

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

The following letter is included with every package:

“Dear Serving Member

*The RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (RSL AFOF)
is pleased to be able to provide you with
this small package.*

*RSL AFOF is supported by all Australians who share a love
for our country and its ideals.*

*Our main function is to support Australian Defence Force
and Australian Federal Police
personnel serving overseas,
by providing a package at Christmas and mid year.*

*We recognise that many of you are serving in areas
of particular hardship and in conditions quite foreign
to those you would experience back home.*

*We hope that this package will remind you that our
thoughts are always with you
and that we appreciate your
contribution to our country's overseas commitments.*

*On behalf of a grateful nation,
I send our thanks and best wishes for a safe
return home.*

Yours Sincerely.”

THE FUTURE

RSL AFOF appreciates the support of all Australians who share our desire to continue this support to all those personnel who commit themselves to the service of our country.

Please offer your support to RSL AFOF by sending your tax deductible donation to:

The Executive Director
RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund (RSL AFOF)
GPO Box 303
CANBERRA ACT 2601

I wish to make a donation of \$.....
My () cheque, () Money Order is enclosed.

Or contact your RSL State Branch at:

QLD: PO Box 629, Spring Hill, QLD 4004

NSW: ANZAC House, 245 Castlereagh St,
Sydney NSW 2000

VIC: ANZAC House, 4 Collins St,
Melbourne VIC 3000

SA/NT: ANZAC House, Torrens Training Depot,
Victoria Drive, Adelaide SA 5000

WA: ANZAC House, PO Box Y3023,
Perth WA 6832

TAS: ANZAC House, 68 Davey St,
Hobart TAS 7000

ACT: ANZAC House, GPO Box 708,
Canberra ACT 2601



RSL AUSTRALIAN FORCES OVERSEAS FUND



**SUPPORTING OUR PERSONNEL
OVERSEAS**



RSL AUSTRALIAN FORCES OVERSEAS FUND (RSL AFOF)

RSL AFOF provides support to all Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police personnel serving overseas on Military Missions, Peacekeeping and Peacemaking Operations and other Operational activities.

HISTORY

The Australian Forces Overseas Fund had its early beginnings with the provision of Christmas parcels to members of the Australian Army serving in Vietnam in 1963.

Anticipating an increased commitment in South Vietnam, the National Executive and the RSL State Branches instigated a committee in October 1965 to coordinate a National Fund and program for the provision of amenities and concert parties for troops serving in the South East Asia region.



As a result, the Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) was officially established on 26 January 1966 at the Sydney Town Hall, amalgamating the earlier Fund established by the RSL and the Sydney Lord Mayor's Comfort Fund. Initially established in NSW, AFOF became a national organisation on the establishment of the RSL AFOF National Council.

The sending of comfort parcels to the troops was not a new initiative, as almost every town and community throughout Australia had at some time formed an auxiliary committee which had organized, prepared and packed parcels for dispatch to those serving overseas in both WWI and WWII.

The continuation of this longstanding tradition of support to Australia's Military Forces was now assured with the establishment of RSL AFOF

ENTERTAINMENT

Concert Parties were originally arranged by RSL State Branches on rotation. They were later managed under the guidance of RSL AFOF by the Forces Advisory Committee on Entertainment (FACE). In 2004, the role of FACE was changed from the previous execution role to an Advisory Body.

Concerts are now arranged by the Forces Advisory Council on Entertainment (FACE), with the RSL National President as Chairman and a pool of appropriate entertainment industry identities to offer advice to the responsible Minister and CDF on all matters relating to the entertainment of Defence Personnel in remote areas, both overseas and in Australia.

PROVISION OF PACKAGES

RSL AFOF provides packages to Australian Defence Force and Australian Federal Police personnel serving overseas. As the majority of these personnel serve in peace-keeping missions for a six month period, packages are made available for delivery twice yearly. These packages are loosely referred to as the mid-year and Christmas packages.

Packages generally contain items such as ANZAC biscuits, lollies, salted peanuts, writing material and various other items. They also include a selection of RSL newsletters, a letter of appreciation on behalf of all Australians, and RSL contact details.

RSL AFOF is indebted to the many volunteers who give so freely of their time to assist in the preparation of the packages, and these include the Defence Personnel Executive in Canberra, the Deployed Forces Support Unit in Randwick Barracks, the RSL National Headquarters staff and the friends of AFOF from the general community.

