

From: Commodore J.R. Lord, RAN

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MINISTER'S OFFICE

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In reply quote: COMDPERS 122

The Honourable Shane L. Stone, MLA  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory  
GPO Box 3721  
DARWIN NT 0801

*Dear Chief Minister,*

May I pass on my congratulations and those of the general Defence community on you reaching your first anniversary as Chief Minister.

Your personal support for the Defence Forces has been of invaluable assistance to us as we have continued our efforts to integrate with the Darwin and Northern Territory communities as we move from a relatively small presence to a far more significant and visible population.

The build up of Defence in the North and the recently announced changed Australian Defence Force command and control arrangements strengthening Headquarters Northern Command's role make for exciting and challenging times for we in the Defence Forces. I note with more than passing interest that recent statements on Statehood and the 'historical' railway are providing you with a similar climate.

On behalf of all members of the Defence community I wish you and your Government every success as it enters its second year.

*Yours aye,  
John Lord*