KEEPING THE PEACE
Investigating Australia’s contribution to peacekeeping
September 2017 marks seventy years since Australians first served as international peacekeepers. Since then, Australia has been a significant and consistent contributor to peacekeeping operations across the globe. While most of these operations have involved the United Nations, Australia has also participated in Commonwealth and regional initiatives. Australia’s peacekeepers have brought a variety of specialist skills to meet the specific requirements of each operation. They have been selected from military, police and civilian backgrounds, and have served in armed and unarmed capacities. Their service has helped establish Australia’s reputation as a willing, experienced and generous contributor to regional and global peace and security.

While peace is the ultimate goal of peacekeeping operations, the process of achieving that goal is often complex, dangerous and frustrating. Australia has established a strong record of acknowledging and commemorating those who have served Australia in times of war. More recently, we have also focused on giving appropriate recognition to those who have represented Australia on peacekeeping operations. Keeping the peace aims to further assist with raising this awareness.

Wendy Sharpe, Girls in Suai (2000, gouache on paper, 25 x 35 cm, AWM ART91141)
ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

Keeping the peace explores Australia’s contribution to international peacekeeping operations. The investigations are aligned to the Australian Curriculum, allowing Year 10 and senior secondary students to develop appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding.

Structure and components
This resource contains four investigations, each incorporating background information and structured learning activities.

Background information
This section provides historical information and expands on the themes that are explored in each investigation.

Learning activities
Within each investigation, the learning activities include:
• a learning sequence with strategies to engage students in an historical inquiry
• a rich selection of primary and secondary sources
• reproducible student activity sheets, where appropriate

The Australian Curriculum
This resource is aligned to the Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences. The themes explored in the investigations support the History and Civics and Citizenship content descriptions at Year 10, and the History content descriptions for senior secondary levels. By adopting an inquiry approach and presenting numerous historical sources, the investigations also support the development of historical skills identified in the curriculum.

Year 10
History
Continuing efforts post-World War II to achieve lasting peace and security in the world, including Australia’s involvement in UN peacekeeping (ACOKFH021)
The significance of World War II to Australia’s international relationships in the twentieth century, with particular reference to the United Nations, Britain, the USA and Asia (ACDSEH110)

Civics and Citizenship
The Australian Government’s role and responsibilities at a global level, for example provision of foreign aid, peacekeeping, participation in international organisations and the United Nations (ACHCK091)

Senior Secondary
Modern History, Unit 4: The Search for Peace and Security
The reasons for the creation of the United Nations and its immediate successes, including the UN Security Council; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Genocide Convention 1948; and the Geneva Convention 1949 (ACHMH223)
The role and outcomes of the United Nations as peacekeeper in specific conflicts and disputes, for example Korea 1954–1955, the former Yugoslavia after 1989; Rwanda (1993–96); Cambodia up to the first elections in 1993; and East Timor/Timor–Leste (1999–2008) (ACHMH225)
The contribution of Australia as a peacekeeper since World War II, including the military, civilian police, mine-clearers, weapons inspectors and diplomats (ACHMH226)
The nature of responses and the success of governments and the UN to conflicts and threats in the post-Cold War period (1991–2010), including national counter-terrorism actions, efforts to ensure disarmament and non-nuclear proliferation; and the resolutions of the UN Security Council (ACHMH228)

Learning Approach
The investigations in this resource adopt an inquiry approach. The aim is to engage students in a learning journey as they construct their own understandings about Australia’s contribution to international peacekeeping operations. Each investigation focuses students on a question and provides a range of source material for them to explore and analyse. Students are encouraged to reflect on the inquires and draw their own conclusions.

The resource offers a rich selection of primary and secondary sources, including photographs, artworks, letters, media articles and official documents. These sources are organised around themes and activities, and encourage students to explore a variety of perspectives.

The activities within the investigations are also varied, catering for differing learning styles and developing a range of learning objectives. They aim to enhance not only students’ knowledge and skills, but also to develop their empathy.

While learning sequences are provided for each investigation, it is intended that teachers will adapt the activities to meet the needs of their students and their own learning objectives.

The publication is available on The Anzac Portal at www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au
Students can complete the education activities at www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au/education-activities

Disclaimer
The Department of Veterans’ Affairs cannot be assumed to agree with or endorse any content or opinions expressed in websites or publications quoted or referred to in this resource.
**Investigation 1**

**WHAT IS PEACEKEEPING AND WHY DO WE NEED IT?**

**Introduction**

This investigation explores the nature of peacekeeping, and highlights the new and ongoing threats to peace and security that it aims to address.

Investigation 1 includes background information and two inquiry-based activities.

**ACTIVITY 1**

**The role of peacekeepers**

Students analyse images to identify some of the roles and contexts in which Australian peacekeepers have operated.

**ACTIVITY 2**

**Threats to peace and security**

Using newspaper headlines as a stimulus, students identify and reflect on the situations, events or actions which can threaten peace and security.

**Background information**

Australians have been contributing to international peacekeeping operations since 1947, when a small group of Australians were deployed to what is now known as Indonesia. During the last seven decades tens of thousands of Australians have been involved in peacekeeping operations.

In line with the principles of peacekeeping, all operations have required the consent of the country’s involved, impartiality, and a minimum use of force. Many of the operations to which Australia has contributed have involved regional neighbours, including Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and East Timor. Australian peacekeepers have also served in other parts of the world, including Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The power struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States known as the Cold War dominated the decades following the Second World War. It led to ongoing tensions and conflicts between the nations that were affiliated with these two major powers. While conflicts between nations have continued since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, there have also been numerous conflicts within nations. In 1992 Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, then Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), stated:

…fierce new assertions of nationalism and sovereignty spring up, and the cohesion of States is threatened by brutal ethnic, religious, social, cultural or linguistic strife. Social peace is challenged on the one hand by new assertions of discrimination and exclusion and, on the other, by acts of terrorism seeking to undermine evolution and change.

These destabilising trends have continued to the present day, and Australian peacekeepers continue to face real danger when they serve in parts of the world where law and order has collapsed. In addition, new threats have emerged, such as increased chemical warfare capability and cyber warfare.

In response to such changes, peacekeeping has become more complex and more broadly based in recent decades, with diplomats, military personnel, medical teams, civilian police and non-government aid organisations all contributing to operations. Today, Australian peacekeepers can be called upon to fill a wide range of roles, including conducting armed patrols, clearing mines, inspecting weapons, providing health services, monitoring elections or a combination of these. In addition, these same personnel can be used to provide international humanitarian assistance which, although outside the parameters of peacekeeping, requires many of the same skills.
ACTIVITY 1: The role of peacekeepers

Sources A to K explore the nature of peacekeeping by showing some of the roles that Australian peacekeepers have performed over the last seventy years. Analyse the images to complete the following activities:

1. Peacekeeping is used as a general term to refer to peace operations. However, peace operations can include many dimensions, which the United Nations (UN) describes as:
   - peacekeeping – supporting the implementation of a ceasefire or peace agreement
   - conflict prevention – diplomatic activity to prevent escalation to violence
   - peacemaking – mediation to negotiate an agreement between hostile parties
   - peace enforcement – coercive measures including military force
   - peacebuilding – strengthening a nation’s capacities for sustainable peace and development
   Explore each image and consider which dimensions of peacekeeping it might depict, then complete the table provided after the sources.

2. There are three basic principles that frame peacekeeping operations:
   - consent of the main parties to the conflict
   - impartiality by the peacekeepers
   - a minimum use of force
   Reflect on these principles and the roles depicted in the images. What are the similarities and differences between peacekeeping and other types of service undertaken by the Australian Defence Force?

Source A
An Australian Army legal officer instructs Indian troops with the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda on the rules of engagement and orders for opening fire.

Source B
Rick Amor, Sandbag position, Komoro Airport, Dili (1999, Gouache on paper, 27.6 x 58.1 cm, AWM ART91051)
This painting depicts an Australian soldier with the Australian led International Force in East Timor in 1999.

Source C
Australian soldiers serving in Kibeho, Rwanda, in 1995. An estimated 2,000 unarmed Rwandans were massacred in the Kibeho refugee camp during the previous three days.

Source D
A member of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands destroys weapons as part of the process of bringing peace and stability to the nation, August 2003.

Photographer Tim Page, AWM FD04959 (32)
Source E

A doctor from the Australian Army Medical Aid team in northern Iraq treats a malnourished Kurdish refugee, 1991.

Source F

George Gittoes, *A plea for peacekeepers* (1994, Drawing, 44 x 62cm, AWM ART90364)

This drawing depicts an Australian peacekeeper serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation in Israel negotiating with three Palestinian elders.

Source G

Australian Defence Force personnel in Somalia provide humanitarian relief by lowering bags of grain from a helicopter, 1993.

Source H

An Australian member of the Peace Monitoring Group talks to locals during a routine patrol in Bougainville, 2000.

Source I

Australian Federal Police officers oversee safe transport of ballot boxes following the referendum to allow the East Timorese to choose between autonomy within Indonesia or independence, August 1999.
Members of the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police, serving with the UN in Cambodia in 1992, look for equipment stolen from the UN in local shops and markets.


Explore each image and tick to indicate which dimensions of the peace process it might depict. You may select more than one.
ACTIVITY 2: Threats to peace and security

Australia has been involved in international peacekeeping from 1947 to the present day. The following newspaper headlines reveal some of the events, situations or actions worldwide that have posed a threat to peace and security during this period. Read the headlines on pages 12 to 15 and complete the following activities.

1. List the different types of situations, events or actions that can threaten peace and security.
2. Referring to the dates of each headline, consider how the types of threats may have changed or stayed the same over the last seventy years.
3. What do you believe are the major threats to peace and security today? Answer this by writing a personal reflection based on your understanding of global issues today. Create a title for your reflection piece by developing your own headline. Your headline should gain the attention of readers and capture the essence of your thoughts.

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Indonesians ‘massacre 100’ in East Timor

The Canberra Times, 13 November 1991

HUMAN-RIGHTS GROUP

‘Mass genocide’ in Cambodia

The Canberra Times, 1 July 1978

U.S. ATTACKED HIJACKED JETS DESTROY TWIN TOWERS AND HIT PENTAGON IN DAY OF TERROR

The New York Times, 12 September, 2001

DUTCH-INDONESIAN TENSION

Possibility Of War After Talks Break Down

The West Australian, 15 December 1948

Military experts say climate change poses ‘significant risk’ to security

The Guardian, 14 September 2016

Chemical weapons condemned

The Canberra Times, 10 September 1988

NORTH KOREA AT WAR WITH SOUTH

INVASION BY REDS: AIR ATTACKS

U.S, Call For Urgent U.N. Action

The Adelaide Advertiser, 26 June 1950
RWANDA

Minority deaths
The Canberra Times, 1 March 1973

BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR ZIMBABWE–RHODESIA:

Plan ‘recipe for coup’
The Canberra Times, 28 October 1979

CALL FOR BAN ON WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
The Northern Star, 2 January 1954

RAF Tornados join US in first raids on Bagdad
‘Desert Storm’ launches Gulf war
The Yorkshire Post, 17 January 1991

PNG expects new fight on Bougainville
The Canberra Times, 18 August 1992

Somalia’s food appeal
The Canberra Times, 11 July 1995

Israel Battling Arabs in 3-Front War
The Herald Tribune, 6 June 1967
**Investigation 2**

**WHY WAS THE UNITED NATIONS ESTABLISHED AND WHAT IS ITS ROLE?**

**Introduction**
The United Nations (UN) was formed in the aftermath of the Second World War with the aim of facilitating international peace and security. This investigation explores the role of the UN and Australia’s involvement as a member state.

Investigation 2 includes background information and three inquiry-based activities.

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**ACTIVITY 1**

**The purpose of the United Nations**

Students undertake a document analysis of the Preamble to the United Nations’ Charter.

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**ACTIVITY 2**

**The United Nations and peacekeeping**

Using statements made at a recent Security Council meeting about South Sudan, students consider the complex issues associated with international peacekeeping operations.

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**ACTIVITY 3**

**Australia and the United Nations**

Students analyse historical sources to explore Australia’s ongoing involvement with and contribution to the UN.

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**Background information**

In 1945, during the final months of the Second World War, representatives of fifty nations met in San Francisco to negotiate the role and structure of the United Nations. The UN officially came into existence on 24 October 1945 with fifty-one member states. Its primary role was, and remains, the maintenance of international peace and security. Today, there are 193 member states.

The main operating bodies of the UN are:

- **General Assembly** – where all member states deliberate.
- **Security Council** – this fifteen-member group is primarily responsible for international peace and security, so it plays a central role in instigating and reviewing UN peacekeeping missions. There are five permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and ten non-permanent members, elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.
- **Economic and Social Council (UNESCO)** – responsible for sustainable development.
- **The International Court of Justice** – settles legal disputes in accordance with international law.
- **The Secretariat of the Secretary-General** – responsible for administration, the secretariat implements decisions made by the UN decision making bodies.

Funding for the UN system comes from member states and private sector donations. In addition to the main bodies there are many affiliated programs and agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Bank.

At the San Francisco Conference, the Australian delegation represented the interests of smaller, less powerful nations. It played a significant role in finalising the text of the Charter of the UN, and in negotiations about the veto power of the Security Council. This contribution was recognised when the General Assembly voted for Australia to have a non-permanent seat on the Security Council from 1946–1947. The Australian barrister and parliamentarian, HV ‘Doc’ Evatt was also elected as President of the General Assembly from 1948–1949.

In the decades since 1945, the Australian government has continued to be an active contributor to the UN, as reflected by this statement on the website of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations:

> Australia is firmly committed to effective global cooperation, including through the United Nations (UN) and its specialised agencies and regional commissions. Engaging with the multilateral system is a key pillar of Australia’s foreign policy. This is because we live in a complex, inter-connected world where countries cannot address on their own some of the major challenges we face today.

Australia’s commitment is also reflected in the numbers of peacekeepers that Australia has provided for UN missions over the decades. It is worth noting that not all Australian peacekeeping operations have involved the UN.
THE PURPOSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

While Australia assists the international community in various ways, most Australian peacekeeping activities have been undertaken as part of a United Nations mission. Australia has been a member of the UN since it was founded in 1945.

In this activity, you will explore the aims of the UN by completing a document analysis of the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations. The charter was created in 1945 at a conference in San Francisco, which was attended by representatives from fifty countries. The charter came into force on 24 October 1945.

Read the preamble and answer the following questions.

1. Creator(s): Who were the authors of this document? What processes may have been used during its creation? What influence may this have had?
2. Context: When was this document written? Where was it written? What was happening in the world at this time?
3. Audience: Who was the intended audience for the preamble? Is this evident in the language, tone or content? Provide examples.
4. Content: What information and ideas are presented in the preamble? List at least three examples you think are significant.
5. Purpose: What is a preamble? Why was it written? What reaction were the creators hoping to elicit from their audience? Use examples from the preamble to answer this question.
6. Reliability and usefulness: In what ways is a preamble to a treaty a useful historical source? What might it not tell us? Given its context and purpose how useful and reliable is it as a historical source?
7. Interpretation: What does this source tell you about societal values and attitudes in 1945? What does it tell you about international relations at the time? What does it tell you about the foundation and role of the United Nations?

CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our life-time has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

AND FOR THESE ENDS

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

ACTIVITY 2: Threats to peace and security

Today, the United Nations is a large international organisation with a complex structure, as set out in its charter. The main deliberations about maintaining international peace and security take place in the Security Council. The Security Council has only fifteen members (five permanent and ten non-permanent) but all member states must comply with its decisions.

In this activity, you will imagine you were a member of the Security Council at a meeting on 12 August 2016, where a resolution to increase the peacekeeping force in South Sudan was discussed.

Read your briefing paper and the arguments presented by some of the Security Council members, and use this information to answer the following questions.

1. What were the arguments given for extending and increasing the peacekeeping mission in South Sudan? What were the arguments against?
2. Why do you think members came to different conclusions regarding this resolution? What factors may have influenced their perspectives?
3. What factors need to be considered before sending peacekeepers to any conflict area?
4. How would you have voted if you were a representative on the Security Council at this meeting? Write a short statement to justify your reasons.

BRIEFING PAPER: South Sudan
August 2016

Background
South Sudan is a very new country, having been declared the Republic of South Sudan in 2011 after decades of civil war and a six-year peace process with the Republic of Sudan. In the same year, the UN established a peacekeeping operation – the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) – to help consolidate the peace and assist development. Since a violent outbreak in 2013, South Sudan has experienced further civil war and ethnic violence. UNMISS continues to operate today, and has an increased mandate with a focus on the protection of civilians and cessation of violence. South Sudan remains a highly fragile state.

Meeting agenda
The Security Council meeting on 12 August 2016 will discuss and vote on Resolution 2304 (2016) which primarily aims to:

- Renew the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 30 June 2017, authorising the expansion of peacekeeping forces and stressing the priority of civilian protection in its mandate. It also demands that all parties immediately put an end to fighting and implement the previously agreed ceasefire.

All fifteen members of the Security Council, and a representative from South Sudan, will be able to make a statement before a vote is taken.

The following extracts are from UN summaries of what was said by seven of the Security Council members.

United States (Voted for resolution)
DAVID PRESSMAN highlighted the urgency for action...

United Kingdom (Voted for resolution)
PETER WILSON said adopting the resolution was a vital decision that created a protection force under the Mission. The Government had the primary responsibility to protect its own people. That, however, did not mean obstructing the Mission in fulfilling its mandate and humanitarian actors from assisting civilians.
Russian Federation (Abstained)

PETR V. ILIICHEV said his delegation had abstained from the vote as agreement had not been reached on such key issues as the consent of the South Sudanese authorities. Stressing that consent was a cornerstone of the principles of peacekeeping and was also critical for practical reasons...

China (Abstained)

LIU JIEYI, emphasising that African people should resolve African issues in an African way... As the situation was still very severe and complicated, the international community must make efforts to bring the parties back to the trajectory of implementing the peace agreement.

Venezuela (Abstained)

Mr. TORO said he had not voted in favour of the text as it had been drafted without consulting with the Transitional Government... Calling upon the Council members to respect the principle of sovereignty, he stressed the need for more diplomacy and dialogue and less threats and sanctions.

Angola (Voted for resolution)

JULIO HELDER MOURA LUCAS said he had voted in favour of the resolution in order to bring peace to South Sudan with the international community’s support... While the basic principles of peacekeeping called for consent of concerned parties, he emphasised that the lack of support provided by the Government of South Sudan might have a negative impact on the successful implementation of the Mission’s mandate.

Malaysia (Voted for resolution)

RAMLAN BIN IBRAHIM said the adoption demonstrated the Council’s willingness to solve multifaceted challenges. The peace process had not been sustained, he said, calling on South Sudan’s leaders to urgently prioritise the security of its people, regardless of their ethnicity...

Resolution 2304 (2016) was passed by eleven votes in favour to none against, with four abstentions.


ACTIVITY 3: Australia and the United Nations

Australia was a founding member of the United Nations and has made significant contributions to the organisation for over seventy years. Use sources A to G to explore Australia’s involvement with the UN and complete the following activities.

1. What are some of the different ways that member states can contribute to the UN? In what ways has Australia contributed to the UN since 1945? Why might Australia have made these contributions?

2. Each year, Australia selects a youth representative to make a presentation at a UN meeting in New York City. Imagine that you have been given this opportunity. Your task is to write a speech that highlights Australia’s role as a UN member state. As a young Australian, what message would you like to deliver? Consider the following issues as you draft your speech:

- Australia’s past contributions to the UN
- the advantages and/or disadvantages to Australia of its ongoing contribution to the UN
- the impact that Australia’s support of the UN may have on international peace and security

Source A

HV ‘Doc’ Evatt (centre), speaking at the United Nations in New York on 4 May 1949. Evatt was elected as the president of the General Assembly from 1948 to 1949, while he was the Australian Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs.

AWM P01756.001

AWM REL_10794
**Source B**

**Extract of address by HV ‘Doc’ Evatt to the General Assembly, 18 September 1947**

Important though proposals for specific disarmament may be, and bound as we are under the Charter to facilitate their study, they cause a tendency to turn the thoughts of people away from the two main objectives of the organisation.

The first of these two objectives is the prevention of war and the substitution of methods of conciliation and arbitration for those of force and violence... The injury and damage that may now be inflicted as a result of modern scientific intervention is so vast, and so rapidly extending, that war, however conditioned and restricted by rules and regulations, is bound to threaten permanent devastation of the human race. Enemy No. 1 is, therefore, war itself.

National Library of Australia, JAFp SOC 2015

**Source C**

Australian barrister Sir Percy Spender served on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) from 1958–1967. Based in the Netherlands, the ICJ is the judicial branch of the UN and has fifteen elected judges. A second Australian judge, James Richard Crawford, is currently serving on the ICJ.

AWM 001915

**Source D**

The Canberra Times, 2 October 1974, page 1

**Source E**


Australia held the first Presidency of the Security Council in 1946 and provided the first military personnel as peacekeepers under UN auspices a year later, to Indonesia.

Since it last served on the Security Council in 1985–86, Australia has further developed its expertise in preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and disarmament. We look forward to sharing this expertise with members of the Security Council...

Australia supports reform of the Security Council and its working methods to better reflect the modern world and ensure it is accessible to small and middle-sized countries.

**Source F**

The UN Secretary-General meets with the Permanent Representative of Australia to the UN in February 2015.

Australia maintains Permanent Missions to the UN in New York, Geneva and Vienna to coordinate the work of the General Assembly and specialist UN agencies such as the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the World Health Organisation.

**Source G**

From Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website, 2017

Australia has been actively involved in peace operations for nearly seventy years. We have provided military and police personnel to more than fifty United Nations and other multilateral peace and security operations since 1947. We continue this tradition today, with Australians serving in peace and security operations across the globe...

Australia is the 11th largest financial contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget.
Investigation 3

HOW HAS AUSTRALIA CONTRIBUTED TO INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING?

Introduction
This investigation explores Australia’s contribution to international peacekeeping since 1947, and the way in which this service is commemorated.

Investigation 3 includes background information and three inquiry-based activities.

ACTIVITY 1
An overview of Australian peacekeeping
Students analyse data about Australia’s contribution to peacekeeping operations since 1947.

ACTIVITY 2
Examples of Australian operations
Exploring four examples, students consider the variety of operations to which Australians have contributed.

ACTIVITY 3
Commemorating Australian peacekeepers
Students consider issues related to the commemoration of Australian peacekeepers.

Background information
Australia has a strong record of contributing to international peace and security. In the seven decades since 1947, tens of thousands of Australian personnel have served in peacekeeping operations across the globe. Many but not all of these operations have been mandated by the United Nations (UN).

In 1947, the first Australian peacekeepers served as military observers to a UN operation in the Netherlands East Indies (present day Indonesia). Australian military personnel, through ongoing rotations, have served continuously in peace and security operations in the Middle East since 1956; and police officers had a continuous presence in Cyprus from 1964 to June 1977. During the 1990s Australia, in its role as a ‘good international citizen’, provided peacekeepers to many parts of the globe – from overseeing Cambodia’s first democratic election, to ensuring that victims of famine and violence in Somalia received food aid.

Statistics relating to the deployment of personnel demonstrate the role Australia has taken as a regional leader. Australia’s contribution to the region has included leading the multinational Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville from 1998 to 2003, commanding the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) from 1999 to 2000, and taking a leading role in the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) from 2003 to 2017.

With such a large number of personnel having been involved in often-dangerous peacekeeping operations over seventy years, it is inevitable that some Australian peacekeepers have suffered trauma, injury and death. In earlier decades, debate occurred about an appropriate way to commemorate their service. It is now recognised that although there are some aspects of peacekeeping that are unique, the operational experience of peacekeepers can have much in common with service in warlike contexts. A national memorial has been developed to commemorate the significant contribution made ‘in the service of peace’ by Australian military, police and civilian peacekeepers.
ACTIVITY 1: An overview of Australian peacekeeping

This activity explores Australia's contribution to peacekeeping operations since 1947. Explore the table provided (a world map may also be useful) and analyse the data to identify any trends, patterns or relationships:

- Has Australia been more active in particular regions?
- Have there been decades of greater contribution?
- Have larger forces been provided in certain regions?

Use your data analysis to write a brief overview of Australia's contribution to peacekeeping since 1947. What conclusions can you draw about the priorities of Australian governments in relation to peacekeeping?

A select list of Australian contributions to international peacekeeping operations since 1947

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Type of mission</th>
<th>Number of Australian troops*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1947–51</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1951–present</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kashmir</td>
<td>1950–85</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel &amp; neighbours</td>
<td>1956–present</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1974, 1978</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>a few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>1960–61</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>a few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West New Guinea</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>1964–present</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinai</td>
<td>1976–79</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1982–86</td>
<td>Multinational monitoring force</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1993–present</td>
<td>Multinational monitoring force</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1973–80</td>
<td>Commonwealth monitoring force</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>1982–84</td>
<td>Commonwealth monitoring force</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran/Iraq</td>
<td>1988–90</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand/Cambodia</td>
<td>1989–93</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>1989–90</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan/Pakistan</td>
<td>1989–93</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian Gulf</td>
<td>1990–present</td>
<td>Multinational maritime force</td>
<td>600+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>1991–99</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2002–03</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>a few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Sahara</td>
<td>1991–94</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>1991–92</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1992–93</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>500+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>1992–93</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1993–95</td>
<td>UN peacekeeping</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The number of Australian troops is based on the maximum number of personnel deployed to the operation at any one time. These numbers are primarily from statistics presented in an Australian Senate Committee report: http://www.aph.gov.au/library/committees/fadt_ctte/peacekeeping/report/report.pdf
**ACTIVITY 2: Examples of Australian operations**

This activity explores the details of four peacekeeping operations in which Australia has been involved. Explore the source material provided to identify the purpose of each operation and the role that Australia played, then complete the activities below.

1. Use the activity sheet provided (after the examples) to record your findings on each operation. The following information will assist you with completing this task.
   - **Operation:** What was the operation called?
   - **Dates:** Over what years did Australia participate in this operation?
   - **Location:** What country/s did it involve?
   - **Situation:** What was the circumstance or crisis that created the need for peacekeepers?
   - **Mandate:** Who authorised the operation? Was it part of a United Nations mission?
   - **Personnel:** How large was the Australian force? What Australian personnel were involved, for example, Australian Defence Force, police, diplomats?
   - **Form of assistance:** What roles did the Australian personnel perform, for example, medical assistance?
   - **Actions:** What tasks were undertaken during the operation? What did the operation achieve?

2. What are the benefits to Australia of providing international peacekeeping? What are the costs and dangers? In what ways do these factors differ from case to case?
Source A
Extract from the UN Security Council resolution 1264 (1999), 15 September 1999

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, [The Security Council]

1. Condemns all acts of violence in East Timor, calls for their immediate end and demands that those responsible for such acts be brought to justice;
2. Emphasizes the urgent need for coordinated humanitarian assistance and the importance of allowing full, safe and unimpeded access by humanitarian organizations and calls upon all parties to cooperate with such organizations so as to ensure the protection of civilians at risk, the safe return of refugees and displaced persons and the effective delivery of humanitarian aid;
3. Authorizes the establishment of a multinational force under a unified command structure, pursuant to the request of the Government of Indonesia conveyed to the Secretary-General on 12 September 1999, with the following tasks: to restore peace and security in East Timor, to protect and support UNAMET in carrying out its tasks and, within force capabilities, to facilitate humanitarian assistance operations, and authorizes the States participating in the multinational force to take all necessary measures to fulfil this mandate…

Source B
Extract from Prime Minister’s speech in the House of Representatives, 21 September 1999

Mr HOWARD (Bennelong – Prime Minister) (2.00 p.m.)
– I move that this House:

(1) notes the overwhelming choice for independence exercised by the East Timorese people on 30 August;
(2) welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 1264 authorising a multinational force to restore peace and security in East Timor, protect the United Nations’ mission in East Timor and facilitate humanitarian assistance;
(3) endorses Australia’s agreement to the United Nations Secretary-General’s request that Australia contribute to and lead the multinational force;
(4) expresses its full support for the Australians serving with the multinational force and its full confidence in them; and
(5) looks forward to their safe return home.

Source C
An Australian soldier takes cover in the streets of Dili in September 1999. Australian peacekeepers arrived in East Timor on 20 September 1999, when violence erupted after the East Timorese voted for independence from Indonesia.

Source D
These Australian soldiers are part of the Australian contingent of more than 5000 that served with INTERFET, October 1999.

Source E
Australian female soldiers man a watchtower at the INTERFET Headquarters in Dili, 12 November 1999.
Australian soldiers search a militia suspect on a street in Dili shortly after INTERFET’s arrival in East Timor.
Photographer Stephen Dupont, AWM P04315.037

Hand-painted sign in Dili, January 2000. INTERFET provided much needed security in East Timor for five months after the Independence referendum. It concluded in February 2000 when it handed control to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), which had responsibility for building sustainable peace and developing the new nation.
AWM P03605.545

A crowd of Timorese gather around an Australian medical clinic being conducted from an Army land rover, 17 November 1999.
AWM P03584.346

Hand-painted sign in Dili, January 2000. INTERFET provided much needed security in East Timor for five months after the Independence referendum. It concluded in February 2000 when it handed control to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), which had responsibility for building sustainable peace and developing the new nation.
AWM P03605.545
After years of conflict between the two main ethnic groups – the Hutu and Tutsi – extremist Hutus instigated a genocide in April 1994. In just three months up to 800,000 people were brutally murdered and killed.

Source A

George Gittoes, Mass grave (1995, Drawing, 51 x 37.6 cm, AWM ART90437)

The Security Council condemns all these breaches of international humanitarian law in Rwanda, particularly those perpetrated against the civilian population, and recalls that persons who instigate or participate in such acts are individually responsible. In this context, the Security Council recalls that the killing of members of an ethnic group with the intention of destroying such a group in whole or in part constitutes a crime punishable under international law.

Source B

Source C

Members of the Australian Medical Support Force (AMSF) assist a Rwandan victim of an anti-mine blast to walk at Kigali Hospital. These men were part of the first Australian contingent, which served in Rwanda from August 1994 to February 1995.

Source D

Two Australian soldiers, with responsibility for providing infantry protection, talk with local children in Kigali, 26 September 1994. Both 300-strong AMSF contingents included medical personnel, infantry, engineers and other supporting units.

Source E

An Australian medic sprays pesticide to prevent disease at a refugee camp in Kibeho, 8 November 1994.
Statistics supplied by Defence state that over 12 months, the two contingents performed 750 operations on 547 patients; 85% of the patients were civilians; 74% were operated on for trauma-related injuries, of which 36% were war-related; and 39% were children.

From Australian War Memorial website www.awm.gov.au/collection/C146299
MEDIA RELEASE
JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Defence

FA149
BOUGAINVILLE TRUCE MONITORING GROUP
5 December 1997

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexander Downer, and the Minister for Defence, Mr Ian McLachlan, announced today that a group of Australian officials will arrive on Bougainville on Saturday 6 December to commence truce monitoring operations.

They will form part of a team of 85 monitors drawn also from New Zealand, Fiji and Vanuatu. Their main function will be to observe and report on the truce agreed between the parties to the Bougainville conflict in October and to provide information to the Bougainvilleans on the truce process.

The Australian officials, all civilians, come from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (8), the Department of Defence (5), the Australian Federal Police (4) and AusAID (2). They are expected to stay on Bougainville until late January.

The Ministers said that as well as contributing civilian monitors Australia, through the Australian Defence Force, is providing a significant part of the administrative and logistical back-up required for the effective operation of the truce monitoring group.

Australia’s support for the truce monitoring operation was a further clear indication of its readiness to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the tragic Bougainville conflict.

The Ministers noted that Australia played a vital role in transporting delegates to the meeting in New Zealand in October which resulted in agreement on a truce. It hosted an officials’ level meeting in Cairns in November which produced a commitment to assist the truce monitoring operation and to ensure its safety.

Australia had also agreed to a request to transport delegates to a planned Leaders’ Meeting, to be held in New Zealand in mid-January.

In addition, more than $130 million has been committed by Australia for the reconstruction of Bougainville and the restoration of services on the island.

For enquiries:
Defence Minister’s Office:
Mr Jim Bonnor: 02 6277 7800
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Mr Tony Melville 02 6262 1555/1556

Source B
Bougainvillians gather at a reconciliation ceremony in a village north of Arawa in 1999. Beetle nut and a pig are being prepared as a traditional offering to end hostilities. After years of civil war, the signing of a ceasefire on 30 April 1998 also marked the transition of the peacekeeping operation from the Truce Monitoring Group (TMG) to the Peace Monitoring Group (PMG).

Source C
Members of the multinational Peace Monitoring Group fly from Australia to Bougainville to take up peacekeeping duties in March 2000. The Australian component, which peaked at about 250 people, included civilian peace monitors and unarmed Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel.
Source D

ADF personnel help build confidence in the peace process by discussing and distributing peace related information, January 2001.

AWM P03517.003

Source E

A Royal Australian Air Force dentist serving with the PMG extracts a tooth at a dental clinic in the village of Atamo, May 2000.

AWM P03518.003

Source F

Bougainville peacekeeping mission ends in tune

An unusual experiment in unarmed peacekeeping came to an end yesterday when an Australian-led force of 5000 concluded a largely successful bid to bring peace to Papua New Guinea’s war-torn Bougainville Island.

Troops from Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu and Fiji lowered their flags in a ceremony marking the end of their five-year mission on Bougainville, where a nine-year secessionist war left thousands dead ...

The Age, 1 July 2003
Aussies to help destroy weapons

Australian scientists and defence experts will join a special United Nations mission inside Iraq to oversee the destruction of Saddam Hussein’s chemical and biological weapons.

The UN insisted that Iraq destroy its ‘weapons of mass destruction’ – chemical, nuclear and biological weapons – as part of its Gulf War peace agreement.

The UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, has 45 days to set up a ‘special commission’ to make sure Iraq complies with the UN demand.

Official Canberra sources said yesterday that the Government would announce this week that Australia would join the group, possibly as early as next month...

Australia has pushed hard in the UN and in disarmament talks in Geneva for a world-wide ban on chemical weapons and has led regional banning efforts.

Government sources said there had been ‘active discussions’ with the UN about the size of Australia’s involvement, which was likely to involve at least six scientists and other experts...

Extract from United Nations Special Committee report, December 1999

The implementation of section C of resolution 687 entailed a three-stage process. These stages were not mutually exclusive. Indeed, there was much overlap:

(a) an inspection and survey phase to gather the information necessary to make an informed assessment of Iraq’s capabilities and facilities in the chemical, biological and ballistic missile fields;

(b) the disposal of weapons of mass destruction, facilities and other related items through destruction, removal or rendering harmless and the destruction of ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 km, including launchers, other items and repair and production facilities;

(c) long-term monitoring to ensure ongoing verification of Iraq’s compliance with its obligations under paragraph 10 of resolution 687 – principally not to reacquire banned capabilities – in accordance with the plan prepared by the Special Commission and approved by the Security Council in its resolution 715 of 1991.
Australian soldiers wear protective plastic coverings while working in an office. Nearly 100 Australians served with UNSCOM between 1991 and 1999, during which time up to six ADF personnel were deployed on six-month rotations.

Source F

A member of UNSCOM prepares projectiles fitted with mustard gas for destruction.

Source G

This Al Hussein Scud missile nose cone was removed by Australian members of the Chemical Destruction Group. It was from one of the many missiles that were destroyed by UNSCOM.

Source H

Use the guidelines provided to complete this form for each of the four examples.

| Operation: |  |
| Dates: |  |
| Location: |  |
| Situation: |  |
| Mandate: |  |
| Personnel: |  |
| Form of assistance: |  |
| Actions: |  |
ACTIVITY 3: Commemorating Australian peacekeepers

Commemoration of those who have served Australia is often associated with particular wars or conflicts. Yet many Australians have also been injured and some killed while serving their country during peacekeeping operations. Activity 3 explores the ways in which peacekeepers are commemorated.

1. The Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial is a set of bronze plaques that record the names of Australia’s war dead. A 2013 press release announced a significant policy change regarding the Roll of Honour. Read the media release provided and answer the following questions:
   - What information is provided in this media release?
   - What is the significance of this change? What type of peacekeeper does it relate to?
   - Why do you think this decision was made?
   - What’s your opinion about this change?

2. As well as Australian Defence Force personnel, international peace operations often include civilian specialists, government employees and members of the police force. A national memorial to all Australians who have served as peacekeepers was dedicated in Canberra in September 2017. For information about this memorial visit http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

Imagine you were given the task of designing this memorial.

What would you want to convey for visitors to the memorial? Consider the values and ideas you would choose to present. What symbols, design and materials would you use? Sketch your design and create a supporting brief to justify your choices.

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MEDIA RELEASE
Friday 30 August

Australian War Memorial unveils new Roll of Honour panels

Today the Australian War Memorial has unveiled three new bronze panels on the Roll of Honour, commemorating an additional 48 Australian servicemen and women.

A historic decision was made by the Council of the Memorial on 6 March 2013 to amend the criteria for the Roll of Honour to include Defence personnel who have died in non-warlike operations.

The Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson said, “Today is a milestone for the 48 families of those whose names are being added to the Roll of Honour, for the Australian War Memorial and for Australia.”

“In future, when the government of Australia declares an operation which is named by the Chief of Defence, and men and women of the Defence Forces are deployed, should anyone lose their life as a result of that operation, their name will be added to the Roll of Honour,” said Dr Nelson.

Before the criteria for inclusion on the Roll of Honour were amended, members of the Australian Defence Force who had died during or as a result of non-warlike operational service – including peacekeeping and humanitarian operations – were commemorated in the Remembrance Book.

“An ongoing challenge for the Memorial is to recognise the changing nature of war and conflict. Remaining true to the vision of Charles Bean, the Memorial’s founder, the inclusion of these names on the Roll of Honour fittingly remembers the sacrifice made by these servicemen and women on behalf of all Australians,” said Dr Nelson.

In addition to installing the new panels on the Roll of Honour, the panels for conflicts since 1945 have been reorganised in the eastern cloisters, to provide continuity from the Second World War through to Afghanistan. The new panels recognising the sacrifice of those killed in non-warlike operations have been placed on the end wall of the cloisters.

The Last Post Ceremony this afternoon will include the story of Captain Peter McCarthy, one of the 48 servicemen and women added to the bronze panels today. Captain McCarthy, from Quirindi, NSW, died in 1988 when his jeep hit a landmine while he was serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in South Lebanon. He was the first Australian Army officer killed on overseas service since the end of the South Vietnam conflict. He was posthumously awarded the ANZAC Peace Prize, jointly with the Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping Commitment.
Investigation 4

WHAT DOES SERVICE INVOLVE FOR AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS?

Introduction
Given the many differing roles performed by Australian peacekeepers in the last seventy years, it is unsurprising that the personal experiences of peacekeepers have varied considerably. This investigation explores the stories of five peacekeepers.

Investigation 4 includes background information and one inquiry-based activity.

ACTIVITY 1

Experiences of peacekeepers
Students analyse five case studies to explore the implications of peacekeeping service from different perspectives.

Background information
While peacekeeping is initiated with constructive aspirations, it can in reality be a challenging, frustrating and highly dangerous task. In recent years, it has also become an increasingly complex and varied activity. Peacekeeping can involve armed or unarmed personnel performing tasks ranging from providing legal advice to destroying weapons or delivering medical services to the local population. Peacekeepers are selected as needs arise: they can be public servants, state or federal police, aid workers, scientific or other specialists, or Australian Defence Force personnel from all the services.

For many Australians who serve, peacekeeping is a personally rewarding experience. It can involve extensive training prior to deployment and support during the operation. It can help individuals build their skills, experience and career.

It can also bring the satisfaction of helping others and witnessing positive outcomes for unstable or disadvantaged regions. By its very nature, however, peacekeeping often occurs in volatile and dangerous situations. While some peacekeepers are armed and others unarmed – depending on the mission mandate – all peacekeepers are limited in the amount of force that they can use. At times, this can leave peacekeepers in challenging situations.

In 1995 during the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, for example, members of an Australian medical support team were present during a brutal massacre in a compound filled with refugees. Although armed, the Australians had neither the authority nor sufficient force to intervene. As infantry commander Lieutenant Steve Tilbrook, later wrote:

We didn’t like what was happening, but we knew that we couldn’t do anything to stop it. What we could do, though, was help as many of the wounded as we could.

Many of the individuals involved in this event were deeply traumatised. While the nature of operations varies considerably, peacekeepers can be exposed to large-scale human suffering or death.

Despite the challenges, peacekeeping benefits Australia in many important ways. Peacekeeping operations strengthen Australia’s diplomatic and international relations and help maintain regional peace and stability. Larger peacekeeping missions also provide the Australian Defence Force with valuable operational experience and the chance to utilise complex equipment in the field.
**ACTIVITY 1: Experiences of peacekeepers**

Explore the following case studies of five Australian peacekeepers. Consider the service of each peacekeeper from three different perspectives. What were the implications of each person’s service for the individual, the community in which they served, and Australia? Complete the activity sheet provided after the case studies.

NAME: Robert Nimmo  
ROLE: Lieutenant General, Australian Army  
OPERATION: United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)  
DATES: 1952–1966

These U.N. soldiers of peace carry no arms. They have no authority to issue orders. They live with the armies which are watching each other. Three months they serve on one side of the line, then three months on the other. The switchover is done to foster impartiality, lessen the chance of their becoming too attached to either side...

The U.N. military observers are assigned to keep an eye out for movements across the cease-fire line, and their ear cocked for any firing without advance notice within five miles of the line. They are also on the look-out for aircraft flying across the line and any build-up of forces behind the lines within Kashmir.

'The commonest alleged armistice violations report shovelling or work on positions after a heavy rain or snowfall', Nimmo said. 'The opposing side will say that the position is being enlarged. We check it and if there is no violation we report simply that. To go further might unnecessarily provide information to the opposing side.'

In cases where a violation is believed to have taken place, the general notifies the chief of staff of the guilty army. Usually, Nimmo said, prompt action is taken to correct the matter. 'We try to help keep things calm until the politicians can patch things up', Nimmo said. 'We act as a go-between and serve as an outlet for feelings along the cease-fire line. The mere fact that an investigation takes place does good.'

To a job requiring infinite tact and patience, General Nimmo has brought an astonishing wealth of these qualities. It is a special tribute in [India], where the dislike of the United Nations borders on hatred, that no one has a word to say against him. His contacts are only with the military. He has ignored the political issues as no concern of his, with the result he has won both military and political respect.
NAME: Marcus Fielding
ROLE: Captain, Royal Australian Engineers (Australian Army)
OPERATION: United Nations Mine Clearance Training Team – Afghanistan/Pakistan (UNMCTT)
DATES: February–July 1992

Fielding while serving with UNMCTT in Pakistan, 1992. He grew a beard during the posting to help establish rapport with members of the local community.

A photo taken by Fielding of a scrap metal merchant’s yard in the area of Afghanistan where he operated with UNMCTT, 1992. The child is packing live machine-gun rounds into empty tank shells for transport into Pakistan.

We cautiously approach the area where the explosion had just occurred. Minutes earlier a thunderous crack had ruptured the peace of the morning. A thin dirty black plume of smoke and dirt curled up into a clear blue sky. We knew what had happened because the explosion hadn’t been announced with the ‘Infegar! Infegar! Infegar!’ (Explosion) used to warn others of a planned detonation. A deminer had accidentally triggered a mine. Our task now was to determine what damage had been done.


Fielding’s photo of locals and members of the UN training team (dressed in local clothing) with heavy equipment used for detonating and clearing land mines in Khost, Afghanistan, 1992.

A photo taken by Fielding of locals and members of the UN training team (dressed in local clothing) with heavy equipment used for detonating and clearing land mines in Khost, Afghanistan, 1992.

Hello Gorgeous,

I’m happy with Harrison Geoffrey Fielding. You appear to be avoiding comment on Ginger. Let’s decide together what I get home. . .

The ultrasound sounds like fun. How many of those do you do? Will I get to see one? The ultrasound sounds like fun. How many of those do you do? Will I get to see one?

Yes, the photos of the mine injuries are really graphic – a missing hand or foot. It tends to make a mess of all the muscles and bone. We’ve just had another three in the last two weeks. Too much thinking about going home to Khost or fear. I’ve dealt from head injuries, toes, fingers and is seriously injured. . .

. . . people voluntarily moving back into mined areas is very bad – many civilian casualties, even though the fighting has never stopped (for a while at least). As you can imagine, this makes the programme very busy – everybody wants their area cleared! I’m glad your Mum can visit again. Thanks for the jellybeans. A reminder of the 10cm bean . . .

We tread carefully down the pathway through the old Soviet minefield and locate one injured Afghan deminer. His hand is missing several fingers and his face was peppered with small cuts and grit embedded in his skin. His eyebrows and hair are singed. We stem the bleeding and evacuate him to the camp’s first aid station. He was one of the lucky ones. Without a hand he will get some insurance money and still be able to work at something other than demining.


Letter from Fielding to his wife, 13 May 1992.

AWM P01728.015

NAME: Marcus Fielding
ROLE: Captain, Royal Australian Engineers (Australian Army)
OPERATION: United Nations Mine Clearance Training Team – Afghanistan/Pakistan (UNMCTT)
DATES: February–July 1992

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... the country had virtually no infrastructure or adequate health facilities, poor roads and communication and a list of the world’s nastiest diseases, not to mention that we were in the middle of a civil war in the most heavily mined country in the world ... a highly dangerous country that had seen genocide on a scale which is beyond our Western thinking and was struggling for democracy.

Norma Hinchcliffe & Lew MacLeod, ‘Bandits in Battambang’ in Willingly Into the Fray, 2010, page 263

On 7 April, while still at Battambang, I was on duty patrolling our perimeter with one of the corporal cooks. We heard the Duty Officer shouting, we ran to where the sounds were and I nearly collided with local bandits who were inside our perimeter stealing items from our Q store. Initially I saw three of them and they had no weapons. I had my weapon which I pointed at them. Then out of the corner of my eye I could see the barrel of an AK47 pointing at me from next to a tent. It took several seconds to register that this weapon was about five feet away from me and was pointing directly at me ...

He then motioned to me to put my weapon down which I did (my weapon was not in the instant and therefore I would have had to cock my weapon in order to fire it), and I did not know the condition of his weapon. I had my hands in the air and in an amazingly cool, calm voice I could hear myself saying several times ‘it’s OK, don’t shoot’, at the same time I could feel and hear the deafening pounding in my heart ...


On arrival I was approached by Corporal Phil Young to take over the care of the street kids of Battambang as he was returning to Australia. The first rotation had formed a club called G11 which consisted of Australians and New Zealanders and was set up to help the street kids ...

My first introduction to the street kids was one of initial shock. Kids from every nook and cranny came running up to Phil. I stood back in amazement and, when they all quieted down, Phil introduced them to me, and much to my initial horror, the kids grabbed my hands and clothing, they were filthy, had runny noses, were covered in sores, lice and other vermin, Phil said, ‘they are all feral and wild and I love them, but now they’re all yours’.

Norma Hinchcliffe & Lew MacLeod, ‘Bandits in Battambang’ in Willingly Into the Fray, 2010, page 263

Hinchcliffe received a Conspicuous Service Medal for her work with street children and as a medical administrator in Cambodia.
NAME: Susan Felsche
ROLE: Major, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps
OPERATION: United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)
DATES: June 1993

Felsche at Sydney airport as she was departing to serve as a medical officer with MINURSO in 1993.

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Military tribute

BRISBANE: A funeral with full military honours will be held on Monday for Major Susan Lee Felsche, who was killed in an aircraft crash in the Western Sahara earlier this week.

Major Felsche, 32, was on an Australian Army mission with the United Nations.

She is believed to be the first female soldier killed on operation overseas since World War II.

... She was a lady who never ceased to amaze me by her astuteness, energy, loyalty and dedication. She proudly wore the uniform of her nation and, judging by the many tributes which have been received, the nation is proud of her...

Susan died while doing what she did best – she was applying all her talents, all her enthusiasm and energy towards helping others, and knowing that eases the pain.

There is no doubt Australia has lost a remarkable citizen, the Army one of its best officers, the medical profession a dedicated and caring practitioner.

From eulogy given by Klaus Felsche at the military funeral for his wife on 28 June 1993. AWM PR00288


AWM PR00288

The wreckage of the Pilatus Porter aircraft which crashed in June 1993, killing Felsche, who was a passenger.

AWM P00783.007
NAME: Donald Barnby  
ROLE: Australian Federal Police officer  
OPERATION: United Nations Mission East Timor (UNAMET)  
DATES: June–September 1999

We had … the polling boxes in the back of the Land Rover all packed up and the polling papers all ready to go. Went down to the station at Gleno, piled in the car with our … East Timorese helpers. And we wound our way slowly up the mountain about five thirty a.m. in the morning. It was foggy, it was very misty … we had registered about five thousand East Timorese and we didn’t know, because of militia violence and intimidation … how many would actually turn up for the actual polling. And … I remember as I was driving, the head lights of the Land Rover went across the top, there was over two thousand people all sleeping in the basketball court and the wrecked buildings of the school. As we crested the rise, they didn’t know whether we were, who we were until they saw the UN on the side of the vehicle and they just drowned us out with cheers. It was the most moving sight I could ever imagine, it was just … I mean these people, just to be there they had slept, they had come there during the night because they knew that on polling day if they left their village, and some of them had twelve kilometres to walk over mountain foot pads, they knew the militia would get them on the way there … We actually had a little ceremony, cut the tape leading to the Polling Station.

Donald Barnby, Australians at War Film Archive, 14 August 2003

We flew into Darwin I remember, the C-130 stopped. These old ladies were there, the Country Women’s Association were there and basically, you know, we all looked like shit, hadn’t washed in three or four days, growths, muddy clothes. And they were giving us sandwiches and cups of tea and Paul and I just broke into tears, just absolutely hopeless. I remember ringing up Judy my partner and I couldn’t speak, I put all this money in the phone and I, I just couldn’t speak, she couldn’t speak and, ‘I’m here, I’m in Darwin, safe’. Just yeah, it was pretty horrendous bloody time, yeah.

Donald Barnby, Australians at War Film Archive, 14 August 2003

… as the chopper took off, sorry, one of the ballot boxes was open and all … the ballot papers flew around and all over the place. So we were running around through all this gunfire and rocks, picking up all these ballot papers. Cause every vote that was counted, or voted or registered, I mean you know, people sweated blood and tears literally to do it so we weren’t gonna lose one paper. So we ran around, picked them all up … secured the box.

Donald Barnby, Australians at War Film Archive, 14 August 2003

… for the next five days we were literally under siege, we couldn’t leave the building … We looked out the window and there’s police and militia holding hands outside, looking and pointing at the window, going you know, literally, gestures of you die, we’re gonna get you.

Donald Barnby, Australians at War Film Archive, 14 August 2003

Members of UNAMET gathered around a UN Land Rover which was to join a convoy to evacuate local and international UN staff from Gleno to Dili. The group had been essentially held hostage in the area by the pro-Indonesian militia and had finally negotiated an evacuation, 2 September 1999.

AWM PS4407227

Barnby (2nd from right) and other police, with members of the pro-independence group Falantil at Ermera, East Timor. UNAMET peacekeepers had responsibility for registering locals to vote before the referendum and then overseeing the voting process.

AWM PS385524
Consider the service of each peacekeeper from three different perspectives and record your findings in this chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What were the implications of each peacekeeper’s service for:</th>
<th>the individual</th>
<th>the community in which they served</th>
<th>Australia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Nimmo</td>
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<td>Marcus Fielding</td>
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<td>Susan Felsche</td>
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<td>Donald Barnby</td>
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Department of Veterans’ Affairs: www.dva.gov.au
United Nations Association of Australia: www.unaa.org.au
In the service of peace

Australian Government
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