



Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia

Newsletter

September 2012

Promoting National Security and Defence

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Governor of Western Australia
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YOUR PATRONS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

Subscriptions are due on 1 July annually Town - \$40, Country - \$25, Associate - \$5

Your subscription, and other charges can be electronically transferred to the RUSI.

BSB 803-205, Account No 20531718, and include your surname

2012 PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER

20-21 Sep

RUSI National Council Meeting in Western Australia

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER

Details of the ongoing Lecture program are currently being finalised and will be circulated in the October Newsletter.

DECEMBER

tba

Traditional Sundowner end of year function

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011 - 12

RUSI WA has had another successful year but we have faced our share of challenges.

The lecture program was a great success. We were privileged to hear a number of eminent speakers covering a diverse range defence and security issues. One of the highlights was the presentation by Major General Michael Crane DSC, AM on the (then) plans for the conduct of the Force Structure Review. As you are aware, soon after this event the Government opted to go down a different path and the FSR was cancelled.

As always, the annual Blamey Oration was the pinnacle speaking event for the year. In May the Blamey Oration was presented by the Secretary, Department of Defence, Mr Duncan Lewis AO, DSC, CSC. Mr Lewis provided a unique insight into the major Defence issues being faced by our nation and it was pleasing to see the active participation of our members during question time.

One many positives of being part of the RUSI national body is the increased reach provided by the national RUSI web site. For example, the transcript of the presentation given to RUSI WA by Mr Duncan Lewis was posted to the RUSI web site. This allowed the transcript available to be read by our country members and those members not able to attend on the night. Perhaps, more significantly, the transcripts of major RUSI WA speaking events are available to be read by RUSI national and international members.

If you are not already reading the RUSI national web site < www.rusi.org.au > on a regular basis I urge you to do so. This site contains a wealth of information and up to date transcripts gathered from all the RUSI state bodies. In a world where the television media work with 20 second sound bites, the RUSI lectures, delivered by eminent speakers, offer more considered and comprehensive insights into defence and security matters.

Over the past year we have continued to engage with many local WA organisations. This has included WA Government, WA Defence Industry, local universities, local Defence units and Future Directions International. This engagement leads to improving public, and our own, awareness of defence and security matters.

One of recent challenges was pressure on the Department of Defence to free up office space at Building 13 Leeuwin Barracks, to allow the occupation of the ADF Investigative Services. We looked at the option of moving to the Army Museum of Western Australia site at Artillery Barracks. This option was rejected, primarily because Artillery Barracks did not have sufficient space to house our library and working areas. The final outcome, in summary, was that RUSI WA will give up some office and library space but we will remain in our current location at Leeuwin Barracks for the foreseeable future.

Our financial position is sound. With the potential RUSI WA relocation issue resolved, we have no major expenditure planned for the coming year.

An organisation is only as good as its members. Although we have seen a regular stream of applications from new members over the past year our overall level of financial memberships has declined. This is a key issue that we will need to focus on over the coming months, if we wish to remain a strong, vibrant organisation. Perhaps the problem is as simple as the fact that we don't send out enough formal reminders when membership fees are overdue? Perhaps we need to improve the social gatherings, to balance out the serious discussions and lectures, with more fun? Perhaps we need a more varied program of events? I invite your thoughts on the issue of maintaining a strong, vibrant RUSI WA membership.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of your Council over the past year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of our Secretary / Treasurer Otto Pelczar, our

Librarian Bill Lamble and our Editor Robert Mitchell. It is a positive sign that a number of our members had nominated to join the Council over recent months. We are looking forward to a great year ahead.

Mike Brennan

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FINANCIAL REPORT 2011 - 2012

The Annual Accounts are presently being audited and will be circulated as soon as available.

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NATIONAL COUNCIL PROGRAM

The National Council of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia will meet in Perth for the first time since WA's centennial year in 2003. The National Council consists of the National Executive and Secretary and the Presidents and Secretaries of the constituent State and Territory entities. The primary business of the meeting will be to coordinate the activities of the RUSI to support the Defence Mission and to promote informed debate to improve public awareness and understanding of defence and national security.

The RUSI of WA will be assisting in the meeting preparations and presentations. Of necessity, most of the program activities will be restricted to National Council members. If opportunities present themselves for local members to meet with National Council, arrangements will be advised by email or telephone.

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LECTURE REPORT

“Pakistan-Afghan Relations: Regional Implications of the US Withdrawal”.
by Rizwan Zeb

In the scheduled lecture following the Annual General Meeting, Rizwan Zeb presented a comprehensive overview of Pakistan – Afghan relations in the context of the regional implications of the forthcoming withdrawal of US and other forces. The lecture was presented under Chatham House rules and evoked considerable interest and discussion both during and after the formal session.

One of the items referred to in the lecture was the proposed Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline. The following Strategic Analysis Paper by Rizwan is part of the suite of studies provided by Future Directions International providing independent analysis of Australia's global interests.

The full range of current analysis may be accessed at www.futuredirections.org.au

Background

The long-proposed Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline continues to stall. Although Pakistan is facing an imminent energy crisis, for Islamabad, the project is caught up in the complexities of its relationships with Iran and the United States.

Comment

Islamabad is of the view that securing funds for the construction of the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline should not be a problem. According to media reports, addressing a joint press conference with the visiting Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, Pakistan's Foreign Minister stated that there are multiple sources available. 'This is a fairly viable project and we hope there will not be any problem in trying to find ways and means of ensuring its funding.' She further stated that, in keeping with the severity of the energy crisis in the country, 'We cannot afford to be selective in pursuing energy sources and we will continue to do whatever we consider to be in our national interest.'

The IP gas pipeline is in trouble; once again. The Iran-Pakistan pipeline as it was initially planned has been around for quite some time now. The discussions for it started in 1994 between Islamabad and Tehran. On the suggestion of Tehran, New Delhi was included in the proposed pipeline project and it became the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline. In February 1999, an agreement between Tehran and New Delhi was signed. It was then also called the "Peace Pipeline", as it was viewed as a joint India-Pakistan venture which would bring peace and prosperity between the two traditional rivals. The 1999 coup in Pakistan resulted in some delays, but it soon came back on track. According to various media sources, Tehran was also keen to involve China in the project. After India abandoned the then-IPI in 2009, after signing a civilian nuclear deal with the United States, the final destination of the pipeline remains unclear.

Both Tehran and Islamabad, however, continued working on it. A gas purchase agreement between Iran and Pakistan was signed in 2009. According to reports, Tehran has already completed its part of the pipeline while a feasibility study is underway on the Pakistani side. In recent times, Islamabad showed more inclination towards the IP pipeline than other options, including the Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline (TAPI). This is for various reasons, such as deteriorating Afghanistan-Pakistan relations, the uncertainty over Turkmenistan's ability to supply the agreed amount of gas, and the cost and duration involved in the competition of the pipeline. The last point being the most important, as Islamabad is in urgent need of new gas sources as it is increasingly running out of its own gas reserves. A number of experts have estimated that, even if demand does not increase, reserves would be completely depleted by 2028-30.

Washington is strongly against the project. According to US policymakers, this would provide Tehran with capital which it will use to pursue its anti-American, anti-Israeli and anti-Western agenda and to further its nuclear programme. According to media reports, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, addressing the House Appropriation Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, stated that embarking on the IP pipeline project is in violation of the Iran Sanctions Act.

Although Islamabad has reiterated that it would go ahead with the IP pipeline, it would be a bumpy ride. Earlier this year, Pakistan's own Oil and Gas Development Corporation and the National Bank of Pakistan reportedly withdrew from the project, stating likely adverse implications for their foreign partnerships and businesses. But, if Pakistan does decide to back off from the project, it will have to pay a huge amount in compensation to Iran as per the 2009 agreement. The only encouraging note so far is that the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China is considering financing the project.

In light of this, the biggest challenge for Islamabad is ensure that it manages its complex relationship with both Tehran and Washington. While it should go ahead with the IP pipeline feasibility study and see what shape the current crisis between US and Iran takes, and what would be the outlook of post-elections Iran, it should also explore other possibilities, such as TAPI and/or a Qatar-Pakistan pipeline.

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RETHINKING EDUCATION FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Given the original role of the United Services Institutes in promoting the education of officers, the following article by Hugh Smith and Anthony Bergin which appeared in *The Australian* on 28 August is both relevant and timely.

As the defence budget gets cut in key areas of military capability, Australia's professional military education system becomes ever more vital. Military education is the career-long process of developing the qualities of intellect, expertise, ethos and leadership required by members of the profession of arms. Professional military education requires expertise in many areas, and it's rare for a military force to have the requisite knowledge among those in uniform.

So the Australian Defence Force has no choice but to draw on outside subject experts, most of whom are in universities. At the ADF Academy, officer candidates in all three services undertake limited military training while pursuing a full-time university education at University College, UNSW for three or four years. In 2010-11 UNSW received \$52 million for its services (about equal to the military budget for the Academy) and conferred 322 bachelor degrees and 607 postgraduate awards.

The Australian Command and Staff College in Canberra prepares middle ranking officers for command and staff appointments. This entails an 11-month residential course for attendees from the three services. Late last year, the Staff College signed a 10-year agreement with the ANU to provide substantial elements of the course, at a cost of about \$1.78m a year.

At the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, also in Canberra, senior military officers are prepared for strategic leadership positions over the course of a year. Deakin University currently provides a full-time academic to liaise with staff and monitor the performance of those course members enrolled in masters degree.

A notable absence from the professional military education curriculum is the discipline of behavioural science, which embraces psychology, anthropology and sociology (including military sociology). While the ADF proclaims that its people are its most important asset and are central to military effectiveness, its people problems have repeatedly created some of the most negative publicity: bastardisation, the integration of women, sexual harassment and assault, bullying, the integration of homosexuals and ethnic minorities, alcoholism and suicide.

Following an incident at the Defence Academy last year, six reviews of the ADF with a distinctly cultural focus were established, drawing heavily on outside expertise. As well as throwing light on military culture in its broadest sense, behavioural science is also relevant to key factors that are intrinsic to the successful management of military personnel such as recruitment, retention, career development, combat motivation, leadership and family adjustment.

It is also obvious that behavioural science is highly relevant to the sorts of wars that the ADF is likely to fight. Especially when war is fought in communities, military personnel need to have some understanding of how other societies and cultures operate. Other national forces have taken this challenge more seriously than the ADF.

Professional military education relies heavily on contracts with universities and the ADF needs to consider whether contracts are best renewed at different times or at the same time, and whether it would be desirable for a single university to provide for all key courses. In any case, it would be desirable to encourage more universities to enter the market so there's greater competition in tendering. Universities outside Canberra, however, appear distinctly disinterested in military issues, and many academics are indifferent to defence-related topics, if not actually hostile. As a result there's a very limited number of universities qualified to tender for such contracts.

Broadening the study of military subjects beyond the capital could directly benefit the ADF.

Potential measures could include grants for the creation of centres of excellence which would promote undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, research and publication in military-related subjects.

Hugh Smith and Anthony Bergin are the co-authors of *Educating for the Profession of Arms in Australia*, released by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI). The full range of ASPI reports can be found at http://www.aspi.org.au/publications/publications_all.aspx

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Stay informed. Visit the RUSI web site: <https://www.rusi.org.au/index.php>

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