



**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**

RUSI-SA

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# NEWSLETTER

## RUSI-SA CYBERLINKS

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[rusikes@bigpond.com](mailto:rusikes@bigpond.com)

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<http://www.rusi.org>

### AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2007-2008

### *General Review*

Membership remains an ongoing challenge, not only to our Institute but also to all the other states and this will be a major topic at the RUSI of Australia's National AGM to be held in Hobart later this month. In SA we have concentrated on our program of monthly luncheons augmented by the second program of evening "Current Issues Briefings". However we have not overlooked the social side, and several excellent functions were held

### *Monthly Luncheons*

We are again indebted to Colonel Neville Bergin, who, as guest speaker coordinator, arranged a diverse and most interesting range of quality guest speakers for our monthly luncheons. The average attendance at the luncheons remains at a healthy level in the range of 70 to 100. The highlight of the year was undoubtable the visit by His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

### *Current Issues Briefings*

This early evening program aims to attract new members from government, industry, academic, business and service organizations as well as providing an opportunity for existing members, some of whom are unable to attend our monthly luncheons, to hear high profile guests speak on current issues relating to defence and national security. After our successful re-launch in June last year with the Chief of Navy as the guest speaker, we were fortunate to secure three high profile speakers for 2007-08, details of whom are given in the attachment. Although numbers vary, the feedback is very positive and the CIB program continues into 2008-09.

### *Patron*

*His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce  
AC CSC RANR Governor of South Australia*

## COUNCIL MEMBERS 2008

President:	COL D. Stoba RFD ED (Retd)
Vice Presidents:	COL N.R. Bergin (Retd) C/Insp F.J. Leditschke (Retd)
Councillors:	CAPT M.J. Orchard RFD ED (Retd) Mr M.J. Gorroick Mrs J. Berry
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Secretary/Public Officer:	Elaine Atkinson
Librarian/Hon Editor:	CAPT M.J. Orchard RFD ED (Retd)

Current Iss

### ***Management of Activities***

The elected Council comprising the President, two Vice Presidents and six Councillors together with the Honorary Treasurer and Secretary meet each month to conduct the business of the Institute. The three nominated Service Representatives keep the Council up to date on Service matters and are invited to attend Council meetings on a quarterly basis.

Three of our hardworking members of Council indicated that they would not be seeking re-election due to health, work or personal reasons. They are Brigadier Don Willett, Mr Colin Brooks and Colonel Hans Broweleit.

Brigadier Don Willett AM, joined the RUSI in 1974, was President from 1987 -1990 and Vice President from 1990 until now. He was made a Life Member in 1995 and was appointed a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia in 1998. Although he will no longer be an active member of the Council he has agreed to act in an advisory role.

Colin Brooks has served on the RUSI-SA Council for several years and was a Vice-President from 2004 until 2007. With the current mineral boom his consulting work, dominantly in geochemistry and valuation of advanced exploration projects, means that he is unable to devote as much time to the RUSI.

Colonel Hans Broweleit, who rejoined the Council last year, has decided to take at least a 12 month break to spend time with his family interstate and for a well earned caravanning holiday.

In addition, Captain Barrie Newman resigned earlier this year due to business and personal commitments. This obviously creates a great void in the Council, which we have only partially been able to fill with the nomination of Mrs Judith Berry. The Council is giving priority to finding suitable replacements for the three remaining vacancies and welcomes any suggestions.

### ***The Volunteer Support Group***

The Volunteer Support Group continued to provide valuable assistance at our luncheons, CIBs and social functions. The continued viability of the Institute depends on volunteers and the efforts of the present team are very much appreciated.

### ***The Library***

I wish to thank Captain Malcolm Orchard who, despite a bout of ill-health, continued to diligently perform the functions of librarian, book reviewer, editor of the newsletter and member of the RUSI-SA Council. It is a pity that this excellent facility, for both

research and general interest, continues to be under-utilized.

The Library is open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

### ***Membership***

Chief Inspector Fay Leditschke assisted by Secretary Elaine Atkinson, has done a sterling job in getting our membership records up to-to-date and accurate. We have reported to RUSI National Office that, as at 30 Jun 08, our active membership was 393 compared with 420 as at 30 Jun last year This was primarily attributed to resignations due to age and the regrettable decease of several members.

### ***Social Activities***

As in the previous year, the Council programmed four major social functions – A winter Dining-in-Night, a spring Carvery Luncheon, a Christmas Sundowner and an autumn Barbeque. As we were keen to get our patron, His Excellency the Governor of South Australia as the guest speaker for the Dining-in-Night this event was deferred until June 08. The Carvery and Sundowner proceeded as planned, however the BBQ in the Patio programmed for 16 March 08 had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. The Council felt that a later date may be more acceptable to members and have tentatively scheduled it for May next year. His Excellency agreed to be our guest speaker at the Dining-in-Night but requested that it be deferred until August. Consequently we rescheduled it for 29 August 08 and brought forward the Carvery Luncheon to 20 June 08. I would particularly like to thank Colonel Keith Wait and Mr Walter Stamm for their generosity in donating major prizes for the raffles at the Carvery Luncheons.

### ***Financial Position***

The Institute is in a sound financial position. Details of income and expenditure for the year are given in the Treasurer's Report.

### ***Closing Remarks***

It has been a great privilege to serve as your President for another year and I thank all members for their support. I, also, wish to thank the hardworking Members of Council, our Secretary Elaine and our volunteers who have so generously given their time to ensure the continued viability of the Institute.

***Colonel David Stoba RFD ED (Retd)***

*President RUSI-SA*

**Luncheon Speaker**

**Monday 13 Oct 2008**

**Professor Ian Plimer, Professor of Mining  
Geology, University of Adelaide**

**Topic: Climate Change by Humans - A Load of  
Hot Air**

**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-SA Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$20. The caterers must be notified of the number attending by then and that number must be paid for.***

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

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46 Coromandel Pde,***

**BLACKWOOD SA 5051**

**LUNCHEON ADDRESS**

**Monday 4 August 2008**

**Dr Owen Mace  
Industry Development Executive,  
Defence Teaming Centre**

**Topic: Global Positioning Systems and their Military  
Applications.**

GPS – Global Positioning System – affects our lives every day. Every time we make a mobile phone call, navigate around town or buy a house, GPS is involved. But what is GPS and how does it work?

First of all, we must understand that GPS is a complex system that is capable of being understood on many levels. As we dig deeper, so we have to modify some of our earlier understandings. We'll even understand that its name is, well, iffy. It's not really global (marginal at the poles), it's more than positioning (you get really accurate timing as well) and it's not a system – it's two, one civilian and a second, protected military system.

What does GPS do? The system consists of small, inexpensive receivers that measure their position (latitude, longitude and elevation) and speed.

How does it work? There are 24 high altitude satellites orbiting the earth, each transmitting radio signals. A GPS receiver receives those signals and measures the time that each signal takes to travel from the satellite to our receiver. Multiply the propagation time by the speed of propagation of the radio signal to give the distance from the satellite to our receiver.

How does that give our position? The maths isn't that difficult working in Cartesian coordinates. Let the receiver position be  $(x_r, y_r, z_r)$  and the satellite number one position  $(x_{s1}, y_{s1}, z_{s1})$ . Then the distance from satellite 1 to receiver is given by Pythagoras (remember – the square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides of a right triangle). Extend to three dimensions and then the equation for the distance from satellite to receiver is:

$$d_{r \rightarrow s1} = c \cdot \Delta t_{r \rightarrow s1} = \sqrt{(x_r - x_{s1})^2 + (y_r - y_{s1})^2 + (z_r - z_{s1})^2}$$

where  $c$  = speed of light =  $2.99792458 \times 10^8$  m/s and  $\Delta t_{r \rightarrow s1}$  = measured propagation time of the signal from satellite 1 to receiver

There are three unknowns (receiver  $x_r, y_r$  and  $z_r$ ) and with three equations and three satellites, we can nearly solve for the position of the receiver. But not quite. First of all, the satellites move at great speed. Fortunately, the satellites themselves transmit orbital parameters to our receiver and so we can calculate the positions of the satellites (the  $x_{s1}, y_{s1}$  and  $z_{s1}$ ) with sufficient accuracy. However, the clock in the GPS receiver is nowhere nearly accurate enough to measure the propagation time. Light travels about a metre in 3 billionths of a second and so the measurement accuracy has to be within about 15 billionths of a second (for a 5 metre error). The GPS receiver needs to have a Clock Error which must be included in each estimate of propagation time:

$$d_{r \rightarrow s1} = c \cdot (\Delta t_{r \rightarrow s1} - \text{Clock Error}) = \sqrt{(x_r - x_{s1})^2 + (y_r - y_{s1})^2 + (z_r - z_{s1})^2}$$

We now have four unknowns (receiver  $x_r, y_r$  and  $z_r$  positions and receiver Clock Error), so now we need four equations and four satellites:

$$d_{r \rightarrow s1} = c \cdot (\Delta t_{r \rightarrow s1} - \text{Clock Error}) = \sqrt{(x_r - x_{s1})^2 + (y_r - y_{s1})^2 + (z_r - z_{s1})^2}$$

$$d_{r \rightarrow s2} = c \cdot (\Delta t_{r \rightarrow s2} - \text{Clock Error}) = \sqrt{(x_r - x_{s2})^2 + (y_r - y_{s2})^2 + (z_r - z_{s2})^2}$$

$$d_{r \rightarrow s3} = c \cdot (\Delta t_{r \rightarrow s3} - \text{Clock Error}) = \sqrt{(x_r - x_{s3})^2 + (y_r - y_{s3})^2 + (z_r - z_{s3})^2}$$

$$d_{r \rightarrow s4} = c \cdot (\Delta t_{r \rightarrow s4} - \text{Clock Error}) = \sqrt{(x_r - x_{s4})^2 + (y_r - y_{s4})^2 + (z_r - z_{s4})^2}$$

There you go, solve these four simultaneous equations with four unknowns – easy. Not quite. There is no known analytical solution for these four simultaneous equations and so we have to resort to a technique of

successive approximation. Guess at the unknowns, calculate the error and then have another guess to reduce the error. So, it is possible to approach the real receiver position sufficiently accurately.

But what is the accuracy of our receiver? Well, the answer is not that easy. Normally, the largest error is small changes in the speed of signal propagation due to electrons in the ionosphere. As we are in a solar minimum at the present, you should expect position accuracy of about 5 to 10 metres. In a few years as the sun becomes more active (that is, more sun spots), expect errors to rise towards 15 m and more.

Clever schemes to correct for the change in the propagation through the ionosphere can improve accuracy to one metre and even a few millimetres. There are such systems to improve accuracy and resiliency in the presence of failures.

How might GPS be used? My yacht carries six GPS receivers.

- 1) The autopilot is able to steer the boat to a point using a GPS receiver for the position the boat.
- 2) The radar shows the boat's position to give situational awareness even at night and in thick fog.
- 3) The radio transmits the boat's GPS position if an emergency mayday signal is made.
- 4) In an emergency, the Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) which alerts the Australian Marine Safety Authority (AMSA) via satellite is activated. It has a GPS receiver in it.
- 5) I have an electronic chart plotter that shows the boat on a chart. Obviously the boat's position is provided by a GPS receiver.
- 6) Just in case, I have another receiver which I use to plot the boat's position on a paper chart.

Beyond the boat, GPS receivers are used in many, many ways. Because receivers calculate the error of their clocks with great accuracy, accurate timing signals can be used for timing mobile phone networks, for example, critical for their operation. Positioning of land, sea and air vehicles and navigation, like the navigator in your car use GPS. The valuation of your home depends on accurately knowing where it is – GPS positioning. Councils locate street furniture using GPS. Golf carts with GPS estimate distance to the pin and even suggest the club to use. The movement of bridges and continents are measured with GPS and GPS guides aerial spraying aircraft – a skilled pilot can lay down spray within a metre of the desired spot. The first autonomous aircraft to fly the Atlantic was an Australian Aerosonde aircraft using GPS to guide it.

What are the military applications? There are parallels with civilian applications, such as navigating planes, ships, trucks, missiles, satellites, supply

pallets, soldiers and so on. GPS is used for manned and unmanned vehicles, guiding a parachute to its destination after flying to predefined way points to confuse the enemy and guiding an artillery shell to its target. GPS is a system run by the US Navy for anyone in the world to use at no cost. It seems likely that the rationale is that there is no cost to the US government after accounting for the taxes paid by US GPS manufacturers.

GPS relies on extremely accurate clocks flying in the satellites. Those clocks are the result of research conducted in the 50s and 60s to improve the accuracy of clocks. Who could ever use a clock accurate to a thousandth of a second per year? At that stage, there was no understanding where the research would lead – to GPS.

There are other global positioning systems. The Russians have Glonass, the Europeans are working towards Galileo and China and India are considering similar systems.

There are many, many civilian and military applications, so GPS and similar systems are here to stay. They are available to anyone at no cost but that will not always be so.

## **LUNCHEON ADDRESS**

**Monday 1 September 2008**

**COL Alison Creagh, CSC  
Formally HQ ISAF Chief, CJ1, Afghanistan**

**Topic: NATO Coalition Operations in Afghanistan**

Following is an edited version of her presentation.

### **Introduction**

Twelve months ago I was about to deploy to Afghanistan to work as an embedded officer on the Headquarters of the NATO lead International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF. I was to be employed in a multi-national headquarters based in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul where I would operate as the Chief CJ1, or Branch Chief responsible for personnel for ISAF and HQ ISAF. As you would expect, I was keen to understand the nature of the conflict, the operational environment and the role of ISAF. I was fortunate to undergo training at the NATO Training School in Oberammergau, Germany, where I was provided with an understanding of the key issues. I received briefs from Australian Defence Headquarters and the Defence Intelligence Organisation, I went through force preparation training to ready me for the

threat and ensure that I could respond adequately to the threats. So I broadly knew what I would be doing, where I would be working and the environment I would be operating in. The unknowns were the people I would work with and for, the NATO acronyms and terms I would need to employ and the insurgents.

I was fortunate as I had almost a year's notice for my deployment so I took the opportunity to read numerous books on Afghanistan, the conflict and the people – books such as *The Carpet Wars*, *Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, and *the Bookseller of Kabul* all gave me a feel for some of the culture. Books on Islam and the war ravaged years from Alexander the Great to the more recent Soviet invasion and US intervention and the Taliban provided some insight into the centuries of conflict. But I wanted more. I wanted to know about what was happening on a day to day basis. I was watching media reports on Iraq on an almost nightly basis but there was little reporting on Afghanistan. When there was a report in the Australian press it would be largely focused on Australia's involvement in the conflict and the reporting would be largely negative in content. So I left Australia wondering if ISAF could achieve success and if the International Community could provide the support to Afghanistan necessary to allow it to become a stable nation. I have to say, after twelve months away, little has changed with regard to media reporting. It seems that the only time Afghanistan rates a mention is when Australia has suffered casualties or when there is a significant incident that provokes international attention. There still appears to be a lack of understanding of the International Community's involvement in Afghanistan and its successes – and there are successes.

Today I hope to offer you an overview of the NATO lead coalition in Afghanistan and what it seeks to do. I also hope to provide you with some understanding of Australia's contribution to the coalition and I am also keen to share some of my personal experiences with you. But before I start, I would like to apply some caveats to my presentation. The information I touch on today is open source information although I will give you my opinion on aspects of the operation. I have also worked away from the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force for twelve months so I am aware of their current policies but have not worked to implement their policies - with Afghanistan being the notable exception. And, I have been back in Australia for two months and two months in the life of an operation is a long time and the Commander of ISAF, or COMISAF, changed at the same time as I returned home so it is likely that the nature of the Headquarters and the nature of the ISAF operation may have changed since my deployment. So, you will get a slightly aged version of events rather than a fully up to date dissertation. And a reminder that I worked

in an operational level headquarters and was not at the sharp end fighting so my perspective is that of a staff officer rather than a war fighter although I have to say that being responsible for maintaining the record and briefing COMISAF of the ISAF casualties - Killed in Action, Wounded in Action, Non-battle deaths and non-battle injuries - is a salient reminder of the impact of ISAF's involvement in Afghanistan.

## **An Overview of Afghanistan**

Afghanistan is located in central Asia. It is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a population of just over 31million. Afghanistan is strategically located between Russia, China, Iran and India/Pakistan. In terms of terrain, Afghanistan is marked by the Hindu Kush Mountains located in the central and eastern parts of the country with desert in the South West and steppe in the North.

Afghanistan is hugely influenced by both its physical and human geography. It is worth noting the terrain along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan that is very difficult for anyone to police!

As a result of the extremely dry climate in the south, and the alpine climate in the mountains, settlements are concentrated on the northern plains and central plateaus where water is available throughout the year.

The greatest population density is found in mountain basins and river valleys  
The main cities are MeS, Kunduz, Charikar, Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Herat.

The country is largely divided up as follows:

- 1) Pashtun- East/South
  - 2) Tajik – North and East
  - 3) Hazara – Mountains
  - 4) Uzbek – North
- and others.

In short, Afghanistan is complex. It is made up of over 380 districts that form provinces. Provinces are broken into Regions. The districts, provinces and regions are used as the governance framework for the country with district and provincial governors all contributing to running the fledgling nation. Tribal allegiance, ethnicity, religion and geography all contribute to the complexity of Afghanistan and tribal traditions provide the core of the Afghan culture. These traditions drive Afghan actions and the centuries old tribal loyalties are considerably stronger than any loyalties to a central government that is far away in Kabul.

The history of Afghanistan struggles to be summarized in a single slide but is characterized by centuries of successive invasions:

Darius (500 BC), Alexander (329 BC), Arabs, Mongols, Moghuls, etc

Three Anglo Afghan Wars (1838 - 1919)

Moderate Governments and Peace (1920 – 1978)

Soviet Invasion

**9-11** - US/Northern Alliance defeat TB (2001)

New Constitution, Elections & Government (02-05).

The current chapter in the history of Afghanistan is being written now and elections sometime in the next year or so will influence the development of Afghanistan as a nation.

When you consider the threat in Afghanistan it can crudely be broken into two areas:

- 1) Taliban below the so-called Pashtun-Belt in the South.
- 2) Criminality, Regional and local Powerbrokers in the North.

Fundamentally, the threat is made up of diverse groups with varying, and at times, conflicting goals:

Taliban, Al Qaida, Hezb-e Islami, Haqqani Network, Narco-Criminals, Warlords, Regional Power Brokers, Others

## **The International Security Assistance Force**

The International Security Assistance Force – ISAF - is a NATO led multinational coalition that has been sanctioned by the UN as a peace-enforcement mission in accordance with Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Eight UN Security Council Resolutions relate to ISAF and ISAF has operated in Afghanistan for five years. Initially, ISAF was only responsible for providing security to Kabul and surrounds with a force of 5000 troops from 32 nations. Over time ISAF has extended its reach and is now responsible for security across the whole country with over 52,900 troops provided by the 26 NATO nations and 14 non-NATO nations – a coalition of 40 nations and 40 nations with differing political views and 40 nations with different national caveats on how their forces can be employed as part of ISAF. ISAF operates with five Regional Commands across Afghanistan with different nations responsible for commanding the ISAF troops within the Regions. ISAF continues to grow and troop contributions from nations slowly continue to expand. As you would expect, that nature of ISAF covers the full spectrum of war fighting capability from infantry, tanks, mechanized forces, artillery and all the supporting force elements through to advanced intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets

including unmanned aerial vehicles, satellites, fighter jets, helicopter support and other advanced tools of war fighting.

The ISAF mission is to conduct military operations in the assigned area of operations to assist the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment with full engagement of the Afghan National Security Forces in order to extend the government authority and influence thereby facilitating Afghanistan's reconstruction and contributing to regional stability. In short, ISAF is in support to the Government of Afghanistan and it is important to ensure that the ISAF intent and operations are conducted to support the Government. COMISAF, GEN McKiernan, has stated that ISAF will demonstrate both the will and capacity to apply irresistible force by, through and in support of the ANSF against the insurgents strategy and others who forcibly oppose the progress of the campaign. GEN McKiernan has also impressed the need for ISAF and the ANSF to adopt a strategy of shaping, clearing, holding and building in order to improve the security in Afghanistan. At times ISAF has previously failed to hold ground thereby allowing the insurgents to return and maintain pressure in areas which has prevented development, reconstruction and improvements to governance.

However, ISAF is not the only military presence in Afghanistan. The United States of America continues to operate a multi-national coalition, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM or OEF. The OEF was established in October 2001 to counter terrorism and bring security to Afghanistan in collaboration with Afghan forces. The current coalition comprises 20 nations with 19000 US troops and 3100 non-US troops. OEF works in concert with ISAF to support the Government of Afghanistan and the primary focus of OEF at present is to help train the Afghan National Security Force with a particular focus on the Afghan National Police. The US under OEF also provides over half of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams that provide reconstruction and development support to Afghan districts and regions in order to rebuild Afghan infrastructure.

The Afghan National Security Force is an increasingly important element of the security force in Afghanistan. In 2002 there was no security force to speak of. Efforts of OEF and ISAF have rapidly built up the ANSF with the Afghan National Army now operating at an effective strength of over 50,000. Over 1000 new soldiers graduate each fortnight from ANA training centres and the ANA is now taking the planning and execution of security operations in a number of areas throughout Afghanistan. It is a slow process to develop the skills of the ANA but there are

a number of successful kandaks - of Afghan battalions – and these kandaks have forged success with assistance from ISAF in operations such as the liberation of Musa Qala from the Taliban in Dec 07. The International Community continues to assist with the growth of the ANSF by providing equipment but it has been recognised that training and equipment alone is not sufficient and there is a requirement to mentor the ANA. Both ISAF and OEF provide mentor organisations to support the ANA with ISAF providing Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams often referred to as OMLTs and OEF Embedded Training Teams or ETTs. While the ANA has developed well the Afghan National Police, or ANP, have been slow to develop and substantial efforts are now being made by OEF and ISAF to mentor and liaise with the ANP in order to achieve an holistic approach to security within Afghanistan.

The broad international effort to help Afghanistan build a more stable and secure future is achievable and it is being achieved.

In 2007 the security situation had 75% of the districts experiencing less than one security incident per quarter per 10,000 people. 70% of events occurred in 10% of districts and these districts represent only 6% of the Afghan population. This trend is supported in 2008 and serves to demonstrate that the insurgency is not expanding. I believe the media fail to recognise that much of Afghanistan is relatively stable. I also believe that the media conveniently forget that ISAF has doubled in size over the last two years and now seeks out the insurgents. This will always result in an increase in the number of incidents where troops are engaged in fighting. I would acknowledge that the insurgents are now more willing to engage in attacks using improvised explosive devices (IED) and attacks against civilian targets but ISAF, OEF and ANSF work actively to defeat IED attacks, destroy IED networks and target insurgent networks that seek to harm the effort in Afghanistan. Real challenges remain and it will take a long term effort to achieve success. However, a military solution alone does not stabilise a country.

There has been substantial progress in all spheres of Afghan life. The security situation in much of the country is relatively stable. Access to education and health services has improved dramatically. Infrastructure is developing and life for a local Afghan is improving. The Government of Afghanistan, with a bit of help, has established the Afghan National Development Strategy that recognises that there are three pillars required to achieve success:

- 1) Security,
- 2) Governance, the Rule of Law and Human Rights.
- 3) Economic and Social Development.

All three pillars must be developed to achieve successful outcomes for Afghanistan and ISAF provides support to the Government in attempting to achieve these goals. ISAF has three lines of operation that support these pillars – they are security, reconstruction and development and governance and contributing to all three lines of operation are considered important although the key line of operation is security.

To execute the other lines of operation ISAF provides a number of Provincial Reconstruction Teams around the country that are meant to provide support to reconstruction and development tasks such as building schools, improving roads, providing medical infrastructure. These PRTs also provide support to local government officials in the provision of advice on how to govern. The PRTs are often a combination of military and civilian staff with a variety of skills targeted to support the local area.

It is important to understand that the level of education in Afghanistan is extremely low. It will take a long time and several generations to energise the population and enhance education standards in order to improve governance. Employment opportunities that pay well are rare. The local population can be paid more to grow poppy or fight for the Taliban than they can earn performing legitimate work. These are the types of problems that plague Afghanistan and these problems are not simple to fix. A balanced framework that provides security and allows for reconstruction and development should improve opportunities and allow improved governance in the long term.

### **Challenges**

So the challenges for Afghanistan and ISAF are great. Poppy cultivation is still a significant problem although the number of poppy-free provinces has reduced. Poppy cultivation has a direct impact on security, governance, economic development and increasingly health. A number of initiatives are underway between the Government of Afghanistan and the International Community to tackle the poppy problem.

On-going development is required to improve infrastructure. On-going work is required to improve education. On-going work is required to improve opportunities for employment. This is all occurring and improving every day. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is responsible for coordinating the massive efforts required to integrate the International Community's funding and resourcing of Afghanistan. NATO and ISAF support UNAMA who in turn support the Government of Afghanistan.

The Taliban are aware that development hurts their cause and they will do anything to hinder the International Community's attempts to improve the lives of Afghans. The goal of the Taliban is not to beat NATO but to nurture the same conditions and instability that led to the first Taliban regime from 1996 – 2001. To prevent the Taliban from success ISAF, NATO and the International Community must be in Afghanistan for the long haul. The Taliban sees the coalition forces and politicians looking at their watches and sense victory. "Foreigners may have the watches, but we have the time" – that is the challenge. But the Taliban are not the only agents opposed to progress in Afghanistan. Local War/drug lords, fighters from outside Afghanistan and those with criminal interests all seek to undermine efforts in Afghanistan. They do so through guerilla attacks, road side bombings using improvised explosive devices and attacks on the civilian population. All challenges that ISAF has to face and contest.

The size of the ISAF force continues to make it difficult to shape, clear and hold ground and allow for building. In my opinion, the longer the ISAF force composition remains low the longer ISAF will need to remain in Afghanistan.

### **Australia's Contribution**

So what does Australia provide to support ISAF and the Government of Afghanistan?

Australia has around 1100 Australian Defence Force personnel contributing to the operation in Afghanistan. You may hear the contribution referred to as Operation SLIPPER and it consists of our main force which is located in Regional Command South in Uruzgan Province.

The Reconstruction Task Force, known as RTF 4, consists of engineers that provide construction support to reconstruction and development tasks that support the population in Uruzgan. The Reconstruction Task Force is part of the Dutch Provincial Reconstruction Team or PRT and has protection assets made up of cavalry, mechanized infantry elements and supporting elements that secure the engineers while they conduct their construction tasks. The RTF has made significant inroads into reconstruction tasks over the last few years. Over the time of our contribution the RTF has developed a trade training school for the locals as well as built schools, improved buildings, built bridges and roads and constructed the Forward Operating Base for the Afghan National Army and ISAF in Chora Valley – no mean feat given that last year the Chora Valley was dominated by the Taliban. The Australian Special Operation Task Group of 300 personnel has significantly shaped the security environment in Uruzgan Province and allowed the reconstruction efforts. You may have heard that the Special

Operations Task Group recently successfully captured a Taliban senior operative in Uruzgan. The collective efforts of the RTF and the SOTG are notable and are very much valued in the ISAF environment. Indeed, the Australian soldiers are highly regarded and considered to be effective war fighters.

Also part of Australia's effort is the Air Force Control and Reporting Centre located at the Khandhar Airfield responsible for controlling part of the Afghan airspace. These 75 personnel are pivotal to the success of air support in Afghanistan and coordinate military air assets conducting surveillance, reconnaissance, close air support, quick reaction and resupply for operations in Afghanistan.

Australia also provides 15 artillery personnel to the British Task Force Helmand. These gunners are embedded in a British artillery regiment and actively support the delivery of artillery fire missions within Helmand Province.

An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle detachment of 30 personnel support Australian surveillance operations and combat operations and is now a fundamental element of war fighting.

The Rotary Wing Group with two CH47 Chinook Helicopters and 90 personnel are providing combat support, quick reaction force and casualty evacuation to forces deployed within Regional Command South. Once again, these assets are considered an important contribution to the ISAF mission where movement around the country is challenging at best due to the terrain and the Improvised Explosive Device threat. However, flying in Afghanistan is also full of significant challenges due to the terrain, altitude and weather – dust storms in summer and ice restrictions in winter.

Other support elements essential to the success of Australian operations in Afghanistan are the Force Level Logistic Asset that provides logistic support to Australian troops across Afghanistan, the C130 detachment located outside Afghanistan that moves Australian troops and supplies in and out of the area of operations and between locations of Australian troops. The Australian National Headquarters provides national command of all Australian troops across the Middle East Area of Operations and the AP-3C Orions operate to provide surveillance support.

The Australian Defence Force also provides embedded personnel and liaison officers to the operations in Afghanistan. Embedded staff fill a number of key positions on HQ ISAF as well as HQ Regional command South. Without blowing our trumpet too much, Australians embedded in these headquarters are used extensively to plan complex

operations and are particularly valued for our versatility, forthright approach and willingness to contribute. I was the Senior National Representative for Australia at HQ ISAF over my ten month deployment and saw several rotations of Australian personnel within the HQ. Overall I worked with more than 60 Australians at HQ ISAF from all three services and from all ranks. Without exception, these individuals made a difference to the conduct of ISAF operations and I regularly had officers from other nations praising the staff skills and performance of the Australians. As a non-NATO nation we had no difficulty fitting in to the NATO environment although the acronyms and different staff procedures provided small challenges at first. Perhaps the most regular comment was the difficulty in understanding the Australian accent and our rapid fire delivery style when giving briefs – we do speak fast and our Australian vowels are a bit challenging at times so I sympathised with the non-English speaking countries when trying to decipher some of the more okker accents.

You may be aware that the Australian Government has directed a modification of the efforts in Afghanistan to include a mentor and liaison team to our contribution although our overall troop numbers in Afghanistan won't change, the composition of the RTF will adjust to provide personnel that will mentor the Afghan National Army. Given the importance of mentoring the Afghan National Army in developing Afghan security this will be an important contribution to ISAF and Afghanistan.

It is important to recognise that Australia also has Australian Federal Police contributing to the efforts in Afghanistan. We also have DFAT and AUSAID representation that all work to ensure Australia supports the rebirth of Afghanistan as a nation.

### **Personal Experiences**

For the last part of my presentation I'd like to talk to you about some of my personal experiences while deployed as an Australian working for NATO. There is no doubt that it was an interesting experience. While the security threat prevented a lot of interaction with Afghan locals I did get some opportunities to learn more about the Afghans.

To give you a feel for the importance of culture and traditions to the Afghan people I should share several observations I made early in my deployment – as a woman I was interested in how I would be treated by Afghan males. I was in charge of the Afghan linguists employed by ISAF to support the headquarters.

These Afghan males were respectful and at no stage treated me as subservient. I talked to them about the

gender differences in the Afghan culture – some are driven by tradition, some by culture and some by religion. As a Western woman I had status and as a military officer I had status so there was never any doubt in their eyes that I was in charge. Having said this, my status would be different as an Afghan woman. I had the privilege to meet a female Afghan General who was trained by the Soviets as a paratrooper.

During the Taliban regime she wore a burka and stayed at home sewing. When the Taliban were ousted she reported for duty to the Afghan Ministry of Defence. She was reinstated and works in the Afghan National Army Air Corps. She indicated to me that, unlike her male peers, she does not have a driver, staff or a military provided car, her office is in the outer areas of the Ministry and she has no one to clean her office. Nevertheless, the Afghan National Army still has a female general and has done so for some time. By comparison, it is interesting to note that the Australian Army only promoted a woman to the rank of MAJGEN last year. I was also intrigued as to why you still see a large number of Burka clad women walking the streets of Kabul.

Why do they need to when the Taliban no longer enforce the rules? In short, the Afghan culture is strong. If a woman is looked upon in the wrong way by a male this can shame her family.

It still appears easier for women to wear a Burka and maintain anonymity than to bring any shame to the family so the women brave a nylon shroud with a net that covers the eyes with limited fields of vision to prevent disharmony and preserve the integrity of their family honour.

Another aspect of Afghan life that very much demonstrates their culture is the ancient game of Buskashi. I was fortunate to attend a game of Buskashi, which is Afghan polo using the carcass of a calf as the ball. It is a game of true aggression and skill. The horsemanship is remarkable and the strength of the riders is impressive. The game reflects the tribal aspects of Afghan culture and has been used over the centuries as a way to demonstrate power and influence. Images and words cannot hope to describe the frenetic pace and energy of the game and the three hours I had watching the game and observing the Afghans was a real treat. You would not be surprised to hear that I was one of only two women visible at the game as the Afghan women were elsewhere – probably observing from behind closed doors.

To give you a feel for the multinational flavour of ISAF I should give you an impression of the environment in which we lived and worked. The Australians living at HQ ISAF live comfortably and I

was fortunate to live comfortably given my rank, gender and the nature of the headquarters and the fact that the mission has been running for a number of years so facilities are now well established. I was one of only a few people to have my own bathroom.

We lived and worked in prefab shipping containers that can be stacked together to make a mini city. Each container comes with its own air-conditioner and they are pretty comfortable. The drawback was the security situation that prevented us from integrating with the local community. Some people commented that we lived in a minimum-security prison surrounded by barbed wire, bunkers and barricades, although you only needed to look up at the mountains and the blue sky – when there were no dust storms and the air quality was acceptable - to feel the true beauty of Afghanistan. The air quality in Kabul left a lot to be desired as the locals burn everything in winter to stay warm including rubber tyres and faecal matter so the smell can be unpleasant and visibility can be poor. By comparison with HQ ISAF, other areas around Afghanistan are also well established although a number of ISAF soldiers operate in the tough conditions you would expect in a war zone and some of the forward operating bases are primitive. The Australians outside Kabul operate in a variety of conditions and have to contend with climatic extremes and extraordinary dust storms. Winter brings snow, ice, mud and biting winds while summer is high temperatures around the mid forties – not particularly comfortable when you are wearing full body armour and working. The hundred day winds blow fine dust that can reduce the visibility to short range and make things pretty unpleasant.

Working with over 30 different nations in HQ ISAF and 1800 people was an experience in itself. The headquarters had 16 General Officers on staff – Brigadiers and Major Generals. It was certainly a top-heavy organisation and often cumbersome and inefficient. I particularly admire the non-English speaking nations that participate in ISAF as English is the NATO language of choice for ISAF so all planning was conducted in English. I have now mastered the art of speaking slowly and using words of one syllable and am able to say hello in a variety of languages. I would be hard pressed to plan in French, German, Spanish, Lithuanian, Greek or any number of other languages so it's a good thing that they could speak adequate English. I can translate American and Canadian into Australian and I have mastered the art of diplomacy when engaging multiple nations with differing planning techniques to achieve adequate outcomes in planning meetings.

One of the benefits of working in such a multicultural environment was the opportunity to learn about their countries and to showcase Australia.

ANZAC Day was a memorable day as it always is on operations. The Australians and Kiwis ran a dawn service, gunfire breakfast and BBQ for the headquarters. We had Australians from all over Kabul join us and over 400 personnel from HQ ISAF bothered to get out of bed at 0430 on a Friday to join us for the Dawn Service and to remember our fallen comrades. This was notable given that Fridays are the one day where we were allowed to start later in the day. The Dawn Service was particularly moving given that we had several Australian soldiers killed in action in late 2007 and early 2008 and it acted as a strong reminder of the ANZAC spirit and the legacy of the ANZACs we work so hard to preserve. Australia Day and Remembrance Day were also occasions of similar emotion and sharing the National Days of other nations was indeed a treat in an otherwise rather serious and somber war-fighting environment.

Over ten months I also had the opportunity to attend a number of functions and activities that were enjoyable. Events such as the Australian Tour de Force concerts with entertainers who give their time freely to travel to us to provide us with a touch of home are a treat.

Equally, the little things like the RSL Care Packages at Christmas time are a small reminder that Australians are thinking of us while we are deployed.

I must say that one of the hardest aspects of my deployment was to keep track of the ISAF casualties. The flags of the 40 nations that fly at HQ ISAF are a constant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that some personnel make. The flags flew at half-mast every time we lost a soldier as a mark of respect. Ramp ceremonies were held at the major airfields as the bodies were repatriated back to their countries.

I attended only one of the ramp ceremonies for an Australian who was killed in action and I was proud and very much moved by the ceremony. Unfortunately, during my deployment we had three memorial services in Kabul to remember Australian soldiers killed in action in Afghanistan. While this is the reality of what I do for a living, the impact of losing a soldier – even when you have never met the individual – is very sobering and a true reminder of the sacrifice that Australian Defence Force personnel make when they serve their country.

## **Conclusion**

In my opinion, Afghanistan is a country with potential. While there is much to be done, the work is worth doing – indeed the work is essential for peace and security.

ISAF was a fascinating, stimulating and frustrating

experience. The NATO politics is challenging but much can be achieved and much is being achieved. Afghanistan has progressed in a range of areas over the last few years with the assistance of other International Communities, NATO and ISAF. There is no doubt that a better resourced ISAF could achieve more to support the Government of Afghanistan and I hope that, at some point, this is recognised by participating nations in actions rather than words. But the conflict in Afghanistan does not require a military solution – it doesn't matter how many insurgents ISAF confronts the insurgents will not run out of manpower. A political solution is required to achieve a successful outcome. But what constitutes a successful outcome? GEN McKiernan, the current COMISAF, considers success to be winning and 'winning is when Afghanistan has a government capable of providing for its people and a security force capable of protecting its people.

I am proud of the contribution Australia is making to support Afghanistan and I am proud to have been a part of the Australian Defence Force contribution to Operation SLIPPER and to the International Security Assistance Force. I would like to think that my small contribution has made a difference to Afghanistan and will, at some point in the future, bring a stable Afghanistan.

I would like to think that the Australian soldiers that have lost their lives or been injured in Afghanistan have done so to achieve a greater good and a better nation for millions of Afghans and I would hope that the Australian contribution to the Global War on Terror continues to achieve the outcomes we need for peace and security.

## **LIBRARY**

RUSI-SA maintains an extensive library, with books dating back to the early 19th Century on military expeditions and various subjects and more books are being added all the time. Members are always welcome to avail themselves of the library's facilities.

Come in to building 160 at Keswick Barracks during normal library hours (10 am to 4 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to peruse the extensive range of books, magazines and Service newspapers that are on display, and relax with a cup of tea or coffee.

## Non-fiction

*“An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa 1942-1943”* by Rick Atkinson. Donated by Malcolm Orchard.

Beginning with the daring amphibious invasion in November 1942, *An Army at Dawn* follows the British and American armies as they fight the French in Morocco and Algeria, and then take on the Germans and Italians in Tunisia. Battle by battle, an experienced and sometimes poorly led army gradually becomes a superb fighting force. Central to the tale are the extraordinary but fallible commanders who come to dominate the battlefield: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, Montgomery and Rommel.

*“The Puppet Masters”* by John Hughes-Wilson

Colonel John Hughes-Wilson is a recently retired officer in British military intelligence. He reveals how espionage networks are the hidden force behind many major events in world history. Secret intelligence networks were the secret of success for all the great statesmen and generals from Caesar and Genghis Khan to Cardinal Richelieu and George Washington. Napoleon’s intelligence network was world famous, but the Duke of Wellington’s system proved just as adept. With radio, telephone and email, the mechanics of espionage have been transformed and vast agencies spawned by the world wars and the cold war have reinvented themselves for ‘the war on terror’. Colonel Hughes-Wilson investigates ‘the monumental intelligence failure’ of 9/11; describes the progress of the undercover war against Al Qaida and explains how it is that both the Blair and Bush governments are now blaming their intelligence sources in the wake of the Hutton Report.

*“American Shogun”* by Robert Harvey

A dual biography of the struggle between Japan’s Emperor Hirohito and America’s General MacArthur in the epic clash between the world’s oldest culture and its newest.

From the mid-nineteenth century, America and Japan were caught in an extraordinary political, military and economic duel. This clash was characterised by a cultural incompatibility that was to haunt the negotiations of the two leaders, Emperor Hirohito and General MacArthur.

Hirohito was a remarkable man. Diffident, uncharismatic and apparently obtuse, he survived as a god-ruler of Japan for six decades through internal strife, war, defeat, occupation and economic victory. But Hirohito met his equal in MacArthur. Brash and domineering, MacArthur merited the honorary

Japanese epithet shogun or ‘army leader’ for his single handed rule over Japan.

In this absorbing book, Robert Harvey traces their tense and complex relationship. His broad scope encompasses two great nations in war and peace – a momentous period of history which provides illuminating insight into America’s actions across the world today.

Robert Harvey has been a journalist and an MP. He is the author of several histories, most recently *Comrades: The Rise and Fall of World Communism*.

*“Running the War in Iraq”* by Major General Jim Molan.

In 2004, Major General Jim Molan, an Australian, was deployed to Iraq to oversee a force of 300,000 troops, including 155,000 Americans. In *Running the War in Iraq*, he gives a gripping insider’s account of what modern warfare entails – the ghastly body count, the complex decisions which will mean life or death, the divide between political masters and foot soldiers – and the small, hard-won triumphs.

*“Gallipoli Sniper; The Life of Billy Sing”* by John Hamilton.

The Anzac battlefield on Gallipoli was made for snipers. Scrub, cliffs, spurs and hills meant that both Anzac and Turkish positions often overlooked one another. The unwary or unlucky were prey to snipers on both sides. The most successful and most feared sniper of the Gallipoli campaign, with over 200 credited ‘kills’ was Billy Sing, a Light Horseman from Queensland.

*“Forged by War; Australian Veterans in Combat and Back Home”* by Gina Lennox.

In *Forged by War*, Australian veterans and their families reveal the experience of combat and how it has changed their lives. These stark first-hand accounts describe the reality of military action and its personal consequences in every major conflict and peacekeeping mission since World War II, including the invasion of Iraq.

## Fiction

**RUSI of SA CURRENT ISSUES BRIEFINGS 2007-08**

July 2007

Brigadier Philip Winter CSC, Commander Counter IED Task Force

Topic *“The Improvised Explosive Device (IED) threat in the Middle East Area of Operations”*

August 2007

Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Shadow Minister for Defence

Topic *“Time for a new White Paper – restoring the nexus between Defence Capability and Force Structure”*.

June 2008

Senator the Hon Nick Minchin, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Shadow Minister for Defence.

Topic *“Current Defence Issues”*

**Errata**

Please note that, under the President’s Report for 2007-2008, the Carvery was brought forward to 29 June and not 20 June.

## **ALL SERVICES STATE BALL**

Many of our members will recall the days when the Royal United Services Institute of South Australia convened an annual ball as part of its social calendar.

One of the members involved with the planning and organizing of those balls was Squadron Leader Ron St John Sweeting DFC.

Ron, in his capacity as the current President of the **Public Schools Club**, has for several months been working on reviving the tradition of an annual gala ball and has provided the following information:-

*The whole idea of the Ball is that it is a State affair to honour and maintain the tradition of all services – Emergency, Fire (Metro and Rural), Ambulance, Royal Flying Doctors, Defence and the many others that contribute to the well-being of this State. Hence the name – “All Services State Ball”*

*The ball will be held in the **Adelaide Convention Centre** on **Friday 10 October 2008** commencing at **7 pm**. The cost of \$125 per ticket or tables of 10 for \$1100 (a saving of \$15 per ticket) includes dinner and all drinks (i.e. wine, beer and soft drink) with entertainment provided between the dance sessions throughout the evening.*

*The entertainment includes:-*

- *The University of Adelaide Pipes & Drums (bagpipes and countermarching),*
- *‘Celtic Reflections’ premier Irish Dancers,*
- *Concordia College Bongo Drum Ensemble,*
- *College Choristers (A Flanders Field),*
- *Dancecorp Dance Studio demonstration and*
- *The Young Adelaide Voices.*

*Proceeds from the ball will partly be used for maintenance of the Public Schools Club premises, Sandford House, the heritage listed former home of Noble Prize winners William & Lawrence Bragg and partly donated to Cancer Research.*

*Bookings can be made through BASS or at the Public Schools Club, 207 East Terrace Adelaide (telephone 8223 3213).*

My wife and I are intending to go to the ball, so if there are another four couples that are interested, then we could make up an RUSI table and take advantage of the discount. As time is getting short, if you are interested then please call me (home 8266 0007, mobile 0418 412 580) or leave a message at the RUSI Office.

It promises to be a great night.

**David Stoba**  
**President RUSI - SA**