



SENSOR

Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI of SA

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August/September 2013

Issue No.

446

EDITORIAL

As we lead into a Federal election, intense jockeying by the major political parties has seen asylum seekers become one of the key areas of policy debate. Our nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, now appears to be the favoured solution for deterring people smugglers and stemming the tide of asylum seekers breaching our borders. Or is it merely a smokescreen to mask other policy debate especially the economy which, by most measures, is less buoyant than it has been as the resources boom recedes?

Regardless, we note with interest the Coalition's recently announced approach to 'stopping the boats' by appointing a three-star ADF officer to oversee all contributing agencies and report directly to the Minister for Immigration. One wonders why, if this is such a sound idea, that it has not been discussed previously given the many years that people have been fleeing from Iraq, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan to Australia and elsewhere. One also wonders what this says about our current Border Protection Command and its ability to manage the situation. This terribly difficult area has been dealt with admirably by the men and women of the ADF. The constant tragedy of dealing with displaced peoples on often unseaworthy vessels, death by drowning and violence are some of the many challenges faced daily by our Defence personnel. We all hope that a sensible solution to address this crisis can be achieved. Cooperation with Indonesia will be paramount in doing so.

In late July Australia's Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith, Indonesia's Minister of Defence, Dr Purnomo Yusgiantoro, met in Perth for bilateral discussions and the second Annual Australia-Indonesia Defence Ministers' Meeting. It was the ninth time that Mr Smith has met with Minister Purnomo in his capacity as Minister for Defence, and the third time they have met this year.

The Minister's press release advised that 'Australia and Indonesia have a comprehensive strategic partnership, which is characterised by increasingly strong political, security, trade, investment, development and people-to-people links. As the 2013 Defence White Paper states, 'Australia's partnership with Indonesia remains our most important Defence relationship in the region. My regular engagement and productive working relationship with Minister Purnomo underscores the close cooperation between our two countries as we work to further strengthen

our defence-to-defence and military-to-military partnership.'

'Our bilateral security and strategic cooperation with Indonesia has steadily increased in recent years under the auspices of the Lombok Treaty, which came into effect when I exchanged notes with the Indonesian Foreign Minister Wirajuda in Perth in February 2008. The Lombok Treaty provides a modern framework for intensified bilateral cooperation across all areas of defence, law enforcement, counter-terrorism, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.'

'During our inaugural Annual Defence Ministers' Meeting in Jakarta in September 2012, Minister Purnomo and I signed a Defence Cooperation Agreement, which provides a formal structure for practical defence cooperation under the Lombok Treaty.'

'Last year saw the highest tempo of bilateral defence engagement, exercises and training between our two countries in over 15 years, including Indonesia's participation for the first time in Exercise PITCH BLACK. Exercises DAWN KOOKABURRA and KOMODO, involving Australian and Indonesian Special Forces, are held on an annual basis and focus on counter-hijack and hostage recovery.'

Australia and Indonesia are both trading nations with long sea borders in the Indian Ocean. We share an abiding interest in maintaining a secure maritime environment in our region. No doubt there was much discussion about achieving a solution to the asylum seeker problem including whether it can be 'nipped in the bud' at its source.

Also in our region but to the East, Australian Defence Force personnel serving on the last rotation of Operation ANODE, the ADF's military contribution to the Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands, have been presented with the Australian Service Medal prior to returning home next month. Commander Combined Task Force 635 (CTF635), Lieutenant Colonel Brenton Gasteen, former Commanding Officer of the 10th/27th Battalion of the Royal South Australia Regiment, congratulated the contingent of ADF personnel who received their medals at one of the last ceremonies before the military mission concludes next month. 'You all have contributed to the success of RAMSI and can return home to Australia knowing that you have served with distinction and have represented the Australian Defence Force in a thoroughly professional manner,' Lieutenant Colonel Gasteen said. The parade was attended by representatives from local government agencies and RAMSI contributing nations as well as Australian Government guests who were visiting as part of the tenth anniversary celebrations of RAMSI. The Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Matthew Anderson, specifically praised the efforts of the military contingent over the past decade of RAMSI support. 'Increasingly, responsibility for security rests with the Government of the Solomon Islands which is a powerful message and one of great comfort that the Combined Task Force is leaving

Solomon Islands in a good place.' The Australian soldiers have worked alongside their counterparts from New Zealand, Tonga and Papua New Guinea who have also supported RAMSI through CTF 635 for the final rotation. The members of CTF635 Rotation 30 are mostly drawn from the Army Reserve ranks from Victoria's 4th Brigade. 'As the security situation in Solomon Islands has remained stable, Rotation 30 personnel have been able to undertake specific military training which has provided excellent experience to take back to their home units,' Lieutenant Colonel Gasteen said. Approximately 110 Australian personnel have spent the past four months deployed to Solomon Islands as part of the Australian-led Combined Task Force 635. Operation ANODE was the ADF's contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), which has assisted the Government of Solomon Islands in the maintenance of stability, law and justice, economic governance and improving the machinery of government since 2003.

Much closer to home, more than 28,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and women are taking to the sea, land and sky in Central Queensland as part of Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2013. TALISMAN SABRE is a biennial training activity jointly sponsored by the Australian Defence Force Joint Operations Command and the US Pacific Command to train the United States 7th Fleet and Australian Deployable Joint Headquarters staffs as a designated Combined Task Force. Australian spokesman Brigadier Bob Brown, said the training activity would see US and Australian forces mobilise to react to a fictional scenario. 'The scenario will be a peace enforcement mission, that sets the conditions for the task force to hand over to a United Nations peacekeeping force,' Brigadier Brown said. 'The forces will operate in military training areas in Central and South-east Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Coral, Timor and Arafura seas. Shoalwater Bay Training Area will be used predominantly, with a large staging area at Defence Base Rockhampton.' This year TALISMAN SABRE sees further practice and progression of Defence's emerging amphibious capability. The exercise will be the third block of training for the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment's Amphibious Ready Element Landing Force. TALISMAN SABRE is a unique and invaluable opportunity to exercise combined and joint Defence capability between Australia and the US. Approximately 21,000 US and 7,000 Australian Defence Force personnel will be involved in the exercise, along with other Australian Government agencies including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AusAID, Australian Federal Police, and Australian Civil-Military Centre. The ADF has conducted a full environmental impact assessment on the Shoalwater Bay region and strong measures have been put in place for participants to respect and protect the marine environment.

Tim Hanna

Monthly Luncheons

Monday 5 August 2013

Speaker: Mr David Everitt, Member of the Veterans' Health and Advisory Council

Topic: **'Lessons Learned from the Last 100 years and the Role of the Veterans Health Advisory Council'**.

Monday 2 September 2013

Speaker: AVM Brent Espeland AM (Retd)

Topic: **'Five Seconds to Midnight - Whither our Air Force Strategy and Doctrine?'**

Note: The AGM will be held during this luncheon.

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 - JUNE

On Monday 3 June 2013, Anthony Stimson, Historian, gave a presentation at the RUSI of SA luncheon on the contribution that South Australia made to the Boer War. The presentation was entitled 'South Australia's First War: The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902'.



The following has been put together based on the notes he provided after the talk.

Tony is writing a book on the 4th South Australian Imperial Bushmen (4SAIB) and the material in the presentation focuses on this unit but is equally applicable to other SA units. The prime focus of the book is on the experiences of the 230 men who served in 4SAIB, particularly the experiences of some individuals.

Over 16,000 Australians, including 1,531 South Australians, volunteered to fight of which 600 (61 South Australians) perished, half from action and the other half from disease. It was Australia's third costliest war after the two World wars. There were more killed in two and a half years than in the ten years of the Vietnam War. The names of those South Australians who died, except for Breaker Morant, are engraved on the Boer War Memorial on North Terrace.

With a strength of 218 men and 12 officers, 4SAIB saw more action than most SA units. The unit comprised two mounted infantry squadrons and was raised, trained, equipped and embarked in 62 days from the day the Holder government accepted the invitation from London to raise another unit.

A mounted infantry unit, like other Australian Units, rode to the battle and then fought on foot as infantry. Most of their horses were dead within two months and only one was alive, but left behind, when the unit returned to Australia. When 4SAIB first went into action, the horses had been at sea for seven weeks followed by four days in railway trucks and some were ridden for over 50 kms on their first day in action. Horse management practises were poor, the horses were ill suited to the wiry South African grass and were susceptible to ticks.

Of the men who served, 34 were educated at Saint Peters and Prince Alfred Colleges, two were jockeys, two were bicycle mechanics and many were bushmen. They enlisted partly due to their perceived duty to

Queen and Country but also because employment was low due to a depression and others sought adventure or to join up with friends. Training was conducted at the Old Exhibition Grounds on Frome Road near the zoo with unbelievably only one day of vaguely realistic firing practise in the hills behind Marino.

The voyage to South Africa was marred by SA Officers dislike of WA Officers, a food scandal whereby a purser was subsequently jailed in South Africa for short changing the troops and by sheer boredom.

Anthony Stimson's grandfather, CAPT A E M Norton commanded one of the two mounted infantry squadrons and was almost killed at Vredefort in July 1900 after being besieged with his men in a mud hut near where Howse's deed was to win him the first Australian VC. In 2012, Anthony stumbled over the grave of a Boer lieutenant who had been shot by CAPT Norton. The lieutenant turned out to be an adviser who was a lieutenant in the Russian Navy.

Trooper Herbert Prosser was killed before going into action when his horse threw him on the Durban wharf.

Specific details of the Fourth Contingent from South Australia (South Australian Imperial Bushmen) that served in the war can be found at

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/military/bor-sa4.htm>

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of RUSI-SA Inc is planned for Monday, 2 September 2013.

At the meeting, elections will be held for members of RUSI-SA Council for 2013/14.

In accordance with the Constitution, nominations for Council are to be submitted at least 21 days before the meeting.

Consequently, any nominations for Council should be submitted to the RUSI-SA office by Friday, 16 August 2013.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary.

BOER MEMORIAL

The Boer War Memorial on North Terrace, Adelaide commemorates the valour of the Citizen Soldiers of South Australia who fought in the South African War 1899 to 1902. It was unveiled by His Excellency Mr George Ruthven Le Hunte KCMC, in 1904.

The statue was sculptured by CAPT Adrian Jones, veterinarian and sculptor noted for his many London sculptures, including the huge bronze statue over Marble Arch. His statue in Adelaide is the only one that Adrian designed that is not in England.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_African_War_Memorial_\(South_Australia\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_African_War_Memorial_(South_Australia))



DSTO

The Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) is part of Australia's Department of Defence. DSTO is the Australian Government's lead agency charged with applying science and technology to protect and defend Australia and its national interests.

Defence Science Australia is DSTO's flagship publication featuring the latest projects and research. Produced quarterly, it will keep you up to date with the latest in Defence science.

The most recent issue, published in June 2013, may be found at

<http://www.dsto.defence.gov.au/publications/dsa/>

MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKER - JULY

On Monday 1 July, the RUSI - SA luncheon speaker was Mr Reg Carruthers, Acting Director of the Woomera Test Range, Aerospace Operational Support Group, RAAF. The subject of his talk was 'Demystifying the Woomera Prohibited Area'.



The Aerospace Operational Support Group enhances and extends ADF combat capability by providing comprehensive, timely and integrated operational support that contributes to mission success and crew survivability. Aerospace Operational Support Group has its headquarters at RAAF Base Edinburgh, South Australia, and units in Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra. The group comprises Information Warfare Wing, Air System Development and Test Wing and the Woomera Test facility. The Woomera Test Range provides instrumented test and evaluation range support services to the ADF and the broader Defence community (both Australian and allied).

Reg described some of the current and recent activities being conducted at the Woomera Range and discussed its broad future direction.

Reg was selected as Australia's representative for National War College in Washington DC,



commencing in June 2011. After 12 months he was awarded a Masters degree in strategic studies and international relations, achieving distinguished graduate status and top international student of sixty. He returned to Australia and accepted a transfer to the Public Service as Director Capability Reform in AOSG. He is currently acting director of the Woomera Test Range, responsible for the conduct of trials in the Woomera Prohibited Area. He remains an active member of the group including representation on the Defence Reserve Support Committee.

RUSI NEEDS YOU

Our Institute "soldiers on", preserving values, stimulating interest and discussion in interesting and potential turbulent times. It has a long and proud history of fostering ideas and educating in all things Military across the Generations. Nonetheless there are questions regarding the long-term viability of any organisation around the world, which is under pressure for many reasons as circumstances change.

There is absolutely no room for complacency for the RUSI in South Australia. If you share the view that the RUSI is an organisation of shared values and a convivial place to meet like-minded friends and acquaintances, then it behoves us to prize what others

have developed in the past, and build on this for the future. This future should reflect the changing needs of all generations, valuing and never compromising the standards and values that have stood the test of time.

Your Council is looking at every possible way to encourage attendance at functions and to expand membership in keeping with the old Democratic principle of "numbers count".

Our most valuable resource is each individual member who is able to personally mentor and recruit those who will gain value from and, indeed, enhance the RUSI. It needs to be emphasised the more members and attendance at our functions, the greater our future.

Your Council can do so much, but, in the end it is you, the individual member, who enables sustainability.

ROBERT ATKINSON
Councillor

COMBAT SOLDIER KIT

A news article that appeared recently in the electronic *Adelaide Now* reported that an Australian combat soldier's personal kit in Afghanistan has risen in cost from \$3700 to \$27700.

The complete article may be found at <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/national/cost-of-australian-combat-soldier8217s-kit-soars-to-27700/story-fni6ulvf-1226672202534>



It describes in detail the nature of the items that make up the kit, which is designed to overcome the long history of complaints about the quality and value of previously issued clothing and equipment.

NEW HELICOPTER

A new multi-role helicopter has been inducted into the Defence Force Fleet.

MRH 90 Taipan Multi-Role Helicopter will be used by both the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Army. See the article on page 8.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Defence

NEW TOOLS FOR WAR AND PEACE

Militaries and civilians alike plan for technological change, says security consultant John Watts. Tools such as analytical gaming can be useful to both military and civilian planners for developing new concepts.

The Futurist is "A Magazine of Forecasts, Trends and Ideas about the future". A recent article reports an interview with John Watts who spoke at WorldFuture 2013, the annual conference of the World Future Society in Chicago.

The complete article appears at <http://www.wfs.org/futurist/2013-issues-futurist/july-august-2013-vol-47-no-4/new-tools-for-war-and-peace-technology-ga>

NEW MILITARY VEHICLES

It is reported in "*Adelaide Now*" from the Advertiser dated 25 July that promises to keep 35 per cent of work on the \$1.58 billion Land121 contract for new military vehicles in Australia must be honoured by the Federal Government, industry spokesman Chris Burns says.

The Government has awarded the lucrative phase 3B contract to Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Australia. The new trucks are designed to replace the Australian Defence Force's ageing fleet of Unimog, Mack and S-Liner trucks. See <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/business/defence-sector-wants-35pc-of-work-on-lucrative-phase-3b-contract-to-rheinmetall-man-military-vehicles-australia-which-will-make-the-vehicles-in-austria/story-fni6uma6-1226684751875> for more details.



One of the MAN Rheinmetall truck designs to be delivered to the Australian Defence Force. Source: 'Adelaide Now'.

OFFICE SECRETARY

By now, many members will have met our new office secretary, Vicky Gritzalis, who replaced Elaine Atkinson about a month ago.

Vicky comes with a long and varied history of office secretarial duties, familiar with the needs of RUSI - SA accounting methods and attending to the general needs of our organisation. She was most recently employed as a Receptionist and Administration Officer by a group of Hotel Brokers and has significant experience working with Accounting companies, a Not for Profit organisation and a bank.

Vicky has an engaging personality with excellent communication skills and is fluent in both spoken and written Greek. She was born on mainland Greece and migrated to Australia by ship at 13 years of age with her parents and four younger siblings. Vicky is married with one daughter and has two grandsons, Lachlan and Nicholas, whom she adores and spends a lot of time with them, particularly at the beach.

Vicky has a wide range of interests from enjoying walks on the beach, attending art exhibitions and reading.



She is also an avid sports fan particularly tennis, cricket and football and likes to attend the Australian Tennis Open in Melbourne every year.

Vicky will be in the RUSI - SA office at Keswick for two days each week, Monday and Friday, from 10 am to 4 pm. Please feel free to come and make yourself known to her.

FALCONS HOVERING OVER THE CARCASS OF SYRIA?

The delivery of a battery of Patriot missiles and F-16 Falcon fighter planes to Jordan by the US (STRATFOR: 03/06/13) as a countermeasure against a potential spill over from the Syrian civil war into Jordanian territory, is unnecessarily provocative.

Firstly, should such a spill over occur, it would occur through the uncontrolled movement of guerrilla fighters from Syria into Jordan, something that neither Patriots nor F-16s could deter or physically counter. If viewed in terms of pure symbolism, while King Abdullah of Jordan is a very close ally of the United States, the idea of beefing up Jordan's air defences says more about potentially preparing

Jordanian territory as a staging base for no-fly zone/s over Syria, than it does about anything else. The Syrian Air Force is currently preoccupied with carrying out strikes against rebel forces geographically located within Syria proper. It has neither the will nor the technical capability of challenging regional air forces, as its impotence against recent Israeli airstrikes on Syrian targets clearly demonstrated (early May 2013). Israel, Jordan and Turkey share US military technology so it makes sense that this regional triumvirate, along with US assistance, may very well form the base of an internationally sanctioned no fly zone arrangement over Syria to finally close down Syrian Air Force operations against rebel forces. The recent controversy over the delivery of Russian weapons to the besieged government forces of Bashar Al-Assad adds to the perception that bolstering Jordan is in preparation for something

more dramatic, since the actual threat posed to Jordan by the Syrian Air Force, even under these dire circumstances, is miniscule. More worrying, however, is recent talk from a former Israeli intelligence chief who suggests that a massive Israeli aerial campaign on Syrian forces could topple the Assad regime. While possibly true, the problem is that such a strike may also incapacitate much of Syria's remaining governing assets, thereby undermining Damascus' capacity for central authority and leading to the possible fragmentation of Syria proper. Then, there's the thorny question of whether the Syrian Rebels would feel gratitude for this sort of unilateral Israeli assistance, or simply take whatever opportunity avails them before turning their guns on the Jewish state.

Dr. John Bruni,
Director SAGE International

MRH 90 TAIWAN MULTI-ROLE HELICOPTER

A new helicopter to be used by both the Royal Australian Navy and Australian Army has been inducted into the Australian Defence Force Fleet during a commissioning ceremony at HMAS Albatross, near Nowra, NSW.

The ceremony also marked the formal induction of 808 Squadron to operate the new MRH 90 Taiwan Multi-Role Helicopter. This commissioning ceremony is the culmination of three years of training, testing, development and trials to bring this new generation, high-tech aircraft into service. Further trials will be conducted with the aircraft after commissioning.

Commander of the Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, said the Navy would use the aircraft for the maritime support role previously carried out by the now retired Sea King helicopter, while the Army would use it to replace its Blackhawk helicopters as a battlefield and special operations support helicopter.

'The commissioning of 808 Squadron is a significant milestone for the Navy as we formally welcome into service a new generation, maritime support helicopter that not only replaces the retired Sea Kings, but delivers new capabilities and a capacity to meet emerging requirements in the future,' Rear Admiral Barrett said. 808 Squadron was previously commissioned into the RAN during the 1950s when it operated fighter aircraft from the Navy's aircraft carriers HMA Ships SYDNEY and MELBOURNE. The re-commissioned 808 Squadron not only inherits its predecessor's crest, battle honours and motto

Strength in Unity, but also its legacy of operational excellence, courage under fire and of breaking new ground in naval aviation. 'Bringing a technologically advanced, new generation aircraft into service is no simple task, but 808 Squadron personnel have worked tirelessly together, and with the Defence Materiel Organisation project office and the Army to reach this milestone.' Rear Admiral Barrett said.

808 Squadron will be based at the Naval Air Station, HMAS ALBATROSS and its aircraft will operate from the Navy's amphibious and afloat support ships such as HMA Ships SUCCESS, TOBRUK and CHOULES. In the future, these aircraft will also operate from the Navy's new 27,000-tonne Landing Helicopter Dock amphibious ships CANBERRA and ADELAIDE.

Tim Hanna

TOUR OF EDINBURGH DEFENCE PRECINCT

On Wednesday 25 September 2013, a tour of the Edinburgh Defence Precinct for RUSI of SA members has been arranged in association with the Brighton Branch of National Seniors Australia. The enclosed leaflet gives details of the tour and contains a booking form.

Located 25 kilometres north of Adelaide's CBD, the Edinburgh Defence Precinct is a key national research, manufacturing and sustainment hub.

This tour will visit RAAF Edinburgh and the new facilities for 7RAR Battle Group.

The visit will last from 0920 to 1700h and will allow time for lunch at the OR mess, at the members expense. Please note that the tour is limited to 24 members of the RUSI of SA.

BOOK LAUNCH

"Lost", by Allen Lyne, is a new book about all ships lost by the RAN.

45 ships and boats were lost by the RAN in the period 1914 to 1974. *Lost* traces the history of each ship from launch to loss. It includes a detailed analysis of the strategic picture at the time of each ship's loss, a description of the actions in which the ships were lost and an afterword. The book also examines Australia's state of military preparedness at the commencement of each World War.

The first 100 books are numbered and will be signed by the author. For more details and to purchase, see

www.bearly.net

