

## Foreword

The role of the three Services is evolving with the development of our joint warfighting capabilities. With the formation of the Joint Capabilities Group in 2017, we now also possess a fourth Service; one that is charged with developing the joint capabilities that provide the connective force to achieve unity of effort across the Services, other elements of Government and our international partners.

This issue of the *Australian Defence Force Journal* features articles and commentaries on the evolving nature of air power within this joint force. The articles examine the fundamental importance of air power, within a joint or coalition construct, to achieving the security of our nation. Debate and discussion around the different challenges, disruptors and technological advancements faced by air power will only strengthen our ability to innovate and respond, and to work together effectively. These articles speak to a range of issues that all the Services will face in an integrated joint environment and contested global security environment.

Encouraging serving members of the ADF, Defence staff, academics and industry partners to pursue robust and sustained debates and conversations is essential to push the

boundaries of knowledge critical to mastering our profession of arms. These conversations must be contextually driven, underpinned by a profound awareness of the geopolitical climate in which Australia operates, and the ADF will be engaged. This will drive adaption in the military and the national security environment, focusing our attention on the intellectual, moral, technological and human components that make war a complex national endeavour.

Over subsequent issues, I intend that the *Australian Defence Force Journal* will increase its engagement in the global professional military education dialogue through social media and a continued commitment to publishing high-quality professional discourse, research and scholarship. The *Australian Defence Force Journal* must be a beacon of advocacy for professional mastery to nurture the desire in military and civilian personnel to achieve individual and collective professional excellence.

**Major General Mick Ryan, AM**  
Chair, *Australian Defence Force Journal*  
Commander, Australian Defence College

