



Royal United Services Institute  
New South Wales

# Newsletter

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## ***Introduction***

Welcome to the sixth issue of the electronic newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of NSW (RUSI NSW), the aim of which is to provide members, stakeholders, and other interested parties up to date news of our latest activities and events as well as selective information on defence issues.

There is no charge to receive the newsletter electronically and recipients are not required to be a member of the RUSI of NSW. Invite your colleagues to receive this newsletter - send them to the newsletters page on the RUSI NSW website: <http://www.rusinsw.org.au/Newsletters> where they can register their email contact details.

Please note: The RUSI NSW Newsletter No. 7 will be issued in February 2015 (there will be no newsletter produced over the holiday period).

## ***Latest News and Events***

### ***Brief on ADF Operations by the Chief of Joint Operations and Director General Air Operations to journalists on 25 November 2014***

This briefing provided details of the following current operations of the ADF:

The tempo for the ADF across the Middle East region remains high. In Afghanistan the ADF continues to build capacity and provide support the Afghan National Security Forces. In Iraq, the objective, from an Australian perspective, remains to work with the Iraqi Government to ensure it's able to keep its people safe, and to combat ISIL. The actions in Iraq are part of a broader coalition involving 60 different nations, including regional nations and neighbouring nations in Iraq who are coming together to be able to support the Iraqi Government and its Security Forces.



Following successful negotiations with the Iraqi Government, the necessary approvals have been completed to enable the movement of the Special Operations Task Group into Baghdad and that move is now largely completed. The initial focus for the Task Group has been on establishing accommodation, their working space, getting the required communications and security arrangements in place, and the commencement of the engagement with key Iraqi Security

Force Officials around the “advise and assist” mission.

The air campaign has continued with significant results including a further four humanitarian air drop missions over the last week by C-130 airlifts, the release of air combat operations weapons on 20 occasions over the last 20 days, and the increasing use of the E-7 early warning and control aircraft, and air-to-air refuelling aircraft as part of the package that supports strike activities.



As part of the ADF's maritime operations in the Middle East region, HMAS Toowoomba, which is the currently deployed Anzac frigate operating in the area, was involved on 20 November in a further drug interdiction. This seizure involved up to 324 kilograms of heroin, with a street value of about AU\$129m, found inside a dhow, well hidden, but was the second drug interdiction that that ship had performed within a 72-hour period.

[Click here for the transcript](#)

### ***HMAS Canberra joins the fleet***

The Governor General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC (Retd), together with the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Mr Tony Abbott, MP, were the guests of honour on 28 November when Australia's first Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) was welcomed into service in the Royal Australian Navy. The Australian White Ensign was raised for the first time, signaling that HMAS *Canberra* III was formally commissioned into the Fleet. Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Tim Barrett, AO, CSC, RAN, said the commissioning was a step towards developing the future of the Navy.



The ship brings a significant increase in amphibious potential to the Australian Defence Force. HMAS *Canberra* will proceed to sea in the coming weeks for a period of training and assessment for the crew. *Canberra* is first of two LHDs to be introduced into the Navy. The ship is expected to be used for diverse tasking such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and amphibious operations. *Canberra* is capable of embarking more than 1000 troops and associated cargo which can be landed ashore by

helicopters or state of the art landing craft.

## ***Institute News***

- ❖ The bi-monthly Council Meeting held on 8 December 2014 was well attended with a wide range of matters considered including the following:
  1. A draft program for the next International Dialogue was agreed.
  2. Action plans were developed arising from the recent Membership Workshop conducted by the Council.
  3. Consideration commenced of proposals for Gallipoli August Offensive Centenary Battlefield Tours to be conducted in 2015.
  
- ❖ New Members A special welcome is extended to the following new members:  
*LTCOL Roger S Gibson ; Mr Graham D. Brown ; MAJ Alan H. Smith ; Dr Craig A. Wilcox ; Mr David R. Watts ; LTCOL Paul R. Simadas*
  
- ❖ Deceased Members It is with a deep sense of sadness that the passing of the following members is recorded: *Dr Prosper D. Lark*

## ***Upcoming RUSI NSW Events***

Tuesday 16 December 2014 – Lunchtime lecture at 1.00pm at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street – the speaker will be Mr Colin Smith, Chief Customs Officer (Intelligence), New Zealand Customs Service, and the subject will be “Border Security and Counter Terrorism: the New Zealand Experience”. The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested. The Chatham House Rule will apply to the matters discussed on this occasion.



Tuesday 27 January 2015 – Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street – the speakers will be Commodore Michael Flynn and Colonel John Hutchison, MC, of the Royal United Services Institute, New South Wales, and the subject will be “The 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre as we observed it” The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested.

Wednesday, 27 May 2015 - The Institute’s 3<sup>rd</sup> International Defence and Security Dialogue will be held at Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, 27 May 2015. The topic will be “Australia, Indonesia and Regional Security”. Speakers are currently being invited and we expect the programme to be available early in the new year. The international dialogues are open to anyone interested.



## ***Upcoming Events by other Organisations***

18 February 2015 – The Borella Ride – In 1915, Albert Borella simply started walking from Tennant Creek to Darwin to enlist in the Australian Army. Commissioned on the battlefield, he was recognized for his exploits with a Mention in Despatches, then the Military Medal, and finally the Victoria Cross. He survived the war. The Borella Ride will re-enact his journey in February next year and will include his grandson. More information can be obtained from the website <http://www.theborellaride.com.au>



6–8 October 2015 – The Pacific2015 International Maritime Conference will be held at the Sydney Exhibition Centre at Glebe Island. The conference, organised by The Royal Institute of Naval Architects and The Institute of Marine



Engineering, Science and Technology will allow delegates to be involved in discussions about the latest developments in marine engineering and maritime technology; both in the areas of defence and commercial shipping. The conference will coincide with the prestigious

Royal Australian Navy Sea Power Conference, the Navy Week celebrations in Sydney and the PACIFIC2015 International Maritime Exposition which is organised by Maritime Australia Limited. For further details see: [www.pacific2015.com.au/international-maritime-conference](http://www.pacific2015.com.au/international-maritime-conference)

## ***Recent Past Events***

Tuesday 18 November 2014 – The well-attended lunchtime lecture, held at the SMSA Theatre, was given by Mr Peter Hartcher, Political and International Editor, the Sydney Morning Herald. His topic was “The 2014 Sir Herman Black Lecture: 2014 - the Year in Review” and was a most interesting and informative presentation by a renowned commentator.



Source: images2.domain.com.au  
/2010/09/10/1917968/peter-hartcher.jpg



Tuesday 2 December 2014 – The Christmas Lunch held at Victoria Barracks was attended by 42 RUSI members, family and friends, and was a most enjoyable event.



Representation at Events The Institute was represented at the following recent events:

The farewell for Brigadier Allan Murray, Commander 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade, at Timor Barracks, Dundas, on 8 November 2014.

The Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph, Sydney, on 11 November 2014.

## ***General Defence News***

### Defence Operations

**HMAS Success deploys to Middle East.** After months of preparation, HMAS *Success* departed Garden Island in Sydney on 23 November for a six-month deployment to the Middle East Region to provide logistic support for coalition forces as part of Operation MANITOU. Commanding Officer Success, Captain Justin Jones, RAN, said while the auxiliary oiler's focus will be different to frigates previously deployed on MANITOU, their contribution to global security will be just as important. "Over the next few months, Success will conduct essential maritime support, underway and vertical replenishment operations as part of the Australian Defence Force contribution to maritime security in the region," Captain Jones said. "As part of a broader taskforce, we will deliver fuel and stores to various units, enabling them to remain at sea on the job. This is *Success*' second deployment and the 59th rotation of a Royal Australian Navy fleet unit to the region since the first Gulf War in 1990. *Success* will relieve Anzac class frigate HMAS *Toowoomba*, which will return shortly before Christmas.



**Australia's Heron mission ends in Afghanistan.** Australia's Heron Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) detachment in Afghanistan flew its final mission for Operation SLIPPER from Kandahar Air Field on 30 November 2014. Heron aircraft have completed more than 27,000 mission hours during Operation SLIPPER providing high resolution intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support to Australian forces and our International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) partners in southern Afghanistan since August 2009. Heron Rotation 15 Commanding Officer, Wing Commander (WGCDR) Phillip Parsons said the Heron personnel had excelled in



their role in Afghanistan. "Sometimes we were the only Remotely Piloted Aircraft flying in this region and we'd often be called upon to get overhead and provide information back to

Coalition partners.” Chief of Joint Operations, Vice Admiral (VADM) David Johnston, said the Heron teams had made a significant contribution to Australia’s mission in Afghanistan. “This final flight marks the end of a dedicated and well-executed mission that has been pivotal in keeping our personnel safe, minimising the risk to civilians on the ground and achieving our Operation SLIPPER mission,” VADM Johnston said. Three Heron Remotely Piloted Aircraft were based at Kandahar Air Field and operated in southern Afghanistan. Approximately 490 Air Force, Navy and Army personnel deployed with the Heron detachment during its 15 rotations. All Heron detachment personnel will return to Australia by the end of December 2014.

**Soldiers clear Brisbane’s streets.** Soldiers from Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera, assisted the Queensland State Emergency Service following the Brisbane ‘superstorm’ on 27 November. The Emergency Support Force (ESF) consisted of Soldiers from 8/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment, and supported by Headquarters 7th Brigade. In a matter of hours following the storm the soldiers were recalled to barracks and were tasked to support State Emergency Service requirements. 7 Brigade Commander, Brigadier Adam Findlay AM, said the soldiers had rehearsed and prepared for this sort of action so it was no surprise they were able to quickly step into the breach. “Rehearsal is never wasted and Defence Aid to the Civil Community (DACC) in times of natural disaster is a training focus for this high-readiness Brigade,” Brigadier Findlay said. “The soldiers were able to quickly clear the routes, allowing emergency services access into areas to restore power and bring aid to those affected.” The ESF was praised for its efforts by the Queensland Governor Mr. Paul de Jersey, Premier of Queensland Mr. Campbell Newman, and Brisbane Lord Mayor Mr. Graham Quirk.



### **Australian Defence Force completes monitoring of Russian Surface Task Group in the region.**

Australian Defence Force vessels and aircraft monitored a Russian Surface Task Group that was operating in the Coral Sea to Australia’s north during November. The Russian ships did not enter Australian territorial waters and have now departed the Coral Sea. The flotilla included Russian Federation Ship (RFS) *Varyag*, a Slava class guided missile cruiser, RFS *Marshal Shaposhnikov*, a Udaloy class guided missile destroyer, and two support ships, *Boris Butoma* and *Fotiy Krylov*. The Chief of the Defence Force, Air



Chief Marshal Binskin, said that the ADF monitoring activity was conducted professionally and was effective. “We planned and conducted deliberate operations with Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion aircraft and monitored the flotilla with HMA ships *Parramatta* and *Stuart*,” ACM Binskin said. “HMAS *Sirius* was positioned to provide logistic support and HMAS *Sydney* was in the south Queensland area to support G20 and assist with this activity if required. “Russia declared its intention for vessels to travel to southern areas of the Pacific Ocean and their movement was consistent with the provisions under international law for military vessels to exercise freedom of navigation in international waters.” ACM Binskin said the activity was completed professionally by both the Australian and Russian personnel.

## Defence Exercises

**Exercise PARADISE.** Exercise PARADISE coincided with 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for the Papua New Guinea Defence Force Maritime Element (PNGDF-ME). Commanding Officer *Broome*, Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Michael Kerrisk said his crew enjoyed working with their regional counterparts. “During PARADISE, we exercised with Pacific Class Patrol Boat HMPNGS *Seeadler* and Landing Craft Heavy HMPNGS *Salamaua*. The interaction enhanced our seamanship, communication and mariner skills as well as our ability to work with our small boat colleagues,” LCDR Kerrisk said. “We were pleased to welcome PNGDF-ME personnel onboard *Broome* during the exercise. “Australia and Papua New Guinea both face challenges protecting our Exclusive Economic Zones. By spending time together at sea, we are able to share tactics, which enhances our ability to work together in maritime surveillance. It also builds trust and respect between our nations,” LCDR Kerrisk said. As regional security partners, both nations have a common interest in working closely to ensure a safe, prosperous and peaceful region. *Broome* departed Port Moresby on 17 November to return to Australia.



**Exercise Cooperation Spirit 2014** Defence force personnel from Australia deployed to China for Exercise Cooperation Spirit 2014 during 20-22 November. The aim of the exercise was to enhance coordination and cooperation between Australia, China and New Zealand in responding to unforeseen disasters that occur in the Asia-Pacific. This year the exercise focused on a maritime search and rescue response involving the Australian Defence Force, the Chinese People’s Liberation Army and the New Zealand Defence Force. The Australian Defence Force is committed to developing strong and positive bilateral defence relations with China through dialogue and practical engagement such as Exercise Cooperation Spirit. The first iteration of this exercise was conducted as a humanitarian and disaster relief exercise in November 2011 as a bilateral activity between the Australian Defence Force and China’s Peoples’ Liberation Army in Sichuan Province. Approximately 55 military personnel from the three nations participated in the exercise which took place at the Peoples Liberation Army – Navy Command College in Nanjing, China.



## Defence Industry

**New partnership to explore virtual simulation opportunities.** Defence has entered a partnership with the University of Newcastle (UoN) to explore how virtual simulation can be used to further enhance education and training. The Australian Defence College (ADC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Newcastle under which UoN honours and postgraduate students will undertake virtual simulation research and development projects that are directly relevant to the ADC.



Commandant, Australian

Command and Staff College (a learning centre within the ADC) Brigadier Peter Gates said the ADC already used virtual simulation for some education and training programs and this partnership would explore the potential for greater use of simulation. The research and development projects will begin in 2015.

**Investment in industry capability pays off.** Four Defence projects which received grant funding under the Defence Materiel Organisation's (DMO) Priority Industry Capability Innovation Program (PICIP) have been completed and the companies are now pursuing market opportunities. DMO's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Harry Dunstall said the four projects, collectively worth around \$3.3 million, were part of a broader grants program that awarded around \$20 million to 14 companies in 2012 and 2013. The grant funding from Defence, matched on a 'dollar for dollar' basis by each company, has allowed the four companies to achieve significant milestones, namely:



Cirrus Real Time Processing Systems Pty Ltd has broadened the applications for its Sensor Association and Fusion Engine technology;

Exelis C4i Pty Ltd has taken key steps in the market-readiness of its fifth generation end to end internet protocol based voice and data communication system;

Jenkins Engineering Defence Systems Pty Ltd has expanded their antenna testing services to include NearField Scanning of Radio Frequency antennas; and

Secure Systems Limited has commercialised a portable storage device that allows highly classified data to be stored, yet allow the device to be handled as unclassified.

"I welcome the completion of these projects and wish these companies every success in the defence and commercial applications of their technology solutions," Mr Dunstall said. "The four companies are small to medium enterprises with niche products, and their participation in the grant program has assisted in improving their competitiveness here in Australia and in the international marketplace."

**Installation of first Australian made JSF Vertical Tails.** Defence Minister David Johnston has congratulated Melbourne-based precision engineering company Marand following the successful installation of the first locally made Vertical Tail assemblies on an F-35 Lightning at Lockheed Martin's US assembly line at Fort Worth, Texas. The installation of the twin tail fins manufactured at Marand's Moorabbin plant represents a major milestone in the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) global supply chain of which the Australian aerospace industry is a key benefactor, Senator Johnston said. Marand is one of 30 local companies that have secured a slice of the \$479 million in JSF work awarded to the Australian aerospace industry, a figure that is expected to grow. The F-35 is a 5th generation fighter that will ensure the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) maintains a leading edge air combat capability. The





Australian Government has committed to buying 72 JSF aircraft. Australia's first two F-35As are due to be delivered to a US -based training facility in 2015.

## International

### **17th Annual Australia-China Defence Strategic Dialogue**

The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC, and the Secretary of Defence, Mr Dennis Richardson, visited the Peoples' Republic of China to conduct the 17th Annual Australia-China Defence Strategic Dialogue. The Dialogue, held on 2 December, was hosted by Chief of the General Staff Department of the Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA), General Fang Fenghui, at the PLA Headquarters building in Beijing. ACM Binskin said the Dialogue enhanced the Australia-China defence relationship and emphasised the positive trajectory of defence cooperation and practical engagement with China. Mr Richardson said the Dialogue was an integral component of Australia's defence engagement with China and provided the opportunity to have frank and open conversations and to exchange views on areas of common interest. Prior to the Dialogue ACM Binskin and Mr Richardson met with the Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission, General Fan Changlong.



### **Meeting with Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces.**



The Chief of the Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin met with his Indonesian counterpart, the Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces General Moeldoko, in November to hold the second annual Australia Indonesia High Level Committee. Air Chief Marshal Binskin said Indonesia was an important regional defence partner for Australia for reasons of mutual interest and geographic proximity. "As neighbours we share a common interest in the stability of our region and confront many of the same security challenges; including maritime security, terrorism

and transnational crime. It is important that we continue to work together to effectively counter these threats," Air Chief Marshal Binskin said. "Our bilateral defence relationship has proven resilient over time, founded on close people-to-people links. These links are strengthened by a broad range of activities, including over 150 training positions offered to Indonesian military officers each year. "Australia remains committed to a broad based, long term defence relationship with Indonesia, and we look forward to a busy engagement program in 2015". During their meetings, Air Chief Marshal Binskin and General Moeldoko discussed their priorities for the bilateral military-to-military relationship, and agreed on a forward engagement program including joint exercises, student and instructor exchanges, policy and intelligence exchanges and a regular pattern.

### **Air Force and Indonesia Forge Closer Ties.**

The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown AO formally opened a refurbished C-130 Hercules hangar on 4 December for the Indonesian Air Force (TNI-AU) at Bandung, Indonesia. Speaking at the ceremony, Air Marshal Brown said it was the largest project undertaken by

the TNI-AU/RAAF Safety and Airworthiness Joint Working Group since its inception in 2011. “These projects are aimed at information exchanges between our two Air Forces and to further develop safety and airworthiness systems.

“Safety needs our constant attention. This work is important to continue our longstanding Air force relationship by building mutual trust and understanding” Air Marshal Brown said. While in Indonesia, Air Marshal Brown will also undertake a

range of talks with his counterpart, the Chief of Staff, Indonesian Air Force (Kasau), Air Chief Marshal I.B. Putu Dunia. Bandung is the main maintenance base for the Indonesian Air Force’s C-130 Hercules aircraft. The refurbished hangar will be used for the maintenance of the C-130H Hercules that are being transferred from Australia to Indonesia. Australia is in the process of transferring four C-130H Hercules to Indonesia. To date, two of these aircraft have been refurbished at RAAF Base Richmond, before their transfer to the Indonesian Air Force. Indonesia has expressed an interest in purchasing an additional five C130H aircraft. Together these aircraft will contribute to Indonesia’s increasing capacity to respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crisis.



### About the RUSI of NSW

Founded as the United Service Institution of New South Wales in 1888, the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales today is one of seven self-governing constituent bodies of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia.

The aim of the Institute is to promote informed debate on, and to improve public awareness and understanding of, defence and national security. To this end, the Institute:



- contributes to the national debate on defence and security policy;
- publishes a highly-respected professional journal;
- arranges regular lectures and occasional seminars on military history, defence and security issues;
- organises visits to defence and security establishments;
- operates a public library, specialising in defence and security literature dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the current day; and
- conducts social and networking functions for members.

The Institute’s rooms and the Ursula Davidson Library are on Level 20, Defence Plaza, 270 Pitt Street, Sydney – very close to Town Hall and Museum railway stations. Tea/coffee and biscuits are available without charge and members and visitors are encouraged to use the

facilities for reading or research, or just as a base when visiting the city of Sydney. However, prior to visiting for the first time please contact the Office Manager to arrange access to the Office. For additional information please visit our website at [www.rusinsw.org.au](http://www.rusinsw.org.au) or call the Office at (02) 93932325.

### ***RUSI NSW end of year notice***

The RUSI NSW Office will be closed from Friday 19th December 2014 and will re-open on the Monday 19th January 2015.

Please note: the RUSI NSW Newsletter No. 7 will be issued in February 2015 (there will be no newsletter produced over the holiday period).

***We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas  
and a safe and Happy New Year***



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#### ***Tragedy in Sydney- 15th and 16th December***

***Our thoughts and prayers go out to all  
Let us celebrate life, carry-on and not be defeated by fear***

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#### ***RUSI NSW & Copyright***

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