



NEWSLETTER

Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI of SA

Building 160, Keswick Barracks
Keswick, SA 5035
Tel/Fax: +61 (8) 8305 6378
Email: rusikes@bigpond.com

Office Hours:

Monday and Friday
10.00am to 4.00pm

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RANR
Governor of South Australia

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Treasurer Wayne Swan recently announced the Federal budget. It provides sweeping reductions in Defence expenditure and current programs. Immediately after the budget was announced, each Service chief wrote to leaders in their respective services to describe, in detail, the effect of the budget and exactly what would be happening over what period of time.

Of note for Army was the decision taken to place a quantity of the Australian Army's M1A1 Abrams Tanks and M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carriers into temporary storage. Such measures hark back to the 1980s when all sorts of operating constraints existed. Nonetheless, Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison was quick to point out that '... *on the conjecture that there is a connection between Army's view of the vehicle capability and performance and the recent Budget decisions – this is absolutely wrong. I have a high degree of confidence in this vehicle and it represents a substantial capability improvement for our soldiers. The decision to place a quantity of vehicles into temporary storage is not connected in any way to my confidence in the capability and performance of the vehicle. Rather, my decision to move a number of M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carriers and Abrams Tanks into temporary storage is informed solely by a need to reduce operating costs in order to focus key resources to operational priorities and linked training support.*'

Further, General Morrison stated 'Second, the temporary storage of up to fifteen M1A1 Abrams Tanks and one hundred M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carriers will be conducted in such a way that will enable Army to rapidly return them to service if required. This will be achieved without impacting on Army capability in the short term, or compromising our training and skills.'

'Third, Army will also see a reduced need for the M113AS4 vehicles as the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR) prepares for deployment to Afghanistan and 5th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR) will be the Ready Battalion Group. There will be a reduced need for the M113AS4 over the next 12 months as the vehicles are not required for 7RAR and 5RAR's light infantry roles.'

In their communications, each Service chief, in what was a clearly Jointly coordinated script, stood by their decisions (what else could they do?) and assured their chain of command that they had worked with the Government in making their respective decisions.

Of greater concern is the flow on effect of program delays to our fragile manufacturing industry. Already struggling in an environment of a high Australian dollar and reduced demand, for those companies without a diverse customer base, life over the next few years will be difficult. Will a Coalition government change things if elected?

Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Ash Power, has recently visited the Solomon Islands. Whilst there he described the reduction in operational commitments in Timor Leste, the Solomon Islands and Afghanistan over the next two years. Such reductions should be driven by need, but what part does a government's desire to deliver a budget surplus play?

Meanwhile, en-route to Chicago to discuss with President Obama and other leaders how Afghanistan will be supported after ISAF forces depart, Prime Minister Julia Gillard farewelled the latest ADF contingent to depart Townsville.

We wish them well and hope, as for all of our servicemen and women serving overseas, that they all return home when their deployment ends at Christmas.

Brigadier Tim Hanna



Air Force personnel direct an M1A1 Abrams onto the loading ramp of a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C-17A Globemaster III aircraft at RAAF base Darwin. For the first time, an Army M1A1 Abrams tank has been flown on board a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C-17A Globemaster III transport. Photo courtesy of Defence Dept.

FUTURE SUBMARINES

South Australia has been assured that 12 "future submarines" will be built in the state regardless of whether the Government opts for an overseas design or fully homemade vessels.

Prime Minister, Julia Gillard's assurance came during her recent visit to the Australian Submarine Corporation. She reported that the \$36 billion project would go ahead, despite big defence cuts proposed in the budget. It is the largest procurement decision that Australia has ever made.

Four options are being considered

- (1) off the shelf foreign submarines assembled in SA,
- (2) updated version of the Collins class,
- (3) a completely new submarine design, or
- (4) purchase of the design of unrealised plans from overseas.

The Government opposes a fifth option for a nuclear propelled submarine.

The Opposition spokesman for Economics, Joe Hockey, has warned that a Coalition Government would consider purchasing pre-made submarines from overseas, if the price was right.

Adelaide Now has a comprehensive report on the Prime Minister's visit to Osborne, which may be seen in full at:

www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/adelaides-submarine-industry-balances-on-214-million-defence-white-paper-study/story-e6frea83-1226345455923

DINING-IN NIGHT

The Annual RUSI of SA Dining-in Night will be held at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South Australia on Friday 15 June 2012 at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.

His Excellency Rear Admiral Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia and Patron of the RUSI of SA, will be an Official Guest.

The Official Speaker will be Mr David Matthews whose topic will be "*Finding my Father, the Amazing Story of Captain Lionel Matthews MC GC*".

Dress is Mess Dress, Black Tie or Lounge Suit.

The cost is \$75 each for members and guests which includes a three course meal and drinks.

Please book with the Secretary by Friday 8 June. A late cancellation fee of \$50 will apply.

Monthly Luncheons

Monday 4 June 2012

Speaker: COL Andrew McLachlan
CSC

Topic: *Insights into Australia's
Combat Soldiers from the Ultimate
Battlefield Tourist*

Monday 2 July 2012

Speaker: Ms Heather Dodd

Topic: *Nursing on Military
Operations: A Comparison with
Public Hospitals*

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 and hear, 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!

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 \$25 for members and university students and \$30 for non-members. 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. 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.

Cancellations must be advised to the RUSI-SA Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$25.

LUNCH TIME SPEAKER - MAY



On Monday 7 May, Wing Commander Jeff 'Jack' Frost addressed the RUSI-SA luncheon on the Heron Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Unit. Wing Commander Frost recently returned from a five month command of this Task Unit, which has become a critical component in

the success of Australian Defence Force operations in that theatre.

WGCDR Frost presented an overview of developments in RPA systems over the past 60 years leading into his experiences with modern RPA systems such as Global Hawk, and most recently Heron. He provided insight into the day-to-day operations and activities of the RAAF Heron RPA Unit, which has been operating from Afghanistan since January 2010, providing mission support to the Special Operations Task Group, Mentoring Task Force and Combined Team-Uruzgan, who are working to mentor and advise the Afghanistan National Security Force. The Heron RPA has amassed 10 000 flight hours collecting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) product that is analysed, processed and distributed in real time. WGCDR Frost spoke about the types of missions that the Heron RPA system supports, and gave an interesting insight into the uniformed and civilian personnel that operate and support this valued capability.



Heron RPA at Kandahar, photo courtesy of Defence

Note from the President

I hope that you enjoyed the extremely informative talk given to us by Wing Commander Jeff 'Jack' Frost on the subject of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA). Some of you may have seen the Dateline program on SBS on the following Tuesday night which provided a United States view of the employment of RPAs. It was a very useful comparison and provided some further insights into this capability. For those of you who are interested but missed the program, go to this link.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/dateline/story/about/id/601457/n/Remote-Control-War>

LUNCH TIME SPEAKER - APRIL

On Monday 2 April 2012, Air Commodore Noel Derwort CSC, Commander Aerospace Operational Support Group, spoke on the topic 'Air Force: Current Operations and Future Developments.'



Air Commodore Derwort spoke frankly and comprehensively about Air Force's current capabilities and future challenges given budget constraints and operational needs. He described the technology used in today's aircraft and provided an insight into the Joint Strike Fighter.

LIFE MEMBER

On 21 May 2012 Council resolved to appoint Colonel Les Thompson as a Life Member of the RUSI of SA.



Les Thompson joined RUSI-SA in 2002 and became Treasurer about a year later.

Les' service as Treasurer has been outstanding. During his time as Treasurer, Les set up a general ledger and the reporting we use today. He, along with our Secretary Elaine Atkinson, is implementing a new finance system which will be used by RUSI-SA for many years to come.

ANZAC DAY



Lieutenant Richard Chugg, US Army Infantry (Retd) enjoyed a lift in a historic vehicle in the Adelaide Anzac March, 25 April 2012. Photo by Dana Stoba.

During the 2010 Anzac day ceremony at Robina on the Gold Coast, the Australian Army band played a rendition of The Last Post combined with Waltzing Matilda. To hear the result of this unusual production go to

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzROdrXaUPo

or access the same file through the South Australian page of the RUSI National website www.rusi.org.au



HMAS Newcastle and HMAS Warramunga - Photo courtesy of Defence Dept.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The South Australian Museum will be displaying Major Peter Badcoe's medals (including his Victoria Cross and Purple Heart), papers, photographs and an audio recording from 23 August 2012, for approximately six weeks.

It is likely that the audio recording which Major Badcoe made whilst serving in Vietnam and sent home to his wife, has never been heard publicly.

An electronic version of the museum display is available on the website:

<http://archives.samuseum.sa.gov.au/sama1129/>

MILITARY HISTORY LECTURE

Wing Commander Ron Biddell AFC(Retd) will present a Military History lecture at The Naval, Military and Air Force Club of South Australia, Hutt St, Adelaide on Thursday 30 August 2012.

Wing Commander Biddell joined the RAAF in 1961 and commenced pilot training at Point Cook in Victoria. Graduating in 1962, he was posted to RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland to convert to Canberra aircraft. He flew several tours in Canberras with postings to Amberley, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Wing Commander Biddell was Chief Flying Instructor at Central Flying School and leader of the Roulettes Formation Aerobatic Team for two years. He was awarded the Air Force Cross.

Wing Commander Biddell will speak on the application of the Canberra aircraft in relation to Australia's role in Vietnam and this aircraft's flexibility in adapting to different operational requirements.



Time: 1800 for the Lecture followed at 1915 by Dinner

Dress: Jacket & Tie

Cost: \$39.00 for two course meal with Club wines

To book, contact the Secretary on 8223 2422 or visit www.navmil.org/

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

“To develop and maintain a strategic capability advantage, Defence will need to be smarter, and more connected with the scientific and technological institutions of our allies and friends, particularly the United States.”

So stated the then Minister for Defence Noel Fitzgibbon in the most recent White Paper published in 2009.

There is concern in the Defence Industry that the manufacturing base in South Australia may not be able to maintain its future capability to serve Defence requirements. Funding cuts and cheap overseas manufacturing is eroding the base of Australian Companies capable of supplying the military.

Electronic News of 11 April 2012 contains warnings of the effects of the present threats to the capabilities of Defence Industries of Australia. Go to

www.electronicnews.com.au/features/australian-defence-industry-faces-challenging-futu

to read further information including the views of Mark Ryan, General Manager of Legend Defence Industries and Chris Burns, CEO of the Defence Teaming Centre.

Vale

It is with regret that the recent deaths of

LTCOL Robert Kenihan ED

and

LTCOL Ian Kennedy

were announced.

The President and members of Council extend their condolences to their families and friends.

ALENIA C-27J SPARTAN TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

A recent article in *The Advertiser* reported that Australia will buy 10 new Alenia C-27J Spartan tactical transport aircraft to replace the Caribou fleet, which was withdrawn from service in 2009.

The article also reported that 'a US agency' has labeled the C-27J 'not operationally suitable' and they are set to be dropped from US military service. For full details of the article, go to

www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/breaking-news/australia-to-buy-aircraft-the-us-rejected/story-e6frea73-1226352411129.

Defence Minister Stephen Smith told an RAAF Air Power Conference in Canberra on 10 May 2012 that 'The acquisition of the C-27J will significantly improve the ADF's ability to move troops, equipment and supplies.' A spokesman for Mr Smith said the US was canceling the C-27J for budgetary reasons - not problems with the aircraft.

The manufacturer of the C-27J, Alenia Aermacchi, claims that the C-27J Spartan is 'the perfect fixed-wing multipurpose cargo aircraft for today's diverse missions'. Further, it states '*Extremely maneuverable and versatile, the rugged C-27J boasts the highest power-to-weight ratio in its class and the ability to perform 3.0g force maneuvers in the style of fighter*

aircraft, enabling tight turns and a rapid climb and descent. The C-27J can fly farther, faster and higher than any other twin engine military transport aircraft in its class.'

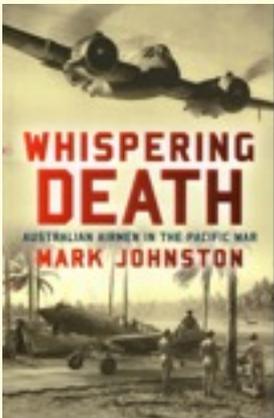
For detailed information on the C-27J Spartan transport aircraft, chosen to enter service with the RAAF in 2015, go to www.c27j.com/essential-facts.



Photo from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

LIBRARY

Non-fiction



"Whispering Death" by Mark Johnston

One of Australia's leading experts on WWII explains vividly how more than 130,000 Australian airmen fought Japan from the Pacific War's first hours in 1941 to its end in 1945.

"The Tiger Man of Vietnam" by Frank Walker

In 1963, Australian Army Captain Barry Peterson was sent to Vietnam. It was one of the most tightly held secrets of the Vietnam War: long before combat troops set foot there and under the command of the CIA, Peterson was ordered to train and lead guerilla squads of Montagnard tribesmen against the Viet Cong in the remote Central Highlands.

