LETTERS

United Service June 2020

United Service 71 (2) June 2020 was an excellent production, with some most informative articles. Two are most relevant to my work – the papers by Professor Bates Gill on reforms of the People’s Liberation Army, and by Graeme Dobell on Australia’s Pacific policy. It was a great pity that, due to COVID-19 restrictions, these papers could not be presented to a live audience as they both invite questions further exploring the respective topics.

The journal format is ideal either for on-screen reading or for downloading/printing. Sourcing high-quality, well-researched, footnoted and well-written articles is most difficult, and the Institute is to be commended for its efforts. A most enjoyable and thought-provoking read!

The journal has reinforced my intention to retain membership, and I have distributed the two articles, with attribution to the Institute and suitable encouragement to join, to my colleagues.

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew W. Hine
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China and Secure Supply Chains

I enjoyed reading the thought-provoking commentary on matters of great regional importance and national sovereignty in United Service 71 (2) June 2020. There has been increased discussion about these topics of late. Two headline items are: the influence of China on trade and foreign policy; and the growing desire to secure supply-chains in alternate geographic areas.

With respect to the latter, I recently came across the term ‘sure-shoring’ to describe the current shift in sentiment. It is a term that extends the concepts of ‘on-shoring’, ‘near-shoring’, ‘off-shoring’ and ‘re-shoring’ by adding to them trust-worthiness, resilience and sustainability. It would behove Australian policy-makers to carefully consider these matters.

Jono Kempe
Verifai Australia, Sydney, 5 June 2020