

# Australian Defence Force JOURNAL

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## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to Issue No. 197 of the *Australian Defence Force Journal*.

I am honoured to have taken over as Chair of the Australian Defence Force Journal Board from Major General Simone Wilkie who, while continuing as Commander of the Australian Defence College, has assumed broader responsibilities arising from the First Principles Review. On behalf of the Board and our readership, I thank Major General Wilkie for her leadership and guidance over the past two years.

For this issue, the Board had an impressive range of prospective articles, submitted by contributors from each of the Services and the Australian Public Service, as well as students of the Australian Command and Staff College and the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies. It was agreed that the student papers, in particular, continue to demonstrate the experience and insights of ADF practitioners in Australian defence and security issues, and broader geostrategic issues of the Indo-Pacific region.

The Board gave serious consideration to several articles for the 'best article' award. It decided to award the prize to Nigel Dobson-Keeffe and Major Warren Coaker for their important contribution on the issue of cognitive biases in the joint military appreciation process. In addition to being featured as the lead article in this issue, they will receive a certificate personally signed by the CDF and Secretary of Defence.

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Langford then provides an extremely well-written account of the role of US Army officer Albert C. Wedemeyer in developing the 'Victory Plan' of 1941, which was the blueprint for the general mobilisation of the US Army and the operational concept by which the US would prosecute the Second World War. Colonel Natasha Fox, currently a student on the Defence and Strategic Studies Course, follows with an interesting analysis of the impact of China's water security requirements, an issue not usually considered in assessments of the regional security environment.

Major Emma Broder, who attended the 2014 Australian Command and Staff College staff course, then usefully argues for a greater understanding and appreciation of the ADF's strategic culture, requiring—in her words—a more refined balancing between intellectual and 'muddy-boots' style officers. Captain David Proctor of the Royal New Zealand Navy, another student on the current Defence and Strategic Studies Course, provides an assessment of whether 'the rise of China' and its interest in the Southwest Pacific represents a threat to regional security, before coming to a very Australian, 'no worries' conclusion.

We then feature a thought-provoking article on the potential military application of 'biomimicry', and whether it will prove to be the next paradigm shift in warfare. This article was the prize-winning entry from the Chief of Singapore Armed Forces' most recent essay competition, which we are pleased to reprint with permission from *Pointer*, our counterpart journal in Singapore. It is followed by a topical article from Squadron Leader Peter Hartley arguing that Defence should adopt a joint airspace command and control structure to complement the recently-announced civil-military air traffic system.

Colonel Jason Blain, another current Defence and Strategic Studies Course student, then addresses the very contemporary issue of whether conflict is inevitable between China and the US over disputes in the South China Sea. Commander Paul Kirk, a 2014 Australian Command and Staff College student, reassesses the concept of 'Defence of Australia', arguing that the term should return to its broader strategic origins as representing a spectrum of defence policy options. Colonel Gavin Duncan, another Defence and Strategic Studies Course student, concludes the issue by examining Japan's shifting security framework, arguing it should result in Japan normalising the use of its national power within the global security framework.

The issue concludes with a selection of book reviews. As always, we remain keen to hear from readers wishing to join the list of reviewers, who are sent books provided to the Editor by publishers. If you are interested, please provide your contact details and area of interest to the Editor at [publications@defence.adc.edu.au](mailto:publications@defence.adc.edu.au). Please note also that the 'guidance to reviewers' section on the website has been updated, providing clearer guidelines on the purpose of such reviews and what we would expect them to contain.

The November/December edition will be a 'general' issue and contributions should be submitted to the Editor, at the email address above, by mid September. Submission guidelines are on the *Journal's* website: see [www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au](http://www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au)

Before closing, I would like to mention that 2016 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Journal*, and that the mid-year edition will be the *Journal's* 200<sup>th</sup> issue. One of the ideas being contemplated is the production of a special, commemorative issue, perhaps incorporating the 'best' articles of the past 40 years, or perhaps a selection that represents the transformational development of the *Journal* over that period. It has been suggested that readers could be invited to nominate their favourite one or two articles from the complete listing available in e-format on the *Journal's* website at <[http://www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au/site/journal\\_index.asp](http://www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au/site/journal_index.asp)>. Further details will be announced in due course.

Finally, please note that we have included a new item, 'Reading Lists', at page 105. It contains links to the suggested reading lists as promulgated by the Service Chiefs. I recommend these reading lists to all ADF officers, and to others who wish to further their professional education and development.

I hope you enjoy this edition and would encourage your contribution to future issues.

**Ian Errington, AM, CSC**  
Principal  
Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies  
Chair of the Australian Defence Force Journal Board

## FORTHCOMING SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

### 2 September 2015

Lowy Lecture – General David Petraeus, AO (retd)

Lowy Institute, Sydney

<http://www.lowyinstitute.org/events/2015-lowy-lecture-general-ret-david-petraeus-ao>

### 6-8 October 2015

Sea Power Conference

Theme ‘The Future of Sea Power’

Sydney Exhibition Centre, Glebe

<http://www.pacific2015.com.au>

### NOTE

To advertise forthcoming seminars and conferences in future issues of the *Journal*, please email details to the Editor

[publications@defence.adc.edu.au](mailto:publications@defence.adc.edu.au)