

MEDIA RELEASE

14 December 2006

US Military Seek Australian e-Health Expertise

Australia has been recognised for its expertise in e-Health technologies by the US Department of Defense with a distinguished commendation medal awarded to the Royal Australian Navy's Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Bob Curtis in December last year.

The Brisbane-based e-Health expert received the US Navy and Marine Corp's Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service for establishing 'teledermatology' and 'teleradiology' networks for the US.

For two years LCDR Curtis was positioned as Department Head at the Naval Medical Information Management Centre, just outside Washington DC, where he chaired a cross-disciplinary Integrated Process Team.

Today, LCDR Curtis is the current head of e-Health at the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH).

CMVH is an internationally-unique, academic, community and military partnership which is dedicated to innovatively seeking solutions to military and veterans' health issues through research, education e-health and public debate.

LCDR Curtis said the ever-present need for e-Health systems means more ADF personnel are tipped for international exchange programs.

"The internet has provided global communication and is the perfect tool to provide healthcare to serving military and veterans," LCDR Curtis said.

"I have been deployed to the Middle East, during and immediately after the Gulf War, so I know first hand the importance of having immediate and up-to-date medical assistance

"Australia is at the forefront of e-Health systems and the role we play is vital to the longevity of deployed and remotely located military personnel's health.

"Throughout the past decade, e-health has come a long way and we are now better able to diagnose and treat personnel while continuously improving our systems.

"I think there is great value in exchange programs, particularly between the US and Australia, to grow this profession to benefit serving men and women."

LCDR Curtis has spent more than 27 years in the Regular and Reserve Navy, and held positions including general medic, pathology technician, advanced medic, commissioned medical planner, medical administrator and medical trainer and auditor roles.

CMVH is an independent university consortium which harnesses the resources of The University of Queensland, University of South Australia and Charles Darwin University and Australia's Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs in order to improve the health outcomes of serving ADF personnel and veterans.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Amanda Robson, BBS Public Relations, 07 3221 6711

Lisa Nixon, BBS Public Relations, 07 3221 6711