



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

A Constituent Body of the
Royal United Services Institute of Australia Inc

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Promoting National Security and Defence

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NEWSLETTER

RUSI-SA CYBERLINKS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You may have noticed a couple of weeks ago that there was an article in the Advertiser regarding the possible closure of some Army depots including Keswick Barracks.

On the evening of Tuesday 3rd October, a briefing by an Army Headquarters representative on the FORCE DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM (FDP) was held at Keswick. This was arranged primarily for the local formation and unit commanders or representatives, however RUSI was invited and the RUSI Secretary, Doug Patterson, and I attended.

It was explained that as part of the FDP, the Department of Defence had initiated three separate studies in relation to the "infrastructure" ramifications. Consultants are currently conducting these studies.

The three areas of consideration are: -

- Facilities
- Operating Costs and
- Socio-Economic.

In the case of the socio-economic study, this is confined to only two locations, one of which is Woodside.

The briefing last week was confined to the Facilities study and two members of the consultant team took part.

It was explained that the consultants were preparing a Strategic Business Case (+/- 30%) to be submitted by November 2006, so that a case could be prepared with recommendations to the Department by December 2006, for submission in turn to Cabinet in February 2007!!!

The basis of the study was to examine those facilities that had been identified as not meeting all the key criteria for retention under the FDP. In the case of SA these are Keswick, Warradale, Woodside, Hampstead and Elizabeth North. In each case the financial ramifications of retention versus disposal, including the consequential relocation costs for the formations/units affected, were to be considered.

The consultant team is in Adelaide to visit the identified locations and to have discussions with the formations/units that may be affected.

In response to questions regarding the terms of reference of the study, the briefing team confirmed that it was only concerned with "infrastructure" and hence did not take into account "operational needs" such as recruitment, retention and the proximity and suitability of training areas.

The Chief of Army has made some of his views known, including his appreciation of local sensitivities, and has directed that the case for Warradale Units to be relocated to Keswick be considered, in addition to the vice-versa case. A similar scenario applies to Anglesea Barracks in Hobart.

In conclusion, it was stressed that this was a Strategic Business Case (+/- 30%) and that there was no money allocated in current budgets.

We will try and keep you posted.

**LUNCHEON ADDRESS
Monday 9th October 2006**

**BRIG Greg Mellick AM, RFD
Director General Reserves – Army**

(The following was compiled from notes provided by the speaker).

**Hardened & Networked Army Reserve
"Relevance and Readiness."**

The Australian Army Reserves consume about 20% of Army's budget and 5% of Regular Army manning. There are currently more Reservists on Continuous Full Time Service than since the end of WWII. The Reserves currently comprise about 16,000 personnel plus 10,500 Standby Reserve personnel. Reservists parade an average of 40 days per annum and the median length of service is four years

Their Mission is to "Provide specified individual and collective capabilities to support, sustain and reinforce Army's operational forces."

The Army Reserve operates a remarkably broad range of Reserve models. Some examples include:

- Regional Force Surveillance Units - collective capability, high readiness, integrated, equipped, tasked, regionally trained, high competency fit.
- 7 and 17 CSS Brigades - Unit and sub-unit collective capabilities, moderate readiness, integrated formation with Reserve, Regular and Integrated battalions and regiments, moderate competency fit
- 2 Division - Sub-unit collective capability and individual reinforcement pool, lower readiness, partially equipped, centrally trained, lower competency fit
- Individual Reserves which may be posted throughout Tri-service or Army units on Contracts or Short Service Commissions, Continuous Full Time Service or for a set numbers of days.

It is proposed in future that Active Reservists will enable the High Readiness Reserve (HRR) through raise, train and sustain functions and continue to support and reinforce the ARA.

The Active Reserve (AR) will provide the Reserve Response Force, previously known as the (HRR).

Active Reservists will still have the opportunity to be selected for operations, although this opportunity is decreased with the raising of the HRR.

High Readiness Reservists must be available for voluntary deployment when called for. High Readiness Reservists will sign a two year contract for 32-50 days mandated training per year including one continuous exercise annually of not greater than 16 days with their ARA/Integrated unit (or Formation, for HRR Combat Team members), unless otherwise specified in the HRR Service Agreement, and the remainder with their parent AR unit. High Readiness Reservists must possess Regular Army competencies for their employed

position (until the Hardened and Networked Army (HNA) training model review is complete, whereby exceptions may be made).

The Standby Reserve management systems are being reviewed with a view to enhancing the utility of this latent capability.

HRR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

PHASE ONE (Start mid 2006-end 2008):

- Develop the approximately 1100 individual and collective reinforcements;
- Identify additional capabilities required to be developed within the Army Reserve; and
- Review C2 at regional and command level.

The HNA Training Model currently under development will:

- Focus upon providing Army with enhanced PNT
- Maintain the common competency model for ARA and Active Reservists.
- Reduce the training requirement for Active Reservists by reducing the number of competencies required
- Identify and develop gap training to enable Reservists to transition from the AR to HRR
- Include Active Reservists deployable ECN

Active Reservists will receive up to a \$10 Reserve allowance (akin to service allowance). New pay rates will be competency based. They will receive a \$600 health support allowance and the HRR \$2,500 health support allowance per annum. An allowance of \$10,000 Tax Free completion bonus will be given for two years HRR service

"....Army Reserve forces can now be concentrated on providing full capability as part of operational forces, and to provide the subsequent reinforcement and rotation of deployed forces. Expansion and mobilisation will remain an Army task, but the priority in the future will clearly be on meeting more immediate military needs." LTGEN Peter Leahy

Views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the RUSI - SA Inc

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

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 reported to the RUSI Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$20. The caterers have to be notified of the number attending by that time and that number must be paid for. Twelve members booked for the last luncheon but did not turn up. RUSI SA cannot afford such losses.

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions. We assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30 am 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 \$20. 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 12.55 pm, as the guest speaker will be introduced at 1.00 pm. 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 2.00 pm.

Luncheon Speakers

Monday 6th November 2006

TBA

POSITION VACANT

Doug Patterson has tendered his resignation for personal reasons. The Council are seeking a suitable person to replace Doug as:

SECRETARY
RUSI of SA

Nominations are invited for the position and interested parties are requested to contact the Secretary on 8305 6378 **at the RUSI of SA office or the President on 8266 0007 for further details.**



SOCIAL CALENDAR 2006

CHRISTMAS SUNDOWNER

**Sunday 26th November 2006
at 4pm**

In response to a number of requests to reinstate our Annual Sundowner event as the final social activity for the year, your Council has decided to put the event on this year in the hope that it will attract sufficient attendees to make it a viable function.

The Sundowner, in the form of a Cocktail Party, will be held in the Patio area of the Officers' Mess at Keswick Barracks, Keswick.

We urge members to support the Sundowner this year:

DATE: SUNDAY 26th November 2006

TIME: 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm

PLACE: Officers' Mess, Keswick Barracks, Keswick

COST: \$20- per head. Includes:
Sumptuous Finger Food
Red & White Wines
Sparkling Wines
Beer
Soft Drinks

DRESS: Smart Casual

BOOKINGS: To the office by Midday, Monday 20th November 2006. Cancellations after that date will attract a fee of \$20 per person

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Who's Who in South Australia

For 100 years, *Who's Who in Australia* has been recording the biographies of notable and prominent Australians. Crown Content will soon be embarking on an exciting new publishing tradition, creating a series of state-focused publications to stand alongside *Who's Who in Australia*. The inaugural State edition of *Who's Who* will be *Who's Who in South Australia*, to be published in March 2007.

Who's Who in South Australia will be a permanent historical record and an ongoing tribute to South Australians from all backgrounds, ranging from prominent public figures to unsung community heroes. Nominations are now open. You are invited to submit the names of outstanding members of the RUSI SA and the local community. Additionally you may recommend the names of South Australians (by birth or residence) who have excelled in their field or those who exemplify the South Australian spirit.

Nomination forms are available in the office or online at www.whoswholive.com.au. Nominations can be e-mailed to whoswho@crowncontent.com.au. Once your nomination has been received, the nominee will be contacted directly if further information is required. Inclusion and editing of any biography is at the sole discretion of the Editorial Board. Further enquiries can be made on 1300 854 686.

LIBRARY NON FICTION

“Flack” by Michael Veitch
Reviewed by Malcolm Orchard.

For Michael Veitch, the compiling and writing of *“Flack”*, a book concerning RAAF and RAF veterans and their experiences during World War II, was a labour of love and the fulfilment of an ambition of many years – an ambition which stemmed from “a life long obsession with aircraft of the Second World War and the men who flew them”.

Over the course of a year he interviewed more than 50 former aircrew across Australia. He talked with former pilots, navigators, bomb aimers, gunners and wireless operators who had “flown in deserts, over cities and in the stifling jungles of the South-west Pacific. And as he quietly notes:-

On each occasion, I was met with complete acceptance, in allowing me to dredge up highly personal memories of fear, loss and trauma, often for the first time in decades.

Regrettably he was not in a position to publish all these interviews – he chose 25. But as Charles “Bud” Tingwell writes in his Forward:

The accurate descriptions in this book taught me so much, almost for the first time. I may have been frightened on several occasions in my job as a photographic reconnaissance pilot but I have often wondered if I could have done what other air crews had to do. That any of us that survived at all, regardless of what our duties were, is sometimes hard to believe. Thank you, Michael, for illuminating so much about so many.

And as another interviewee quietly said to Michael Veitch, “History is told by the survivors”.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS