

Remembrance Day Contest - 2013

lead-in countdown beeps

Peter Ellis VK1PE

Welcome in 2013 to the Remembrance Day Contest, Australia's biggest and most significant annual amateur radio competition. I am Peter Ellis VK1PE.

Each year we pause to consider the roles that amateurs played in World War II, and we honour the passing of the brave servicemen who did not return home when the hostilities ceased. However, the whole idea of the contest is to have fun. Indeed for the next 24 hours we're pretty sure the bands will be at their busiest for the whole year, so please be involved.

The rules for this weekend's contest were published in the WIA magazine Amateur Radio, and are available on the website at <http://www.wia.org.au>. There is no obligation to participate, but even with 30 minutes on air, your involvement will make a difference, **particularly by submitting a log**. It really doesn't matter if this is your first RD, or your 50th, history says that you will enjoy the experience. This contest for us Amateurs, just it has been every year since the late 1940s.

We conduct the RD Contest for 24 hours on the weekend closest to the day called VP Day – Victory in the Pacific Day. This day formally marked the end of World War II.

So, each year in the RD we spend a little while in quiet contemplation prior to its 0300 Zulu start, while we remember those people who didn't make it back but whose efforts helped to save our nation, then after 0300 Zulu we celebrate in a joyous way by competing together for up to 24 hours in a state versus state race to win the most on air contacts.

This year, we will hear from the President of the WIA, Phil Plait VK2ASD, and have a reading of the names of Amateur Radio operators known to have been killed during World War 2. But, first, a message from the RD Contest Manager, Alan Shannon VK4SD.

recorded message – President WIA

reading of the names of the fallen Amateurs

Now, to our official speaker.

Last year, Colonel Rupert Hoskin, Defence Attache to Paris, delivered the opening speech for the contest. Please recall that he was a French linguist and civil engineer.

For this year I asked another a senior serving member of the Defence community in Canberra, this year a professional communicator and linguist, to open the RD Contest.

IN-PERSON INTRODUCTION

CAPTAIN Goedecke currently holds the post of Director General, Navy Communications and Information Warfare which is responsible for the capability management of all Navy C3 (Command, Control and Communication), Information and communications technology (ICT), Electronic Warfare (EW), Intelligence and Cyber capabilities. This role includes being Head of Community for the RAN Communications and Intelligence categories.



He rose through the sailor ranks to Chief Petty Officer as a linguist and electronic warfare specialist. He undertook Principal Warfare Officer training in 1997, winning the Sydney-Emden prize for dux of the course, and subsequently received the Sword of Excellence for top PWO of the year. He served as the Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer and Operations Officer in the Guided Missile Frigate SYDNEY and later in the Guided Missile Destroyer BRISBANE where he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. In between, he served as part of the warfare staff of the RAN's Sea Training Group for 18 months as Fleet Electronic Warfare Officer.

Goedecke commanded the FREMANTLE Class Patrol Boat, HMAS TOWNSVILLE from December 2001 to July 2003. He then served as a Staff Officer in the Maritime Development branch within the ADF Capability Systems Division before attending the Australian Command and Staff Course in 2004. Promoted to Commander in 2005, he then served in the Air Warfare Destroyer program and was subsequently selected as Executive Officer of HMAS WATSON. In June 2007, Goedecke was appointed Commanding Officer of the ANZAC Class Frigate HMAS BALLARAT and on leaving Command in December 2008, was promoted to Captain. He then undertook the role of Director of Navy Project Phoenix, concerned with the remediation of RAN Tactical EW Capability, before assuming his current role in December 2010.

CAPT Goedecke holds Masters Degrees in Management and in Maritime Studies. He has been selected as Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff for the next maritime Combined Task Force 150 (CTF150) rotation which will deploy to Bahrain in December this year in the Horn of Africa region (HOA) for operations in the North Arabia Sea and Indian Ocean.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the airwaves, it is my pleasure to introduce, from the Royal Australian Navy, Captain Jeffrey Goedecke, Director General Navy Communication and Information Warfare.

Captain Goedecke, the Comms Branch has a proud tradition in the RAN, taking its lead from the Royal Navy and the days of the "bunting tossers", but now embracing the modern era of digital communications via satellite, with HF still having a place.

Without stealing your thunder in your speech, what is changing for Defence communications?

remarks

PE: Captain Jeff Goedecke, on behalf of the Wireless Institute of Australia, and the Amateur Radio operators of the nation, thank you, as we remember both the amateur and professional communicators in the nation's armed services and the supporting elements in the community. I invite you to deliver the opening address.

Captain Jeffrey Goedecke, RAN

The Remembrance Day Contest honours the Australian radio operators who served their country with distinction during World War II, but who failed to return home afterwards.

Of course, Australian forces played a key role in the Pacific War from 1942 until early 1944, making up the majority of Allied strength throughout much of the fighting in the South West Pacific. Appropriately, this contest is held on the weekend nearest 15 August, Victory in the Pacific Day. This year it falls on 17 and 18 August. But, let's not forget some other key dates in August:

During the Western Desert Campaign, on 19 August in 1941 the Australian and Indian troops at Tobruk in modern Libya were relieved by the Polish and Czechoslovak forces.

In the Pacific, on 21 Aug 1945, the Japanese forces surrendered on the island of Ambon, part of the Maluku Islands of what is now Indonesia.

And, last year, Colonel Rupert Hoskin talked about the the air crash near Canberra in August 1940 in which three Ministers of the war Cabinet were killed.

For the Royal Australian Navy, World War II also signalled rapid technological advances in communications. These advances included radio telegraphy, tactical voice nets, and limited data communications, which included early teletypewriters and basic on-line cryptography.

In my role today, I am responsible for managing the Navy's communications and ICT capability in a period characterised by an ever increasing demand for information, and information exchange, and advancement of related technologies that can be quite challenging to keep apace with. One of these challenges is optimising training for our communicators; at present they are still learning many of those skill required three decades ago – perhaps with the exception of using a morse key over the radio, though they still learn morse code and send it by light. However in addition to those more traditional skills related to radio communications and visual signalling, today they also contend with Satellite communications and comms paths in the microwave spectrum vice traditional HF, VHF and UHF bands. They build and maintain networks, administer Local and Wide area networks, and are involved in cyber security. They need to understand both serial and IP communications and contend with all of the new equipment and communications systems that will be delivered with our new fleet units. They are knowledgeable about modems and routers, some write software code and script and develop apps – the modern day communicator skills are truly remarkable. The challenge lies in what we define as “legacy” communications and what we are prepared to leave behind in favour of new technologies.

As this audience is no doubt aware, this is a time where new technologies such as software definable radios are changing the way we operate. There is some significant research and advances in digital communications and areas such as high data rate free space optical communications (in the visual and laser light spectrums) and I am aware that the amateur radio community are involved in the testing and experimenting of some of these more sophisticated technologies.

What I have learned is that, despite the rapid onset of technology, this factor does not make the task of communicating any easier. Perhaps more so than previously, this technology demands expertise in the communications field and our communicators must therefore be deep specialists in roles which previously were considered as support to our military operations, but now are fundamental to our operational and war fighting capability. I think with this deep expertise brings with it the passion to stay involved in the communications field long after our communicators leave the service and having

access to associations such as those associated with amateur radio will see this fraternity thrive for years to come.

During this time we think of rotations of ADF men and women to Afghanistan, and should also not forget those deployed to Iraq and East Timor, Somalia, Sudan, the Sinai, Israel and Lebanon, and the Solomon Islands. The Navy is patrolling the northern coasts of Australia, operating in our northern region conducting border protection operations and has a ship deployed permanently in the Middle East. Our RAAF aircraft are patrolling the oceans and skies, and providing strategic and regional airlift.

Since the last remembrance day contest, three Australian soldiers have been killed whilst serving in Afghanistan and I therefore wish to acknowledge the supreme sacrifice made by :

- **James Thomas Martin**, 21, a sapper from the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment serving with the 3 RAR Task Group;
- **Scott James Smith**, 24, a corporal with the Special Operations Task Group; and
- **Cameron Stewart Baird**, a recipient of the Medal for Gallantry, 32, a corporal from 2nd Commando Regiment as a part of the Special Operations Task Group.

As the contest begins, let's also not forget that 18 August is Vietnam Veterans Day. Some of you may have a tough decision to make, whether you'll be participating tomorrow in the RD Contest or a celebration with mates. Maybe there is a chance to partake in a bit of both.

In conclusion, the numbers of WW2 service personnel are thinning as the years march on, but we honour them today as our country has done for 70 years. And, we shall never forget them.

Radio Amateurs of Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea, on this weekend nearest the anniversary of VP Day, it is my great pleasure to formally declare the Remembrance Day Contest for 2013. Open.

END

[illegible]