



Media Release

Embassy of Australia
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Bakers Creek Memorial Ceremony

The Embassy of Australia today honours the 41 members of the US Army Air Corps that were onboard the B-17C Flying Fortress that crashed at Bakers Creek, Australia on this day in 1943. Only one of the passengers survived, making it the worst single aviation disaster in the South West Pacific Theatre during WWII, and the worst aviation accident in Australia's history.

Today also marks the first anniversary of the positioning of the Bakers Creek Memorial Marker at its permanent site at Fort Myer. The Australian Embassy proudly displayed the Bakers Creek Memorial Marker from November 2006 while a permanent location was being negotiated.

'The ceremony on 11 June 2009 at Fort Myer was a significant occasion,' Head of Australian Defence Staff Air Vice-Marshal Kym Osley said. 'The importance of the permanent site on US soil was clearly demonstrated with the 2009 ceremony particularly through the presence of the victims' families.'

Then Secretary of the Army, Pete Geren fittingly said at last year's ceremony, "...it was the closing of one of the Second World War's final open chapters."

Australia has a close association with the Bakers Creek Memorial; it highlights the strength of the partnership between Australia and the US. A Memorial to the 40 victims has been established at Bakers Creek in Queensland since May 1992.

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