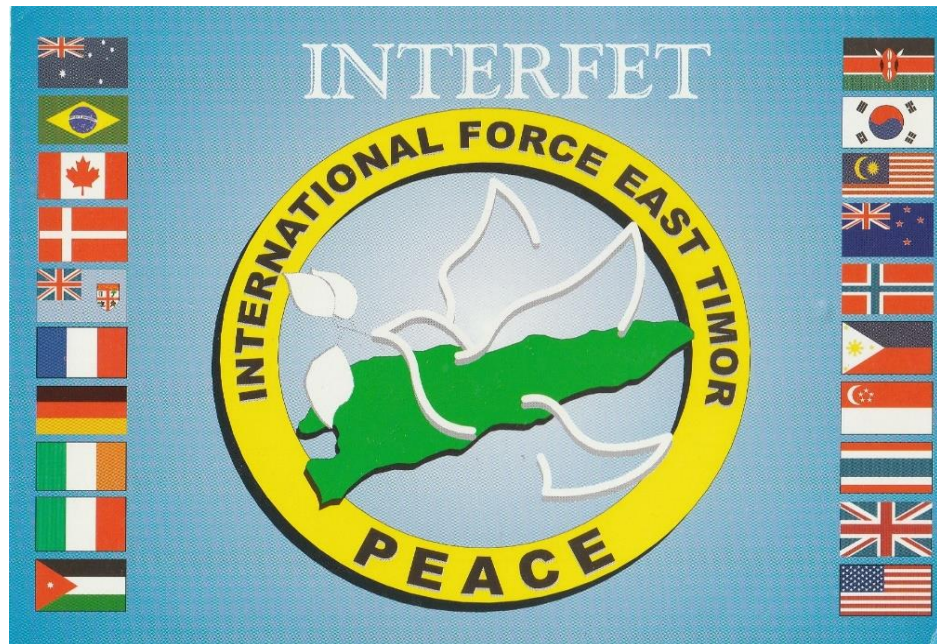


AIRFIELD DEFENCE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA Inc.



THE BLUE BERET ADAA JOURNAL 2024



Features :

- East Timor INTERFET Memoire
- New Patron
- Defining Actions
- Evans Awards Dinner
- Aircraft Operations Middle East
- Squadron Life These Days
 - & Mustering NEWS
- Comoro Airfield Operations
- Remembering Them



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Presidents Report

Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition Well, here we are with 2024 all but behind us. In this edition we mark the 25th Anniversary of INTERFET and the deployment to East Timor by No 2 Airfield Defence Squadron with two feature articles by Lawrie Best and John Leo. There could be some commemorative 25th up for grabs available in the near future.

It has been a year of special significance and pronounced sadness. In the first case I am proud to announce that AVM Hervey Reynolds, AM has accepted our invitation to become the Patron of our Association. Also, I welcome on board Lloyd Schneider in the role of Secretary formerly done by Ian Dainer. As to the pronounced sadness, we have lost many from the ranks of our Airfield Defence Family this year. In my second year as President, it seems numbers of those passing and reported cases of illness have increased.

Dr Carbs is back with an 'article on defining actions. How we commemorate those who are no longer with us matters, understanding that aspect a little better, helps. The 2024 SD Evans Awards Dinner Newcastle was held in Newcastle with many travelling to make the event. It was a grand occasion with proud No1 Security Forces Squadron members present. Former FSGT ADG Steve Brasher balances out our focus on operations a cracker of an article about sandy places far away.

Last year we did not have a section dedicated to what is happening in the Air Force with serving members. I pleased to welcome back this section where we get the lo-down from both Squadrons and Security & Fire School. Additionally, Blue Beret is in contact with Canberra in relation to the future of the role and our people. The "Socials" section covers of on what has been happening around the various states and regional areas. 'We Will Remember Them' as always... where we can pause and remember.

Membership in the middle quarter of this year is on the rise. I am pleased to say that some of our stalwarts have been able to step aside and enjoy retirement the way it was meant to be. We have a new ACT regional representative and member. Ongoing amendments of the constitution is ticking along well. Recent changes allow for all roles of an Aerodrome/Airfield Defence related mustering/category course to be classified as full members. Extending back to 1929 effective from June 2024. More to follow.

The bones of membership packs have been assembled and acquisition of those items is underway. Membership benefits scheme is being developed with negotiations outside agencies is underway.

The wheels of the long-term strategy have begun to roll and we are starting to see the effects of that. Institutional change takes time, but I am confident with our new members coming on board that the engines of evolution are running.



New member on ANZAC day young Pagey. Mate, welcome aboard !



Organisational help, to help get organised....

More organisations which recognise Australian Defence Force personnel and families current or ex-serving that give access to their services here and overseas. You are not alone in your journey and I can say with confidence that organisations like these assist you or recognise your military service.

Victory Services Club, UK



Victory Services Club is the only tri-service club in London solely for the Armed Forces, and we're proud to welcome all military ranks and ages. Our membership offers exceptional value for money and give a wide range of people access to first class facilities in Central London.

This membership is for those who served in Regular or Reserves of any rank in the UK. NATO and Commonwealth Military who wish to join with a spouse/partner. This includes:

- Veterans of any rank in the Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force and their partner.
- Veterans of any rank in any current NATO countries' or Commonwealth countries' Navy, Army or Air Force and their partner.

* Annual Fee: **£90**

*£35 joining fee per member applies.

Link: <https://www.vsc.co.uk/>



RSL Australia

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has handed down its Final Report to Government.

This is a pivotal and highly important report, comprising more than 3,000 pages of evidence, commentary and findings across 7 volumes. The Royal Commission has made 122 recommendations identifying systemic risk factors and overarching drivers of suicide and suicidality in serving and ex-serving ADF members.



Veteran NEWS

The release of Royal Commission's Final Report

9 September 2024

The recommendations are focussed on harm prevention, early intervention, improved communication, coordination and collaboration, increased capability and capacity, and strengthened oversight and accountability. The recommendations are largely directed to Defence and DVA; as well as other agencies separately or in combination with Defence and DVA.

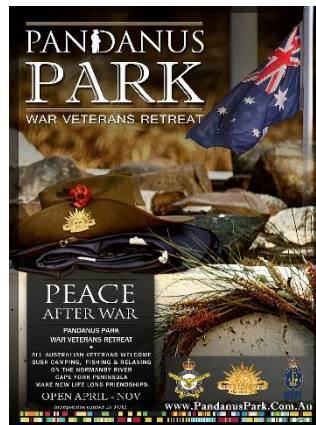


The Government will take some time to appropriately consider the recommendations and provide a whole-of-Government response in due course. DVA cannot comment on the Royal Commission's recommendations ahead of the Government response. We will work closely with Defence and other relevant agencies in providing advice to Government relating to how the recommendations can be implemented.

Link: [Final Report | Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide](#)

We've put together a sample of Veteran friendly or run retreats state by state.

The list is limited due to space of one or two examples in each state. So,... if you are planning on travelling to see this great county it may be worth your while checking out veteran friendly options around the country. You can find it on **Page 27**.



East Timor 25th year Anniversary Memoire

“I have Mr Glenn Lyons, President of the Airfield Defence Association to thank for commencing this memoire, unfortunately once I started, it was hard to stop, as there was so much information to cover since.”

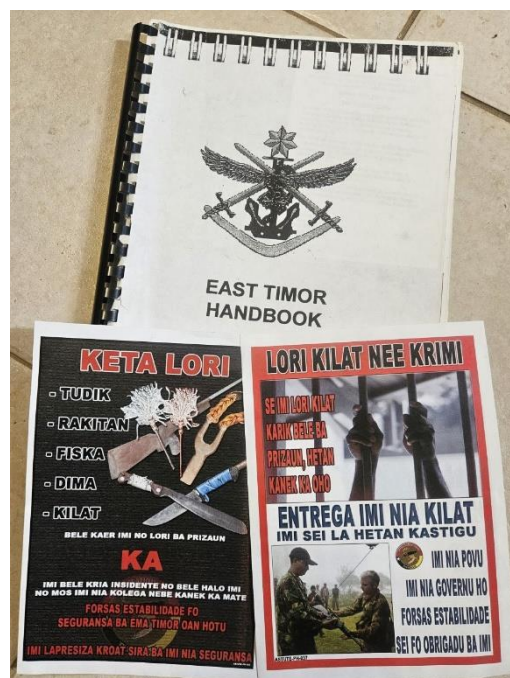
Lawrie (JR) Best

Part one of two.

Firstly, this is my work, and I’ve decided not to use any names, just appointments. Those of you who were there, will recognise the incidents and places, my hat goes off to you all, who now belong to the old and bold generation (let’s face it, even the youngest member who deployed would now be in his 40s)! Any mistakes, errors with dates etc, are solely mine, so fire away if I have made mistakes, just remember I’m a crusty old Warrant Officer, so be prepared for a broadside back!

The end of the deployment. I have commenced the memoire with our return to Australia. Although covering only a short period in this Memoire, I believe there was significant content to be recorded. During early 2000, 2AFDS received orders to prepare to return to Australia. There would be no relief in place, as the United Nations would return and commence Peace Monitoring duties. 2AFDS handed over their compound and security duties to the Portuguese Air Force, and then departed Comoro Airfield and moved to a location close to the Port. We were initially tasked with stripping and inspecting every single piece of clothing, equipment, weapons and our five vehicles for grass seeds, prior to allowing us to return to the country. We were given seven days to comply with this task, I’m proud to say that 2AFDS completed the task in three days which in turn, saw us move up the queue to depart early.

We departed ET via HMAS Jarvis Bay, and arrived 11 hours later at the Darwin Port, and then onto RAAF Base Darwin, where we were given the good news that due to crew rest requirements the RAAF 707 wouldn’t be departing for another 8 hours. On reflection I think this was a good idea as it allowed everyone to decompress and catch up on some much-needed sleep in the Air Movements Section (AMS) or visit the shopping centre to the front of the base, I recall enjoying a milk shake and hamburger with ‘the lot’, during a quick visit. We departed RAAF Darwin and on arrival at RAAF Amberley we were met by families and friends, then moved to the 2AFDS compound and after accounting for and securing all our weapons and kit, we were stood down for the next seven days.



On return to work, we completed our Administrative and Medical processes, cleaned, repaired and identified all broken equipment and either repaired or replaced it. We were then given two months leave. Returning after that period, 2AFDS was informed that we would receive a number of medals and awards. General Cosgrove would attend the ceremonial parade as our invited guest of honour and present 2AFDS with the very first Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) ever awarded to an Air Force Unit.

In addition to the MUC, the Commanding Officer of 2AFDS also received a very well-deserved Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership during the mission. Each member of 2AFDS who deployed within country also received the Australian Active Service Medal with ET Clasp, and the International Forces East Timor Medal.

The Deployment. On reflection, I recall that during a visit to 2AFDS of a Senior Air Rank Officer, one of the troops asked him if 2AFDS would deploy to ET? He replied that if the ADF sent a RAAF detachment into ET then 2AFDS would be required to secure the Airfields that the RAAF would be operating from. We had about 90 days' notice and commenced the preparatory stage of our deployment, which would be the first large-scale ADF deployment since the conclusion of Australia's involvement in Vietnam in 1973.

The administrative requirements alone required an immense effort to meet the pre deployment requirements, not just for Individual Readiness, Wills had to be written, vaccinations, and medical checks etc. We then departed for RAAF Townsville with approx.: 100 members of 2AFDS, five Military Working Dog Teams would arrive later in ET to support us.

Unfortunately, we lost one man in Townsville, and now with only 99 personnel moved on the 20 September 1999 via QANTAS 747 to RAAF Darwin, I recall the inflight movie was the Spy Who Shagged Me. The 2AFDS Logistics Section were also based out of Darwin for the duration of the deployment, and I cannot stress how important their work and valuable support to us was, this small section really rose above the requirements of 24/7 material support, they were always there when we needed them and they also acted as our lynch pin when moving personnel to and from ET.



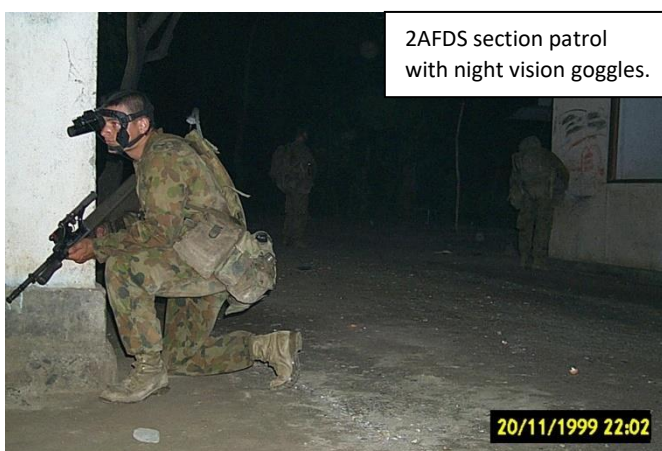
On arrival at RAAF Darwin, 2AFDS moved to the Airman's Club and tried to sleep, finally we moved to AMS, issued ammunition, conducted final Mission Essential Item (MEI) checks, and weighed in. At this point I weighed 85kg in only my uniform and boots, when I stood on the AMS scales I weighed 165kg, I could not believe I was carrying nearly 80kg of body armour, ammunition and MEI, and by no means was I carrying the heaviest load - that was the MAG58 Gunners and Radio Operators. No wonder years later we all have back and knee injuries!

Boarding the C130 whilst wearing all our equipment was a tight squeeze, even attempting to do up the seat belt was a challenge, as we took off I recall looking down the C130 at the SQN all in their seats, the majority of the personnel were already asleep.

Arrival in ET. On arrival into ET we were met by the XO and advance party who guided us into a Form Up Point forward of the Comoro Terminal, it was approx 0400h 21 September 1999, so we went into all round defence, sentries posted, and then attempted to catch another couple of hours sleep. When the sun rose, we went to work, the SQN Command Post (CP) was constructed and communications established. I recall the CP having at least five Radio Nets to monitor, and these may have increased as our tasks grew. A 'H' shaped pit was dug, lined with hessian, and covered by an 11 X 11 tent with black out curtains. We remained in this location for about 30 days with the Sigs, OPS & Communications SNCOs manning the CP.

The CO conducted a HOTO with CO 2RAR for AO Coventry, which over the next few weeks continued to grow until 2AFDS was responsible for most of Western Dili (this included the majority of terrain West of the river) as well as later securing the heliport. The Rifle Flight (RFLT) CPs were also established on either side of the Airfield, and the patrol process around the perimeter commenced, a third RFLT provided access control and flight line security, thus ensuring the security of the Air Lift teams and arriving/departing aircraft were not hampered. The highest point on the Airfield was the .47 spot height, which we later changed to the .49 feature as we decided to move a 2m high tower into that location. An observation post was established early on to cover the South Western approach and main supply route into ET from the border. 2AFDS also manned additional access control points within Comoro Airfield.

Threat. The main threat at this stage was either roving civilians and/or Militia Forces, also the uncertainty of dealing with the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI), however we soon established a good rapport with the TNI, even inviting them to accompany us on patrols. 2AFDS Patrol Commanders dealt with issues regarding TNI engagement, Civilians and Militia types on a daily basis, it was a credit to their maturity and confidence that incidents were dealt with professionally and never escalated.



2AFDS section patrol
with night vision goggles.

Later on in the deployment, houses ('shop fronts') were allocated to 2AFDS, this ensured a presence within each of the villages, which in turn gave the locals the confidence to return to their homes knowing we were there to protect them. There are some great photographs of 2AFDS personnel teaching the local kids how to play cricket, winning hearts and minds is always the first step in having the locals trust us and having a 'Shop Front' presence within each village meant they could approach us 24/7 if the Militia bothered them. Usually a MWD Team with the 'Land Shark' let loose on a 15' lead would be enough to deter Militia and roving TNI types attempting drug deals!

End of part one. Part two from JR will appear in a follow-up Journal early in the new year.

AD

Regional & Socials

Ken Willoughby FNQ Along the Kennedy Highway north of Tolga, the Rocky Creek Memorial Park is situated on the 2/2nd Australian General Hospital laundry and medical stores site. During World War II, the Tablelands area became the largest military base in Australia with camps at Tinaroo, Kairi, Atherton, Wongabel, Herberton, Wondecla, Ravenshoe and Mount Garnet. Rocky Creek was the site of the largest military hospital in the Southern Hemisphere — a 3000-bed hospital that treated over 60,000 patients from 1943 to 1945.

Reflection Park - Herberton Cemetery. The burial place of Padre White who in 1923 led what was the first ever observance of the Dawn Parade on Anzac Day, thus establishing a tradition which has endured in Australia. A chapel in the shape of a characteristic bell tent of World War I, built by the local Lion's Club and Herberton RSL Sub Branch. His grave is simply marked 'a priest'. Happy to catch up with those visiting. I'm contactable on: 0437410575
kenneth.willoughby@rslqld.org
kenwill53@bigpond.com

John Hurley – NSW I attended the RAAF 103rd Air Force birthday celebration at RAAF Base Williamtown. In June the Association regional meeting was held in Newcastle, I attended the Annual General Meeting and 1SECFOR display at Williamtown. In the lead up to the SD Evans Award Dinner I was heavily involved in planning and arrangements held at the Stockton RSL in June.



We asked Brad Clayton (Ex-ADG & insanely keen fisherman) to write some thoughts on recognition of someone outside of normal conventions when a mate leaves Defence. It highlights how we can make a difference in someone else's life on a personal level where the big machine of 'Air Force' is unable to.

Good people doing great things for others – Brad Clayton

Some people throughout a military career recognition through military honours and awards, as high achievers or excellence in their field humble people. Often, we fail to self-recognise our own efforts instead shifting the light on our teams. Recognition at a very significant event (which is separation from military). I believe that acknowledgement of our service by our peers is truly humbling. Tradition usually depicts our career achievements from operations and rank.

Thinking outside the Box, noting individual members passions and Lifestyle outside of our career. I decided to acknowledge an exceptional/Stella career. This man's passion and dedication to his family and friendship group, push me to find a gift that would complement his life outside of defence.

Using platforms such as Defence intranet, social media and ex work colleagues, I created a group network to reach the extended Airfield Defence family. Knowing how many men and women this member had directly or indirectly influenced; it wasn't surprising the astronomical response to the request.



I believe the response received reflects the strong bonds formed during military service and the appreciation for those who have dedicated themselves to roles and relationships. The separation gift not only honours achievements but also reinforces the importance of community and support in that all important transition to civilian life.

Brad



Ian 'Carts' Carty caught up with Skip Evans on his Birthday.



Brett "Goose" Rogers caught up with some mates in Ipswich as he approaches his separation from Air Force. It's so important to be surrounded by mates post full time service.

Thanks Goose for the Pic.





RAAF SFS

In October 2024 we attended the RAAF SFS graduation ceremony for Security Forces Common Course session 0035. Former ADG Clifford Morgan came along and 'Morgs' and I spoke with the graduates prior to the ceremony and then mingled with them afterwards. The reviewing officer, Air Commodore David Strong, spoke directly to the importance of teams within teams to meet the ever-evolving requirements of security and the global reach of Airpower.



Announcements

Congratulations Rob & Mel Keegan

Welcome to the world beautiful little Remi.  
Both Mel and Remi are happy and healthy. Remi was born via a necessary caesarean after Mel's super human 15 hour labour, supported by her amazing sister Tiffanie Ward, at 2:01am on Monday the 2nd of Sep 2024. weighing in at 3.15kg /6lb 15oz

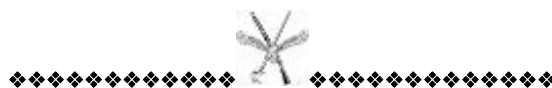
We are beyond excited and in love with our little girl!!



Planned Reunion 2025 The reunion planned in Tasmania for this year was postponed in favour of the 95th Anniversary. The new proposed timing in 2025 is mid to late October. A save the date will be put out in the next Journal early 2025 once planning is more advanced.

NEW !!! Australian Capital Territory – ACT In Canberra we are pleased to announce that Lynden Verrier is working with a stalwart of the Association Arthur 'Doug' Gale aka Windy. Lynden will assist Doug with the view to take the reigns in the ACT and surrounding areas. A big thank you goes out to Lynden & Amanda. We hope to hear from him down track on events and gatherings as they occur.

Editor Blue Beret We welcome aboard our new editor former **Ground Defence Officer Jonathon Durdon**. He will pass his ever-discerning eyes of the content to ensure clear and concise editing on articles which make for a great informative read.



Our own Life after discharge



Troy Knight (Former ADG) utilised unique capabilities to conduct special operations in conflicts around the globe. Now back on home soil, Troy harnesses his expertise to help companies, military units, and individuals address skills gaps and drive success.

A down-to-earth motivational speaker and corporate trainer, Troy draws on his extensive military experience to help businesses empower staff and enhance organisational culture. A passionate mental health advocate, Troy is also a resilience coach, assisting veterans and team members to overcome adversity and work through life's challenges.

Talk to Troy: <https://troyknight.com.au/>

Speaking topics

<p>Situational Awareness</p> <p>In the words of chess master Bobby Fischer - "always be 4 moves ahead." Explore the 3W technique (What now, What next, What if) to be ready for anything.</p>	<p>Mental Health</p> <p>As a veteran, mental health and trauma are ongoing challenges. Drawing from real experience, learn how to better manage workplace mental health</p>	<p>Critical Thinking</p> <p>Discover techniques used on the battlefield to make quick decisions under pressure, harnessing the best available information to solve urgent issues.</p>
<p>Problem-Solving</p> <p>In this fast-paced world, problems seem to be coming at us from all sides. Develop crucial skills to keep up with change and ensure lasting resolution.</p>	<p>Resilience</p> <p>A topic on everyone's lips, what does it mean to be resilient? Find out what resilience means in the hardest moments plus strategies to keep going</p>	<p>Interoperability</p> <p>On the frontlines, a silo mentality means certain defeat. See why interoperability is essential for modern businesses and how to cultivate it.</p>

Warfighter Athletic

It is our promise to **pursue excellence**, to **always go a little further**, and to **relentlessly innovate** in all that we do, so that you can perform and have the edge, in all that you do.





Gun Pit Coffee

Rachel & Tim Ciesiolka

Burnett Highway, Bouldercomb QLD

If you enjoy a great cup up coffee and wish to support our veterans please drop by if you're in the area,

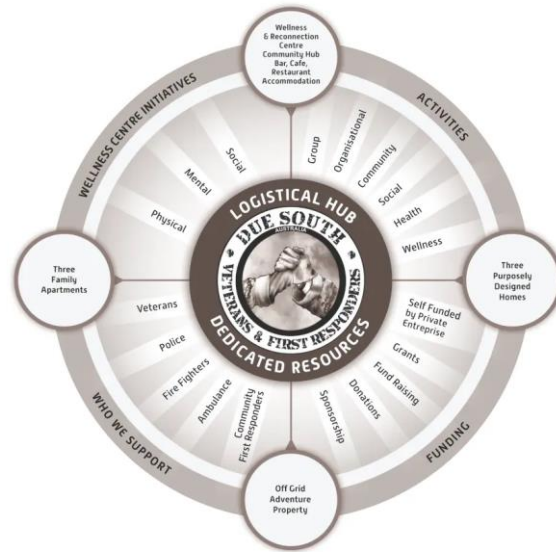
Due South - Community organisation

A self-funded, world-class wellness organisation for Veterans and First Responders.

Contact info

49-51 Eastland Drive
Ulverston, Tasmania
0407 709 973

Email - <http://www.duesouthaus.com.au/>



Book Corner - Algorithmic Warfare

Applying Artificial Intelligence to Warfighting – Peter Layton

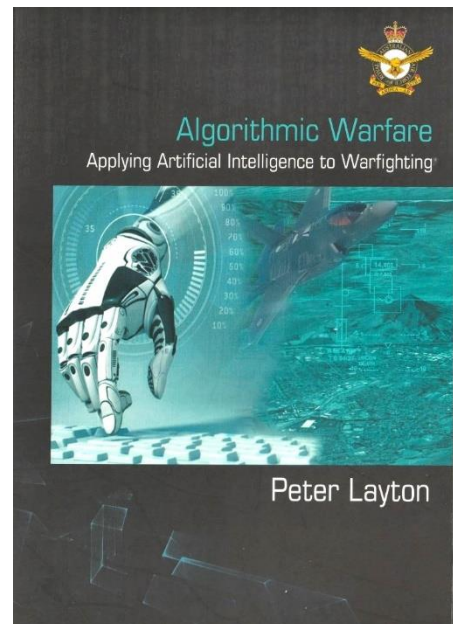
Nature and Character of warfare. Unlike older programable computers these machines do not give the same output for the same input every time. Instead, like you, these artificial intelligences continually learn, evolve 'on the job' and display emergent behaviours that may surprise you, for good or bad.

Want to know more?

Published by Air Power Development Centre – Australia

www.airforce.gov.au/airpower

ISBN: 978192562267



Defining Actions

Dr Sean Carwardine

Abstract How we think of our fallen, our friends and family that had served with us and that have passed, is an authentic human feeling. This reaction to death is different for every one of us. However, the memory of the individual should never be forgotten. The terms we use to describe their death are studied and written about by all nations and militaries. How do we define a soldier, an aviator or a sailor after they die? Do we have plagues for all that pass or just the ones that die in combat against the enemy?

Casualty The term 'Casualty' is very broad and all-encompassing. It can be used correctly or incorrectly. Over a long time within Defence, the term has morphed into other connected aspects. These can be events like dying on duty, to name just two. Then, if we look at our connection with other nations during the war, we tend to pick up terms they use, but we do not. Over time, these terms replace ours or are intermixed with our terms.

The Australian Government and the Department of Defence have reviewed all these terms and processors to develop a manual for notifying our fallen military personnel. The Casualty Manual (CASMAN) is a 2022 document that integrates all processes for effectively managing casualties and mortuary affairs in Defence.



The first aspect is what casualty is defined as or made up of. A service member:

- Dies – A defence member is reported as deceased when cessation of life has been confirmed by medical authority
- Becomes seriously ill/injured – A patient is seriously ill when his illness is of such severity that there is cause for immediate concern. Still, there is no imminent danger to life.
- Becomes very seriously ill/injured – A patient is very seriously ill when his illness is of such severity that life is imminently endangered.
- Is missing – A defence member is reported missing when the member is unaccounted for, and concerns exist for the member's safety.
- Is missing-believed-dead – A defence member is reported mission-believed-dead when the member is unaccounted for, and there is no definite evidence of death. Still, under all circumstances, believing the member is dead is reasonable.
- Has been captured—A defence member is reported captured when the enemy has observed or confirmed that it has captured the member.

Wounded. The term wounded, as described in the Department of Defence Inquiry – Care of ADF Personnel Wounded and Injured on Operations (2013), states that an ADF member serving in a war-like operation and being hurt during enemy contact is said to have been ‘wounded’. These members are also defined as a ‘battle casualty’.

Injured. The term injured in the same inquiry highlights that any ADF member hurt in an incident that has not been the result of enemy action in a war-like operation is ‘wounded’. These members are also defined as a ‘non-battle casualty’.

Killed in Action. This is classified as a military person’s death at the hands of the enemy or hostile force at the moment of death. *NATO term is a battle casualty who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching a medical treatment facility.*

Died of Wounds. *A battle casualty who dies of wound or other injuries received in action, after having reached a medical treatment facility,*

Wounded in Action. *A battle casualty other than “killed in Action” who has incurred an injury due to an external agent or cause. The term encompasses all kinds of wounds and other injuries incurred in action, whether there is a piercing of the body, as in a penetrating or perforated wound or none.*

Died on Active Service. A military person who dies ‘on active service’ (war-like operations) and is part of a force in which operations are taking place against an enemy. Still, death is not connected with any contact with the enemy.

Died on Duty. A military person who dies ‘on duty’ (peacetime service) with no war-like operations. The idea or common belief that every person of the ADF is always on duty was not accepted by the High Court of Australia in *Commonwealth of Australia v Wright 1956*.

Battle Casualty. This is an American term. See above for Australian terminology.



SD Evans Dinner Awards Night Newcastle

The winner of the Air Marshal David Evans AC, DSO, AFC was awarded to Sergeant Nick Morris of No 1 Security Forces Squadron base at Williamstown, New South Wales. At the time nominations were called for, he was a Corporal.

The awards night was held at the Stockton RSL with locals and airfield Defence family alike. The Commanding Officer of 1SECFOR WGCDR Richard McIlroy accompanied by Squadron Warrant Officer Dax Moore in addition to select members from the unit were in attendance on the night. Richard spoke very well about the unit and how much it meant to them to have Nick selected for the award. Most certainly the competition was very tough between the applicants.

The award itself has been since 2008 with CPL Scott Nuku the first recipient. It was instituted and funded personally by David Evans (the first patron of our Association). As CO 2 Squadron in Phan Rang Vietnam he witnessed the importance of Junior Leadership of an ADG section in protecting the vulnerability of Personnel and Aircraft in an operational environment.

Our thanks goes out to our faithful NSW regional representative John Hurley for doing all of the legwork in organising the suitability and choice of venue. It really was a great night and regional catch up the next day around Newcastle.



A perspective on Operation Catalyst/Operation Iraqi Freedom

Thanks for tuning in and thanks to Glenn for inviting me to jot down a few words about my experiences on deployment to the MEAO (are we still calling it that?) on Operation Catalyst in 2005.



Brash and the Defence Minister in the back of a C130, MEAO.

To refresh memories, “Catalyst” fell out of Operation Slipper (the Global War on Terror) and centred on the campaign to dismantle Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq and replace it with a democratic nation friendlier to Western interests. The RAAF contribution was primarily a detachment of C130-J-30s located on a “joint” base in the region that was run by the US Air Force. A place we all lovingly referred to as “the Dusty ‘Deid”.

There were more American C130s on the flightline than the entire two squadrons operated by the RAAF.

But our plucky little “force” of three Hercs `did their bit.

For the aircraft buffs, some of the more interesting platforms on the base included F15 fighter-bombers, B1B heavy bombers, EC135 Electronic Intel, E3 AWACs and the ubiquitous KC135 tankers. Add to that, the British Tornados, C130s, and an antique Lockheed TriStar tanker/transport.

The Job As is always the case for ADGs, our team was small and we were jacks of many trades. We supported the support unit by providing weapons refresher training on a rotational daily basis, live fire weapons and tactics training for the C130 aircrew, armoury services for transiting units and individuals, and Air Security Operations (ASO) support to the Hercs when they flew into Iraq and other countries in the region.

Shit gets real training It’s funny how people’s attitudes change when “shit gets real”. Most aircrew see coming to “Defence Section” (Weapons Training Section these days) once per year as a pain in the proverbial and training an embuggerance. But when there’s a chance you might really get shot at, that view changes.

For starters, instead of the bare minimum number of rounds carried for just a pistol, the crews flew with vests loaded up with numerous full magazines, and a “grab bag” with bandoliers containing more magazines, not just for the usual pistol, but rifles too. The old “first line ammo” numbers were just dismissed with the wave of a hand.

We would take them to a field firing range in the desert near the Saudi Arabian border once a fortnight to check-zero on personal weapons and do some field firing in the dunes. They even requested training on “break contact” drills and evasion techniques. (Do ADGs still do the Combat Survival Course as a standard thing?)

The trip to the range was an adventure in itself. It started with dealing with the host nation officer who signed the release to let us leave the base. IF we could find the guy, and IF he wasn’t asleep on the floor in his office, we MIGHT be able to get the permission slip signed and head on out. Next, was meeting up with the local police who were our escort to the range (about 80 kms away). These guys

drove like absolute maniacs at breakneck speed just blowing through roundabouts with the typical “Insh Allah” (if it’s God’s will) disregard for road safety and the laws of physics.

We’d been allocated a Nissan Navara crew-cab ute (left hand drive, of course) that struggled to keep up with the turbo-charged Toyota SUVs driven by the cops. It was hard enough to keep up with these maniacs through town, but once they got on to the open highway south (as Mafia Wise Guys would say) “Fuggid about id” (say it out loud).

Once at the “range” we’d put Figure 11s on stakes out in the dunes and practice static shooting and fire & movement simulating a crew doing a “break contact” from an enemy party hunting them down after the aircraft was forced to land in an unsecure area. (Of which, there were a few we went into).

One of the added twists for the range safety officers was keeping an eye out for Bedouins in Toyotas randomly driving through the range template as they did stuff that Bedouins do!

Gun Runners The other aspect of aircrew support was what we called “gun running”. After every pre-flight brief in the building next to the armoury, the crews would jump into their bus and we’d follow them out in our ute with their weapons, so we could sign them over to them on the flight line, instead of at the armoury. (Don’t ask me... it’s an aircrew thing). The aircraft would go fly its sortie and many hours later, one of us would drive out to the flight line to receive the weapons back (carrying out safety precautions and reading serial numbers with a torch in our gob) then follow the crew bus back to the well-lit armoury (don’t ask me... it’s an aircrew thing, I already told you that).



Gun Runners taking care of business

We did a bit of gun-running for various military dignitaries and Close Protection teams on Australian VIPs. The Australian “Cantonment” was close to the “airport” section of the base. Which meant our armoury was closer to the “airport” than the US Air Force Security Forces armoury. So, we’d get the gig of securing all manner of exotic foreign weapons and Gucci SAS-cat gear. “Gun lickers”, like me, come in handy at times like these. Especially when a gaggle of foreign Generals have all their pistol magazines all mixed up and old mate with the Berretta is trying to load a Glock mag, and the guy with the Glock can’t work out why the Browning mag keeps falling out of his pistol.

ASO The real story is the Air Security Ops jobs. We did at least one every week, sometimes more. It depended on threat assessments. Weekly, we’d do a task referred to as “The Mercy Channel”. It was a joint Aero-Medical Evacuation Task with the US Air Force 379th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

After the pre-flight/mission brief, we would grab our kit and head out to “the jet”. The ASO role required that we blend in with everyone else so all three ADGS in the team were issued with American (desert tan) and Australian (DPDU “banana cam”) flying suits. Dwayne Taylor did some scrounging and got us HGU-55P flying helmets, which made the job easier as it meant we had comms to the aircraft crew at all times.



FSGT Steve Brasher – Ballad, Iraq MEAO.

When the Americans arrived, fun and games would start, because of the way they do business... The medics configure the aircraft, not the Loadmasters. We do it the other way around. Oddly, the Americans would hook the red mesh seating straps the opposite way to what we do. So, as the Yank medic went along changing the hooks their way, one of our Loadies would follow behind, flipping them back (it's an aircrew thing. Stop asking).

A standard profile for a "Mercy Channel" would be into Kuwait, then Talil in southern Iraq, then

Baghdad, then Mosul in northern Iraq, maybe into Tikrit, then down to Balad where we would transfer all the wounded personnel we'd collected from everywhere else to a C17 flying hospital that would take them to the big American military hospital in Germany. The locations varied slightly from one week to the next but that was pretty much the standard.

Now, you may ask, "Why? Why did we have two or three ASO ADGs on an evac flight?". Well, I'm glad you asked... There was always the prospect of things going wrong and ending up somewhere we really didn't want to be, but mainly, it was to protect the aircraft and crew while on the ground at certain airfields that had little to no security between the tarmac and the camel herders with AK47s.

THEN we have the added fun of certain American casualties who had threatened or attempted self-harm or threatened others, on the aircraft. We weren't allowed to use restraints on them, so they were free to move about on the aircraft in flight. THEN we had the fact that the US Air Force nurses all had a Beretta M9 9mm pistol in an east-west shoulder holster on. Perfect for a "gun grab" when the nurse comes up to the mentally ill guy to ask if he'd like a Gatorade and presents the grip of her pistol in a perfect position for him to rip it out of the holster. We discussed removing the pistols and storing them while in flight, but their policies didn't permit it. My worst nightmare on these trips was a suicidal kid from the Tennessee National Guard grabbing a pistol and us having a gunfight at 20,000 feet over insurgent-held territory.

Take care of yourselves,

Brash.

This is the end of Part 1.

Brash will be back with Part 2 in the next edition early 2025



Around the Squadrons & Air Force Headquarters



WGCDR Richard McIlroy, CO No. 1 Security Forces Squadron

At the time of writing this update, in 2024 No. 1 Security Forces Squadron has deployed Security Forces to 31 countries in support of over 42 named Exercises and Operations. This achievement has only been possible due to the motivated, dedicated and professional Security Forces Aviators at the Squadron. As the demand for our services increases, we increasingly live up to our motto of *First to Defend* while understanding that in reality this also means being first to respond and demands the Squadron to be always at the ready. Some of the activities this year that have been captured in various news articles include:

- Support to Operation KUDU in 2023, through to early 2024 – Deployment of an E7-A to Germany.
- Enduring support to OP ACCORDION in the Middle East Region / support to OP BEECH
- Supporting F35 deployment to major Exercises such as Red Flag-Nellis 2024
- New Caledonia Military Assisted Departure (MAD) in support of the evacuation of Australians from New Caledonia (Defence News – 29 May 24)
- Our Reserve Operations and Air Base Security Elements conducting enhanced combat shooting with 8/7 RVR (Featured in Air Force News – 16 Aug 24, page 18 and on Facebook)
- Aircraft Security Operations teams supporting Australian and United States Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation training (Defence News – 15 Jul 24 and Facebook)
- Deployment of Air Force Gap Year SECFOR aviators on Operations late 2023 (Defence News – 19 Mar 24)
- Continued support to P-8A Poseidon operations and exercises (mentioned in Defence News – 20 Aug 24 when speaking to a 1SECFOR SQN aviator who is keen to commission as a pilot)



WGCDR Jay Nicks, CO No. 2 Security Forces Squadron

2SECFOR SQN have been busy as always in force generating air-minded close combatants that can provide a specialised reaction force in support of Air Force assets and installations. The second half of 2024 saw 2SECFOR undertake a number of activities that utilised the bulk of Squadron personnel during the extremely busy Northern Exercise Activity Period (NEAP).

Commencing in mid-June, twelve personnel deployed to RAAF Base Tindal for EX STOIC GAUNTLET to work with elements of 17SQN and 381 Contingency Response Squadron. 2SECFOR personnel provided capability and integrated with 17SQN Security Flight elements during the exercise. At the completion of EX STOIC GAUNTLET, all 2SECFOR personnel convoyed west to RAAF Base Curtin for EX AUSTRAL SHIELD.



Concurrent to 'STOIC GAUNTLET', approximately 45 personnel deployed to the Bradshaw Training Area in the Northern Territory to support EX DIAMOND STORM 24. This exercise saw personnel providing the role of Opposing Force (OPFOR) to elements of 2 Commando Regt and 4SQN Joint Terminal Attack personnel. We provided opposing force intel surveillance & reconnaissance capability and role players for a number of high-end scenarios for the Special Forces exercise audience. Participants were

briefed to think outside the box and demonstrate our capabilities to the Special Forces participants. They did just that, and the SQN received very positive feedback regarding the problem our men and women created for them during that activity.

NEAP culminated with EX AUSTRAL SHIELD in RAAF Base Curtin, exercising a defence of Australia scenario integrating with Army from Western Australia's 2nd Division. A whole of unit effort with 90+ personnel deploying by road and air to Curtin. During EX AS24, 2SECFOR personnel were employed as a Reactionary Force to incidents during EX AUSTRAL SHIELD whilst again providing support with C4ISR during the exercise. 2SECFOR involvement in this exercise was paramount due to the increasing importance of integration within the joint force in a future conflict.

All personnel returned back to RAAF Base Amberley by early August which signalled the completion of one of the busiest exercise periods to date. With leave expended by personnel it was time to get back on with activities at home. During late August, our unit Human Performance Optimisation Cell held a Combat Fit Sports and Mental Health day for available personnel.



The Combat Fit Sports Day was an outstanding success with all unit personnel, including support staff participating in all activities. Air Force News expressed great interest in the activity, which soon highlighted the day in recent editions of the publication.

The month of August also saw some of the first ADG Military Working Dog Handlers (LACs Harding & Mims) in a very long time, graduate from Military Working Dog Basic Course. These members, who are also qualified as close combatants, will greatly enhance and assist with the fledgling capability.



During August, the unit fielded a team of nine personnel in the annual Veteran Games. Our team competed and ended up being victorious in the games and were awarded \$10000 prize money, which will be donated to charity. This activity generated a fair amount of interest with the Air Force News publication, a story was published in the September edition of Air Force News.

As September was quickly upon us, it was time to get back on the tools and conduct some more Force

Generation activities with the majority of Air Base Defence Elements (ABDEF) deploying to the Wide Bay Training Area (WBTA) for back-to-back activities with a High Explosive Week. The aim was to qualify a number of junior personnel on high explosive weapons from 40mm, 66mm shorth range anti-armour and 84mm Carl Gustav. The Ex gave the unit an opportunity to work on dismantled basic skills in the field from dry firing to blank and culminating in live fire up to Section strength by day & by night.

The remainder of 2024 will not be slowing down with a number of tasks looming in the background. Our people are ready to meet the task at hand as always. This year has seen busy year across a number of varying activities and tasks. We're looking forward to 2025.



2SECFOR HE week

What a cracker of a photo. An 84mm Carl Gustav round heads to the target.

Just because deep down we all love to shoot things and blow stuff up !!

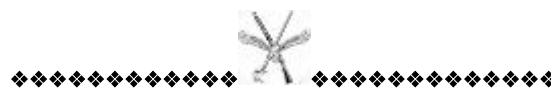
2SECFOR Unit
Photographer.

Future structure and direction Security Forces Employment Categories

We are keeping in touch with Canberra to have the most recent information available. Broadly speaking the intent for Employment Categories (EC) is to produce both enlisted and commissioned personnel who have foundational skills. Those skill sets will enable them to be employed across SECFOR roles and operate across all threat environments. This occurred with Commissioned ranks where the foundation training pathway is Royal Military College. As a result, Ground Defence Officers and Security Police Officers merged to become Security Forces Officer (SECFORO) on 06 June 2024.



The Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) (pay case) submission will be head in October 2024. Once this occurs there will be a clearer battle picture for the Enlisted ranks in particular. The merging of skill sets means that pay grades need to be reviewed and personnel paid according to the expected roles. The Directorate of Air Force Security (DSEC) keeps the current serving workforce informed through regular messaging and updates. The Blue Beret is in contact with DSEC and as things progress to the point where outcomes are known we will pass that information to our members.



COMORO Airfield Operations – INTERFET.

By WGCDR John (JD) Leo, DSM.

Part 1 of a two-part series

20 Sep 24 marks the 25th anniversary of the ADF deployment as part of the INTERNATIONAL FORCE EAST TIMOR, better known as INTERFET, on 20 Sep 1999 and subsequent handover to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, better known as UNTAET in Feb 2000.

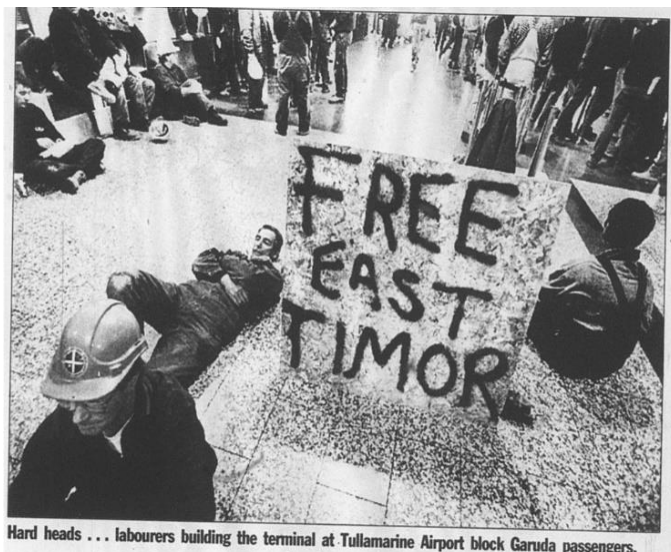
At the time leading up to the East Timor deployment I was lucky enough to be the Commanding Officer of No 2 Airfield Defence Squadron (2AFDS) based at RAAF Base AMBERLEY near Ipswich in South East Queensland. I was on my second posting to 2AFDS and was appointed CO in Jun 97 after 18 months as XO.

I will give a bit of an overview of INTERFET deployment and some personal experiences in the months leading up to and during the 2AFDS deployment as part of INTERFET before handing over to the UNTAET elements in Feb 2000.

The ADF deployments began to East Timor in June 1999 under the United Nations Assistance Mission to East Timor (UNAMET). UNAMET's role was to organise and conduct a ballot for a public referendum on whether East Timor should have autonomy under Indonesia, or independence.

A fellow Ground Defence Officer of ours, FLTLT Gareck Wilson, was one of the 45 ADF personnel deployed as part of OP FABER to East Timor as part of UNAMET.

With the news coverage regarding the upcoming East Timorese vote for independence or autonomy we thought we might get a chance to deploy if things didn't go as well as the UN hoped. Other than short deployments to Cambodia (Twice), Somalia, Rwanda, (and I'm sure I have forgotten some), the ADF larger deployments had been very limited since Vietnam. The opportunity to deploy on operations was keenly sought by most members across the ADF in the 80s and 90s.



Hard heads ... labourers building the terminal at Tullamarine Airport block Garuda passengers.

We must have had more than an idle glance towards a possible deployment to East Timor as I recall one of the SNCOs suggesting we were working a bit too hard and needed to back off the pace of training a bit? I asked him if we were standing in downtown Dili now, what training would he have cancelled. He replied "None". We maintained the pace of training.

So clearly, we were thinking about the possibility and wanting to deploy to East Timor, if the need arose.

The broader ADF had not been idle either as part of contingency planning for future events that may occur Army's 3rd Brigade (3BDE), based in Townsville, was appointed to lead a service protected evacuation (as it was called then) operation from East Timor, if required. This operation was named OP SPITFIRE. Air Force elements were part of the OP SPITFIRE initial force structure. In Aug 99 some of the 2AFDS team and I were sent to TVL to do some OP SPITFIRE related training and work up with 395ECSW and 3rd BDE for a couple of weeks. This couple of weeks turned into almost 6 months.

A close working relationship between Army 3rd Brigade and Air Force elements developed amongst those that may deploy as part of OP SPITFIRE. The relationships developed during this time would ultimately prove very effective during the much larger and longer INTERFET deployment.

Once the East Timor ballot was conducted on 30 Aug 99, an overwhelming 78.5% of East Timorese people voted for full independence rather than autonomy (whilst remaining part of Indonesia). It didn't take long for the pro-Indonesian militia groups to commence a reign of violence in the wake of the independence vote. The violence centred on Dili but spread throughout the country. Entire towns were destroyed. About half of the population left the territory, some by force. About 1400 civilians died and 500,000 people were displaced.

During some down time during this work up for OP SPITFIRE whilst I and a few of the officers were having a few beers and playing pool in the TVL O's Mess, I received a phone call from FLTLT Gareck Wilson who was already in East Timor at the time as part of UNAMET. He was holed up in the UN compound in Dili, which at that time was being besieged by pro-Indonesian militias. I could hear the gunshots in the background of the phone call. He hoped to be evacuated but wanted me to grab him a new set of everything as he just the clothes he was in. Talk about feeling helpless and wanting to get over and do something to calm the situation. I'm sure I wasn't the only one in the ADF with those thoughts at the time. The other thought was the situation in East Timor was getting a bit serious and there was a high likelihood that OP SPITFIRE, the evacuation operation, would go ahead and it could be quite serious.

Luckily, Gareck was safely evacuated and we caught up again just before we deployed as part of INTERFET from Darwin a week or so later. He redeployed to East Timor a little while after we arrived at Comoro.

In the end OP SPITFIRE went ahead but was quite a small op primarily an air mobility operation with Special Operations in support.

The waiting in TVL and DAR did become somewhat frustrating when everything was going badly in East Timor and we could clearly see it on television and the regular intelligence updates. We were just waiting for various governments and the UN to get organised. The great change from waiting around with previous deployments was the ADF Defence Secret Network (DSN) was now up and running. For the first time in my career, you could quickly access the briefings, intelligence, information, etc being used by the planners, commanders in higher HQs. The DSN access was a significant benefit to us being at quite a low level in understanding the potential operational and command intentions and could also guide our preparations and training before a deployment. Previously, we received info by secure/unsecure phone calls and formal messages/signal traffic which tend to confirm what you knew rather than inform you of emerging concepts etc.



In the midst of the violence spreading across East Timor the smaller scale OP SPITFIRE plan, a service protected evacuation operation, was rapidly scaled up to a peacemaking operation. A UN Security Council Mandate authorised the formation of INTERFET on 15 Sep 99.

INTERFET was headed by Australian Major General (later General Sir) Peter Cosgrove who commanded the multinational force for 5 months until February 2000).

INTERFETs mission was to:

- restore peace and security in East Timor
- protect and support UNAMET in carrying out its tasks
- facilitate humanitarian assistance operations.

The larger scale INTERFET deployment posed a bit of a logistical challenge for 2AFDS as the bulk of our larger kit had been prepositioned to RAAF Base SCHERGER (near Weipa) ready for Exercise CROCODILE 99. There were already a fair few of us in TVL as part of a potential OP SPITFIRE deployment and the remainder of the unit back in AMBERLEY. Needless to say, those left behind in AMBERLEY and the logistics folks at Airfield Defence Wing (AFDW) had some work to corral all the unit's kit in TVL ready for deployment to DAR and onto East Timor. I'm sure the late cancellation of Exercise CROCODILE 99 impacted other ADF units deploying as part of INTERFET as well.

Like the bulk of the INTERFET ADF elements we moved from TVL and other places to DAR to preposition before the short hop to East Timor.

I remember just before we moved from TVL to DAR in preparation for deploying to East Timor the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Errol McCormack asking me if we were happy about the conditions of service (namely tax free and daily extra pay) I told him we would have paid to go and the conditions of service were not a topic of much attention that I recall. Later, and probably unfairly the “Dili dash for cash” term was being bandied about but certainly not in the initial deployment as it was literally the furthest thing from our minds at that time.

The move from TVL to DAR was also interesting as the bulk of the deploying INTERFET’s operational kit was on a single AN124 the world’s biggest aircraft. Some within the ADF have a loose understanding of Dangerous Goods and how to package them for safe air travel. One notable example was the 66mm anti-armour weapon sitting loose on the floor of an Armoured Personnel Carrier just before it was about to be loaded on the AN124. The AFDW FSGT loggie quickly sorted that for the APC crew. That teamwork was consistent across INTERFET during our deployments. When the AN124 took off it required all of the TVL runway and made one of the slowest climbs I’ve seen.



XO 2AFDS Ian Carty at the handover of the Comoro airfield.

We moved from TVL to DAR via chartered QANTAS 747 and I recall the QANTAS cabin crew telling us to take whatever we needed that wasn’t part of the aircraft once we landed in DAR. As a result, blankets, pillows etc went with us which would come in handy for the few days we were in DAR.

The numbers deploying as part of INTERFET way outnumbered the accommodation available in DAR and as such we were camped on the floor in the Darwin Airman’s Club complete with sticky carpet

from years of spilt drinks, etc. Having said that, the RAAF Base Darwin team did an outstanding job supporting the deploying force. INTERFET began landing in East Timor on 20 September 1999 with the agreement of the Indonesian Government. The ADF participation in INTERFET was conducted under OP STABILISE & OP WARDEN operations.

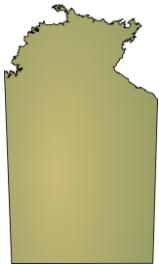
Special Ops team from Australia, New Zealander and the UK formed the INTERFET Response Force. The Response Force conducted vehicle patrols into Dili and secured the port before the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) and airfield before 2RAR and other forces arrived by sea and air from 20 Sep 99 onwards.

JD

End of Pt 1. JD will return in the next edition early in the New Year

Veteran Retreats by State

Here is a bit of a snapshot of Veteran friendly or supported places you may wish to look into if you are travelling. There are more out there, some which might suit your needs and others not so much.



Northern Territory

Roper Retreat

Located 31 km along the Northern Territory Highway, turn north at Elsey Station sign, 3 km along you pass the Manager's House and just 5km you reach the Roper.

- PH Tony 0401 100 514 or Jimbob 0419 414 209

Darwin Retreat

About 1.5 hours' drive from Darwin is a place called Pioneer Beach, western side of Cox Peninsula. The actual site used by the Vets is back from the beach about 5km in from the turn off that continues to Mandorah.



Victoria

Annie & Greg Carter welcome ex and serving ADF personnel and partners to their Retreat. Situated 6.km from Bairnsdale in the Gippsland Lakes area of Victoria. There are great views and relaxed atmosphere, a nine-hole golf course with close proximity to the snow fields. In the warmer months access to beaches, fishing spots and wonderful touring. Cockatoo Rise is a great place to spend some time unwinding. Bookings are essential

575 Great Alpine Road

Contact No: 0409 418 332



ACT -

Murruguldrie Retreat: This retreat is run by VVAA South West NSW Sub Branch and is located on the edge of the Murruguldrie State Forest about a forty-minute drive from Wagga Wagga, approximately seven kilometres from the Hume Highway, and turn off point to Tumbarumba on the Tumbarumba Road.

- Retreat Manager Les White 0428 226 097 or Tony Pearson 0401 100 514
- GPS: S35.50270° E147.42462°



New South Wales

The **Ramon Deed Veterans' Retreat** was established in 1998 by members of the Sunraysia Vietnam, Korean and South East Asian Association. The retreat is a non profit organisation managed and maintained by members and volunteers, who are justifiably proud of their achievements and boasts excellent facilities. The retreat is situated on 22 acres of land



Tasmania

A volunteer managed self contained retreat in Tasmania's Central Highlands for veterans & families.

Address : Interlaken/Dago Point, yrmc.tasmania@gmail.com

[Facebook link](#) [Interlaken Dago Point link](#)



Far North Queensland (FNQ)

ALARIC Retreat Phone resident duty Mgr: 07 4656 4740

Email: alaricretreat@activ8.net.au

Postal address: Alaric Veteran's Retreat c/o Post Master Quilpie, QLD 4480

Western Australia



Camp Hart was founded in 1999 as a place where Australian Defence Force Veterans, and their families and friends, could find solitude and /or friendship within the Veteran Community year round. More importantly Camp Hart, in conjunction with the Kulin Bush Races, brings together the Veteran Community and the local Wheatbelt Community.

[Camp Hart Link](#)



South Australia

Camp Andrew Russell . A place of peace, to relax for VVF members, veterans of all conflicts, and their families to “get away from it all”. Enjoy the silence, the birds and the

158/434Billiatt Rd, Alawoona SA 5311

Hours: [Open 24 hours](#)

Phone: [0429 166 186](tel:0429166186)



Veteran's Retreat is a registered charity farmstay owned by 20-year Army veteran Kylie and her young family. The retreat is 100% volunteer-run and is open to all serving members, veterans, first responders, and their families/carers.

We offer animal therapy, holistic wellness events, emergency and respite accommodation, homeless veteran care and more.

131 Hartwig Road, Mothar Mountain, QLD, 4570

[Veterans Retreat link](#)

ADGie Girls

Liz Kunde and Lynette Biggs

This year has been a year of sadness for the ADGie Girls with the loss of their loved husbands. ADGie Girlsur purpose is to band together as a group in concert with our beloved husband so that we can support each other in understanding and love.



Please search for us on social media.



We Shall Remember Them

How lucky are we that our friendships make saying goodbye so difficult.

The first name here passed away on the 22nd of November 1977. His name came to our attention through a research request August this year. We have included his name so as to have his name recorded as part of our records

James Norman Freeman	WW2 Guard	November 1977
Merv Veale	Ground Gunner	2024
Ray Piper	Ground Gunner	2024
Darryl 'Tank' Mcarty	ADG	February 2024
Fred Brown	ADG	March 2023
John McKean Downes	ADG	April 2024
Michael Ryan	ADG	May 2024
Trevor Byfield	ADG	June 2024
Bob Hepe	ADG	August 2024
Tom Sheedy	ADG/WOD	August 2024
Andrew Lee	ADG	August 2024
Keith Martin	ADI	August 2024
Rodney Richards	ADG	September 2024

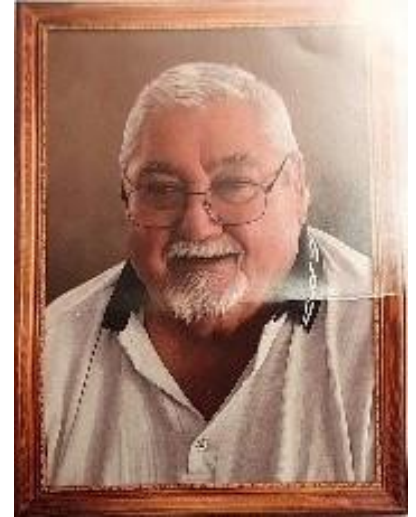


Lest We Forget.

Remembering Darryl “Tank” Macarty

by Mat Howell

CPL Darryl William Macarty A316676 known to many as “Tank” was born on the 14th December 1947 passing away from a sudden massive heart attack on the 17th February 2024 whilst on holidays with friends in the Philippines.



Darryl was born in Adelaide and spent the first part of his youth in his home town of Mile End also in South Australia. His family moved while he was still a young fellow to Shepparton, Victoria where he grew up with his mother Myra and his brothers Wayne and Malcolm and his sister Diane. Darryl joined the RAAF on the 20th January 1965 as an Airfield Defence Guard; at that time, it was a brand-new mustering or should I say an old mustering that was being raised once more to cope with the situation that had arisen in recent years in South Vietnam. Whilst deployed as an ADG in Vietnam Darryl transferred in to 9 Squadron where he served as a Crewman – Door Gunner.

Tank graduated from No. 2 Basic ADG Course in 1966 and was subsequently sent overseas on duty. He spent much of his time whilst on Operations in Ubon, Thailand at the RAAF Base Squadron where he spent three tours of duty, between 08 September 1966 to 23 Mar 1967, then 15 June to 07 Sep 1967 with his final tour in Ubon from 15 Dec 1967 to 12 Jun 1968. Darryl also served in Vietnam at 1OSU from 25 Mar 1969 to 26 March 1970 during this time he served as a Door Gunner Crewman with 9 Squadron from 30 May 1969 to 23 Dec 1969.

On return to Australia in 1970 Darryl grew somewhat restless for change so he discharged from the service in January 1971, but only for a short period of time as he wanted to give the “civie life” a bit of a crack. Things were not all that Rosie on the outside so on the 5th of July 1971 he reenlisted back into the ADG world. Darryl attained the rank of Cpl and was posted to several locations around Australia with some of those being RAAF Darwin and RAAF Richmond with even a stint at 1RTU in RAAF Edinburgh. Darryl was offered his promotion to Sgt ADG but did not accept it due to his time of discharge.

On discharge from the RAAF on the 4th of July 1985 Darryl moved back to his beloved Shepparton but his inquisitive nature and shall we say itchy feet never kept him there for long periods as he would often visit for sometimes extended periods two of his great mates in Ian ‘Spike’ Dainer and Jim ‘Boomer’ Soanes up in Queensland.

Darryl also enjoyed regular holidays even further north than the sunshine State, he loved visiting friends in the Philippines where sadly he would on his last adventure north join the caravan and ride on ahead.

Darryl’s ashes were returned to Australia at the Shepparton RSL a place he was all too familiar with and a place in which he spent much of his time with great friends and family. Many of his old comrades from his time as an ADG were in attendance to bid him farewell and happy trails. The service was both fitting for such a loved and respected man and was very well attended with I estimate close to 120 people on deck. This displayed the special regard Darryl ‘Tank’ Macarty was held in by all who knew him.

For me as one of the shall we say younger ADG set that had never had the privilege of meeting him face to face and from all the great tales that I heard regarding Tank and his amazing life I sincerely wish I had met him and had the chance to shake his hand and call him mate.

My words can never really pay him the true respect and honour he is worthy of but I do hope that this little note goes close to doing that.

May he forever Rest in Peace.



Remembering Rodney Richards

By Blake Cameron

FSGT Rodney Wayne Richards (RICH), passed away on the 14 Sep 2024 at 0830 hrs at the age of 57, 1 week before his 58th birthday.

Richo joined the Airforce in 1985, from Perth WA. Over his career His postings included 2 Airfield Defence Squadron, 1 Recruit Training Unit (being awarded instructor of the year twice) if you didn't know he would have surely told you. 321 Airbase Wing, 386 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron, 21 Squadron, Combat Support Group, 29 Squadron, 1 Airfield Defence Squadron, Headquarters Air Command, 3 Security Forces Squadron, Headquarter 95 Wing.

For his work at 1RTU in 1992 he was awarded a Chief of Defence Force commendation in 2006 received the Defence long service Medal, the Australian Defence Medal. He served on Operation Slipper twice 2011 and 2013. Airforce ground combat badge in 2013, Afghanistan Medal 2011, Australian Active Service Medal with clasp 2011, NATO non article 5 medal with clasp 2013, third clasp to the Defence long service medal 2018 and fourth clasp to the Defence long service medal January 2024.



Myself having the privilege to call him a friend, mate and brother. Richo was one of the smartest people you could have met, his knowledge on life was very extensive, he could have been a scientist but chose to be and ADGIE. Richo was well known in the ADG mustering for being an explosive madman (DEMOP). He loved blowing shit up and was called upon on nearly every live fire. You would often find him laughing at some jube officer or adgie for doing dumb shit.

I don't know how or where he got his knowledge from because whenever we were all together it was drink, smoke and talk as much shit as possible until you passed out. Richo was also known as cantankerous prick, and if he didn't like you, then he surely would tell you. I am sure that all that knew him would be smiling now saying yup that was Richo.



He lived in Tasmania on his acreage property with his beloved dog Henry! Henry has now been adopted by Macca one of his best mates and ex ADG who lived not too far from him.

Finally, Richo had a heart of gold and would help anyone out, his smile and laughter will be cherished by all who knew him and his memory will live long within the mustering.

Until we meet again, RIP my brother!

Camo

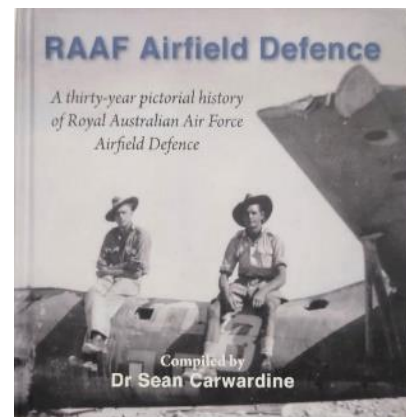
Update: Member packs & benefits programme

We have started delivering on our promise of member packs and benefits. At the moment we are open to suggestions from the field as to what are people looking for. The programme commenced March 2024.

As it stands, we are using the following principles ;

- Discounts on merchandise such as commemorative ports and wines, beret replacements, general merchandise.
- Discounts on reunions, gala and other public speaking events.
- On joining each new member receives an Association tie.
- Three years continuous membership a copy of Dr S. Carwardine's coffee table book.
- Ongoing gifts at Five & Ten years continuous membership.
- Life membership – Etched crystal gift
- Zero cost for membership over 80.

Membership funds will be circulated back into the member benefits programme. Which will enable the committee to bring on board ideas from members as they appear. The cupboard is bare at the moment except for ties and coffee table books. If you have any thoughts on the subject please email below so we can expand our stock.



Secretary.adaa@gmail.com or

Airfielddefence762@gmail.com

Visual History Preservation

Part of complimenting our written history is preserving of our visual imagery. If anyone would like to have their photos digitalised for prosperity, please use the contact email below to organise this. Likewise, if you have already digitalised photos and would like to donate a copy for heritage collection digital/physical library, please send to: airfielddefence762@gmail.com They will be acknowledged when used in future Journal or Historical documents/publications

Invoices for membership will be issued by the end of March 2025 with payment due by Anzac Day 25 April 2024.

Annual Subscription remains at \$25 per general member. Life Members, Members For Life, (MFL), Associate and Honorary members, do not pay annual subscriptions.

For clarity, **Membership For Life (MFL)** is a one off payment in accordance with the scale below, where one payment secures Membership For Life (MFL). Applications for MFL are available from the Secretary and must be approved by the Committee.

AGE IN YEARS	AMOUNT PAYABLE
18 - 39	\$360.00
40 - 44	\$315.00
45 - 49	\$265.00
50 - 54	\$215.00
55 - 59	\$170.00
60 -64	\$145.00
65+ YEARS	\$125.00

Subscribers over 80 years General Members over the age of 80 years will no longer pay annual subscriptions. The rationale for this being that members in this age group have by that venerable age, made sufficient financial contribution to the Association, over many years, and that commitment should be recognised by their membership of this special category. This proposal, which mirrors National RSL policy, is yet to be ratified by the Association committee, but without getting ahead of the game, I believe it is already strongly supported

Subscription Payments. The preferred method of payment of Subs is by direct transfer into the Association bank account. Account details are:

Name of Account: Airfield Defence Association Inc.

BSB: 064417

Acct No: 11112272

Ensure the direct deposit is annotated: ADA Subs (your name)

Notwithstanding the above payment preference, Cheques will still be welcome, using the replied paid envelope which will be sent out with invoices.

For any subscription enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at snauzls@gmail.com or by snail mail at:

Secretary
Airfield Defence Association Inc

Snauz

Articles of interest or submissions for Journal inclusion from anyone are greatly appreciated. Preferred in March and September. If you have an event coming up, seeking information on something, or would like to advertise your business or want to pass on some general information, please contact us with the details for inclusion in the Journal. Send to

secretary.adaa@gmail.com or airfielddefence762@gmail.com

Final Note - Important : Our Association Facebook page has changed ! **You No Longer** need to be a financial member to join the Association Facebook page. It has become and events and points of contact page for what is happening as far as official Association events and news. Members can respond and or post information in line with that criterion. Admin and moderator approval for each post. It is for all of us financial or not and will be directly linked to information on the Blue Beret web page. Essentially the Facebook page will become the doorway to the Web page where deeper level information or member offers will be available. It will simply list upcoming events and essential news items and list a point of contact.

The website will become the more stable 'Go To' place for next level long term information, considered constant in our lives as current and ex-serving Airfield Defence personnel. The website is also a place where family will be able to find relevant links to Veteran organisations, DVA links, advocacy, and where Air Force and specific knowledge of the Airfield Defence role is articulated and better understood. The idea will be to have a state by state list of contacts that is much easier to find than a social media page.

<https://adgblueberet.org/>

Electronic & Hard Copies Our main focus will be the electronic version sent via email to financial members. Please update you contact details with us regularly or when something changes.

End Notes

1. Clarke, Peter, 2024. Due South information and logo used with permission and endorsement of Founder: Ulverstone, TAS.
2. Wilson, David, 2003. Warden to Tanager RAAF Operations in East Timor, First Edition, CH4-P96.
3. Layton, Peter, 2018. "Algorithmic Warfare, Applying Artificial Intelligence to Warfighting".
4. Victory Services Club UK, 2024. Open source information page.
5. Royal Commission into Defence & Veteran Suicide, Open Source, Defence.gov.au royal commission.
6. Rawson, Ian, 2024. Australian Warfighter Atheletic, 2024.
7. Official Defence imagery 1SECFOR courtesy of Defence image library: www.airforce.gov.au
8. Lyons, Glenn, 2016, "East Timor imagery open source & scanned images via Airfield Defence ScOrP Collection".
9. Rogers, Brett, 2024. Catch-Up imagery with permission Brett Rogers.
10. Brasher, Stephen, 2024 Middle East images courtesy of Stephen Brasher personal collection.
11. Knight, Troy, 2024. Havoc 06 imagery and information used with permission Troy Knight.
12. Best, Lawrie, 2024. Information provided with permission L. Best 2024.
13. Leo, John, 2024. Information provided for use by the author John Leo, DSM, 2024.
14. Carwardine, Sean, 2024. Defining Actions submitted for inclusion by by Dr S. Carwardine (PhD), 2024.
15. Ciesiolka, Timothy, 2024. Gun Pit Coffee name and logo used with permission.

