



SENSOR

Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI of SA

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Vacant

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, 3 September. Unfortunately, no nominations were received for the position of President and, as described at the meeting and in our last newsletter, my three-year tenure has been completed. As such, the position remains vacant until such time as at least one nomination is received. This won't mean that the business of the Institute will cease; merely that we will operate under the guidance of our two Vice Presidents – Dr John Bruni and Colonel David Stoba – until the situation can be resolved.

However, as explained at the Annual General Meeting, in order to undertake the important work of the Institute, we need more people to be members of our Council. So, if you have any capacity to assist, please let us know. If you know of anybody who may be suitable for a role as President or Council member then please have a chat with them and point them in our direction.

We have considered the handful of names generated as part of the 'name the newsletter' competition from earlier this year. As can be seen by the title of the newsletter our bi-monthly publication is now known as 'Sensor'.

A sensor is a [converter](#) that measures a [physical quantity](#) and converts it into a signal which can be read by an observer or by, in today's world, a mostly [electronic](#) instrument.

The essence of our newsletter is to observe, gather information and present that information to our readers in a manner which is understandable and relevant. Most recently this has included electronic links rather than purely traditional formats. I think 'Sensor' accurately describes the purpose of our newsletter and will appeal to the modern military mind whilst being a curiosity for non-military folk.

This last month has been a tragic one for the Australian Defence Force with the death of five soldiers, three via the increasingly common 'blue on green' method. Each operational death brings into question our country's involvement in the war in Afghanistan. 'Blue on green' deaths tear at the values which are important to us as a country and which shape the way the Australian Defence Force operates. Trust and teamwork have always been hallmarks of Australian servicemen and women wherever they have worked. When that trust is abused we wonder whether the people who we go to assist are really worthy of our commitment. Nonetheless, we will continue with our mission in Afghanistan until withdrawal in 2014.

In Afghanistan, the Australian Defence Force is poised to assume command responsibilities for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Uruzgan province, following a final mission rehearsal exercise at Robertson Barracks in Darwin recently. The incoming Australian commander of ISAF forces in Uruzgan, Colonel Simon Stuart, said the training exercise marked the end of preparations for the transfer of command responsibilities in Uruzgan from the United States of America to Australia.

"Over the past two weeks we have finalised our extensive training, together with our US Army counter-parts from the 2nd 'Spartan' Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division, who will form the joint headquarters of Combined Team Uruzgan," Colonel Stuart said.

"This is an important time for ISAF operations in Uruzgan as governance, development and security responsibilities are being handed over to the Afghan Government."

"It is a great honour for a non-NATO country to be leading Combined Team Uruzgan during this period."

As well as the deploying Australian and US contingent, Australian Government personnel from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AusAID, Australian Federal Police and representatives from the US Embassy also took part in the training exercise.

Colonel Jake Ellwood, Commander of the Combat Training Centre, which conducted the exercise, said it was an extensive undertaking to test the combined headquarters.

"The training involved complex scenarios that replicate the contemporary operational environment in Uruzgan and reflect the responsibilities of the combined headquarters, including advising the Afghan National Security Forces, managing infrastructure projects, and enhancing governance within the province," Colonel Ellwood said.

Personnel from the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Task Group (7 RAR Task Group) also took part in the training in preparation for their replacing the currently deployed 3 RAR Task Group. As Australia shifts its

focus from mentoring to advising, the 7 RAR Task Group will continue the work of the 3 RAR Task Group, advising the 4th Brigade, Afghan National Army as it continues to develop its capabilities. The training exercise was also supported by more than 100 staff from across the Australian Defence Force who coached and mentored the soon-to-deploy force and tested the soldiers' preparation in dealing with tribal, cultural and language challenges.

Commander 1st Brigade Brigadier Gus McLachlan said the training exercise was a key component of the pre-deployment preparations for the contingent. Brigadier McLachlan said the presence of US Army staff was evidence of the added responsibility that the Australian-led contingent would carry in Uruzgan.

"The exciting aspect of this deployment is that it will be the first time that Australia has led the combined force in Uruzgan," Brigadier McLachlan said.

"It is a proud opportunity for Australia and the Australian Army to showcase its professionalism."

"I am particularly pleased the Army's 1st Brigade will fly the flag in Uruzgan while we remain unified in our purpose to help the representatives of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan bring a better quality of life to the people of the province."

Tim Hanna AM
Immediate Past President

Monthly Luncheons

Sunday, 7 October 2012

Luncheon will be a combined function with the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association.

Speakers:

Lieutenant Colonel Reg Williams (Retd), previous Officer Commanding of A Squadron, the 3rd/9th Light Horse and former Commanding Officer of 10th/27th Battalion of the Royal South Australia Regiment.

Captain Gregg Dunthorne, Operations Officer at the 7th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment.

Topic: *'The 95th Anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba: A contemporary perspective.'*

Bookings required by 4.00 pm Monday 24 September 2012.

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.

The dress code for the luncheon is coat and tie. 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 12.00 noon when our President welcomes members and guests and lunch is served. The cost of the buffet is \$30 which includes wine and soft drinks. 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 \$30.

MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKER - AUGUST

On 6 August 2012 Professor Sandy McFarlane, Head Centre for Military and Veterans' Health at the University of Adelaide, spoke on: Dealing with Mental Health in the ADF.



Professor McFarlane is Professor of Psychiatry and the Head of the University of Adelaide Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies. He is an international expert in the field of the impact of disasters and post-traumatic stress disorder. Professor McFarlane has held roles as Senior Adviser in Psychiatry to the Australian Defence Force and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. He holds the rank of Group Captain in the RAAF Specialist Reserve. He has acted as an advisor to many groups in post disaster situations, including the Kuwait Government and the United Nations. He has lectured and run workshops in Europe, United States of America, Asia and South Africa.

Professor McFarlane established the MILHOP research program which is investigating the physical and mental health of all veterans and serving members who have been deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations. He is also the principal investigator of the Defence Health and Wellbeing Survey which has examined the mental health of the entire Defence Force.

Professor McFarlane manages the Adelaide node of the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH). This is an internationally-unique academic community and military partnership which is dedicated to innovatively seeking solutions to military and veterans' health issues through research, post-graduate education and professional development, e-Health and public debate. The Centre has been in existence since 2004 and is jointly funded by the Department of Defence and Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Professor McFarlane's talk assisted an understanding of the health issues facing Australia's current and former service men and women and what is being done to deal with these challenges.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

The President, BRIG Tim Hanna reported as follows:

I have now completed my third and final term as President. I complete my maximum tenure as President with mixed emotions. Whilst I have greatly enjoyed helping to deliver the mission of the Royal United Services Institute of South Australia (RUSI-SA) I acknowledge that I have not achieved all that I had wished to and that the long-term future of RUSI-SA remains unclear.

During 2011/12, I ensured that the things which matter most to our current members – camaraderie, providing information and interesting speakers – remain at the forefront of everything we do.

Throughout the last 12 months we have had a range of very good speakers for our monthly luncheons from Defence, industry and academic areas. They have continued to keep us well informed on matters relevant to Defence and security in contemporary Australia and internationally. Topics ranged from current ADF operations in Afghanistan to Air Force capabilities through to a very interesting view of China's strategic perspective.

This year, once again, we have deliberately taken a very 'operational' focus in the types of speakers and subjects we have presented. We think that there is a balance which needs to be maintained between strategic and operational topics if we are to achieve our mission.

Additionally, the Council thinks that it is important that we understand, in detail, the activities which the Australian Defence Force is undertaking.

As you appreciate, the frequency of Current Issues Briefings is dependent on the availability of appropriate high profile speakers and although we plan to hold two or three each year this is not always possible and was not achieved in 2011/12. However, we did have two very successful CIBs; one late in 2011 with Major General Craig Orme speaking on training and education in the ADF and one early in 2012 on the 'Triple Disaster' generated by the earthquake in Japan. Both events were well attended.

Whilst RUSI-SA almost exclusively focuses on contemporary matters, it was decided to explore a historical theme in conjunction with the Reserve Forces Day Council on one Sunday rather than our normal Monday. The event in July last year was moderately successful and allowed a number of non-RUSI members to attend who would not normally have done so. We will incorporate this concept into our annual program in 2012 with a combined event with the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association in October, coinciding with the anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba. A perspective on the

Boer War is being investigated for 2013.

Despite our best intentions, no visits were conducted during the reporting year. A visit to RAAF Base Edinburgh is being planned but is subject to the works which are being undertaken at the base and the availability of Army and Air Force units to host us.

Average attendance at our monthly luncheons has declined slightly this last 12 months after minor growth during the previous two years. Attendance at events is critical to the success of RUSI-SA.

Membership is down from 309 to 300, almost exclusively due to death and ill health of our older members. Seven new members joined. Membership remains our biggest challenge as there is a direct nexus between our finances and membership levels.

We are undertaking a number of steps to increase our membership but we have had limited success so far. We are exploring advertising via various Defence and Defence industry media. Tackling membership when most of us are very busy with work is difficult but needs to be done.

NEW MEMBERS

FLTLT David Hirst
Mr Rhoderick Miller

FLTLT Hirst agreed to join the Council of the RUSI of SA to fill a casual vacancy.

On 3 September 2012 LTCOL Doug Langrehr spoke on "Current United Nations Operations in East Africa". Following is a paper on Somalia by LTCOL Langrehr that is related to the presentation that was given.



Since the fall of Somalia's Dictator, Siad Barre in 1991, the country has remained a lawless State which had defied 16 attempts at central government to bring security and stability to the ten million Somali's living under difficult and sometimes deadly conditions. As a Nation, Somalia is quite unique in that its people are quite homogeneous. They all speak Somali, are Sunni Muslim and are quite moderate in their views. Why then is this country considered a failed State by the International Community and have over 3.5 million people in need?

Part of the issue may lay with the clan and sub clan relationships, part with the winner takes all attitude borne out of 21 years living in conflict, part is the inability of a traumatized youth to visualize any kind of future beyond the gun. Of course a large part is that there are a small percentage of Somalis, usually diaspora, who are capitalizing on the country's instability (including piracy) and the suffering of its population.

While the International Community remains engaged in supporting a struggling Government and funding humanitarian relief, it is with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Somali Security Force (SSF) and its allies, to which the main task of peace enforcement lays. AMISOM, logistically supported by the UN Support Operation for AMISOM (UNSOA), have made some good military gains against the Shabaab. Supported by Ethiopian and Kenyan Forces, AMISOM, with the SSF have disrupted, but not defeated the Shabaab in Mogadishu – the main seaport; Baidoa and BeletWeyne on or near the Ethiopian border, and along the Kenyan border. All foreign forces are fighting alongside the SSF or allied militia which helps the optics when the Shabaab are defeated by the Government forces.

There is still more fighting to come as AMISOM continue to expand out of Mogadishu and the Kenyan forces move toward Kismayo – the second largest port in Southern Somalia. However, no matter how great the gain on the military tack, the political tack languishes far behind, ill prepared to install

regional and local governance to the towns and districts cleared of Al Shabaab. This situation will force the AMISOM commanders to leave their troops to secure these cleared areas until a viable Somali Security Force (police and military) can assume responsibility and the political governance to take root.

However, after 16 attempts at central government, the civil service is less than ready to assume responsibility for any region. Political infighting, clan dynamics, external and regional influences have all plagued previous attempts to instal a democratically elected government with all the trappings and structures of a Western style system. The most recent attempt to form a government occurred in late August 2012 which saw a smaller structure of Parliamentarians appointed by the clan Elders, a Ministry appointed, and the Ministers electing a President (yet to occur). Despite the issues and frustrations with this system, at least it's Somali.

Somalis are a resilient people, able to see opportunities in nearly any situation. Since the ousting of the Shabaab from Mogadishu in February this year, business has returned to the streets creating an informal economy. People feel safer but remain cautious because of the ever present threat of suicide bombings. Given the safer environment, and the Somali solution to governance, perhaps this will create the conditions for the seeds of peace to take route in this tortured country.



OFFICE BEARERS 2012/13

At the Annual General Meeting on 3 September 2012, the following members were elected:

Dr John Bruni and COL David Stoba RFD ED (Retd) were elected to the positions of Vice Presidents, for 2012/13.

The following members were nominated for positions on the Council, for 2012/13 and were elected:

Mr M.J.Gorroick
CAPT M.Orchard RFD ED (Retd)
WGCDR M.Ryan (Retd)

COL L.Thompson was elected to the position of Hon Treasurer

Mrs L.Larkin was appointed Hon Auditor.

Subsequent to the AGM, FLTLT David Hirst was elected to a position on the Council to fill a casual vacancy.

FILM SCREENING

On Wednesday 3 October 2012, the Hawke Centre of the University of Adelaide will screen the film "The Invisible War".

[RSVP essential via Hawke Centre website](#)

The film paints a startling picture of the extent of the problem today. A female soldier in combat zones is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire. The United States Department of Defence estimates there were a staggering 19,000 violent sex crimes in the US military in 2010. The Invisible War exposes the epidemic, breaking open one of the most under-reported stories of our generation.

The Invisible War (<http://invisiblewarmovie.com/>) was the winner of the 2012 Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

General admission \$25 – concession \$15

Light refreshments in the Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, followed by the screening in the Allan Scott Auditorium

Venue: Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, UniSA City West campus, Hawke Building level 3
50-55 North Terrace, Adelaide

CURRENT ISSUES BRIEFING

On Monday, 31 July we were very privileged to have Mr Neil James, President of the Australian Defence Association, speak to about 45 members and guests in the Long Tan Room at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club.



Mr James spoke on the subject 'Australia's strategic security: current strategic and political drivers'. In his typical forthright manner, Mr James described Australia's current strategic situation, provided insight into the lack of sound decision making by Federal politicians and dispelled a number of myths about the relationship between Government spending and Defence capability outputs.

Our audience comprised members as well as a number of new attendees primarily from the university sector. Many questions ensued after Mr James' talk including at the bar after formal proceedings had finished!

NEW AIR FORCE CAPABILITY

The Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith recently announced that Defence will convert 12 of our F/A-18F Super Hornets to an EA-18G Growler capability. This is very exciting news for Air Force as the Growler will be a game changer, providing a new form of deterrence not seen since the introduction of the F-111 Strike Bomber.

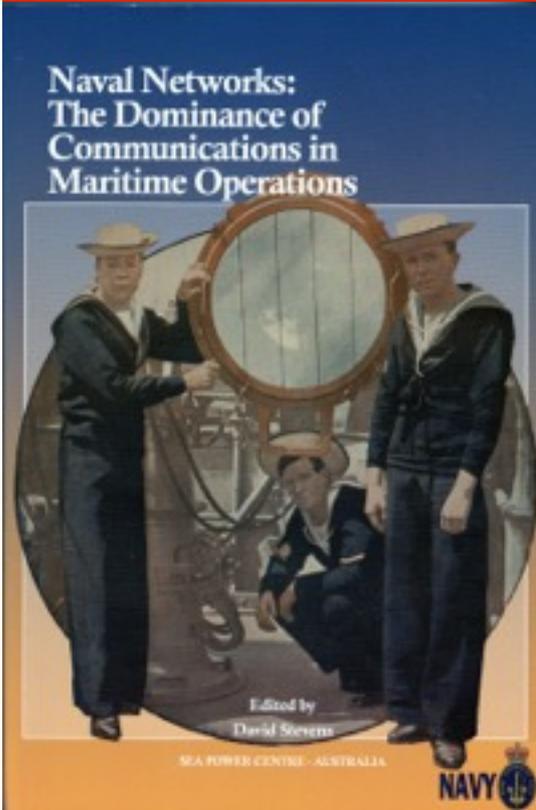


The EA-18G Growler provides protection and advantages for the entire ADF due to the ability to deny or disrupt an adversary's use of their electronic systems, across land, air, sea and cyber. The tactical jamming pods can jam the electronics systems of aircraft, surface-based radars, and communication systems. It is also capable of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in contested environments. This is a proven capability and the Minister's announcement means that Australia will join the United States as the only operators in the world of the Growler capability.

The EA-18G Growler will be based at Amberley with the current F/A-18F Super Hornets to take advantage of existing support and infrastructure established for the Super Hornet and be distinguishable by the fitment of the electronic attack jamming pods on the centre fuselage and wings. These pods are quite large and similar in appearance to the Super Hornet's external fuel tanks.

The Growler capability will undoubtedly bring new challenges for us, and we will work towards achieving Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in 2018, and progression to Final Operating Capability (FOC) around 2020. Importantly, this timeline will not only allow Air Force to mature the Super Hornet capability over the intervening period, but also provide a degree of respite for all those whose fine work has been instrumental in getting the Super Hornet to its Final Operational Capability, scheduled for December this year.

LIBRARY



“Naval Networks: The Dominance of Communications in Maritime Operations”, edited by David Stevens, was donated to the RUSI-SA library by John Bradford.

A total of 31 authors contributed to the book, including John Bradford. The title of John’s contribution is **“The HMAS Armidale Tragedy: A failure of C3I”** regarded by some as Australia’s greatest maritime tragedy.

NAVY WEEK

Navy Week will be celebrated 8 to 14 October 2012 and culminates in Navy Open Day.

HMAS SUCCESS will be open to the public at Techport on Sunday 14 October 2012.

For details visit

<http://adelaide-shores-caravan-resort.sa.big4.com.au/local-attractions/9167197/navy-week-south-australia-navy-open-day.aspx>

AIF ENGINEERS (SA) FLAG

This flag was donated to the Army Museum of South Australia with no known history of its origins. The following information was provided by Ray Saunders.

The only known information is a disc on the flagpole stating that it was presented to the AIF Engineers (SA) Association in 1919.

From my investigations I think that the information below the flag gives some answers to the meaning of the shapes and the letters indicated.

I have sent a copy of the flag asking for any information to the readers of the Sunday Mail “Can you help?” on 1 July 2012.

Maybe we will get some other information back to shed some light on the letters.



Legend

	Horizontal rectangle	1 Div Engineers	
T	Tunneling	Diamond shape	2 Div Engineers
P	Pioneers	Oval shape	3 Div Engineers
W	Wireless	Circle shape	4 Div Engineers
R	Railways	Vertical rectangle	5 Div Engineers
	Diamond shape	Pioneers used this shape after 1916	

Note:

Tunneling Companies had their own colour patches on formation in 1916

Pioneer Companies used the Diamond shape after 1916