



Royal United Services Institute
New South Wales

Newsletter

Issue No 9 - April 2015

Locked Bag 18,
Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Level 20, 270 Pit Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
www.rusinsw.org.au
office@rusinsw.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9393 2325
Fax: (02) 9393 3543

Introduction

Welcome to this month's issue of the electronic newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales (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 information on defence issues.

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

Latest News and Events

The 3rd International Defence and Security Dialogue

Tuesday 27 May 2015 – The 3rd International Defence and Security Dialogue will be held in the Parliament House Theatre from 1300 – 1800 hours. It will be a RUSIA national conference and will be opened by the National President. The topic will be 'Australia, Indonesia and Regional Security'. It will feature an expert panel discussion to identify regional security interests that Australia and Indonesia share in common and to explore how Australia and Indonesia could cooperate in preparing for and addressing certain potential regional security challenges. The keynote address, the 2015 Blamey Oration, will be delivered by Mr Dennis Richardson, AO, Secretary of Defence. The expert panel will be: Lieutenant General Agus Widjojo (Retired), Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia; Professor Damien Kingsbury, Deakin University; and Professor Peter Leahy, AC, University of Canberra. Cost to attend will be \$50 for members and students and \$75 for non-members. To register visit our website at http://www.rusinsw.org.au/site/International_Dialogue_2015.asp or contact the RUSI office on (020 9393 2325).



Image Source: DEFENCE



Image Source: RUSIA



Image Source: Wikimedia



Image source: canberra.edu

Defence Force Service Chief Appointments

The Governor-General has approved the appointments of the next Chief of the Army and Chief of the Air Force. Lieutenant General Angus Campbell DSC, AM will be appointed Chief of the Army on 16 May 2015 and Air Vice-Marshal Gavin Davies AO, CSC – on promotion to Air Marshal – will be appointed Chief of the Air Force on 4 July 2015. Lieutenant General Campbell and Air Marshal Davies will each bring a wealth of experience to their respective roles. In making the announcement, the Government thanked the current Chief of the Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison AO, and Chief of the Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown AO, for their significant work and service in these important roles over the last four years.



Press Conference with Vice Admiral David Johnston and Air Commodore Joe Iervasi – Update on Australian Defence Force Operations – 30 March 2015

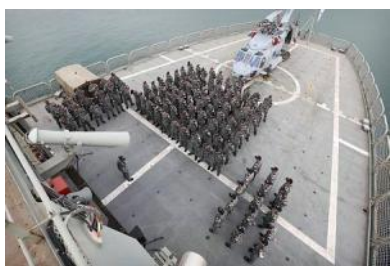


This press conference provided an update on the previous six weeks of Australian Defence Force operations including the following reports:

Middle East Operations Australian Defence Force personnel in the Middle East continue their work with great professionalism and skill. Their collective efforts as part of a

broader coalition effort supporting ground forces in Iraq have enabled the successful reclamation of townships in northern Iraq. The efforts of the Iraqi forces on the ground are increasing and are providing tangible evidence that the advance of Daesh has halted, and the momentum is shifting. The extent of progress varies in the different regions, but overall the signs are promising. The coalition's intent remains to disrupt and degrade, and ultimately destroy, the Daesh fighting power, so that Iraqi and Kurdish security forces can restore the security and stability to Iraq. The last two weeks have been a particularly busy period for the air task group, with the Super Hornets now returning home to be replaced by the classic Hornets. During the transition period, the two aircraft types operated alongside each other for the first time on operations, marking a historic milestone for the Air Force.

NATO Operation Ocean Shield Elsewhere in the Middle East, as a sign of Australia's active relationship with NATO, HMAS *Success* is supporting NATO operations near the Gulf of Aden, as part of NATO Operation Ocean Shield. Last year NATO offered Australia enhanced partnership status in recognition of Australia's contribution and performance as a NATO partner. During its support of Operation Ocean Shield, *Success* with its crew of 235 people will contribute to the NATO-led anti-piracy operation by also providing replenishment and sea support and conducting training. In addition to its refuelling and logistic restoring capabilities, the ship has an embarked helicopter and boarding teams that will contribute to these operations.



Operation Pacific Assist This operation is our contribution to Vanuatu, after what was a fairly busy domestic cyclone season. The ADF was required to respond at short notice to the widespread destruction caused to the people of Vanuatu by Tropical Cyclone Pam. The category five cyclone hit the islands of Vanuatu at 11pm on Friday 13 March. By Sunday, the Royal Australian Air Force had deployed C17 aircraft to ferry vital humanitarian aid stores and people to Port Vila. Our AP-3 Orion surveillance aircraft conducted surveillance over the island group and right throughout the Vanuatu area, to assist in determining the amount of damage the cyclone had caused. Today there are currently 527 ADF personnel deployed to Vanuatu, our C-17 Globemaster and C-130 Hercules continue to deliver aid through movement, humanitarian aid equipment and personnel as required. We have two aircraft operating from Port Vila. Their role is supporting the assessment of damage and moving officials out to remote areas. Last week Tobruk arrived to deliver aid, water purification equipment and heavy engineering capability and is operating in the Southern province area around Tanna which is one of the most heavily impacted areas of the cyclone. The elements of our recovery force are clearing debris throughout the different parts of the island group and conducting damage assessments with local authorities. We now



have three S-70 Blackhawks operating in the area, their rotary wing capability and ability to access particularly remote sites has proved vital to the movement of the significant amount of humanitarian aid stores. The full transcript of this press conference can be accessed via <http://tinyurl.com/jw3f6ob>

Troops to Deploy to Iraq

The first group of Australian Defence Force personnel departed from Brisbane on 15th April, following the Government's decision to commit a military force to the international Building Partner Capacity (BPC) training mission in Iraq. Approximately 300 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, primarily drawn from the Australian Army's Brisbane-based 7th Brigade, will form a combined Task Group Taji alongside around 100 personnel from the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) as part of the international effort to combat the Daesh (ISIL) terrorist threat in Iraq.

Task Group Taji will deploy under Operation OKRA with a training team as well as command, force protection and support elements. The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin said the Task Group began preparing for the BPC mission in March, following government approval. "Our Australian personnel have worked closely with their New Zealand counterparts to form Task Group Taji.



Together they have undertaken an extensive pre-deployment training schedule culminating in an intensive mission rehearsal exercise in southern Queensland."

Task Group Taji will train Iraqi Army personnel from the individual soldier through to the brigade level. This training will increase the Iraqi Army's capability and its ability to coordinate operations and fire support as well as improving logistic and intelligence functions. The BPC mission will contribute to a broader international effort. Australia and New Zealand will join other nations who have already made commitments to train Iraqi forces, including Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Spain.

Release of the First Principles Review of Defence

The Government released the First Principles Review of Defence on 1st April 2015. The purpose of the Review was to ensure that Defence is appropriately structured and organised and has the right business practices in place to support the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in the 21st century. The Review found that Defence has implemented significant changes and improvements since the 1990s and has a proven record of delivering in the field, on operations and in humanitarian and emergency support roles at home and abroad. However, despite Defence's outstanding operational record, it is clear that there needs to be a better balance between operational excellence and organisational effectiveness.

The shortcomings identified by the Review affect all of Defence and need to be urgently addressed. These include a proliferation of structures, processes and systems with unclear accountabilities, which in turn cause institutionalised waste, delayed decisions, flawed execution, duplication, over-escalation of issues for decision and low engagement levels amongst employees in parts of the organisation. The Review proposes transformational change across Defence to ensure it can deliver on the future requirements that will be outlined in the Government's forthcoming Defence White Paper. To achieve this, Defence must move from the current inefficient, federated approach into a single, integrated organisation that

delivers enhanced joint capability. The Government has agreed – or agreed in-principle – to 75 of the 76 recommendations, which cover four key areas:

- a stronger and more strategic centre able to provide clear direction and contestability of decision making, along with enhanced oversight of resources and monitoring of organisational performance;
- an end-to-end approach to capability development with a robust and tailored investment approval process and a new ‘smart buyer’ arrangement for the acquisition and sustainment of defence capability;
- improved delivery of corporate services with a focus on enterprise approaches, integration and customer-centric practice, including a new approach to estate management; and
- a planned and professional workforce with a strong performance management culture at its core.



The Review outlines a two year implementation plan, with key milestones, which provides high-level direction for Defence. Implementation of these recommendations will be led by the Secretary and the Chief of the Defence Force and will commence immediately, with the majority of changes implemented within two years. An external Oversight Board will monitor the progress of implementation. The Board will be chaired by Mr David Peever, who also chaired the Review, and will include the other members of the Review team – the Hon Robert Hill AC, the Hon Lindsay Tanner, Lt Gen Peter Leahy AC (Retd.) and Mr Jim McDowell – and one additional member. The First Principles Review of Defence can be found at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/publications/reviews/firstprinciples/Docs/FirstPrinciplesReview.pdf>

Release of the RAND Corporation report into Australian Naval Shipbuilding Industry

The Government released a comprehensive report into the Australian naval ship building industry, *Australia's Naval Shipbuilding Enterprise – preparing for the 21st century* by the RAND Corporation, one of the world's leading defence think-tanks, on 16th April 2015. The report is one of the most detailed studies undertaken into the Australian naval shipbuilding industry. The RAND report found that:

- Australia could sustain a naval ship building industrial base by carefully managing a continuous ship building strategy in the longer-term, with a regular pace of delivering the new ships. But this would need to be premised on reform of the Australian naval ship building industry and significant improvement in productivity.
- Australian naval ship builders can sustain an 18-24 month pace of large ship construction starts if Defence carefully manages its acquisition program and keeps the Future Frigates operational for 25 to 30 years.
- The gap between the completion of the Air Warfare Destroyer project and the start of the Future Frigate – the so called valley of death – cannot be overcome, but the impact could be lessened.
- The cost of building naval ships in Australia is 30-40 per cent greater than United States benchmarks, and even greater against some other naval ship building nations.

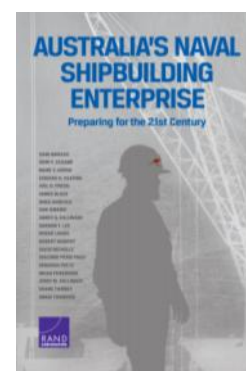


Image Source: RAND Corp.

Australia is currently one of the most expensive places to build naval vessels. This premium can be reduced by improved productivity through:

1. Establishing a consistent production and build demand.
2. Selecting a mature design at the start of the build and limiting the amount of changes once production begins.
3. The necessity of ensuring a well-integrated designer, builder and supplier team.
4. Matching the industrial base structure to demand.
5. Ensuring there is visionary leadership provided by company management.

The RAND report is a critical input into the Defence White Paper and the Naval Shipbuilding Plan. The Government will now carefully consider the report's analysis and findings in preparation for the release of these documents later this year. In releasing the report the Government advised that it looks forward to engaging industry on the challenges and opportunities identified in the report, so as to ensure that naval ship building has a strong and sustainable future in Australia. It encouraged industry to review the RAND report and provide feedback on the findings via defencewhitepaper@defence.gov.au. The RAND report is now available on the Department of Defence website (www.defence.gov.au/Whitepaper/Links.asp) and the RAND Corporation's website (www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1093.html).

Speeches by Minister for Defence at the RUSI Submarine Summit on 25 March 2015 and the ASPI Australia's Future Surface Fleet Conference on 31 March 2015

The Minister for Defence delivered 2 speeches at the end of March – at the RUSI Submarine Conference and another at the ASPI Future Surface Fleet Conference. In both he addressed the Defence White Paper due to be released later this year and reiterated that it will be underpinned by a fully-costed Force Structure Review which will deliver a force structure that addresses Australia's defence objectives within an agreed allocation of funding. In conjunction with the release of the White Paper, Defence will publish a fully-costed 10-year Defence Capability Plan and a Defence Industry Policy Statement. He also highlighted the need for a sustainable naval shipbuilding industry based on a continuous build program of the 40



or so naval surface ships and submarines to be procured over the next two decades, noting that the ANZAC class frigates are planned to be withdrawn from the mid-2020s. His speeches also recognised the significant value to our nation of having a skilled naval ship building industry and advised that the Government will make further announcements in the forthcoming Defence White Paper and accompanying Naval Shipbuilding Plan on this issue.

The Minister's speech to the RUSI Summit also included significant announcements specifically concerning the Future Submarine Project:

- The strategic need for future submarines The Minister noted that by 2030, half of the world's submarines will be in Australia's broader strategic region. The Indo-Pacific region has some of the fastest growing economies in the world and the demand for defence technology to safeguard the region's prosperity and security is ever increasing.
- Local Industry Support The Minister stated that the Government does support local Defence industry but added that, when it comes to making decisions on Defence

capability, the needs of the Australian Defence Force will, and must always, come first. Thus, the Government will acquire Defence capability that supports ADF requirements first and Australian industry can play a very significant role in this process.

- Opportunities for Local Industry in the Submarine Project In his speech the Minister stated that “When it comes to Future Submarines, Australian industry will play an important role in delivering the best possible equipment at the best value for money. There will be many new high-skill jobs in Australia for the life of the Submarine program, decades into the future. Significant work will be undertaken in Australia during the build phase. At a minimum, this includes combat system integration, design assurance and land-based testing. There will be significant opportunities arising from the support and maintenance of the submarine for decades. In dollar terms, this often accounts for two-thirds of the investment. All three potential international partners will require significant redesign work to be undertaken on their existing submarines. There are opportunities here for Australia. I want to make it clear – that maintenance can occur in Australia, even if there is an overseas build. The important consideration, and a lesson from Collins, is to ensure that maintenance and knowledge transfer are planned from the early stages of design.”
- International Partners As the Government has announced, France, Germany and Japan have emerged as potential international partners. All three countries have proven submarine design and build capabilities and are producing submarines. The competitive evaluation process will ensure that capability, cost, schedule and key strategic considerations, along with Australian industry involvement, are carefully and methodically considered, and avoid unnecessary delays to Australia’s future Submarine program. As part of the competitive evaluation, Defence will seek proposals from potential partners for:
 1. Pre-concept designs based on meeting our capability criteria;
 2. Options for design and build overseas, in Australia, and/or a hybrid approach;
 3. Rough costs and schedule for each option; and
 4. Positions on key commercial issues, for example intellectual property rights and the ability to use and disclose technical data.



The level of Australian industry involvement will be a fundamental consideration, as will interoperability with our alliance partner, the US. The competitive evaluation will take at least ten months, after which time Defence will bring advice to Government for consideration.

- Plans for Engagement with Defence Industry for Submarine Project The Minister’s speech also highlighted the important need for the potential international partners that will deliver Australia’s Future Submarine fleet, to understand Australian industry’s capabilities and skill sets. Therefore as the competitive evaluation for the Future Submarine proceeds, Defence is engaging with a number of key industry representatives and has agreed to a SEA 1000 Industrial Engagement Strategy. This will include the formation of the State and Industry Association Consultative Group, comprising all attendees. The SEA 1000 Industrial Engagement Strategy involves the members of this group working together with the common aim of providing competitive Australian

companies with meaningful opportunities to demonstrate their capabilities and skills to international partners. Importantly, there is agreement on the need for a coordinated and consultative approach to the engagement, which offers international partners full visibility of how Australian industry can support the project and maximise Australian industrial involvement

Institute News

An Executive Meeting and a Council Meeting were held on 13th April. The President has represented our Institute at the Battles of the Java Sea and Coral Sea Commemorative Service at the Cenotaph, Sydney, on 27 March and laid a wreath.

New Members A special welcome is extended to the following new members: ***Sgt. Char-Le June Sorbie; Capt. Luke Daniel Holloway; Purkis; Mr John Reeves***

Deceased Members It is with a deep sense of sadness that the passing of the following members is recorded: ***Mr Ross Matthew; Maj. John Menzies Coupland; Mrs G Hall; Squadron Leader L M Hurt***

Gallipoli August Offensives Centenary Battlefield Tour July/August 2015 To enable members who may wish to visit the relevant battlefields prior to the Centenary Commission of Inquiry to be held 29 September 2015 (see below under Upcoming Events) the Institute has identified two tours which members could undertake. Both of these tours will include representatives who are also members of the Institute and who will accompany our members. The two recommended tours are:

Battlefields of the World is offering an 11-day fully-escorted Gallipoli tour from 17 – 27 July, which will include four full days inspecting the battlefields. As it will not coincide with the official centenary service at Lone Pine, it will avoid the crowds expected at that time. It will be led by one of our members, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Sweeny RFD (Ret'd), a qualified battlefield guide and military historian who will be delivering our Gallipoli centenary lecture on 28 Apr 15 – see below. The land cost is \$3,410 per person, twin share; and the return air fare from Sydney is \$2,649 per person; total = \$6,059 per person, twin share. For details see <http://battlefieldsoftheworld.com.au>.



Image Source: Battlefields of the world

Military History Tours (Australia) Pty Ltd, who conducted our New Guinea battlefield tour in 2014, is advertising a “Lone Pine 100th Anniversary Tour 2015”, which will also take in other August offensive sites such as Chunuk Bair. It will be a 10-day fully-escorted battlefield tour from 3 to 12 August and will include the official centenary service at Lone Pine. It will be escorted by one of our members, Lieutenant Colonel John Howells RFD (Ret'd), our webmaster. John would be happy to adjust the itinerary to meet any special needs of our group. The cost for the ground component is \$3,700.00 per person, twin share. Air fares from Sydney would be additional. For details see



Image Source: Military History Tours of Australia

www.militaryhistorytours.com.au.

Any members who wish to undertake one of these tours are asked to notify the Institute's Office Manager on (02) 9393 2325 so that the RUSI attendance can be coordinated.

Upcoming RUSI NSW Events

Tuesday 28 April 2015 – Lunchtime lecture at 1.00pm at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street – the speaker will be Lieutenant Colonel Peter Sweeney RFD (Ret'd) and the subject will be "The Gallipoli Campaign." The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested.



Image Source: P Sweeney

Tuesday 5 May 2105 The RUSI NSW Events Committee is hosting a visit to the Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum. The Museum is a fascinating collection that showcases the industrial heritage of our nation, and the finest firearms display in the Southern Hemisphere. The cost is \$35 per person and includes bus travel to and from Lithgow Station to the Museum, Museum entrance fee, refreshments and sandwich lunch. Attendees are to meet at Central Station on the Lithgow train platform by 08:10. The train departs at 08:18 and arrives at Lithgow at 11:05. Please arrange and pay for your own train travel to Lithgow. The return journey train from Lithgow departs 15:25 and arrives at Central 18:14. There is also an opportunity to stay overnight on Tuesday 4 May at The Zig Zag Motel, Lithgow (Rooms for \$110 + \$15 "all you can eat" breakfast) and visit the Old Zig Zag Brewery on Wednesday morning. The Motel has set aside rooms for the RUSI. Please call the Motel directly on (02) 6352 2477 to book and mention you are part of the RUSI group – the website is <http://www.zigzagmotel.com.au/>



The options to register and pay are:

1. Direct Credit: Account name: RUSI of NSW Account No: 654.679; BSB: 642.170. Please use your name and "LITHGOW" as reference and email your contact details to office@rusinw.org.au
2. Cheque/Money Order : payable to 'RUSI of NSW' Post Cheque and your contact details: Name, phone and address to Locked Bag 18 DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

Tuesday 29 September 2015 – An all-day Gallipoli August Offensives Centenary Commission of Inquiry will be held at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street – further details will be announced in due course.



Upcoming Events by other Organisations

The Great Debate: Conscription and National Service 1912-1972 Conference, Melbourne 30 May 2015 This conference, convened by Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc., will be held at the Mechanics Institute in Oakleigh, Melbourne on 30 May 2015. To be held close to the 50th anniversary of the first national servicemen entering Army in the Vietnam period, the conference will examine the history, politics, controversy and experience of compulsory military service in critical periods of Australia's history. These include the introduction of Universal Military Training from 1912, the great conscription debates in Australia and at the Front during 1916 and 1917, the introduction of National Service during the Cold War from 1951 and the most controversial period of conscription between 1965 and 1972, during the Vietnam War. This impactful conference will have plenty of insights and intriguing commentary from a highly informed and relevant range of historians, veterans and social

observers both for and against conscription as a tool of Australian governments at war. The Hon. Tim Fischer, AC, GCPO, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and national serviceman, will be the keynote speaker. [Download the full program and register for the conference here](#)

The Defence Reserves Association 2015 National Conference – 22 Aug 2015. This conference “ADF Total Force – Fact or Fiction?” will be held on Saturday 22 August 2015 at the Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach, Cnr Grand Parade and Princess Street, Brighton Le Sands NSW 2216. It is a tri-service all ranks Conference that will be opened by His Excellency, General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor of NSW.



The program has been structured to provide optimal opportunities to discuss crucial issues affecting the ADF Reserves.

Conference Day sessions and the Formal Dinner are \$140.00 per person all-inclusive. Cost of the Conference only is \$75.00 per person and cost of the Formal Dinner only is \$85.00 per person. The Novotel has offered a competitive rate for accommodation of \$219.00 per night for a standard king room/twin room (shared).

The Conference Administrative Instruction and Registration Form are available on the website: dra.org.au and at url: [DRA 2015 Conference webpage](#). Additional information can be obtained from the Conference Secretary, WO1 Warren Barnes via: Email: warren.barnes@defence.gov.au or mobile: 0409 909 439

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

Image Source: Maritime Conference

Recent Past Events

24 February 2015 – The lunchtime lecture held at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts was presented by Mr Peter Grose, Author, and the subject was be “A good place to hide; how a French community saved thousands of lives in World War 11”. The paper will be published in the June 2015 edition of *United Service*



Image Source P. Grose

Tuesday 31 March 2015 – Lunchtime lecture at 1.00pm at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street – the speaker was Captain Mona Shindy RAN with the subject “Islam in the Australian context.” The paper will be published in a forthcoming edition of *United Service*.



General Defence News

Defence Operations

1. Acquisition of two additional C-17A Globemaster III Aircraft

The Commonwealth Government has decided to acquire two additional Boeing C-17A Globemaster III aircraft to bolster the Royal Australian Air Force's existing fleet of six strategic lift aircraft. The acquisition of the two additional C-17s – and associated equipment and facilities – represents an investment of \$1 billion in Australia's security and the ability of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to respond to a range of contingencies. This project will also provide significant work opportunities for local industry. \$300 million of the investment will be spent on upgraded facilities at RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland, including a dedicated maintenance hangar and increased apron and taxi-way space to cater for heavy aircraft including the KC-30 Aerial Re-Fuelling Tankers as well as the C-17 fleet. Australia has worked closely with the United States Air Force to acquire the first aircraft within six months of the initial order and the second aircraft within ten months of the delivery of the first. This will mean that the ADF will gain additional operating capability within a short time-frame.

2. Deputy Chief of Air Force appointment

On 31 March the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown AO, confirmed the appointment of the next Deputy Chief of Air Force. "I congratulate Air Commodore Warren McDonald CSC on his promotion and appointment," AIRMSHL Brown said. "Air Commodore McDonald has excelled in a number of senior command appointments and brings a wide range of operational and staff experience to the role. AIRCDRE McDonald – on promotion to Air Vice-Marshal – will commence his appointment as Deputy Chief of Air Force in July 2015. The current Deputy Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Gavin Davies AO, CSC will be appointed Chief of the Air Force on 4 July 2015.

3. Job well-done for the RAAF's Super Hornets in the Middle East

The Australian Air Task Group conducting operations in Iraq has farewelled its six Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18F Super Hornet multi-role fighter aircraft that have been flying high tempo air-strike operations since September. As part of US led Coalition air operations, the F/A-18A Hornets from Number 75 Squadron have replaced the Super Hornets to continue combating the Daesh terrorist threat in Iraq. RAAF Air Task Group Commander Air Commodore Glen Braz said the new strike team had completed a comprehensive transition and was now flying combat air operations. The incoming F/A-18A Hornet is a single-seat multi-role fighter while the F/A-18F Super Hornet is a two-seater. The well-earned rest for Australia's F/A-18F Super Hornet crews and support staff from RAAF Base Amberley's Number 1 Squadron comes after seven months of strike missions which began in September 2014. The Super Hornets flew over 2900 hours, accounting for in excess of 400 sorties.

4. Australia's First F-35A Pilot Takes Flight

Australia first F-35A pilot, Squadron Leader Andrew Jackson, has taken his first flight in an F-35A aircraft at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, United States. The flight was on the morning of Wednesday 17 March (US CST) in a United States Air Force F-35A aircraft, as the Australian F-35A aircraft are currently located at Luke Air Force Base, in anticipation of the opening of the international pilot training centre in mid 2015. SQNLDR Jackson will continue his intensive training program over the coming months. The F-35A (commonly known as the Joint Strike Fighter) will meet Australia's future air combat and strike needs, providing a networked force-multiplier effect in terms of situational

awareness and combat effectiveness. The first F-35A aircraft will arrive in Australia at the end of 2018 with the first operational squadron to be established by 2020. The F-35A will replace the aging F/A-18A/B Hornets at RAAF Bases Williamtown (NSW) and Tindal (NT).

5. Army engineers reopen local hospital on Tanna.

People from the cyclone devastated island of Tanna now have access to a fully functional hospital after Army engineers spent three weeks in Vanuatu repairing the badly damaged building on the Western and most populous side of the island. Men and women from the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment (3 CER), including plumbing, electrical and carpentry tradesmen, cleared significant amounts of debris throughout the Lenakel Hospital, repaired damaged walls and roofs, restored power and gave the people access to clean water. Robert Moise, local Tanna resident and Acting Director of the Lenakel Hospital, said the ADF had helped save the lives of many people seeking much needed medical aid. During a reopening ceremony on the 8th of April, local nurses and doctors individually thanked the ADF for their remarkable achievements at Lenakel. The reopening of the Lenakel Hospital marked the end of 3 CER's mission on Tanna and another milestone for a remote community quickly getting back on track.

6. First Australian pilot for RAAF's new Poseidon aircraft takes flight

The introduction of Australia's new P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft moved a step closer today when Flight Lieutenant James Pears became the first Australian pilot to fly the P-8A Poseidon at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, United States on Tuesday 14 April [US EDT]. The aircraft undertook about a four hour sortie in the vicinity of the Naval Air Station, landing just before 12pm AEST today. Led by Squadron Leader Arran Moore, Australia has a team of seven aircrew training on the P-8A Poseidon with the US Navy, ahead of its introduction into the RAAF fleet. SQNLDR Moore said the P-8A Poseidon would be Australia's next maritime patrol aircraft and would provide the RAAF with an enhanced maritime capability. The P-8A Poseidon aircraft will dramatically boost Australia's ability to monitor its maritime approaches and patrol Australia's vast maritime jurisdiction and search and rescue area — an area that equates to nearly 11 per cent of the world's oceans. The P-8A Poseidon will replace the Air Force's aging AP-3C Orions that have served Australia so well for over four decades. The RAAF is set to receive eight P-8A Poseidon aircraft, with the first to be delivered in 2017 to RAAF Base Edinburgh in South Australia, with all eight fully operational by 2021. The Government will consider options for further P-8A Poseidon aircraft, subject to the outcomes of the next Defence White Paper.

Defence Exercises

Defence completes Key Resolve exercise in Korea

Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel have returned from the Republic of Korea after working with Republic of Korea and United States defence personnel during Exercise Key Resolve 2015. The annual two-week exercise enhances military interaction between the ADF and defence forces of other United Nations Command member nations for the defence of the Republic of Korea. Chief of Joint Operations, Vice Admiral David Johnston said 17 Australian Defence Force (ADF) and civilian personnel had formed a small part of a multi-national command post exercise that featured computer simulation to portray the broader military operating environment. Exercise Key Resolve was conducted from 2-13 March 2015 and hosted by the Combined Forces Command (CFC), a bilateral ROK and US (ROKUS) organisation responsible for the conduct of military operations on the Korean peninsula. The exercise started with training for participants and a seminar for General officers. Navy, Army and Air Force personnel, as well as specialist Defence civilians, also participated in a two-

part computer-assisted exercise in various locations in the Republic of Korea. The Australians formed a small part of up to 50,000 personnel from the US, South Korea, Canada, Denmark, France and the United Kingdom. The Commander Australian Contingent was Group Captain Ralph Kettle.

International

Japan Commissions Largest Warship Since World War II A 24,000-ton helicopter carrier has formally entered the fleet of Japan's Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) making the ship the largest warship Japan has fielded since the close of World War II. The commissioning ceremony JS *Izumo* (DDH-183) — the first of two for the JMSDF — was held in Yokohama and attended by Defense Minister Gen Nakatani. Billed by the Japanese as a platform to assist in anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HADR) operations, the ship has flared regional tensions in neighbors— China especially — who view the ship as a power projection platform with a historically aggressive name. For further details see USNI News Weekly Update of 25 March 2015

India Launches First Indigenously Built Attack Submarine India launched its first indigenously built attack submarine on 6th April 2015 at Mazagaon Dock Limited in Mumbai, according to international media reports. The French-designed, Indian-built Scorpene-class is the first of six diesel-electric boats (SSK) set to join the fleet over the next few years as part of the Indian Navy's Project 75 in collaboration with France, according to India Today. The effort would modernize the Indian submarine fleet, which comprises nine Russian Kilo-class submarines, some as old as 30 years old; four German Type 209 SSKs; an Akula-1 submarine, *Charkra*, on lease from Russia; and one Indian-built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS *Arihant*. For further details see USNI News Weekly Update of 8 April 2015

Books for sale All books are duplicates, donation or discarded from our collection and are in good to fair condition.

- The Great War - L. Carlyon - \$30.00
- At Home in Australia - Peter Conrad - \$20.00
- The Fatal Shore - Robert Hughes - \$15.00
- Under The Southern Cross - Bob Livingstone - \$25.00
- The Pacific Campaign - Dan Van Der Vat - \$15.00
- Battles Lost & Won - Hanson W. Baldwin - \$15.00
- Australia in Asia: Communities of Thought - Edited by Anthony Milner and Mary Quilty - \$10.00
- Guide to International Relations and Diplomacy – Michal Graham Fry et al. - \$20.00
- The Logic of International Relations - Steven J. Rosen & Walter S. Jones - \$20.00
- Darwin spitfires: The Real battle for Australia - A. Cooper - \$25.00
- Elements of Cartography - Arthur H. Robinson et al. - \$25.00
- Fighting Words – Carl Harrison - Ford - \$20.00
- The Coming of the Strangers - Baiba Berzins - \$26.00
- Australia Goes to War - John Robertson - \$20.00
- Australia and Colonial Question at the United Nations – W.J. Hudson - \$20.00
- Churchill and Australia. - G. Freudenberg - \$28.00
- Battle of the wine dark sea: The Aegean Campaign 1940-1945 - L. Lind - \$10.00

To arrange payment and delivery of the book, call the Librarian
- Theodora Fox (02) 9393 2325



The Ursula Davidson Library has commenced a barcoding and stocktaking project that will need volunteers.

OPERATION BARCODE Call for volunteers
Contact the library with details of your availability.

Call (02) 9393 2325 or email: office@rusinsw.org.au

We are currently conducting *Phase Three*: Schedule regular volunteer visits to execute Operation Barcode over a number of weeks from March, April and May 2015. All volunteers will work in pairs to help with accuracy and speed.



R.U.S.I. (NSW) Library



The Librarian would like to thank the following volunteers: **Paul Nolan, Jeremy Beecher and Sherry Moghadassi**, who have stepped forward recently and have provided their time for this project, this has been greatly appreciated. We hope that more will prove their time to make this another productive exercise.

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 seminars on defence and security issues and occasionally military history;
- organises visits to defence and security establishments and battlefield tours;
- operates a public library, specialising in defence and security literature dating from the late 18th 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 or call the Office at (02) 9393 2325.

RUSI NSW & Copyright

Unless otherwise attributed, all images in this newsletter are sourced from Department of Defence under their copyright rules.

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material in unaltered form only (retaining this notice and imagery metadata) for your personal, non-commercial use or use within your family or organisation.