

# News Breakers

## AIR FORCE Reserve

September 2008

### No 23SQN Breaks New Ground

On assignment at RAAF Amberley, News Breakers interviewed SGT Rhonda Ball on a history making day for Air Force Reserve training.

Flexibility is a keyword in Reserve Training Wing's (RTW) latest Reserve training management program – flexible in its application, aimed to meet the needs of Air Force Reserve training requirements and flexible enough to suit the pathway of members' civilian jobs and domestic schedules.

No 23 (City of Brisbane) SQN was the first RTW SQN to implement new RTW initiatives, when the Unit recently presented the new Initial Clerk Block Training (ICBT) for six reservists from different parts of Australia.



Photo: CPL Melina Mancuso

Celebration was catching after all students learned they had passed the ICBT at 23SQN, Amberley.

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**Air Force Reserve – Real opportunities! Real strength!**



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The first ICBT was conducted at RAAF Amberley between 18 August and 6 September by SGT Rhonda Ball, 23SQN's Clerk Training Instructor.

SGT Ball told News Breakers, "The five modules of Clerk Training: Defence Writing; Personnel Administration; Finance Accounting; Movements Registry and Pay and Accounting Manuals, were presented over 19 days with a one day break".

"The training, consistent with RTW policy, was approached with dedicated enthusiasm by the students; I encourage interaction as it creates a healthy learning environment and a relaxed atmosphere".

The candidates were required to have completed several pre-requisite modules from the Clerk course prior to their arrival. Once at Amberley, the students took advantage of the facilitated self-paced learning environment to complete the clerk training modules.

SQNLDR Norm Siggee, CO 23SQN said, "The RTW model brings reservists together for selected training at an allocated RTW SQN, where one or two instructors provide block training in a group format".

"All such training programs utilise the resources developed for Reserve training by the relevant Permanent Air Force School – in this case, the RAAF School of Administration and Logistics Training (SALT)".

"In short, members travel to locations of concentrated resource availability and the system is proving to be highly efficient. This enables members to be posted to their WE units in a significantly shortened time frame, which in turn enhances overall AF capability".



Photo: CPL Melina Mancuso

SGT Rhonda Ball briefs ACW Kylie Jordon from 22SQN during Initial Clerk Block Training (ICBT). 23SQN was the first Unit to implement the training syllabus in line with Reserve Training Wing Policy.



Photo: CPL Melina Mancuso

History making ICBT graduates (L-R): ACW Kylie Jordon; CPL Trish Lomas, both 22SQN Richmond; LACW Carmel Involata, 27SQN Townsville; ACW Vanessa Cheng, 21SQN Melbourne and ACW Hayley Germain, 27SQN Townsville. (Course participant ACW Hayley Kirchner, 23SQN Amberley was absent.)



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“We engage their expertise as they are the ideas people; exposed to many of the great advances in health care – we take their advice and move forward where possible”.

Reflecting, GPCAPT Leshinskas said, “In 2000, HQ HSW commenced with 10 people and three subordinate units being: Health Services Flight and No 3 Combat Support Hospital, both at RAAF Richmond and No 1 Air Transportable Health SQN, Amberley”.

“In the early HSW days, we crawled for a while, however today the situation is very different – the HOCU is a significant step forward for Air Force Reserve, also the operational tempo provides for on-going Reserve employment; driven by Air Force’s need for skilled medical services from our SR reservists on operational deployment”.

“Without them, we don’t have a capability!”



Photo: HSW

Recently at HQ Health Services Wing, RAAF Amberley a Band 1, High Readiness Reserve Aero Medical Evacuation team member is seen checking medical equipment aboard a 36SQN C-17.



Photo: CPL Melina Mancuso

Health Operational Conversion Unit (HOCU), RAAF Amberley has the very latest in oxygen monitors; defibrillators; intravenous infusion pumps; ventilators and suction pumps for medivac use on Air Force C-17 heavy lift aircraft.

GPCAPT Mike Crimston, HOCU Project Officer and FSGT David Kadel, Logistics Specialist, check the specialist medical equipment inventory list.



Photo: HSW

CPL Erica Hooper, Band 1 High Readiness Reserve with No 3 Combat Support Hospital.