



**Royal United Services
Institute
of
South Australia Inc**

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RUSI-SA

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NEWSLETTER

Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI-SA CYBERLINKS

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OCTOBER LUNCHEON

Speaker: Hon Alexander Downer

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

Speaker: MAJGEN John Hartley (Rtd)

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Speaker: LTGEN David Hurley

RUSI LUNCH IN THE PATIO

Sunday, 24th October 2004

RUSI Sundowner

Saturday 27th November 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is an honour to once again be President of RUSI-SA, and I hope I can continue the good work of my predecessor. My congratulations to the three newly elected councillors: Ms Fay Leditschke, Dr John Bruni and LCDR David Stryker. All three have in fact served previously on the RUSI-SA Council. I also thank those councillors who retired at the last meeting, as well as those who have stayed on to face the challenges of the year ahead.

Congratulations also to COL Neville Bergin for his outstanding leadership of RUSI-SA over the past four years. While membership levels are still declining, the rate of decline has been slowed significantly. This is a direct result of the hard work that Neville and his Council have put in to our organisation over recent years.

And membership remains the major challenge facing us. Now that the downward trend has been slowed, if not arrested, it is up to us to now try to reverse it and strive for a nett increase over the next year or so. We can all help in this by promoting RUSI, even if it is just by talking about it and what it offers.

An important tool will also be the further development of the Second Program Concept. The idea of providing an additional program that might be more attractive to those members, and potential members, who are unable to attend our Monday Luncheons has been bubbling away for some years. However, the Council has now developed a plan to hold a similar event in the early evening, at a city location. The aim is to provide something that is of interest to our current members as well as being attractive to the wider government, defence, industry and academic communities. More details will be published in future Newsletters, but we anticipate that the first function will be held early in 2005.

Many of you would be aware that our long serving Secretary, Mrs Pam Jones, is to retire at the end of

this year. She will be missed and, after nineteen years, impossible to replace. However, we must try, and this issue of the Newsletter includes an advertisement for a new Secretary/Librarian. We will, of course, be seeking applications from outside the RUSI-SA. However, I am of the belief that the best solution would be to attract the services of one of our members. If you are interested, please contact Pam or any member of Council.

Our new Vice President, Mr Colin Brooks, is hoping to follow up the very successful visit to CHC Helicopters with a day at the Avalon Air Show. He has organised a package that will see us fly directly in and out of Avalon on a Trade Day. This will be a good opportunity to see the Air Show without the hassle of the public days. The Secretary can provide details to anyone who is interested.

I look forward to an interesting and challenging year for RUSI-SA. The defence and security environment is certainly challenging, and providing many topics for debate and discussion. I hope to add to that debate in future Newsletters. We would, of course, also welcome any letters or contributions from our membership.

Jeff McCulloch
Air Commodore (Rtd)
President

RUSI-SA

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

The Year in Review

I am pleased to report to members on the general state of affairs of the Royal United Services Institute of South Australia (RUSI of SA) and its progress during 2003-2004.

In general, 2003-2004 has been a very successful year, during which a full and varied program was again offered to members. However, following a marked revival of member support during 2002-2003, falling attendances this year threatened the viability of some activities. In view of Council's continued efforts to provide relevant and enjoyable high quality events, this was disappointing but not unexpected. The steady decline in membership experienced in the past two years continued during 2003-2004, reinforcing the need for Council to implement, as soon as possible, the recommendations from last year's Recruitment Strategy Study aimed at attempting to arrest such losses.

Council's plan to introduce a new, "Second Program" of activities was announced in the August/September issue of the RUSI of SA Newsletter. This program aims to attract new members from the professional people to be found in

government, industry, academic, business and service organisations in South Australia. However, it is hoped that, by adopting event timings better suited to the availability of people in this group, the new program will also attract new members from our under-represented Defence community and facilitate attendance by existing members who are presently unable to attend the Monthly Luncheon program because of work commitments. As the management of two programs in parallel will present a significant challenge to Council, it is important that all Council positions be filled at this year's Annual General Meeting.

The National Defence Debate

With some 2,000 members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) deployed on more than 10 operations around the world, public interest in matters of national security and defence have remained high and, during the year, RUSI of SA has been privileged to receive two first hand accounts of Australia's involvement in Iraq, and another on the highly successful Australian initiative, the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

Regrettably, much of the defence debate has been confined to a narrow media focus on negative issues associated with the Government's commitment of the ADF to Iraq and the perceived failure of Coalition forces to stem insurgent (terrorist) activities in that country. While it is important to address such matters, the general public would be better served by more balanced reporting that included the many positive outcomes achieved, not only in Iraq but also on other operations, such as East Timor and the Solomon Islands – two very successful operations about which the media has been predictably quiet. Through our program of carefully selected guest speakers, RUSI of SA has attempted to redress this imbalance.

Other highlights of our Guest Speaker Program this year included addresses by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, the High Commissioner for the Republic of the Fiji Islands and Singapore, and the Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade. Within the limits of time and guest speaker availability, I believe the RUSI of SA has gone a long way, this year, to achieving its aim of creating a better understanding of matters of national security and defence.

Management of Activities

Council proceedings continued to be conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the RUSI of SA, with the Council and the Events Steering Group meeting on the third week of alternate months, except for January 2004. In addition, a number of Special General Meetings were held to deal with

actions arising from the Recruitment Strategy Study. Members of Council, the Honorary Editor and the Honorary Auditor also gave their time to meetings and business associated with the seven committees that report to Council.

Following last year's Annual General Meeting a casual vacancy existed on Council, and during the year one Councillor resigned. The task of finding volunteers to fill vacancies on Council has been difficult, and I am grateful to Captain Barrie Newman for agreeing to fill a casual vacancy as a Councillor and for nominating for election this year. Colonel Les Thompson assumed the appointment of Honorary Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee at the start of the year and his experienced stewardship of this responsibility is greatly appreciated. During the year, our willing volunteer, Captain Malcolm Orchard, extended his much valued assistance by accepting the tasks of Honorary Editor and Member of the Library Committee.

The Volunteer Support Group provided assistance throughout the year on a wide range of tasks, including conversion of the Library to the BookMark electronic management system, reception and raffle arrangements at Monthly Luncheons and support for social functions. The need for volunteer support is fundamental to the continuing viability of the Institute and the many efforts of our present team are very much appreciated.

After 18 years of dedicated service to the RUSI of SA, our long-serving Secretary/Librarian, Mrs Pamela Jones, has indicated her intention to retire at the end of this year. Members will hear more about Pam's departure in the coming months. In the meantime, Council has initiated a search for a suitable replacement.

Monthly Luncheons

The Monthly Luncheon program continues to be the mainstay of our present activities. As indicated above, a quality program was provided during the year, and I wish to acknowledge the professional and untiring efforts of Commodore Orm Cooper in securing such eminent and relevant guest speakers during his term as Coordinator of the Guest Speaker Program. Unfortunately, Orm is standing down from Council this year, after making an enormous contribution to the Institute over the past 12 years. His enthusiastic participation in Council activities will be sorely missed.

The Library

The Library Committee met every second month during the year to discuss issues relating to the management of this valuable asset and, within its budget allocation, to select and approve the purchase

of books, periodicals and magazines. The Library Committee purchased 32 books in 2003-2004, and members donated another 105. The total number of library loans in the year was 1,539.

The cataloguing of books onto the BookMark electronic management system has been a major task. Following an approach to Employ SA, Mr Frank Visconte was made available to undertake this task under the supervision of our Librarian. Well over half of our books have now been catalogued onto the new system and it is anticipated that the task will be completed by the end of the year.

Visits

Our Visits Coordinator, Mr Colin Brooks, arranged well-attended and very interesting visits to Codan Limited and CHC Helicopters (Australia) during the year. With the postponement of Navy Week in 2004, no suitable ships visits were available.

Social Activities

Once again, an extensive social program was provided for members and guests in 2003-2004. Highlights included an excellent Dining-In Night with our past Patron, Sir Eric Neal AC, CVO and Lady Neal as Guests of Honour, the ever popular winter Carvery Luncheon, now held in excellent facilities at the Flagstaff Hill Golf Club, and the Annual Barbecue which, to avoid threatening weather, was held in the Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess patio area and was voted a great success because of its convenience, comfort and closer fellowship.

Low attendances at some functions, such as the annual Wine Tasting and Auction, have raised questions regarding the ongoing viability of these events. In view of the effort expended on the planning, preparation and implementation of all of the activities on the social calendar, Council will need to determine whether the present level of member support justifies the retention of some events in the program.

Membership

As at 30th June 2004, RUSI of SA membership was 554, consisting of 542 Ordinary Members and 12 Life Members and Honorary Members. This represents a net loss of 37 members during the year, compared with a net loss of 73 members in 2002-2003.

Financial Position

The financial position of the RUSI of SA continues to be quite strong, and all of our activities are conducted on the basis of complete cost recovery. While costs in all areas of our operations continue to rise, RUSI of SA has been able to achieve a small surplus this year. The Honorary Treasurer will speak to the RUSI of SA Income and Expenditure

Statement and the Balance Sheet for 2003-2004 during the Annual General Meeting.

Closing Remarks

My term of office as your President has now expired. It has been a singular honour and privilege to serve as your President over the last four years, and I sincerely thank all members for their friendship, advice and support during this time. I also unreservedly thank the Members of Council, our Secretary/Librarian and our generous volunteers who have served with me over this period and provided their loyal and experienced support in conducting the affairs of our great Institute.

Neville R Bergin
Colonel (Rtd)
President

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

CAR PARKING – MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Members are advised that the parking of cars is now NO longer permitted on the Parade Ground. Please use existing designated parking areas.

All members are invited to attend our luncheons. Indeed you are encouraged to invite partners, friends and colleagues to join us and, if they like what they see, to nominate them for membership. Please book in advance. If you are unsure whether or not your name is on the booking list, please check!

Cancellations must be into the RUSI Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$18.00.

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions.

We assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30am for drinks and good fellowship. Members are asked to be seated by 12 noon when our President welcomes members and guests, and lunch is served.

The cost of the buffet is \$18.00. We also conduct a raffle to help cover expenses. Our Caterer has agreed to provide vegetarian meals and sweets for diabetics, but these must be ordered before midday on the Thursday before the lunch.

For those who do not have time to enjoy lunch, but wish to hear the lecture, chairs are provided around the perimeter of the hall. Please be seated before 12.55pm, as the guest speaker will be introduced at 1.00pm. The address is of about 30 to 35 minutes duration with 15 minutes for questions, after which coffee or tea is available. We aim to complete the program by 2.00pm. The Program is:

**Monthly Luncheon
Monday 11th October 2004.**

**Speaker: The Hon Alexander Downer MP,
Minister for Foreign Affairs**

**Topic: Two Days On from the Federal
Election. To be confirmed**

The Minister will speak on current issues relevant to Australia's foreign and security policies.

**Monthly Luncheon
Monday 1st November 2004.**

**Speaker: MAJGEN John Hartley (Rtd)
President, RUSI-A**

**Topic: Threats to National Security &
The Long Term Future of the
RUSI.**

**Monthly Luncheon
Monday 6th December 2004.**

**Speaker: LTGEN David Hurley,
Chief Capability Development
Group, Department of Defence.**

Topic: Defence Capability Development

MEMBERSHIP

The following, whose names appeared in the last Newsletter as nominated for membership, have been duly elected in accordance with the Rules:

Mr Tony Ashdown
Mr Peter D. Fisher
Mr Michael J. Gorroick
LTCOL Donald R. Hawking, RFD
Mr William G. Moyle
Mrs Dana Stoba
WO Adrian Walford,

The following have been nominated for membership:
Mr Keith A. Potts (CAPT R.D. McColl)
WO William E. Kelly (Mr M. Venables)
Mrs Gillian Griffin (CAPT M.J. Orchard)

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RUSI-SA

LUNCHEON IN THE PATIO

Sunday 24th October 2004.



The RUSI-SA Social Calendar had a new function last year, which we hope members will support again: a luncheon in the Patio of the Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess with an Indian theme and all the delicious tastes and smells that Indian cuisine creates.

The details are as follows:

Date: Sunday 24th October 2004.

Time: 12.00 noon for a 12.30 start.

Place: Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess Patio

Cost: \$18.50, which includes wines.

You are invited to bring some friends and make up a table for food and fun at this special social event.

Please phone the office on

8305 6378 to book your tickets before
Thursday 21st October 2004

Early payment would be much appreciated.

VISIT TO INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW AVALON 2005

Our Visits coordinator Mr Colin Brooks has investigated the possibility of members visiting the International Airshow on a Trade day and asks for expressions of interest.

We would be leaving at 7.00am from Adelaide Airport in a Cessna Titan, flying direct to Avalon, spending the day there and returning home by approximately 6.00pm. The cost for the flight would be \$440 per person. Please contact the office if you are interested.

POSITION VACANT

RUSI-SA SECRETARY/LIBRARIAN

*Part time Secretary/Librarian wanted to manage the RUSI-SA office and library.
Three Days per Week, plus Monthly Luncheons and Council Meetings
Contact Mrs Pam Jones for a Job Description
08 8305 6378*



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**LUNCHEON ADDRESS 2nd August 2004
LTCOL John Frewen
Peace Operations in the Solomon Islands**

In July 2003 LTCOL John Frewen, commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, led the regional military intervention force as part of the Australian led 'strengthened assistance' mission to the Solomon Islands.

He commanded the military operations of Combined Joint Task Force 635 from 24 July until 18 November 2003 - during which time a dramatic turn around in the law and order situation in the Solomons was achieved.

BACKGROUND

The Solomon Islands are located almost 1900 km NorthEast of Australia and consist of a chain of mountainous islands and hundreds of coral atolls.

Much of the country is rugged, not easily accessible, and remote communities with limited infrastructure are scattered across the length of the islands. The Solomon Islands have a population of approximately 500,000 of whom 96% are considered Christian. English is widely spoken in the main population centres. The government is democratically elected and the country is divided into nine provinces.

The main population centres are found on the island of Guadalcanal, where the capital Honiara is located, and on the island of Malaita. It is from these islands that the two key ethnic groupings, the Gwales and the Malaitans hail.

The Solomons were granted independence from Britain in 1978 and remained largely peaceful until significant ethnic-based violence in late 1998.

The underlying cause of ethnic unrest between the Guadalcanal people, known as Gwales, and the Malaitan people emerged during WWII when Honiara became Malaitan dominated and the southern coast of Guadalcanal, the Weathercoast, became the cultural heartland of the Gwales.

Consequently, although the Malaitans comprise only a quarter of the total population, they came to dominate political and economic affairs, which led to strong resentment among the Gwales.

By late 1998, this resentment had boiled over into armed conflict as Gwale militants forced approximately 20,000 Malaitans from their homes in Guadalcanal, then, in early 2000, a rival Malaitan militant force emerged, which raided police armouries and staged an armed coup at which time, Australia and New Zealand assisted a cease-fire that led to the signing of the Townsville Peace Agreement, or TPA, in Oct 2000 and the deployment of an unarmed International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT) until Jun 2002.

Although the TPA stemmed high-level violence, some former militants continued to operate personal fiefdoms with armed followers, and others engaged in internecine conflict and criminal activities. (The Solomons have no military services - only a police force that by early 2003 was hopelessly ineffective.) This serious state of rising lawlessness was underscored when the former Police Commissioner and National Peace Councillor, Sir Fred Soaki, was assassinated in Feb 2003. In Jul 2003, the Solomons Prime Minister requested assistance from the Australian Prime Minister and a 'strengthened assistance' mission was planned.

REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

The Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (or RAMSI) represented a new model of regional intervention using the full complement of diplomatic, economic, police and military assets in a coordinated, whole-of-government approach. Its

aim was to stop the descent of a neighbouring nation into the realm of 'failed state' without appearing neo-colonialist. The military task force's mission was to protect and support the visiting police to re-establish the rule of law.

Thus, although the military force was significant — some 1800 personnel initially supporting 200 police — it was not the lead agency.

There were important preconditions for the operation's success:

- It was essential that the intervention was at the request of the sovereign Solomon Islands government and that they also passed appropriate legislation to sanction the mission.
- It was important that the response was not unilateral on Australia's part but rather a multinational Pacific effort to help a neighbour in need - and five nations committed military forces; Australia, NZ, Fiji, Tonga and PNG.
- For a lasting solution, all levels of civil order and administration required attention.
- All efforts had to be underwritten by the ongoing backing of the local people, and,
- All planning had to encompass long-term solutions for the country, beyond a military presence.

All of these aims were met.

Care was taken to ensure that the intervention could not be perceived as a military 'invasion' or an 'occupation' - this was achieved largely by limiting the intrusion of our forces in public places. Indeed, all planning was underpinned by an emphasis on minimising the impact of the military on the local economy. The aim was to facilitate lasting peace and lasting prosperity. The mission was accorded a high political priority and was well resourced.

THE FORCE

The force included a combined infantry battalion with four rifle companies comprising troops from the five nations and a support coy with a selection of its normal assets - including reconnaissance patrols, sniper pairs and assault pioneers.

The maritime task group of seven vessels included the vital amphibious ship - the HMAS Manoora; two Heavy Landing Craft; two light landing craft, and two minor war vessels (either patrol boats or minesweepers in this instance).

The air group had a range of fixed and rotary wing assets. This included two RAAF Caribou aircraft capable of short take off and landing on improvised airstrips, eight Iroquois helicopters for troop lift (AS Army and NZ Airforce) and two Sea King Medium Lift helicopters (RAN) aboard the Amphibious ship. There were also two unmanned aerial vehicles (or UAVs).

Among other assets, there were also an augmented Combat Engineer Squadron with troops from AS, NZ and PNG, and a Logistic Component that resembled a combat services support battalion including a level-three surgical facility. This surgical facility was embarked on HMAS Manoora during her time in theatre and then came ashore to the Guadalcanal Beach Resort Camp.

This was a flexible and appropriate force mix for operations throughout the islands.

The military's role was a supporting one to the police - and the police were the mission's main effort. A Special Coordinator was appointed by the Prime Minister from within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He was responsible for overall control of the mission- including the aid and bureaucratic support to the Solomon Islands. His role was similar to that of a United Nations Special Representative on a UN mission.

Overall, the integration was highly successful and, despite cultural differences, all elements displayed tremendous pragmatism in support of mission aims - and ultimately always put these first.

UNIQUE ASPECTS

The close bonds formed between the military contingents of the five contributing nations during peace and war translated into the ability to effectively combine at short notice for a mission such as this.

The truly unique aspect of this mission was the degree of whole of government integration. There were four branches of the intervention: diplomatic, military, police and aid and development. Priority was initially to law and order then shifted quickly to development. The inter-agency alignment was highly effective, particularly given the short notice for the mission, and importantly, the integration was enhanced by an all-agency synchronisation rehearsal, and a military and police integrated HQ exercise at the mounting base, prior to deployment. These proved invaluable during the early weeks of the operation.

The leadership provided by the Special Coordinator, Australian diplomat, Mr Nick Warner, was excellent and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ben McDevitt, coordinated a remarkable response by the participating police from nine nations. It was a genuine unity of purpose among the senior leadership of RAMSI that underwrote its effectiveness.

EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

The deployment caused a dramatic reversal in the security situation in the Solomon Islands. Early achievements included:

- Almost 4,000 weapons were collected during a

month-long nationwide amnesty, including 700 military style high-powered weapons, many of which had been stolen from Solomons Police armouries, as well as over 300,000 rounds of ammunition. This result came because the potential ability to detect hidden weapons with ground radar and dogs was emphasised and weapons were publically destroyed to allay fears that they could find their way back into criminal hands. Thus, a small war was taken off the streets - without the use of financial inducements or force.

- There were more than 360 arrests by the visiting police for serious crimes - including murders, abductions and assaults. Importantly, this resulted in the neutralisation of corrupt police and of the two key militant organisations - the Guadalcanal Liberation Front and the Malaitan Eagle Force.
- The turning point in the mission came only three weeks after the force's arrival through the negotiated surrender of the notorious militant leader and alleged murderer Harold Keke. Fear of Keke was the main excuse for many to retain their weapons and his arrest was a major boost in confidence for the whole nation.
- 16 RAMSI police outposts were established across all provinces and military engineers constructed four police stations, and
- Finally, the popular support of the locals was harnessed through a concerted information campaign and supporting engagement activities. Subsequently, RAMSI remained overwhelmingly popular and trusted.

ACTIVITIES

In striving to maintain the almost universal popular support the force was afforded on arrival, it placed particular focus on an information campaign with associated engagement activities. The Special Coordinator, the Police Commander and LTCOL Frewen conducted extensive visits to remote areas to convey the mission's aims personally. This included meetings with community groups and the all-important local chiefs to hear their questions and concerns.

And while still carefully managing military presence in public areas, public displays, or 'open days', were conducted from quite early on in the mission, with sport also played against the local community, and, later a major public concert to celebrate 100 days of the mission was organised.

In addition, infrastructure development and medical support was provided but only in ways that were sustainable beyond the presence of the military. Projects that helped people help themselves without developing an aid mentality were sought.

Unexploded ordnance disposal was one example. Another highly visible one was the sponsorship of a 'Clean-up Honiara Day' that relied on local participation.

The open days proved particularly effective. The first open day in Honiara - held within ten days of the force's arrival - attracted over 10,000 locals and firmly cemented a firm but friendly reputation.

Public displays of its capabilities, particularly those that could lead to hidden weapons, such as ground detection radar, and night vision capabilities had a profound effect on the local people and were very popular and the working dogs were a tremendous psychological tool that emphasised skill and sophistication.

Similarly, the tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or UAVs, offered tremendous tactical advantages and were an unobtrusive means of gathering images in sensitive areas. They were also a potent psychological tool that clearly played on people's minds.

Over the course of the operation, it became increasingly apparent that the Solomon Islands women were reluctant to talk to male soldiers or police and offered an untapped source of information. This was exploited by including female soldiers with infantry security force outposts. The result was useful intelligence on domestic opinions and crime, and a boost to the esteem of local women.

SUCSESSES

The early months of the mission were a comprehensive success. There are always many contributing factors for this, however, there were six key ones were:

- The Solomon Islands parliament unanimously passed a Bill to pave the way for armed forces to enter the Solomon Islands on 21 July 2003. This bill, the Facilitation of International Assistance Act 2003 (FIA Act) came into force, just three days before the international force arrived and legitimised the intervention - at their request - and provided the legal coverage for the conduct of operations.
- The intervention was a broadly regional one albeit led by Australia. The participating nations formalised their involvement through an agreement with the Solomon Islands born at the Pacific Islands Forum meeting of 30 June 2003. The agreement concerned the operations and status of personnel deploying to the Solomon Islands to assist in the restoration of law and order and security and came into force on 24 July 2003, the day of the intervention.
- Any action taken by Australia to put armed

military and police personnel in the Solomon Islands needed to be sanctioned by the Pacific Islands Forum if for no other reason than to show that the deployment was not a neo-colonialist measure but a benevolent, regional response.

- In the early stages of the operation one of the biggest challenges was ensuring the removal of weapons from the community. The Royal Solomon Islands Police Commissioner, in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Police Minister, took a decision to announce a three-week gun amnesty. This initiative received widespread publicity and was backed up with the assurance that those who failed to heed the amnesty would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law - facing up to ten years imprisonment and fines up to \$25,000.
- The perception of our resolve and capabilities to detect weapons, and the likelihood of strict punishment, meant that amnesty succeeded where previous attempts, like the amnesty during the International Peace Monitoring Team of 2000-2002, had failed.
- The importance of the public destruction of weapons - including public participation. This provided evidence of the mission's lasting benefits and helped pass a sense of empowerment back to law-abiding citizens. It was the tangible proof of the mission's success - the visible destruction of weapons, the conviction and imprisonment of criminals and the restoration of public services that helped retain public faith in RAMSI. Success fuelled success and public confidence. The operations were conducted with respect and restraint - while clearly portraying resolve and strength - and subsequently the force maintained the ongoing support of the Solomon's public - without which it could not have operated. And, pleasingly, it still enjoyed widespread popularity when it was scaled down after four months in theatre.

CONCLUSIONS

The mission was a good example of the subtle employment of military force in support of other government agencies in a synchronised way - with careful regard to the tone of military operations and how they are perceived. A significant military force was deployed in support of police, at the request of a sovereign government, and retained the overwhelming support of the local people. Dramatic results were achieved and, despite the potential for conflict, not one shot was fired in anger. Most importantly, the Solomon Islands now has the peace and stability needed to begin rebuilding a more robust government and economy.

They have a second chance.

LUNCHEON ADDRESS 6th September 2004

Dr Kruger White, DSTO

Project Wedgetail – An Airborne Early Warning & Control Capability for Australia

Introduction

Australia is acquiring an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System to enhance Australia's surveillance and control capabilities. The AEW&C System will become an integral part of the layered Australian Defence Force Air Defence System (AADS). Other elements comprising the AADS include Intelligence, Over-The-Horizon radars, military and civilian ground-based radars, ships, fighters and Surface-to-Air missiles.

By raising the radar into the air, the coverage of an Airborne Early Warning system can be extended greatly when compared with ground based radar systems. Although the Over-The-Horizon radar is capable of providing surveillance at very long ranges, an Airborne Early Warning system can detect and track aircraft and ships with the accuracy necessary to advise fighter aircraft and other assets. Equipped with an extensive communications suite, an Airborne Early Warning and Control system is used to perform surveillance and to exchange information with other agencies and assets.

Project Wedgetail

In 1986, Australia's Defence Organisation evaluated industry proposals for Airborne Early Warning and Control systems.

During the 1980s and 1990s Australia's Defence Organisation performed a series of studies culminating in a Project Definition Study, which assessed the capability deficiencies in the AADS and the most effective materiel alternative needed to address the deficiencies. In 1998 Defence awarded Initial Design Activity contracts, valued at \$A8.4 million each to the three leading tenderers for the Wedgetail project, that is, The Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin Corporation and Raytheon Systems Company. These contracts reduced the project's risks by funding each company to refine their appreciation of Air Force's requirements for an AEW&C system and to advance their design specifications.

In July 1999 the Australian Defence Organisation announced that the Boeing Company was the preferred tenderer for the 'Wedgetail' AEW&C project. The decision was based on an evaluation of the tendered operational capability, cost, risk and involvement by Australian industry. Following the release of the Defence 2000 White Paper, the Wedgetail System Acquisition Contract was signed with Boeing in December 2000.

The Wedgetail project has an approved budget of \$A3.4 billion which includes the cost of the acquisition contract with Boeing and non-Boeing costs such as integrated logistic support, personnel, training, infrastructure, Government Furnished Materiel (GFM) and contingencies. The Defence Organisation adopted a fixed price contract strategy that holds Boeing responsible for system performance, covering all aspects of the design, construction, testing, documenting and offering for acceptance of the Wedgetail system.

Wedgetail Capability

The Wedgetail system comprises a Mission Support Segment (MSS), an Operational Mission Simulator (OMS), an Operational Flight Trainer (OFT), an AEW&C Support Facility (ASF) and an Airborne Mission Segment (AMS).

In May 2004 Australia exercised an option to purchase two additional aircraft for a total of six AEW&C aircraft

The Mission Support Segment will facilitate preparation of mission system data for loading onto the aircraft prior to a mission, and provides the capability for analysis after a mission. The Operational Mission Simulator will provide a simulation capability to train Mission Crew in the full range of AEW&C operations, to test alternative mission system configurations and to develop mission tactics and procedures. The Operational Flight Trainer will provide realistic simulation of the aircraft to allow training of flight crew in all phases of flight and some mission related aspects. The AEW&C Support Facility will provide a through-life support capability to enable maintenance, development and enhancements of the system software and hardware. Boeing has subcontracted the development of the MSS, OMS, OFT and the ASF to BAE Systems, Australia.

Airborne Mission Segment

The Airborne Mission Segment comprises a Boeing 737-700 increased gross weight aircraft fitted with a mission system that provides active and passive detection capabilities, communications, navigation, data processing and electronic warfare self protection functions.

Without refuelling, a single Wedgetail aircraft can conduct missions of 8.3 hours duration at a range of 300 nautical miles from its base. A boom-refuelling receptacle for air-to-air refuelling allows for missions of extended duration and range.

The most noticeable feature of the aircraft is the dorsal structure housing the Multi-role Electronically Scanned Array (MESA), which combines the functionality of a primary radar with an Identification Friend or Foe sensor. The aperture

consists of two back-to-back broadside arrays for radar/IFF coverage on either side of the aircraft and an end-fire array that provides coverage of fore and aft sectors. The radar supplier Northrop Grumman Corporation has employed state-of-the art technology to permit electronic scanning for coverage of airborne and surface targets. A benefit of this new technology is the ability to concentrate resources for enhanced system performance in specific regions and to revisit specific targets while maintaining surveillance elsewhere.

The Communications subsystem provides a range of voice communication capabilities at multiple levels of security for communicating with Australian Defence Force assets and coalition forces. In addition, it permits tactical data to be exchanged via line of sight, beyond line of sight and satellite systems in clear, secure, and anti-jam modes of operation.

The Electronic Support Measures subsystem passively senses electromagnetic radiation, separates emissions from different sources and determines the key characteristics of each source. From these characteristics, the emitter source is identified based on data held in predefined libraries. The Electronic Warfare Self Protection subsystem detects and tracks airborne, shipborne and landbased threats to the aircraft. When a threat is detected and identified, the threat can be defeated by countermeasure options such as the dispensing of chaff and flares, and via the transmission of a directed infrared laser beam.

The functions for processing mission data and displaying information to the mission and flight crew are provided by the Mission Computing subsystem. An open systems architecture and extensive reuse of hardware and software ensures a flexible and maintainable system allowing for future growth and technology insertion. A Multi-Sensor Integration capability provided by the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company integrates sensor data into a single track for each target and performs automatic track identification. Information is presented to the crew using software for the Human Machine Interface developed by Kongsberg Defence and Aerospace. Ten mission consoles are identical both physically and functionally and allow each mission crew operator to access all functions. A Flight Deck Tactical Display monitor allows the flight crew to maintain tactical awareness and control the Electronic Warfare Self Protection subsystem.

AEW&C Facilities

The AEW&C system will be operated by RAAF Number 2 Squadron, which reformed in 2000. The Home Maintenance Base for the AEW&C system will be located at RAAF Base Williamtown in New

South Wales. Buildings and facilities such as the Headquarters 2SQN and the AEW&C Support Centre will house personnel, equipment and ground support facilities. The Forward Operating Base will be located at RAAF Base Tindal in the Northern Territory.

The Wedgetail Schedule

Since signing the Wedgetail system acquisition contract in December 2000, Boeing has undergone an intense period of design, development, integration and test.

In October 2002 Boeing Commercial Airplanes completed the first "green" 737 aircraft. Boeing Integrated Defence Systems then performed major structural and systems modifications were to the airframe, avionics and engines. Current work involves extensive integration of the sensors, communications and self-protection systems. In May 2004 the first Wedgetail test flight was conducted from Boeing Field in Seattle.

The first Wedgetail is due for delivery to Australia in November 2006. The first two aircraft will be completely modified in the US but the next four aircraft will be modified in Boeing Australia Limited's Aerospace Support Centre, Amberley, Queensland. The final Wedgetail aircraft is due for delivery in early 2008.

The Wedgetail Mission

The AEW&C mission will be to conduct surveillance, air defence, fleet support and force coordination operations in defence of Australian sovereignty and other national interests. When required, AEW&C will support civil or military operations through law enforcement, regional co-operation and peacekeeping.

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We sincerely thank the following members who have made a cash donation to our library.

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MONASH: THE OUTSIDER WHO WON A WAR by Roland Perry

Reviewed by Malcolm Orchard

On the 12th August 1918 King George V travelled to the Australian Corps HQ in France, at the Bertangles Chateau, some eight kilometres northwest of Amiens and two kilometres from Villers-Bretonneux. There, he invested Lieutenant General Sir John Monash with the knighthood, which had been bestowed a few months earlier. And, according to Roland Perry, Monash's latest biographer, it was "the first time a king had knighted a commander on the battlefield in 200 years."

As we know, the comprehensive breaking through of the German defences on the 8th August 1918, the Battle of Amiens, was followed by a series of victories, also commanded by Monash, until the end of the war – victories that established him as an outstanding general. Indeed, as Perry also points out, "some experts ranked him the finest on the allied side" – Liddell Hart, the well known British military historian, thought that Monash might well have replaced Haig as Commander-in-Chief had the war gone on into 1919. And he also noted in his "Through the Fog of War", published in 1938, "the distance he (Monash) went in spite of a tremendous compound handicap of prejudice". Prejudices, of the time, which Perry lists as being of birth (in a far-flung colony), race (Jewish), background (German descent) and being from the militia, not the regular army – "four admitted huge handicaps".

John Monash was born on the 23rd June 1865 in Melbourne, his parents Jewish emigrants from Prussia. Equal dux of Scotch College in 1881, he moved on to Melbourne University the following year. Here, in order to augment his meagre income, he joined the University Company (D Company) of the 4th Battalion, Victorian Rifles; he was appointed a probationary Lieutenant in the North Melbourne Battery of the Militia Garrison Artillery in 1887. Within ten years he was a Major and the battery's commander; promotion to Lieutenant Colonel came in March 1908; his last appointment, pre-war, came in June 1913 when he assumed command of the 13th Infantry Brigade.

In the meantime, by the end of 1893, he had a Masters degree in engineering and also degrees in arts and law. And in early 1905 his very successful Reinforced Concrete and Monier Pipe Construction Company was founded.

Monash went ashore at Gallipoli with his 4th Infantry Brigade AIF and the 14th Battalion AIF in the early morning of the 26th April 1915. He celebrated his 50th birthday (in June) at his Brigade HQ, in the

narrow area dubbed "Monash Valley", seated on a kerosene tin to eat a cake presented to him. 50 matchsticks masqueraded as candles.

Roland Perry has drawn extensively on Monash's large output of letters and diary archive to round out a fine biography of a justly celebrated and honoured Australian.

Donated by Malcolm Orchard.

PLAN OF ATTACK by Bob Woodward

Based on interviews with 75 key participants and more than three and a half hours of exclusive interviews with President George W Bush, this is an account of how and why the President, his war council and allies launched a pre-emptive attack to topple Saddam Hussein and to occupy Iraq.

TEARS ON MY PILLOW: AUSTRALIAN NURSES IN VIETNAM by Narelle Biedermann

War and nursing are closely linked – some 43 Australian Army nursing sisters were sent to Vietnam between April 1967 and November 1971. Here are some of their experiences.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF VICTORY: THE PACIFIC WAR 1943-1944

Editors: Peter Dennis and Jeffrey Grey.

Most Australians are aware of the fighting on the Kokoda Track in 1942, but few know anything concerning the subsequent fighting in New Guinea in 1943-1944. These papers from the Chief of Army's Military History Conference 2003 draw attention to the difficulties faced by the Australian Army and Australian soldiers in the most trying of circumstances; to the achievements that flowed from their courage, ingenuity and adaptability, and the resource and technical advantages they came to enjoy.

ALAMEIN: THE AUSTRALIAN STORY

By Mark Johnston and Peter Stanley

The story of the extraordinary modest men of the celebrated 9th Australian Division AIF and their sacrifice and achievement are also not well known. Noted Australian military historians Mark Johnston and Peter Stanley have drawn on letters, diaries and other contemporary sources, as well as hitherto secret German and British records, including Ultra signals, to give a vivid account of the desert war from Australian soldiers' perspective.

TARGET NORTH KOREA.

By Gavan McCormack

Gavan McCormack is a professor at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, and is well known for his writing on the countries of Northeast Asia. This study, published earlier this year, looks at the origins and character of North Korea, its state and society, its history and present confrontation with the world.

HEROIC AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN WAR

By Susanna De Vries

Here eleven outstanding Australian women are profiled during course of two world wars and how they were as influential and heroic in civil life as they were in war.

Donated by Captain Malcolm Orchard

ALLIES by William Shawcross.

William Shawcross is an internationally renowned commentator on issues of international law and policy. *Allies* looks at the state of Western alliances in 2004, following the war in Iraq.

152 SIGNAL SQUADRON

By Norman Bainbridge

As the type of work carried out by Special Air Service is of such a nature that recent activities cannot be divulged, this history of the Corps of Signals in SAS is, of necessity, restricted to its first 25 years, 1957-1982.

RISING '44 by Norman Davies

The Warsaw Uprising, the Battle for Warsaw, in 1944 was a pivotal moment in both the outcome of WW II and in the origins of the Cold War. For 63 days the Polish Resistance battled the SS and the Wehrmacht; one by one Warsaw's districts were reduced to rubble as Soviet troops watched from across the Vistula River...

INTELLIGENCE IN WAR by John Keegan

"No war can be conducted successfully without early and good intelligence", Marlborough wrote, and from the earliest times commanders have sought knowledge about the enemy. Case studies testing the value this aphorism form the substance of this recent book by the eminent military historian, John Keegan, hence its sub-title: "Knowledge of the Enemy from Napoleon to Al-Qaeda".

IN THE COMPANY OF HEROES

By Michael J Durant and Steven Hartov

In 1993 when American special forces were sent to famine-stricken Somalia a routine mission went horribly wrong: Michael Durant's Black Hawk helicopter was shot down over Mogadishu and he was taken captive. He lived to tell his story.

Donated by Warrant Officer Glen Nelson.

THE LESSONS OF AFGHANISTAN

By Anthony H Cordesman

This study provides an assessment of the war in Afghanistan and the lessons to be drawn; a publication from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington DC.

AFTER BALI: THE THREAT OF TERRORISM IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Editors: Kumar Ramakrishna and See Seng Tan

Three broad questions are looked here. Firstly, while it is understandable that a terror threat certainly

exists in South East Asia, is it really accurate to suggest that the region is a "terrorist haven" and the "second front" in the global war on terror? Secondly, to what extent are South East Asian states to blame for the continuing terrorist problem in the region? And thirdly, to what extent is US foreign policy responsible for contributing directly to both the terror threat and the circumspection of the regional response to it?

Over the weekend of 27-28 September 2003 a Workshop was held in Singapore that had as its main theme these three questions. Its organisers brought together experienced Islamic scholars, analysts, police professionals and journalists familiar with the finer nuances of South East Asian radical Islam and the operational environment. Most of the papers from the Workshop have been revised recently and edited for publication. They make very thought provoking reading.

Donated by Russell Sheldrick

LONG DRIVE THROUGH A SHORT WAR

Peter Wilson

Peter Wilson has been praised for his reporting of the war in Iraq - he was named Australia's Journalist of the Year in 2003.

Donated by Malcolm Orchard

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