



RUSI NSW

# Newsletter

Issue No. 103

March 2025

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Major General J. S.  
Richardson CB, Founder  
of RUSI NSW

Located in the  
Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park  
South, Sydney NSW 2000

PO Box 844, DARLINGHURST  
NSW 1300

[www.rusinsw.org.au](http://www.rusinsw.org.au)

[office@rusinsw.org.au](mailto:office@rusinsw.org.au)

Telephone: (02) 8262 2922

Welcome to this month's Newsletter of the *Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies NSW, Inc.* 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.

## ***Tuesday 25 March 2025 Lecture: Seabed Lines of Communication Security***

Speaker: **Dr Samuel Bashfield**

Research Fellow, Security & Geopolitics, Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne

Subject: ***Seabed Lines of Communication Security***

**Lecture at the Anzac Memorial Auditorium, Hyde Park South, Sydney.**

**About the speaker:** Samuel Bashfield is an Australian expert on Indo-Pacific security and defence policy with ten years experience as an author, researcher, consultant and project manager, delivering insights and dialogue on our most pressing national security challenges. Sam speaks and publishes on national security and defence issues in leading international disciplinary journals and influential media outlets. In his current role as Research Fellow in Defence at the University of Melbourne's Australia India Institute, he studies and interprets geopolitical and defence trends across the Indo-Pacific, with a particular focus on India, the Indian Ocean Region, maritime security and seabed issues.

He has a particular interest in assessing how Australia and its partners respond to global geopolitical developments, new technologies and changing power distributions. Sam regularly presents at industry events, government dialogues and to media to help inform debate and improve policy outcomes. Sam was also a Non-Resident Fellow with the Royal Australian Navy's Sea Power Centre and has completed fellowships with the Australian War College, the Observer Research Foundation (India) as well as the Pathfinder Foundation (Sri Lanka). He was a Raisina Young Fellow in 2024.

Sam has worked at the Australian National University, University of Sydney, and at the Australian Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. He also consults government and industry clients on a range of defence and national security issues. He is currently working on two book projects - the first examining seabed critical infrastructure protection and the second analysing Cold War-era Indian Ocean strategic dynamics, with a focus on the British Indian Ocean Territory and Anglo-US relations.

Sam gained a PhD in national security policy at the Australian National University's National Security College where he also attained a master's degree. He has a Bachelor of Arts (Global) degree with first class honours from Monash University. *Source: Australia India Institute*



Image source: Australia India Institute

**RUSI NSW Members: FREE admission, Non-members: \$15,**

**ADF serving personnel in uniform: FREE admission.**

**Sandwiches \$10, to be pre-ordered when booking via our link below, are served at 12.00am.**

***Book and pay by the Friday before the event or pay at the door.***

**To order and pay via credit card (PayPal) - <https://rusinsw.org.au/site/ActPay.php>**

Or send an email to our office: [office@rusinsw.org.au](mailto:office@rusinsw.org.au) or call: (02) 8262 2922 with your order detailing the name of attendees and any sandwich orders with details of your deposit of money **via EFT** to our account.

## **Rear Admiral Anthony Lancaster Hunt, AO Retd. Royal Australian Navy**

**14 July 1938 - 5 March 2025**

**President of Royal United Services Institute NSW 1998 – 2001**

Anthony "Tony" Hunt joined the Royal Australian Naval College in 1954. As a junior officer under training, he served in RAN and RN ships. After graduating from Melbourne University in 1961 as a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, he undertook further professional training in the United Kingdom and qualified as a Weapons Electrical Engineer.

He served in a number of naval aviation postings including Squadron and Air Group Technical Officer (both at the RAN Air Station at Nowra and in HMAS Melbourne), Staff Officer (Avionics) to the Australian Naval Attache (Washington) and Air Engineering Officer at HMS Daedalus in the United Kingdom.



Following service as the Weapons Electrical Engineering Officer (WEEO) of HMAS Duchess, he was promoted Commander in 1972. He was subsequently promoted Captain in 1978 while serving as the WEEO of HMAS Melbourne and was then posted as Superintendent of Aircraft Maintenance and Repair (1979) and then as the Navy Helicopter Project Director (1980-85) responsible for introducing the new Seahawk helicopter into RAN service.

He was promoted Commodore, in August 1984, and then served as Director General Equipment Projects (1985), Deputy Chief of Naval Materiel (1985-87) and Director General of Naval Programs and Resource Management (1987-89). In 1985, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for service to the Royal Australian Navy, particularly as the Helicopter Project Director.

He was promoted Rear Admiral in August 1989 and served as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff - Materiel until January 1993 during which time he was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO), in June 1991, for service to the Royal Australian Navy, particularly as the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff-Materiel. Tony Hunt's final appointment in the RAN was as the Flag Officer Naval Support Command commencing on 1 February 1993. Rear Admiral Hunt retired from the RAN in mid-1995.

Rear Admiral Hunt was a member of the Royal United Services Institute NSW Council from 1995 until 2013, serving as Vice President from 1996 until 1997 and again from 2004 until 2006, and was RUSI NSW President from 1998 to 2001. He maintained an active interest in RUSI NSW events and activities in subsequent years.

A life dedicated to family, duty, honour and country.

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## *New Members*

### *A Special Welcome is extended to our new members*

**Philip Van der Kolff, Brian Robert Hore, Roger Simon Murray, Andrew James Gray, And Sebastian Brasington**



The Editor apologises for miss-naming new members: **William Sutherland** and **Tracy Sutherland** in our previous newsletter.

## *Message from RUSI NSW President*

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, New South Wales.

### **New Vice Patron**

I am pleased to announce and, on behalf of our members, warmly welcome **Major General Ana Duncan, AM, CSC**, Commander Forces Command, as a Vice Patron of RUSI NSW.

Having joined as a reservist in Adelaide University Regiment before undertaking full-time officer training at Duntroon, Major General Ana Duncan has had a distinguished career as an Australian Army officer, with over 30 years' experience in leadership, management and national security.

As a Signals officer her regimental experience was forged within the 1st, 3rd and 17th Brigades, and in the 1st Division. She commanded the 1st Signal Regiment, which included command of Force Communication Unit X in the Middle East. She has also commanded troops in Timor Leste and in the Solomon Islands.

From 2018-2019 Major General Duncan was the lead operational strategist for the military coalition to defeat Daesh and the Senior National Representative of Australian troops in Iraq and Kuwait. In 2020 she was appointed Commandant of The Royal Military College of Australia and was Director General of Army Leadership from 2020-2022.

Major General Duncan has held senior appointments in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and in the Department of Defence, including, most recently, as the inaugural Commander of the Australian Defence Force's Cyber Command, responsible for the extended design and development of military cyber power.



As Commander of the Australian Army's Forces Command, based in Victoria Barracks Sydney, she oversees Army's training and readiness of its people and teams for all its military tasks, including high-end warfighting.

We are delighted to have Major General Duncan join us as a Vice Patron.

### Sir Peter Cosgrove Lecture

We were honoured to host **General (Retd) the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK AC (Mil) CVO MC**, former Chief of the Defence Force, Governor General of Australia and Commander of the Australian-led International Force East Timor (INTERFET), as our guest speaker at February's Luncheon, marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the INTERFET mission. The lecture was well attended by 94 members and guests.

To mark the occasion, we were fortunate to once again have on temporary display in our library, several paintings and etchings by the Australian Official War Artist for INTERFET, Wendy Sharpe, the first female war artist commissioned by the Australian War Memorial since the Second World War and was attached to the Australian Army History Unit at Dili in East Timor.



### Fifth International Defence and Security Dialogue.

In June, in conjunction with RUSI – Australia, RUSI NSW will host and conduct the Fifth **International Defence and Security Dialogue**. The theme and working title for this significant event, which is to include a keynote speaker to deliver the Blamey Oration, is **“Recruit and Retain – Challenges in sustaining a Defence Force in a Modern Democracy.”**

The ADF is facing serious workforce challenges, and it struggles to meet its recruitment and retention targets. The 2023 Defence Strategic Review (DSR) (and corresponding government response) identified a number of urgent initiatives and recommendations that Defence must undertake to improve its capability. Much of the subsequent commentary overwhelmingly focused on the traditional capability and force design aspects of Defence. However, in an equally weighted recommendation, the DSR also recognised that Defence is facing significant workforce challenges and recognised the need to improve recruitment, retention and the use of the reserve workforce. Despite its importance, it is fair to observe that this topic has not garnered the same level of commentary and analysis outside of the offering of retention bonuses. An aim of the dialogue is to shine a light on some of these issues; to improve public awareness and, looking to overseas experience in comparable modern democracies, to explore the implications for Australia, generate informed debate, and explore possible responses in the Australian context.

We are in the process of finalising a panel of eminent speakers, including a mix of senior ADF officers, parliamentary and international representatives and academics, to examine and hopefully stimulate debate on this complex, yet critical, issue.

The one-day event will be held in the Theatre of Parliament House in Sydney, commencing at 8.30 am, with the Dialogue being officially opened at 8:45 am by our Patron, **Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC**, Governor of New South Wales. Please mark your diaries and make every effort to attend.



### Leave of Absence

I will be overseas in April and May, during which time RUSI NSW will be capably led, and enquiries can be directed to, our Vice Presidents: Ron Lyons and Theodora Fox.

### Kim Turner

## ***RUSI NSW Future Events***

All are welcome – [for more information and booking links see our Activities page](#)

Tuesday 29 April 2025 (Start Time: 1300), Anzac Memorial Auditorium - Lecture  
Speaker: To be Confirmed Subject: **To be Confirmed**



Tuesday 27 May 2025 (Start Time: 1300), Anzac Memorial Auditorium - Lecture  
Speaker: Ms **Angela Gilham**, CEO, Maritime Industry Association Limited  
Subject: **Australia's Merchant Fleet Review**

Friday 27 June 2025 (All Day Event), Parliament House Auditorium Macquarie Street, Sydney  
FIFTH INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE Speakers: To be Confirmed  
Subject: **Recruit and Retain - Challenges in Sustaining a Defence Force in a Modern Democracy**

Tuesday 29 July 2025 (Start Time: 1300), Anzac Memorial Auditorium - Lecture  
Speaker: Major **General Tim Ford** AO (Ret'd) Subject: **United Nations Update**

Tuesday 26 August 2025 (Start Time: 1300), Anzac Memorial Auditorium -Monthly Lecture  
Speaker: Ms **Carrol Miller**, UDL Librarian  
Subject: **The Story of the Painting of an Australian WW1 Nurse by Australian War Artist Fred Leist in 1919**

Tuesday 30 September 2025 (Start Time: 1300 - All Afternoon Event), Anzac Memorial Auditorium  
FORUM SESSION Speaker: To be Confirmed  
Subject: **Grey Zone Warfare**

## ***Defence Innovation News: March 2025***



### **Starlink declined in favour of Amazon alternative**

NBN has opted to use the Amazon alternative Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite network in preference to Elon Musk's Starlink, to provide satellite personal communications in regional and remote areas. The implications of this selection are not yet clear.

[ARTICLE LINK](#)

### **Research and Development Review discussion paper issued**

The major review of R&D in Australia being conducted by Tesla Chair Robyn Denholm has issued a comprehensive discussion paper inviting comments, closing date 11<sup>th</sup> April.

[ARTICLE LINK](#)

### **As space technology continues to evolve, its integration with defence systems brings both immense opportunities and complex challenges**

Ahead of her session at the [Australian Space Summit & Exhibition 2025](#), Dr Joni Sytsma, Chief Technology Officer at the University of Southern Queensland iLAUNCH Program, discusses the growing synergies between space and defence, emphasising the role of dual-use technologies within the sector.

[ARTICLE LINK](#)

### **Navigating the intersection of space and defence**

The Space Connect newsletter has reported an insightful article by Arabella Walton that is worthy of thoughtful consideration. **Synergies between space & defence:**

“All advanced technologies are inherently dual-use, and space technology is no exception,” Dr Sytsma told Space Connect.

As the defence sector drives innovation in space technologies, these advancements often extend beyond military use. Dr Sytsma explains that “additional use cases that start as bespoke to the defence industry, such as non-earth imaging (NEI), can trickle down into civilian applications once they become available on the market.”

“Many of the capabilities required for space technology are inherently useful in other areas, such as power management and generation, advanced telecommunications, and imaging.” However, she states that “the challenges of defence environments, such as austere and disconnected use cases, are heavily leveraged from satellites, as they are similarly disconnected telecommunication systems.”

“A paradigm shift in satellite telecommunications has occurred over the past decade with a decided move away from geosynchronous orbit satellites that cost a billion dollars to develop, half billion dollars to launch, and over a decade to mature for a 30-year lifespan.” Dr Sytsma explained that these “are being replaced by low earth orbit satellites costing less than 1/4 of a million and lasting less than five years.”

Low Earth orbit satellites, including those from Starlink, are set to replace expensive, slow-to-market geosynchronous satellites due to their lower cost and faster deployment. “As these capabilities extend into the civilian sphere, Defence has certainly been right there to take notice and utilise these new low earth orbit capabilities.” “This gives defence operators more options in providing operational sitcoms, and that will inevitably increase the resilience of overall capabilities,” she said. (The article goes on to discuss the implications and challenges of using dual-use technologies

[ARTICLE LINK](#)

### **The Australian Space Summit & Exhibition 2025**

Now in its fourth consecutive year, the [Australian Space Summit & Exhibition](#) will gather the sector’s most influential decision makers across the public and private sphere, hosted in partnership with Principal Partner Space Centre Australia. The inspiration session at the summit will share insights from successful programs that bridge students with real-world experience.

The transformative event will be held on 27 and 28 May at the ICC, Sydney.

[ARTICLE LINK](#)

### **DeepSeek Artificial Intelligence (AI) application**

China’s release of DeepSeek AI including the open-source application software has overturned the AI world business scene and is likely to accelerate the use of AI in everything we do. The world is gradually coming to terms with this but there is much more to be done until we can accept the uncertainties of increased AI usage.

[ARTICLE LINK](#)

By **Christopher Skinner** RUSI NSW Board Member +61414990834 [cjskinner@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cjskinner@optusnet.com.au)

## Special Interest Group on Strategy

### Current Geostrategic Issues



### Current Geostrategic Issues

**Please note:** This monthly update presents the geostrategic situation as at 10 March 2025. Please be aware that these are rapidly changing events.

This report covers the following topics:

- Australia
- USA
- Russia-Ukraine War
- Gaza
- The West Bank
- The Pacific

Edited by **John Howells RUSI NSW**  
in **David Leece's absence**

Chair, RUSI Special Interest Group on Strategy  
10 March 2025

[LINK TO SIG PODCASTS](#)

### The SIG on Strategy seeks to:

- enhance members' knowledge of strategy, including the evolution of strategic thought
- maintain members' awareness of current geo-strategic issues
- undertake research on nominated issues of current strategic interest with a view to publishing the findings and, when appropriate, providing advice to government.

Summaries of current strategic issues and links to online resources which elaborate on them are circulated by email to members several times each month and are discussed by members. When members indicate an interest in studying a specific topic, they are helped to do so and to publish their findings. The extent of a member's involvement in the SIG, however, is a matter of personal choice.

Any member of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (in any state) who has an interest in defence, national security and foreign affairs at the strategic level, may apply to join the Strategy SIG. If you would like to join, please advise the Institute's office:  
email - [office@rusinw.org.au](mailto:office@rusinw.org.au) or telephone: (02) 8262 2922.

## News for

### The Young Ones, NEWBIES, GEN-X GEN-Y GEN-Z & GEN-i



ADF CAREERS

<https://www.adfcareers.gov.au/>

<https://www.adfcareers.gov.au/events>

Pass on this important tool to anyone you know thinking of their career choices. It includes information session videos and meet events.



[ADF CAREERS FACEBOOK](#)

## Recent RUSI NSW Lectures – Catch up online



Recent lectures were recorded and can be viewed on [YouTube](#) or our [Videos Page](#)



RUSI of NSW Event 28 January 2025

Speakers: **Fabian Cohnen**, Q&A Discussion included

Subject: [Selected History of the Rhodesian Conflict 1970-79](#)



RUSI of NSW Monthly Lecture 26 November 2024

Speakers: **George Brandis**, Q&A Discussion included

Subject: [Sir Hermann Black Memorial Lecture - 2024 The Year in Review](#)



USI-ACT Annual Dinner Presentation 15 November 2024

Speaker: Air Chief Marshal Sir **Angus Houston** AK AC AFC Retd

Subject: [ANZUS, AUKUS and the 2025 US Administration Change](#)



RUSI of NSW Monthly Lecture 29 October 2024

Speakers: **Thomas Hamer**, Q&A Discussion included

Subject: [Clouded Views - data protection in today's electronic world](#)



Monthly Lecture 24 September 2024

Speaker: Air Vice Marshal **Glen Braz** AM CSC DSM, Q&A Discussion included

Subject: [Development and Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles \(UAVs\)](#)



Monthly Lecture 27 August 2024

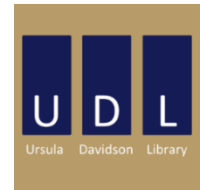
Speakers: **Jennifer Parker** and **Adam Lockyer**, and Panel Discussion

Subject: [The Surface Fleet Review - Strategic and Practical Implications](#)



## The URSULA DAVIDSON LIBRARY

The UDL established in 1888 holds an estimated 25,000 items specialising in military history, national security areas as the Crimea War, transcripts of the American Civil War and the Russo-Japanese war. A complete set of rare Unit Histories from WW1 and WW2 is also held.



### Reading Lists

The library brains have created reading lists to highlight the great resources we have.

Topics include: [Anzac Day](#); [Blamey](#); [Iran 1941 - 1989](#); [RAN](#); [Zulu Wars](#); [Ukraine, Russia, and the former Eastern Bloc](#); [Israel & Palestine](#)

We will add more topics to our library webpages over the next few months – so watch this space.

[https://www.rusinsw.org.au/site/Reading\\_Lists.php](https://www.rusinsw.org.au/site/Reading_Lists.php)

All RUSI NSW members can borrow from the library.

Researchers are welcome and are advised to call ahead to book time with one of our librarians.



### Book Reviews

RUSI NSW provides book reviews of items held in the library. These reviews can be searched on our website.

[Recent RUSI NSW Book Reviews Link](#)

## The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies – Australia

### THE JAVELIN COLLECTION



We invite our members, our readers and the wider community to explore our monograph collection - RUSI-Australia's Javelin Collection.

We invite our readers to contribute to RUSI- Australia's Javelin Monograph Collection, by providing non-fiction essays on subjects relating to defence and security in general, and in particular, the defence and security of Australia.

We are looking for well-researched original papers with a clear, logical narrative, which are highly readable and a valuable source for researchers, roughly 2,500 - 5,000 words in length. Subjects chosen may include: strategy and tactics; military history from all periods and theatres of war; first person recollections of major events, whether while serving in the armed forces, or as a civilian. The Ursula Davidson Library, housed in the RUSI NSW rooms at the Anzac Memorial in Sydney, is an excellent resource for those writers who require more information on topics they wish to write.

<https://www.rusinsw.org.au/site/Monographs.php>

[CONTACT THE EDITOR](#)

## News and Events from Other Organisations

### Applications Open: 2025 Anzac Memorial Veteran Artist in Residence program



Applications are now open for the 2025 Anzac Memorial Veteran Artist in Residence program. The Residency offers contemporary veterans with established creative practices the opportunity to engage with the Memorial and the broader community through an artwork or project. The guest veteran artist (or group) will have a unique chance to explore the Memorial's architecture, history and artefacts as part of a creative project that reflects on and interprets Australian military experience, the Anzac Memorial and/or memorialisation.

We welcome project proposals across a broad variety of creative formats including:

- Music composition
- Written works such as poetry and prose
- Performance and theatrical work
- Film, animation and video
- Visual art, including painting, graphic art and photography

Applications close Monday 24 March 2025 at 5pm.

[Full details here](#)

Image courtesy of Domenic Bartolo, Anzac Memorial Veteran Artist in Residence 2024.



## News and Events from Other Organisations

### Military History Society

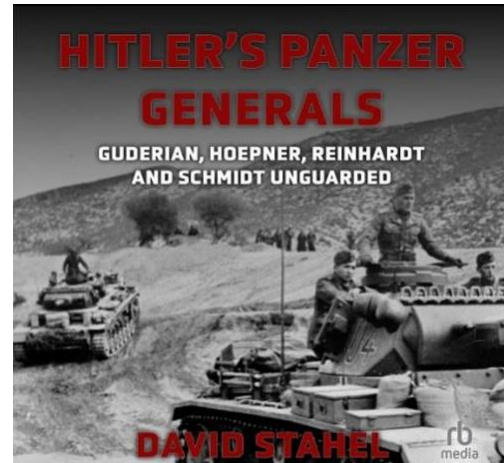


Military History Society  
of New South Wales Incorporated

### **Hitler's Panzer Generals : Guderian, Hoepner, Reinhardt and Schmidt Unguarded** A Public Lecture by **David Stahel**

Saturday, 5 April 2025, 10:30AM-11:30AM, Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park

The German panzer generals of the Second World War have been the subject of great historical interest. Much has been written about their campaigns and military decision making; however, we know much less about the men themselves – their private thoughts, personal relationships, and ability to cope with the pressures of command.



[Link to the Information Page](#)

## Ways to connect with RUSI NSW and build your network

Roll your mouse over these icons below to connect



## Have you considered making a bequest to the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, NSW?



### RUSI NSW is asking for your help



Image by [WikiMedia Commons](#)

As you may know the Institute was established in 1888 and has provided services to the members of defence, and strived to improve public awareness and understanding of, defence and national security. Membership is available to all interested persons.

The Institute is primarily staffed by volunteers, experts in their field, they work to provide the many services for your benefit. The Institute maintains a world class specialist library, publishes, and distributes a quarterly journal, schedules regular lectures and seminars, and arranges visits to sites of interest. We also produce a monograph series, a monthly defence newsletter, lectures and events are recorded on YouTube, and more. (See the networking links on page 3 to explore these services.)

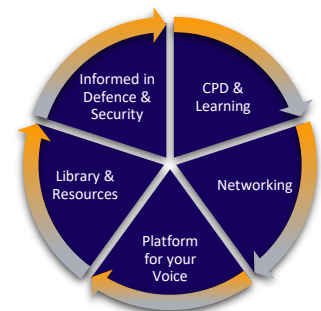
**To allow us to continue and explore more opportunities in the future, you could assist by remembering the Institute in your will.** Should you desire assistance with adding an appropriate codicil to your will, please contact the Institute's Public Officer, **Kim Turner** (02) 8262 2922.

If you have added a bequest to your will, it would be of assistance to advise us (not the specific amount) in case we need to communicate with you or your executors.

### Receiving this newsletter but not a member?

If you enjoy reading this publication but are not yet a member of RUSI NSW, have you considered applying? Membership will provide you with the following benefits:

- Receipt of the Quarterly Journal
- Free admission to our monthly lecture programme
- Borrowing rights from the Ursula Davidson Library – a library of national significance containing over 25,000 volumes
- Continued receipt of the monthly newsletter
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for defence professionals and ADF serving members earn CPD credits through our lectures and seminars
- Be better informed on defence and national security issues in Australia, our region and globally. Attend our regular program of lectures and seminars held in the Anzac Memorial auditorium. Our speakers are experts in their fields.
- Networking, develop career contacts and life-long friendships with like-minded people interested in Australia's defence and national security.
- Platform for your Voice Join in the debate about Australia's defence and security by contributing to our journal, newsletter, lectures, seminars, special interest groups and our policy submissions to government.



Membership costs only \$50 annually, become a member of RUSI NSW by completing this form.

[Link to MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Page](#)

## ***Volunteering for RUSI NSW***

### ***We need your brain, your time and your help***

Join us and make a difference to this worthwhile organisation. The Institute is primarily staffed by volunteers, experts in their fields, they work to provide the many services for your benefit.



Please consider volunteering, your commitment for volunteering would not be too onerous. You can **commit just a couple of hours, half a day, or a full day, once a week.**

We are looking for volunteers who are good with people to greet our visitors, and show them our services and the benefits of joining RUSI NSW.

**We seek people with experience** in promotions, marketing, social media, publishing, and journalism. We seek people who have experience or abilities with office work, and can operate Word, excel, power point, teams, and other programs.

We seek Librarians, Library Technicians, and computer savvy people who have experience in copy cataloguing, original cataloguing and DBText or other library databases.

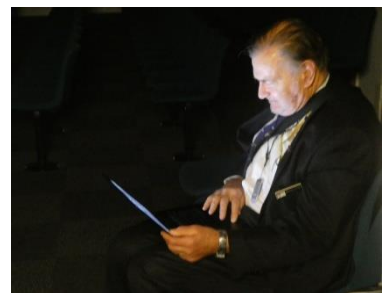


RUSI NSW Volunteer Program:

**All volunteers are trained and provided with support from the RUSI NSW board.**

There are numerous projects and programs planned for 2025 but we cannot do them without your help:

- maintaining our opening hours
- book sales and book preparation
- helping set up for our lunchtime lectures
- helping visitors use our library catalogue and resources
- cataloguing books, maps, training manuals
- indexing our journal collection
- producing our newsletter
- creating documents, excel spreadsheets and other office tasks



**Send us a message Telephone:** (02) 8262 2922 **Email:** [office@rusinw.org.au](mailto:office@rusinw.org.au)

## Latest Defence News

Image: 305th Artillery Brigade's exercise 2020  
Image source: Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:305th\\_Artillery\\_Brigade%27s\\_exercise\\_2020\\_\(09\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:305th_Artillery_Brigade%27s_exercise_2020_(09).jpg)



### ***Russia's God of War - The Political and Military Power of Artillery***

*RUSI UK Commentary* by Dr Giangiuseppe Pili, Brett Evans and Ryder Finn 6 March 2025

Russia's artillery has profound strategic and psychological effects, and its use through history has signalled the nation's resolve in warfare. The use of artillery in Ukraine has echoes of the past, with revolutions in application following every Russian war of the 20th century.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### ***CrowdStrike: China and North Korea ramp up cyber espionage***

*Asia Pacific Defence Reporter* by Staff writer 3 March 2025

[CrowdStrike](#) has released its [2025 Global Threat Report](#) exposing the growing aggression of China's cyber operations, a surge in GenAI-powered social engineering and nation-state vulnerability research and exploitation, and a sharp increase in malware-free, identity-based attacks. The report reveals that China-nexus adversaries escalated state-sponsored cyber operations by 150%, with targeted attacks in financial services, media, manufacturing and industrial sectors soaring up to 300%.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### ***First AS9 and AS10 Huntsman vehicles now in AusCam***

*Asia Pacific Defence Reporter* by Staff Writer 3 March 2025

Hanwha Defence Australia recently welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Defence and federal government member for Corio The Hon. Richard Marles MP to the Hanwha Armoured Vehicle Centre of Excellence (H-ACE) to acknowledge the first LAND 8116 vehicles in Auscam markings. Batch 1 of the program vehicles (two AS9s and one AS10) arrived in Australia in December 2024 from the Republic of Korea. The remainder of the vehicles are being produced at the H-ACE, at the Avalon Airport Precinct.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### ***Australia's defences must be ready in two years. Here's what to do***

*ASPI The Strategist* by Michael Pezzullo 8 March 2025

Beijing deployed a naval task group to the waters around Australia for three related reasons. First, to demonstrate the reach and potency of Chinese sea power and to put Australia on notice that it is vulnerable to the application of that power. Second, to test our political and military responses. Third, to rehearse for wartime operations against Australia.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## General Defence News

Image: The crew of the USS Minnesota (SSN-783) mans the ship during her commissioning at Naval Base Norfolk on 7 September 2013. [WikiMedia Commons](#)



### **Virginia class submarine moors in Australia for the first US submarine visit of 2025**

*Defence Media Release* 26 February 2025

US Virginia class submarine, USS *Minnesota* (SSN 783) has arrived at HMAS *Stirling* in Western Australia on 25 February for a routine port visit, the first of several planned US SSN submarine visits to Australia in 2025.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### **People's Liberation Army–Navy vessels operating near Australia**

*Defence Media Release* 3 March 2025

People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) Task Group 107, comprised of the Jiangkai-class frigate *Hengyang*, the Renhai-class Cruiser *Zunyi*, and the Fuchi-class replenishment vessel *Weishanhu*, is operating 305 nautical miles (565 kilometres) southeast of Perth.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### **Australian government pledges base access for aerial firefighting**

*Asia Pacific Defence Reporter* by Staff Writer 3 March 2025

The Australian government will ensure the New South Wales (NSW) Rural Fire Service has access to RAAF Base Richmond, RAAF Base Williamstown and HMAS Albatross to support aerial firefighting operations with an extension to the current agreement through to 2029. This agreement will ensure the NSW RFS can continue to protect the local communities and our environment through aerial firefighting operations facilitated from these Defence bases.

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### **Rheinmetall celebrates completion of LAND 121 programme**

*Asia Pacific Defence Reporter* by Staff Writer 24 February 2025

Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Australia (RMMVA) recently celebrated the successful conclusion of the LAND 121 Phase 3B/5B programme together with the Australian Department of Defence. The Final Acceptance ceremony took place at Rheinmetall's Military Vehicles Center of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) in Queensland. The Australian Defence Force procured its fleet of logistics vehicles based on the proven HX truck as part of the LAND 121 project. Over 3,500 vehicles were delivered on time and within budget. RMMVA is the largest supplier of military logistics vehicles for the Australian Army.

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## Defence Exercises

Image by: U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Juan Cordova  
 HMAS Sydney departing Pearl Harbor during RIMPAC 2024 [WikiMedia Commons](#)



### ***HMAS Hobart completes first ADF Regional Presence Deployment for 2025***

Defence Media 27 February 2025

The Australian Defence Force has completed the first Regional Presence Deployment for 2025, demonstrating the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to ensuring a stable and secure Indo-Pacific. HMAS *Hobart* participated in multilateral training including the Indonesian-led Exercise Komodo 25, the French-led Exercise La Perouse 25, and a Maritime Cooperative Activity with Japan, the Philippines the United States.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### ***Indonesia steps up defence relationships, but stays non-aligned***

[Benedicta Nathania](#) and [Aisha Kusumasomantri](#) 6 March 2025

Indonesia has recognised that security affairs in its region are no longer business as usual, though it hasn't completely given up its commitment to strategic autonomy.

Its biggest step was a Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) signed with Australia in August 2024. The agreement acts as a de facto status-of-forces agreement, providing for the presence of foreign forces in Indonesian territory, traditionally an uncomfortable idea for the country.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### ***India's Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan's first visit to Australia***

Defence Media 6 March 2025

Chief of the Defence Force, Admiral David Johnston AC RAN hosted General Anil Chauhan, India's Chief of Defence Staff, in Canberra on 5 March 2025.

This was the first visit to Australia by an Indian Chief of Defence Staff.

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## ***Defence and Industry News***

### ***Babcock Australasia delivers new fleet of SPUR robots***

*Asia Pacific Defence Reporter* by Staff Writer 2 March 2025

Babcock Australasia (Babcock) is providing a critical expansion of the counter explosive capability of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) following the successful delivery of a \$16 Million fleet of Squad Packable Utility Robots (SPUR), ready for immediate deployment.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### ***Battle-ready medical drones to join the ranks***

*Asia Pacific Defence Reporter* by Staff Writer 26 February 2025

A new drone delivery project led by Charles Darwin University (CDU) will aim to revolutionise healthcare in modern warfare. The project, led by the North Australia Centre for Autonomous Systems (NACAS) at CDU and supported by the Queensland Defence Science Alliance (QDSA), will focus on solving the technical, logistical and regulatory challenges of integrating large, heavy-fuel cargo drones into the battlefield operating system.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### ***MHI Australia expands in Canberra for frigate support***

*Asia Pacific Defence Reporter* by Staff Writer 2 March 2025

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Australia, Pty. Ltd. (MHI-AUS), the Australian subsidiary of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), is expanding its business activities in Canberra to focus on providing support for the country's next general purpose frigate program and to strengthen its business network with related agencies and companies.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

### ***\$3m research grant to enhance Defence capability***

Defence Connect staff 25 February 2025

Five cutting-edge research projects have received a funding boost to develop real-world technologies, which tackle some of Defence's most challenging issues as part of a research partnership between Defence and the Queensland Defence Science Alliance's 2024 Collaborative Research Grant program.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## ***International News***

### ***Black Sea Conflict Informing U.S. Navy Unmanned Systems***

*USNI News* by John Grady 28 February 2025

The Black Sea has become the Navy's laboratory for rehearsing and operationalizing the best ways to tie unmanned, robotic systems' effects with the crewed fleet's combat power and electronic warfare capabilities, the U.S.'s senior officer supporting Ukraine's maritime operations said.

The Black Sea fight shows how both sides have rapidly adopted software, tactics and equipment and absorbed losses that others can learn from, Rear Adm. Michael Mattis told an audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies Thursday.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Image: Yonaguni Airport Aerial photograph  
 Author: 国土地理院 [WikiMedia Commons](#)



## ***The tiny Japanese island militarizing on Taiwan's doorstep***

*Defense News* by Mari Yamaguchi,  
 The Associated Press 2 March 2025

YONAGUNI, Japan — This tiny island on Japan's western frontier has no chain convenience stores. Nature lovers can dive with hammerhead sharks and watch miniature horses graze on a hill. But the wooded mountain ranges now carry radar sites. A southern cattle ranch has been replaced with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force's Camp Yonaguni. Japan and its ally, the United States, hold joint military exercises here. Plans are underway to add a new missile unit and expand a small airport and port.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## ***Europe Fails to Seize the Moment on Ukraine***

*RUSI UK Commentary* by Matthew Savill 18 February 2025

The much-touted meeting of European leaders to discuss Ukraine in Paris appears to have exposed differences as much as heralding a new era of European security leadership. European leaders still appear to be scrambling to create a consensus on both their priorities and support for Ukraine after a week of blunt US statements and jumbled diplomacy.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## ***French Naval Group Highlights Successful Submarine Manufacturing ToT To India***

*Indian Defence News* 2 March 2025

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has achieved a significant milestone in its submarine construction capabilities by building four submarines without the need for foreign overseeing teams. This success is attributed to the effective transfer of technology from the French Naval Group, which has been instrumental in enhancing MDL's indigenous submarine construction skills.

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## ***A 3D-printed submarine? Not likely, but maybe something close***

*Defense One* by Lauren C. Williams 28 February 2025

The Navy is bumping up its use of additive manufacturing to make critical, delay-prone submarine parts, said Christopher Miller, NAVSEA's executive director. More and more U.S. warship and submarine parts are being 3D-printed—and now the Navy is going after the “really hard problems,”

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## ***Too close for missiles, switching to guns: How the Navy learned to fight Houthi drones***

*Task and Purpose* by Jeff Schogol 8 March 2025

After firing a shipload of extremely costly missiles, some with a price tag as high as \$28.7 million per munition, the Navy switched to less expensive options, such as 5-inch main gun rounds, to shoot down drones flying low or close to ships. That's right, it was literally too close for missiles, so they switched to guns.

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## ***About the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, NSW Inc.***



Founded as the United Service Institution of New South Wales in 1888, the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, NSW (or RUSI NSW) is one of seven self-governing constituent bodies of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Australia Limited.

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

- educates the public about Australia's defence and national security;
- publishes a highly-respected professional journal;
- provides a forum for the discussion of defence and security issues by conducting regular lectures, seminars conferences workshops and visits to defence and security establishments;
- provides professional development programs;
- operates a public library, specialising in defence and security literature dating from the late 18th century to the current day; and
- conducts social and networking functions for members

The RUSI's office and the Ursula Davidson Library are located in the Centenary Extension of the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park South, with access from Liverpool Street – close to Museum railway station, buses and car parking stations.

### ***About the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, NSW Newsletter***

*This newsletter is created entirely by volunteers.*

Content currently supplied by Institute Board Member **David Deasey**,  
and various other Board members.

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