

# PROUD TO BELONG IN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

 NAVY

 ARMY

 AIR FORCE





In the Australian Defence Force (ADF) the range of jobs is as diverse as the skills you'll learn. With over 300 different roles available, from Engineering, Medical, Trades, Education, to Information Technology – you're sure to find something to suit you. Plus with great job security and expert on the job training from one of Australia's largest employers, you'll find your skills developing quickly. So not only will you be working on amazing projects, you'll also be building a solid career. But it's not all work; you'll find yourself enjoying a great work/life balance whilst working in a tight knit, supportive and diverse group. Everyone brings something different when they join, whether that be language and inter-personal skills or just a new way of looking at a problem, and this diversity adds strength to the ADF.

This booklet is designed to give you an introduction to some of the diverse roles and experiences a career in the ADF can offer you, expressed through the words of members who are proud to belong in the ADF.





**“MY FAMILY ARE PRETTY PROUD  
OF ME BEING IN THE NAVY”**

**LIEUTENANT SHANKER SINGH  
MARINE ENGINEER  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY**

## WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY WHEN YOU TELL THEM YOU'RE AN ENGINEER IN THE NAVY?

Friends were surprised and amazed that I had joined the Navy because they didn't think someone could, who had not grown up in Australia. Once they were aware they were proud. There are a lot of myths that you can't join Australia's Defence Force. But I tell you that you can. So if you think you meet the requirements come and give it a go. My family are pretty proud of me being in the Navy.



## WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE JOB?

The most satisfying thing about the job is seeing things working on the ship, which you know you've fixed, or enabled to operate. It brings great satisfaction to me.

## HOW ABOUT THE SUPPORT AND TRAINING?

Navy nurtures you right from the beginning. In the Navy you can start at the beginning and work your way up. You receive support and guidance. Serving on a ship you get practical experience and you develop as an engineer. You're not just learning from books, you experience the practical side happening on board.



**“SOME OF THE BEST FRIENDS  
THAT I’VE MADE IN MY LIFE  
ARE PEOPLE WITHIN THE MILITARY”**

**COMMANDER MONA SHINDY  
WEAPONS ENGINEER  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY**



## **WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE?**

The main driver for me when looking for a job after leaving university, or while at university, was wanting to do something worthwhile and something that was important. Also, I was attracted by the adventure that the Navy offered. The fact that the job was quite secure and paid well was another attractive point.

## **HOW DO YOU LIKE THE PEOPLE YOU WORK WITH?**

Some of the best friends that I've made in my life are people within the military. The nature of the team environment where we operate sets a great background for forming some very strong and enduring friendships, and with respect to the Commanding Officers, it is fair to say that everyone that I've had the pleasure of working with, and for, have been people of great integrity and have really made me feel very much included in the environment and very much supported.

## **IS IT DIFFERENT BEING AN ENGINEER IN THE NAVY?**

I believe being an engineer in the Navy is a little bit different than being an engineer in any other work environment. The opportunities for adventure, the challenging employment and having access to state of the art technologies is something that is very impressive and very satisfying in terms of job quality.

## **WHO WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE TO JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE?**

The people that are most suited to a career in the ADF are people with a sense of adventure and a bit of drive about them, willingness and a desire to do something good for their country and good for themselves at the same time.



**“BEING IN THE NAVY IS  
BASICALLY A HUGE ADVENTURE”**

**ABLE SEAMAN SAIF SHAMKHI  
ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY**





## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TRADE IN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE?

I joined the Navy to attain a trade, a decent trade. I could have done my trade in the civilian world but being in the ADF allows me to travel to different places, see different people, and make new friends. Becoming an Electronic Technician in the Navy has enabled me to learn and do something meaningful with my life.

## HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE THE NAVY TO YOUR FRIENDS?

Being in the Navy is basically a huge adventure. You get to go different places and do different things that no one would dream of doing.



## DO YOU GET MUCH TIME TO SEE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

Living on base means I tend to spend most of my time during the week on base, but on the weekends I go home and hang out with my family and my friends.

## WHAT DO YOU SEE HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE?

I see my career developing in the Navy. My future plan in the Navy is to move up the ranks and earn more qualifications and exceed expectations.

A full-page photograph of Lieutenant Sleiman Abou-Hamdan, an Australian Army Infantry Platoon Commander. He is a man with dark hair and a mustache, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a green and brown camouflage bucket hat and a matching camouflage military uniform. On his left sleeve, there is a patch of the Australian flag with the word "AUSTRALIA" below it. He is holding a black assault rifle with both hands, angled towards the left. The background is a workshop or armory with wooden shelving and various equipment.

**“I AM ALWAYS UP FOR A CHALLENGE,  
SO... IT WAS THE PERFECT IDEA”**

**LIEUTENANT SLEIMAN ABOU-HAMDAN  
INFANTRY PLATOON COMMANDER  
THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY**



## HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE?

I've always been interested in the Armed Forces and being in a command role. I guess it's second nature for me to protect something that I love and our nation is a great nation. So, I've always wanted to do something in the defence of our country. And, also I knew it would be a challenge, and I am always up for a challenge, so... it was the perfect idea.

I met my best friends in the Army. The skill set I gained is just amazing and the experiences are second to none. I highly recommend it.

## YOU'RE A PLATOON LEADER, WOULD YOU SAY YOU'RE A BORN LEADER?

Tell you the truth I was a bit of a rebel when I was young, you know going out getting into trouble as you do as a teenager. And one time I saw this sticker, Army Reserves, and I thought why not give it a go, I needed some discipline in my life. So I called up the number, went down to the recruiting office and looked at some videos. I chose the infantry believing it would be something that I'd like to get into. From there I was on a recruit course, and that was one of the best decisions I've made in my life actually. After a few years I decided to follow a career of an Officer in the Army as I've always wanted to be in a leadership role.

As to whether I am a born leader or not, I believe I am, and the leadership and management skills I have received shaped me into a good leader. The leadership skills I have gained are the highlight of my career so far.

## WHAT DO YOU BRING TO YOUR CIVILIAN LIFE THAT YOU HAVE LEARNT IN THE ARMY?

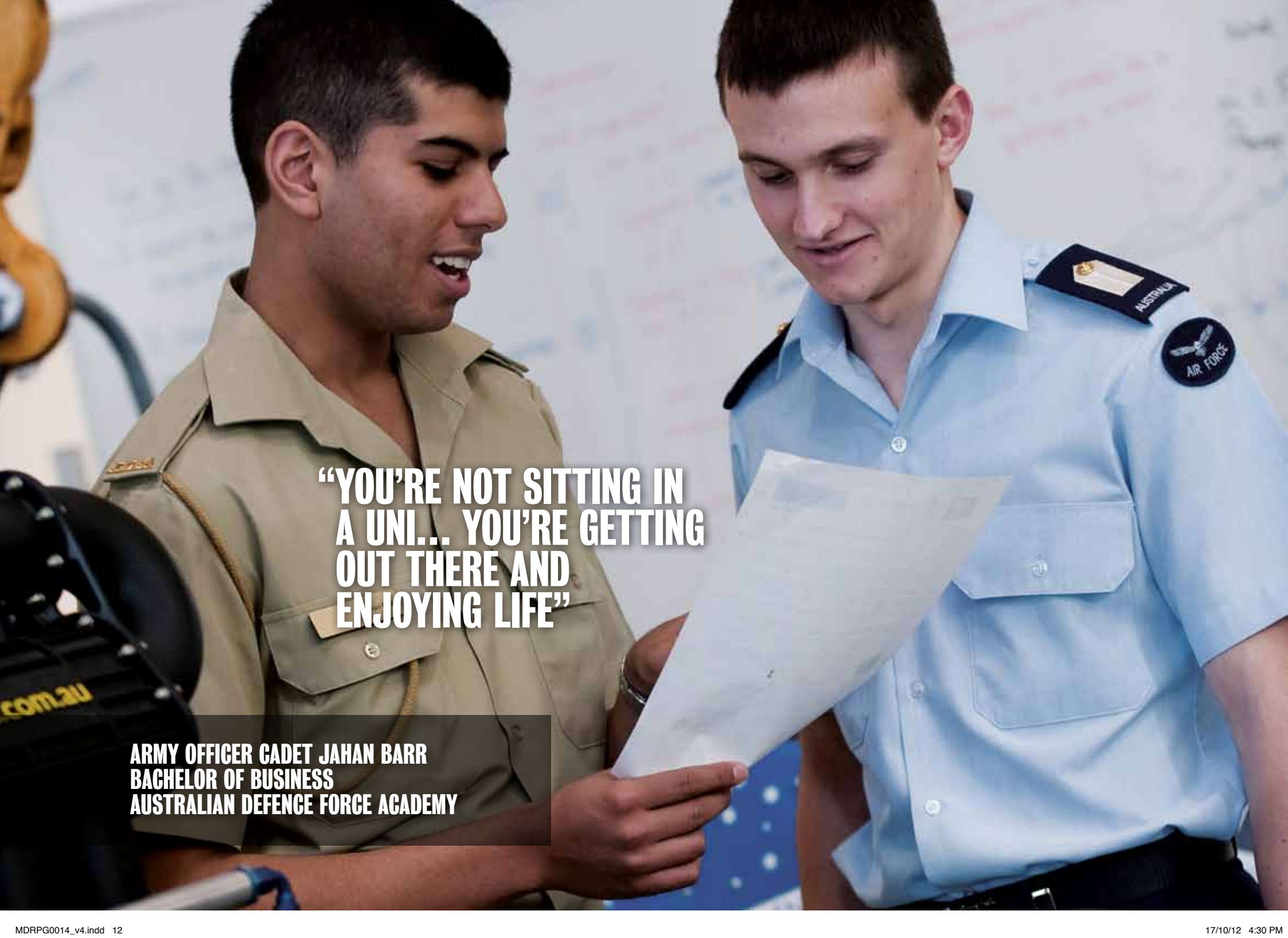
The military and leadership training I received in the Army together with the great experiences have really benefited me in my civilian life. I am more disciplined, I go through things more methodically and finish the things I start. Through the Army I have also developed the courage and endurance to see through challenges.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS FROM BEING IN THE ARMY RESERVE?

The tax-free pay is a bonus, although quite honestly not many people do it for the money. It is a bonus. We do it because we want to do it. It is fun and challenging, it is something different and you get the chance of a deployment, perhaps to the Solomon Islands or even further out.





A photograph of two young men in military uniforms. The man on the left is wearing a khaki uniform and is speaking. The man on the right is wearing a light blue uniform with 'AUSTRALIA' and 'AIR FORCE' patches and is holding a document. They are both looking at the document. The background is a whiteboard with some faint writing.

**“YOU’RE NOT SITTING IN  
A UNI... YOU’RE GETTING  
OUT THERE AND  
ENJOYING LIFE”**

**ARMY OFFICER CADET JAHAN BARR  
BACHELOR OF BUSINESS  
AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ACADEMY**

## WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD BE LIKE IF YOU HADN'T STUDIED AT THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ACADEMY?

I wouldn't be able to speak, write or conduct myself as professionally as I do now. The Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) really develops your character. It has shown me how to behave like a man and how to be very professional.

## DO YOU GET ALONG WITH YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS?

Here at ADFA there is a really good relationship between your co-students because you go through everything together, so you develop that bond; the mateship just keeps everything going. Every weekend we spend time with each other. We do things such as paintball - we did that just the other weekend.

## HOW IS IT DIFFERENT TO A REGULAR UNIVERSITY?

The adventure training aspects - you get to abseil 100 metre cliffs or you get to go canoeing down rivers just for fun. Then there is the military side and physical training. Civilians pay to go to gyms, while we get paid to do it while we study. You're never sitting at uni getting bored, you're getting out there and enjoying life.

## HOW DO YOU FIND YOUR LECTURERS?

ADFA is the perfect study environment; your lecturers give you all the support you need. If you're struggling with the subject they help you out as much as they can.





A man in a military uniform is working on a piece of avionics equipment. He is wearing a tan uniform and a blue watch. He is focused on the task, with his hands on the equipment. The equipment is a large, complex unit with many wires and components. The background is dark and industrial, with some structural elements visible.

**“THERE IS A HUGE RANGE OF DIVERSITY”**

**PRIVATE AMARDEEP SINGH  
AVIONICS TECHNICIAN  
THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY**



## WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

I'm an Avionics Technician. I basically look after everything electrical in the helicopters including lighting, radios, communications and radar equipment.

## HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE IN THE ARMY?

I always knew I wanted to work with aircraft. I was studying at University in Melbourne and worked as an Assistant Computer Engineer, but didn't quite like it. I still knew I wanted to work in the aviation industry and the Army was a great way to work and get trained.

## WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST INTERESTING ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

Being an Avionics Technician means you don't sit at a desk in front of a computer all day. You're always doing something different so the day is always kept interesting. There is a huge range of diversity. I also wanted to get a degree out of this role. The ADF is helping me with assistance to get my Aeronautical Engineering degree. I'll be able to continue working while getting a degree that truly interests me.

## HOW DOES THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE SUPPORT YOUR STUDIES?

The ADF provides me with days off and study assistance so I can complete my degree. The people around me also offer me guidance and support to help me develop professionally.





**“JOINING THE AIR FORCE IS ONE OF THE BEST  
DECISIONS I WOULD SAY THAT I HAVE MADE IN MY LIFE”**

**FLIGHT LIEUTENANT HARDIK MEHTA  
ELECTRONICS ENGINEER  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE**



## HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE TRAINING YOU RECEIVE?

The training and education you get in the Air Force and wider ADF is first rate. They teach you lots of different skills including ground defence skills, leadership skills, management of your people – that is all part of the course – and communications skills as well. You have lots of opportunities available to you to develop your professional skills as well as your military skills. The Air Force and Defence really invest in their people in terms of the training.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING IN THE AIR FORCE?


The best thing about being in the Air Force is that you get to wear the uniform. I consider it a privilege rather than a right. You're doing a service to your country and you're working on the latest technological equipment. You're working on an aircraft that has cutting edge technology that you wouldn't normally work on in a civilian job, so I think combining the best of both is what you get in the Air Force.

## SO YOU WOULDN'T SAY IT'S YOUR TYPICAL JOB?

I would say there isn't a typical day in the Air Force. There isn't an exact day-to-day repetitive job; that is what is great about the job. Joining the Air Force is one of the best decisions I would say that I have made in my life.





A photograph of two female dental officers in a clinical setting. They are both wearing blue scrubs, surgical masks, and safety glasses. The officer on the left is wearing blue gloves and is focused on a procedure. The officer on the right is assisting. They are working on a patient who is lying down, partially visible at the bottom of the frame. The background shows a typical dental clinic environment with various equipment and posters on the wall.

**“THE SPONSORED UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM  
GAVE ME THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS”**

**FLIGHT LIEUTENANT EUGENIYA KELLOWAY  
DENTAL OFFICER  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE**

## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ROLE?

As a Dental Officer I'm responsible for the Dental health of personnel in the Air Force, both in Australia and on deployment. In many ways it is like many other Dental professions as I work between 7 to 4 most days and see patients on base throughout the day.

## DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO BE A DENTIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE?

I actually considered being a Dentist when I was in high school and then even thought about being a Logistics Officer or studying at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA). Then I thought more about being a Dentist and decided to complete my studies at the University of Queensland.

## HOW DID YOU JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE?

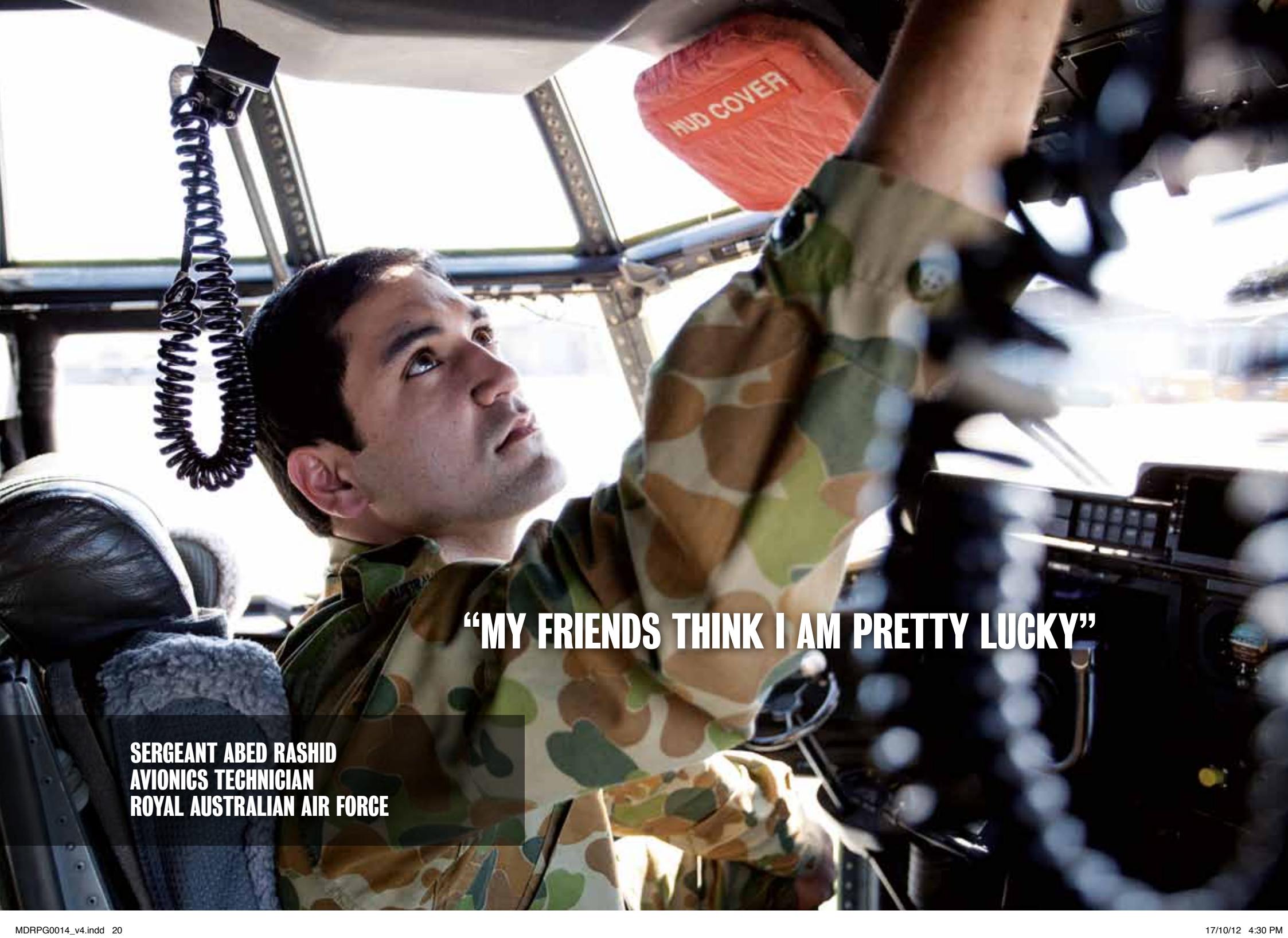
When I was in my second year at University I met some personnel from the ADF that told me about the Sponsored Undergraduate Program. Basically the Sponsored Undergraduate Program gave me the best of both worlds as I could join the Royal Australian Air Force and ADFA would pay for my tuition and study fees whilst I finished my degree.

## WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE SAY WHEN YOU TELL THEM YOU ARE A DENTIST IN THE AIR FORCE?

Most people are surprised. Many people ask me, when I tell them I'm in the Air Force, if I get to fly a jet. What really surprises them is that the Australian Defence Force offers to pay for my professional development.







**“MY FRIENDS THINK I AM PRETTY LUCKY”**

**SERGEANT ABED RASHID  
AVIONICS TECHNICIAN  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE**





## **WHEN DID YOU ENTER THE AIR FORCE? WAS IT DIFFICULT?**

When I finished high school I joined the Air Force. There was no extra course that I was required to complete to join. I don't think it is that difficult to get in – a bit of dedication and a bit of study and you'll get through.

## **WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WAS YOUR BEST EXPERIENCE IN THE AIR FORCE?**

The best experience I've had in the Air Force is being involved in evacuating Australians whilst on deployment. They were very grateful when we got there. I actually helped one of the mothers with her little baby because she had three with her. I had to carry one of the babies off the plane. She was very grateful for that. The little girl was about one.

## **DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH SUCH A DIVERSE RANGE OF PEOPLE?**

Working with a broad group of people is good fun, because we learn from each other... even from a city boy to a country boy, to being someone from Afghanistan to someone from China, you learn from each other.

## **WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT YOUR FRIENDS JOIN THE AIR FORCE?**

My friends think I am pretty lucky, being paid to work and study and being able to deploy around the world. I would definitely recommend joining the Air Force.







Hopefully this brochure has given you an insight into the diverse roles and range of people that make up the Australian Defence Force.

The Australian Defence Force is made up of many different people performing a multitude of jobs, all with great lifestyle benefits.

Our supervisors are also provided flexibility to allow you to access social, cultural and religious services and facilities where possible.

If you are an Australian citizen, or eligible to be an Australian citizen, and think you would be proud to belong in the Australian Defence Force, then call **13 19 01** or visit **[defencejobs.gov.au/proudtobelongintheadf](https://defencejobs.gov.au/proudtobelongintheadf)**



For more information call **13 19 01** or visit **[defencejobs.gov.au/proudtobelongintheadf](http://defencejobs.gov.au/proudtobelongintheadf)**

