

RUSI



SA

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Promoting National Security and Defence

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Governor of South Australia

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Views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the RUSI of SA Inc.

Happy New Year to all members of RUSI-SA. Unfortunately it is not such a happy time for many fellow Australians who have felt the effects of Mother Nature to a level rarely seen. Many Queensland communities have been devastated by floods and the Australian Defence Force has been very much at the forefront in supporting operations to assist in a variety of tasks as part of Operation Queensland Flood Assist.

Helicopters, engineers and logistics support from all services have assisted with Search and Rescue operations as well as delivering critical supplies and purifying water. Most recently, a Coastal Mine Hunter, HMAS HUON, has commenced operations in Moreton Bay. Fitted with sophisticated sonar equipment, the ship will search for debris that poses a navigational hazard to shipping in Moreton Bay and the Brisbane River.

The challenge of finding global solutions to security issues was discussed at the third Australia-United Kingdom Ministerial (AUKMIN) consultations in Sydney on 18 January. Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and Defence Minister Stephen Smith met with their UK counterparts, Foreign Secretary William Hague and Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox, to review the strategic direction of the relationship between Australia and the UK.

Mr Smith said "Our two countries share a long and distinguished record of active service and cooperation around the world, including currently in Afghanistan."

"Everyone appreciates the historical, the community, the economic, commercial and investment ties, but

perhaps under-appreciated is the defence, security and intelligence relationship and links between Australia and the United Kingdom."

Discussions focused on current foreign, defence and security policy challenges, including in Afghanistan and Pakistan; changing dynamics in Asia; and approaches to counter-proliferation, counter-terrorism, space and cyber-security.

A Strategic Policy Partnership was signed to formalise collaboration between the UK Ministry of Defence and Australian Department of Defence through the exchange of strategic high-level documents and committing to a close and candid dialogue on key strategic issues of mutual interest.

Mr Smith said the occasion featured the first visit by UK Cabinet Secretaries to Australia since the election of the Cameron Government in May 2010.

This is the first time that AUKMIN consultations have been held in Australia. Previous talks were held in Leeds in 2008 and London in 2006.

In Afghanistan, Operation Pisho was conducted by the 3rd Kandak of the 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Australia Defence Force's Mentoring Task Force 2 in the Mirabad Valley. At the same time, Operation Tevara Sin was initiated by the Afghan National Police's Provincial Response Company - Uruzgan (PRC-U) and members of the Special Operations Task Group. The operations were designed to build on the gains that Afghan and Coalition forces have made in the past year and improve the security situation for the local Afghan population.

(Continued on the next page.)

Monthly Luncheons

• Monday 7 February 2011
Speaker: **COL C Burns**
Topic: **An Update - Defence Operations and Activities**

• Monday 7 March 2011
Speaker: **CMDR Dave Walter RAN**
Topic: **AWD Platform - Engine Room matters**

All members are invited to attend our luncheons. Indeed you are encouraged to invite partners, friends and colleagues to join us and, if they like what they see and hear, to nominate them for membership. Please book in advance. If you are unsure whether or not your name is on the booking list, please check!

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions. We usually assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30 am for drinks and good fellowship. Members are asked to be seated by 12 noon when our President welcomes members and guests and lunch is served. The cost of the buffet is \$22 for members and first time guests and \$25 for non-members. We also conduct a raffle to help cover expenses. Our caterer has agreed to provide vegetarian meals and sweets for diabetics, but these must be ordered before midday on the Thursday before the lunch.

For those who do not have time to enjoy lunch, but wish to hear the lecture, chairs are provided around the perimeter of the hall. Please be seated before 12.55 pm. The address is of about 30 to 35 minutes duration with 15 minutes for questions, after which coffee or tea is available. We aim to complete the program by 2.00 pm.

Cancellations must be advised to the RUSI-SA Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$22. The caterers must be notified of the number attending by then and that number must be paid for.

President's report cont:

The 3rd Kandak Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Sayed Sera Judin, and his operations team planned the clearance operation with support from their Australian mentors. A significant element of the local engagement has been the establishment of a Platoon House in Sorkh Lez in the Mirabad Valley. The Platoon House is a fortified local compound, allowing the Afghan National Security Forces and their mentors to have a firm base from which to operate in the local area.

During Operation Tevara Sin, in northern Uruzgan, Afghan National Police officers from the Uruzgan-based Provincial Response Company (PRC-U), supported by Australian Special Forces, detained an individual believed to be a leading bomb-maker and a close associate of the top insurgent commander in central Uruzgan. This individual was reported to have regularly transported Improvised Explosive Device (IED) components to insurgent groups and facilitated attacks on Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and ISAF troops. During this Operation more than 150 compounds were searched by the Afghan National Police in a single day. As a result of these and subsequent searches, a large number of weapons, munitions and IED caches were discovered and removed.

The Commander of Australian forces in the Middle East, Major General Angus Campbell, said the recent successful operations by the ANSF and Australian troops had disrupted insurgent activity and would improve security for the local population.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to an excellent article in this newsletter by one of our Council members, Dr John Bruni, on the 'Assange Affair' and cyber warfare. John has given us a very astute and frank assessment of the effect of recent developments in this area. We are pursuing options to expand on this very topical and critical issue in 2011. Details will be advised shortly.

BRIG Tim Hanna

Know Your Councillors



MAJ Robin Marlin

MAJ R Marlin is an Army Reserve officer and long term employee in the Adelaide defence industry.

Robin has been in the Army Reserve since 1981. He was commissioned into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps in 1983 and, due to work commitments, he transferred to the inactive list in 1989. He reactivated in 2001, and has held various leadership and staff postings since. He deployed to Sydney as a search platoon commander for the APEC Leaders Summit in 2007, and then deployed as rifle company commander to the Solomon Islands in 2008 as part of Operation ANODE. Robin has just completed his posting as Officer Commanding the 9 Brigade Reserve Response Force, and in his new posting will be responsible for disaster recovery planning.

Robin has a Bachelor's degree in Science and an MBA, both from the University of Adelaide. He has been employed in the defence industry for much of his working life, as a software or systems engineer, and more recently as project manager. He has worked on such projects as ANZAC Ship Combat System, Jindalee over the Horizon Radar, AP-3C Orion Operational Mission Simulator, Digital Hydrographic Database, AP-3C Acoustic System upgrade and Mission Replay and Analysis System upgrade. He has had two overseas secondments, firstly to Stockholm Sweden with the ANZAC Ship Project, and then Montreal Canada with the AP-3C Orion Upgrade Project. He maintains an interest in the software development process, and simulation and geospatial systems.

AIR FORCE AVIATION

Australia Post has announced the issue of new postage stamps to mark the retirement of the RAAF's most prominent aircraft, the F-111.

Four stamps showing an F-111, F-18, Wedgetail and C-17 respectively, associated mini-sheets, Maxi-cards and a booklet will be available on 22 February 2011. Full details of this attractive set of stamps etc can be found at http://issuu.com/stamps/docs/bulletin308_high/15

For those who are interested in First Day Covers, they will bear the postmark of Amberley, Queensland 4306.

RSL

The RSL needs new volunteer collectors for the ANZAC Appeal (April) and Poppy Appeal (November) badge days.

The RSL also welcomes the opportunity to supply collection boxes and badges to businesses and organisations.

Contact Keith Harrison on 8232 0322 or by email to

marketing@rslsa.org.au.

WWII DIARY

Recently, Chris Thompson published a diary which his father, FLTLT William Henry Thompson DFC kept in the closing days of WWII. It concerns a journey with Lord Allenbrooke that took them from England to New Zealand visiting India, Africa, Singapore, Japan and Australia.

The crew were briefed to fly Lord Alanbrook, then Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and his entourage, on a tour of Army bases under his command in the Middle and Far East.

This diary shows a very personal account of the flight from day to day occurrences and encounters with weather through to observations of local custom and scenery.

Also included is a brief history of Lord Alanbrook himself and the Avro York aircraft in which they they flew.

Copies of the Diary are available at a cost of \$25.00 each. Please contact Chris Thompson on 0407781960.

New members

We welcome the following new members of the RUSI-SA:

Mr Craig Haydock, President - RAAC Vietnam Veterans Assoc

Mr Brian Whaley

DEFENCE SCIENCE

The DSTO's Aircraft Forensic Engineering section is the largest group of scientific and technical aircraft failure specialists in Australia.

These specialists provide the ADF with an essential independent forensic capability for engineering and scientific analysis into the causes of accidents and major incidents, failures or deterioration of metallic and non-metallic structural components, engines, systems and equipment. This extends to aviation support equipment including aircraft and airfield ground support equipment, aircraft common spares, and aeronautical life support equipment.



For more details of this work please go to:

<http://www.dsto.defence.gov.au/research/360/>

from where the above information was extracted.

SAPOL ECS

Officers from the Explosives Coordination Section of the SA Police delivered an address to the RUSI-SA luncheon on Monday 6 December, 2010.

The ECS is responsible for:

- Disposing of improvised explosive devices (IED) and /or explosive material.
- Disposing of commercial explosives.
- Clearing explosives from safes.
- Clearing explosives scenes before post-blast examination.
- Advising members of the public on measures to counter bomb threats.
- Conducting high risk searches for bombs, explosives, booby traps etc.
- Maintaining a credibility to respond, as required, to all terrorist incidents
- Coordinating responses for military ordnance.

The officers demonstrated ECS manning and equipment, described their roles and responsibilities and involvement with Improvised Explosive Devices and gave details of case studies concerning a bombing at Enfield early in the year and the NCA bombing in 1994. Some equipment used was on show and included the Med-Eng EOD 9 bomb disposal suit and helmet and a remote-controlled bomb disposal system.



Duncan Gordon volunteered to demonstrate the bomb protection suit, seen here with the robot vehicle.

PIRATE ATTACK THWARTED

Navy frigate HMAS Melbourne helped thwart a pirate attack on tanker Merchant Vessel CPO China in the Arabian Sea on Monday, 3 January 2011 reported the Department of Defence website.

CPO China had been boarded by pirates at about 1.45pm Bahrain time and issued a distress call. HMAS Melbourne responded to the call and steamed the 267 kms to the tanker in just over six hours. While approaching the CPO China, Melbourne's Sea King helicopter launched and was able to deter the pirates taking control of the tanker. The pirates aborted their attack and left the vessel as the Melbourne arrived on the scene. The crew of CPO China had successfully secured themselves in the ship's citadel (an anti-pirate stronghold) from where they could maintain satellite communications and control the ship. (The engine controls and steering equipment for the tanker are located in the citadel).

"This is a terrific example of how Australia's maritime contribution to the Middle East Area of Operations provides another layer of security for the region and to the conduct of trade and suppression of criminal activities," said the Commander of Australia's Joint Task Force 633, Major General John Cantwell.

"One of our objectives for operations in the Middle East is to assist the efforts of the international community in reducing acts of piracy. Our men and women aboard HMAS Melbourne deserve recognition for their role in providing maritime security and countering piracy in the Arabian Sea. This is one of those occasions where their efforts have become highly visible," he said.

ADF SUPPORT TO QUEENSLAND FLOOD RELIEF

Operation QUEENSLAND FLOOD ASSIST is the name of the ADF contribution to the Queensland and Australian Governments' response to the flood crisis.

The following information was extracted from the Department of Defence website.

The ADF established Joint Task Force (JTF) 637 for the conduct of Operation QUEENSLAND FLOOD ASSIST on 1 January 2011.

The primary role of the JTF 637 is to operate closely with Emergency Management Queensland to provide subject-matter expertise, planning, and coordination of ADF assets assisting in the civil-led response. JTF 637 is commanded by [Colonel Luke Foster](#) with a headquarters staff at Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera in Brisbane in support of forward-deployed teams in the flooded areas.

The JTF includes personnel from all three Services, including Reserve and regular ADF members and has the flexibility to respond to a broad range of contingencies across the flood-affected areas. It currently consists of 120 personnel spread between Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, Amberley, Roma, Theodore and St George.

See <http://www.defence.gov.au/opEx/global/opqldflood/index.htm> for the more details of Operation Queensland Flood Relief



Main road through Ipswich, Queensland

ASSANGE - NEITHER SAINT NOR SINNER

By Dr. John Bruni,

Director SAGE International

During the Bush era, governments, but particularly the American government, took on a sinister demeanour. The law became the plaything of an administration trying to grapple with international terrorism. Laws designed to protect individual liberties were overturned, or re-interpreted to ensure terrorist suspects could be seized before being proven guilty of posing an existential threat to the American homeland. The ‘war of choice’ waged against Iraq and the subsequent occupation of that country, further watered down Western norms and values with actions such as extraordinary rendition and government sanctioned ‘torture’. It was a time of great paranoia. We demanded that governments crack down on terrorist organisations and, like a virus, this sinister demeanour infected not just the US, but America’s many allies, especially in fellow ‘Anglo-sphere’ countries such as Britain and Australia.

Having survived eight years of Bush, it was with some relief that the American body politic elected President Barak Obama. Most believed that with Obama in the White House, there would come a new dawn and that icon of Bush era international politics – the Guantanamo Bay terrorist ‘holding pens’ – would be scrapped and the US and allied military occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq would finally end. Our expectations were high, but Obama failed to deliver. He failed to break with Bush era policies.

Then along came Julian Assange with his self-proclaimed mandate to unravel dark government secrets – secrets that migrated from the Bush administration to that of Obama. How is America’s occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq really faring? What do other governments really think about American power? How does the global diplomatic community really see itself?

The ensuing release of some 250,000 classified diplomatic cables for public scrutiny has embarrassed governments and political figures alike. To a suffering public saddled with massive government and private debt, this turned into a welcome circus. We all want governments to feel some of the pain their ineptitude inflicts upon us. After all, they are responsible for the policies that caused the lay-offs, the collapse of housing prices, and the grief over continuing military losses in pointless wars. To his supporters Assange is the ‘poster-child’ of liberal media, using modern technology, ‘hacktivism’, to lift the cloak of government secrecy. To his detractors he is a cyber-terrorist, the man who orchestrated an ‘information 9/11’.

But the truth of Assange and his actions lies somewhere in between – he is neither saint nor sinner. Assange is merely an opportunist who used his particular networks and skills to lever himself into a position of international prominence, and by his actions, guaranteed himself a place in history. Assange is not an ideologue. He claims to be a sceptic of governments and their need to keep the

darker matters of state from public view. But forcing governments into a position of complete transparency is foolhardy and counter-productive. Furthermore, from a socio-psychological perspective, it simply confirms to the international communities that their leaders are just people who are not perfect. They are people who inhabit powerful positions and sometimes behave as though malevolence, greed, mean-spiritedness and narcissism are social virtues.

But not all people in power behave like this and it would be a fallacy to argue that Assange has revealed a deeper truth about power. However, the spin put onto the Assange story has left us with the impression that there are no good people in government and few, if any, good actions come from governments, and that government, however constructed, is by nature conspiratorial, venal and incompetent.

Assange's 'crusade' showed that there is nothing redeemable about the world in which we live if those whom we entrust to look after our interests, our political leaders, think so little of their contemporaries, and of us who have elevated them into their positions of power and influence. Perhaps the central message of Assange is that in the world of social networking, where the concept of individual privacy is passé, we should limit the privacy of governments too. But if we do this, will governments be able to act in the national interest of their people? If we, the public came to know of the musings of politicians in cabinet and committee meetings, would we have better policies and better governments?

Reduce the Assange factor down to a more basic level. What would be the outcome if we enforced better social behaviour in our neighbourhood by making the relationship between the gossip and the gossiped fully transparent in order to force gossip from the local social lexicon? Nice thought, but would it be possible?

Governments need to operate at a public level as well as a private level, and there is plenty of scope in the contemporary 'non-transparent' environment to speculate about political motivations and analyse potential policy outcomes. This duality in government might not be something we like, or understand, but it is necessary to ensure that our chosen political representatives can conduct our national affairs in ways that maximise rational outcomes. And unfortunately, sometimes, deriving at rational outcomes might not be so palatable.

Those who make a living from unpacking and analysing the decisions of governments should not have been surprised by what Wikileaks revealed. The professional political analyst lives in a world where picking truth from political spin requires a heightened sense of scepticism. The release of Wikileaks information was salacious for the media and for those in the community who thrive on scandalous news, especially during hard economic times when distractions are a welcome relief.

Suffice to say that Assange, through his Wikileaks, has changed the way journalism will be conducted in the future.

The trove of information garnered from people with no enduring loyalty to the state they serve is now 'the new normal'. Wikileaks did break new ground on that score.

However governments, whether democracies or autocracies, are more likely to respond with a raft of new firewalls and other electronic security measures which will ultimately affect the flow of free information through the internet. In that sense, governments will eventually show that they are not without capability against 'cyber-spies', putting paid to the notion that the internet is its own space, has its own life and that no government can shut it down. Indeed, in an ironic twist, the desperation of governments to secure their private space will no doubt be spurred by initiatives from the US – a democracy – rather than the People's Republic of China – an autocracy. The US military has already invested in

establishing a Cyber Command and has appointed its first Cyber-General this year. According to an article in "The Observer" written last May: "the US air force disclosed that some 30,000 of its troops had been re-assigned from technical support "to the front-lines of cyber warfare".

Interestingly, Assange made his move at the most appropriate time to ensure that cyber-security remains a major issue for the first part of the 21st Century. No doubt US Cyber Command will see Assange as it's 'Pearl Harbor' or '9/11' and billions will be spent on shoring up electronic defences, just as billions were spent on expanding counter-terrorist measures after 9/11. And just as the government response to 9/11 changed the international environment rather than the act of terrorism itself, so too will American reaction to Assange change cyber-space and perhaps the freedoms we think we can still indulge in online, might not be so unrestricted in the months and years to come.



Julian Assange

Photo taken from

<http://johnbatchelorshow.com/cgi-bin/mt/mt-search.cgi?IncludeBlogs=16&tag=Stockholm&limit=20>

This article is reproduced with the kind permission of Dr John Bruni. The views expressed in the article are those of the author and do not represent the official views of RUSI-SA.

Vale

It is with regret that
the recent deaths of

Wilf Whitters
and
Keith Wait

were announced.

The President and members of Council
extend their condolences
to their family and friends.

RUSI

The Royal United Services Institute has been at the heart of military and security thinking for 180 years. The Duke of Wellington established the Institute in 1831 and some of the most influential thinkers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries worked and spoke at RUSI.

RUSI has been at the centre of policy-making and thinking about defence and security throughout the zenith and transformation of the British Empire, two world wars, the Cold War and now the 'new disorder' of the contemporary world. RUSI's own history parallels and reflects the story of Britain in the world throughout two tumultuous centuries. It remains an intrinsic part of the research and debate that surrounds military and security thinking in this country and today it is more active than ever.

For information on how the RUSI is planning to commemorate 180 years of service in 2011, see

<http://www.rusi.org/180/>

RUSI National Office

The National Secretary for RUSI is **Air Commodore Peter McDermott AM, CSC, RAAFAR.**

Peter can be contacted via the National Office at:

webmaster@rusi.org.au

LUNCH DATE CHANGE

Please note that the luncheon date for July will be **SUNDAY 3 July** in conjunction with Reserve Forces Day.

Current Defence activity showing equipment in use can be found at

<http://www.defence.gov.au/media/download/2010/Nov/20101126b/index.htm>

Two examples are shown below



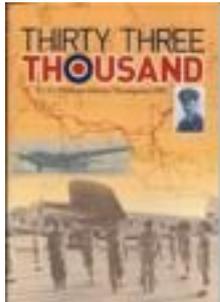
Sikorsky S70B-2 Seahawk helicopters flying in formation whilst preparing to conduct a weapons firing serial off the coast of Western Australia.



A Collins class submarine sails through the water during a weapons firing serial conducted off the coast of Western Australia.



LIBRARY

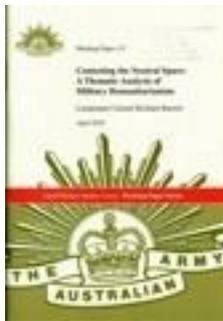


"Thirty Three Thousand" by FLTLT William Henry Thompson DFC is the reproduction of a diary by Chris Thompson's father which was written essentially for his mother. It covers a journey undertaken at the end of WWII with Lord Alanbrook, then Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and his entourage, on a tour of Army bases under his command in the Middle and Far East.

In his capacity as wireless operator, the author was part of the VIP flight of Transport Command, Royal Air Force.

Donated by Chris Thompson.

PERIODICALS



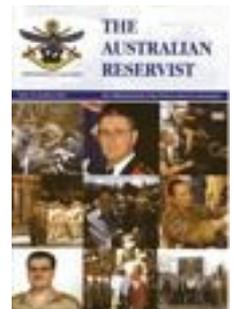
Working papers: Land Warfare Studies Centre

No. 137 - Contesting the Neutral Space. A Thematic Analysis of Military Humanitarianism

No. 138 - Private Military Companies and Military Operations

THE AUSTRALIAN RESERVIST

"ADF Reserves, Strategic Directions for the Future" by MAJGEN Greg Garde and many other articles by various authors.



Asia Pacific Defence Reporter

Includes: Defence White Paper Outline
The Role of Submarines in Warfare
Submarines - The Future



VANGUARD - Issue 10 (August 2010)
Issue 15 (October 2010)

PATHFINDER - Issue 146 November 2010
The Issue of Space Debris
Issue 147 December 2010
Weapons in Space

THE YEAR 2010 IN REVIEW

Monthly luncheon speakers

2 February **Ms Chris Jenner,**
CEO Foundation Daw Park.

Foundation Daw Park: the path travelled thus far and the road ahead.

1 March **Ms Samantha Jackman,**
Chief Executive Officer of the Returned Services league of South Australia.

The Returned Services League of South Australia past, present, future, and its role in promoting informed debate and improving public awareness of defence and national security challenges.

12 April **Mr Andrew Jackman,**
Director - Maritime, Defence SA.

An update on the status of Defence Maritime issues in relation to South Australia.

3 May **Mr Stuart Ellis,**
Leading by Example.

Emergency Management and its role in Homeland Security.

7 June **MAJ John Van'T Hof,**
9 Bde Transit Security Element Commander.

Operation RESOLUTE: Perspectives of a Transit Security Element commander conducting operations to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

5 July **WGCDR Max Heinrich.**

P3 Orion Operations.

2 August **Dr Maryanne Kelton PhD.**

Global Financial Crisis & Security in Developing East Asia.

6 September **CDRE Steve Tiffin.**

Air Warfare Destroyer - Strategic Need for Cutting Steel. (RUSI-SAAGM)

11 October **MAJ David Lipschitz OC 144 Sig Sqn and LT Aaron Newsfield Rad Tp Comd, 144 Sig Sqn.**

Future of Network Centric Warfare in the ADF.

1 November **CDRE Orm Cooper.**

Royal Australia Navy in Vietnam.

6 December **SGT Wayne Birch.**

SAPOL Bomb Disposal.

Current Issues Briefing Speakers

15 April **BRIG Phil Winter,**
Commander Counter IED Task Force.

Update on the Counter IED Task Force.

19 October **COL Ian Cumming CSC.**

The Australian Army's relief effort in Banda Aceh in 2005.

RUSI-SA Dining In Night

30 July **Former Senator**
The Honourable Chris Schacht.

War heroes of the past and the need to pass these stories on to our young people.

His Excellency RADM Kevin Scarce and Mrs Scarce attending.