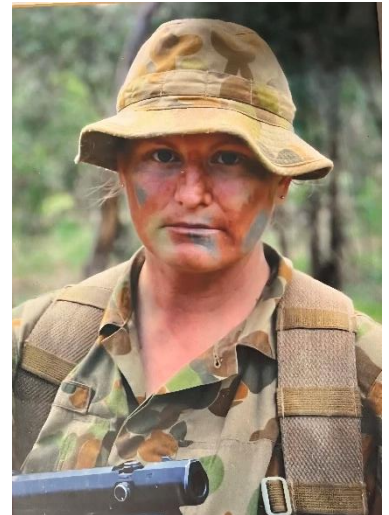


# Interview with Lyndsey Ebdon



1. What rank did you become in the Army and what was your main role?

I was a Corporal, twice over two corps. When I first joined the Army, I started in the Royal Australian Corps of Transport (RACT) as a Driver. My main role was to drive and maintain all sorts of vehicles from normal cars, to heavy trucks and trailers, organise tasks and travel routes, including giving convoy orders and managing the convoy. I also got to be a recruit instructor while I was in RACT and trained recruits to be soldiers, ready to go to their on the job training for their roles! After eight years, I transferred to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps (RAAOC) as an Administrative Clerk, where I had to go back to the rank of Private because it's a new job. My main role there was to run reports for my commanders, manage day to day administration for our Squadron and help any soldiers who had questions regarding application forms or their pay, as well as give them direction on policy. I also had to take notes in disciplinary hearings, like a Clerk of the Court does. While I was in RAAOC, I was also posted to Recruiting, where I got to travel all over the place and talk to hundreds of school students about a career in the Defence Force!

2. When did you join Army and when did you leave?

I enlisted on 18 July 2006 and was medically retired on 8 February 2022

3. What made you want to join the military?

A lot of my family were in the military before me and I wanted to follow in their footsteps. I was the first female member of my family to join as well. I also wanted to serve my country.

#### 4. What does it feel like to be in a war zone or be deployed?

Unfortunately, I was never sent to war, but I did spend a lot of time on field exercises that would run anywhere from 4 weeks to 3 months at a time. Its uncomfortable at first, because you're away from all the comforts of home, but then you get used to living in the bush and doing all the tasks that need to be done.

#### 5. Did you have any difficulties being away from your family while serving in the military?

Yes and no. I missed a lot of birthdays and other significant dates, but you get used to it and you catch up when you get home. Once I became a mum, being away from my young one was a bit tough, but I always knew I'd be home soon enough.

#### 6. Have you seen opportunities for women in the Army change over time?

Yes and no. I believe in the merit system and I believe it is starting to work better now, as in that women are now just as competitive for certain roles as men.

#### 7. Were there any female role models who inspired you?

Not so much in joining, but an inspiring role model during my time was RSM-A WO1 Kim Felmingham. I had the privilege of working with her for a time, and she proved to be a wise and compassionate leader.

8. Do you feel like your time in the military has equipped you for any roles outside of the Military?

I believe it has, however, I joined later in life (27) so already had a lot of civilian life experience. Army just honed those skills more for me.

9. What was your favourite part of your time serving in the military?

Honestly, I loved all of it – the lifestyle, the comraderie – everyone was like family, the skills I gained during my service and getting to travel and live all over Australia.

10. What was the proudest moment of your service?

Achieving 15 years' service

11. Did you face any challenges as a woman in the Army?

I did. Mostly from people who didn't believe women have a place in the Army, but that way of thinking seems to be moving away.

12. What is one lesson from your service that has stayed with you for life?

Do all things with integrity and moral courage. It won't necessarily make life easier, but your character is what you have to live with. Leadership isn't about having power over others, it's about mentoring the next generation to be better than you. Be compassionate but not a pushover – boundaries are necessary.