



SENSOR

Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSIDSS of SA

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AVM BRENT ESPELAND

On Friday 29 September 2017, Air Vice Marshal Brent Espeland AM passed away peacefully following a short illness.



A man of service, who persevered because he believed his efforts would deliver a better life for those who followed, AVM Espeland was part of an unbroken chain of those who have served with honour through the life of our nation.

Educated at Woodville High School, Air Vice Marshal Espeland entered the Royal Australian Air Force Academy, Point Cook in 1966 graduating in 1969. Brent enjoyed a career in the Royal Australian Air Force spanning 36 years that included service flying C130 Hercules in Vietnam, leader of the Roulettes aerobatic team (he could certainly fly) and was selected to attend the Canadian Forces Staff College in 1981-82. His career encompassed command appointments at unit and formation level as well as having tenure as the Air Officer Commanding Training Command and Deputy Chief of Air Force.

His final military appointment was a secondment to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet with responsibility for the coordination of security and intelligence at the national level for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

A second career followed with ten years in senior sports administration at the Australian Sports Commission with a focus on the governance of national sporting organisations, sports science and medicine and the fight against drugs in sport.

In retirement, Brent worked tirelessly in support of many worthwhile causes. He was National President of the Australian Flying Corps and Royal Australian Air Force Association and both National and South Australian President of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia, a Director of the Sir Richard Williams Foundation, a member of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Ex-Service Organisation Round Table, Chairman of The Board of Governors of The Repat Foundation, a member of the Air Force Heritage Advisory Committee and was especially pleased to serve as a member of the National Council of the Australian Air Force Cadets.

Most recently, Brent was Chair of the Veterans' Advisory Council in South Australia, a Ministerial appointment approved by Cabinet. In this capacity Brent pursued a forward looking agenda that included a focus on better employment opportunities for younger veterans resulting in the development of an employment framework that will be released later this month. Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, served alongside Brent both in uniform and in other pursuits following their service and remarked that he was proud to have served with someone with the professionalism and integrity of Air Vice Marshal Espeland.

Brent was actively involved as a founding and steering group member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations, which works closely with the government, the opposition and the cross benches to shape policies for past, present and future members of the Australian Defence Force.

Brent strongly believed that we owe a profound debt to veterans and service personnel and their families who have suffered related health issues and was proud to be a part of the The Repat Foundation – The Road Home, an organisation that focuses on research to improve outcomes for those affected.

He also believed that, as a nation, we make sure we have the best-led, best-trained, best-equipped military in the world but that our troops wear the uniform for a time, yet they wear another proud title, that of "veteran," for decades -- for the rest of their lives. Brent was firm in his commitment that we devote just as much energy and passion to making sure we have the best-cared for, best-treated, best-respected veterans in the world.

Brent was a man who believed there were better days ahead. His graciousness, smile, reassuring tone, and sense of humour were all qualities that helped him wear so effortlessly the burdens of expectation throughout his life and career.

Brent's approach to life was never more evident than during the last few months dealing with his illness while continuing to work tirelessly on the things that were important to him. His positive outlook, mental strength, and resilience were a study in courage that was, in short, inspirational.

Lest We Forget.

The above obituary was first published by Veterans SA in Enews after Minister Hamilton Smith made a Ministerial Statement to Parliament. See <http://anzaccentenary.sa.gov.au/2017/10/minister-hamilton-smiths-ministerial-statement-on-the-passing-of-air-vice-marshal-brent-espeland/>

CHATHAM HOUSE RULE

The Chatham House Rule (note that there is only one rule) states that *"When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed."*

The Chatham House Rule is applied to RUSIDSS of SA audiences when requested by the speaker(s).

The application of the rule will be clearly announced before the talk by the Master of Ceremonies.

The website at <http://www.davidcpearson.co.uk/blog.cfm?blogID=146> clearly discusses in detail the full implications of the Chatham House Rule.

The Rule allows speakers to comment openly and to give views that they may not otherwise express if they knew their comments would be shared publicly.

FIRE ACROSS THE DESERT

***"Fire Across The Desert"* by Peter Morton is the history of Woomera and the Anglo-Australian Joint Project from 1946 to 1980.**



To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the launch of Australia's first satellite, WRESAT, on 29 November 1967, the book has been digitised by the DST Group and released in PDF, ePub and Kindle formats.

To download *"Fire Across the Desert"*, go to

<https://www.dst.defence.gov.au/publications/books-and-brochures>

Monthly Luncheons

Monday 4 December 2017

Speakers: Rajiv Chand and
Ian Gladstone

Topic: "*Dementia - the Unspoken Impact
on Command and Leadership*".

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 RUSIDSS membership.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE

Please assemble in the TPI Association of SA building, TPI House which is situated at 171 Richmond Rd, Richmond, at 11.45 for the lecture at noon. Ample parking is available behind the Rex Hotel.

Wines, beer and soft drinks will be available for purchase. We will conduct a raffle to help cover expenses.

The address will be of about 30 to 35 minutes duration with 15 minutes for questions.

Following the talk, we will cross the road to the Rex Hotel where a two course meal will be served.

The cost of the lecture and lunch is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members.

For those who do not have time to enjoy lunch, but wish to hear the talk, a \$10 fee to attend will be charged.

Cancellations must be advised to the RUSIDSS-SA Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$30.



TPI House

PRESIDENT

WGCDR Mark Ryan was elected to the office of President of the RUSIDSS of SA at the Annual General Meeting held on 16 October 2017.



Mark Ryan is a retired Wing Commander who has been consulting for the last 15 years across defence and industry in South Australia. His career commenced with service from 1976 on P-3B and then P-3C Orions, flying in the Cold War and following periods. Mark rose through the ranks quickly and held positions of Commanding Officer of the Airmen Aircrew Flying Training School (AAFTS), Executive Officer of the Electronic Warfare Squadron and Officer In Charge of the Australian Joint Acoustic Analysis Centre (AJAAC). Prior to promotion to Wing Commander in 1996, Mark graduated on the College Board Honours List at the Malaysian Joint Services Staff College and returned to Australia as Deputy Director of Workforce Planning, just in time for the first Defence Reform Program, the DRP. The RAAF was 25,000 strong in 1996. In 1998 Mark received a CDF Commendation for his work on the ADF tactical activities database ADFADS.

With his wealth of experience in the submarine field, and consulting in Adelaide after retiring from the RAAF, Mark joined the RUSI and has been a councillor for many years. In March of 2015, Mark was instrumental in raising the Future Submarine Summit – SUBSUMMIT that challenged the Prime Minister Tony Abbott's decision to award the contract for the build of twelve future submarine hulls to the Japanese for construction in Japan. The RUSI was the backbone of this Summit, bringing two Japanese Admirals to Adelaide for the Summit so that Australian Defence industry and the public could hear what their submarine offered. The Summit recommendations were resounding. Firstly, any future submarine for Australia should be built in Australia. Then the selection process should be competitive and transparent and the best platform should win. Finally, once selected and, if built in Australia, then Adelaide is the best site for the construction. The rest is history, the French have won an open competitive process and the hulls will be built in Adelaide. This is a 20 billion dollar windfall for South Australia. It will revive the submarine building industry here in Adelaide and be an incredible boost to the city's economy. It will bind France even closer to South Australia in every aspect.

With the unexpected and tragic passing of AVM Brent Espeland AM, Mark nominated for the role of President of the RUSIDSS-SA at the AGM, which was approved with acclamation.

Mark works with the Olympic Games Flames Company, FCT Flames and consults to several significant businesses in Adelaide. He is also a Councillor on the Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mark is married to Christine and has two adult children, Porscha and Alexander, all whom reside in Adelaide.

2017/18 COUNCIL

At the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 16 October 2017, the following appointments for President and Council members for the period 2017/18 were confirmed.

PRESIDENT	WGCDR Mark Ryan MBA NAV (Retd)
VICE PRESIDENTS	BRIG Robert Atkinson AM RFD (Retd) Mr Ron Bannon
COUNCIL	Mr Michael Gorroick FLTLT David Hirst Mr Adrian Horan Mr Graham Sanders
TREASURER	MAJ Rex Jones FCPA RFD (Retd)

WOMEN IN WAR



Australia Post commemorates Australian women in war for Remembrance Day.

In the lead-up to Remembrance Day, Australia Post paid tribute to Australian women, past and present, and their contributions during times of war with the release of a new stamp issue.

The *A Century of Service: Women in War* stamp issue and associated products were issued on 8 November 2017.

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CAUSE OF WWI

A short video describing how World War One came about has been compiled by a year 9 student as a school project.

The five minute video was shown during the RUSIDSS of SA luncheon on 7 August 2017 and can now be seen by going to the RUSI website at

<https://www.rusi.org.au/RUSI-SA-Home>

Vale

It is with regret that the deaths of

AVM B Espeland,
SQLDR M J Porter,
LT E S Clymer and
MAJ R L Whittle,

were noted.

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

ADEQUACY OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY SYSTEMS

Senator Nick Xenophon addressed the RUSIDSS of SA on 1 May 2017 to express his perceptions of the adequacy of Australia's Defence and Security Systems.

The context of Nick's talk was based on three quotes by Winston Churchill:

"It always looks so easy to solve problems by taking the line of least resistance,

I never 'worry' about action, but only about inaction, and

I like things to happen, and if they don't happen I like to make them happen".



Nick supports a well-resourced and well-trained Defence Force, the rigorous White Paper process that determines Defence capability requirements, the need for Defence to procure what is essential to protect and serve Australia and the coalition's spending target of 2% of GDP on Defence. However, there are unaddressed overspends by Defence, particularly on landing platforms and helicopters. This year, the budget excess is \$22.8 billion which is not sustainable. Examples were given of where problems of overspend were not solved over several

reviews. In Nick's view, the offshoring of jobs for Defence equipment is to the detriment of Australian knowledge and ability to fix problems when necessary.

Nick went on to comment on the increasing fragility of World affairs. The Anzac Alliance is considered to be the most important agreement that Australia has. China is Australia's major trading partner and the big strategic question for Australia is how to negotiate the tension between China and our key security partner, the USA. The RAND corporation has published the report "*War With China: Thinking Through the Unthinkable*" which can be seen at https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR1100/RR1140/RAND_RR1140.pdf.

The Senator questioned whether the Australian economy is ready for the calamitous effects of economic disruption as a result of combat in the Western Pacific, since 95% of Chinese trade is seaborne? Australia would not be spared from such levels of disruption, both to our economy and demography. All members of parliament would need to support any action by Australia but members are not cleared to receive the level of classified information that they would need to make decisions. Australia alone should make its own decisions before being involved in any conflict and action taken now affects Australia's defence capabilities.

CHINESE THREAT TO AUSTRALIA'S SOVEREIGNTY

On 5 June 2017, Chen Yonglin addressed the RUSIDSS of SA on "*Exposing the Chinese Threat to Australia's Sovereignty.*" Chen Yonglin is a former Chinese diplomat who sparked fears of a diplomatic incident through his defection to Australia in the summer of 2005.



Following is a brief summary of the points made by Chen during his talk. Chen's intention was to help us to understand China and the Chinese. Chinese people do not believe those who are in power and economic growth is not their expectation. They are prepared to make sacrifices for the welfare of future generations. 40,000 Chinese students sought protection from Australia after the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, commonly known in China as the June Fourth Incident and China encouraged them to acquire permanent residence in Australia if possible.

Australia is seen as vital to China which would like to drive a wedge between Australia and the US. Australian politicians are seen as short sighted whereas China looks at the long term. China relies on Australia for resources and energy, both of which are running out in China. Australia has effectively lost control of the Port of Darwin which has increased the view in China that Australia is its major supply base.

In Chen's view, if we do not care about our national security, why should the US? Australians should be worried, being the nearest stable western government to China.

THREAT OF ISLAMIC EXTREMISM

The Threat to Contemporary Australia from Islamic Extremism was the subject of the talk by Imam Tawhidi to the RUSIDSS of SA on 3 July 2017.



Sheikh Mohammad Tawhidi is an Australian Shi'i Muslim creationist, educator, speaker, preacher, thinker, researcher and author of Iraqi origin who was born in the Holy City of Qum, Iran, into a spiritual family with a history of decades in the Islamic Seminary.

A transcript of the talk given by Imam Tawhidi can be found on the RUSI website at <https://www.rusi.org.au/resources/Documents/SA/Imam%20Tawhidi%20Speech%20at%20RUSI-1.pdf>.

Following is a brief resume of the Imam's presentation.

There were five components of the talk, namely:

1. The role of peaceful muslim leaders in general,
2. Australian multiculturalism and where we are now,
3. The mind-set of moderate muslims and how they view terrorism,
4. The influence of/and direct link between the early years of Islam and today's terrorism – books, and
5. The foreign funding and infiltration of radicals in our education system and society, along with the special treatment of muslims in Australia.

Most Muslims wish to live in peace and harmony. The law of the land must come before Islamic law. We must respect the land we live in, those who live there and their culture. Australian Muslims are looked up to in Muslim lands, particularly if they have an Australian passport.

Conversion to Islam takes place in prisons and the Imam questioned who these Muslim clerics are who visit our prisons where conversions to Islam occur. Books are distributed and the most sacred of them do teach terrorism. These books should be banned from universities and prisons. They have misleading covers and titles. Only non-radical Imams should be allowed to visit prisons.

Massive funding to promote Islam comes from Saudi Arabia and finds its way to terrorist groups, universities and schools. Imam Tawhidi encourages young Muslims to join the Australian armed forces so others see that there are reasonable and non-extreme humans which should reduce the tensions in our society.

ISIS is planning to acquire nuclear weapons and we must guard against this threat as a high priority.

NULKA

NULKA is an Australian designed and developed active missile decoy designed to distract anti-ship missiles from their target.

NULKA is fitted to RAN frigates and is planned to be fitted to all RAN Air Warfare destroyers. The system was designed initially by the DST Group.

The book "NULKA, A Compelling Story" by D Gambling, Mal Crozier and Don Northam is available to download on the DST Group website <https://www.dst.defence.gov.au/publication/nulka-compelling-story>

HARS

The Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS), Woollongong formally accepted an AP-3C Orion from Chief of Air Force, AM Leo Davies AO CSC in November 2017.

The P3 is authorised to fly with 20 other historic aircraft at HARS. This is the first time that an independent outfit like HARS has been given such permission outside a military establishment.

See the HARS website at <https://hars.org.au>.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY RESERVE TRANSFORMATION

Following are extracts from an address given by the Chief of Army, LTGEN Angus Campbell AO DSC to the RUSIDSS of Victoria on 27 July 2017 and later to the Defence Reserves Association Victoria. The talk was entitled *Australian Army Reserve Transformation - A Total Force*.

The 116 year history of the Australian Army is one of citizen soldiers serving alongside each other, in full time and part time service. For more than half our history, part time soldiers made up the bulk of the force; serving, sacrificing and contributing to the development of our proud record, whether a feted leader like Monash or an 'everyman' like Private John Carroll of the 33rd Battalion, 3rd Division, 1st AIF. John was a labourer and railway worker when he enlisted in Western Australia in 1916. For his actions in the battle of Messines Ridge, he was awarded the Victoria Cross. During the battle he rushed an enemy trench and bayoneted four men, then rescued a comrade in difficulties. Later in the same advance, he attacked a machine gun crew, killing three men and capturing the gun. Then, in spite of heavy shelling and machine gun fire, he dug out two of his mates who had been buried by a shell explosion. Part time soldiers have taken part in all of our campaigns; from the high veldt of South Africa to the dust of Iraq and Afghanistan. Theirs has been a consistent contribution to, and an enrichment of, the ANZAC heritage *they* created.

Today, the Australian Army is a highly trained and professional force of 45,000 soldiers. It is an integrated 'total' force of about 30,000 full time and 15,000 part time citizens. The Army is focussed on delivering capability outcomes, rather than dogmatic adherence to a particular process, to develop and deliver that capability. By embracing different pathways to capability, the Army gains from a broadening skills base, attracting a range of generalist and specialist experience. The commitment of all our people is the same: to serve our nation in peace and war, as duty requires. The only difference is their employment flexibility, in training but not on operations, associated with full time or part time service.

Change is underway to ensure that Army, including the Reserve as an indivisible component of Army, continues to deliver the capability required by Government. The Reserve is driving this process: it is their ideas, suggestions and planning we are moving out on. Let



me be very clear – this is not a case of a Regular Officer telling the Reserve what's good for it. Rather, senior reserve leaders have said they want and need change:

- *Change* that acknowledges the significant strategic challenges of our times;
- *Change* that better supports the training and development of our people, especially young adult Australians;
- *Change* that aligns Army service and contemporary civil employment demands; and
- *Change* that appreciates the opportunity and complexity of modern land force materiel.

For some decades, we have been moving away from the strategic rationale of the Reserve *purely* as a mobilisation base and moving away from thinking of it as a *separate part* of the Army, or even a *separate Army*, whose purpose was only to generate capability *in extremis*. In the 'total force' model the Reserve contributes to capability in all of our endeavours to defend Australia and secure its national interests.

In February this year, I issued a directive, the '*Total Force Approach for Operational Deployments*'. The directive mandates a review of all current and future operational deployment documents. Through this mechanism, *some* positions on *all*

operations will be made available to Army Reserve soldiers who undertake contingent force preparation, thereby embedding a 'total force' approach to our operational deployments.

Battle Group Cannan was made up of soldiers from the 11th and 13th Brigades and deployed to Shoalwater Bay to support the 3rd Brigade on Exercise Talisman Sabre 2017. I visited the exercise and was very impressed. Battle Group Cannan demonstrated the commitment, current capability, and the extraordinary potential of our Reserve soldiers.

Battle Group Cannan was well equipped with EF88 rifles and the latest Battalion HQ kit, provided by 3rd Brigade. The Brigade Commander needed the capability and wanted the Battle Group to be the best that collective resources could make it. Now *that's* an integrated force in word, spirit and deed!

Through this battle group training the Reserve is developing considerable expertise in the essential and enduring tasks of rear area security and stabilisation. This is lifting their skills and reducing the training time required to prepare them for operations, whether that is humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, security and stabilisation or conventional warfare. The importance of this contribution cannot be overstated. In any sustained operational deployment of an Australian

Army brigade group, Reserve participation in successive rotations is likely to rise from an initial 10% of the first deployment, to 30%, and then 60% of the third rotation.

There are many paths to service and many levels of readiness across units, full and part time, subject to respective roles and responsibilities. But there is only one path to deployment: our 'operational generation' process. This provides assurance of the preparedness of all forces. This process is designed to certify, or not, individuals and units as ready to deploy. Full or part time in origin, all our people on operations are prepared and ready for those operations; one team, working for Australia.

The contribution of the Reserve is far broader than operational deployments. In 2016, while the Army had 1100 Reservist deployed on operations, 600 were on Continuous Full-time service and 500 on short periods of *Defence Act Section 26* service. Reserves figure prominently in the Australian Army's many domestic roles, from disaster relief to special events, such as the G20 or the Commonwealth Games. We could not achieve what the Government asks of us without the 'total force'.

It requires a population of 90,000 to 100,000 young adult Australians, living within a reasonable distance of a Reserve hub, in order to offer a progressive training experience. Yet our current disposition does not always support this reality. Australia is one of the most urbanised nations on earth and many of our current hubs are located in rural and hinterland areas where, *disaggregated*, demography does not and cannot support the capability development we need. This is also true in some urban areas, where Reserve locations reflect Australia's demography in 1917 rather than that of 2017. Accordingly, we are studying the data from the 2016 Census to help determine where we need to be opening new depots.

Any Australian can join the Reserve and I want them all to consider doing so. We keenly want the hard working quiet stoicism of young rural Australians as much as the inner city worker and everyone in between. So, in order to facilitate a better way of connecting to you, wherever your home and associated depot, we are increasingly adopting, for city and country alike, a modular or block training approach to building capability. In doing so, we seek to *aggregate* people for training so that the *experience* of Reserve service is worthy of the *commitment* of young Australians.

The Army has renewed its focus on *recruiting* for the Reserve. We are now recruiting 1,400 a year compared with barely 900 two years ago and this number is rising. Retention and wastage rates are being addressed and Army is changing patterns of training and service to

meet the flexibility required of the modern Australian workforce.

Another focus for recruiting and development concerns getting more tradespeople into the Reserve. This target group includes the traditional 'trades' - diesel mechanics, plumbers, electricians, cooks and carpenters but now includes newer and emerging civilian trades, such as cyber experts, software developers and computer programmers, social media and communications experts, electronic systems technicians, UAS operators and technicians. Like doctors and lawyers, the skills we require from these people in uniform are the ones they have mastered in their civilian employment. We are looking at ways we can attract and retain the right people from these professions, so that the employment offer is attractive, predictable and mutually beneficial. One initiative is developing a simple course to induct recruits into the military so that their skills can be accessed quickly.

Change is also underway with respect to equipment. Modern land platforms, such as the armoured vehicles being acquired for the Army in Project Land 400, are highly capable, highly complex and costly and will not be crewed by Reserve personnel due to the number of training days per year necessary to establish and maintain crew proficiency. The Reserve will *utilise* Land 400 Armoured vehicles, as Cavalry Scouts for the Armoured Cavalry Regiments and as reinforcements for the infantry battalions of the 1st, 3rd and 7th Brigades. Reserve infantry soldiers will continue to be trained and employed in dismounted roles, such as stability operations and operations in close or complex terrain environments. Today's citizen soldiers are highly-trained and motivated part-time professionals. They are ready and relevant. The Reserve's role to support the generation of directed operational capability by the total force of 45,000 is 'locked in' to the design of the contemporary and future Army. The tenets of these changes are flexibility, modularity, world class training and a relentless focus on generating land forces for the defence of Australia and its national interests. Current reservists have embraced these changes and are quietly, competently and modestly getting on with the job at hand.

Our contemporary reservists are hardworking Australian men and women, offering service to the nation beyond that which they already give as citizens in their daily lives – and frequently achieving extraordinary things in both careers. Reserve transformation underway in our Army demonstrates our commitment to them and respect for their service and the capability they deliver.

