

LETTERS

United Service June 2020

United Service 71 (2) June 2020 was an excellent production, with some most informative articles. Two are most relevant to my work – the papers by Professor Bates Gill on reforms of the People’s Liberation Army, and by Graeme Dobell on Australia’s Pacific policy. It was a great pity that, due to COVID-19 restrictions, these papers could not be presented to a live audience as they both invite questions further exploring the respective topics.

The journal format is ideal either for on-screen reading or for downloading/printing. Sourcing high-quality, well-researched, footnoted and well-written articles is most difficult, and the Institute is to be commended for its efforts. A most enjoyable and thought-provoking read!

The journal has reinforced my intention to retain membership, and I have distributed the two articles, with attribution to the Institute and suitable encouragement to join, to my colleagues.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew W. Hine

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Headquarters Forces Command, Sydney, 5 June 2020⁴

China and Secure Supply Chains

I enjoyed reading the thought-provoking commentary on matters of great regional importance and national sovereignty in *United Service 71* (2) June 2020. There has been increased discussion about these topics of late. Two headline items are: the influence of China on trade and foreign policy; and the growing desire to secure supply-chains in alternate geographic areas.

With respect to the latter, I recently came across the term ‘sure-shoring’ to describe the current shift in sentiment. It is a term that extends the concepts of ‘on-shoring’, ‘near-shoring’, ‘off-shoring’ and ‘re-shoring’ by adding to them trustworthiness, resilience and sustainability. It would behove Australian policy-makers to carefully consider these matters.

Jono Kempe

Verifai Australia, Sydney, 5 June 2020