

MEDIA RELEASE



Peter Lindsay

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence

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LINDSAY MAKES A FLYING START TO THE DAY

Peter Lindsay MP, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence and Member for Herbert, made a flying start to the day, joining Air Force personnel in the RAAF promotional balloon over Canberra.

"My flight on the RAAF balloon was very different – but still quite a rewarding experience," Mr Lindsay said.

RAAF balloons are operated by No. 28 Squadron, based in Canberra. The Squadron conducts regular training flights in the Canberra region in addition to their touring program.

"The mobility of the RAAF balloons enables them to travel to many regional areas to promote the Air Force. I'm a strong supporter of the work the 28 Squadron Balloon Flight is doing to bring the Air Force closer to people – across Australia," Mr Lindsay said.

The RAAF balloon can support events where it may not be feasible to send other Air Force aircraft. Balloons are able to launch from an open field rather than an airfield, and then conduct low-level flights, so Air Force balloon crews have a great opportunity to engage local communities. This is especially true when the balloons are deployed to support regional events providing the public with tethered rides.

"Our balloons provide a very visible reminder of the proud traditions of Air Force and the exciting opportunities which exist in the Air Force today," Mr Lindsay said.

The balloons also highlight the role of RAAF Reservists. 28 Squadron almost exclusively relies on these exceptional people to keep the balloons flying.

"Air Force is a rich training ground and I encourage employers and industry to support any of their staff considering joining or who are already members of the Reserve forces because their military skills enrich your workplace," Mr Lindsay said.

Images supporting this release are available at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/media/download/index.cfm>

Media Information:

Media Advisor (Niki Lyons): 0418 762 307

Defence Media: (02) 6265 3343 or 0408 498 664

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