



**ORDER OF THE DAY
TO THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE TRANSFER OF THE AIRBORNE INSERTION CAPABILITY
FROM FORCES COMMAND TO SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND**

Today the responsibility for maintaining the Airborne Insertion (Parachute) capability will transfer from Forces Command to Special Operations Command. The transfer marks a significant milestone in the history of Army's parachute capability and signals progress in developing an Army that is optimised to support the force generation cycle.

The Australian Army has maintained a contemporary parachute capability since 1980 when the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR), was tasked to form a parachute group based on a rifle company. In 1983 the parachute capability was enhanced and the responsibility transferred to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR). Since then, 3 RAR and its supporting arms and services, from the 1st Brigade, the 3rd Brigade, the Parachute Training School and the 176th Air Dispatch Squadron, have carried the parachute capability.

I acknowledge the fine efforts of all those who have served as part of, and in support of, the parachute capability. The capability has been, and will continue to be an important part of the ADF's contingency force. I also acknowledge the ongoing contribution of the Royal Australian Air Force in the generation and delivery of the parachute capability.

3 RAR's future will be every bit as challenging as its recent past as our Parachute Battalion. In the near future the Battalion will move North to Townsville to take its place along side its sister units in the 3rd Brigade, prepare for and deploy to Afghanistan and contribute to the realisation of Plan Beersheba, Army's modernisation blueprint.

The transfer of the parachute capability to Special Operations Command will ensure a robust and flexible entry capability is maintained. Importantly the transfer is an enabling action for the plan to re-balance Army so that we are better postured to meet the challenges of the future. We must and will, continue to adapt in order to remain ready and capable in an ever changing environment.

D.L. MORRISON, AO
Lieutenant General
Chief of Army

26 August 2011