



Aussie Trishakti

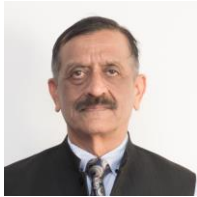
July 2019

Volume 1

Issue 2

First AOM Issue





FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Journey

It gives me great pleasure to bring out the 2nd newsletter of the NDAAA(AC).

The idea, initially conceived by Lt Col Arvind Kumar Sinha and progressed with the support of six Victoria based NDA alumni, is now a fully established chapter of the NDA Alumni Association. We also take pride in being the first and the only overseas chapter. www.ndaaaac.org.au

Consequent to the NDAAA(AC) getting incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Reforms Act 2012 by Consumer Affairs Victoria on 2nd Dec 2018, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at Canberra on 8th June 2019. Further details of the AGM have been covered later in the newsletter.

It is time for us to reflect on what we have achieved and where we need to focus in the coming days to ensure the stability and growth of the chapter. We are paving the way for other regions and countries to follow and exploring the feasibility of establishing an international chapter for members from across nations. I appeal to NDA alumni settled overseas - please do contact us if you see merit in the idea.

We are now 32 member strong and growing. I attribute this growth to the solid efforts put in by all the members. Here, I am also reminded of a couplet that captures our interesting journey; reproduced below in original script for those who had stayed awake in their Arabic/Persian foreign language classes at the NDA. The couplet captures our interesting journey thus far.

میں اکے لا ہی چلا تھا جانبِ منزل مگر
لوگ ساتھ آتے گئے اور کارواں بنتا گیا

*Main akela hi chala tha jaanib-e-manzil magar,
Log saath aate gaye aur kaarvan banta gaya!*

We have been getting messages of support from all over the world, reproduced later in the newsletter. Closer home, we acknowledge the support of the alumni who have joined our





endeavour, as senior leads from their respective states in this pioneering journey. We particularly thank Maj OP Mohan from Victoria, Gp Capt Vaidun Vidyadhar from New South Wales, Lt Col Yogesh Kashyap from Australian Capital Territory, Col Naunihal Mann from Queensland and Cdr Atul Garg from Western Australia. We specially thank Capt (IN) Manish Rai, DA, Indian High Commission in Australia, for the generous support from his office.

Some of the milestones that we have achieved in the last one year are - framing the rules, getting the chapter incorporated, activating our website, conducting quarterly and establishing meetings (including documenting them), initiating steps to strengthen our finances, reaching out to alumni, ordering merchandise (ties and jackets to begin with), hosting dignitaries and alumni visiting Melbourne, organizing excursions and issuing out the first newsletter, to name a few.

This is a pretty good start but we still have miles to go before we sleep.

Col Sudhir Kumar Sakhuja, VSM

Editor

Website/Contact

www.ndaaaac.org.au



FROM THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT'S DESK

Founding team – Signing Off and Thanksgiving

The “Founding Team” comprising seven highly spirited, sincere and dedicated NDA alumni embarked on a journey with a clear aim – “Establishment of the first overseas chapter of NDA alumni”. Starting off with the first meeting on 8th Apr 18, the journey culminated with the successful conduct of the first AGM and formal election of the committee members on 8th Jun 19. This marked the formal establishment of the NDAAA(AC). The details of the elected committee are covered later in this newsletter.

It is now time for the founders to sign off and hand over the operations of the NDAAA(AC) to the elected committee. On behalf of all the members, I take this opportunity to thank the founding members for their exemplary work in achieving the first challenging milestone as stipulated in the aim. They not only found the time to make the NDAAA(AC) a reality, but also made voluntary monetary contributions and provided assistance in getting the rules





formalised. These actions were of immense help in the establishment and incorporation of the chapter and getting our website functional.

I would also like to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to the spouses of the founding members who were equally spirited and provided the necessary impetus to establish the chapter. They made their homes available, attended all the meetings, provided valuable suggestions and of course, organised great food. So much so, the sumptuous food that awaited us after each meeting ensured that we finished the meetings in time. Thanks ladies, we feel blessed to enjoy your ongoing support.

My sincere thanks to the current members for their overwhelming support without which, the chapter would not be where it is today. Please continue providing your whole hearted support to the elected committee to achieve the "Purpose of the NDAAA(AC)" – Para 2 of the Rules. <https://ndaaaac.org.au/ndaaa-ac-organisational-chart-provisional-charter/>

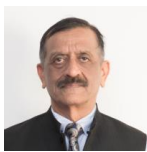
Finally, it would be remiss of me if I do not acknowledge and thank each founding member for his contribution individually, which deserve to be recorded for posterity.

Signing off with the hope that the NDAAA(AC) will grow from strength to strength over the coming years.

Lt Col Arvind Kumar Sinha

Founding President

The Founding Team



Col Sudhir Kumar Sakhuja, VSM – PRO. He led the public relations activities, which included the establishment of the newsletter - Aussie Trishakti and hosted the first meeting at his residence on 8th Apr 18.

Lt Col Anil Kumar Nayyar – Meetings Coordinator. He coordinated follow-ups on meetings and hosted the fourth meeting at his residence on 17th Nov 18.



Maj Rajiv Seth – Vice President. He coordinated follow-ups on membership applications and drafted the "Organisational Structure" of the NDAAA(AC) committee.





Maj Samir Shrivastava – Founding Secretary. He became the nucleus of all discussions and decision inputs in the drafting, finalising and registering the "Rules". He led the design and establishment of the website including online applications and hosted the second meeting at his residence on 5th May 18.

Col Rajesh Kaswan – Treasurer. He led the establishment and management of our bank accounts, kept track of income and expenses, design and acquisition of NDAAA(AC) merchandise and hosted the third meeting at his residence on 4th Aug 18. He also officiated as the Secretary in the run up to the AGM and prepared the Secretary's and the Treasurer's report for the AGM.



Lt Col Suresh Singh Panghal. He organized the excursions and hosted the fifth meeting at his residence on 2nd Mar 19. He also presented the Secretary's and the Treasurer's report at the AGM on 8th Jun 19.

MEETINGS

Quarterly Meetings

The first quarterly meeting for this year was held at the residence of Lt Col Suresh Singh Panghal on 2nd Mar 19. This was actually the fifth quarterly meeting of the NDAAA(AC) and incidentally

First Quarterly Meeting of 2019 – 2nd Mar 19



the first one after its incorporation. Except for Col Rajesh Kaswan, the then Treasurer and now the newly elected Secretary, all the other founder members and their spouses attended. Accompanied by their spouses, both Maj OP Mohan and Wg Cdr ISS Raju joined us for the first time. We invited two NDA alumni Brig MK Kushwaha (9491-46/C/MAHAR) and Col Surinder Dutt Kale (9589-46/J/ARTILLERY–Air OP) who were then visiting Australia along with their spouses to join in the social evening following the meeting.

The minutes of all meetings can be found at <https://ndaaaac.org.au/vic-tas/>





Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Planning. The initial plan was to hold the inaugural AGM at Melbourne. However, after Lt Col Arvind Kumar Sinha's meeting with few members from ACT that included Lt Col Yogesh Kashyap, Lt Col Bhagwan Singh Godara, Gp Capt Veliat Anthony and Capt (IN) Manish Rai at Canberra earlier in the year, it was unanimously decided to hold it at the Indian High Commission, Canberra. We planned to have it as a two-day event. Day 1 - Welcome reception and cocktails to be hosted by the DA at his residence and Day 2 – Canberra city tour followed by the AGM and culminating in a gala dinner. Team Canberra also agreed to take on the responsibility of arranging accommodation for outstation members by hosting some in their residences and or Airbnb and organising the gala dinner. Our sincere thanks to Lt Col Yogesh Kashyap, Gp Capt Veliat Anthony and Cdr Amit Pratap and their spouses to have hosted the stay of some of the interstate members at their comfortable homes.

Welcome Reception. Capt (IN) Manish Rai hosted all the participants and their families to cocktails at his residence on 7th Jun 19. Col Sumeet Sharma (92/O/ARMD), presently attending Higher Command courses in Canberra was also invited to join in, being an NDA alumnus. Our sincere thanks to the couple for the wonderful arrangements and a lovely evening that was marked by great bonhomie. Several interstate members, old and young, met one another for the first time. The introductions interspersed by anecdotes from NDA and experiences in the services were highly entertaining and had everyone in splits.

The AGM. The Inaugural AGM of the NDAAA(AC) was held in the premises of the Indian High Commission, Canberra (venue courtesy Capt (IN) Manish Rai) on 8th Jun 19 which was attended by 15 members including 13 members with their spouses from Victoria, NSW and ACT. Lt Col



AGM 8th Jun 19 - Canberra – in Sitting

Yogesh Kashyap, Col Joginder Maindiratta and Capt (IN) Manish Rai took on the administrative arrangements and associated activities for the AGM. Thanks to their efforts, the arrangements were flawless.

Kudos to Capt (IN) Manish Rai and his staff CPO Kapil Kumar Sharma, for coordinating all aspects for the Inaugural AGM held at the Indian High Commission. This will go a long way as precedence for all future AGMs when held in Canberra. Special thanks to him for this

gesture and keeping in line with the NDA spirit – Service Before Self.

As the locals say - "Well Done Mate!" You are second to none and have laid such a wonderful foundation for ongoing operational support to NDAAA(AC).





The key items tabled included the Secretary's and the Treasurer's report. This was followed by discussion on agenda points like endorsement of Alumni definition, revision of membership fees, introduction of life membership and election of the first committee. The participating



AGM 8th Jun 19 - Canberra – Members

members unanimously requested the founding committee to serve another term to maintain the momentum. The elected committee and the members who attended the AGM are listed later in this newsletter. The break time was well utilised to snap group photos with the members attired in NDAAA(AC) jackets.

The inaugural AGM was a highly successful one. We have decided to hold the AGM by turns in the

capital cities preferably during the first weekend of Jun every year. The next AGM will be held in Melbourne in 2020. Please do plan to attend this event in the world's "most liveable" city. Team Canberra has set a high standard and the onus is now on Team Melbourne to meet or outshine Team Canberra standard.

Gala Dinner. Team Canberra had chosen a classy Indian restaurant where we had a private hall to ourselves. Lt Col Yogesh Kashyap initiated some impromptu entertainment by inviting members to narrate some humorous incidents of their lives.

Those talented took to singing which included some all-time classics.

- *Ae Meri Zohra Jabin, Tujhue Maloom Nahin* by Cdr Amit Pratap.
- *Mere Dil Mein Aaj Kya Hai, Tu Kahe to Main* by Maj Rajiv Seth.
- *Jaiye Aap Kahan Jayenge Ye Nazar Laut Ke* by Mrs. Sangeeta Sinha.
- *Gore Gore O Bannke Chhore* by Col Sudhir Kumar Sakhuja, VSM.
- *Chandan Sa Badan* by Mrs. Ashita Panghal.

Col Ashok Ray Chaudhury regaled the audience with his anecdotes. Apparently, an astrologer had predicted that he would always be of "service to women" throughout his life and sure enough, after he hung his uniform, his employers from the corporate world wanted him to push





a product to “entice women” where he put his God-given talent to good use. The corporate entity probably went bankrupt!! Make of that what you wish.



The gala dinner

Laughter sessions continued with Col Nirmaljit Mann large-heartedly keeping us laughing at his own expense. Sample this: he claims he tried very hard, without success, to improve his 2.5 CGPA at the NDA. Later, when it was time for marriage, he decided, for the sake of his progeny, to find a *padhi-likhi* wife. Having recently migrated, he has issued a warning to the city of Canberra to get ready as he was about to unleash his unsurpassed intellect on the city. If Canberra is fortunate, his wife will intervene!

Ashok and *Nirmal*, please make a note; with immediate effect you both are expected to attend all social evenings and are hereby ordered to volunteer for the post of MC, Entertainment Programmes, NDAAA(AC). The fun and laughter of the gala dinner continues to linger. May the NDA brotherhood live long.

EXCURSIONS AND TOURS

Tours

Capital City Tour. As part of the AGM, all outstation members with their spouses had the opportunity to be on an official tour and briefing of the Australian Parliament and the War



Tour - War Memorial Canberra

Memorial, both key landmarks of the national capital. The decision to hold the AGM at Canberra thus added another flavour for the interstate members.

Excursion

Mid-term Break Excursion. With all the fun we had at the AGM, we can't bear to wait till the next one. Just as we always looked forward to the mid-term break many-many years ago, we decided to relive the spirit of the mid-term mood by planning to meet half-way between Canberra and Melbourne





sometime in Sep this year. Cdr Amit Pratap suggested having the mid-term bash up at the Yarrowonga resort on the Murray river. Col Vinay Sharma and Cdr Amit Pratap have taken the lead to work jointly in making the bookings. Planning is underway with eight members having already confirmed attendance and am sure the number will swell as we come closer. With Tequila and other spirits flowing by the campfire, we can expect *Ashok* and *Nirmal* in full flight. So please come prepared and we look forward to those couple of days full of fun and frolic.

VISITORS

NDA Alumni Visiting Australia from India

Visiting Alumni. A group of NDA alumni from all the three Services (mainly from the 30s course) who are also alumni of Sainik School Thiruvananthapuram and their spouses were visiting



Alumni Visitors from India – NDA courses in 30s

Australia in Mar 19. Wg Cdr Sanu Kainikara (39/A/AF-FP) shared this information with Lt Col Arvind Kumar Sinha who then contacted Brig Chacko Abraham and organised an evening with the visitors over drinks and dinner on 15th Mar 19 at Melbourne. Despite the short notice, few Victorian members managed to find the time to meet the visitors. Old acquaintances were renewed and new ones forged with this group amid a lot of cheer and bonhomie. The details of the visitors are listed later in the newsletter.

COMPLIMENTS

Wg Cdr Abhinandan Varthaman, (104/I/AF-FP) did India and his alma mater proud by his soldierly conduct while in brief custody after his MIG 21 was shot down on 27th Feb 19. Some reliable sources have informed that he has been recommended for a gallantry award. Kudos, Wg Cdr Abhinandan! You made us proud. Lt Col Arvind Kumar Sinha, in his capacity as the President of the chapter, penned a note to communicate our feelings to his father, another





NDA alumnus, Air Marshal Simhakutty Varthaman, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (42/I/AF-FP) who promptly replied. The letter and his reply thereto are reproduced later in the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership is Growing. Starting with just seven members in mid-2018, we are now a team of 32 members. The details are provided further below in the newsletter and can also be found at <https://ndaaaac.org.au/resources/> I am certain there are many more NDA alumni settled in the Oceania region. Efforts are on to locate them and get them into the folds of our chapter. If we follow and act on the idea "Every Member Get a Member", during each year, we will grow with ease. So, an opportunity; and let us see at the end year, if this works.

FUTURE PLANNING - ARTICLES AND REGIONAL UPDATES

Article Theme. We plan to have a theme, focus and scope for subsequent newsletters to include articles from the members and their families. The proposed theme for the next Issue is: "Experiences of Migrating to Australia – Challenges and Solutions". Details of the Focus, Scope and Format will be shared with the members via email and WhatsApp soon. Members please note - this is a wonderful opportunity for you to pen down your journey of settling down in Australia on the work, education and the domestic front. This would be of immense value to NDA Alumni planning a move to Australia.

Regional Updates. As the activities grow in the regions (Vic & Tas, ACT & NSW, SA & WA and NT & QLD), we plan to cover regional news in our newsletters. Regional members of the committee please note - this will be an opportunity to provide updates about your regions.

SAYONARA

A big thanks to Col Sneh Sharma (46/L/SIKH). He is our link to the NDA Alumni Association, Khadakvasla and responds to all our NDA-related queries.

As the editor, I sincerely acknowledge the support of members from Melbourne and Canberra in the preparation of this issue of Aussie Trishakti.

Please remember that you don't have to wait for these bi-annual newsletters, just become a member and get all the news as it happens from our website, once you have logged in.

Jai Hind!





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July 2019

Volume 1

Issue 2

MEMBERS AS ON DATE

Ser No	Course/Sqn	Rank	Name	Remarks
1	22/I	Gp Capt	Vaidun Vidyadhar	IAF (FP)
2	32/ B & D	Lt Col	Yogesh Kashyap	SIGNALS
3	36/J	Col	Naunihal Mann	Inf; KUMAON
4	37/H	Lt Col	Bhagwan Singh Godara	ENGINEERS/JAG
5	37/38/I	Maj	Om Prakash Mohan	EME
6	38/C	Brig	Mahesh Thapar	ARTILLERY
7	40/D	Col	Joginder Maindiratta	Inf; SIKH LI
8	42/E	Col	Pavan Chander Bhandari	ARTILLERY-AIR OP
9	42/I	Gp Capt	Yadupati Das	IAF (FP)
10	43/F	Gp Capt	Veliat Anthony	IAF (FP)
11	46/E	Lt Col	Arvind Kumar Sinha	PARA EME
12	47/H	Col	Sudhir Kumar Sakhuja	Inf; MADRAS
13	50/D	Col	Vinay Kumar Sharma	Inf; MAHAR
14	50/G	Col	Param Bhalla	ARTILLERY
15	51/D	Col	Vipen Khullar	Inf; SIKH
16	53/F	Lt Col	Ashok Ray Chaudhury	ARTILLERY
17	56/I	Brig	Arvind Kundalkar	Inf; 4 GR
18	59/I	Lt Col	Anil Kumar Nayyar	PARA EME
19	59/D	Maj	Rajiv Seth	SIGNALS
20	62/D	Wg Cdr	Indukuri Satya Subba Raju	IAF (ATC)
21	65/L	Maj	Samir Shrivastava	Inf; BIHAR
22	65/L	Cdr	Aruna Ranganathan	IN; Aviation
23	65/J	Lt Cdr	Benedict Manuel	IN; Aviation
24	67/I	Capt	Nagarjun Surapaneni	ASC
25	71/K	Col	Nirmaljit Mann	AOC
26	77/D	Col	Rajesh Kaswan	Inf; SIKH LI
27	79/D	Lt Col	Ajay Vishwakarma	Inf; BIHAR
28	80/I	Lt Col	Suresh Singh Panghal	ENGINEERS
29	84/B	Cdr	Amit Pratap	IN; Submarines
30	86/G	Maj	Sukhkirat Khara	ARTILLERY
31	90/A	Capt (IN)	Manish Rai	IN
32	91/A	Maj	Barry Dhillon	Inf; MARATHA LI

Tally: D Sqn: 7.5 (Leading) and I Sqn 7 (following closely).





NDAAA(AC) COMMITTEE

Ser No	Course/Sqn	Rank	Name	Appointment
1	46/E	Lt Col	Arvind Kumar Sinha	President
2	59/D	Maj	Rajiv Seth	Vice President
4	77/D	Col	Rajesh Kaswan	Secretary
3	59/I	Lt Col	Anil Kumar Nayyar	Treasurer
5	80/I	Lt Col	Suresh Singh Panghal	Regional Member – Vic&Tas
6	94/B	Cdr	Amit Pratap	Regional Member – NSW&ACT
7			To be advised	Regional Member – Qld&NT
8			To be advised	Regional Member – WA&SA





NDA ALUMNI VISITORS TO MELBOURNE – 15th MAR 19

Ser No	Course/ Sqn	Rank	Name	Arm/Service
1	31/E	Lt Gen	Susheel Gupta	Inf-JAKRIF
2	40/A	Lt Gen	GM Nair	Inf-GR
3	37/L	Maj Gen	Saush Sharma	Inf-JAKRIF
4	39/F	Maj Gen	KS Venugopal	Inf-JAT
5	37/E	Brig	Chacko Abraham	Inf-PARA (SF)
6	37/J	Brig	Rajiv Sarin	Inf-DOGRA
7	35/J	Brig	Tejinder Singh	ENGINEERS
8	36/C	Col	N Prasad Pillai	Inf-MAHAR
9	33/I	Col	KR Rao	Inf-PARA (SF)
10	34/E	Cmdre	KM Nair	IN
11	56/B	Air Marshal	SRK Nair	IAF
12	36/D	Wg Cdr	Mohan Chand	IAF
13	37/G	Wg Cdr	Raman Mahaveera	IAF
14	37/I	Wg Cdr	Bhavesh Mishra	IAF
15	Spouse		Mrs. Shree Nair	W/o Late Gp Capt RPM Nair (34/C)
16	Spouse		Mrs. Tina Dutt	W/o Late Wg Cdr Manu Dutt (36/I)

AGM & SOCIAL EVENING 8th June19- ATTENDEES

Ser No	Course/ Sqn	Rank	Name	Arm/Service
1	32/B&D	Lt Col	Yogesh Kashyap	SIGNALS
2	37/H	Lt Col	BS Godara	ENGINEERS & JAG
3	37&38/I	Maj	OP Mohan	EME
4	40/D	Col	Joginder Maindiratta	Inf-SIKH LI
5	43/F	Gp Capt	Veliat Anthony	IAF (FP)
6	46/E	Lt Col	Arvind Kumar Sinha	PARA-EME
7	47/H	Col	Sudhir Kumar Sakhuja, VSM	Inf-MADRAS
8	53/F	Col	Ashok Ray Chaudhury	ARTILLERY
9	59/I	Lt Col	Anil Kumar Nayyar	PARA-EME
10	59/D	Maj	Rajiv Seth	SIGNALS
11	62/D	Wg Cdr	Indukuri Satya Subba Raju	IAF (ATC)
12	65/L	Maj	Samir Shrivastava	Inf-BIHAR
13	71/K	Col	Nirmaljit Mann	AOC
14	80/I	Lt Col	Suresh Singh Panghal	ENGINEERS
15	84/B	Cdr	Amit Pratap	IN (Submarines)





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Lt. Col. (Dr) Arvind Kumar Sinha
President, NDAAA (AC)
president@ndaaaac.org.au
Mob: +61 438 578 060

5 Heathcote Retreat
Caroline Springs, Melbourne
VIC 3023 (AUSTRALIA)

12 Mar 2019

Dear Air Marshal Venthaman,

1. Greetings from the Australia Chapter of National Defence Academy's Alumni Association.
2. The members of our Association have closely followed the news of Wg Cdr Abhinandan's gallant action and his grit and composure when in captivity. We rejoice that he is now back and pray that he continues to do the Nation, IAF, NDA and his family proud.
3. Do plan a trip to Australia, for it would be an honour to host you and Mrs. Varthman.
4. Please convey our best wishes to Abhinandan as well and do let him know that he and his family have a standing invitation to visit us.

Please do let us know of any assistance that you may need from this part of the world. Also, say 'Hello' to the Chennai Chapter of NDA Alumni. Looking forward to hearing from you all.

With regards.

Yours sincerely

Seenu/c

(46th Course/Echo Sqn)

Air Marshal Simhakutty Varthaman (Retd)
PVSM, AVSM, VSM
Jal Vayu Vihar, Mdambakkam
Chennai 600073 (INDIA)

National Defence Academy Alumni Association (Australia Chapter) Incorporated
Registration No. CRM 0138333



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NDA Alumni Association (Australia Chapter) Incorporated
Registration No. CRM 0138333



MESSAGES



Air Marshal Simhakutty Vathamam, PVSM, AVSM, VSM – 42/I
(Chennai, India)

Dear Col AK Sinha,

Greetings from warm Chennai.

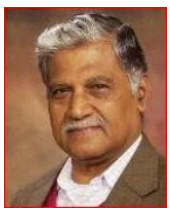
Since 27 Feb 19, my wife Shobha and I have been through many ups and downs. Receiving your Letter is one very happy moment for us. Thank you very much. The whole Nation stood as one to pray for the quick and safe return of Abhinandan. God answered our prayers to bring him back to our Motherland. Despite his ordeal he is in good health and should be back in the fighter cockpit in couple of months.

One of my course mates YS Das (42/I) is planning to move to Australia shortly. I will let him know about you. Thank you very much for the invitation to visit Australia. We should make it some time. Please do visit us in Chennai and give us the pleasure of showing you beautiful South. Anything that I could do here would be our pleasure.

My very best wishes to the Association. May it grow from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely

Varthaman (42/I) and Abhinandan (104/I)



Gp Capt Vaidun Vidyadhar – 22/I (Sydney, Australia)

I went through the latest list of members and did find that I am the senior most being from the 22nd NDA course. When I see that some members are from the 70th, 80th and even 91st course I somehow get a feeling that I may be an "old foggy". But even at 77 I can assure you my mind is as sharp as ever.

At the outset, I must congratulate the founding members and office bearers who had taken the initiative to organise and get this Australian Chapter going. Well done guys, you have done a tremendous job. Though I was not able to attend the recent AGM at Canberra I have been closely following the messages and photos on WhatsApp. The AGM went off very well. It was my loss that I couldn't be there.





I am sure the Australian Chapter will grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

My very best wishes.

Warm regards, Gp Capt Vaidun Vidyadhar – Senior Most Member NDAAA(AC)



Cmdre Ranbir Talwar – 35/B (Gurgoan, India)

Dear Col Sakhuja,

I am NDA 35/B and was DA in Canberra, 1993-96. I have just seen your Newsletter which indicates the formation of the NDAAA(AC). I am delighted and congratulate you and your team for this excellent effort to keep our NDA Alumni, colleagues and mates in Oz well informed about our Alma Mater.

Recently on 13-15 Dec 18, my Course went back to our Cradle of Leadership to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of passing out of the 35th. It was an amazing, nostalgic and tearful reunion of 15 year olds who are all about 70 now. Some friends we met after 50 years, but the bonding and love was the same.....and old bonds were renewed. It felt like it was yesterday that we were front rolling and crawling. Some of us ended up as Chiefs, Vice Chiefs, Cs in C and some left as Cadets and were later bureaucrats, businessmen and Senior Executives in Industry. Some like you all had migrated for greener pastures or family reasons and some were no more amongst us but without doubt deeply entrenched in our thoughts and minds. Some had given their lives for the nation, a large no in 1971 at the young age of 21/22. And their families were there too to reminisce the good old days in unison. We stayed in the cabins in the Sqns, went riding and walked up and down to Peacock Bay.

To you all, I wish to say, we are so lucky to be part of the NDA and its traditions, the drill Sahibs like our Drill SM Kanshi Ram of course need our special gratitude for moulding us from boys to men and into Leaders of Men.

God bless the NDA and all success to the Aussie Chapter.

Ranbir Talwar





Maj Ashim Choudhury – 28/F (Kolkata, India)

Dear Friends Down Under,

We are indeed thrilled at the fact that we now have an overseas Alumni Assn too! Great initiative!

The Kolkata Chapter was started two years back, the second one after the Poona (okay Pune for the younger ones!) Chapter. We currently have 65 members and the numbers are increasing gradually. We have Gen Shankar Roy Chowdhury as the Patron-in-Chief, and Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha and the Eastern Army Commander as (paying) Patrons. The senior most are Brig PP Kochar and Maj Gen Bimalendu Guha of 6th NDA (JSW) Course.

We have three Socials in a year with band, baaja and dhamaka. These are contributory for which we collect Rs 5,000/- at the beginning of the year. Besides these three occasions, we have Cocktails immediately after the AGM which is hosted by the Chapter. Serving officers and others passing through on the day of the Socials are most welcome to join in (and many do!) on payment of a small contribution.

The nearest port of entry for people down under when they come home is either Calcutta or Chennai. So, don't book your tickets direct to Delhi or elsewhere; route through Calcutta. We are here to take care of you.

Major Auriel D'Monte of 19th Course is in Springvale Vic. His email is auriel@hotmail.com. His phone numbers are +61 0437 091445 (Mobile) and +61 0395481353 (you guys obviously don't need the +61 portion!

His address: 4/33 Windsor Ave, Springvale, Victoria 3171

Enjoy your Get-togethers and have a nice and hot Christmas!

Best wishes

Ashim Choudhury - Secretary NDAAA Kolkata Chapter





Col Sanjay Chibber – 46/F (London, UK)

Hi Arvind,

I have looked at the website you NDA chaps down under have made and am deeply impressed. Here in the U.K. we have a number of ex NDAs too and we too have been wanting to extend our group, beyond the six seven of us who meet regularly. Your website has inspired me to get thinking about how to link up all of us NDA alumni who have ventured beyond the shores of our motherland and settled abroad.

It is amazing to see how strong the ex NDA bond is. It is a very exclusive club, membership of which is restricted to those of us lucky ones who have had the proud privilege of front-rolling in the corridors of our respective Sqns and going on Singarh hikes and Pashan runs. One of the greatest lessons we learnt was never to give up. To my mind the defining moment of what an ex NDA is made up of, came when we saw the footage of Gp Capt Abhinandan being assaulted by the locals in Pakistan after he bailed out. Despite the 'hammering' he was getting, the blood pouring out from the cuts on his face, he answered all questions coherently and refused politely to answer questions from his interrogators. Even at Wagah border, he was the very picture of composure and carried himself with dignity. This stoic attitude in the face of extreme adversity is what we all were trained to maintain. This came only after years of training (and ragra) in NDA. Only those of us who have been through this are eligible to join this brotherhood.

What you guys have done is great. It would be greater still, if you extended the field to the entire Commonwealth, including the Region of NZ and Oceania, to UK and Canada and maybe even the USA, where many ex NDAs have settled.

Best Regards,
Sanjay Chibber





Col Vipen Khullar – 51/D (Chandigarh, India)

Dear Sir (President)

It gives me a great feeling of happiness to share few words with the ALUMUNI guys who were in NDA before me, with me and after I left.

No matter when one joined and when one left, the CONNECT which each one of us feels has no parallels. In spite of we branching out to various fields, the craving to catch up for old times sake never fades away.

I am privileged and fortunate for being considered as associate member to this elite formation (if I may call it so) and at the same time, I would also like to make a mention of relentless pursuit by Col Arvind Sinha in converting this sterling idea in to reality which could see the light of day. Together we bind for existence and bloom in happiness for all times.

With profound regards I remain very sincerely in all earnest

Yours Vipen Khullar





THEIR SUPPORT MAKES THINGS HAPPEN-NDA(AAC) LADIES





PHOTO GALLERY



Inaugural AGM Canberra 8 Jun 19 - Attendees



AGM Welcome Reception – 7 Jun 19



Inaugural AGM Canberra 8 Jun 19– In Sitting



Social Meeting Melbourne – 2 Mar19



Inaugural AGM Canberra 8 Jun 19– Cheers



Alumni Visitors Ladies in Melbourne – 15 Mar19

