

More from the Middle East

Assistant Commissioner George Thomas was recently deployed forward to Afghanistan for two weeks in his role as Philanthropic Representative with the ADF in the Middle East Region.

George travelled by C130 Hercules aircraft via Kandahar to Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) in Kabul where the HQ Task Group Afghanistan, which leads Operation Highroad, is located. For more information about Operation Highroad check out <http://dod.tplhost.com/play/2012#> Here he linked in with the ADF Chaplain and over the following two weeks spent part of his time at Qargha, HKIA and HQ Resolution Support in Kabul.



Travelling from Qargha to HKIA ACOM George was accompanied by ADF personnel moving out for a well deserved two weeks leave out of country.

Qargha is where ADF personnel are involved in training and mentoring at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy. George spent time with the soldiers here, who were able to share their experiences and talk about their families and interests back home. He was able to share the ANZAC Biscuits and sweets he had brought with him. He also upgraded some sports items and arranged to send forward items not held by these troops. The travel from HKIA to Qargha was by Bushmaster and the professionalism of the young Australian soldiers was commendable and instilled confidence while travelling through areas where security incidents may occur.

On return to HKIA he was involved with ADF personnel there and also coalition troops particularly through assisting in the chapel service led by the ADF Chaplain in the absence of the US Chaplain. The choir there was outstanding with great gospel messages from the mainly African-American singers.

The latter part of his stay was at HQ Resolute Support. The ADF is playing an important part in this 42 nation NATO led operation, aimed at building a stable infrastructure in Afghanistan and it was impressive to observe junior NCOs and soldiers, some who finished recruit training at Kapooka less than a year ago, working to move and protect the senior officers travelling about their duties in the centre of Kabul. These young soldiers are proud of their role and all Australians should be proud of them. In talking with them, they often expressed how important Everyman's had been in helping them succeed in completing their recruit course successfully. The environment in which these soldiers operate is quite intimate and the opportunity to talk with a fresh face who had the time to listen was clearly appreciated.

George is confident he was able to provide positive value to the ADF members while in HKIA, Qargha and HQ RS and he says he has learned much that will be helpful in supporting personnel as they move through the logistics base where he is normally located. He views the time spent with the ADF in these forward locations as an enormous privilege.

CO-LABOURERS

At Everyman's we realise we can make a small impact on the ADF, but in conjunction with fellow ministries, the results are magnified. We gratefully acknowledge these like-minded ministries with whom we work to serve the ADF:

Chaplains	FOCUS	Military Christian Fellowship (MCF)
Navigators	SASRA	Red Shield Defence Service
Focus on the Family	Solid Rock	The Bible Society
Naval Military and Airforce Bible Society		

Everyman's National Conference 2017



Pictured Back Row: Rep Jeff Greene, Rep John Turner, Rep Glenn Tweedale, Rep Chris Wainwright, Rtd Rep Yvonne Jones, Rep David Tong, Rep Adrian Steen, Rep Neil McGinn, Rtd Rep Ivor Jones, Community Supporter James Black.

Front Row: Rep Warren Clarke, COM Phil Marshall, Conference Keynote Speaker Berni Dymet, Christianity Works, CCOM Ken Matthews, Snr Rep Louise Hochwimmer, Rep Chris Kemper, Rep Kristian Kemper
Everyman's Reps and staff were treated to some insightful workshops and messages at this year's National Conference, with Keynote Speaker, Berni Dymet from Christianity Works.com. Berni has some 14 years of military service giving him a good understanding of the military culture we work in.

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National Headquarters
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admin@everymans.org.au

PO Box8
BANDIANA MILPO VIC 3694
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since 1940

ONPATROL

Patron
His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

August 2017

From the Chief Commissioner Ken Matthews



The middle of 2017 brings us to a time where we are extremely grateful for each of our supporters, whether it is financial support, or the moral support of those who keep us in their thoughts and/or prayers. I could never have guessed that one day the Governor General of Australia would not only be our Patron, but would graciously agree to unveil a Brew Truck, generously donated by the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Foundation, at Government House, Canberra.

However with our gratitude for all that has been done to support and uphold our welfare work with Defence, also comes the realisation that our work must go on. We live in challenging times where much is asked of Defence. Not only do they face the challenge of being in extremely dangerous places on Operations, but the strain on normal family life that it creates can trigger tensions, not seen in most other day to day occupations at home. Everyman's continues to show our concern by being there in the Brew Trucks in the most remote and inhospitable locations this country has to offer. And we will continue on overseas operations in the Middle East, working with other welfare agencies, as a listening ear and a place of refuge.

Our Everyman in the Middle East has recently returned home. Whilst on deployment, he was able to spend a fortnight in Afghanistan on a forward operating base, and the Everyman's presence with some sweets and refreshments from home, was greatly appreciated. It has opened the doors to move forward again in future deployments, for the Everyman to visit our Defence. This will not only be on our main logistics base in the Middle East Region, but to Afghanistan and potentially Iraq. Your on-going support is vital as we seek to maintain and enhance this service. At home our Brew Trucks are the biggest single expense. Maintenance and upkeep of these vehicles is no small task in terms of making sure they are fit to traverse our rugged landscape. Overseas, potential provision of a bulk supply of ANZAC biscuits and other home comforts is lacking due to financial constraints. There is nothing like a traditional ANZAC biscuit to brighten the day of a member of the Defence Force when they are far from friends and family in a foreign country. Let us know how you can assist this vital welfare work to our men and women who are risking all to uphold our nation's security.

Every blessing
CCOMM Ken

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News from the Middle East...



All ADF personnel arriving in the Middle Eastern Region (MER) undergo confirmation training before moving to their deployment posting. This training includes Combat First Aid under simulated conditions while wearing appropriate battle equipment. In the hot conditions of the region, the presence of the Everyman at the conclusion of training with cool water and frozen Zooper Doopers, as troops call the flavoured ice tubes, is a sight most welcomed by personnel from all three services.

At left, Everyman's ACOM George Thomas, who has recently returned from deployment as the Philanthropic Officer with HQ Joint Task Force 633 in the MER, is seen handing an icy treat to ADF personnel at the conclusion of their Combat Battle Casualty First Aid exercise.

George's work at Australia's main operating base involves visiting administrative personnel, as well as those working outside in extremely hot conditions. Some are completing Reception Training as they enter the theatre, while others are operating forklifts and undertaking aircraft servicing at various locations - some kilometres apart within the airbase. His role is made easier with the use of an allocated vehicle, fitted with an Engel refrigerator and an insulated shoulder slung bag. This way he is able to offer frozen Zooper Doopers and sweets to personnel in all locations on the base. More details on the base can be found at <http://www.defence.gov.au/Operations/OpAccordion/default.asp>



Above, ACOM George Thomas in the field on the firing range ready to share frozen zooper doopers with troops undergoing weapons tests.

Did you know...?

- Everyman's Welfare Service was formed by businessman, Len Buck in 1940 to serve the veterans of World War 2.
- In the years since then, Everyman's has relied on prayer and financial support by interested Christians, Churches, currently serving and retired Service personnel and their families; RSL Sub-Branches around Australia and Businesses.
- Everyman's employs 2 part-time staff and currently has 19 volunteers.
- We are registered:
 - as a charity with the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission) where you can view our latest audited Financial Report;
 - as a company with ASIC (Australian Securities and Investments Commission);
 - and we have deductible gift recipient status with the ATO (Australian Taxation Office).
- We choose to have our financial records audited every year, although this is not legally required. It is important to us to be good stewards of the donations we receive to ensure the greatest benefit to the veteran community.

Fleet Project 17

In recent years we seem to have been continually asking for donations to upgrade our fleet of vehicles. We have four that were manufactured in the 1990's and six between 2000 and 2005.

The vehicles we have purchased in recent times have been deployed with units in Queensland, where there is a considerable amount of work, in time and distance, expected of them. They support the ADF in some extreme locations from Cultana in South Australia to Titjikala in the Northern Territory; and in Queensland, they venture out to Shoalwater Bay, Wide Bay and High Range, Townsville. They can be gone for months at a time, and the weather conditions can vary, as you can probably imagine, from hot and dry to bitterly cold and muddy! Our Reps love being out there supporting the ADF, and often allied forces as well, as they undertake these exercises, to ensure they are always fit and ready for the challenges of this uncertain world we live in. As the vehicles age, they are re-deployed to locations where the demand on them is not as punishing, and so with some TLC, we can extend their life and usefulness to Everyman's and the ADF. As much as we care for them, they do reach an age where the cost of maintaining them would be better put towards the purchase of a newer vehicle with lower maintenance costs. In addition to replacing our ageing fleet, we have also needed to expand it to meet the demand in recent years to provide, re-establish or expand services on some bases (Royal Military College at Duntroon; Enoggera, Canungra and ARTC Kapooka). This is where the fleet renewal project started and it will be ongoing for the foreseeable future. Please support us to support the ADF.



As the sun rises on Exercise Talisman Saber 17, Snr Rep Richard Gibson and Support Vehicle Northern are inundated with soldiers looking for a warm brew!

EWS LOCATIONS

- 9FSB & RAAF Base, AMBERLEY, QLD
- Kokoda Barracks, CANUNGRA, QLD
- Gallipoli Barracks, ENOGGERA, QLD
- Victoria Barracks, PETRIE TERRACE, QLD
- HMAS Kuttabul, HOME BUSH, NSW
- Navy Accommodation, STRATHFIELD, NSW
- 17 Brigade, RANDWICK, NSW
- Blamey Barracks, KAPOOKA, NSW
- Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA, VIC
- Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA, VIC
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC

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Exercise Talisman Saber 17

Senior Representative Richard Gibson has had the most amazing time supporting the troops on Exercise Talisman Saber 17 at Shoalwater Bay recently. Amid perfect weather he had some great opportunities to talk with different small groups of soldiers, explaining the reason that he works as a volunteer with Everyman's.

In appreciation of all his hard work, Richard was surprised to receive an award two weeks into the exercise, from the Brigadier of 6th Brigade, Susan Coyle, while serving the Kiwis and Americans at Blue Force. The inscription reads "Presented for Excellence Enabling the Warfighter"!

On his first exercise back in 2012, Richard took a great photo (below left) of a perfectly formed rainbow covering the Brew Truck and the Mobile Rec Centre just after he had prayed for the safety of the troops.

This year, while he was waiting on the side of the road in almost the same place, another perfect rainbow appeared covering him and the brew truck (right). His heart skipped a beat and his faith was lifted higher than ever before, because the Bible tells us the rainbow is a sign of the covenant God established between himself and all life on the earth. (Genesis 9:8-17)



Interview with Recruit Salim Zuberi by Rep Warren Clarke at Kapooka

Recruit Salim Zuberi (pictured at left) from Brisbane has been faithfully serving God whilst training at Kapooka. His Church and Pastor have been praying for him, asking the Lord to give him grace throughout his training and time in the Army. When I finally caught up with him at the Rifle Range, I asked him how he was going. He said "Because the Bibles and EWS Daily Breads are the only reading material we are allowed to have, I have been faithfully answering questions posed to me from my fellow recruits about my faith in God and Jesus."

W: How do you feel about this? "It reminds me of who I am in Christ and why I need to answer the call of witnessing to others no matter where I am. It encourages me when I pray for those whom are seeking answers, as to who they are in life. I tell them that they were created by God, and for God, and I try to encourage them into understanding that God has a purpose for their lives."

W: This is great news, so I guess that God has blessed you here? "I have been struggling to get

used to Army life, but knowing that God is here with me, and knowing that I have a purpose here to reach out to other recruits, has motivated me to carry on. This I count as a blessing.

I am doing my Gap year in the Army but now I am not sure as to where God wants me in the future, but no matter where that may be, I am ready to do God's will."

What great faith Salim has in the Lord. The prayers of his Pastor and Church have truly been answered. Although this story is about Salim, he is not the only recruit witnessing to his platoon, for we also have Recruit Mortimer sharing God's word with several of his fellow recruits.

There is a great hunger for the word of God at Kapooka and throughout the ADF and we should all take heed of the faithfulness of Recruits Zuberi and Mortimer, who share the Gospel message at Kapooka, where recruits and staff are under a lot of stress as they complete their basic training. If you do, then you will find out that in God's Army, God has your back no matter where you are in life.