

Background

- 2.1 A Land Headquarters Training Centre (Jungle Warfare) was first established at Canungra in 1942 to provide training for Australian troops before their departure for combat in the Pacific theatre during the Second World War. Canungra was chosen because it best replicated the environment of the Pacific Region and was also accessible by an existing railway that enabled the easy movement of troops between Brisbane and Canungra. The Jungle Training Centre, as it became known, closed in 1946 but reopened in 1954 in response to perceived threats emerging in South-East Asia when the site was expanded to cover the range of environments found in that locality.
- 2.2 Between 1955 and 1966, some 9500 troops were trained at Canungra for active service in the Malayan Emergency and the Borneo Conflict. Every unit that went to South Vietnam between 1962 and 1972 completed a period of rigorous and realistic battle efficiency training at the Jungle Training Centre before departure.
- 2.3 In 1975 the name of the Centre was changed to the Land Warfare Centre. As a specialist training unit, the Land Warfare Centre provides unique field and training facilities for all Corps of the Australian Army and for armies of allied nations. The military area at Canungra comprises about 6000 hectares and consists of the Cantonment, where Kokoda Barracks is situated on about 100 hectares, and the Close Training Area where field training activities are carried out.
- 2.4 The following formations are currently accommodated at Kokoda Barracks:
 - Battle Wing Canungra provides individual and collective training in close country operations for all Army Corps;

- Headquarters Regional Training Centres, formerly known as the Army Promotion Training Centre, provides Army Career Development training and has direct command of Army's eight Regional Training Centres throughout Australia;
- Defence Intelligence Training Centre provides individual intelligence training and education to meet the needs of the Defence intelligence community; and
- Defence Corporate Services Organisation - Canungra provides administrative and logistic support to these formations.

2.5 The future of Battle Wing Canungra is linked to the development of Army's Combat Training Centre but some collective training capability would be retained at Canungra using most of the existing Battle Wing facilities.

2.6 The current maximum population of the Canungra military base is approximately 800 personnel comprising 250 staff, 100 contractors, 400 trainees and a fluctuating number of transients. About 80 of the trainees live under canvas for the duration of their training. The remaining trainees, numbering some 320, attend training activities conducted either by Headquarters Regional Training Centres or the Defence Intelligence Training Centre.¹

1 Submissions, pp. 21-22.