



Media Release

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Bakers Creek Memorial Ceremony

The Australian government is pleased to participate in the Bakers Creek Memorial Ceremony at Fort Myer, Virginia.

The Australian Embassy has proudly displayed the Bakers Creek Memorial Marker since November 2006 while a permanent location was being negotiated. The Memorial Marker lists the names of the 40 US Army Air Corps who died when the B-17C Flying Fortress crashed at Bakers Creek, Australia, on 14 June 1943.

‘I am pleased that a permanent site for the Bakers Creek Memorial has been secured at Fort Myer, and am delighted that the Memorial Marker will be relocated in time for the 66th anniversary of the tragedy,’ Head of Australian Defence Staff Air Vice-Marshal Kym Osley said.

This is an important day for the victims’ families, some of whom are able to be present at the ceremony.

‘I congratulate the Bakers Creek Memorial Association on its achievements and hope that this result will bring comfort to the families of the victims,’ Air Vice-Marshal Osley said.

Australia has a close association with the Bakers Creek Memorial. It was the worst single aviation disaster in the South West Pacific Theatre during WWII, and the worst aviation accident in Australia’s history. This memorial service highlights the strength of the partnership between Australia and the US, as well as the sacrifices made during this pivotal battle of World War II.

Queensland pink granite was secured by the Australian Government for the base of the Bakers Creek Memorial Marker. A Memorial to the 40 victims has been established at Bakers Creek in Queensland since May 1992.



The Hon. Santo Santoro (far left), Air Vice Marshall Kym Osley, Head of Australian Defence Staff in Washington DC (far right) and Lt. Gen Bruce A Wright USAF (Ret) (centre) with families of the Baker Creek casualties.



Robert S Cutler, Exec Dir of the Baker Creek Memorial Assoc (USA) welcomes guests to the memorial ceremony with (L-R) Lt. Gen Bruce A Wright USAF (Ret), Harry McAlpine, RSL Washington DC, Col. Laura J. Richardson, Garrison Commander, FMMC and The Hon. Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army, USA.



The Bakers Creek Memorial at its permanent residence at Fort Myer Army Barracks, Virginia



(L-R) The Hon. Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army USA, the Hon. Santo Santoro, Former Senator, Queensland, Australia and Air Vice Marshall Kym Osley, Head of Australian Defence Staff in Washington DC