



SENSOR

Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI of SA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Australia's Formidable Amphibious Capability

I have had more than a passing interest in amphibious capabilities and operations for a number of reasons and, of course, in a few months we will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy during World War II. At a personal level my first exposure to amphibious activity included a startling experience.

In 1992 I became a part time member of the Joint Exercise Planning Staff in preparation for my role as the Orange Force Commander for Exercise Kangaroo 93, the first such exercise the ADF was to hold in the "Wet" and one which included considerable free play. A range of capabilities was to be tested including OTHR, the covert delivery of Special Forces elements on to a submarine from the air and an amphibious landing as part of the reinforcement of Blue Force in the area of operations.

Our reconnaissance of likely landing beaches took us to Melville Island to the north east of Darwin and as we walked on the beach we came across some children with their dog. With no warning a large crocodile suddenly emerged from the water, and taking fast and enormous steps closed on the group. Seconds later most of the dog was gone and back in the water with the crocodile. The children scampered off and all of us took on a wary respect for these creatures. I digress, but the memory floods back whenever I think about amphibious matters. To turn then, to the real purpose of my article.

Australia is acquiring two amphibious ships for the Australian Defence Force (ADF). The Canberra Class Amphibious Assault Ship, also known as a Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD), project will provide the Australian Defence Force with one of the most capable and sophisticated air-land-sea amphibious deployment systems in the world. They are the largest ships ever built for the Royal Australian Navy and, when completed, will be more than 230 metres long, 27.5 metres high and weigh around 27,500 tonnes.

Each ship can carry a combined armed battle group of more than 1100 personnel, 100 armoured vehicles and 12 helicopters and features a 40-bed hospital. The first LHD, named HMAS Canberra, is due to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2014 and the second ship, HMAS Adelaide, is planned to be commissioned in 2015.

The LHD has been designed with the shallowest possible draft to allow her to operate in secondary ports and harbours as well as manoeuvre tactically in the shallow waters common in the littoral regions. Maximum speed is in excess of 20 kn with a range of 6,000 nm, a sustained maximum speed of 19 kn under full-load conditions and an economic cruising speed of 15 kn with a range of 9,000nm. She can also reverse with full directional control at up to 8 kn.

These are formidable characteristics by any measure and I am aware that many other navies, including the Royal Navy, are looking at Australia with some envy as this new amphibious capability continues to take shape. The following diagram provides a size comparison with AWD, FFG and FFN ships. Living as I do near where the AWD is being built on the Port River I can readily appreciate the large size of the LHD.



The ship's roles are to:

- embark, transport and deploy an embarked force (Army in the case of the ADF but could equally be an allied Army or Marines), along with their equipment and aviation units, and
- carry out/support humanitarian missions.

Therefore the requirement is for a multipurpose ship able to operate in both these roles, but not necessarily simultaneously, owing to the differing configuration requirements. The development of these roles is being coordinated by 1 Division Headquarters located in Enoggera, a suburb of Brisbane. At the request of Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC), 1 Division also has the role to stand up a Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (DJHQ) for a Land based operation - this deployable headquarters is a joint formation comprising units of the Royal Australian

Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force as well as the Army.

The LHD's flight deck is 202.3 m long and 32 m wide (4750 m²), allowing the ship to operate a range of ADF rotary wing aircraft including:

- MRH90 helicopter
- CH-47 Chinook helicopter
- Blackhawk helicopter
- S-70 B-2 Seahawk
- Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter
- Romeo Seahawk



As I mentioned previously, this is a formidable capability and at this point things are going well in its development. I was impressed, when I visited 1 Division headquarters last September, at the work being done there although, disappointingly, there appears a reluctance on the part of Air Force to engage more fully with the project at this point in time. While embarked aircraft are rotary wing there are many other aspects of LHD air operations which will involve the RAAF.

The other concern I have is the capacity of Australian merchant shipping to provide logistic support to a task force built around the LHDs. Australia's intervention in East Timor in 1999 was a close run thing because we had no merchant shipping support immediately available. As the authors cogently argue in *Re-building the Australian Merchant Navy (2004)* Australia's defence policy must provide for the civilian sea and air logistic transport needs of the Australian Defence Force.

Brent Espeland
State President

Monthly Luncheons

Monday 3 March 2014

Speaker: Mr Guy Bowering

Topic: ***Close Air Support - Then and Now. An Australian Prospective.***

Wines presented to guest speakers are generously donated by SKYE CELLARS, 578 The Parade, Auldana 5072.

SKYE CELLARS has been operating for over 28 years. It is a family owned and operated business situated in the heritage listed Auldana Estate Winery in the Adelaide foothills.

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 neat casual. 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. 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 Friday 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.

MONDAY LUNCHEON

Dry Weather Ahead for a Period

Our Defence landlords have brought to the attention of Council that RUSI-SA requires a liquor licence if it is to sell alcohol at any of our functions at Keswick. This does not apply to our functions at the Mess but certainly applies when we hold our regular monthly presentations in the hall.

A Limited Club Licence is the applicable one as it is intended for "a non-profit association incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act". The application fee is \$504 plus advertising costs. There is no annual fee.

The Council is going through the process of drawing up a submission to gain such a licence and enable us to sell alcohol but the process will take some time. The submission has to be accompanied by two copies of plans of the proposed licensed premises (drawn to their specifications); a copy of the lease agreement and a letter of consent from the landlord if it is not a freehold property; a copy of our constitution and a list of all councillors plus minutes of the meeting approving the application. The fact that we have applied for a licence has to be advertised in The Advertiser and the local Messenger newspaper and an A2 sized notice placed on the outside of the premises.

Once all the documentation is submitted a hearing date will be set. The guidelines state that an application usually takes about six weeks from lodgement to determine, but it may be longer if an objection has been lodged.

Consequently we will restrict beverage sales at our monthly luncheons in the hall to non-alcoholic drinks until the licence is approved. So a bit of dry weather ahead for a while. We will keep you informed of progress.

Brent Espeland
State President

CENTENARY OF MILITARY AVIATION



The Centenary of Military Aviation 2014 Air Show will be held at Point Cook RAAF Base on 1 and 2 March 2014.

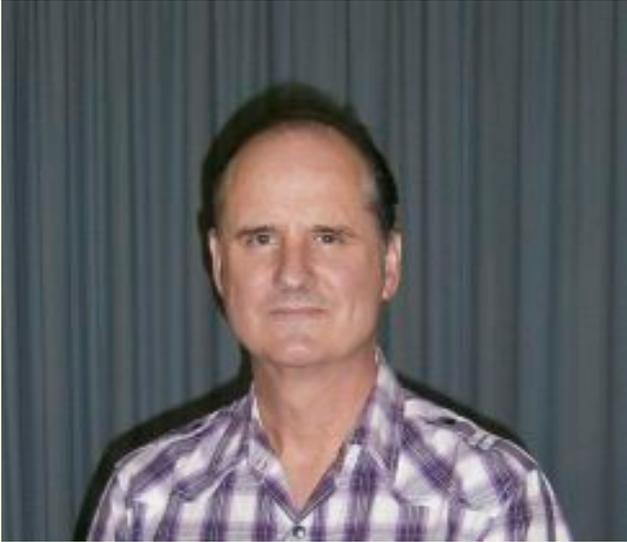
Entry on both days will be by pre-purchased tickets only. Details may be found at

<http://www.airforce.gov.au/Interact/Displays/Air-Shows/?RAAF-iBBIZGwstZ874cZM/cfL/Idc+u6Ro5VF>

Point Cook is the birthplace of military aviation in Australia and is the oldest continually operating military airfield in the world.

GUEST SPEAKER - DECEMBER

On 2 December 2013, Dr Alexander Krstic, Principal Consultant for Spectre Ballistic Solutions Pty Ltd and former DSTO Senior Research Scientist, spoke on *“Ballistics: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”*.



In the presentation’s accompanying Abstract, Alex touched on the political reality that the highest priority of every Nation-State is to maintain sovereignty over its own borders, i.e. ruling the waves, instead of waiving the rules, and it is from this premise that the various freedoms and quality of life might then have a chance to flow.

As an instrument of policy, weapons protect and defend the realm from external aggression, internal disorder and unlawful activity, and their use has been deemed both necessary and morally acceptable by ruling elites for centuries. However, at the other end of the spectrum, these same weapons have been, and continue to be used to dispense some of the worst crimes imaginable.

Chairman Mao Tse-Tung once said that *‘real power grows from the end of a gun’*, and as history notes, on 22 November 1963, John F. Kennedy was the second most powerful man in the world, whilst Lee Harvey Oswald was the first.

Alex began the presentation by introducing two of the most significant developments in handgun technology, the ‘cap and ball’ Colt 1860 Army revolver and its cased ammunition variant, the Colt 1873 Single Action Army, famously known as the Peacemaker.



Colt 1873 handgun

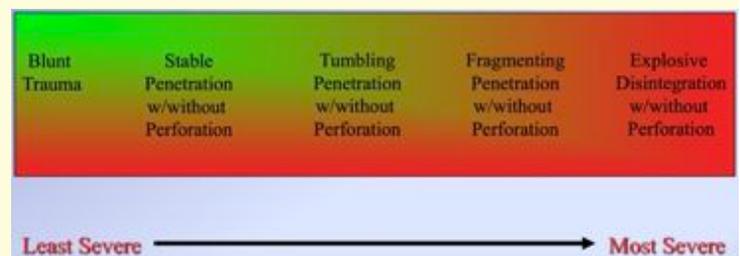
The presentation moved on to ‘pocket artillery’ such as the Glock 18C full auto pistol and FNP90, an array of cruise-ship must have gadgets, and SASR’s .338 Lapua Magnum, ultra long-range sniping capability that delivers surgical strike on man-sized targets at ranges well beyond 2,000 metres.



Australian Steyr EF88/F90 assault rifle

(See <http://rogueadventurer.com/2013/01/12/ef88-australias-next-generation-assault-rifle/>)

A discussion on ‘soft target’ terminal effects involving definitions for blunt and penetrating trauma then progressed onto the impact that a projectile’s structural integrity has on both temporary and permanent cavitation, as well as over-all injury severity.



The final part of the presentation addressed the enhanced effects of thermobaric and fuel-air explosives on soft targets, as well as the ‘hard target’ terminal effects of long-rod penetrators and shaped charge devices such as RPG shaped charge warheads and explosively formed projectiles (EFPs).

UNSUITABLE ARMS FOR AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS

It was recently reported in “Adelaide Now” that Australian soldiers are being sent to the front line armed with outdated Browning 9mm Hi Power handguns.

According to Deane-Peter Baker, lecturer at the University of New South Wales, the Browning handgun is outdated and should be replaced. The full article may be read at <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/soldiers-sent-to-frontline-with-antique-browning-pistols-university-of-new-south-wales-lecturer-says/story-fni6uo1m-1226802275047>



Browning handgun

DEMOCRACY

Dr John Bruni, Director of SAGE International recently posted the following item on the theme “Democracy is dead, long live democracy!”

As we rush into the 21st Century, one thing is becoming more and more apparent, and that is that the old ideals that were fundamental to great civilisations, no longer hold currency. Living in freedom doesn't have the same ring to it, unless it refers to the freedom to shop as an atomised consumer, unencumbered by weighty thoughts like politics. Indeed 'citizenship' itself seems redundant, like so many other words that used to hold sway for good or bad. Words like treason, betrayal, nationalism, faith and community – anachronisms all – now replaced by globalisation, consumerism, social media and the Internet. These latter points are what matter today; it is what mobilises the masses; what dulls their senses to what may very well be the inevitable – a world where power politics lacks power. Where the only power worth having is economic power. And in this world, a world of over 7 billion and counting, greed is not only good, it is the preserve of the

über rich who are detached from the banalities of ordinary life. Anecdotal evidence for this may very well be the formulation of new trade treaties such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). These trade treaties are not just multilateral experiments in 'free trade', they are rapidly becoming a new mode of global governance, where the state, the last vestige of public participation in politics (democratic or autocratic), becomes the servant to the new God of economics, driven not for the good of the people, nor out of a sense of fairness or justice, but for the good of the super wealthy and the market. Indeed, so overt is this, that if we take the TPP as prime example, we see that no government involved in this 'trade deal' is challenging the extreme secrecy surrounding its negotiations. What has been leaked to us via Wikileaks is that the TPP will be a monster like no other. It will force us to eat genetically modified food; it will rollback national health laws regarding the use of tobacco and it will increase the cost of medicines because international 'Big Pharma' is a conglomerate, acting in unison. It will in effect curtail national political power through the ability to challenge national laws created to protect

the public from harm. This may in effect pose a clear and present danger to the notion of national sovereignty itself.

With the support of modern technologies and the ever-present architecture of the surveillance state penetrating the stratum of society to tempt the unaware, the strong-willed as well as the gullible, the politically engaged, the bystanders and the apathetic, these new trade deals will manipulate our desires, thus keeping us chained to never-ending debt and create a web of dependence that only organised violence can break. And why? Because politicians of all persuasions, have given up on hope. Their incapacity to wield their power for the public good, says something about their ultimate corruptibility as much as their hopelessness. Perhaps the secrecy of the talks on the TPP & TTIP has something to do with the obvious international political malaise and lack of leadership.

For this, and other blogs on current issues, please visit the SAGE International site at

[http://
blog.sageinternational.com.au](http://blog.sageinternational.com.au)

RUSI OF SA LUNCHEON SPEAKERS IN 2013

4 February



Mr William Denny
Director Veterans SA
"The Role of Veterans SA and the Centenary of ANZAC"

4 March



Detective Superintendent
Graham Goodwin
SAPOL
"Police Intelligence"

8 April



Mr Greg Nettleton
Chief Officer SA
Country Fire Services
"The CFS - Fighting Another Kind of War"

6 May



Dr John Bruni
Director SAGE International
"Gender in Defence and Security Leadership"

3 June



Mr Anthony Stimson
Historian
"South Australia's First War: The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902"

1 July



Mr Reg Carruthers
A/Director Woomera
Test Range
"Demistifying the Woomera Prohibited Area"

5 August



Dr David Everitt
D/Chair RSL Care SA
Board
"The Role of the Veterans Health SA Advisory Council of SA"

2 September



AVM Brent Espeland
President RUSI-SA
"Five Seconds to Midnight - Whither RAAF Strategy and Doctrine"

8 October



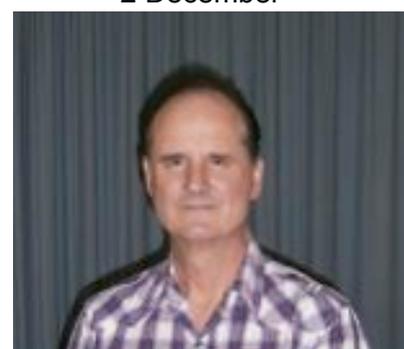
Dr Bruce Paix
MO, Flinders Medical Centre
"Using Operation Slipper to Discuss the Scope of Modern Medicine"

4 November



FLTLT David Hirst
"The ADF - The Strong Arm of Australian Foreign Policy"

2 December



Dr Alexander Krstic
Principal Consultant for Spectre
Ballistic Solutions Pty Ltd
"Ballistics: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"

Malcolm Simms, a member of the RUSI of SA, sent the following photograph of progress at Techport on the Air Warfare Destroyer currently being assembled there.



The photo shows that the Destroyer (left) now has its bow and mast installed. The other ship in the picture is a landing ship from Flinders Island which is being serviced.

Malcolm was enjoying a day sail on the *One And All* in January this year when this photograph was taken.

Adelaide's independent news, IN DAILY has reported that a \$2 million State Government project to expand DefenceSA's Common User Facility at Techport is a million dollars over budget and is about a year late.

A full report on the article by IN DAILY can be found at <http://indaily.com.au/news/2014/01/15/state-defence->

It was reported by the Australian Department of Defence in December 2013 that *HMAS Melbourne* intercepted drug carrying dhows in the Middle East.

Amphetamines worth over \$11 million were seized and destroyed during two separate boardings by Australian personnel in the Arabian Sea as part of the Combined Maritime Forces.

Commodore Daryl Bates, AM, RAN, the Australian Commander of Combined Task Force 150 commended *Melbourne's* efforts and the other nations involved, including the US Navy P-3C aircraft and Canadian ship *HMCS Toronto*.

Combined Task Force 150 is one of three principle task forces operated by Combined Maritime Forces, a 29 nation coalition group based in Bahrain.

HMAS Melbourne is deployed on Operation SLIPPER on patrol in the Middle Eastern Area of Operations under tasking to the Combined Maritime Forces. *Melbourne's* role, and the role of Combined Task Force 150, is to conduct maritime security and interdiction operations in support of deterring terrorism and promoting peace and security in the maritime regions of the Middle East.

For the complete article go to

<http://www.defence.gov.au/defencenews/stories/2013/dec/1218.htm>

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DEFENCE SCIENCE

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<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/dsto-app/id688012161?mt=8>



KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS - RHODERICK MILLER

Rhoderick Miller is a sometime casual lecturer at the University of South Australia and is engaged on research into the evolution of the strategic disposition of African states.

His area of particular interest is Central and East Africa, and he is currently writing on how the movement from "warriors" towards "soldiers" in Western and similar civilisations might be repeated across Africa.

Born in Zimbabwe (then Zimbabwe-Rhodesia) and raised in Harare, Rhoderick initially trained in public relations. Rhoderick moved to the United Kingdom in 2000. Between 2002 and 2009 Rhoderick completed a diploma in Politics and Government, a BSc (Hons) in Social Sciences, Social Policy and Politics, and a BA (Hons) with the Open University while working in university management and the not-for-profit sector in first London and later Scotland. In 2009-2010 Rhoderick earned a Masters with commendation in Strategic Studies at the University of Aberdeen, while tutoring undergraduates in the mechanics of International Organisations. After a year working as private secretary to the Chief Statistician in the Scottish Government, in 2012 Rhoderick's wife Miranda, as soil scientist, was offered a post-doctoral post in Adelaide.

Rhoderick and Miranda were married seven years ago.



RSL

***"THE LONG WAY HOME"*. The Sydney Theatre Company has embarked upon an historic endeavour with the ADF to produce this major new work, by Daniel Keene, taking the words and experiences of returned servicemen and women to create a unique, inspiring and unforgettable event.**

Servicemen and women will perform in the play as part of a rehabilitation and recovery program.

Created from first-hand accounts, *The Long Way Home* reflects the experiences of Australian servicemen and women deployed on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor as well as humanitarian and disaster relief, and border protection.

The RSL is the charity of choice for the production.

Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide 1 – 5 April 2014.

Book at BASS. <http://statetheatrecompany.com.au/home/whatson/shows2014/longwayhome/>

STATE ELECTION

BRIG R. Atkinson RFD MBBS (Retd), RUSI of SA Vice President, is one of three candidates for the Legislative Council forming the independent *Your Voice Matters* alliance.



Policies are founded on the Australian values of hard work, a fair go and supporting your neighbours. For full details of the candidates and their policies, see

<http://yourvoicematters.com.au/about/>

