



Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia

Newsletter

March 2013 Edition

Promoting National Security and Defence

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YOUR PATRONS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

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2013 PROGRAM

MARCH

**21 March 2013
7:00 for 7:30**

Cyber-Terrorism: The Phantom Menace
By Dr Daniel Baldino, University of Notre dame

The speaker originally planned for this lecture is a candidate in the Commonwealth election and since the election date has been announced has had to withdraw from this engagement. Dr Baldino has kindly agreed to bring forward his proposed presentation.

APRIL

**9 April 2013
12:00 noon**

Luncheon Series – *The History of the RUSI Medal Collection* by
Captain Wayne Gardner, Assistant Manager, Army Museum of
Western Australia

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

***Tentative date
May 2013***

Blamey Oration – LTGEN David Morrison, Chief of Army has been
invited to deliver the 2013 Blamey Oration.

The next Newsletter will be published on 1 April 2013

Copy Deadline 15 March 2013

**March Lecture – Cyber-Terrorism: The Phantom Menace?
By Dr Daniel Baldino, University of Notre Dame**

Biography and Synopsis



Dr Daniel Baldino is Head of the Politics and International Relations program at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle. In 2000, he was a Research Associate at the Library of Congress, Washington DC. In 2005 he was a visiting scholar at the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security (ACDIS), University of Illinois, USA and in 2007 at the Security and Governance Program, East-West Center, Hawaii, USA. Recent books have included a book on democratic oversight of the intelligence sector in a range of developed nations and co-authoring a book on non-traditional threats to Australian security.

Policymakers in Australia have increasingly warned about looming cyber-disaster based on the shrinking gap between a terrorist's wish list and their actual capability to pose an imminent threat. Reflecting this, the 1951 ANZUS alliance has recently been 'modernized' to address cyber-warfare within a changing treat landscape. So how real and dangerous are various cyber-threats in a technologically-dependent world? Could an intentional cyber-attack be launched by the 'push of a button'? Will future new-fangled forms warfare involve a type of 'electronic jihad' against Australia and similar like-minded nations,

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Democratic Oversight of Intelligence Services. Annandale, NSW: Federation Press

A glimpse into the secret world of intelligence agencies, the war on terror and power abuses by world organisations is offered in the book, *Oversight Matters*, offering an academic insight into Western democracies increasing need for oversight of executive power.

Edited by The University of Notre Dame's political lecturer, Dr Daniel Baldino, with a foreword by the Hon Kim Beazley AC, *Oversight Matters* explores the political landscape of the Western world, post 9 11, and sets the stage for a deeper reflection on the issue of terrorism and the resulting rise of the 'secret state'.

"A lot of the debate surrounding 9 11 has been about getting the balance right between liberty and security and I think that can be a very misleading diagnosis," said Dr Baldino.

"Everyone would agree it's better to be safe than sorry but what we need to think about is whether a range of unprecedented laws which have expanded the power of agencies such as ASIO and the Australian Federal police are proportionate, whether they're justifiable and not counterproductive by adding to more fear and insecurity within the wider community."

In order to nurture a society of understanding, Dr Baldino said policy makers had to ensure they were not placing their own agenda above the responsibilities of intelligence agencies, which could result in a skewing of the public's perception of threat. "One of the lessons of the book is that we have to be very wary about the politicisation of intelligence. In other words, intelligence should always inform policy," he said.

"Policy shouldn't dictate what intelligence should do. What you had with the situation in Iraq is policy makers had already made up the decision to invade and then put pressure on intelligence agencies to fill in the gaps and provide intelligence to justify that policy and initiative. That's a use

and abuse of the system.

“Intelligence has got to remain objective, apolitical, honest and robust and sometimes intelligence agencies and officers have to tell governments what they might not want to hear.”

Dr Baldino said misuse of power and justification for the war in Iraq would only add to a misperception of Islam and add fuel to the fire for extremists, who were not representative of the faith.

“We don’t understand the many faces of Islam and we don’t understand Islam in and of itself and the media’s correlated Muslims with terrorists which is inaccurate and highly counterproductive,” he said.

“Terrorism is not a new phenomenon, it existed before 9 11 and there have been left wing, right wing and ethnic forms and now we’re fixated on a particular version of religious extremism.

“Our policy makers ensured us that intelligence had reliably informed them that Saddam offered a clear and present danger. And when the weapons didn’t materialise, part of the question was who’s to blame?”

Dr Baldino said nationalism was a common public response to crisis which in turn added to the growth of executive power.

“People have rallied around the flag and trusted the executive government to do the right thing and I think in many ways it has betrayed that trust,” he said.

“What oversight does it make sure that there are other mechanisms, such as legislative and judicial, that can put a brake on executive impulses.”

In addressing whether to trust our politicians and intelligence agencies to do the right thing, Dr Baldino said there were degrees of transparency, accountability and culpability required to give the public confidence and to ensure that intelligence services weren’t manipulated or misused.

“Policy makers need to feel as though they are being held to account and responsible for their actions and part of that requires a certain vigilance on behalf of democratic society, including moral and ethical standards that we expect from our leaders,” he said.

“Unfortunately in an atmosphere of panic and fear and a war on terror we tend to give our leaders far too much discretion. Arbitrary power is always a slippery slope and not healthy for a vibrant democratic society.

“We need to embrace the principles of multiculturalism in the USA, UK and Australia to show the strength and resilience of democracy as well as promoting a more tolerant message.

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NEW COMMANDING OFFICER – NEW RUSI VICE PATRON

Captain Angela Bond became the first female Commanding Officer of HMAS *Stirling* in early December, during a low-key, wharf-side ceremony at the Royal Australian Navy’s Western Australian base. After a successful two year stint at the helm, Captain Brett Wolski handed Command of Australia’s largest operational naval base to Captain Bond, who has had a long affiliation with *Stirling*.

“I have had a thirteen year association with *Stirling* over my thirty-two years in the Navy, and this is the position that I have always wanted. I have already enjoyed three postings to the West, and I couldn’t wait to get back here.”



Captian Brett Wolski, RAN, hands the ceremonial telescope, and Command, to Captain Angela Bond at Captains Landing, HMAS Stirling, WA.

“A Command like this is a role that many Officers aspire to, and I’m pretty stoked to be here for the next three years,” said Captain Bond, who had previously served as *Stirling’s* Executive Officer. Captain Wolski will move to Canberra to assume the tri-service role of Director General of Workforce Planning, and will be promoted to Commodore in January. He said he’d be leaving *Stirling* with fond memories of the Navy’s Western Australian workforce.

“I am sad to be leaving *Stirling*, because this posting has truly been the highlight of my career. The Officers, Sailors, and Defence Civilian employees here are some of the best I have ever worked with. They do a tremendous job of supporting the front line – and our Fleet couldn’t achieve its mission without them,” said Captain Wolski.

Captain Bond will experience a busy start to her Command, hosting a farewell ceremony for HMAS *Toowoomba* on the 28th of December, when the Anzac Class Frigate departs for the Middle East Area of Operations. “Around 500 family members and friends of the sailors and officers departing will be here to farewell them, so it’s a pretty important occasion,” she said.

Before departing HMAS *Stirling* for the last time as Commanding Officer, Captain Wolski congratulated his successor on her appointment. “As far as command’s go – they don’t get much more senior than this. This is looked upon as a pinnacle posting. And, to be the first female Commanding Officer of this base is a milestone that Captain Bond should be really proud of.”

It just goes to show how far women in the Australian Defence Force are progressing in leadership roles,” he said.

Captain Bond has agreed to accept the appointment of Vice Patron of the RUSI of Western Australia.

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