



Media Release

The Hon Alan Griffin MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

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NEW COMMISSIONER STARTS WORK

Major General Mark Kelly, AO, former Commander of Australian Forces in the Middle East, begins his five-year appointment as the new Repatriation Commissioner today.

Welcoming him to the role, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Alan Griffin said Major General Kelly will help to continue to bridge the gap between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"Major General Kelly is a highly experienced and respected officer and I wish him well in his work to help my Department to continue to provide a high level of assistance to veterans and ADF members," Mr Griffin said.

"By virtue of his appointment to the Repatriation Commission, Major General Kelly is also a member of the Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Commission."

Major General Kelly served with the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Zimbabwe/ Rhodesia, was Chief of Staff of INTERFET during Operation Stabilise in East Timor, and Commander Joint Task Force 633 in the Middle East Area of Operations and Afghanistan, concluding that command on 15 January 2010.

"I would also like to take the opportunity to give my sincere thanks to outgoing Repatriation Commissioner Brigadier Bill Rolfe, AO, (Ret'd) for his outstanding service," Mr Griffin said.

"Brigadier Rolfe's exemplary skills as a leader and his long military service have been an asset to my Department. His compassion and dedication to the veteran community will be hard to match but I'm sure Major General Kelly will welcome the challenge," Mr Griffin said.

"It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve our veterans. I wish Major General Kelly all the very best and I trust he finds this position every bit as rewarding as I have," Brigadier Rolfe said.

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