

When Two Cultures Meet What Do You Get?

Answer? A dodgy didgeridoo playing Aussie. Major Dave Tymms arrived in America on December 20, 2002 with his family. Coming from the tropics of Australia, where daily temperatures were above 90 degrees with 90% humidity all year round, the cool climate of Central PA was a pleasant change. A white Christmas was spent in temporary accommodations in Harrisburg before moving into a house in mid January.

Major Tymms began work at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) on January 20, 2003. After spending two weeks on an induction program, he began work in his current position as an Operations Officer for Distribution Operations Division. Asked about his thoughts of DDSP he was quick to answer “very busy! DDSP is filled with many dedicated workers who were quick to respond to the increase in workload due to Operation Iraqi Freedom.” While the workforce is surprisingly mature (the politically correct way of saying old, he says) he has been impressed with the work ethic and desire to support the uniformed service men and women.

Major Tymms has spent 20 years in the Australian Army, which has seen him working in logistic depots similar to DDSP (but smaller), in field Supply units and as a teacher at the Australian Army Logistic Center. He has seen operational experience in Bosnia and also contributed to the logistics effort for the Australian commitment to East Timor. Major Tymms has numerous academic qualifications but believes no experience is as good as getting down on the floor and working with the team. He is excited to learn as much about the American

logistics system as possible and is open to any assistance from the DDSP workforce.

Major Tymms has been stationed all around Australia and his family is now up to move number seven. His children have settled into the American school system and really enjoy it. Though, he is quick to add they are getting sick about being asked to say “crikie” and “no we don’t have kangaroos for pets but we do have computers!” Major Tymms rates Central PA as one of the best places he has lived in his life and the local people are a strong part of that. He enjoys snowboarding, paragliding, fishing and playing with old cars and bikes.

So what about that Dodge? It is a 1960 Dodge Seneca that was purchased off Ebay and is used as his daily commuter. Major Tymms claims it was a better buy for a second car than a 10-year-old Cavalier for the same price. “You don’t get tanks (or boats) like this back in Australia and the novelty value was too good to miss.” Major Tymms claims it has something to do with fitting into and understanding the American culture and way of life, something which he intends to do as much as possible in his two year post. This also includes as much travel as possible. The didgeridoo is another story that still requires much practice.

For now Major Tymms will be at DDSP until at least December so if you need to know something about Australia or how they do logistics in their “defence force”, stop him next time he is in your area and have a chat! He adds, “If you can not understand the accent ask me to slow my speech down, it does help!”



Australian Exchange Officer to DDSP, Major Dave Tymms plays a didgeridoo on his 1960 Dodge Seneca.