

# Australian Defence Force JOURNAL

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## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to Issue No. 196 of the *Australian Defence Force Journal*.

This edition contains several articles of direct relevance to the forthcoming 2015 Defence White Paper, including the feature article on Australia's submarine capability by the Chief of Navy.

It is also particularly pleasing that the issue includes an impressive cross-section of contributors, from each of the Services, from a wide range of ranks, and from both public servants and academics, reflecting the disparate nature of those who now regularly contribute to the 'contest of ideas' regarding the ADF and the 'profession of arms' in Australia.

The article by Colonel Wade Stothart, arguing the need for an Australian 'grand strategy', has been judged the 'best article' in this issue. Colonel Stothart, who attended the 2014 Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Australian Defence College, will receive a certificate personally signed by the CDF and Secretary of Defence.

Craig Beutel, who attended the 2014 Australian Command and Staff College staff course, then usefully compares the 2009 and 2013 Defence White Papers, highlighting some conclusions that may be relevant to the 2015 paper. This is followed, as an interesting historical digression, by an article from Associate Professor Craig Stockings on Australian 'coalition' operations in South Africa in 1900. Although his analysis has no direct 'so what' for the ADF, astute readers will no doubt deduce some important lessons for contemporary operations.

Brigadier Marcus Thompson provides some observations from his deployment as an 'embedded' staff officer in Afghanistan, making a number of recommendations particularly related to enhanced interoperability with the US. Chaplain Peter Devenish-Mearns then offers some thoughtful insights into the treatment of mental health, drawing from his experience in support of recent operational deployments.

Wing Commander Andrew Hoffmann, another student from the 2014 Australian Command and Staff College staff course, addresses the 'future of the ADF', using lessons from the Second World War and the Cold War to inform the way ahead for the ADF as it prepares for the next 15 years. Sub Lieutenant Nam Nguyen then examines some of the strategic and legal challenges in developing an effective cyber warfare capability, a topic of undoubted contemporary importance.

Dr Robert Johnson of Oxford University offers a discerning analysis of the difficulties of predicting future war, arguing that while the current trends of war are an incomplete guide to the future operating environment, they give some shape to its likely direction. The final article is a joint contribution by Emma Wensing and Dr Samantha Crompvoets on workplace flexibility in the ADF, complementing the article by Associate Professor Abby Cathcart and colleagues which we featured in our last edition.

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) We will also shortly be updating the 'guidance to reviewers', providing clearer guidelines on the purpose of such reviews and what we would expect them to contain.

The July/August edition will be a 'general' issue, although—depending on the timing of its release—we will welcome further contributions relating to the 2015 Defence White Paper. Contributions for that issue should be submitted to the Editor, at the email address above, by mid May. Submission guidelines are on the *Journal* website: see [www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au](http://www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au)

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

**Simone Wilkie, AM**  
Major General  
Commander, Australian Defence College  
Chair of the Australian Defence Force Journal Board

## FORTHCOMING SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

### 30 March-1 April 2015

Australia's Future Surface Fleet Conference  
Australian Strategic Policy Institute  
Hyatt Hotel, Canberra  
<https://www.aspi.org.au/events/australias-future-surface-fleet-conference>

### 31 March 2015

AMP China Lecture  
Professor Cheng Li  
Lowy Institute, Sydney  
<http://www.lowyinstitute.org/events/amp-china-lecture-sydney>

### 5-6 May 2015

DSTO Partnerships Week  
DSTO Edinburgh  
<http://www.dsto.defence.gov.au/event/dsto-partnerships-week-2015>

### 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)