

## Calling All MEAO Veterans

In 2011, researchers from the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH) at the University of Queensland will be sending invitations to ex-serving and Reservist personnel for participation in the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) Health Study.

Of particular concern to CMVH researchers is evidence which indicates that physical and mental health outcomes for ex-serving members are different from those of serving members. For this reason, they are utilizing all resources available to reach the ex-serving community in order to provide members the opportunity to take part in this valuable research.

As part of the Military Health Outcomes Program (MilHOP), the largest health research program ever undertaken by the ADF, the MEAO Health Study aims to capture the health, wellbeing, and deployment experiences of ADF members who deployed to the MEAO since 2001.

This year, CMVH researchers will concentrate on reaching Reservist and ex-serving members who deployed to the MEAO. Formal invitations will be sent throughout 2011.

*"Given that ex-serving and Reservist ADF members can be more difficult to locate, we welcome these group members to contact us directly if they hear about the study before we are able to reach them,"* urges Associate Professor Susan Treloar, Head of the University of Queensland node of CMVH.

*"We need their current contact details in order to send information about how to join the study. Log-in and password details for a secure online survey will also be sent, or there is the option to do a mailed paper survey."*

CMVH is a university-based centre. Individual study responses and information are kept secure and confidential by authorized research staff at the University of Queensland and the University of Adelaide. The study has the endorsement of both the Chief of Defence Force and the Repatriation Commissioner. All participants can be assured that their individual privacy will be protected, and no identifiable information will be provided to the Department of Defence or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The overall results of the study will be important to both Departments in terms of revealing any linkages between deployment exposures and experiences, and subsequent health problems amongst veterans.

For further information on the MEAO Health Study, please visit [www.cmvh.org.au/milhop](http://www.cmvh.org.au/milhop). Enquiries are also welcome by contacting CMVH on freecall 1800 886 567 or email to [milhop@cmvh.org.au](mailto:milhop@cmvh.org.au)