AIRFIELD DEFENCE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA Inc

Issue 07 Autumn 2026

THE BLUE BERET JOURNAL AUTUMN 2026

1966
60th Anniversary
1 to 4 ADG
Courses

Trevor Scott
WWII Guard
turns 100

ANZAC Day
2026



1966

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Cover: Clear covered patrol map from Vietnam (Chinagraph markings still visible) Long Hai area in Phuc Tuy Province. Map donated by Glen Hombsch, ADAA.

Presidents' Report



Since our last edition the uncertainty and spiralling costs of living has made getting from pay to pay more difficult. The current global uncertainty brings with it an increased sense of unrest and withdrawal. I believe it important to remain close as an Airfield Defence community.

I feel the next three to five years will test us in Australia and we are already starting to see a level of unrest in communities. I would ask each of us to be vigilant in staying community focussed even though around us may become fractured.

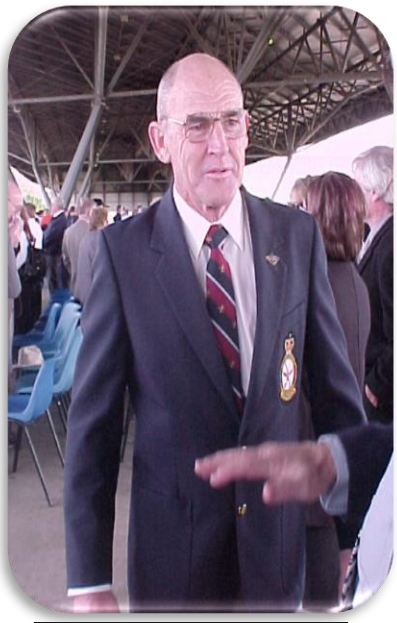
On staying united I have found it helpful to just pick up the phone and call someone to ask how they are. The cheerful response has been a great indicator of how glad friends are to hear a familiar voice. In an age where text messaging is becoming the 'norm' I feel the personal connection of hearing someone's voice is strong. Words of encouragement and well wishes opens the conversation as to how we can help each other.

Given that not everyone is on social media I would like to mention welfare. We have had some readers' enquiries about the health of other members. One is Dave Addley. I spoke with Dave directly and he has agreed to provide an update for this edition. It appears in 'Socials'.

Also, Mick Voysey. Mick is a Member For Life. I am able to let you know Brett Rogers and Col Weeks visited with Mick and spoke with him to ensure he is alright. My thanks and appreciation go out to Brett & Col for their initiative and persistence in following through with Mick.

This edition is focussed on 1966 and the standing up of renewed capability of defending air power on the ground. Whilst we are on the subject of early beginnings, I would like to mention Michael 'Tex' Bryson, our first President. Tex served in Vietnam 1968/69 at Phan Rang with 2 Squadron and then Vung Tau in 1970. He was instrumental in the early discussions of forming an association. As a founding member these early informal discussions laid the ground work which led to forming our Association. At that time the annual pilgrimage was Brisbane for ANZAC Day. The very first committee meeting was held at the Storey Bridge Hotel, Brisbane.

I believe that without our founding members and their commitment, we would not have the opportunities we have to pass on through the Association to the younger generation today.

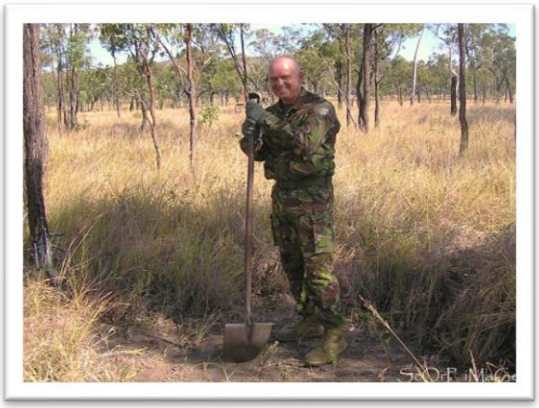


Michael '*Tex*' Bryson

Yours in mateship
Glenn
Nat Pres

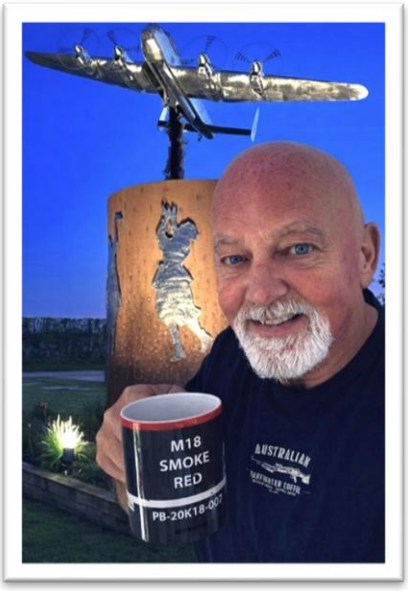
RAF Regiment Exchange program.

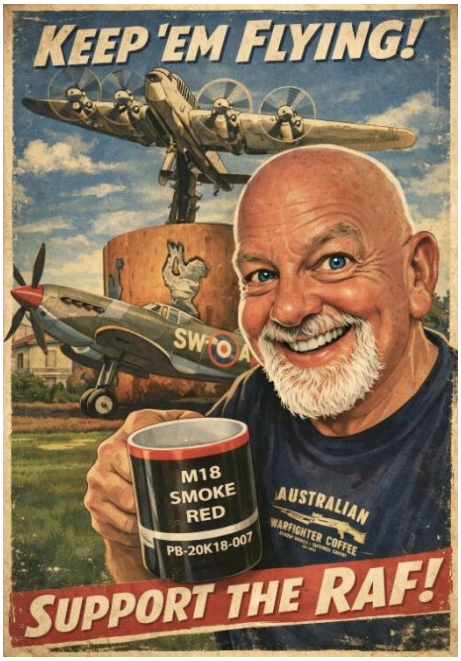
Introducing John Ellis.



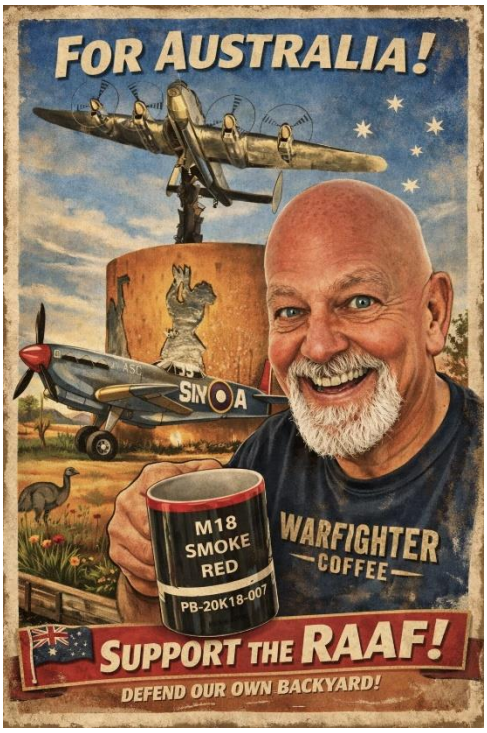
FS John Ellis RAF Regiment came to Australia on Exercise Longlook an exchange from the RAF to the RAAF to a aligned role. The duration is around four months. The level is generally Senior NCO and a one for one within the same unit. In 2007 Gary Kilday was a Rifle Flight SNCO and went to England and John came to 2AFDS.

That year the Squadron were due to go on exercise to Townsville on the Combined Arms Training Activity.(CATA) in Townsville. The bulk of the arms and equipment would spend two days on convoy there, overnight Rockhampton, and post exercise two days getting home. What better way to see the countryside before having to dig defensive positions at Townsville Field Training Area.





John is now, fully retired and stays in touch with the Blue Beret. He sent us these snaps of him enjoying his **WARFIGHTER Coffee** in the UK. He was a fan of Bushells instant coffee, but we have reformed him into an avid admirer of the ultimate Australian Coffee.



Organisational help, to help get organised….

Outpost Advocacy

At Outpost Advocacy, our goal is simple: to take the weight of the DVA claims process off the veteran's shoulders and humanise the process.

We offer guidance through every phase of the claim, from gathering documentation and filing, to appeals and follow-up if required. Whether you're a Vietnam Veteran, current serving member, or ex-serving member, we're here to walk beside you and ensure you receive the support you deserve.

Greg Jenkins (Ex ADG)

Outpost Advocacy also partnering with GO2 Health

Phone: 1300 110 079

https://outpostadvocacy.com/

GO2 Health

Military Support Coordinators (MSCOs) at RAAF Amberley refer people transitioning out to these services.

GO2 started out as 'GO2 Human Performance' in 2009. They have a diverse range of **ADF/DVA** and Private patients, across a number of niches.
GO2 health is a multi-modality health clinic and these integrate fully with doctors. We believe the key to good health and health care is to form a relationship with our patients, ensuring they receive the treatment they need, with the minimum of fuss. Our allied health services are the backbone, and these integrate fully with our doctors.

They will help you find what you need, and aim to wrap you up in a one stop shop.

Contact Email: ask@go2health.com.au
Phone: (07) 3355 5540
Website: https://www.go2health.com.au/content/contact



Events

Anzac Day Newcastle 1 SECFOR Ceremonial commitment.

Event: Dawn & Mid-morning service
Start Location: General Washington Hotel, Mitchell Street, Stockton NSW, Australia
End location : 179 Mitchell St, Stockton NSW 2295, Rawson Reserve Cenotaph
Time: Dawn 0515 – 0600 then **mid-morning** 0800h-0900h

Event: : Dawn service
Location: Nobbys Beach
Time: 0500 in position by 0445.

Brisbane. The march in Brisbane will follow RAAF AMB uniformed units. We should not step off before 11.00.am,. given that AF is last in the step off order. Gather around 1030 at William Street, behind the former casino. Then afterwards we hope to have 2 SECFOR join us for after parade at the Stock Exchange Hotel, 166 Charlotte St, Brisbane City.

Canberra Australian War Memorial Cenotaph, ANZAC Parade. Gather at ANZAC Parade at The Air Force Memorial 10.30. Form up 0950 Step off 10.00. Then afterwards at Point of Contact Lynden Verrier FB Messenger.

Melbourne Gather 0845 – 0915 Young & Jackson Hotel. Form up Flinders St (east of Swanston St) north side of road. Step off 10.00. Post march gathering Great Northern Hotel, Rathdownie St, Carlton North, 12.30 onwards.

Perth At the time of printing no regional information available
Adelaide At the time of printing no regional information available
Darwin At the time of printing no regional information available
Hobart At the time of printing no regional information available
Sydney At the time of printing no regional information available
Townsville At the time of printing no regional information available

TBA
Sixtieth Anniversary of the first four basic courses of 1966.

August
Tuesday 18 August – Vietnam Veterans Day around Australia

2029
Only three years away. Closer than you think. The 100th Anniversary of the order which formed the protection of our Airfields in 1929. Planning has begun.

60th Anniversary Ground Defence Training.



Recruiting is on !

This year marks 60 years since the first four courses ran at Ground Defence Training Flight, Amberley.

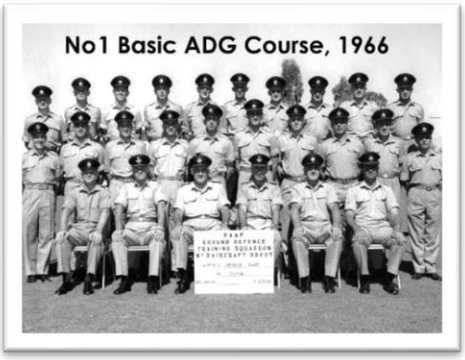
Recognition of this milestone will occur this year. The intention is to jointly recognise the transition to the recent changes by Air Force of the Security Forces related specialisations. This will involve current serving personnel. We would like to hear your ideas as we step through the event planning.

It will be an open invite for attending.

We would like to locate as many as we can from these first four courses. If you know where they are… please direct them to Ian 'Spike' Dainer, **email: kangoona@bigpond.com**

Once the details are confirmed as to how, when and where, we will be communicating out.

Ed



No 2 ADG Basic Course, 1966



No 3 ADG Basic Course, 1966



No 4 ADG Basic Course, 1966



A Centenarian Guard

Dr Sean Carwardine

In May 2025, while researching and writing some of the No. 2 Security Force Squadron history, I saw a photo from the Australian War Memorial of an afternoon service dedication to a Second World War Soldier killed in Action. This dedication had a write-up stating Mr Trevor Scott, Second World War RAAF Guard. Four days later, I had his details and contact information via the Inverloch RSL

What an end to the year 2025. Two major road trips to Victoria, one to interview a Second World War RAAF Guard and the next to return to his 100th birthday. However, this story started a long time ago with the birth of Trevor John Scott to James and Florence Scott at Leongatha on 15 December 1925.



By the age of 14, Trevor had attended school and obtained Merit Standard upon leaving. Next, he got a job in a small town called Mirboo North. This country town of Victoria, located in the southern Gippsland Shire, was the home of the Scott family. By the start of the Second World War, Trevor was working as a Counter-Hand in Purvis 'Grocery Store.

Trevor's older brother had already enlisted in the 9th Division in June 1940 and served until November 1945, totaling 1,250 days of operational service. He served in the Middle East for 832 operational days, 205 in New Guinea and 213 in SWPA.

Service to the country.

At the age of 17, Trevor tried to enlist in the Royal Australian Navy. However, he was knocked back because his right shoulder was lower than the other. Trevor stated that it was caused by carrying the heavy sacks of flour and other stock. Now, in November 1943, Trevor wrote a letter to RAAF Enlistment Melbourne asking for information on how to enlist.

The RAAF enlistment committee stated that his request to enlist as a Wireless Mechanic would not be granted. The committee wanted to interview Trevor because his educational standards were not high enough for Wireless mechanic training, so they paid for him to travel to Melbourne for this interview.

The owner of the Purvis' store, R.T. Channon, where Trevor worked, stated that he had known Trevor for a while and that mechanical training was not Trevor's direction in life. It was suggested that Store hand would be a good job for his experience.

His service records indicate that the RAAF ignored the advice given and enlisted Trevor as a Trainee Technical, but Trevor said they moved him to Airframe Fitter training. He completed recruit training at No. 5 Recruit Depot, Balmoral, Victoria. He was then posted to No. 4 STT Adelaide for technical training. For three months, he tried to succeed in the airframe training, but according to Trevor, 'I was not too adept at the work and asked the IOC of training if I could remuster and do something for the war effort. I want to get up north. 'The OIC suggested that Trevor could become a Guard. It took another month, but Trevor was finally at No. 1 Recruit Depot, Shepparton, for 76 Guards Instructional Course.

I asked Trevor if he knew that the RAAF had Guards and what they did. Trevor said, 'Nope, never heard of the job, never knew that Guards were in the RAAF; however, all I wanted to do was get up north, go overseas and do my bit.' Trevor states that he completed basic infantry training and extensive weapons training, including bush work and building weapon pits. One weapon that Trevor was good at was the Bren Gun. He stated that in the course he 'marched, marched and did more marching. We also practiced unarmed combat and threw a few grenades into the gold river to kill some fish. Very young blokes love doing this, part of the fun.'



After the Guard course, Trevor was posted to RAAF Station Laverton for Guard duty. Here, he did what all Guards did in Australia: day and night security patrols around the base, bomb dump duty, and front gate duty. Trevor was posted to the No. 10 Communications Unit at Cairns. He left Cairns on a Sunderland flying boat for New Guinea and landed at Port Moresby Bay.

Trevor continues, 'As we were getting off the flying boat onto a small boat to take us to the port, there were sharks all over the place in the water. We spent three nights there and took off for Torakina. Here he explained his job at the unit, 'Our job was to guard the aircraft at night, the Japs were infiltrating the airfield to destroy the aircraft with bombs. I was shot at by them a few times. One time, I was standing next to the wheel of a Beaufighter bomber, and a round hit the aircraft just above my head.'

Trevor served in No. 10 Communications Unit (later renamed) until the war's end. The unit records, unfortunately, focus on aircraft and aircrew activities, with only a few instances over 3 years highlighting ground crew activities. However, the Australian War Memorial has images of Guards on Torakina doing training and patrols.

Back to May 2025. At the Inverloch RSL I met Trevor. What a man! He is an intelligent individual. Proud of his service in the RAAF and his RSL. The interview went for just over an hour (details added above), and then I was invited to the RSL at 5 pm for drinks. That afternoon, this quiet man in his 90s threw banter at these young RSL members. It was a laugh-a-minute.



After talking to Trevor, I arranged for another trip down for his birthday in December.

After two days to Inverloch, I was greeted by fine 23 degrees day. People were in swimming outfits (Inverloch is on the coast and has a lovely beach), walking around town. The RSL of Inverloch opened the doors to Trevor's family and organised a party for all his bowls and RSL friends. I met his kids (older than me), and I explained what I had arranged for him.

I gave a short talk on behalf of the ADAA and presented Trevor with his Life Member Certificate, ADAA tie, key ring, suit embroidered badge, and tie pin. I handed him four ADAA stickers and told him and the crowd he needed to keep up a tradition a few ADGs had started in the USA: stick the stickers on police cars in town (throwback to No. 2AFDS) and don't get caught. He laughed and said he would give it a go. Then I explained the history of the beret in the RAAF and how airfield defence came to wear it. **I then presented him with his own beret and welcomed him into the family.** Both of us were then dragged outside (it was cold and raining by this time) to have photos taken in front of the RSL.

It was so good to witness the mate ship and friendship of a group of people who have served and even better when you go to a true RSL that is small, has no pokies and is focused on its members and the community.

Thank you, Trevor, for this friendship, and it was the greatest honour meeting you and being part of your 100th.

Carbs





Top: Trevor humbly receiving his Beret from Sean. **Bottom**: Trevor with his first wearing of his beret at the Inverloch RSL with our Association Historian Dr Sean Carwardine.

Socials

2026 AGM

This Annual General meeting will take place at Club Services Ipswich at **10.30am EST 21st of June 2026.** It is an open invitation for all current serving and ex serving to come along. I emphasise this is not a member only event. For those wanting to attend in person the address is 5a Lowry St North Ipswich, QLD, 4305.

There will be a zoom link sent out and made available on social media.

Participation is a vital part of the process to get a better picture of you and your needs and how we can adjust to meet those needs. In essence a greater understanding all around.

Connections

The RSL AGM (Annual General Meeting) is an essential part of our governance and democratic processes. It's very important that we are mindful of our constitution(s), By-Laws and meeting processes, to ensure we conduct a respectful and productive meetings. In essence the result should be to elect people into key positions, as required. If the organisation is governing and functioning well and our members are involved, the AGM is simply a full stop to the previous year as we move forward into the next year



Iain Carty

Update from Dave Addley

Between 2020 and 2026, I underwent numerous surgeries on both legs. After multiple grafts and two bypasses, the left leg's artery failed in March 2025 despite reconstruction using a vein from the left arm. Reduced blood flow led to infection and eventually the loss of two toes on the right foot, followed by worsening infection in the left foot. In 2026, the left leg was amputated. The right leg also required several operations, including use of another vein from the left arm for grafts in August 2025, which successfully restored good blood flow.

I wish to expresses my deep gratitude to Michael Sloan for his guidance on wheelchairs and prosthetics, and to friends and loved ones for their visits, calls, and messages while I was undergoing treatment and hospitalisation.

As I look optimistically forward, I see my recovery to the point where I can travel independently again to visit many of my friends and family.

Kindest regards

Dave



AUSTRALIAN WARFIGHTER COFFEE
VETERAN OWNED · TACTICAL COFFEE

In this section we run articles on former serving members and provide some insights into what they are doing now.

From Royal Australian Air Force

to

Australian Federal Police.

By Col Speedie



Corporal Col Speedie conducting Ground Defence Training RAAF Amberley. Circa 1993.

We have been back in contact with Col for a little while now and approached him for an article for the Blue Beret Journal. Readers may have noticed that since doing the "Our Own" series we have some extrordinary people among us who have had amazing careers within the Air Force or statred here and taken the experience and excelled in their chosen direction in life. The Our Own series is intended to show that Basic Training is exactly that from which you can grow in maturity and people skills and no matter the length of your service you will have mates for life and turn your hand to anything you have a passion for.

Col has given us permission to use the chapter of a book which he wrote ANU Press published in 2020. What follows here is a very personal description of a former ADG who stepped out of Air Force to fulfil such roles as the Prime Ministers Close Protection Team in his early days to head of the AFP Mission in Afghanistan.

Ed

As a brief history and introduction, I joined the Royal Australian Air Force at the tender age of 17 as an Airfield Defence Guard in March 1978. I spent nine years in that role, discharging in January 1987 at the rank of Seargeant, to join the Australian Federal Police. While I did enjoy my time as an ADG and met some fantastic people, I was drawn to doing something I always wanted to do, which



Prime Minister's Close Protection Team, with Prime Minister Paul Keating.

was policing. Rather than a state force, I wanted to have the flexibility to be posted anywhere in Australia and so the Australian Federal Police was the logical choice for me.

My early years in the AFP were grounded in uniform policing and later in protection work. I served as a Close Personal Protection Officer, including on the Prime Minister's Protection



UN Peacekeeping Force DSPA Cyprus 2006.

Team, and eventually moved into leadership and training roles. Along the way, I was deployed overseas on peacekeeping missions, experiences that introduced me to the complexities of fragile states and international policing.

But nothing quite prepared me for Afghanistan.

In September 2008, I deployed as Commander of the Australian Police Mission in Afghanistan. At that point, the AFP presence was still relatively small, and our role was not widely understood—even within government circles. We were not soldiers, yet we were operating in a war zone. Our task was to bring policing capability into an environment dominated by insurgency, narcotics, corruption, and competing international interests.

It quickly became clear that traditional policing models would not work. The Afghanistan we encountered was one where crime, insurgency, and governance were deeply intertwined. Kidnapping, narcotics trafficking, and corruption were not isolated problems—they were part of a system that sustained instability.

One of the most significant challenges, and ultimately one of our greatest achievements, was the establishment of the Afghan Major Crimes Task Force. This was not just another advisory project; it was an attempt to build a credible, trusted investigative capability inside a system where trust was often in short supply. We worked with carefully vetted Afghan officers, alongside international partners, to target kidnapping networks, organised crime, and corruption.

The results came quickly and, at times, unexpectedly. Victims were recovered. Offenders were arrested. For the first time, there was a sense that parts of the system could function with integrity. But those successes also carried risk. Every arrest, particularly of well-connected individuals, created tension and, at times, real danger for those involved.

Another turning point came through our involvement in what became known as Task Force Nexus—a fusion of military and law enforcement intelligence. Traditionally, military intelligence could not be used in criminal prosecutions. What we helped develop was a way to bridge that gap, transforming classified information into usable



International Police Training Centre Jordan 2005-2008. Photo of handover.

criminal intelligence. It was a quiet breakthrough, but an important one. It meant that some of the most significant actors in the narcotics trade could be targeted through the rule of law, rather than through purely military means.

At the same time, we were working to bring order to what was, in many respects, a crowded and uncoordinated international policing effort. The creation of the Senior Police Advisers Group in Kabul helped align different missions and reduce duplication, allowing for a more coherent approach to developing Afghan policing capability.

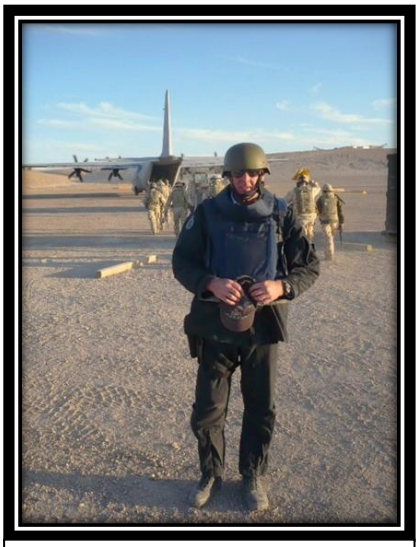
Beyond Kabul, AFP members were training Afghan National Police in Uruzgan Province—young recruits stepping into extraordinarily difficult roles. Over time, thousands were trained in basic policing, investigations, and leadership. It was not perfect, and progress was uneven, but it was real.

What often gets lost in discussions about Afghanistan is the environment in which all of this took place. Rocket attacks, improvised explosive devices, and insider threats were part of daily life. Movement outside secure areas carried constant risk. Even routine tasks required careful planning. For many AFP members, this was far removed from anything they had previously experienced.

And yet, they adapted.

Looking back, what stands out is not just what was achieved, but how it was achieved—through professionalism, resilience, and a willingness to operate well outside traditional policing boundaries. Over seven years, more than 100 AFP personnel served in Afghanistan, contributing in ways that were rarely visible but often highly effective.

Not all of them came away unchanged.



Getting ready to board C130
Tarin Kot, Afghanistan

Afghanistan was, in many ways, a test—of systems, of ideas, and of people. For me, it reinforced a lesson learned over the course of a long career: you rarely know your limits until you are placed in circumstances that demand more than you think you can give.

The AFP's role in Afghanistan may not be widely recognised, but it demonstrated something important that policing, when applied thoughtfully and in partnership with others, can play a critical role in even the most complex and hostile environments.

It was challenging work. At times frustrating. Often dangerous.

But it mattered.

All the best … Col

Aligned Association

Our operational connection with USAF Security Forces reaches back to 1967. At Phan Rang airbase our people shared defence and security measures with 335th Security Police Squadron with a K9 (Night Eyes) element securing aircraft and assets.



The Air Force Security Forces Association is a world-wide organization of Security Forces professionals with local chapters. Since its birth in 1986, it has been a significant factor in preserving and enhancing the honour and pride that are inherent in the Security Forces career field.

Our membership spans generations, encompassing the military policemen (air provost marshals) of World War II and continuing over the years to the men and women who are serving their first hitch today.

Our focus is on fulfilling what we consider to be the most important goals and objectives:

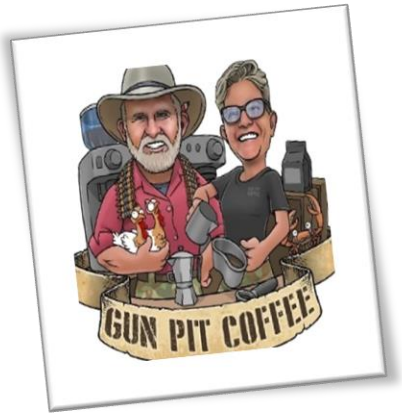


- Honouring the Past
- Recognizing the Present
- Preparing for the Future





Gun Pit Coffee Stop



Rachel & Tim Ciesiolka of Bouldercombe provide a great coffee stop. Stockist of Warfighter Coffee

Check them out on Facebook.

GunPit Coffee

Remembering Tony Cooper

Words from Don Scott



Top, Tony Cooper front, Don Scott.

At the 2026 reunion in Hobart we had the honour of Don Scott from No 1 ADG Course attending. Early in the evening Don approached us and asked if he could read a short poem he wrote for his fellow course mate Tony Cooper. He had read it at Tony's funeral for his wife Kath and family. The answer was absolutely yes!

The room fell silent as Don read.

Afterwards he presented his poem to the Association and we would like to share Don's words here.

Ed

I Lost A Mate Today.

In January '66 we gathered at Amberley. Into barracks we did go, then down to Base Defence and on parade! SQNLDR Meecham greeted us, 'You're the first in this new Mustering he said. ADG's is the name you'll have!! 20 strong we all stood there, nervous and not sure of the future.

Yes… I lost a mate today.

The man next to me thrust out his hand "Tony Cooper' is may name, 'Coops' for short. Don Scott was my reply, and from that moment a mateship was born. We lived and trained and laughed together, drilled and drilled and wore the leather.

Yes most definitely, I lost a mate today.

After six months training the word came through 'Vietnam' away you go you bums. In lowered voice I said 'Coops ..what do you think? 'Don't worry, he said, we'll take her as she comes!'

A good mate, lost today.

Vietnam we did our best, they really put us to the test. Under threats from both fronts, the ones from home hurt the most. But through it and between us all, a new bond is born.

We lost a mate today.

7 days and a wake up Coops I say! and a grin comes on his face, from ear to ear. Nothing has to be added, the last seven days are slow, Excitement on one hand and nervous on the other.

We lost a mate today.

Will we make it? Then on the plane and home to mother. Red roofs of Sydney what a sight!! But no welcome home? Thanks a lot!

Yes, we lost a mate today.

20 Years or so have passed since last I spoke with Tony. But I often wondered how he was and now he's gone. But the bond will never break … farewell old mate.

Don Scott
1 ADG Course

Defender Series

Another Beginning

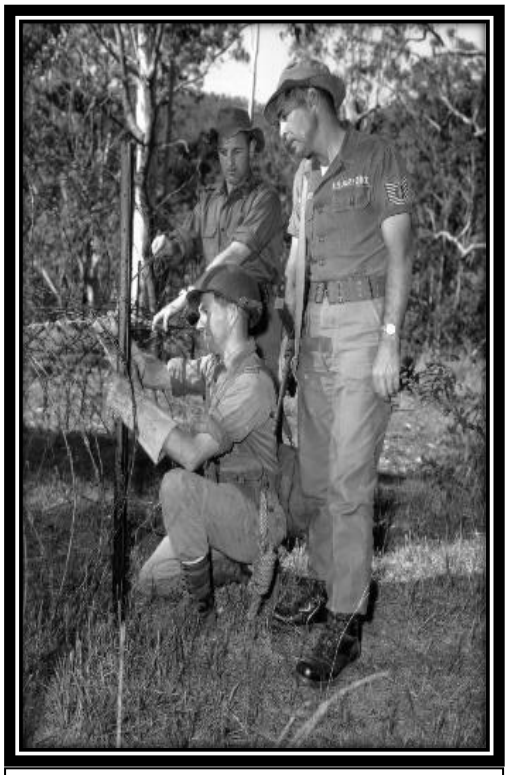
In preparation to commit to the Vietnam conflict, protection aircraft and essential assets on the ground became a driving factor. Interestingly enough, it remains a vital factor today.

June 1956 marked a change and a new direction for Ground Defence Officers' training in the RAAF, no longer shuffled around different Army units for core training. R.A (Rolly) Brazier was the first to enter the Officer Cadet School at Portsea in June 1956, followed by, RG Halverson, IE Devereux, I Boughton and Bruce Brown the next year.

Brown is an interesting officer in that he enlisted in 1954 in the National Service Training Scheme (NSTS) as a Ground Gunner. But after graduation and transfer to the reserves, he then applied for a commission within the RAAF.



Portsea Officer Training Staff Cadet Bruce (JBH) Brown.



GDTF ADG Basic Course: Active Defence measures, cat wire fence. ADG trainee, FLTLT Glen Hombsch, and MSgt USAF Air Police exchange.

Officer Training School added to the training Brown received as a Ground Gunner. He passed all subjects – ABC (atomic, biological, chemical) warfare, Armour, Artillery, Current Affairs, Drill, Fieldcraft, Field Hygiene, Infantry, Air photo/Map reading and field sketching, military history, Law, Organisation, PT, Man Management, Signals, Tactics, Training Methods and Weapon Training. However, administration was not his hot topic – like all of us.

Interestingly JBH Brown would become the Commanding Officer of No 2 Airfield Defence Squadron when the unit was reformed on the 17th of March 1982.

In early June 1965, AB McFarlane, Secretary of Air, through the Air Board, outlined the formation of a new mustering within the RAAF. This new mustering, called Airfield Defence Guard, nearly took on the titles of Security Police, Airbase Security, and even Defence Guard.

The Minister's briefing on the new mustering was that these airmen were not tradesmen but would fight on the ground against guerrillas, partisans, and enemy regulars to protect and secure the airfield.

Within RAAFHQ senior officers began to push for an ADG Flight to be sent to Vung Tau and Ubon, in addition to one permanently based at Butterworth, Malaysia.

Within days of the Secretary's release of the mustering creation, Squadron Leader GW Bennett planned for an ADG Flight to be attached to the airbase at Ubon, Thailand. Additionally, Bennett wanted an ADG Flight for security and AA defence at RAAF Base Darwin. He had, since the National Service Training Scheme (NSTS), held 180 20mm Oerlikon cannons for the RAAF's air defence of Darwin airfield.



GDTF ADG Basic Course: Section in defence engaging targets from a defended locality.

The answer of capability lay in a World War Two capability built up which was dramatically reduced after the war. Air Force Office pushed through the order to form and train the capability.

Training courses commenced in January 1966 at Amberley and were conducted by Ground Defence Training Flight (GDTF) which was part of No 3 Aircraft Depot. GDTF would eventually be renamed to the RAAF Security and Fire School (RAAF SFS).

Course No 1: 24 Jan 1966 – 15 Apr 1966

Course No 2: 2 May 1966 – 5 Aug 1966

Course No 3: 15 August 1966 – 18 Nov 1966

Course No 4: 19 Sep 1966 – 16 Dec 1966.

Note: See course photos on page 6 of this edition.*

The training of platoon level tactics and fieldcraft utilised Australian Military Forces Publication series (1964) which laid down the foundation. These publications evolved into the Manual of Land Warfare series (MLW).

The first course had 21 ADG trainees; 2 were suspended. While the second course had 20 ADG trainees, research also indicates that one airman was from USAF Air Police (This will need more research). Course three had 29 ADG trainees, with only two suspended off course., and course four had 17 start, with one member of course was suspended.

The graduates were posted to RAAF bases upon successful completion and then later to Ubon.



No 9 Squadron Vung Tau South Vietnam.

By September 1966, RAAFHQ wanted only two sections of ADGs for Ubon, and the permanent rotation to Butterworth and postings to Darwin as AA Gunners were cancelled.



Duties at Vung Tau consisted of control point entry and internal patrolling. ADGs were also used as assistant crewman/gunners at 9 Squadron on Iroquois helicopters. This was made easier as they were already trained on the M60 General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG).



Phan Rang Airbase as seen from a high feature situated adjacent to the base perimeter.

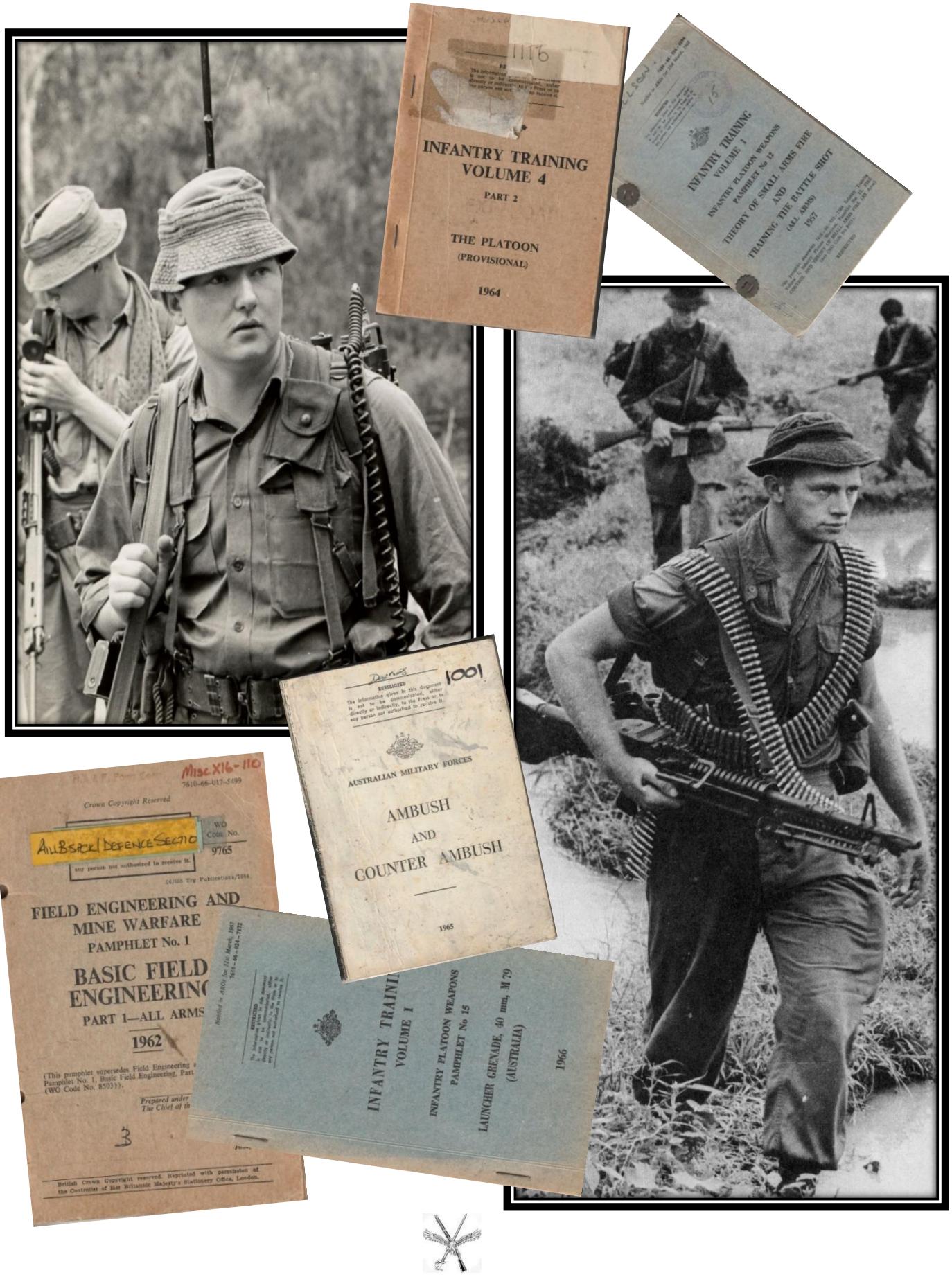
Over time the role in Vietnam expanded to other locations. When Air Force sent Canberra Bombers to Phan Rang, a Rifle Flight was integrated to airbase defence. RAAF Ground Defence elements worked with USAF Air Police who used Military Working Dogs to augment internal security. The US Air Police did not patrol outside the fence line, and instead, manned guard towers and checkpoints. It was Airfield Defence who provided external (outside the wire) patrolling & ambushing tasks as well as mounted quick reaction force.



USAF K9 Air Police. Callsign 'Night Eyes'.

Ground Defence in Vietnam proved its worth to such a degree that a former CO of 2 Squadron in Vietnam recognised the importance. It was David Evans who became Chief of Air Force he ensured that Ground Defence had a permanent role by influencing the reformation of a full time Airfield Defence Squadron.

Carbs & Ed


INFANTRY TRAINING
VOLUME 4
PART 2
THE PLATOON
(PROVISIONAL)
1964
INFANTRY TRAINING
VOLUME 1
INFANTRY PLATOON WEAPONS
PAMPHLET No 12
THEORY OF SMALL ARMS FIRE
AND
TRAINING THE BATTLE SHOT
(ALL ARMS)
1957
RESTRICTED
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
AMBUSH
AND
COUNTER AMBUSH
1965
Crown Copyright Reserved
FIELD ENGINEERING AND
MINE WARFARE
PAMPHLET No. 1
BASIC FIELD
ENGINEERING
PART 1—ALL ARMS
1962
INFANTRY TRAINING
VOLUME 1
INFANTRY PLATOON WEAPONS
PAMPHLET No 15
LAUNCHER GRENADE, 40 mm, M 79
(AUSTRALIA)
1966

Around the Units

No. 2 Security Forces Squadron – Amberley

New CO of 2SECFOR

Thank you for your correspondence and for taking the time to re-establish contact. It is great to hear from you, and I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to you and your team for all that has been achieved. Your leadership and continued advocacy on behalf of the Airfield Defence community is clearly evident and highly valued.

To support ongoing engagement and effective coordination, No. 2 Security Forces Squadron is in the process of nominating specific Liaison Officers to act as points of contact. These appointments will include Flight Lieutenant David Wisson, Corporal Rosemarie White and Leading Aircraftman Kai Solyk.

As part of our broader community engagement strategy, we also wish to offer our assistance in supporting local veterans, particularly those who may require assistance or connection with appropriate services. The squadron remains committed to positively engaging with the veteran community, and our personnel are available to support initiatives or engagement activities where feasible.

I look forward to strengthening the relationship between No. 2 Security Forces Squadron and the Airfield Defence Association Australia Inc.

Adrian Rogers
WGCDR | Commanding Officer
2 Security Forces Squadron

RAAF Security & Fire School - Amberley

Last year saw us attend the November and December Graduation of Security Forces Basic courses. We expect to be back amongst this year and will bring you the most recent news in developments and our newest people.

This year will see the official naming of the unit gathering point currently known as the 'Trough' which will become the John Hansen Bar. For many of us here we recall with great respect John's influence over our careers at RAAF SFS and at the Squadron. This will be a landmark event and you will get a first-hand account here. *Ed*

From the new Commanding Officer RAAFSFS

Hello Blue Beret Journal,

Thank you for your email and for the Association's letter of introduction. I appreciate the warm welcome and the continued support the ADAA provides to SFS and the broader Security Forces community.

I am very happy for our established arrangement to continue, with SQNWOFF Denning as the primary point of contact for routine engagement.

I look forward to working with you and the Association, particularly as planning progresses for the upcoming anniversary activities later this year.

I'm also hopeful our paths will cross in person soon.

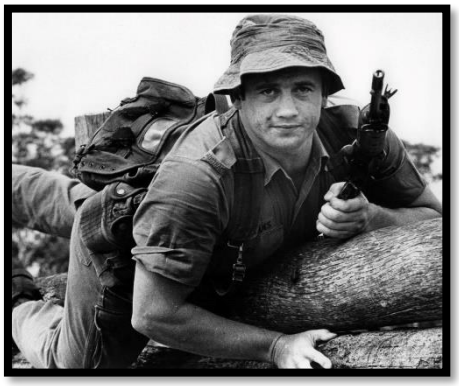
Joel Keulen
WGCDR | Commanding Officer
RAAF Security and Fire School.



We Will Remember Them

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

Ian Martin PEACOCK	ADG	05 December 2025
Kevin 'Sandy' SANDEL	ADG	19 January 2026
Gary WILLIAMS	ADG	23 February 2026
Kieran John WALL BEHAN	ADG	03 April 2025



Gary Williams



Kieran Wall 2nd from the right.



Kieran John Wall / Behan - 1988 - 2026

Kieran was born in Paddington, New South Wales and spent the first years of his life in Urunga. He was followed into this world by his twin brother eight minutes later. Their mother described the boy's as 'tiny but tough!' As twin boys do, the two constantly wrestled and fought as they grew but Kieran & Callan remained the best of mates. As a young boy, Kieran got in trouble, so he decided to change his name to Jim, that way 'Jim' would always get into trouble not Kieran. And so was born his nickname of 'Jim'.

Kieran excelled in many aspects of his life: sport in particular boxing and motorcycle riding. He joined Cadets and was not a stranger to having defined structure around him. Kieran had a strong sense of belonging within family this including adopted and extended family. It was a natural progression which led him to join the military. He initially Army, but later he transferred to Air Force. He went on to complete Airfield Defence Basic Course at Amberley in 2010.

His applied professionalism within the Rifle Flight environment saw him rise to become a valued section member and second-in-charge (2IC). As any section commander knows a good 2IC is a highly valued asset. The 2IC keeps the section in good shape, skills and standards and the like. That way when the pressure is on and tasks need to be done, they go like clockwork, and it is because of the 2IC that it happens that way. Trust is a big part of leadership.

Callan followed Kieran into the Air Force and the two of them served together as ADGs.

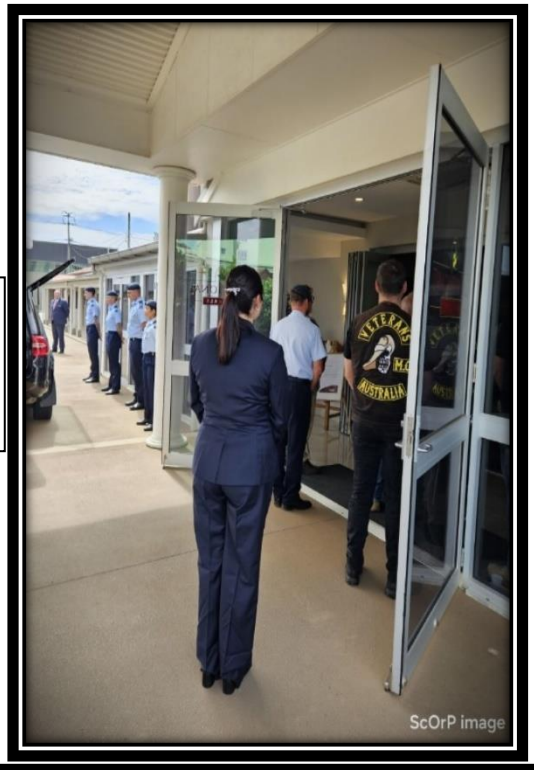
It was deeply moving to attend this funeral with Ken Pennell as the ADAA representatives. The room was overflowing which left standing room only. A testament as to how well-respected Kieran was with 30+ younger veterans in attendance.

Kieran's life was cut short, and to quote his father, "*We shouldn't be here today, we're not supposed to bury our children."*

National President



2 SECFOR CO & SQN WOFF represented also providing the Guard of Honour.



NEWS John Hansen.



Many readers will recall this man from their careers. In particular he could be seen in RAAF SFS training areas menacing ADG's under training, by throwing simulators and rattling off rounds, to induce the command to '**Stand To'** at all hours of the night. John is also immediately recognisable as the initiator of endless contact drills, as he bounded away laughing deeply and carrying at least three different weapon systems. (Obviously so that we would send a contact report as **'three enemy'**! Not just one.) 😊

RAAF SFS will be holding an event this year which will see the smoko area, currently named the , "The trough" to the John Hansen Bar. John is likely t be there! More to follow over !



90's Flashback !

4/96 ADG Ready Reserve Basic Course Some of the faces here include… **Goldsmith, George, Watkinson, Stokes, McNeil, Kilday, Shipway, Sims, Ashby, Ryan, Cumming** and more.

Next Edition



Drones / The Future is here ?!

We go fully automated in our snapshot of what now looks like.

Drill Instructors - John Cameron

In the years before the 'renewed' Ground Defence capability for Vietnam there was a skilled workforce trained in weapons and airbase defensive measures, the legacy of Ground Gunners and Aerodrome Defence Instructors and Drill Instructors. John Cameron was one of that era who stepped across. John gives a snippet of what that time looked like.

Membership

Invoices for membership will be issued by the end of March 2026 with payment due by Anzac Day 25 April 2026.

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 secretary.adaa@gmail.com

Snauz

Last Word

If you have an event coming up, are seeking information on something 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.

IMPORTANT **The Blue Beret website is open for viewing and we recommend everyone to visit and then email content suggestions through.**

Note: While we will send hard copies out to those who wish one or those who do not use computers, our main focus will be the electronic version.

Articles of interest or submissions are greatly appreciated and welcomed for future publications. Additionally if you have skills or ideas you would like to share, you can contact us. Send to airfielddefence762@gmail.com

https://adgblueberet.org/

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Ed

Check Out Zero Limits Here

End Notes

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6. 1966, Siebold, Michael, ADG Basic Course photos from deceased estate imagery personal collection donated to ADAA Library.
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