



Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia

Newsletter

June 2013 Edition

Promoting National Security and Defence

Patron: His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AC, CVO, QC
Governor of Western Australia

President: Colonel Mike Brennan

Secretary: Commander Otto Pelczar, RFD, RD, RANR (ret)

RUSI of WA, Leeuwin Barracks, Riverside Road, East Fremantle
Postal Address: C/- Department of Defence, Locked Bag 5001,
Fremantle, WA, 6160

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JUNE	
27 June	Captain Angela Bond, RAN – Commanding Officer HMAS Stirling “ <i>Refining an Officer for Command - Linking Postings and Skills for the Ongoing Development of an Officer</i> ”
JULY	
25 July	Awaiting confirmation of topic
AUGUST	
22 August	7:00 - Annual General meeting 8:00 - Professor Sarah Percy UWA - “ <i>Mercenaries, Private Military Companies, and Private Security Companies</i> ”
The next Newsletter will be published on 1 July 2013 Copy Deadline 15 June 2013	

**Lecture - Captain Angela Bond, RAN – Commanding Officer HMAS Stirling
“Refining an Officer for Command - Linking Postings and Skills for the Ongoing
Development of an Officer”**

Angela Bond - A Captain's Voyage: from Echuca to Rockingham



For Angela Bond, a childhood spent splashing about on the banks of the Murray River would ensure a life-long connection to the water. As a young girl growing up in Echuca, her time was all but consumed by participation in water sports from swimming to kayaking, and it was eventually this love for all things aquatic that led a young Angela Bond her to take the plunge and join the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service in 1980.

Five years later, when legislation was amended to allow women to serve at sea, she answered the call of the ocean and transferred into the Royal Australian Navy. That move has taken Bond, now 'Captain Bond', all over the world, and most recently made her a trail blazer when, in December, she became the first female Commanding Officer of Australia's largest operational Naval base, HMAS *Stirling*.

The new role presents exciting new challenges for Captain Bond, who now has around 3,500 uniformed service members and Defence-civilian personnel under her Command. It's a career milestone she has long had her sights on.

"A command like this is a role that many Officers aspire to, and I'm very excited to be here for the next three years," said Captain Bond who is enjoying her fourth posting to HMAS *Stirling*, the Navy's Western Australian base.

"I have had a thirteen year association with *Stirling* over my thirty-two years in the Navy, and this is the position that I have always wanted. This is something I am really proud of," she said.

Captain Bond has experienced a busy start to her three year stint at the helm, which ramped up on the 28th of December when she hosted 500 people at a ceremony to farewell the Anzac Class Frigate HMAS *Toowoomba*, before the Australian warship set sail for an operational deployment to the Middle East.

"My main objective during this tenure of Command will be to offer the very best support possible to the Australian Sailors and Officers who are serving Australia at sea and on land, in operations around the globe," she said.

"The Navy prospers on teamwork, and a huge part of our mission here at *Stirling* is ensuring that the crews of the Navy's Western Australian based ships have access to all

the support services they need to keep them fighting fit and available to serve their nation,” said Captain Bond, whose home life is as busy as her work life.

The Mother of four has successfully juggled the demands of her professional life with those of her personal life, an achievement that she is particularly proud of.

“Like many people in the Navy, my family is my backbone, and I couldn’t do my job without them. My husband has taken on a lot of duties at home, which has allowed me to find a work life balance – which is an essential ingredient for long-term success,” said Captain Bond.

“I still have some family in Echuca too, and we love to visit when we can. My Mother Eileen is there, and so is my Brother, Niece and Nephew. On top of that, the Navy is also a family of sorts, and I hope to help foster an even greater sense of community here at *Stirling*.”

Looking back to her younger days, the proud Victorian had never dreamt of one day assuming one of the Royal Australian Navy’s most important leadership roles.

“I guess I have come a long way from my school days at St Joseph’s College and Echuca High School. Would I recommend a career in the Navy to today’s students? Absolutely!” said Captain Bond.

“We are getting some incredible new ships in the near future, and there’s some extraordinary opportunities on the horizon,” she said. “Dive in. You won’t regret it.”

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AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

The Government brought forward delivery of the new White Paper by one year from its original 2014 timetable to address a number of significant international and domestic developments influencing Australia’s national security and defence posture internationally and domestically that have emerged since the 2009 Defence White Paper.

The White Paper considers in detail the implications of the changing strategic circumstances in our region for Australia’s national security and defence, including:

- The ongoing strategic shift to our region, the Asia Pacific and the Indian Ocean Rim, particularly the shift of economic weight to our region;
- The US re-balance to the Asia Pacific and Australia’s enhanced practical cooperation with the US pursuant to our 60-year-old Alliance relationship;
- The ADF’s operational drawdown from Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands;
- Australia’s own Force [Force Posture Review](#)- the first in a quarter of a century; and
- The ongoing adverse effects of the Global Financial Crisis, which have continued to have a significant impact on the global economy.

The White Paper addresses in detail the implications of these developments for Australia’s national security and defence settings, It outlines Australia’s strategy for maintaining a highly capable and credible ADF, our contribution to the region’s long-term security, and

how Australia will seize the opportunities and manage the challenges in our strategic environment.

Together with the Government's [National Security Strategy](#) and [Australia in the Asian Century White Paper](#), the 2013 Defence White Paper provides a comprehensive strategy for assuring Australia's future security and prosperity in our diverse and challenging region.

[Accessing the 2013 Defence White Paper](#)

[The 2013 Defence White Paper is available online. \[PDF 3 MB\]](#)

Interested parties who wish to obtain a copy of the publication should download it from the link above.

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OPINION - AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE WHITE PAPER 2013

By: Andrew Phillips

Senior lecturer in International Relations and Strategic Studies at [University of Queensland](#)
<http://theconversation.com/defence-white-paper-super-sizing-australias-strategic-geography-for-the-asian-century-13962>

Australia's new Defence White Paper reflects a revolution in the way in which Australia thinks about its strategic geography. The "Indo-Pacific" has now decisively displaced the "Asia-Pacific" as defence planners' preferred term for describing our neighbourhood. India's robust economic growth and likely future military heft provides a powerful reason for this change. So too does the Indian Ocean's growing importance as a maritime superhighway connecting "factory Asia" with resource hubs including East Africa, the Middle East and North-Western Australia. But radically expanding Australia's strategic horizons also risks a loss of focus and spreading our resources too thinly.

The problem of priorities

The greatest danger of the Indo-Pacific concept lies in treating the Indian Ocean and East Asian regions as of equivalent strategic importance. While the resources trade linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans is growing in importance, the inter-state conflicts that most immediately impinge on Australia's interests remain concentrated in East and especially northeast Asia.

An increasingly poisonous Sino-Japanese relationship, and a nuclear armed North Korea, threaten stability in that part of Asia that continues to be the primary engine of Australian prosperity. Short of an Indo-Pakistani nuclear war, no security challenge west of the Strait of Malacca comes close to threatening Australia's interests as seriously as does the spectre of a Northeast Asian Great Power conflict. For Australia, the main security and economic game will remain centred on the Sino-Japanese-Korean triangle for at least the next decade. Thus the language we use to describe our strategic landscape should reflect this reality as faithfully as possible.

The problem of planning

In lumping the Indian and Pacific Ocean theatres together, the White Paper's authors conflate two very different environments. Since the 1970s, Australia has pursued a strategy in East Asia based on participation in America's "hub and spokes" system of bilateral alliances and engagement with an ASEAN-centred regional security architecture. The Indian Ocean presents a more complicated challenge for Canberra. It lacks a coherent US-centred alliance system for Australia to plug in to, or a local equivalent of the veritable "alphabet soup" of multilateral security fora now present in East Asia.

Australia must engage the Indian Ocean region, and the White Paper rightly prioritises turbo-charging bilateral partnerships with India and Indonesia as a means of achieving this goal. But a mere extension of Australia's tried and tested "dual track" technique of regional order-building from an Asia-Pacific to an Indian Ocean is likely to fail.

The problem of perception

Finally, the most recent White Paper has won praise for abandoning a needlessly provocative approach of casting China's rise as a potential source of regional instability. But Canberra's focus on the Indo-Pacific risks undermining this progress. This is because Australia-watchers in Beijing will be aware of the concept's early association with voices that advocated containing China through the formation of a league of maritime democracies including India, Australia, Japan and the United States. To be fair, most Indo-Pacific boosters – both within and outside of government – have consistently and correctly repudiated ambitions to contain China as being both unrealistic and counter-productive.

Nevertheless, in the likely event that the Indo-Pacific becomes a permanent part of Australia's defence and foreign policy, a special effort will be needed to privately reassure Beijing that the concept includes an inclusive vision of regional order, as opposed to a dog-whistle to partisans agitating for an anti-China "Axis of Good".

Australia's strategic environment is changing rapidly, and the White Paper's authors have shown considerable intellectual élan in trying to capture the changes now re-shaping our region. An exclusively East Asia-centric conception of Australia's strategic space increasingly sits uneasily with India's rise, a growing Indonesia and the undeniable importance of the Indo-Pacific "energy superhighway" to regional economic development.

Nevertheless, stretching Australia's strategic geography out to an Indo-Pacific scale carries dangers as well as opportunities – the concept requires further intellectual refinement. This is especially so in a time of tight budgets, and when Australia's political leadership cravenly refuses to educate the public on the necessity of funding the increased defence and *especially* diplomatic regional capabilities we urgently need to secure our safety and prosperity. Ultimately, unless finance and political leadership are provided, broadening Australia's strategic focus may merely further dilute our limited resources and compromise our capacity to shape our region in the Asian century.

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BLAMEY ORATION TRANSCRIPT AND PHOTOS

A Transcript of the 2013 Blamey Oration by Lieutenant General David Morrison AO, Chief of Army is available on the national RUSI website at the link below:

< https://www.rusi.org.au/documents/preview/1369867272_WA_2013_05_09_Morrison.pdf >.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 22 August in the Institutes Lecture Rooms, Leeuwin Barracks. Further details of Notices of Motion and Election of Councillors will appear in the July Newsletter. If you have yet to finalise your membership subscriptions for 2012 – 2013 your prompt attention would be appreciated so that Annual Accounts may be finalised.

Subscriptions are due on 1 July annually

Town - \$40, Country - \$20, Associate - \$10, Student \$10

Your subscription, and other charges can be electronically transferred to the RUSI.

BSB 803-205, Account No 20531718, and include your surname

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Governor of Western Australia

Vice Patrons: Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan, APM
Brigadier Stephen Coggin, CSC
Wing Commander David Turner
Captain A.F. Bond, RAN

President: Colonel Mike Brennan

Immediate Past President: Mr Don Kitchin

Vice Presidents: Mr Lance Scott; Captain Kevin Trent, OAM, RFD; Colonel Robert Mitchell CD

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