

26 November 2012

Army officer career a step closer thanks to SACE Research Project

Josh Swift's ambition to become an officer in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is a step closer thanks in part to his South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) Research Project.

The Year 12 Brighton Secondary School student researched the challenges and rewards of being an officer in the ADF for his project.

Josh attributes his selection for officer training to the thorough preparation he had as a result of his project, and to his personal development during the course of his research – which helped him build self-confidence, self-awareness and interpersonal skills.

“I knew from an early age that I wanted to go into the Defence Force – just from watching films and so on – I thought it would be such an exciting career,” he said.

“In Year 10 I had an aptitude test with the Defence Force and I was told that I could be suitable officer material. That's when I started to think seriously about applying for officer selection.

“The knowledge I gained through my research definitely helped prepare me for the Officer Selection Board in Canberra.”

Josh interviewed three ADF members to hear about their experiences and, through this, gained valuable insights into the officer role.

He also looked for information online, researching the ADF and army recruitment websites, as well as watching YouTube videos on serving in Afghanistan and on the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

Josh then evaluated and analysed all of his research findings to help him prepare for the officer selection process.

“It's pretty unusual to be selected for officer training straight from high school – they usually prefer university graduates with more life experience.

“So I was really pleased to be one of the three South Australian high school students selected for officer training next year.”

Josh will begin studying for a Bachelor of Science at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra next year.

“Ultimately I'd like to be in the Aviation Corps or the Infantry Corps leading Australian soldiers - that's what really tests your leadership skills,” he said.