

Commander Air Lift Group's speech to members of the RTFV and 35SQN Association.

February 2012

On behalf of Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown, I thank you for the opportunity to address you at this significant dedication service.

Today is our opportunity to celebrate and commemorate the service by members of the RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam, and No. 35 Squadron, during the Vietnam War. Specifically, it is the 40th anniversary since the completion of nearly eight years continuous deployment by RAAF Caribous to Vietnam, marking Wallaby Airlines famously as the 'first in, last out' for our Air Force.

And let us not forget that this year also marks the 70th anniversary of the formation of No. 35 Squadron.

These anniversaries give us time to reflect not just on what has changed in the decades, but also what we hold in common.

In 2012, Air Lift Group is continuing to face increases in our operational tempo—through our commitment to supporting Australian and Coalition Forces in the Middle East, as well as peacekeeping activities in East Timor and the Solomon Islands, while supporting Australian national tasking both here at home and abroad.

Air Lift Group is also faced with greater diversity today than perhaps ever before. As Commander Air Lift Group, I oversee a range of capabilities from the new KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transports and C-17A Globemasters, through to our C-130 H and J Hercules, our Special Purpose VIP Aircraft and the King Air light transport aircraft.

To cope with these demands, Air Lift Group is undergoing fundamental changes, the likes of which are similar to what the