



Royal United Services Institute for
Defence and Security Studies NSW, Inc

Newsletter

Issue No. 31 - 30 May 2017

Defence Plaza Sydney
Level 20, 270 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

PO Box 778 SYDNEY SOUTH
NSW 2010

www.rusinsw.org.au

office@rusinsw.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9393 2325
Fax: (02) 9393 3543

Introduction

Welcome to this month's issue of the electronic newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies NSW, Inc the aim of which is to provide members, stakeholders, and other interested parties up to date news of our latest activities and events as well as selective information on defence issues.

There is no charge to receive this newsletter electronically and recipients are not required to be a member of the Institute. Invite your colleagues to receive this newsletter by going to the newsletter page on the Institute's website <http://www.rusinsw.org.au/Newsletter> where they can register their email contact details.



**Major General J. S.
Richardson CB, Founder
of RUSI NSW**

Latest News

Budget 2017–18 – Defence Budget Overview

On 9th May the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Defence Industry, issued a statement on the Defence budget. The Introduction to the statement follows while the full release can be accessed at:

<https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/minister/christopher-pyne/media-releases/budget-2017-18-defence-budget-overview>

“The 2017–18 Budget provides funding to deliver:

- on our ongoing commitments to Defence Operations around the globe, ensuring safety and security at home and secure maritime borders;
- the capability plans set out in the 2016 Defence White Paper through the Defence Integrated Investment Program; and
- the strategies outlined in the Defence Industry Policy Statement to reshape and refocus the Defence and industry partnership.



The 2017 Budget maintains the Government's commitment to provide Defence with a stable and sustainable funding growth path. The Defence budget will grow to two per cent of GDP by 2020–21, three years earlier than the Coalition's 2013 election commitment. The Government will provide Defence with \$34.6 billion in 2017–18 and \$150.6 billion over the Forward Estimates. Over the next decade from 2017–18, the \$200 billion Integrated Investment Program demonstrates the Government's commitment to creating a more

potent and capable Defence Force, and growing a local defence industry that will create jobs and drive economic growth, through programs such as:

- The naval shipbuilding program, which will invest \$89 billion to develop the Royal Australian Navy of the future while creating a strong and sustainable Australian naval shipbuilding industry.
- The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, which will give the Royal Australian Air Force unprecedented capability to combat future threats to our nation.

The Government will also continue to support the expanded functions of the Defence Force Ombudsman (DFO) to provide an additional independent complaints process for allegations of abuse in Defence. The DFO functions will be further expanded in 2017–18 to provide for reparation payments to be made in some circumstances. The DFO function complements the cultural change reforms being implemented by Defence.”

Letter by Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, DSC, AM to all Army Commanders - 11 May 2017

Like you, I am deeply concerned that we have lost two young Australians in training incidents this past week. My thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

Yesterday, across Army, our brigades were directed to pause to review risk assessment processes and training safety management. While it is essential that our Army trains for the rigours of operational service, it is very clear to Army’s leaders at every level, from corporal



Australian Army soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR), guard the coffin of Private Jason Challis during the military funeral service in Highton, Victoria on 26 May 2017.

to general, that our training must build and develop our people and capability. The injury or death of soldiers in training is fundamentally at odds with this purpose and the responsibility we hold to those we lead.

Brigades will progressively return to duty over the next few days as the Forces Commander, Major General Fergus McLachlan, AM, is satisfied that the appropriate processes are in place to manage risk and the safety of our people.

I have great confidence in our leaders, and our men and women, to work together to reinforce our training standards and return to the level of performance we all expect of ourselves and our nation requires of us.

I am deeply appreciative of the immediate response by all those on the ground, and I know that our soldiers will continue to support each other as they confront the loss of their mates.

Our thoughts remain with the families and friends of Trooper Stuart Reddan and Private Jason Challis during this difficult time.

We will work very closely to support Defence, Comcare, state and territory police, and coronial authorities as these incidents are thoroughly investigated.

HMAS Arunta successfully interdicts narcotics

Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS *Arunta* has seized approximately 250 kilograms of heroin during a vessel interception off the coast of Africa as part of Operation MANITOU. *Arunta's* crew seized the drugs in the Indian Ocean on 10 May 2017—her second narcotic interdiction since commencing counter-terrorism operations in December 2016. Following detection by a Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3K2 Orion maritime patrol aircraft, *Arunta* intercepted and boarded the suspect dhow as part of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150) which is currently under French command, supported by a combined French-UK staff.

Commanding Officer HMAS *Arunta*, Commander Cameron Steil RAN, praised the crew's professionalism and ability to conduct a meticulous search, which led to the drug seizure. "While the smugglers continue to try new techniques for hiding narcotics, our boarding parties have shown that their experience, training, and techniques are up to the task at hand," Commander Steil said.



Members of HMAS *Arunta's* boarding party seize and account for illegal narcotics found during the search of a dhow while on patrol in the Middle East Region.

Commander Joint Task Force 633 (JTF633), Major General John Frewen said the successful drug interception was a joint effort as part of the broader Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

"*Arunta's* second seizure, as part of the CMF effort, will directly contribute to the overall maritime security, stability and prosperity in the region," Major General Frewen said. "This is a testament to their perseverance and hard work," he said.

HMAS *Arunta* is Australia's major surface vessel for Operation MANITOU and is on her third deployment to the Middle East Region, as part of JTF633. It is the 64th rotation of a Royal Australian Navy vessel in the region since 1990. Operation MANITOU is the current name for the Australian Government's contribution to support international efforts to promote maritime security, stability and prosperity in the Middle East Region. Under Operation MANITOU, HMAS *Arunta* is currently supporting the US-led CMF, a 31 nation partnership working within the region.

RAAF P-8A Poseidon assists in its first civilian search and rescue response

The Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) latest maritime surveillance and response capability—the P-8A Poseidon, has assisted with the co-ordination of a search and rescue response, approximately 50 kilometres south of Mount Gambier, Victoria. While on a training mission from its home at RAAF Base Edinburgh in South Australia, the P-8A Poseidon, call sign Blackcat 20, intercepted a mayday call from a distressed vessel, the MV

Port Princes, around 1 pm on Tuesday, 16 May 2017. MV Port Princess was observed taking on water, with four persons on board. Blackcat 20 provided communications assistance to aid the stricken vessel, rescuing the stricken ship's captain and three crew.



Image grab from a Royal Australian Air Force P-8A Poseidon aircraft that assisted with the co-ordination of a search and rescue response, approximately 50 kilometres south of Mount Gambier, Victoria.

Executive Officer for No. 92 Wing, Wing Commander Brett Williams said the successful search and rescue response by the Poseidon's crew was a great demonstration of this remarkable aircraft. "The P-8A Poseidon takes RAAF maritime surveillance and response capability to a new level of interoperability and performance," Wing Commander

Williams said. "This is the first search and rescue response completed by the P-8A Poseidon since the aircraft's arrival into Australia last November. The Poseidon is still undergoing test and evaluation activities before a formal introduction into service. "Search and rescue forms an important part of the operational test and evaluation program which we've laid out to bring the Air Force's P-8A Poseidon into service," he said.

Institute News

New Members A special welcome is extended to the following new members:

Mr Lachlan Auer and Professor Peter Stanley

Deceased Members It is with a deep sense of sadness that the passing of the following members is recorded: **Capt RS Manyweathers OAM, ED.**

Upcoming Institute Lunchtime Lectures and Events

Tuesday 27 June 2017 **Lt Col Peter Sweeney**

Subject: Battle of the Coral Sea. This is open to any interested person and will be held at Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Level 1 280 Pitt Street, Sydney – start time: 1pm.



Image: John Hutcheson

LT COL Peter Sweeney RFD (Ret'd) is a long time member of the Institute and is a member of the UK International Guild of Battlefield Guides. He is currently completing a Masters of Military History degree through the UNSW. Peter is in partnership with fellow institute member Ron Lyons in the battlefield touring company Battle Honours Australia.

Peter is a noted presenter on Australian military history, having made over one hundred presentations on 'Gallipoli' and 'The Battle of Fromelles' and has recently travelled on three back-to-back cruises as an enrichment speaker. The cruises visited Darwin, Milne Bay, Rabaul and Singapore where Peter made presentations regarding the battles and attacks at those locations, as well as the Battle of the Coral Sea as the ships passed through the Coral Sea.

Peter's military historical interests extend to both the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force. His interest in the Navy was initially generated by his father, Chief Petty Officer, Ordnance Artificer, Raymond Sweeney, who served on HMAS Hobart throughout WW2 in the Pacific. That service included the Battles of the Coral Sea and Savo Island.

In his presentation on 'The Battle of the Coral Sea', Peter will cover the Japanese Plan, the Japanese advances in the South West Pacific Area, the Opposing Forces, the American Intelligence, the Battle itself, the Result, and the aftermath

An interesting and thought provoking June lecture is assured.



Tuesday 25 July 2017 **Professor Paul Dibb**

Subject: The threat to Australian security from China. This is open to any interested person and will be held at Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Level 1 280 Pitt Street, Sydney – start time: 1pm.

Image: [IS&DSC ANU Website](#)

Tuesday 29 August 2017 **Dr Adam Lockyer, Senior Lecturer of Security Studies & Criminology at Macquarie University.** **Subject: "Australia Defence Strategy"** This is open to any interested person and will be held at Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Level 1 280 Pitt Street, Sydney – start time: 1pm.

Upcoming Institute Social Events

Friday 25 August 2017 **Institute's 129th Anniversary Luncheon** to be held at the NSW Masonic Club commencing at 1230 hours - open to all members and their partners. Cost details to be advised. Confirm booking with the RUSI Office- (02) 9393 2325



Friday 1 September 2017 **NSW Masonic Club's Annual Services Dinner** at 1900h at the NSW Masonic Club, where the guest speaker is author Neil McDonald who will speak on "The Blamey Affair - War Correspondent (Chester Wilmot) v the Commander in Chief" - open to all members and their partners. Cost details to be advised. Confirm booking with Rita Surio on (02) 9284 1006.

Wednesday 6 September 2017 - **75th Anniversary of Battle for Australia Luncheon**, Mosaic Restaurant, Westin Hotel, 1 Martin Place, Sydney - open to all members and their partners. Cost is \$65 inclusive of wines, soft drinks. Confirm bookings with Ian Guild - (02) 9460 4579.

Wednesday 6 December 2017 **Christmas Luncheon – details to be advised.**

Recent Past Events of the Institute

Monday 24 April 2017 Presentation by Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull, Air Commander Australia, subject **Command and Control of Air power** held in the Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Tuesday 30 May 2017 Presentation by Dr John Coyne, Head of Border Security Program, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, subject **Australian Border Security in 2017 and Beyond**, held in the Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney.



Tuesday 30 May 2017 Dr John Coyne, Head of Border Security Program, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, subject Australian Border Security in 2017 and Beyond.

Clockwise from top left: Dr John Coyne; Institute Board Member Prof. Michael Hough thanking and presenting the Doctor with Honorary membership and an Institute tie; the Doctor with President Paul Irving discussing post lecture; Dr Coyne with lecture attendees.



Images by Vice President John Hutcheson.



Upcoming Events by other Organisations

Thursday 14 September 2017 - The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra, will be dedicated by the Governor General, His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd), on Thursday, 14 September 2017, principle event during the commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of Peacekeeping in the period 12-17 September 2017.

July & September 2017 BHA 2017 Tours

- Walking Australian Battlefields on the Western Front
The itinerary for this tour of 10 days includes Waterloo, Fromelles, Menin Gate, Pozieres, Bullecourt, Passchendaele, Villers-Bretonneux, Le Hamel, Mont St Quentin, and Amiens
The inclusions are:
 - economy class flights into Brussels and out of Paris
 - 3.5/4 ,twin share accommodation,
 - breakfast and lunch daily
 - transport each day and airport transfers
 - a local guide/driver
 The evening meal is specifically excluded to give the guests the opportunity to explore the culinary delights of the towns and villages in France and Belgium on their own. The tour is scheduled for July 2017 and the cost, to be confirmed early next year, is estimated to be \$A7,000.

- Walking Australian Battlefields of the Malaya/Singapore Campaign of 1942
The itinerary for this tour of 7-8 days includes Slim River, Gemas, Gemencheh Bridge, Muar River, Bakri, Parit Sulong/Johor Baru, Singapore Island Defences, Surrender Site and Changi
Inclusions/exclusions are similar to the tour above and the tour is scheduled for September 2017 and the cost, to be confirmed early next year, is estimated to be \$A6,500.

For further details:

enquiries@battle-honours.com.au 0438 871 714 www.battle-honours.com.au

General Defence News

Australia and Indonesia Chair 10th Meeting of the ADMM-Plus Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

From 17 to 19 May 2017, Australia and Indonesia jointly chaired the tenth meeting of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. During the event, defence officials from across the Indo-Pacific exchanged views on regional training approaches, evolving United Nations (UN) operational frameworks and associated logistics challenges. The Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations encourages practical defence cooperation in an area of shared interest," Australia's co-chair, Brigadier Robert Marsh said, "Most countries in Australia's neighbourhood contribute to UN peacekeeping missions."

Australia and Indonesia recently commenced a three-year term as co-chairs of the Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations. Australia will host the next meeting later this year. "Co-chairing this Experts' Working Group to 2020 is a valuable opportunity for Australia and Indonesia to enhance peacekeeping cooperation in our region," Brigadier Marsh said. Both countries have significant peacekeeping expertise, and Indonesia is a leading contributor to UN missions globally."

The *2016 Defence White Paper* highlights the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus as Australia's priority for defence engagement with regional security frameworks. It brings together all 10 ASEAN states, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Japan, India, China, the Republic of Korea and Russia.

Army receives next-generation trucks and trailers

Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, welcomed the first deliveries of a new generation of trucks and trailers to Army's 7th Brigade at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane on 17 May. "These trucks, trailers and modules will revolutionise Defence's logistics capability for decades to come and hundreds of jobs have been created as part of the \$3.5 billion LAND 121 Phase 3B project," said Minister Pyne. "They provide a generational leap forward from the current fleet of Unimog, Mack and S-Liner trucks, offering significantly increased protection for our soldiers and an improved combination of payload and off-road mobility."



The Honourable Christopher Pyne MP, Minister for Defence Industry, addresses Australian Army personnel and industry representatives, during the official delivery of new Australian Army vehicles.

Minister Pyne said he was delighted a number of Australian companies are making a significant contribution to the development, delivery and support of this capability. "The new trucks and interchangeable modules, used on the vehicles for a range of tasks including fuel and water transportation, are being supplied by Rheinmetall together with a range of local suppliers," Minister Pyne said. "These suppliers come from around Australia and include G.H. Varley (Newcastle, NSW), Sea Box International (Canberra, ACT), Holmwood Highgate (Brisbane, QLD) and RPC Technologies (Sydney, NSW)."

"Rheinmetall's local workforce has grown from 15 to more than 125 staff over the last three years, with approximately 200 direct jobs created across its Australian subcontracted workforce." "The majority of the trailers are being built in Brisbane by local company Haulmark Trailers Australia, with approximately 110 jobs created across Haulmark, its subcontractors and supply chain." In addition to the new Rheinmetall trucks and Haulmark trailers, a general maintenance capability will be delivered, expected to comprise 122 Mercedes G-Wagons and 49 converted Bushmasters and trailers.

Once deliveries to the 7th Brigade and South East Queensland units have been completed, the focus will turn to the 1st Brigade in Darwin and Adelaide in late 2017, and then to the 3rd Brigade in Townsville in 2018. Between now and 2022, a total of 2707 vehicles, 3858 modules and 1753 trailers will be rolled out to units across Australia.

HMAS Wollongong deploys to the South West Pacific

On 30 April HMAS *Wollongong* embarked on a voyage to the South West Pacific as part of the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) enduring commitment to assist with building security capacity in the region. *Wollongong's* South West Pacific deployment will see the Armidale-class patrol boat visit Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia. Through the course of the deployment *Wollongong* will work with each country to enhance fisheries protection and maritime surveillance capability, and to develop interoperability with the ADF.



HMAS *Wollongong's* officers, Lieutenant Commander Scott Wilson (Right) and Lieutenant Dakota Tuohy (left), navigating from the port bridge wing during the entry into Honiara.

Acting Chief of Joint Operations, Major General Stuart Smith, said the deployment highlights the Australian Defence Force's commitment to building security capacity in the Pacific Island Countries. "Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji are highly-valued regional security partners," Major General Smith said. "These three nations operate vessels under the Pacific Patrol program and actively contribute to regional maritime security. "These nations have agreed to participate in the follow-on Pacific Maritime Security Program, which includes replacement of the Pacific-class vessels with new vessels that have just started production. "Similarly, our military ties with France are strong and stretch back over a century. "We regularly exercise with the French Armed Forces New Caledonia and *Wollongong's* visit will reaffirm the regional security relationship we enjoy with France," Major General Smith said.

HMAS *Wollongong* is scheduled to complete her South West Pacific deployment in early June.

Changes to reporting for ADF operations in Iraq and Syria

The Australian Defence Force (ADF), as part of the Coalition, is committed to degrading and ultimately defeating the threat posed by Daesh in Iraq and Syria. The Coalition is operating in a dynamic and complex environment and Daesh is a ruthless enemy. Streets and buildings are booby trapped, and Daesh fighters capture civilians, holding them hostage and using them as human shields.

On 4 March, Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) announced a review of air strike reporting. Concurrently, Defence has also reviewed its air strike reporting procedures. Beginning in May, the ADF will independently publish a fortnightly report on Australian strikes, summarising the targets and locations in Iraq and Syria struck by Australian aircraft. The unclassified reports will be available at:
<http://www.defence.gov.au/Operations/Okra/ATG.asp>

This decision comes after weighing the importance of reporting ADF air strikes in Iraq and Syria against the potential propaganda advantages it might provide Daesh and any risk to the safety of ADF personnel on operations. Defence will also report credible claims of civilian casualties against the ADF on occurrence. This will occur in addition to CJTF-OIR's monthly civilian casualty report.

To date, Australian strike aircraft have been involved in a small number of incidents resulting in credible claims of civilian casualties.

- 10 October 2014 – RAAF air strike on a Daesh checkpoint west of Ramadi. It was reported a truck may have entered the target area after the weapon was released. A review of full motion video assessed that no civilian casualties occurred as a result of this strike.
- 21 December 2014 – Multi-national air strike on a Daesh weapons factory in Fallujah. Two people were observed in the target area following the strike; however, there were no reports of civilian casualties arising from the incident.

As previously reported, neither of these incidents resulted in substantiated civilian casualties.

From August 2014 – March 2017, the Coalition has conducted 20,205 air strikes resulting in 102 credible reports of civilian casualties. Defence takes all allegations of civilian casualties seriously. All ADF personnel operate under strict rules of engagement designed to minimise the dangers to civilians and comply with Australia's obligations under international law. Prior to an air strike, Australia's Air Task Group undertakes meticulous and comprehensive mission planning including national and international approvals. Once a mission is complete, ADF staff thoroughly review every weapon strike to ensure the strikes are consistent with pre-strike approvals.



A Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18A Hornet aircraft takes off from the main air operating base in the Middle East Region for an Operation OKRA mission.

Defence Exercises

Regional defence ties strengthened as Exercise Bersama Shield wraps up

Members of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) have improved their ability to work together during Exercise Bersama Shield 17. From 26 April to 9 May 2017, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand and the United Kingdom conducted the exercise in international waters, off the coast of Malaysia as part of the longest standing multilateral arrangement in South East Asia.

Acting Chief of Joint Operations, Major General Stuart Smith said Bersama Shield was an important opportunity for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to strengthen cooperation with other FPDA nations. "Around 300 ADF personnel have taken part in Exercise Bersama Shield 17, drawn from Navy, Army and Air Force," Major General Smith said. "All have

worked seamlessly with other members of the FPDA through a variety of exercise scenarios. "Bersama Shield 17 has highlighted the key defence relationships Australia has in South East Asia, which contributes significantly to security in the region," he said.



HMAS Ballarat in formation with warships from Malaysia and New Zealand during a Exercise Bersama Shield 2017.

Major ADF assets deployed to Bersama Shield included Royal Australian Navy submarine HMAS *Farncomb* and Anzac Class Frigate HMAS *Ballarat*. A Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft and a KA350 King Air tactical mobility aircraft also took part in the exercise.

Exercise Bersama Shield 17 was conducted over four phases, culminating in a practical regional security exercise and post exercise debrief. The FPDA were

established in 1971 to contribute to regional security. Exercise Suman Protector 17 is the next major FPDA exercise and is scheduled for the second half of 2017.

ADF Medical Team Arrives in Vietnam for Pacific Partnership 2017

A team of Australian Defence Force (ADF) medical specialists have deployed to Vietnam for the final phase of Exercise Pacific Partnership 2017—the largest annual multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. For three weeks, Australian medical and nursing officers, together with others from the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan, will work alongside Vietnamese civilian and military medical personnel as part of the US-led mission.

Australian Contingent Commander and Royal Australian Navy Nursing Officer, Lieutenant Commander Alison Zilko, said her team was integrating well into the local hospitals. "Despite the language barrier, and the need to work through interpreters, we are already building really strong, working-relationships with the Doctors and Nurses at Da Nang General Hospital, and with the medical personnel from all the nations participating in Pacific Partnership 2017," Lieutenant Commander Zilko said. "The hospital staff have made us feel very welcome and this has paved the way for us to share information and experience, and understand the differences in how we treat patients. "This relationship will be incredibly valuable if we are called on to provide a joint response to a humanitarian assistance or disaster relief mission in our region, where natural disasters are an unfortunate and unpredictable part of life."

As well as working in the local civilian and military hospitals, the Australian contingent will conduct medical lectures to share their knowledge; visit local schools and community groups; and take part in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response exercises, to test their interoperability with other participating nations.



Surgeons operate on a patient at Khan Hoa General Hospital in Nha Trang, Vietnam, during Exercise Pacific Partnership 2017 to restore shoulder mobility to the patient's arm, which was limited due to excessive scarring caused by severe electrical burns.

Exercise Pacific Partnership aims to enhance regional coordination in areas such as medical readiness and preparedness for man-made and natural disasters, as well as to enhance regional security and stability.

"Exercise Pacific Partnership originated from the multi-national response to the 2004 tsunami in Banda Aceh and Australia has participated in every iteration of this annual exercise, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to building regional capacity in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and regional security,"

Lieutenant Commander Zilko said. "Australia's participation in Exercise Pacific Partnership 2017 provides us with a vital opportunity to confirm that we remain ready to respond, with our allies, if and when our regional neighbours need our help. "This Vietnam phase of the exercise also allows us to continue building strong, lasting and respectful relationships with the Government and Defence Forces of Vietnam."

Defence Industry

Securing Australia's naval shipbuilding and sustainment industry

On 16 May Australia's first Naval Shipbuilding Plan, outlining the nation's largest ever programme of naval shipbuilding and sustainment was released. The plan includes a massive injection of funds - \$1.3 billion - to develop vital infrastructure in the nation's shipyards so that we can build the Navy's next generation of naval vessels here in Australia. The Naval Shipbuilding Plan will end the boom-bust cycle that has afflicted the industry for many years, providing certainty for local businesses and shipbuilding workers. The Turnbull Government is investing around \$90 billion in the rolling acquisition of new submarines and the continuous build of major ships such as future frigates, as well as minor naval vessels.

This Plan will ensure delivery of these modern defence capabilities set out in the 2016 Defence White Paper, creating thousands of jobs and securing the naval shipbuilding and sustainment industry for future generations of Australians. In total, the Turnbull Government will invest more than \$1.3 billion to modernise construction shipyards in South Australia and Western Australia.

Work will commence this year on the development of infrastructure at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia. The Henderson Maritime Precinct in WA will also be upgraded. This will encompass construction of new cranes and heavy lift transportation capability, welding stations and upgrades to workshops and storage facilities including new steel framed sheds. The plan is a pathway to prosperity in naval shipbuilding and represents a major milestone for the nation's defence industry.

The Government is delivering on its unwavering commitment to both national security and economic prosperity through the continuous building of naval vessels in Australia, while also

strengthening the nation's advanced manufacturing industrial base. The Centre for Defence Industry Capability, opened by Government in December 2016, is based in Adelaide and has a national presence. The Centre will play a critical role in developing the national supply chains to support the naval shipbuilding programs. Modern shipbuilding facilities and processes will play an important role in the transformation of Australia's naval shipbuilding industry. The naval shipbuilding workforce is expected to grow to around 5,200 workers by the mid to late 2020s, with more than double this number of workers in sustainment activities and throughout supply chains across Australia. The Naval Shipbuilding College announced on 24 March 2017 will commence operation in early 2018, working with existing education centres to expand and develop the pool of available skilled workers to meet the growing demand.

The Naval Shipbuilding Plan is available at the Department of Defence website.

\$25 million for Australian universities to work with top U.S. counterparts



Senator the Hon Marise Payne

On 23 May the Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, announced a \$25 million investment program inviting Australian universities to collaborate with some of the top universities in the United States. "Defence will invest up to \$25 million over nine years for Australian universities to leverage the existing US Multidisciplinary University Initiative (MURI) grant program, which is administered by the US Department of Defense," Minister Pyne said. This is a part of the government's \$1.6 billion investment in Defence innovation to build the innovation capabilities of Australian industry and research organisations, and to deliver innovative solutions for Defence capability.

"The new Defence innovation system, encompassing the Next Generation Technologies Fund and the Defence Innovation Hub, supports an agile, transparent approach to innovation, ensuring Australian industry is prepared to meet defence's future capability needs", Minister Pyne said. The funding is being provided under the Next Generation Technologies Fund. The Australian program, called AUSMURI, will provide grants to support multi-disciplinary teams of Australian university researchers who collaborate with US academic colleagues on high priority projects for future Defence capabilities. "I strongly encourage universities to apply for AUSMURI funding and take advantage of the opportunity to undertake joint research on cutting edge technologies for Defence," Minister Pyne said.

Until recently, Australian universities could collaborate on US MURI projects but were not eligible for grant funds. Eligible universities that are successful in a collaborative US MURI submission will receive an AUSMURI grant of up to A\$1 million per year for three years to support their research in Australia. At the end of the three years, the AUSMURI grant may be extended for a further two years based on performance and prospects, with an additional budget of up to A\$1 million per year. "The AUSMURI program will build Australian expertise, capacity and networks in critical technology areas to give Defence a capability edge," Minister Pyne said.

For further details about AUSMURI, program guidelines and how to apply, visit <http://www.business.gov.au/ausmuri>

International

U.S. Official: Russia Installed System in Crimea to Snoop on U.S. Destroyers, Jam Communications

The USNI News Weekly Update for 05/03/2017 included a report by Sam LaGrone part of which follows:

“Russia has installed a modern mobile electronic warfare system in Crimea to eavesdrop on U.S. ships in the Black Sea and potentially jam their communications, a U.S. defense official confirmed to USNI News on Monday.

The installation of the Murmansk BN system in mid-March was a direct reaction to an increased U.S. and NATO presence in the region, the official told USNI News. “It’s pretty clear they’re trying to reinforce their sphere of influence in the Black Sea region,” the official said. The system is designed to both collect signals emanating from adversary ships or aircraft as well as jam high-frequency communications.

The presence of the Murmansk-BN had been reported by some defense blogs, but the defense official said Monday the U.S. believes the system had been installed as a specific result of U.S. destroyer patrols in the Black Sea. The U.S. and NATO have stepped up their presence in the Black Sea since 2014, with the bulk of the presence operations falling to the four Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers based in Rota, Spain.

Retired Navy captain and naval analyst Chris Carlson told USNI News that the signals and electronic intelligence collection of the Murmansk-BN system are the capability of most concern. “Not so much they’re trying to jam us but they’re trying to listen,” Carlson said. “It’s something I’d be concerned about.”

The Murmansk system is a new addition to the Russian military – only entering the service in the Russian military last year, according to state-controlled media. The system is built around seven trucks that field large antennas that can both receive signals intelligences and jam certain bandwidths. Made by Russian company KRET, Moscow claims the system can disrupt communication networks as far away as 1,800 miles – though Russian firms are well known for overstating the capability of their systems.”

The full report can be accessed [here](#) .

North Korean Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Test

The USNI News Weekly Update for 05/17/2017 included a report by Sam LaGrone part of which follows:

“The North Korean missile test on Sunday May 14 shows Pyongyang may be further along in developing a missile capable of hitting U.S. territory with a nuclear weapon than previously thought. The launch of the Hwasong-12, “represents a level of performance never before

seen from a North Korean missile,” wrote John Schilling for the blog *38 North*. “The missile would have flown a distant of some [2,800 miles] if launched on a maximum trajectory,” he wrote. “It appears to have not only demonstrated an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) that might enable them to reliably strike the U.S. Air Force’s Anderson Airbase in Guam, but more importantly, may represent a substantial advance to developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).”

Initial reports from U.S. Pacific Command assessed the Hwasong launch did not have the characteristics of an international continental ballistic missile. “The type of missile is being assessed and the flight was not consistent with an intercontinental ballistic missile. U.S. Pacific Command is fully committed to working closely with our Republic of Korea and Japanese allies to maintain security,” read the statement

The report outlines reactions to the test and can be accessed [here](#) .

Congress Notified on \$1.46B P-8A Poseidon Deal with New Zealand

The USNI News Weekly Update for 05/03/2017 included a report by Sam LaGrone, part of which follows:

“The State Department has given its approval to a potential \$1.46 billion sale of four Boeing P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft to New Zealand, according to a Defense Security Cooperation Agency announcement. The deal, pending Congressional approval, would provide four of the aircraft developed for the U.S. Navy and derived from Boeing’s 737 commercial airliner and a variety of sensors.

“The Government of New Zealand intends to use these defense articles and services to continue its Maritime Surveillance Aircraft (MSA) capability, following retirement of its P-3K maritime patrol aircraft,” read last week’s notification. “The sale will strengthen collective defense and enhance New Zealand’s regional and global allied contributions. New Zealand has procured and operated U.S. produced P-3 MSA for over 40 years, providing critical capabilities to NATO and coalition maritime operations.” The sale would include Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) MX-20HD, AN/AAQ-2(V)1 Acoustic System, AN/APY-10 Radar, ALQ-240 Electronic Support Measures for the aircraft as well as support, maintenance and training equipment.

A New Zealand Defence Forces spokesman told the news site Stuff.co.nz, that Wellington was considering options to replace its six aircraft Lockheed Martin P-3K fleet and that the notification was not a binding contract. “Besides the P-8A Poseidon, the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) is also known to be considering the Kawasaki P-1 and Saab Swordfish platforms,” according to a report in *Jane’s Defence Weekly*. A formal request for the replacement is set to be issued next year for an early 2020s delivery.

In addition to the U.S., India and Australia operate variants of the P-8s. The U.K. and Norway have completed contracts to purchase the aircraft.”

Air Marshal Leo Davies address at the Center for Strategic and International Studies - Australia Set to Have First All 5th Generation Air Force by 2025

The USNI News Weekly Update for 05/17/2017 included a report by John Grady part of which follows:

“Australia aims to be the first all fifth generation air force, integrating the network capabilities of the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter with its land and sea components, as well as its allies’ and partners’ forces, its air marshal said Thursday in Washington. Air Marshal Leo Davies added in his address at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank, that Australia will “have no legacy aircraft after 2025” under its current defense spending guidance. The Royal Australian Air Force is set to acquire 72 F-35A variants.



Because Canberra is “a committed high-tech ally” of the United States, “we can prosecute our shared integration together” through the F-35. He said he views the introduction of the Joint Strike Fighter as working in a formation with F-35s from Australia, the United States Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps and its introduction “has forced us to think together.” He called this “a whole of force concept” that “we want to explore with you,” including design and development. “We can prosecute our shared interests together.”

The challenge for the future is “taking advantage of these assets [such as the F-35] ... and use them in a modern way,” he said in answer to a later question. Davies described this as a complex matrix of operating with nations having F-35s and legacy aircraft that are networked with other aircraft, naval and land forces as well as operating with nations having only older aircraft that are not as linked together. “How do we plug it all in?” he asked rhetorically.”

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

About the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies NSW, Inc



Founded as the United Service Institution of New South Wales in 1888, the Institute for Defence and Security Studies NSW today is one of seven self-governing constituent bodies of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Australia Limited.

The aim of the Institute is to promote informed debate on, and to improve public awareness and understanding of, defence and national security. To this end, the Institute:

- educates the public about Australia's defence and national security;
- publishes a highly-respected professional journal;
- provides a forum for the discussion of defence and security issue by conducting regular lectures, seminars conferences workshops and visits to defence and security establishments;
- provides a professional development programs
- operates a public library, specialising in defence and security literature dating from the late 18th century to the current day; and
- conducts social and networking functions for members.

The Institute's rooms and the Ursula Davidson Library are on Level 20, Defence Plaza, 270 Pitt Street, Sydney – close to Town Hall and Museum railway stations. Members and visitors are encouraged to use the facilities for reading or research. However, prior to visiting, please contact the Office Manager to arrange access to the Office. For additional information, visit our website at www.rusinsw.org.au or call the Office at (02) 9393 2325.

Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies NSW e-Newsletter
 Content supplied by Past President, Group Captain Doug J Roser (Ret'd).
 Presentation and layout provided by Institute Member Ms Theodora Fox.
 Newsletter distribution by Treasurer and Office Manager Graham Brown.

RUSIDSS NSW & Copyright

Unless otherwise attributed, all images in this newsletter are sourced from
 Department of Defence under their copyright rules
<http://images.defence.gov.au/fotoweb/>

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material in unaltered form only
 (retaining this notice and imagery metadata) for your personal, non-commercial use.
