



Pen over Sword

*The newsletter of the
Australian Army Public Relations Service*

December 2014 edition



Message from the Head of Corps COL Jeffery Squire

So, the year where we slowed the operational tempo, reflected on ten or so frantic years and consolidated for the future has ended. If only.

2014 has been the year of the unexpected. Who could have foreseen that we would be leading a multi-national search for a Malaysian aircraft deep in the Southern Indian Ocean, supporting recovery operations in the Ukraine or back in Iraq conducting significant air operations and the advise and assist mission? This is not what we contemplated at the end of 2013.

While we as AAPRS are not the sole contributors to the Joint Military Public Affairs capability, we remain the core heavy lifters and have again borne the professional and personal impact of the demands of 2014. Again you have all contributed willingly and effectively. I thank you, and importantly the families that support you, for your commitment and hard work.

While the focus of much of AAPRS remains in the joint operations arena, I am very conscious of the essential service that those of you in the Army full and part time formations perform. The lot of often one-deep officers at Formation, Division and Brigade level is challenging and unforgiving. We are increasingly blessed with senior commanders who want more of our capability than ever before. You bear the brunt of that and your service is appreciated.


While 2014 has not provided the opportunity to reset that we were seeking, there has been important progress this year. Dedicated effort from CAPT Jillian Gaze, built on the labour of many before her, has provided AAPRS with current and relevant Officer Employment Specifications that were signed off by DGPERS Army on 31 October. Please familiarise yourself with this document as it will provide a key reference for all officers and their professional development. We will conduct a trial of a

supporting competency log book concept in the New Year that will make the Employment Specifications live and relevant to you.

Next year the AAPRS focus will be on the employment category review of ECN 312 and 342 trades. Long overdue and a significant volume of work, but imperative to ensuring that the skills and capability of our photographers and military reporters remain relevant and focussed on Army and Joint capability requirements.

I am pleased this year that we have enhanced communication with AAPRS reserve personnel through the establishment of the Senior Reserve Advisory Group of AAPRS LTCOLs. This will remain an important regular information sharing forum and conduit for mentoring and developing the AAPRS Reserve community. As Op tempo increases again there will be greater demands on, and opportunities for, Reservists.

This year has also seen a significant change in the AAPRS landscape with MAJ Al Green moving into the greener pastures of Reserve service. Al has been a great friend and source of advice and good humour to us all. A fine ARA career Al – well done and welcome your new busy role as a Reservist. I would also like to acknowledge the service of WO2 Mark Dowling who will finally complete seven years of service as SM 1 JPAU and post into Training and Preparedness within MSC. Mark has been a stalwart of the unit since its inception, again well done and we look forward to welcoming WO2 Neil Ruskin back to 1 JPAU, this time as the SM in January.

I will not seek to predict what 2015 will bring, that jinxed us last year. For those of you who can take a break this Christmas, stop, rest enjoy the time with your families and friends. For those working through here and overseas, thank you for your service and sacrifice. 

Message from the Colonel Commandant

COL John Weiland

Progress on the Corp's history publication is coming along better than anticipated with four draft chapters ready for editing. Thanks must go to former members who have come forward with offers of help, and the provision of information and images. The very important and complex chapter on the Corp's involvement in the Vietnam conflict has progressed well, with particular input provided by David Brown, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the then RAAEC (PR).

On another note, the year has been very busy for the Corps. There has been much soul-searching by HOC and others in balancing the needs of Corps members against the needs of the Army as a whole. Major considerations have included responding to Defence's continual restructuring, Plan Beersheba, and proposed ECN changes to photographers and reporters. Current operations in Iraq continue to put the Corps on the front foot.

The provision of specialist support to natural disasters and to government agencies at the HOC and 1 JPAU levels all add to our high tempo. Furthermore, we continue to provide specialist public affairs and information warfare support to concurrent asymmetric and strategic

operations. Our regional members located at formation levels have also been heavily taxed providing support to commanders and major exercises. Overall, it has been a very busy year.

The mass media's dominance on setting the information agenda and the rapid advancement in commercial electronic newsgathering are two areas that will need to be looked at in the future. Needless-to-say, the enormous ability of organisations both friend and foe to use social media to reach target audiences will also require closer attention. As a follow-on from the winding down of Operation Slipper, our ability to gather our own news and disseminate it to the mass media, and conducting deliberate community relations activities will also need consideration.

We are the smallest Corps in the Army but we are certainly punching well above our weight and the future prediction is that it is going to get busier. Therefore, where possible, take a well-earned stand-down over the Festive Season to spend quality time with loved ones. As your Colonel Commandant, I wish all past and present members and your families a safe and merry Festive Season. 🇺🇸



Message from the Deputy Head of Corps

LTCOL Michael Harris

As Defence heads into the Reduced Manning Period (there's no such thing as Reduced Activity Period – same tempo, less people!), it's opportune to reflect on the year gone by and to look to the future.

For anyone who said the ADF was about to enter "the great peace", you owe me \$10. Defence closed out its operational commitments in Uruzgan province this time last year, and drew a deep breath. Since 1999, the ADF has been committed to significant operations in East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq, and Afghanistan and for our Navy brethren, has maintained a major fleet unit in the Middle East since 1991.

We entered 2014 with a quiet sense of relief and a desire to slip the *Good Ship AAPRS* for much needed repairs. Big Army needed our Corps to finalise polishing the Officer's

Specifications Manual and to open the engine-room of the Corps and dismantle and rebuild the ECN 312 and 342 trades. The AAPRS Reserves also required much needed attention and we still didn't have doctrine, a coherent training continuum, balance between Joint and Army manning, and on the list went. What we did have was the first growth since the Corps was rebirthed – the establishment of a MAJOR inside Army Headquarters that consequently added a CAPTAIN. These two positions equated to a 10% increase in AAPRS Officer manning. The PHOTs and MILREPs continued to languish – a point that I am sure will come back to bite me.

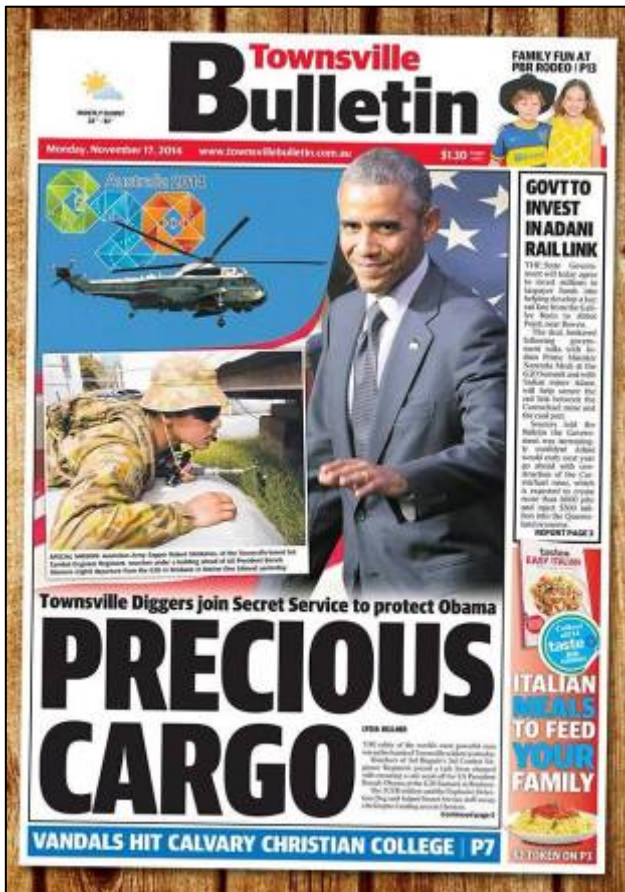
While we attended to the long list of chores and quick fix-me-ups, somebody forgot to mention to the decision-makers that the *GS AAPRS* (and its contribution to Joint Operations) was in deep maintenance. Super Typhoon Haiyan tried its level best to move the Philippines west while the act of an errant pilot (or aliens, or a global conspiracy) mobilised the world in the largest search and rescue



1JPAU and its OC (MAJ Linden) won great praise for their efforts during the early phase of the search for MH370. Wrangling approximately 100 media at RAAF Base Pearce and working on a RAAF Base – keeping everyone happy was no easy job.

operation to scour vast sections of the South China Sea and then the Southern Indian Ocean for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370. Tragedy was to strike twice for the airline in Ukraine where flight MH17 was shot down and our people were sent to provide strategic support to the repatriation of the souls lost.

well – galvanise moderate Muslims and Christians against their evil objective and, yet again, the ADF was preparing to re-enter the Middle East with yet another mission set.



Spreading our story: the work of the Army in support of G20 finds a home on the front page of the 'Bully'.

The pace didn't let up. AAPRS has maintained its absolute commitment to both Joint and Army activities and while we had our people deployed to Exercise HAMEL in north Queensland, the first indications of an emerging threat in the Middle East were being registered.

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant quickly pre-occupied the world's attention as it rolled through northern Iraq, slaughtering the innocent and committing all manner of war crimes and atrocities. ISIL has done one thing



WWII hand-grenades and explosives in Torokina are rigged for detonation as part of Operation RENDER SAFE 2014.

We sent the OC 1 JPAU to the US as part of a Joint Operations Command planning team and set the conditions for a new operational front, Operation OKRA. We now have four Operations in the Middle East Region and an equal number of Joint Task Forces – comprising the most complex C2 the ADF has had to manage.

While air combat missions commenced, more than two thousand media descended on Brisbane and the operation in support of G20 swung into action. At the same time, we had photographers, a military reporter and an officer back in Bougainville, supporting the removal of explosive remnants of war as part of Operation RENDER SAFE.

I also took the opportunity to exchange lessons on MH370 with our Kiwi colleagues and members of the People's Republic of China – Navy as part of Exercise COOPERATION SPIRIT. Life is tough at the top!

Back to my metaphor: the *GS AAPRS* was required to crash-sail out of her deep maintenance and has done so without a glitch (I believe the Navy call it an URDEF – Urgent Defect Rectification, I prefer *glitch*).

Yet again we are turning to the ARes to support Operations. The excellent work that CAPT Jillian Gaze has done on concluding the Officer Employment Specifications Manual begins the long journey of developing a 'systems' approach to the AAPRS capability. Her work with WO2 Mark Dowling on the trade review will also provide a valuable update to the last review, conducted nearly a decade ago. We close out 2014 with a sense of *déjà vous* ... we are back into supporting high tempo operations, there are not enough PA people to go round, the Reserve fraternity is being called on to support operations and the rear echelon and I am back at JOC. Will 2015 be any different? Probably not. Be safe over Christmas, toast absent friends, don't over-indulge on the turkey, and ready yourself for another rollicking ride!

1 JPAU Update

WO2 Mark Dowling

Well...We continue to be extremely busy as the year comes to a close, the unit has responded quickly and efficiently as always to Operation OKRA with a team ready to go and out the door as quickly as you could spell OKRA.

The team (CAPT Richardson, SGT Davis and SGT Paterson) jumped at the opportunity to take the new challenges head-on, which has been very pleasing to see, and with great results, good work guys.

And just in the past two weeks, another team was put on standby and prepped, ready for the Philippines, thankfully that wasn't needed. Especially for Bill's wife as he still hasn't finished the deck, the spa, painted the doors, put up the Christmas lights and not to mention cleaned the oven.

Staying with the theme of standing up teams and last minute tasks, 1JPAU are already preparing for what we expect to be a high risk fire season and possibly floods over the

Christmas break, so as usual, no rest for the wicked.

I would also like to make mention that I will be leaving the 1st JPAU at the end of the year to take up a position at T&P to concentrate on the Trade Review and merger for the PHOTs at 1JPAU, something that I am looking forward to.

Which now gives me the opportunity to say that WO2 Neil Ruskin will be taking up the position here as the SM 1JPAU. I know Neil will do a good job and be received well at the Unit, all the best Neil.

To the deployed guys in the MEAO, Momo, J9 Rob and Ollie, all of us at the Unit wish you a great Christmas and New Year and we look forward to your return in the new year, keep up the good work, we are proud of the work you guys continue to do over there.

Lastly from me, please try and have a great Christmas with family and friends, if any one deserves this it is you guys for all your hard work through the year, we are a great unit with great people, so be safe and we will see you in the new year.

Cheers,
SM "Dowls"

Member Milestones

- In mid-2014, MAJ Al Green transferred to the ARES after a prolific and varied career as an ARA photographer, videographer, reporter and staff officer.
- On 01 Oct 2014 MAJ Dan O'Mara ticked over 20 years' service in the Army.
- In Nov 2014, Avital Terkowski was commissioned as an ARES CAPT and is posted to the HOC Cell.
- On 01 Jan 2015, MAJ Haydon Barlow will be promoted to LTCOL and posted to MSC.
- On 01 Jan 2015, CAPT Lily Mulholland will finally be promoted to MAJ.

Not for Glory launched at the Australian War Memorial

A new book about women Army doctors, co-authored by AAPRS member Capt Sharon Mascall-Dare, was launched by the Chief of Army in November.

Not for Glory tells the stories of women who have served in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, mapping their journey from World War I, when women were not allowed to serve as doctors in the Australian Army, until the present day when they hold senior roles in the Corps.

The book is co-authored with Susan Neuhaus CSC, a retired RAAMC Colonel who has served on operations in Cambodia, Bougainville and Afghanistan. Sharon worked on the book as a civilian, drawing on her BBC radio backgrounds to record oral histories with a number of the women featured in the book.



CAPT Mascall-Dare and COL Neuhaus (rtd)

The book is available from ABC Shops and the publisher, Boolarong Press. It was listed as a 'pick of the week' in the Sydney Morning Herald following the launch on 20 November 2014. For more details, visit the University of Canberra website:

<http://www.canberra.edu.au/monitor/2014/november/not-for-glory-book>

Save the Date

**The next Australian Army Public Relations Service
Corps Conference will be held at the
1st Joint Public Affairs Unit in Canberra
on 21 May 2015.**

All serving AAPRS members are invited to attend.

Travel and accommodation costs will be borne by the member's unit.

Further details will be promulgated via email and ForceNet in March.

AAPRS image gallery



Behind the scenes at Exercise Kowari

By CAPT James Hook

Exercise Kowari 2014 provided the AAPRS with a tremendous opportunity to promote the Australian Army on the international stage. The intent of Exercise Kowari was to showcase the growing relationship between Australia, China and the United States, while displaying cooperation and trust among the three nations. The exercise involved 10 military personnel from each country taking part in survival training in the Northern Territory. It was small in scale tactically, but of high strategic importance.

The instructors came from the North West Mobile Force (Norforce), home to the Australian Army's experts in survival training. The 1st Joint Public Affairs Unit furnished the Military Camera Team, comprising Warrant Officer Class Two Rob Nyffenegger and Corporal Jake Sims, with assistance during the Darwin phase from Able Seaman Nicolas "Speedy" Gonzalez, an RAN Imagery Specialist based at HMAS Coonawarra.

I was seconded from Norforce to be the Public Affairs Officer (Forward), having swapped roles with the 2nd Division's Captain Dougie McGuire, PAO (Rear).

Phase One involved six days of acclimatisation and "team bonding" activities in and around Darwin. This was covered by WO2 Nyffenegger and AB Gonzalez while I moved forward to the homestead of a cattle station in the Daly River region. Led by Norforce personnel, the Army established an RHQ (Tactical) in a station building, and conducted three days of incident management rehearsals.

On Day Seven, two Chinooks airlifted the 30 participants from Darwin to a bush landing zone about 20km from RHQ Tac. This was the start of Phase Two: seven days of survival training.

First person off the first Chinook was CPL Sims. He sprinted to the edge of the LZ and began photographing the participants as they disembarked.



The second Chinook then came in low, directly over CPL Sims' head.

From a distance, it appeared that CPL Sims had executed a double somersault with half pike while having 2kg of vegetation and topsoil inserted into his uniform, nostrils and ear holes.

However, according to aviation liaison officer Captain Ian Robertson, CPL Sims was simply in the undershoot of a fully-laden 40,000lb twin-rotor workhorse. "He experienced the maximum potential rotor downwash, and was deposited suddenly and violently on his arse," CAPT Robertson said.

Our task was to provide stills, video and copy, meeting a daily 1600 deadline so that material could be cleared by Australian, Chinese and US officers in Darwin.

This immediately proved problematic: the deployable DRN could only cope with transmitting text files.

CPL Sims and WO2 Nyffenegger discovered a private WiFi network at the homestead. The owner agreed to allow large data files to be transmitted, but the network couldn't cope with the video files. These were copied to disc and transported to Darwin every two or three days by truck or Chinook.



The local WiFi network failed after a week. Signaller Ryan McNamara happily explained at length why satellite transmission around midday was not possible, but our eyes and brains glazed over and we focused instead on finding a Chinook passenger to take the photographs to Darwin.

I was reminded of my father's tales from Indo-China in the 60s and 70s, when he said it was often easier to get the story, than to get it back to ABC in Australia.*

The MCT did not miss a single deadline during its 12 days in the field.

A highlight of the experience was working with a group of Australian Army interpreters led by Major Garth Fallon.

Their role was to assist with communication between the Chinese soldiers and the Australian and American personnel. They also interpreted all the instructors' lessons, and were the only troops in the field who worked harder than the MCT.

We added to their workload by employing them as interpreters for interviews. This ensured we obtained intelligent and articulate answers from the Chinese soldiers, rather than monosyllabic responses in broken English.

Another highlight was the "welcome to country" by Indigenous Traditional Owners from the Daly River region.

All military personnel present, not just the 30 participants, were welcomed by Traditional Owner Patricia McTaggart from Nauiyu Nambiyu.

Two Indigenous stockmen, Johnny Banjo and Peter Martin, then blew water from Glass Water Creek into the navel of every man present.

CPL Sims took a portrait photograph of Mr Banjo (below) which caused a sensation when a copy was sent to Nauiyu Nambiyu. The general consensus was that Mr Banjo looked like a movie star.

As Exercise Kowari reached its third phase – the five-day survival phase – the MCT’s workload increased, with three relocations of its camp, longer treks to the participants’ camps, and a daily drive to the Tactical RHQ along a rapidly deteriorating dirt track with five cattle gates to negotiate.

CPL Sims’ first turn at gate duty was memorable. The vehicle stopped at the gate, CPL Sims got out and dragged the gate open, the vehicle passed through, CPL Sims closed the gate ... and found himself on the wrong side.

“He’s ex-Infantry,” WO2 Nyffenegger explained.

The participants emerged from the survival

phase to be greeted at the homestead by three major generals, a brigadier, several colonels, 60 military support personnel, a gaggle of visiting journalists, and a steak and seafood luncheon.

The MCT left the party early, flying back to Darwin with the media party, including the Channel Nine reporter who kept her lunch down for all but the final 60 seconds of the Chinook flight.

Then followed 90 minutes of intensive activity to meet the final 1600 deadline, followed by 30 hours tying up loose ends and hunting for souvenirs.

In closing, a recommendation to 1JPAU: install a sauna to ensure your personnel arrive in Darwin fully acclimatised on future assignments during the Top End “build up”.

*A War Correspondent in Indo-China:
www.australiansatwar.gov.au/stories



Senior Reserve Advisory Group

CAPT Lily Mulholland

The Senior Reserve Advisory Group (SRAG) has met twice in 2014. The purpose of the SRAG conferences is two-fold: the HOC provides an update on issues related to the management of the AAPRS and the Corps Consultants provide an update on AAPRS issues within their geographic areas of responsibility.

The SRAG includes the five AAPRS Reserve LTCOL 'Corps Consultants' (Figure 1) and the COL COMDT.

One of the essential roles of the SRAG is to advise the Career Advisor Group within the Directorate of Reserve Career Management – Army (DROCM-A) in the recruitment of

Specialist Service Officers, as the Corps must recruit officers who not have the requisite tertiary qualifications and professional experience.

As AAPRS Reserve personnel on appointment are often posted to units as the sole Public Affairs Officer, HOC needs to ensure that robust technical advice and mentorship is available to the CAGs. The SRAG has been established to address this requirement at the regional level directly.

Region	Rank/Name
Vic/Tas	LTCOL Phil Pyke
SEQLD	LTCOL James Baker
SA/WA	LTCOL Sandra Turner
NQLD/NT	LTCOL Brendan Maxwell
ACT/NSW	LTCOL Christopher Holcroft

Figure 1. AAPRS Corps Consultants



ANZAC Biscuits

Ingredients

1 cup plain flour	125 g butter chopped
pinch of salt	3/4 cup desiccated coconut
1 1/4 cup rolled oats	2 tablespoon water
2/3 cup caster sugar	2 tablespoon golden syrup
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda	

Preparation

1. Preheat the oven to 150°C. Lightly grease two baking trays with melted butter and line with a sheet of non-stick baking paper.
2. Sift the flour and salt into a medium mixing bowl. Add the rolled oats, caster sugar and desiccated coconut and mix well.
3. Combine the butter, water and golden syrup in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat until the butter melts and the mixture is well combined. Remove from the heat and stir in the bicarbonate of soda (the mixture will begin to froth). Working quickly, add the butter mixture to the dry ingredients and mix well to combine.
4. Roll the mixture into balls and place on the prepared trays, allowing room for the biscuits to spread. Flatten each biscuit slightly with your fingertips. Bake in the preheated oven for 8 minutes, then swap the trays and bake for a further 7–8 minutes, or until the biscuits are golden around the edges.
5. Allow to stand on the trays for 5 minutes before transferring the biscuits to a wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with the remaining biscuit mixture.

Source: <http://www.readersdigest.com.au/anzac-biscuits>

Australian Army Public Relations Service Association



The AAPRS Association

COL John Weiland

AAPRS Association President, Klaus Boehme, reports that most former members have now been contacted, a group email list has been established and their personal details recorded. Work has also been completed on a dedicated AAPRS web site: <http://penoversword.army>

He also stated that the Department of Veterans' Affairs recently announced the construction of a new memorial dedicated to War Correspondents and is scheduled for completion next year at the Australian War Memorial.

It will be dedicated to Australian War Correspondents, photographers, artists and film crews, aimed at encouraging public reflection on the important role that they have played in documenting Australia's military history.

This may prove to be a good opportunity for past and present Corp's members to get together at the proposed unveiling and for those available, attending an informal function afterwards. More details to follow.

Message from the Chief of Army

Following the adoption of SAFEBASE CHARLIE on 19 Sep 14, there has been inconsistency across the ADF regarding the wearing of uniforms in public. There are examples of unit commanders within the same geographic location applying different direction on the wearing of uniforms. This not only creates confusion within bases, but also encourages the perception of an uncoordinated ADF response more broadly.

The CDF has clarified his direction on the wearing of uniforms [see DRN for details]. You are to apply the CDF's direction, noting that uniform policy is to be applied no lower than at base level and that SADFOs are to clear their base policy with respective Service HQs prior to implementation.

As members of the Australian Army, we are part of an institution that is held in high esteem by the Australian people and by wearing the uniform of our nation we demonstrate a proud history of service before self. The public also take confidence in seeing service members present in their communities. Our men and women should continue to wear their uniform in public with pride. They must, however, be cognisant of their own personal circumstances and apply sound judgement when deciding when and where to wear their uniform.

I require you to apply the CDF direction and to ensure the application of a consistent approach across our bases.

DM

D.L Morrison
LTGEN
Chief of Army

AAPRS ARES Officer Vacancies

AAPRS has several ARES officer vacancies in locations around Australia.

As an ARES Officer, candidates will be required to undertake the broad spectrum of public affairs functions including:

- Leading Army public affairs teams in support of Army activities (including exercises and operations);
- Providing public affairs and issues management advice to Army commanders;
- Developing and implementing strategic, operational and tactical communication strategies;
- Undertaking effective media liaison, escort and support duties;
- Preparing media releases;
- Conducting media awareness training for Army personnel; and
- Overseeing the gathering, management and quality of Army public relations product (including stills and video imagery, and articles for Army publications).

If you know someone you think would be a suitable candidate, point them in the direction of the relevant Corps Consultant (see p.12 for details) and the Army Recruitment website:

<http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/army/jobs/PublicRelationsOfficer/>





The December 2014 edition of *Pen over Sword* was produced by
CAPT Lily Mulholland, SO2 (Res) to HOC AAPRS.

The next edition is planned to be published in June 2015. While a call for news items will be
issued in April, contributions are welcomed throughout the year.

Please send contributions by email to lorraine.mulholland1@defence.gov.au.

