

Reward for a job well done

Border protection personnel finish six-month rotation

Leut Anthony White

SIXTY Operational Service Border Protection Medals were awarded to members of Transit Security Element (TSE) 80 at Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin during a parade to mark the end of TSE 80's six-month rotation.

Commander 8 Bde Brig Peter Connor presented the soldiers and sailors of TSE 80 with the medals on June 21, recognising their service on Operation Resolute.

Cpl Keelan O'Riley, of 12/16 HRL, took six months off from his civilian job in explosive ordnance services to serve as a reservist during the deployment, during which he was involved in intercepting fishing vessels operating illegally inside the Great Barrier Reef.

For Cpl O'Riley, it was the mixing of cultures that was the most rewarding element of his service.

"The opportunity to operate daily with Navy, Australian Border Force and Army on the one vessel was the highlight of the deployment," Cpl O'Riley said.

LCpl Mark Timp, of 2/17RNSWR,



From left, LS Simone Van Dam, LCpl Mark Timp, Sub-Leut Nicholas Storey and Cpl Keelan O'Riley display their Operational Service Border Protection Medals in Darwin.

Photo by AB Kayla Hayes

managed to chalk up some significant career statistics during the deployment.

"I managed to clock up more than 16,000 nautical miles at sea, and 10,000km in the air, which for an infantry soldier was not what I

expected when I joined," LCpl Timp said.

TSE personnel operate aboard ADF and Australian Border Force vessels on a rotational basis to provide security for illegal maritime arrivals, as well as board suspected illegal entry vessels.



From left: AAFCONS staff Bryanna O'Neill, Jacob Blakeney, Stewart McGrow, Jamie Lord and Adam Hyland in front of a food truck at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. Photo by Cpl Max Bree

Morale boost for troops out bush

BARISTA-made coffee was available to soldiers on the recent Exercise Diamond Sprint thanks to an AAFCONS field kiosk sent to Shoalwater Bay.

Commander 7 Bde Brig Tony Rawlins invited AAFCONS to deploy with the troops and provide amenities for the duration of the exercise.

Stationed at Camp Growl, the AAFCONS crew worked hard to make sure a warm coffee was available to the soldiers.

The field kiosk was organised by AAFCONS Area Manager Adam Hyland and resourced by his team from the Gallipoli Barracks canteen.

"The logistics organisation went really well and all levels of Army

leadership assisted to make this happen," he said.

The kiosk also provided cold drinks, hot food, jerky and confectionery, as well as health, convenience and personal products – all were welcomed by the troops to the point that AAFCONS was almost sold out of stock by the campaign closure.

The most popular was coffee – 1954 cups were sold – and the go-to meal was a warm ham and cheese toastie referred to by the troops as a "little bag of happiness".

AAFCONS is now out field for Exercise Hamel in Cultana, South Australia.

For more information on AAFCONS, visit www.aafcons.com.au

It's true!
Good things
can come in 3's

Enjoy the security of our 3 Year Fixed Rate Home Loan

3.99% p.a. | 4.87% p.a.

OUR RATE **

COMPARISON RATE *

▶ Apply in branch, online or call 1300 13 23 28 today



Australian Military Bank

australianmilitarybank.com.au

*This offer is only available for owner occupier, new loan borrowings of \$150,000 or more with a maximum LVR of 80% on a 3 Year Fixed Rate. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Terms, conditions, fees, charges (including early break fees) and lending criteria apply. These are available at the time of application. The DHOAS Fixed Rate home loan converts to the Standard Variable home loan, and the Standard Fixed Rate home loan converts to the Variable Offset home loan at the end of the fixed term. **Comparison rate is calculated on a 3 Year Fixed Rate home loan with a 3 Year Fixed Rate home loan comparison rate of 4.87% p.a. (including 1% p.a. on the first \$10,000 of the loan).