

# Political and military history at ADFA graduation

Canberra was the scene of political and military history on December 12 when the first woman Acting Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, gave an address at the conferring of degrees ceremony at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

She told 653 graduates of the University of NSW, of which ADFA is an academic part, that the nation would place great responsibility on them in the future.

In a *Canberra Times* report by Defence Reporter David McLennan, she is quoted as saying, "I know that we are going to ask you to do a lot.

"We are going to ask you to shoulder the weight of responsibility; we are going to ask you to tolerate long separations from your family; we are going to ask you, on occasion, to put yourself in harm's way.

"And I am sure there are going to be times in the years to come that that will seem like a lonely task, when the burden will become heavy, that weight of responsibility we keep putting on your shoulders, when the separation from family will feel like too much to bear, when putting yourself in harm's way ... is too daunting.

"When those challenges come, can I say to you, I ask you to remember the camaraderie of this place, the joyfulness of this day and the fact that you have the support and the best wishes of the Australian people with you."

## Top award to midshipman

On the following day, December 13, the academy held its 21st anniversary graduation parade, during which its most prestigious award, the Commander in Chief Medal, was awarded to Midshipman Daniel Boettger by the Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd).

This medal is awarded to the most outstanding graduate in the fields of military and academic achievement as well as leadership, personal example and performance of duty.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshall Geoff Shepherd AO, representing the Chief of the Defence Force, presented the Chief of the Defence Force Sword of Honour for Leadership to Army Officer Cadet Roger Pilton.

OCDT Pilton displayed the highest standard of leadership and officer development amongst the graduating class.

Midshipman Ashleigh Payne, Officer Cadet Nathan Williams and Officer Cadet Aaron Thompson were awarded the Chief of Navy, Chief of Army and Chief of Air Force prizes respectively.

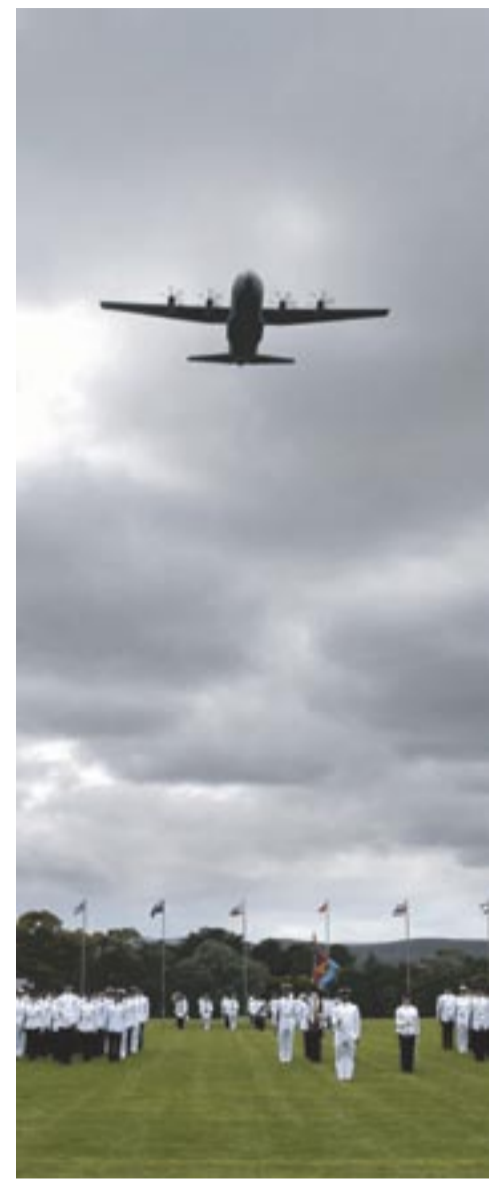
To honour the graduating class, an Air Force C130J Hercules aircraft from RAAF Base Richmond conducted a fly-past over the parade ground and the ADFA cadet body.

The Commandant of the Academy, Captain Peter Murray (RAN), congratulated 222 Navy midshipmen and Army and Air Force officer cadets who graduated from the academy. The graduating class's members have been posted to bases around Australia to continue their training.

Seven international students will return to their countries.



Officer Cadet Elly Poyntz receives the RSL Sword for outstanding achievement in leadership and officer development by a 3rd class officer cadet from the National President, Major General Bill Crews AO, at the ADFA prizes and awards ceremony.



A Royal Australian Air Force C-130J Hercules performs a fly past over and in honour of graduating ADFA cadets on parade.



Midshipman Daniel Boettger is presented with the Commander in Chief Medal by the Governor-General, His Excellency, Major General Michael Jeffery. Daniel, 21, grew up in eastern Tasmania, joined the Royal Australian Navy in 2004 and entered ADFA in January 2005.



At the ADFA degree conferral, from left: Officer Cadet Karen Brown, then Acting Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Officer Cadet Hailey Smith and Sub Lieutenant Amanda Buckland.



The Governor-General congratulates Officer Cadet Cheryl Moir at the ADFA graduation parade.