



SENSOR

Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI of SA

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EDITORIAL

Anzac Day ceremonies have been held in cities and towns around Australia and overseas on 25 April to mark the 98th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings of World War I. More than 3,000 Australian service men and women are serving on operations, continuing the ANZAC tradition while serving Australia's national interests. ANZAC Day commemorations continue to grow all around the country as Australians remember the original ANZACs who died on that fateful morning in 1915 as well as the men and women who have served in wars, conflicts, peacekeeping, disaster relief and humanitarian assistance missions since that time.

Of course, the big area of interest in recent weeks has been the release by Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Defence Minister Stephen Smith of the 2013 Defence White Paper. If we gloss over the thousands of dollars unnecessarily spent by Minister Smith to stage the launch of the White Paper at RAAF Fairbairn, many questions have been asked about what effect the White Paper will have on the Australian Defence Force, and perhaps more importantly, our Defence industry.

The White Paper addresses international and domestic developments since the last White Paper in 2009, which influence Australia's national security and defence, including:

- economic strategic and military shift to the Indo-Pacific;
- the Australian Defence Force's operational drawdown from Afghanistan, East Timor and the Solomon Islands;
- the United States' re-balance to the Asia-Pacific;
- Australia's enhanced practical cooperation with the United States pursuant to our Alliance relationship; and
- the ongoing adverse effects of the Global Financial Crisis, which have continued to have a significant impact on the global economy, domestic fiscal circumstances and Defence funding.

Underwhelming and unconvincing are words which come to mind about the White Paper. Whilst it is recognised that the economic conditions which Australia faces are not those of the more healthy conditions of a few years ago, as evidenced by the enormous Federal budget deficit, Defence capability is not something which can easily and quickly be switched on and off. Defence is part of our national insurance and critical equipment

capabilities like aircraft, ships, submarines and vehicles must be transitioned into and out of service in a way which keeps the Australian Defence Force 'ready' whilst ensuring our industry capability is not lost. This is particularly so with regard to skills and training as has been so eloquently stated on many occasions by our former Vice President and now Chief Executive Officer of the Defence Teaming Centre, Colonel Chris Burns.

The 'de-emphasis' on China relative to the 2009 White Paper is interesting. We need to maintain good and productive relationships with both China and the United States. That will require great diplomatic and political skill over the next few years as China ascends the economic throne of the world.

Away from our region, the world watches and waits as the crisis in Syria deepens. Not only is it unclear as to whether President Bashar Al Assad has used chemical weapons on the civilian population and rebel fighters (as his father did in the 1980s), but the West is growing increasingly uneasy about what form of government may take the place of the current regime should it fall. One key organisation in the rebel movement has strong links to Al Qaida. We have already seen in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and Egypt that the path to Western-style democracy is one that is not readily understood, accepted or even embraced despite outward appearances.

In Afghanistan, as the Australian Defence Force continues operations but plans for its extraction, the 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army (ANA) 205 Corps has launched its spring campaign with independent clearance operations in Char Chineh, Baluchi and Charmestan districts during March. ANA soldiers from the infantry Kandaks (Battalions) of the Brigade supported by the Afghan National Police (ANP) and the National Directorate of Security (NDS),

successfully conducted clearance operations in the outlying areas of Uruzgan.

As reported in defence Media, the Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Task Group, Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Wells, who leads the 4th Brigade advisory mission, said the Afghan forces are dominating all areas of the battle space. *"These operations show that the 4th Brigade has the will and capacity to pursue the insurgency to the most isolated parts of this province,"* Lieutenant Colonel Wells said. *"The growing confidence and reach of the ANA in Uruzgan at the commencement of spring isolates the insurgency and gives space for the government to spread its influence and deliver services."*

During the operations, the 4th Brigade was able to harness all of its capabilities that give it the decisive edge needed against the insurgency, including artillery, mortars, counter-IED specialists, medical teams and logistical support.

"These enabling capabilities provide the overmatch that is required to defeat the Taliban," Lieutenant Colonel Wells said. Colonel Kandahari, Commander of the 4th Brigade, said the March operations have furthered the collaborative efforts between the national security organisations. *"These operations are a great moment of pride for us because we have a very effective ANA, ANP and NDS and we are ready to protect our borders, our districts and keep our people secure,"* Colonel Kandahari said. *"There is no support from the civilians toward the enemy. With the conduct of these operations we have gained local people's trust, and we are certain that we can protect our people."*

During the Char Chineh clearance the ANA independently fired illumination, smoke and high explosive rounds using D-30 Howitzers and mortars, killing multiple insurgents including two mid-level Taliban commanders. The missions to Baluchi and

Charmestan resulted in a number of insurgent caches containing weapons, ordnance and improvised explosive device components being found and destroyed. *"Although the 4th Brigade still needs work in certain areas, we are seeing excellent progress as they transition to independence in Uruzgan,"* Lieutenant Colonel Wells said. Let's hope such excellent reports and the optimism displayed by many can be maintained for many years to come.

Finally, as we approach the Centenary of ANZAC in 2014, the long-awaited Centenary of ANZAC Report has recently been released. It was quite disappointing in that there is nothing remarkable in the events and activities which have been recommended to be undertaken during the 2014-18 period. The recreation of the departure of the AIF from Albany and a supporting multi-million dollar interpretive centre aside, much of the rest of the report is 'hum drum'. In South Australia, the RSL is working with the State Government to ensure that this important period of our national history is not forgotten.

Tim Hanna
Immediate Past President

NEW SECRETARY

From the 15 applicants received from DOME, (Don't Overlook Mature Expertise) a short list was prepared and interviews were conducted by John Bruni, Rex Jones and David Stoba on 21 May.

Subsequently, the position of secretary of the RUSI of SA was offered to, and accepted by, Vicky Gritzalis. She will commence duty on or before Friday 31 May 2013.

Monthly Luncheons

Monday, 3 June 2013

Speaker: Dr Tony Stimson, Historian

Topic: **South Australia's Contribution to The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902**,

The Boer War was South Australia's first war and, in terms of fatalities, follows only the two world wars. While it soon paled into insignificance compared with the Great War, it left a profound mark on many communities. The Boer War Memorial on North Terrace, built as the National War Memorial and perhaps the finest equestrian statue in Australia, bears witness to that.

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 \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase. 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.

MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKER - APRIL

On Monday 8 April, Mr Greg Nettleton, Chief Officer of the South Australian Country Fire Service, addressed the RUSI of SA on the subject *"The CFS - Fighting Another Kind of War"*.



The following was compiled from his notes.

The SA Country Fire Service is a Statutory Authority that is a community-focussed organisation with the safety of the community as its primary goal. It is staffed by a small cadre of permanent staff and a large number of dedicated volunteers who are representative of the community it serves.

The Fire Service conducts contemporary and professional fire and rescue services in the outer metropolitan, regional and rural areas of South Australia by land and air. Grass and bush fires, road crash rescue, building fires and hazardous materials are the most common emergencies that the Fire Service is called upon to deal with.

Equipment comprises fire fighting vehicles, water tankers and aircraft: over 850 operational vehicles to deal with over 8000 incidents each year. The air component comprises nine fixed-wing and four rotary-wing vehicles.

The organisation is staffed by 133 permanent staff and 13500 volunteers distributed over 425 stations across the State. The organisational structure comprises

(i) Frontline Service with 99.9% of the personnel and 80% of the permanent staff consuming 75% of the \$67M operating budget, and

(ii) Frontline Support which contains the balance of personnel, consumes the rest of the operating budget and is responsible for the total capital budget of \$13M.

Over the past 14 years, the fastest growth rates in emergencies that the organisation has been called upon to deal with have been for vehicle related accidents and fires, special services and structure related alarms and fires. There has been a small growth in dealing with hazardous materials and a slight decay in the rate of rural fires. Questions that need to be constantly addressed are defining the fire season, where should investments be made, what are the priorities and why, what is the service expected to deliver and to whom?

Priority challenges facing the organisation are developing Community preparedness, land use planning and watching emerging trends. The Service must consistently perform in a highly complex, and quite often emotional, socio-political environment that frequently attracts community, media and political interest. This is in an era where intense scrutiny and high level inquiries are commonplace. Both informed and un-informed commentary occurs across a broad spectrum of professions and in the general community. Services are expected to be delivered in a time critical, highly reliable and high risk environment. Politicians, media and the community have a low appetite for failure. Expectations are that most incidents, if not all, will be resolved with a satisfactory outcome. Key performance indicators are not clear.



Overall, the Service has to accommodate the impact of a very high level of enquiries. It learns from the misfortunes of others and the misfortunes of its own making. National and International interoperability is important as well as with other organisations within the State such as the Metropolitan Fire Service, Special Emergency Services, the Police, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC).

Command and control is achieved through the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) which has been the foundation of

Command and Control doctrine for fire and emergency services in Australia and New Zealand for over 20 years. Research is conducted with the Bushfire CRC and the Bushfire and Natural Disasters CRC and the organisation has to make announcements and restructure to fit developing trends. The CRC Accommodation requirements, budget pressures, the 2014 election and social media all provide their own challenges. The wide range of information facilities available to the general public such as mobile phones, social websites (Face-book and Twitter) and computer tablets all contribute significantly to information operations that are often difficult to deal with.

TECHPORT AUSTRALIA VISIT

On Friday, 19 April, 18 RUSI members visited the Air Warfare Destroyer construction site at Techport Australia.

The tour was conducted by the General Manager of the Common User Facility, Paul Bates, who delivered a



short briefing on the current state of construction of the first AWD before leading a tour of the site.



Each AWD is constructed from 30 blocks, the largest of which weighs 38 tonnes. The blocks are fitted out as completely as possible before assembly, to save costs. Fitting out is accomplished with each block upside down to more readily reach pipes and fittings that are attached inside the roof. Most of the testing and evaluation will be achieved before each ship is launched. The first ship is expected to be in the water by August 2014 and all three ships currently planned will be handed over to Navy in 2019. Mr Rex Jones delivered a vote of thanks at the conclusion of the tour.

MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKER - MAY

Dr John Bruni addressed the RUSI of SA as the guest speaker during the luncheon on Monday 6 May. The subject of his talk was “Gender in Defence and Security Leadership” based on observations of a conference organised by the RUSI of Australia in conjunction with the Department of Defence and held in Canberra on 12 March 2013.

The line-up of speakers was impressive. About 200 people from across the local defence spectrum were in attendance. The range of speakers reflected the broad range of opinions on gender in the military services, not just from the Australian perspective, but from an international one as well. Senior representation was made by the US Navy and from the Canadian, New Zealand and British armed forces. Suffice to say that while all were in agreement that more needs to be done to facilitate a climate of fairness and gender equality, there was a multitude of different and possibly conflicting thoughts on how to get there.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon and the former Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh, argued that more needed to be done in the area of gender employment and gender equality. Anna Bligh, suggested that a critical mass of 33% of senior leadership positions needs to be reserved for women across all government and private sectors before women could be considered equals with their male counterparts. Furthermore, this critical mass, if achieved, would mean that the likelihood of advances in gender equality could not be rolled back. Interestingly, Bligh also argued that mechanisms like affirmative action are

necessary preconditions to achieve gender targets and that such targets would aid the advancement of women.

The Chief of the Defence Force, GEN David Hurley, stated that increased female participation in combat roles would benefit the ADF in that it would better represent the make-up of Australian society and the inclusion of women would dramatically increase the potency of the ADF

Vice Chief of Naval Operations for the US Navy, ADM Mark Ferguson, stressed the importance of organisational signals on unacceptable behaviour, and the manner in which the organisation sends messages, be they tacit rather than implicit. He mentioned also the importance of role models and the importance of time and of “organisational support”.

COL Lindsay MacDuff, UK, gave a very honest appraisal of where the British Army is at. He said: “If left to natural evolution, the British Army would take 107 years to get to where it wanted to go” on gender equality. So he argued that that supports the contention that bold and decisive action is needed in the British context to change Britain’s conservative mindset on this issue.

There were six speakers in the afternoon of the first day besides Colonel MacDuff who gave personal narratives of various experiences in their respective armed forces. We heard views that time, place, circumstance and personal qualities are as important as gender in achieving the best from the people we can recruit. We heard of the great importance of personal and organisational support for women to move forward in our armed forces, and we heard of the leadership that is necessary to put all that in place. Benevolent sexism can also be an issue. We heard that the reluctance of women to support each other can be another issue.

This conference was eye-opening for it demonstrated the great lengths that today’s Department of Defence is going to in order to reflect the growing diversity of Australia’s civilian community. This is considered by the senior leadership as critical to recruiting and retaining some of the best and brightest in the nation. The theory is that reversing long-held conservative trends within the ADF across all services and among the broader Civilian-Military diarchy of the Australian Department of Defence, a genuine meritocracy can emerge that knows no ‘colour’, no religion, and ultimately, no discrimination based on gender. While this may seem a laudable and noble aim, old habits die hard and genuine gender equality within the ADF, at least based on a ‘feminist ideal’, has still a long way to go before it is realised.

Arguably, author and consultant, Ms Avril Henry, gave the most illuminating presentation during this two-day conference. She was the keynote presenter at the conference dinner. As a statistician, Ms Henry made a number of points about the reality of gender issues:-

- 1) The female workforce accounts for some 40% of the global total.
- 2) In spite of the political spin given to gender equality, women on average (including in the developed OECD) still undertake twice as much work as their male counterparts.
- 3) Many Generation X and Y couples are redefining their relationships. The outcome is that males are making a greater effort at domestic labour sharing.
- 4) Women in the OECD still earn on average 15% less than men while doing exactly the same job.

So, how does the ADF stack up against their allied counterparts, specifically the Americans, Canadians, New Zealanders and the British when it comes to gender

equality in the armed services? In Australia, women make up 13.8% of the ADF personnel total. Let's put this into perspective. That's some 7,500 out of a total of 55,000. In the US, the figure is 14.5%. That's some 200,000 out of an active total force of 1.4 million. In Canada, the figure is 12%. That's approximately 8,190 out of an active total force of 68,250. In New Zealand, the figure is 16.8%. That's around 1,404 out of a total regular force of 8,617. In the UK, the figure is a surprising 9.7%. That equates to some 21,373 out of a total regular force of 220,350.

So, how does Defence compare more broadly with other government departments? About 29% of Federal Parliamentary Seats are occupied by women. While the Australian government has set overt targets to raise the number of women in senior management positions – a nominal target of 40% - of all the senior management roles in government, only 4 departments have done well. They are the Attorney General's Department (50.7%), Families, Housing & Community Services (50.4%), Immigration (50%) and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (40.3%). In comparison to those government departments, the Department of Defence (uniformed and non-uniformed) has a 'modest' 26%.

So what are the perceived obstacles to diversity within Defence and the ADF more specifically? They've been identified as:

- 1) The perception that diversity is a legal and social responsibility rather than an organisational or economic issue,
- 2) Entrenched conservatism of existing leaders,
- 3) Poor career and succession planning,
- 4) Poor people management and leadership skills,
- 5) Resistance to change, and
- 6) Lack of tolerance of diversity.

Reflecting some of the points already expressed by CDF Hurley, Ms Carmel McGregor, Department of Defence, Deputy Secretary Defence People noted that women are 51% of the population, 60% of graduates, about 40% of labour force participation. She observed that it just didn't appear that Australia was making the inroads that it needs to.

One of the most interesting presentations on the second day came from a civilian expert seconded to the UK MoD, Dr. Edwina Thompson. Her argument was on the ugly realities. For example, women in uniform being deployed to highly patriarchal societies like Afghanistan, where a woman's position of subservience has not changed for centuries. Dr. Thompson argued that deploying women into these areas can have the unintended consequence of heightening already strained relations between the foreign military presence and locals who do not understand, nor like, the presence of women in authority telling them what to do.

Personal Observations

It was interesting and inspiring to see high-ranking women talk of their personal experiences in the military domain. Often, their rise to prominence had a lot to do with talent, having a mentor to shepherd them along the chain of command, where, their individual merit could shine which ultimately led them to assume higher rank.

One of the most fascinating things about the high-ranking women present at this RUSI Conference, whether from Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Canada or the US was their quiet confidence and unassuming manner. They did not make a political statement on how they got to their rank. They appreciated the military institution for letting them demonstrate their talents and for having rewarded them accordingly. Unfortunately and somewhat disappointingly, the high-ranking civilian women who were present did not adopt this sophisticated approach. Many of them touted politicised statements based on the 'victimisation of

women' thesis. It truly was in stark contrast to the women in uniform.

The military is no easy life for any individual, male or female. There are also some residual cultural traits amongst the services that need removal to discourage negative gender stereotypes so that all can be given a 'fair go'. One has to be particularly strong of mind and body to deal with the harsh rigors of drill on the parade ground and life in the field. But that there are women who chose to serve their country by joining the military is something to be celebrated. In order for this trend to continue, the military, as CDF Hurley emphasised, needs to ensure that the ADF has the internal mechanisms necessary i.e. flexible work arrangements and appropriate support, to provide working men and women in the ADF with families, to find the right 'work-life balance'. CDF Hurley was mindful that the ADF under his watch was a work-in-progress regarding gender issues and that there still were more questions than answers regarding what the ultimate outcome ought to be. Suffice to say that there are those in the national community who are naysayers on defence issues. In their eyes nothing is moving fast enough, nor are there enough opportunities created for women to assume high rank, including the rank of CDF.

My own observation is that CDF Hurley is sincere in his desire to seek genuine equality of opportunity take root within the ADF. That things might not move as quickly or as radically as some may wish, is to be expected. Defence is a conservative domain, but change has taken place and is continuing to take place. To deny this would be untrue. As the father of a daughter, it is my hope that she too might, for a time, wear the uniform and serve her country. So I am heartened by the changes in the ADF that make this possibility even more appealing.

When looking at service in the military, while the institution will change over time, and, sometimes for the better, one should be cautious of adopting anything that would undermine its core values

which, even in today's 'progressive' environment, still include –

- 1) A fair go for all.
- 2) Loyalty to the Commonwealth of Australia,
- 3) Mate-ship, and
- 4) Promotion based on merit.

These are communitarian, not individualistic traits. In a period of history dominated by minority and individualist causes and a fragmentation of national consciousness, we ought be mindful that pandering to every whim in the civilian community and imposing a 'fragmentised identity' on the profession of arms does nothing to strengthen our security. Indeed the men and women of the ADF and the Department of

Defence generally should be above fighting internal culture wars. Once they sign on to join the military family, their sole aim is and should forever be to serve steadfastly and loyally without discriminating or harassing fellow serving members.

This is not political correctness, this is plain common sense necessary to maintain the security of our nation.

OFFICE SECRETARY

DINING-IN NIGHT

After providing efficient secretarial duties for the RUSI-SA over six years, Elaine Atkinson has left to take up a full time position with another company.

Her support for the organisation was recognised during the luncheon on Monday 6 May 2013. She was presented with a Certificate of Service by the Chairman, Dr John Bruni and a silver bracelet. Ms Faye Leditschke delivered an appreciation of the time she has spent with the RUSI-SA.



Elaine Atkinson and Faye Leditschke

The annual Dining-In Night will be held at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of SA, 111 Hutt St, Adelaide on Saturday 20 July 2013 at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.



Photo from the N M and AF Club website

Our Patron, His Excellency, the Governor of South Australia Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR has been invited to attend.

Dress is Mess Dress, Black Tie or Lounge Suit and miniatures may be worn.

The cost is \$75 per person, which includes a three course meal with drinks. Please note that a late cancellation will attract a fee of \$45.

Bookings can be made with the RUSI-SA office no later than Monday 15 July 2013.

Parking is available in Hutt Street and Angus Street.

This is some of what she had to say:

"Soon after joining us, Elaine set up a completely new computer system for the office and I quickly learned to respect Elaine's knowledge and ability, as we worked closely together. I observed a quiet confident achiever, who presented results of a high standard and on time. Elaine patiently sorted finance with our Treasurer COL Les Thompson and continually managed to upgrade equipment, and cheerfully help members with library selections.

"We have all experienced Elaine's friendly smile, her willingness to oblige, always in a professional and capable manner. A sincere big thank you Elaine for your service to RUSI, we will all miss you, but wish you every success in your new career".

RESERVE FORCES DAY ARTICLE - RESPONSE

The following item is one of three interstate comments that have been received in response to the article that appeared in Sensor 444 regarding the Reserve Forces Day Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the current situation with Reserve Forces Day (RFD).

South Australia has a proud history of volunteer military service from the early days of the Colony through to the present. We were very pleased RFD was celebrated there from 1998 to 2011 and a permanent reminder of that is in the memorial walkway. It is wonderful to see the great work continuing for RFD in Mt Gambier. The city was awarded the "Outstanding City" award for their celebrations last year; the certificate was presented to their Chairman Mr Bob Sandow at the National Launch for 2013 formal dinner held on the 24 November 2012. Also pleasing is their planning for another successful year in 2013.

We thought it would be appropriate to give an update of the work of committed and enthusiastic volunteers in the 19 Reserve Forces Day Councils throughout Australia. In NSW eight cities will celebrate RFD in 2013. This is the 15th year since RFD commenced in 1998 and our celebrations will acknowledge the 65th anniversary of the re-forming of the part time services in 1948. The original National Chairman was Sir Roden Cutler VC AK KCMG KCVO CBE, the Hon Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC then became the National and NSW Chairman until his retirement through ill health on the 1st February 2013 when he was succeeded by the Hon Tim Fischer AC. RFD is recognised by the DVA under the Federal Government's Commemorative Programme of "Saluting their Service" and the RFDCs use their logo.

We learnt from the National Servicemen's Association of Australia that members like to march and the most successful cities organize a march. Other activities that some RFDCs run such as barbecues and lunches do not attract large numbers. The RFDC parades are not intended to be another ANZAC Day march but more of a military parade where people can show their pride in their Association and unit.

In this year's Sydney parade our Patron the Governor of NSW, who has not missed one of Sydney's parades, will wear her Honorary Colonel of the RNSWR uniform with navy blue Balmoral and

the VCDF Air Marshal Mark Binskin AO will represent the CDF and representatives from the three services will be on the saluting dais as well as the Prime Minister's representative.

The ongoing aim of the day is to raise the profile of the Reserve service and to thank serving and former members, their wives and families and their employers. RFD in each location may be small or large depending on the year and local conditions. For example Hobart, which was presented "Best City" for last year's parade is this year celebrating the day in Launceston for a significant local celebration. In 2010 Melbourne was awarded the "Best City" award. Regional cities and towns are well supported by the local councils and RSLs. For example Wondai in central Queensland and Murwillumbah in Northern NSW have well supported days.

Support from the State Governments is good with capital cities providing free transport for parades and in Sydney we are fortunate to have received for many years a Premier's special grant. In NSW the Government's Personal Policy Manual provides for State Government employees to be rostered off to enable them to attend the celebrations.

Last year the celebrations concentrated on the 110th anniversary of the end of the Boer War on 31 May 1902. Following the excellent results and support for the family supporter's medallion in 2011 the RFDC minted Boer War descendants and supporters medallions and over 675 were presented at ceremonies throughout Australia.

From sales and donations in the last 12 months \$90,155 has been collected by RFDC for the memorial, the largest donation from any one organisation. The initiative this year is to acknowledge the veterans who returned from the Boer War and helped train soldiers in the newly formed Australian Army. 30% of the veterans joined the 1st AIF taking that experience with them. The RFDC has produced War Bars that fit on the ribbon of the Descendants medallion showing that their relatives took part in the Boer War, WWI and in some cases WWII. Where possible as with the Descendants medallions, these will be presented as part of the celebrations.

Each year a Community Service Announcement (CSA) by RFDC is sent to all TV Stations. In previous years the Prime Minister, Chiefs of Army and the Governor-General have recorded the CSA and last year it was recorded by the CDF. The Governor-General agreed to record it this year,

however to meet the time schedule the Hon Tim Fischer AC appeared in it.

The CSAs are placed on the web site www.rfd.org.au. As well as taking part in radio interviews, RFDs always have TV coverage. The country cities do very well with their city papers and Mt Gambier has had great success.

Former band members have now formed a brass band called the "Reserve Forces Band". The Associations are the strength of RFD and new initiatives and high dress standards are set for them for a good turn out and key people of the Associations are invited to briefings. This year the Army has allowed members to take part in uniform. The RANR and RAAFR have always had approval.

The RFDCs receive sponsorship from business and the RSLs. The Prime Minister's and Governor-General's messages of support are read out at the celebrations and placed in programs. VIPs include Federal and State MPs, Consuls of allied countries, the National President of the RSL and senior representatives of the three services as well as sponsors and supporters.

The day will continue to be popular if the RFDC cities are led by enthusiastic local members. 1.25m Reservists have served in the part time forces since WWII and we hope that RFD will again be recognised in Adelaide.

The Hon Tim Fischer AC

MAJOR MAURICE HURFORD

Long-standing RUSI-SA member, MAJ Maurice (Maurie) James Hurford died on 26 April 2013 at the age of 93. Maurie joined the RUSI (USI at the time) in 1958 and was a life member since 2001. He was an active supporter of the RUSI-SA.



Photo supplied by the N,M and AF Club

The following notes were provided by Colin Brooks.

Maurie was handicapped from before WWII. He studied at Woodville District High School before WWII, living near the Cheltenham racecourse. He was a back-room guy pumping a typewriter in Melbourne for the unlisted top-secret Z Special Unit of the 2nd AIF during the war. Eventually he received service numbers S31299 and AKX83. He had a battle to get a military pension for years as his unit was not listed, nor was it officially in the order of battle! That is how secret it was - no numbers, no records.

As a Warrant Officer, after the war he managed to be selected to be trained in education at the SA Department of Education's Wattle Park Teachers' College in Adelaide (where my father was one of his lecturers). Eventually he won his commission which took him to the Eastern States and to Singapore. Maurice James Hurford rose to the level of Major.

He was president of the Naval Military and Air force Club of SA from 1985 to 1987 and President for many years of Z Special Unit Association of SA. He spent a few years, from 1969 to 1971, in Singapore in an army educational posting.

QUADRANT ONLINE

The publication QUADRANT online dated Sunday 19 May contains an article by MAJGEN Jim Molan AO DSC (Retd) entitled "Why Our Defence Forces Face Terminal Decline".

In the author's view, "the process is broken, the strategic thinking is confused, the denial of the world and regional situation is dangerous, the management of our allies and others has been confusing, the leadership team is dislocated, the delivery of anything except the most simple capability or those purchased directly from the USA is stumbling, the constant policy disruption is grossly wasteful, and the explanations to the Australian people about ADF capability and risk are duplicitous".

The article goes on to describe some of the recent poor Government decisions on the Department of Defence and their effects.

The article can be read in its entirety at <http://www.quadrant.org.au/magazine/issue/2013/3/why-our-defence-forces-face-terminal-decline>

NORTH KOREA: KEEP WATCH AND CARRY ON

The following information was provided by Dr John Bruni, the Director of SAGE International. It reflects what he spoke about at the RUSI of SA luncheon on 8 April 2013 as Chairman for the lunch on that day.

SAGE stands for Strategic Advice and Geopolitical Estimates. Its website is at <http://www.sageinternational.com.au>

North Korea's current bellicosity should be no cause for alarm. Everything that we've seen and heard from Pyongyang has been carefully calibrated to have a rhetorical impact. The country is politically and economically isolated. In fact, one of the telling features of the current crisis is that the North Korean military has not been mobilised and deployed en masse.

Yes, the North Korean military has prepared a couple of medium-range missiles for possible testing, but this is a far cry from mobilising the entire North Korean missile fleet for a full-scale attack against South Korea, let alone the United States which, with the exception of the US Pacific territory of Guam, is well outside North Korean missile range. Empirical evidence shows that since the 1950-53 Korean War, the North Korean military, specifically its intelligence services and Special Forces, have been actively engaging South Korea in many tactical provocations. However, the country's ability to wage a major war must be questioned. Rigid Soviet-era command and control, antiquated communications and poor infrastructure allows one to speculate that only a few pockets of the North Korean military may be able to 'put up a fight' on the

modern battlefield. For example, apart from a handful of 'elite' fighter units in the North Korean Air Force possessing 'state-of-the-art' 1980s-vintage MiG-29s, some 1980s-vintage Soviet fast attack craft for the North Korean Navy and its flotilla of domestically produced miniature submarines, the only weapons in the North Korean arsenal that South Korea and the West really need to worry about are the artillery batteries of the North Korean Army. These batteries could, with little advanced warning, fire a withering opening salvo against the South Korean capital Seoul, leveling large parts of the exposed city and other vulnerable South Korean towns close to the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ).



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The ensuing refugee crisis such an attack would create is hard to foretell. Needless to say that the North Korean High Command would be reasonably sure that the panic of tens of thousands of South Korean refugees fleeing further South into the Republic of Korea, might give the North Korean Army sufficient time to mount a limited 'incursion-in-strength' over the DMZ; their speculative outcome being that a negotiated settlement could be reached with Seoul and Washington before the joint forces

of South Korea and the US mount their inevitable counter-attack which may very well include regime change in Pyongyang.

We need to also consider that North Korea's actions may not be entirely their own. China is key to events in North Korea. In an ironic twist of fate, in spite of being the 21st Century 'workshop of the world', China only has one international ally – North Korea. Beijing might chaff at their dealings with Pyongyang periodically, but one has to question just how genuine their diplomatic protestations are. China is increasingly being placed under strategic pressure by the United States. The US Asia Pivot is essentially designed to ensure that Washington's Asian allies can depend on an American military hedge against China's inexorable expansion outward from the Chinese mainland. The Trans-Pacific Partnership was created to keep the Chinese mercantilists off balance, while allowing those from Japan and Southeast Asia to feel safe from Chinese commercial predations. America's technological focus on drones, anti-ballistic missile interceptors and importantly – cyber warfare – are clear signals to aspiring great powers like China, that the US will play to its military strengths to remind would-be regional hegemony that they are no match against US strategic resolve to remain 'first among equals'. Dismissing any strategic challenge, real or perceived, would be tantamount to conceding to the perception of eroding American strength globally. Therefore it is not hard to see the current imbroglio over North Korea through the prism of the greater game being played between China and the United States over who will take the prize of the Western Pacific. Korean unification as a consequence of war would bring Western power to the gates of northern China, something not in China's strategic interest.