



The RUSI NSW Speaker for February 2020 is Ashley Townshend, United States Studies centre, University of Sydney. His topic is:

**AVERTING CRISIS: AMERICAN STRATEGY, MILITARY SPENDING AND COLLECTIVE DEFENCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC**

America's defence strategy in the Indo-Pacific is in the throes of a serious crisis. Faced with an ever more capable and assertive China, the US military urgently needs to refocus on the requirements of great power competition and rebuild its strength after years of costly conflict in the Middle East. Washington, however, appears unable to sufficiently focus its armed forces on this goal; while budget uncertainty and political instability has seen Congress fail to deliver a defence spending plan commensurate with the overall scope of US strategy. The result is an increasingly dangerous mismatch between America's strategic ends and available means. Presenting on a special report from the United States Studies Centre, Ashley Townshend will argue that in the absence of hard choices by US leaders to spend more or do less in the world, America will confront rising levels of strategic risk with destabilising consequences for the Indo-Pacific. To avert a deeper crisis, Australia must take steps to advance a strategy of collective defence to offset shortfalls in America's regional military position and bolster a favourable balance of power.

**Tuesday 25 February 2020 (Start Time: 1300), Anzac Memorial Auditorium Hyde Park South, Sydney**

An entry charge will be levied at the door of \$10 for Members, \$15 for Non-Members. Lectures are open to Members, their Guests and Visitors. For any enquiries, please contact the Office Manager on 8262-2922. Lectures at the Anzac Memorial are preceded by a Social Hour beginning at 12 noon, during which tea and coffee are served and a light sandwich lunch may be purchased for \$8.00. Sandwiches must be pre-ordered on 8262-2922 by noon on the Monday preceding the lecture.