



Royal United Services Institute
New South Wales

Newsletter

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Introduction

Welcome to the fourth issue of the electronic newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of NSW (RUSI NSW), the aim of which is to provide members, stakeholders, and other interested parties up to date news of our latest activities and events as well as selective information on defence issues.

There is no charge to receive the newsletter and recipients are not required to be a member of the RUSI of NSW. Invite your colleagues to receive this newsletter electronically - send them to the newsletters page on the RUSI NSW website: <http://www.rusinsw.org.au/Newsletters> where they can register their email contact details.

Latest News and Events

ADF Operations - Vice Admiral David Johnston - Chief of Joint Operations and Director General Air Operations briefed journalists on 5 November 2014

- **Operation Render Safe** in which the ADF has been working for a period in Bougainville removing a significant quantity of explosive remnants of war from the Second World War.
- The **Iraqi Security Forces** military campaign which continues to disrupt ISIL and is providing time for the Government of Iraq to build an inclusive government, and to regenerate its own military forces. The operations have included:

1. Airstrike operations by Super Hornets which have flown 89 sorties accruing some 663 flying hours.
2. The E7 Wedgetail airborne early warning and control aircraft which provides airspace command and control of all Coalition aircraft assigned to operations over Iraq, during the timeframe that it's airborne.
3. The provision or transfer of some 2.5 million pounds of fuel used for the refueling of aircraft on mission. Aircraft refueled now include our own RAAF Aircraft, French Rafal fighters, American Super Hornets and Marine Harrier aircraft.
4. A Special Operations Force is ready to deploy pending the conclusion of the negotiations around what the process is in order to meet the requirements of both the Government of Iraq and Australia.

- **HMAS Toowoomba** is at sea in the Gulf of Aden and is expected to become busy in that area as the amount of traffic that's moving through the Gulf of Aden down through the coast of Yemen and Somalia increases.
- The ongoing normal border operations in Australia
- Preparation of the ADF contribution to the national security support for the very important leaders' G20 meeting [Click Here for full transcript](#)



Tough decisions will be required to better align Australia's defence funding and capability

Tough decisions will be required to better align Australia's defence funding and capability, the secretary of the Department of Defence (DoD) has warned in the DoD's 2013-14 annual report. Dennis Richardson said a firm implementation plan will be an important part of a First Principles Review now under way. Its critical assessment of processes, structures, and all aspects of DoD work relating to efficiency and effectiveness will feed into a defence White Paper due by mid-2015. "It will almost certainly mean that 2015 will see significant change in DoD structures and the way we do our business," Richardson said. Given that the essential challenge set by government for the White Paper was to better align money and capability, "some necessarily tough decisions will need to be taken", the report added.

[Download full report here](#)



Institute News

- ❖ With the frequency of Council Meetings changed to bi-monthly, a special session of the Council was held on 10 November to consider strategies to maintain the Institute's membership which is declining.
- ❖ The Institute has made submissions to the Defence White Paper and the First Principles Review.
- ❖ Deceased Members It is with a deep sense of sadness that the passing of the following member is recorded: Flt Lt Dean Adrian Dousha

Upcoming RUSI NSW Events



Tuesday 18 November 2014 – Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at the SMSA Theatre (Level 1) 280 Pitt Street – the speaker will be Mr Peter Hartcher, Political and International Editor, the Sydney Morning Herald, and his subject will be “The 2014 Sir Herman Black Lecture: 2014 - the Year in Review”. The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested.

Tuesday 2 December 2014 - RUSI NSW Christmas Lunch at Victoria Barracks - Paddington. 12.00 noon pre-lunch drinks at the bar at your own expense. Lunch sit down at 12.30pm \$65.00 per person for 3 courses, set wines & tea or coffee

Payment options:

- ❖ Cheque/ Money order payable to "RUSI of NSW" post to RUSI NSW Locked Bag 18 Darlinghurst, NSW 2010
- ❖ Direct Debit: BSB 642-170 Acct No.: 654-679 - please provide your name and contact details to verify your booking.
- ❖ [Credit card via PayPal](#) note payments through PayPal will be \$68.00 per person.

Contact our office to confirm your place - (02) 9393 2325



Tuesday 16 December 2014 - Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at the SMSA Theatre (Level 1) 280 Pitt Street – the speaker will be Mr Colin Smith, Chief Customs Officer (Intelligence) New Zealand Customs Service and his subject will be “Border Security and Counter Terrorism: the New Zealand Experience”. Lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested. The Chatham House Rule will apply to the matters discussed on this occasion.



Tuesday 27 January 2015 – Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Mitchell Theatre, 280 Pitt Street – the speakers will be Commodore Michael Flynn and Colonel John Hutchison, MC, of the Royal United Services Institute, New South Wales, and the subject will be “The 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre as we observed it” The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested.



May 2015 - The Institute’s next Dialogue will be held in Sydney in May of next year. Venues are currently under consideration and planning for the event will soon commence for the proposed topic: “Indonesia – Australia’s most important regional strategic relationship”.



Upcoming Events by other Organisations



21 November 2014 - British Heraldry of The Great War – A presentation will be held at 6.30 pm at the SMSA Theatre (Level 1) 280 Pitt Street - the speaker will be David Vines, White Somerset Herald, College of Arms, London and entry is by gold coin. Refreshments will be available prior to the lecture (doors will open at 6pm) and a raffle will be held. For bookings and inquiries please contact the Hon. Secretary, Stephen Szabo by telephone call or text message on 0431 701 055 or by e-mail on secretary@heraldryaustralia.org RSVP required by Wednesday 19 November 2014

18 February 2015 – The Borella Ride – In 1915, Albert Borella simply started walking from Tennant Creek to Darwin to enlist in the Australian Army. Commissioned on the battlefield, he was recognized for his exploits with a Mention in Despatches, then the Military Medal, and finally the Victoria Cross. He survived the war. The Borella Ride will re-enact his journey in February next year and will include his grandson. More information can be obtained from the website <http://www.theborellaride.com.au>



Recent Past Events

9–14 September 2014 – A New Guinea Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force Centenary Battlefield Tour was undertaken by a number of the Institute's members and provided great background to the recent Seminar of the ANMEF.

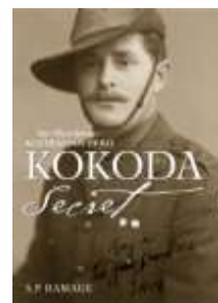
Tuesday, 30 September 2014 – The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) Centenary Seminar held at the SMSA Theatre was well attended and was a



resounding success thanks to the sterling efforts of the Institutes presentation team under the guidance of Lt Col Ken Broadhead. The panel of five naval and military historians outlined the background to war in 1914, naval operations in the Pacific in 1914, the raising and training of the ANMEF and its subsequent operations in New Guinea, and the aftermath. A record will be published in due course details of which will be provided by the Institute.

Representation at Events The Institute was represented at the following recent events:

- ❖ The launch by Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie of the book *Kokoda Secret: Ian Hutchison, Australian Hero* [written by Institute member Mrs Susan P. Ramage and published by Eora Press, Sydney] at the Royal Automobile Club, Sydney, on 9 October 2014.
- ❖ The Reserve Forces Day 2015 Launch at Government House, Sydney, on Saturday 25 October 2014.
- ❖ A reception to mark the 91st Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey at Parliament House, Sydney, on 28 October 2014.
- ❖ The farewell for Brigadier Allan Murray, Commander 8th Brigade, at Timor Barracks, Dundas, on 8 November 2014.
- ❖ The Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph, Sydney, on 11 November 2014.



General Defence News

Defence Operations

RAAF Base Woomera - The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown, AO, announced changes to the management of the Woomera range and its associated facilities. From January 2015, the entire Woomera capability will be termed the 'Woomera Range Complex', comprising both the Woomera Test Range and the newly established RAAF Base Woomera. RAAF Base Woomera will include the Woomera airfield, hangars, technical areas and Woomera village. The base is the recognised home of military Unmanned Aerial Systems testing in Australia.



2nd Cavalry Regiment farewells Darwin - The 2nd Cavalry Regiment, which has called Darwin home for the past 22 years, paraded for the last time at Robertson Barracks closing a proud chapter in the unit's and region's history. Some 200 soldiers paraded before gathered dignitaries, colleagues, family and friends on the Regiment's parade ground on 31 October, before symbolically marching off to Townsville. The 2nd Cavalry Regiment will take up residence at Lavarack Barracks as the new Armoured Cavalry Regiment within Army's 3rd Brigade. With Tanks, Australian Light Armoured Vehicles and Armoured Personnel Carriers, the Armoured Cavalry Regiment offers a level of striking power, mounted reconnaissance and protected mobility. During its time in the Northern Territory, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment has supported most of Australia's significant deployments.



Heron to be retained to keep Australia's unmanned aerial capability – The Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston has announced the return of a Heron Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) to Australia as part of a plan to ensure RAAF pilots maintain the skills to operate unmanned aerial systems until the introduction of the Triton. "The Heron is a proven capability – providing 'eyes in the sky' for our troops in the Middle East," Senator Johnston said. "The retention the Heron following their withdrawal from Afghanistan later this year will ensure Australia remains at the forefront of this advancing technology. This is prudent planning for possible future defence scenarios." "The retention of two Heron aircraft will help create a robust development program to ensure RAAF is well prepared for the Government's investment in the MQ-4C Triton," Senator Johnston said.



Australia's first MH-60R arrives by C-17 - The first of the Royal Australian Navy's Lockheed Martin/Sikorsky MH-60R combat helicopters has been delivered in-country from NAS Jacksonville, Florida, where squadron personnel have been training. A RAAF Boeing C-17 strategic transport delivered the MH-60R back to HMAS Albatross in Nowra, New South Wales on 14 October, ahead of air trials that are set to take place from the base over the next month. The A\$3 billion US Foreign Military Sales acquisition of 24 of the shipborne helicopters saw the first two accepted in the USA by Australia in December 2013. The new fleet will replace Australia's existing Sikorsky S-70 Seahawks, and the entire fleet is expected to be delivered by 2017.



Operation RENDER SAFE 2014 - An Australian Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team has made safe more than 6000 kilograms of World War II munitions during the first week of Operation RENDER SAFE 14 in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. Operation RENDER SAFE is an ongoing Australian Defence Force commitment to the people of the South West Pacific and this year is being conducted with assistance from EOD experts from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and Solomon Islands. Operation RENDER SAFE 2014 is the ADF's enduring commitment to the removal of Explosive Remnants of War which continue to pose a potential danger to communities across the South West Pacific. ADF personnel are participating at the invitation of the Autonomous Bougainville Government, and with the approval of the PNG National Government. The Operation will conclude in November.



Defence Exercises

Exercise Lumbas 2014. The Royal Australian Navy and Philippine Navy military exercise, Lumbas 2014, has drawn to a close in October, after two weeks of intensive training. Armidale Class Patrol Boat, HMAS *Larrakia*, travelled to Davao, in the Philippines for the annual exercise, which focused on maritime security and interdiction operations. Activities focused on joint civil, military and maritime law enforcement operations. This included boarding party scenarios, communications exercises, personnel exchanges and replenishments at sea. *Larrakia* is undertaking a six week South East Asia deployment, to strengthen regional alliances and promote security cooperation.



Exercise Bersama Lima 2014. Exercise Bersama Lima 2014 concluded on 22 October with Australian Defence Force personnel joining Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) partners at a closing ceremony at Changi Naval Base in Singapore. The FPDA is the longest-standing multilateral arrangement in South East Asia and has maintained relevance in the contemporary security environment. Bersama Lima is one of the most significant exercises within the FPDA series of activities. The five nations of the FPDA — Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom — worked



together closely during the two week exercise to successfully defend against a fictitious security threat in and around the Malay Peninsula. Malaysia will host the next Exercise Bersama Lima in 2015.

Exercise KOWARI - Exercise KOWARI, the first land-based trilateral military exercise between Australia, China and the United States, concluded in October marking an important milestone in defence cooperation between the three countries. Based out of Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin, the exercise involved 10 participants from each country. The exercise included field training and survival tests in remote inland and coastal areas designed to provide participants with an understanding of the basic principles, procedures, techniques and equipment that can enhance survival prospects in a harsh Australian environment. Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston said Exercise KOWARI provided a template for regional defence cooperation into the future. "Exercise KOWARI is an example of how Australia can encourage deeper habits of defence cooperation and trust across the region," Senator Johnston said.



Defence Industry

Risk Design Study for new frigates to Navantia - Navantia (a Spanish naval and military technology company) has received a risk reduction design study contract from the Australian Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) for the SEA 5000 programme for new frigates. The company will carry out management and coordination activities at its offices in Adelaide, Australia. Under the agreement, which will last for approximately nine months, Navantia will analyse the impact of deployment of the CEA Australian aerial radar and SAAB command and control system on the F-105 frigate, as well as specific Australian requirements. The contract marks a step forward in the acquisition programme of future frigates, which includes the construction of eight vessels in Australia for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) to replace the RAN's Anzacs-class vessels from 2024 onwards. Expected to have a displacement capacity of 7,000t, the new frigates will be designed for anti-submarine warfare, with the ability to operate against air, sea-surface and land targets.



First LHD farewelled from Melbourne - Australia's first Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ship, NUSHIP *Canberra* was farewelled from Melbourne when she departed for Sydney on 29 October. NUSHIP *Canberra* departed BAE Systems Williamstown shipyard en route to her Sydney homeport. Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) Chief Executive Officer Mr Warren King said this milestone represents the excellent collaboration between the DMO and BAE Systems Australia, as preparations now begin for NUSHIP *Canberra*'s handover to the Royal Australian Navy. "The voyage from Melbourne to Sydney will mark a milestone for the DMO by delivering the first ship of this kind to the Royal Australian Navy,"



Mr King said. “The hard work and dedication of all involved has been instrumental in this project being successful.” The DMO accepted NUSHIP *Canberra* earlier this month and the ship is expected to arrive in Sydney in late October where she will berth at Garden Island before commissioning later this year. Work continues to progress on the second LHD, NUSHIP *Adelaide*, and contractor sea trials are expected to commence in second quarter 2015.

International

Assistant Minister for Defence and Chief of the Defence Force meet Singaporean counterparts at Shoalwater Bay Training Area

- On 8 November The Assistant Minister for Defence, Stuart Robert, met with Singaporean Second Minister for Defence, Mr Chan Chun Sing, to observe Singaporean unilateral training Exercise WALLABY and its bilateral component, Exercise TRIDENT, at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland. Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, and his Singaporean counterpart,



Lieutenant General Ng Chee Meng, also took part in the visit. Exercise WALLABY is Singapore’s major annual unilateral training activity in Australia and involves up to 5,000 Singapore Armed Forces personnel. “Australia understands how important Singaporean unilateral training in Australia is for the preparedness of the Singapore Armed Forces,” Mr Robert said. “We are pleased to support Singaporean training such as in Exercise WALLABY and at RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia and at the Army Aviation Centre Oakey in Queensland.”

Ministers arrived at the exercise by helicopter, which landed on the Republic of Singapore Navy’s Landing Ship *RSS Persistence*, at Shoalwater Bay to participate in the exercise. Exercise TRIDENT includes Australian Defence Force and Singaporean Armed Forces working together in an amphibious exercise based on a conventional operations scenario.

F-35 completes first carrier landing - The Lockheed Martin F-35C Joint Strike Fighter has made a successful trap onboard USS *Nimitz*. “F-35C completes first carrier landing,” the U.S. Navy’s twitter feed announced on Monday 5th November. Two of the single-engine stealth fighter are scheduled to conduct sea trials onboard the nearly 100,000-ton warship this week to prove the jet can operate safely on the flightdeck.

[Link to USNI News and exciting video](#)



About the RUSI of NSW

Founded as the United Service Institution of New South Wales in 1888, the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales today is one of seven self-governing constituent bodies of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia.



The aim of the Institute is to promote informed debate on, and to improve public awareness and understanding of, defence and national security. To this end, the Institute:

- contributes to the national debate on defence and security policy;
- publishes a highly-respected professional journal;
- arranges regular lectures and occasional seminars on military history, defence and security issues;
- organises visits to defence and security establishments;
- operates a public library, specialising in defence and security literature dating from the early 19th century to the current day; and
- conducts social and networking functions for members.

The Institute's rooms and the Ursula Davidson Library are on Level 20, Defence Plaza, 270 Pitt Street, Sydney – very close to Town Hall and Museum railway stations. Tea/coffee and biscuits are available without charge and members and visitors are encouraged to use the facilities for reading or research, or just as a base when visiting the city of Sydney. However, prior to visiting for the first time please contact the Office Manager to arrange access to the Office. For additional information please visit our website at www.rusinsw.org.au or call the Office at (02) 93932325.