

Calling Currawong

Communications system gets the message through

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ALL PHOTOS: BRUCE GIBSON/BOEING (UNLESS INDICATED)

When Angela Glasson joined the Australian Army, her communications equipment took up the space of a small truck. Now it can be delivered from a backpack.

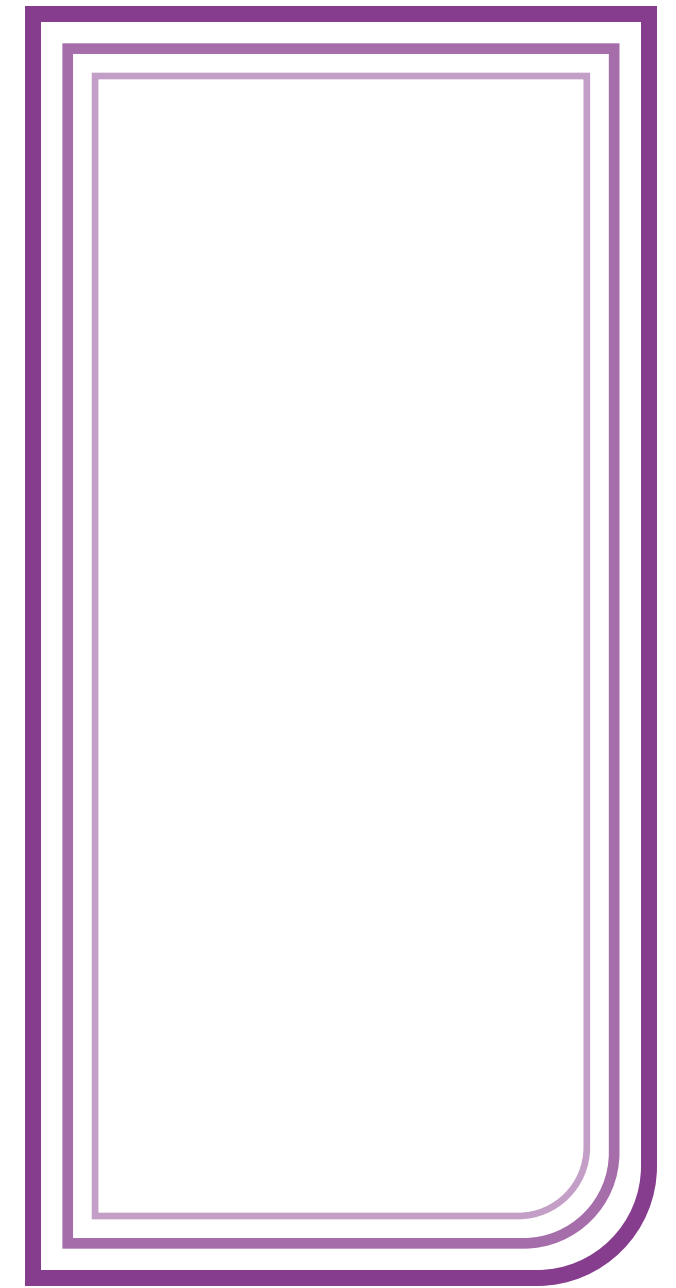
Glasson's fascination with communications began when she first saw GPS satellite technology directing tractors to achieve perfect crop rows, minimizing waste and optimizing the harvest season in Australia.

Like many New Zealand secondary school graduates, she spent several years working and travelling through Australia, including working in rural farming areas, before settling into a career. Spurred by her curiosity about how satellites work, she joined the Australian Army and enjoyed a 17-year career in a range of communications roles. In 2021, she took on a role with Boeing Defence Australia working on the Currawong

Field revelations

“During my career in the Australian Army, I deployed to multiple countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea,”





MESSAGE BEARER

Work, test, learn, repeat

Glasson coordinated a unique approach to testing demonstrations, called Mission System Integration Test Events (MSITEs).

"In the early days of development, these events enabled army operators to test new hardware and software prototypes firsthand," she said. "As we progressed, our engineers used the MSITEs to present various systems and their capabilities to our army and industry stakeholders.

"The system was delivered on time and on budget, and much of its success came from working directly with army operators to test concepts, gain real-time feedback, make improvements and drive innovation."

Glasson now works on projects that incorporate Currawong components into other military platforms and programs. Boeing Defence Australia has adapted the system for use by the Australian navy and air force and is working to anticipate future battlespace communications needs and exploring how to support its Defence Force customer.

"It means a lot to me to be part of developing such an exceptional capability, knowing that those who come after me are benefitting from a contemporary communications system that is fit for purpose and is constantly evolving to keep them safe and connected," Glasson said. [IQ](#)