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VETERANS' NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL

ACT NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL

Politicians thank troops in Afghanistan



Pictures: Corporal (CPL) Ricky Fuller

The Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon. John Faulkner, thanks Australian Defence Force personnel in the Middle East for their continued efforts.



Warrant Officer Class 2 Jeramie Faint (centre right) answers a few questions from Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull (left) about the new Counter IED Training Facility built in Tarin Kowt during his visit to the province.

Minister at front

The Minister for Defence, Senator Faulkner, visited Australian troops in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan on June 14. He was accompanied by Chief of Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC AFC; Defence Secretary Nick Warner; and the Commander of Joint Task Force 633, Major General Mark Kelly AO.

In addition to briefings, Senator Faulkner took the time to sit and talk with Australian troops. When addressing the Australian forces at Tarin Kowt, Senator Faulkner thanked the men and women on the ground for their tireless work and dedication.

"I did want to say to you all how much we appreciate and respect what you are doing and thank you for the commitment you all make. The work that you do is absolutely critical and you all do your country proud."

Senator Faulkner received briefs from the Australian Headquarters in the Middle East as well as Australia's Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force and Special Operations Task Group.

This visit followed meetings between Senator Faulkner and coalition defence counterparts including the Secretary of Defence of the United States and United Kingdom and the ministers of

defence of the Netherlands, Canada and New Zealand.

The meetings were held near Maastricht, in the Netherlands, and at NATO HQ in Brussels in mid-June.

As part of the International Security Assistance Force, Regional Command (South) is responsible for military operations in southern Afghanistan, including in Kandahar, Helmand, Oruzgan, Nimruz and Zabul provinces.

Senator Faulkner said, "This meeting provided an opportunity for me to highlight Australia's enhanced commitment to Afghanistan and to coordinate this deployment with our partners in the south. I also welcomed the United States' increased troop presence.

"The increased security presence will assist the international community to reinforce the conditions required for reconstruction and development in Afghanistan and the successful conduct of the forthcoming elections."

Senator Faulkner also had discussions with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Afghan Defence Minister General Wardak.

"It has been of great benefit to meet with my international counterparts to discuss these important issues," he said.

New but familiar face takes over

John King is the new president of the JACT Branch of the RSL.

He began his career in the Australian Army as a National Serviceman in January 1971. In 1997 he transferred from the RAInf to the Army's Intelligence Corps. During the next 15 years John held many operational, instructional and staff appointments in Australia and with the United Kingdom Landforces, specifically in the counterintelligence and security fields.

In 1992 John left the Army to take up the appointment as the Program Security Manager, Force Executive, with the Office of the Chief of the Defence Force.

The same year he transferred to the Army Reserve, where he has served in a variety of appointments. In 2005 John transferred to the Standby Reserve where at present he holds the rank of Major.

In 1996 John moved to CSIRO where he is the National Manager, Security and Fraud Control.

His qualifications include a Diploma of Information Management and Analysis from the Defence Department and a Diploma of Security Risk Management from the Canberra Institute of Technology.



John King

He is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers.

Apart from being President of the ACT State Branch John is Deputy President of the Tuggeranong Sub-Branch.

In addition he is the President of the Board of Management at the Sir Leslie Morshead Home for Veterans and Aged Persons in Canberra.

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