



**AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER
VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

HEIDELBERG REPATRIATION VETERAN CENTRE
P.O. BOX 5444, HEIDELBERG WEST, VIC, 3081

(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)

ABN 59 558 194 094

Patron

**Major General (Professor) John
Pearn AO, RFD (Ret'd)**

Telephone: (03) 9496 2353

Fax: (03) 9496 2285

Email: kevin.ryan@austin.org.au

Website: www.peacekeepers.asn.au

*Affiliated with the Soldiers of Peace
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Also assisting Veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and Peacetime Service

*Commemorating 20 Years of The Army Contingent to the UN
Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC)*

23rd November 2011

**Viet Nam Veteran Family Study Consultative Forum
Report for Meeting 22nd November 2011,
Canberra, ACT.**

1. The Viet Nam Veteran Family Study Consultative Forum (VVFS CF) is a forum made up of Community and ESO members to consult with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) with representation from the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the Study.
2. The APPVA is represented by Paul Copeland, who is a Community Member (Son of a Viet Nam Veteran) and the raises the perspective of the Study from the APPVA point of view. The website for further information on this Study is:
http://www.dva.gov.au/health_and_wellbeing/research/FamilyStudyProgram/vietnam_vets_family_study/Pages/index.aspx
3. The Timor Leste Family Study (TLFS) is also a Study that is being conducted almost in parallel with the VVFS CF. It is therefore important that the APPVA has representation in both these Forums as the Studies will have an outcome that may affect the families of our veterans.
4. The VVFS is a study of the effects of Intergenerational effects of service by Viet Nam Veterans to their respective families. This includes nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters.
5. The bulletin sent out in June/July was discussed and the representatives were requested to provide a quick brief as to what they did with the bulletin. The APPVA had sent it out to all NATCOM for distribution to members.
6. The VVFS Research and SAC Updates were presented by the Project Officer and Professor Bryan Rodgers. These updates included the following:
 - a. Mortality Study component update;
 - b. Future qualitative study update; and
 - c. Main survey registration distribution and participation.

“Looking After Our Own”

7. Of interest was the summary of Complete vs. Incomplete Questionnaires. The total response as at 21 November 2011 was:

- a. Survey Sent: 27,528 (as per responded interests to the Study);
- b. Completed: 16,749; and
- c. Percentage of completes 60.84%.
- d. 400 additional Registrations were made since the mail-out.

8. Of note was the lower completes from Sons and Daughters, particularly the Sons. The Study will close for Registration 21 Nov, however late Registrations may be accepted up to 1 Dec. Also Questionnaires need to be lodged by 1 Dec 2011.

9. It is strongly encouraged that any APPVA members or those who know of someone who is involved in the Study, seek to have these questionnaires submitted ASAP.

10. An Update Bulletin is due to be sent out in early to mid-Dec. This will be on forwarded by me to NATCOM for widest dissemination to members.

11. A brief overview was made of the TLFS.

Action: APPVA NP to verify if David Penson is continuing to represent the APPVA on the TLFS, or to seek an appropriate representative if this is not possible.

12. A vote was conducted as to the cover of the Report by the CF members. It appears that a photo of a veteran in a wheel-chair with his children may be the chosen image.

13. For members interested, Dr Ken O'Brien is the CEO of Families After Trauma. He is an expert in the effects and Intergenerational Effects of ADF Veterans to their families. He completed a Thesis on the subject. Interested members are encouraged to contact Ken should you wish to discuss a range of matters.

Dr O'Brien's email address is: ceo@familiesaftertrauma.org

14. Lastly, the outcomes of this Study will be significant to Veteran's Families. There will be a large range of variables to consider, along with prevention and treatment recommendations made by the CF and the SAC. The Report is planned for release in October 2012.

15. The next VVFS CF meeting is scheduled for March 2012, in Canberra.

Prepared by:

P.A. Copeland, OAM, JP

APPVA Representative & Community Member,
VVFS CF