

IN BRIEF

Gulf War Syndrome revisited

THE Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) has decided to re-examine Gulf War Syndrome following the release of findings from a study of US Gulf War One veterans by the US Veterans' Affairs Department. The study found evidence that confirmed the disease is real, and could be associated with the use of Pyridostidmine Bromide pills, a drug issued to the 1873 Australian personnel serving in the Gulf at the time to combat the effects of exposure to nerve agents. The RMA has invited interested people and organisations to make submissions on the matter after obtaining a copy of the RMA Submission Guidelines from www.rma.gov.au. Submissions close on May 29.

Fromelles contract awarded

OXFORD Archaeology will excavate the mass burial site of Australian and British World War I soldiers at Fromelles in France. Defence Science and Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon said the Australian and British Governments would share the cost of the Pheasant Wood excavation, which is expected to begin in May and take up to six months. The Army is developing a list of 1st AIF soldiers it believes might be buried at the site and is encouraging potential relatives to register on Army's Fromelles Relatives database. Visit www.defence.gov.au/fromelles or contact 1800 019 090.

Car hire trial ceases

TWO days' free car hire will no longer be available to ADF members when they arrive on relocation to Darwin or Tindal. The Directorate of Housing and Removal Policy advises that the change will take effect from April 1. Under the trial, two days' car hire - excluding fuel costs - was available to members posted to Darwin and Tindal while they were awaiting the transportation of their private vehicle. Due to the low take up rate, the Personnel Steering Group decided to terminate the trial.

Correction

THE article entitled "Hard slog rewarded" on Page 9 of the February 19 edition stated that Lt Simon O'Brien was awarded the Sword of Honour and the Queen's Medal at the RMC Graduation in December. In fact, the Queen's Medal was presented to Lt Hailey Smith. **Army** apologises for the error.

\$21m memorials promote identity

THE winning design for the national World War I and II memorials has been announced by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in Canberra.

Mr Rudd said the design produced by Richard Kirk Architect Pty Ltd and chosen from 43 others, represented not only those who served and died in both conflicts, but those on the home front as well.

"The monuments' design will communicate the inspirational and timeless messages to reflect the spirit, sacrifice and commitment of the Australian nation during the World Wars," he said.

"The thoughtful design will further promote understanding and a sense of national identity while also providing an enduring point of focus and reflection for all Australians and international visitors alike."

The black and grey granite memorials, which will be situated on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin at the bottom of Anzac Parade, are expected to cost \$21m to complete.

The Federal Government has donated \$250,000 towards the project which will rely on public donation to fund.



The plan: Architect, Richard Kirk explains his winning design for the national World Wars I and II memorials to PM Kevin Rudd. Photo by Lt Kris Gardiner

THE WINNING DESIGN

- ▶ The memorials are designed with special cuts in the stone and will be built aligned to the altitude and azimuth of the sun.
- ▶ Visitors to both memorials will witness lighting effects which will appear at dawn on Anzac Day, at 11am on Remembrance Day and on the anniversary of the end of the Battle for Kokoda.
- ▶ The memorials will be surrounded by poppies planted in terraces denoting the battlefields of both World Wars.
- ▶ Every community in Australia that lost members to the wars will be represented including the number of those who died.

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Simulation to aid safe lifting

By Edwina Callus

THE task of transporting slung loads from Chinooks is likely to become significantly safer thanks to Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) research.

DSTO researcher Dr Rami Reddy instigated the research program after being struck by the level of risk associated with carrying multiple slung loads of mixed density.

"It was clear to me that stability and control problems would present significant challenges to Chinook operators carrying slung loads," Dr Reddy said.

Currently the safe operating envelope for loads is established through flight testing over a range of increasing airspeeds, which is a costly exercise and not without some risk.

The goal of the slung loads research is to build a simulation capability to predict the flight


conditions under which a particular load becomes unstable. This can allow the flight testing to be safer and more targeted.

Current research efforts are focusing on a Chinook carrying a disabled Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) as a slung load and future efforts are expected to include investigation of a Chinook carrying an MRH 90.

For such slung loads, flight trials present far too great a risk

of airframe loss. Computational modelling of ARH and MRH behaviour as helicopter external loads is considered the best prediction and risk mitigation available if the need arises to recover an ARH or MRH 90 with a Chinook.

The simulation tool developed by DSTO will be able to provide Chinook operators with an invaluable insight into the flight conditions under which a load becomes unstable.




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