

From: Peter Condon petercondon@icunet.com.au 
Subject: [FACNET] Presentation of Vietnam-era OV-10 No.639 at the Australian War Memorial on 18 August 2023.
Date: March 29, 2023 at 07:09
To: main@facnet.groups.io main@FACNET.groups.io



We now have a date for the unveiling of our OV-10 No.639 at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) Mitchell Annex in Canberra in Australia on the afternoon of 18 August 2023, and you are all very welcome to join us for the event, which will probably start around 2.00pm. Our Bronco is stored in the Mitchell Annex while waiting for major renovations to the War Memorial to be completed.

!8 August in Australia is 'Vietnam Veterans' Day' so the Australian Government will be conducting a ceremony at the Australia Vietnam Forces National Monument near the AWM in the morning to celebrate 50 years since the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. This ceremony will start at 10.00am and you are all welcome to attend; but registration is required beforehand.

After the afternoon unveiling at the Mitchell Annex we will move to the Australian War Memorial (15 minute drive) for the 'Last Post' ceremony which is held each day, starting at 4.45pm. This ceremony will last about one hour. The evening is then free.

On Saturday 19 August our Forward Air Controller group will be holding a reunion dinner in the "Aircraft Hall" at the Australian War Memorial starting around 6.30pm. At this time, 22 local FACs have registered their intention to attend, with partners and/or friends. You are invited to join us for this evening. Assuming you make the trip to Australia, there will be about 50 people attending the dinner. Costs have not yet been determined.

Transport to move people between events will be an issue and we are currently looking at ways to overcome the problem.

A Canberra Hotel near to the AWM called the 'Mercure Canberra' at the corner of Ainslie and Limestone Avenues has offered accommodation for our FAC group at a discounted rate so I will forward you the email I sent to the Australian FACs explaining how to make a discounted booking. That will follow soon.

The events timetable follows:

Friday 18 August

10.00am Vietnam Forces National Monument
14.00pm AWM Mitchell Annex for 639 Unveiling
4.30pm AWM for 'Last Post' ceremony

Saturday 19 August

6.30pm FAC Reunion dinner at the AWM
END

Changing over from International arrivals to Domestic departures at Sydney or Melbourne airports can take some time, so when planning your flights I suggest you leave plenty of time for the changeover. Being stressed at our ages is not a good idea. You could give the Friday morning event at the Vietnam Memorial a miss if you plan to arrive in Sydney on the morning of the 18th, and then move on to Canberra arriving about midday. Or, keeping it simple, travel to Canberra on 17 August 2023. Taxi is the simplest way to move from Canberra Airport to the Mercure Hotel, and return,

The times I have given you are close but not exact so I will update you when I know the exact times.

Let me know if you plan to make the big trip down-under for the 18-19 August activities in Canberra please. Include the names of your partners if they plan to attend the AWM Unveiling and the FAC reunion dinner please. I will then send you an email describing how to book a room in the Mercure Hotel a in Canberra city.

Cheers,

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