

From: Commodore J.R. Lord, RAN



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In reply quote: COMDPERS296/96

The Honourable Shane L. Stone, MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Chief Minister,

As my time in the Territory comes to an end, I write to express my sincere appreciation for your professional and personal support to me over these past two years. My main tasks of integrating the Defence Force with the local communities has been made easier by your untiring and outward support, and I hope we in the Defence Forces will never take such support for granted but continue to earn it. Your formal expressions of support in the Parliament and through local media have been much appreciated.

Defence is well positioned to build on the good relationships it has with Territorians. While Defence and NT Government strategies on development may differ at times, I know that we are conscious of the need to encourage support from the local people.

I am confident that members of the ADF will continue to seek that support through their professional conduct and support for community activities. I believe the ADF will welcome the chance to join the Territory in its rapid growth in the future.

As you are well aware, we military people come and go. On a personal note your support made Jenny and me feel welcome immediately. I know Jenny particularly enjoyed the challenges of being a member of your Women's' Advisory Council and it is an experience she will remember.

Jenny and I wish you every success in your future endeavours and sincerely hope we have the opportunity to catch up with you again soon. More importantly, we would welcome the opportunity to develop our friendship with you and Josephine, and in the future may have the time to relax and more informally remember the good experiences of these two years.

*Yours aye,
John Lord*