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*Dear Sir,*

1. I write this letter as an acknowledgement of my personal appreciation for the steps taken towards establishing the *National Defence Academy Alumni Association – Australia Chapter* {NDAAA(AC)}.
2. National Defence Academy (NDA), being a tri-service training establishment, is unique in its nature. Inspired by the best military academies in the mid-1900s, at Sandhurst & West Point, NDA was ordained to provide the true *Purple* colour to young cadets and blooming officers for the Indian Armed Forces. The NDA saga started in the abandoned barracks of Italian POW camp a.k.a., the Inter Services Wing (ISW) in Dehradun on 06 Jan 1949, when Cdt JS Sabhiki (later Air Marshal), reported as the first cadet out of a total course strength of 40 cadets. The NDA in its current avatar took shape on a hamlet, 17 km from Pune, on 06 Oct 1949 and was later commissioned on 16 Jan 1950 (NDA Day). With the 140<sup>th</sup> course joining the *Cradle for Leadership*, in Jun 2018 this year, the epic though seems long but in truth has just begun. NDA alumni have fought in all wars/ conflicts for India as well as part of the UN missions, achieved laurels as the first astronaut, risen to become the service Chiefs, diplomats, bureaucrats, politicians (including ministers), Governors, Olympic medallists, and winners of numerous gallantry awards – including the highest honour, three *Paramvir Chakras* (Capt Manoj Pandey, M/90, was my NDA coursemate as well as SSB batchmate). With such a rich history, the onus, on the alumni remains large, to continue to live up to the standards set by our brethren, especially those who laid their life in the service of our nation.
3. The setting up of the NDAAA (AC) is a positive step towards providing the proud NDA alumni, a platform for social bonding, reaching out, and helping each other with the similar ethos as we were taught at the alma mater. The NDAAA (AC) charter has been drafted with scrupulous detail and lays down details of membership, functioning, duties and responsibilities for all members and office holders.
4. As the Indian Defence Adviser in Australia, I appreciate the efforts of the team for taking on the onerous task of setting up the *first* NDAAA abroad chapter and wish the NDAAA (AC) all the success in the future.

Col Arvind Sinha  
National President  
NDAAA (AC), Melbourne