of their skimpy T-shirts. It is impossible not to look. When you thank them and offer them a tip, they say 'No' and instead ask you for a ride to McDonald's. You agree and they get in the backseat.

On the way, they remove all of their clothes and start making out. Then one of them climbs over into the front seat and starts crawling all over you. She then takes off your pants and throws them into the backseat. While the one is keeping you distracted the other one steals your wallet.

I had my wallet stolen July 4th, 9th, 10th, twice on the 15th, then again on the 17th, 20th, 24th & 29th. Also, August 1st, 7th, twice on the 8th, and again on the 16th, 23rd, 26th, 30th. Then on September 6th,

11th, 14th, three times last Saturday and very likely again this upcoming weekend.

So tell your friends to be careful.

P.S. Target has wallets on sale \$2.99 each

RIVERINA PARADE **RECOGNISES RESERVISTS**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, yesterday joined the Riverina community in honouring Reservists for their commitment to the defence of Australia at the 2009 Reserve Forces Day march through the streets of Wagga Wagga.

Reserve Forces Day celebrates and commemorates the service and achievements of Australia's Reservists, both past and present, and also provides the opportunity to formally thank employers and families for their support of Reserve personnel.

The 2009 celebrations remember the 70 years since the mobilisation of the Citizen's Military Forces, Citizen's Air Force and Royal Australian Naval Reserve.

“This years celebrations commemorate the significant contribution Reservists made to the raising of the 2nd Australian Imperial

**RELEASE OF INQUIRY INTO
UNRESOLVED
RECOGNITION ISSUES FOR
THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, today announced that the Government has accepted the recommendations of the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal Inquiry into Unresolved Recognition Issues for the Battle of Long Tan.

The Report recommended that:

1. Flight Lieutenant Cliff Dohle be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the contemporary equivalent award to the Distinguished Flying Cross, the original award for which he was properly recommended in 1966 by all levels of Australian command in Vietnam; 2. No other individual awards be made to participants in the Battle of Long Tan; and 3. Delta Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (RAR), be awarded the Unit Citation for Gallantry for its performance at the Battle of Long Tan in August 1966.

The Battle of Long Tan was fought on 18 August 1966 when Delta Company, 6 RAR came into contact with a much larger enemy force while patrolling outside the 1st Australian Task Force at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. Seventeen members of Delta Company were killed during the battle, and another 21 were wounded.

“The release of the findings fulfils a Rudd Labor Government election commitment. The Government has accepted the

Tribunal’s findings, and I have directed Defence to implement the recommendations,” said Dr Kelly.

“I am delighted that the Tribunal has recommended the award of an Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry to the men of Delta Company 6 RAR. This ensures that all are recognised for what was in effect a magnificent team effort. It has only been in recent years that we have come to appreciate the full significance of the battle in the context of the conflict.”

“For the South Vietnamese Government at the time it meant that the Phuoc Tuy Province was effectively neutralised as a concern. For the US it contributed to the overall effort in that it enabled resources to be focused elsewhere. For Australia it was significant because we now know that this was a planned and determined effort to annihilate the Australian Task Force before it had settled in.”

“The result of the action was not only that the enemy was prevented from achieving this objective but was never able to mount such an effort again in Phuoc Tuy Province for the remainder of the Australian presence.”

“I also commend the Tribunal for upholding the recommendation made in 1966 by RAAF command in Vietnam to award Flight Lieutenant Cliff Dohle the Distinguished Flying Cross,” said Dr Kelly.

“I would also like to thank the Tribunal for its work on this and the other matters it has dealt with or is continuing to deal with. I believe all members of the Tribunal have undertaken their work diligently, fairly and with an open mind. I continue to have

**AUSTRALIAN FORCES
DRAWDOWN IN EAST
TIMOR**

The Minister for Defence, Senator John Faulkner, today announced that the Australian commitment to the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in East Timor will draw down from approximately 650 to around 400 personnel by February 2010.

The overall size of the joint Australian-New Zealand force will decrease from 800 to 550 personnel.

“The reduction of the number of ADF personnel was agreed following extensive discussions with East Timor’s leadership, the United Nations and our ISF partner New Zealand,” Senator Faulkner said.

The security situation in East Timor has remained stable since the February 2008 attacks on East Timor’s President and Prime Minister. In January 2009, 100 ADF members deployed to Operation ASTUTE were withdrawn from East Timor with no significant effect on the security situation.

“The decision to reduce the number of ADF personnel recognises the ongoing calm security situation in East Timor and the efforts of the Government and people of East Timor to uphold this. It will see the ISF increase its focus on capacity-building of East Timor’s military forces (F-FDTL),” Senator Faulkner said.

The coalition will continue to transition to capacity-building activities with the F-FDTL, building on successful ISF and F-FDTL projects such as the water project at Uatolari and the health clinic in Ossa Huna.

These efforts support Australia’s longer term commitment to the F-FDTL’s development through the Defence Cooperation Program in East Timor. They are part of Australia’s commitment to supporting East Timor’s development as a stable and prosperous nation.

The planned drawdown will commence with approximately 100 ADF members returning to Australia in mid December 2009. The subsequent drawdown to an ADF commitment of approximately 400 ADF members will occur gradually during the January to March 2010 period.

“The Australian servicemen and women completing their deployments can now look forward to a period of leave, reconstitution and training back in Australia following their time in East Timor,” Senator Faulkner said.

“I thank all the returning ADF personnel for their professionalism and service in this important operation.”

The current New Zealand contribution will remain unchanged at 150 personnel.

The ISF is in East Timor at the request of the Government of East Timor and the United Nations.

Operation ASTUTE is the ADF contribution to the ISF and New Zealand’s contribution is Operation KORU. Further information concerning Operation ASTUTE and KORU can be found at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/opEX/global/opastute/index.cfm>

CANNON BALLS!!! DID YOU KNOW THIS?

It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was the problem. The storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen.

Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem — how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate with 16 round indentations, called, for reasons unknown, a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make them of brass - hence, Brass Monkeys.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled.

Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.

Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. And all this time, folks thought that was just a vulgar expression?

Q: Is getting in-shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! 'Round' is shape!

I thought that I would forward this email so it could be disseminated amongst the Spanners. Our company is looking for an Experienced Mechanic for Fly In/Fly Out 4/1 roster starting Jan 2010. Interested parties please contact Belinda Rowan BRowan@monadel.com.au 08 9315 7178

Regards,

Craig Debnam
Asset Co-ordinator

Monadelphous Group Limited | Level 6,
19 Lang Parade, Milton, QLD 4064 | PO Box
1872, Milton QLD 4064
T 07 3368 6755 | M 0409 106 408 | F 07
3368 6777 | www.monadelphous.com.au

CORRECTING THE RECORD
- ADF RESERVES AND
MAINTENANCE
CONTRACTS WA

The Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie AO DSC CSM, today corrected the record in order to clarify some misleading information in recent media reporting regarding Australian Defence Force (ADF) reserves.

“Recent media reports and correspondence from interest groups have focused on perceived reductions to ADF Reserve training days. This perception is not accurate,” Lieutenant General Gillespie said.

“The number of days paraded on an annual basis by Reservists has risen steadily. The expenditure associated with this increase has, until this financial year, been

*He was just a common Soldier, And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us We may need his like again.*

*For when countries are in conflict, We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.*

*If we cannot do him honour while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.*

*Perhaps just a simple headline in the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."*

Farewell Pete from all the associaton

Chicka Bannerman

I wish to report the sad passing of Chicka Bannerman 215304 his funeral was held at Liverpool Friday 25/9/09 .Barny Fyfe attened his funeral Chicka served with 101Fld Wksps Vietnam 66/67

I have some sad news, John Wade's wife passed away at 10am on Saturday 17th October, after putting up a brave battle against her illness. Our thoughts and well wishes are with her Husband.

Merv Flanders

Hi Everybody,

Received this very sad news from Snowy Whykes this morning. I am sure most of you would have known Merv and can pass the message on to interested parties. For those of you that don't know, Merv lived in WA and made a point, if he could, of attending reunions of 17 Construction Squadron Workshops - the unit he was OC of in Vietnam.

As Snow said "Another one gone, lest we forget"

Regards

Steve MacFarlane

The new email for the Horsesmouth is: wahorsesmouth@raeme.org.au

It is with a heavy Heart that I report that our Vice President Mr Peter Humpston has passed away. The Family has requested to keep the funeral very private.

A SOLDIER DIED TODAY

*He was getting old and paunchy And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the RSL Club, Telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he once fought in, And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his mates; They were heroes, every one.
And 'tho sometimes to his neighbours His tales became a joke,
All his mates listened quietly For they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer, For ol' Dig has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer For a soldier died today.*

*He won't be mourned by many, Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary, Very quiet sort of life.*

*He held a job and raised a family, Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing, 'tho a Soldier died today.
When politicians leave this earth, Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing, And proclaim that they were great.*

*Papers tell of their life stories From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier Goes unnoticed, and unsung.*

*Is the greatest contribution To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise And cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country And offers up his life?
The politician's stipend And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate, To the service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal And perhaps a pension, small.*

*It's so easy to forget them, For it is so many times,
That our Bobs and Jims Went to battle, but we still pine.
It was not the politicians With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom That our Country now enjoys.*

*Should you find yourself in danger, With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out, With his ever waffling stand,*

*Or would you want a Soldier, His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier, Who would fight until the end?*

accommodated within the flexibility afforded by the overall military workforce budget.

“This may have led to a perception the availability of Army Reserve Training Salaries was less constrained by budget pressure, which is not true.

“Further to this, \$9.6 million of Defence supplementation has covered the increased costs caused by the new Graded Pay Scales. As a result of this funding boost, no reduction in the number of days paraded will be necessary to offset the new Graded Pay Scales.

“Comments regarding Reserve ammunition allocation being cutback for this financial year are also untrue. In order to ensure forces are prepared for operations and deployments all types of ammunition are managed in accordance with unit priorities to ensure that ammunition is allocated in line with operational priorities.”

Lieutenant General Gillespie said the highest priority tasking for the Reserve continues to be for them to provide support to, prepare for, and deploy on operations.

“Training and preparation for these will be funded first. Army is carefully managing its training days budget to ensure capability is delivered in the highest priority areas within the funding available.

“Reservists are performing magnificently on operations because of the strong training conducted. Army will continue working hard to support these initiatives, but must operate within priorities and budget constraints.”

With regards to the security works, no recent security works contracts have been issued for fencing, and no contracts have been issued for razor wire at HMAS Stirling in the last 3 years.

Routine maintenance, such as guttering, is scheduled and coordinated into batches to achieve greater economies of scale when conducting maintenance.

Defence is not aware of any reports of water damage to the facility at this time.

Our new mailing address is

THE RAEME ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA) Inc
PO Box 2118
Fountain Gate Vic 3805

raeme.assn.vic@bigpond.com

PRESIDENT John.Boothroyd MAJ
(Rtd) VICE

Hello everyone , firstly I would like to thank you for nominating me as Secretary of the RAEME Assoc. of W.A. Inc. I'm looking forward to a prosperous year for the Association and both Darby and myself are eager to take over our roles. I will be greatly pleased if all could attend the FIRST MEETING OF 2010 at the Bayswater Pub with us as we have a lot of ideas to put forward to the committee. Great to catch up again.

Please let me know if you're attending so I can book Hotel for Numbers—Thanks
Regards
Alan Stoner
Sec. RAEME Assoc. Of W.A. Inc.
Reg. No. A1010939L

A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO DRIVING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

For those outside Australia, we drive right hand drive cars and drive on the left hand side of the road.

In WA, we have an unwritten road code, therefore, it is suggested that you discard your official copy so diligently obtained and studied prior to your visit. The following rules apply to the WA roads, not in any particular order of importance.

The correct overtaking lane is the left hand lane. The right hand lane is reserved for sightseeing, making mobile phone calls, and looking for street signs. If someone behind you puts on their high beam when you are in the right hand lane, they do not want to overtake, but, in fact, are trying to give you more light in which to read your street directory. We in the west are so considerate like that.

Tunnels are a big novelty here, despite probably being commonplace where you come from. As a result, you are expected to reduce speed considerably on entering our very own tunnel so you have more time to appreciate the engineering and architecture of this magnificent structure, which is far better than anything in your hometown.

In WA, it is illegal to use a hand held mobile phone while you are driving. Please do not let that stop you, your call is important to us. However, we all recognise the inherent danger in using these devices while driving, so it is recommended that whilst using a mobile, please move to the right lane (you should be there already) and reduce speed to ensure you can still respond in a timely manner to any change in road conditions.

Roundabouts are something we have never really got used to. To avoid any confusion, please do not indicate at all, as any indication is confusing. Should you not be sure who has right of way, feel free to stop in the middle of the roundabout to give way to your left. This is also a great gesture of courtesy, and should anyone toot their horn, it is in appreciation of your courtesy. Likewise, a vertical finger is a wave of "welcome to PerthR21;.

On many of our country roads there are overtaking lanes to allow drivers to overtake slower vehicles on sections where it would otherwise be difficult or impossible to do so. You should be mindful of the fact that speed is our biggest killer and you therefore have a moral obligation to drive at least 20kph below the speed limit on the single lane sections, and accelerate to whatever speed is necessary to prohibit those reckless drivers in our midst from overtaking. They are a danger to the community at large and who

men. An ANZAC cricket team will also take on the Police in the traditional Boxing Day cricket match.

The Commander of the Combined Task Force, Lieutenant Colonel David Thompson said the Reserve soldiers from Australia will join soldiers from New Zealand and Papua New Guinea as well as police officers from Australia and the Pacific region.

"Christmas in the Solomon Islands, like in Australia, is traditionally a time for celebrating with family and close friends, but for those of us on mission while celebrating together we will, of course, be with our loved ones in spirit," Lieutenant Colonel Thompson said.

East Timor

The sporting theme prevails in East Timor, where members of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) will have two days of sports.

The Commander of the ISF, Commodore Stuart Mayer said personnel at each of the three bases around Dili will join sport with festivities on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

"We wanted to make sure that no-one missed out on hitting a cricket ball or playing some footy before eating a big lunch, so we have spread Christmas festivities over two days", Commodore Mayer said.

Border Protection

As well, off Australia's northern coast-line, up to 500 personnel will be conducting border-protection operations as part of Operation RESOLUTE - and will continue operations alongside their Customs colleagues during the festive season.

Message from the Chief of Joint Operations

The Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Mark Evans said the Australian public holds a deep respect for its deployed people.

"Christmas Day is an important time to reflect on the year that has passed and the challenges that lay ahead. We have personnel deployed on 13 operations, working in important roles from border protection and peace keeping missions to counter-piracy and combating terrorism," he said.

"Our personnel deployed on operations share a common bond and while the presence of families and loved ones cannot be replaced, I am sure the mateship of colleagues will provide support."

surrounds, and while the team will enjoy the celebrations they will be ever poised to provide immediate artillery support to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Middle East

An Aussie-style barbecue breakfast will be on offer at the Middle East location affectionately known as “Billabong Flats” for personnel serving with the National Headquarters, the C130 Hercules and AP3 Orion aircraft detachments, the Force Communications Unit and the RAAF Combat Support Unit. The troops will join their US colleagues for Christmas lunch at the American mess before returning for a traditional Christmas dinner back at “Billabong Flats”.

HMAS Stuart will be continuing operations in the Gulf of Aden conducting counter terrorism operations. In line with Royal Australian Navy tradition, the officers will help serve the sailors a Christmas meal on board.

As well, a team of 25 Royal Australian Navy officers and sailors will spend Christmas coordinating maritime security operations throughout the region. Commander of the Combined Task Force 150, Commodore Richard Menhinick has tactical control of Coalition ships and aircraft from many nations.

Meanwhile, in Iraq, members of the ADF Security Detachment (SECDET) protecting the Australian Embassy in Baghdad will spend Christmas on duty maintaining security and ensuring the success of the diplomatic mission. The Australian Ambassador, Robert Tyson, and his staff will join Officer Commanding SECDET, Major Nigel Earnshaw and Company Sergeant Major Stephan McCaig in cooking a BBQ lunch for the diggers as they rotate off security shifts and return from escort tasks.

The Commander of Australian troops in the Middle East, Major General Mark Kelly thanked the Australian public for their ongoing support of the troops in the region and their generosity of spirit.

“This time of year is especially difficult for all deployed personnel - separated from their families and loved ones. However, we can all be comforted by the knowledge that our people are working hard, for a good cause,” said Major General Mark Kelly.

Sudan

For the troops in the Solomon Islands and Timor, the tropical monsoon is the setting for Christmas festivities.

About 80 Australian Army soldiers and Australian Police in the Solomon Islands will be sharing Carols by Candlelight with the local community. A Christmas Day lunch with all the trimmings will uphold the tradition with the officers serving the enlisted

knows how many lives you will save by such a small contribution as this.

Traffic lights are a modern method of regulating the flow of traffic but have the effect of causing vehicles to travel in packs. Therefore, the appropriate method to reduce this effect is to wait until the vehicle in front of you is a reasonable distance from you before you move away from the lights. Ten car lengths or more is considered appropriate. Do not accelerate quickly away from the lights, as this will make you stand out as a tourist.

Merging of two lanes into one has its dangers. The obvious way to reduce these dangers is to reduce your speed prior to attempting a merging manoeuvre. While you may be used to merging one for one, this simply does not work here and you should try to stay as close to the car in front to ensure you don't lose your place in the queue.

If all the above rules are too confusing, remember that when all else fails, drive in the right hand lane and be totally oblivious to anything that may be happening around you. It is not as easy as it sounds but with some practice you'll find yourself driving like a local in no time.

Follow these simple rules and you are ensured of a pleasant stay in our beautiful state without standing out from the crowd as just another tourist.

Enjoy your stay.

The First meeting of this year is at the Bayswater Hotel at this stage in the function room as per normal, (still waiting confirmation),
at 19:00 Thursday 4th February 2010-01-04

Please RSVP on Email or Ph 0409099806 NLT 16:00 29 FEBRURAY 2010

Regards

Alan Stoner

Four guys have been going to the same deer camp for many years.

Two days before the group is to leave, Frank's wife puts her foot down and tells him he isn't going.

Frank's friends are very upset that he can't go, but what can they do.

Two days later the three get to the camping site only to find Frank sitting there with a tent set up, firewood gathered, and dinner cooking on the fire.

”Damn man, how long you been here, and how did you talk your wife into letting you go?”

”Well, I've been here since yesterday.

Yesterday evening, I was sitting in my chair and my wife came up behind me and put her hands over my eyes and said, ‘Guess who?’”

I pulled her hands off, and she was wearing a brand new see through nightie.

She took my hand and pulled me to our bedroom. The room had candles and rose pedals all over.

On the bed she had handcuffs, and ropes!

She told me to tie and cuff her to the bed, and I did.

And then she said, “Do what ever you want.”

So, here I am.

Across all Australian military campaigns, more than 1.8 million Australians have enlisted into the Services to serve their country in times of need. Of these, more than 102,000 have died as a result of their service, more than 225,000 were wounded, and more than 34,000 were held as prisoners of war.

More than 3,000 Australian Defence Force members are currently deployed on operations, continuing the ANZAC spirit whilst serving Australia's national interests at home and in many countries around the world.

"Our service men and women are doing an exceptional job contributing to the International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan, contributing to various UN missions, and assisting and enhancing security and stability in our region," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

Most of our deployed service personnel are in Afghanistan, other areas of the Middle East, East Timor, Solomon Islands and on border protection duties in Australia's maritime domain. Smaller numbers are deployed in Iraq, Egypt, Sudan and Darfur.

Air Chief Marshal Houston said the ANZAC spirit all lived on in the hearts and minds of Australians.

"Today we honour the courage and sacrifice of those who have contributed so much in shaping the identity of this proud nation," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

"ANZAC Day is also a time to acknowledge the vital role of all those

who serve, or have served, on the home front, providing support and boosting the morale of their deployed loved ones," Air Chief Marshal Houston said.

**STATE OF ENVIRONMENT
REPORT FOR SHOALWATER
BAY TRAINING AREA 2008**

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP and the Member for Capricornia, Ms Kirsten Livermore MP, today announced the release of the State of the Environment Report for Shoalwater Bay Training Area 2008, a Defence report which highlights the commendable environmental condition of the training area.

"The Shoalwater Bay Training area (SWBTA) in central Queensland is an important asset for Defence, effectively integrating blue water naval forces with comparable air and land assets in military training," Dr Kelly said.

"The State of the Environment Report is the result of years of research and monitoring and provides a single reference document about the environmental attributes of SWBTA. The Report identifies the area's natural and cultural values and states that they are well managed and in good condition," Ms Livermore said.

"Defence takes its responsibilities to the environment very seriously and strives to minimise the environmental impacts of day to day activities and operations," Dr Kelly said.

SWBTA is the largest coastal area with high wilderness values on the east coast

or through the WA RAEME ASSC website [Horses Mouth](http://www.raeme.org.au/WA/). If you are able to help website <http://www.raeme.org.au/WA/> out please do not hesitate in contact-Your contributions into making this a bet-ing myself or the President. ter publication are appreciated. Now sit back and enjoy the ride for another sea-To you all I wish you a Merry Christmas of THE HORSES MOUTH> mas and a Safe and prosperous New Year and look forward to a great 2010.

On another note due to my high workload i am looking for assistance with theEd.

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED AUSTRALIAN-STYLE
ON OPERATIONS**

From snow and sub-zero temperatures to monsoon rains and tropical humidity, approximately 3,800 Australian Defence Force personnel deployed overseas and conducting border protection operations will be spending Christmas this year far from home and family.

Afghanistan

Winter in Afghanistan can be harsh, with temperatures in Tarin Kowt frequently below freezing but a traditional Christmas roast lunch prepared by Australian cooks will no doubt warm up those deployed.

Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force-2 Regimental Sergeant, Major Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) Darren Murch said the lunch will bring soldiers together to share a meal and swap a few stories. He said a church service and a concert conducted by the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment band will be the highlights of the day.

"The Christmas parcels have been flooding in and the telephones and internet will be well used on the day to offer best wishes to family and friends back home," WO1 Murch said.

While it will be business as usual for the Special Operations Task Group, a Santa suit may be put into action. The Special Forces soldiers will celebrate the day with a traditional Christmas lunch and they already have their Christmas decorations in place in the mess.

Australian personnel in Kandahar will celebrate with a Christmas lunch with their British counter-parts followed by an Aussie barbecue dinner. On Boxing Day, the Afghanistan version of "The Ashes" will be played out when they take on the Brits in a game of cricket.

In the neighbouring Helmand Province, Australian gunners attached to the British Army will also celebrate with their British hosts. Theirs will be a day spent in Spartan

The RAEME Association of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 186, Bayswater, WA 6933

Patron Colonel Ernie McCart
Colonel Commandant: Colonel Dean Reyniers

The RAEME Association Committee

President:	Mr Brian (Darby) Munroe - 15 Lookout Circle Ellenbrook email: darby.101@bigpond.com	Ph:0418 726 252
Vice President:	Mr Brian Wass 25 Mayflower Close Port Kennedy	Ph: 0448 721 602
Secretary:	Mr Allan Stoner 36 Jervois Street Beeliar email: alanandtrudy@bigpond.com	Ph: 0409 099 806
Ass Secretary:	Dick Fenton 4 Harbour Court, Safety Bay email: richard.fenton@defence.gov.au	Ph: 9528 6860
Treasurer:	Mr David Cooper 263 Robinson Ave Cloverdale WA 6105 email: cooper.family@westnet.com.au	Ph: 0409080412
Editor:	Matthew Thompson 12 Forward Street Baldivis	Ph 0402038420
Welfare Officer:	Vacant	
Chaplain	Fr. Howard MacCallum 39 Rogerson Road, Mt Pleasant	Ph. 9364 4948
Honorary Auditor:	Terry Barrett	
Property Member	Mr Mark Vincent	Ph: 9307 8725
General Committee:		
John Curtiis	0448885662	Tom Goodlich 9293 3944
Clare Curtis	0448885662	Marilyn Goodlich 9293 3944
Perry Beor	9275 8595	Lawrie Forsyth 9401 5039

DEADLINE

All contributions for the next edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH must be with the editor no later than the 22nd of FEB 2010.

DISCLAIMER

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

EDITORS NOTE

Welcome to the Summer edition of THE HORSE'S MOUTH. We have been running low this quarter on submissions and fun emails from our world wide au-

dience (must be something to do with the economic downturn!) If you have any suggestions feel free to email them in to wahorsesmouth@raeme.org.au

of Australia, and is regionally and nationally significant. SWBTA is increasingly being used as a scientific reference area by private and public research bodies.

Modelled on the United Nations State of the Environment Report format, the Report aims to inform environmental regulators, scientists, the wider Australian community and Defence users of the condition of the area.

The State of the Environment Report for Shoalwater Bay Training Area 2008 is available at www.defence.gov.au/environment. Hard copies will be accessible through most National, State and University libraries across Australia by the end of April 2009.

**AFGHAN TROOPS SEIZE
BOMB-MAKING CACHES**

Afghan National Security Forces, with support from Australian Special Forces and other coalition troops, have uncovered several major bomb-making factories and munitions caches in a town to the east of Tarin Kowt, near the Zabol province border.

The daylight raid on Sunday found more than five tonnes of ammonium nitrate, the key ingredient to the Taliban's home-made explosives. While Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are a threat to coalition forces, Afghan civilians are often killed and wounded by indiscriminate IED emplacement.

The raid also seized almost 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 39 rocket-propelled grenades, a grenade launcher and automatic weapons, and a

significant amount of IED componentry.

The Deputy Chief of Joint Operations Command, Air Vice Marshal Greg Evans, said the cache was a major break-through in disrupting the manufacture of IEDs across the southern and eastern parts of Oruzgan province.

“The 5.3 tonnes of ammonium nitrate could have built several hundred Improvised Explosive Devices. It is a significant volume of material to be found in one location and its discovery and destruction will disrupt the ongoing road-side bomb emplacement campaign by the Taliban insurgents.”

The combined Afghan National Security Force and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operation took a day to clear the almost eight square kilometres of compounds and fields.

Air Vice Marshal Evans said that the removal of explosive material and its improvised components would make life safer for all Afghan people in Oruzgan and for the coalition troops who are supporting the Afghan National Security Forces.

“This operation highlights the commitment of Australian forces in Oruzgan to support the ISAF mission of protecting the population.”

Since January 2007, ISAF estimates that insurgents have caused 80 per cent of the civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

Air Vice Marshal Evans said the IED components had been destroyed and operations would continue in a bid to find further caches.

A SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see just who in this little house lived.
As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No Stockings by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sobering thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,
The home of a soldier, I could now see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I picture a United States Soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.
I couldn't help wondering how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to one knee and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, for this life is my choice".
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
as we both shivered from the cold night's chill.
I didn't want to leave, on that cold, dark night,
this guardian of honor, so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
whispered, "Carry on Santa...., It's Christmas Day...., All is secure.
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend.... and to all a Good Night.

~ Author Unknown *~



The Role Of RAEME Is To :-

*" Provide Maintenance Engineering , Materiel Maintenance ,
Modifications , and Recovery Support to the Army."*

The Horse's Mouth

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

Summer 2009-10

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, Bayswater Hotel, 78-80 Railway Parade, Bayswater, in the Function Room. 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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