

Australian Journal of Defence and Strategic Studies

Submission guidelines

The AJDSS welcomes submissions considering future and contemporary concerns relevant to the defence and strategic outlook of Australia and the Indo-Pacific region.

Submissions deadlines

We accept submissions at any time; however, please note the following cut off dates.

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| Vol 6 No 1, 2024 | 30 November 2023 |
| Vol 6 No 2, 2024 | 30 May 2024 |

Types of submissions

The AJDSS considers:

- scholarly research papers for peer review between 4,000 and 7,000 words, excluding footnotes
- commentary and opinion essays between 2,000 and 4,000 words
- review essays between 2,000 and 4,000 words
- reviews between 800 and 2,000 words
- correspondence in response to published articles of up to 2,000 words.

Manuscripts should be submitted by email to: cdr.publications@defence.gov.au
Please review the editorial policies and the guidelines below before submission.



Topics

The AJDSS is broadly interested in receiving papers that consider the following topics:

- strategy, security and future warfare
- doctrine, theory and concepts
- Defence engagement with industry and society
- regional geostrategic challenges
- technology and innovation
- cyber and information warfare
- deterrence theory
- professional military education
- Defence workforce, ethics and culture
- planning, design and capability

Themes

The list below indicates some of the themes the AJDSS is interested in receiving.

- the nature and character of war
- Australia's future defence strategy and security environment
- deterrence in contemporary statecraft and warfare
- Defence's contribution to a whole-of-government approach to national security
- Defence capability and industry engagement
- challenges to Defence workforce, education and culture
- defence and security concerns relevant to Australia's engagement with the Pacific region
- the consequences of emerging technologies for defence
- defence responses to information and political warfare
- regional perspectives on geostrategic and geopolitical concerns
- evolving strategic and operational concepts
- Australia's strategic approach to the use of space for defence

The AJDSS also invites proposals from organisations conducting workshops, symposiums or conferences to submit a series of themed papers for our Focus section or a potential special issue.

Submission requirements

When submitting to the AJDSS please include the following:

- a cover letter including the names and contact details of all the author/s, the date of submission, submission word count and type (article, commentary, review or correspondence), and a brief abstract or synopsis of the paper (no more than 300 words).
- diagrams, graphs or images (if any) as separate high quality files (jpeg, png) in an editable format
- a short biography of the author/s in the preferred name order (approximately 80 words per person)

Submission guidelines

- a declaration statement as detailed below
- the anonymised manuscript.

Academic articles undergo a double-blind peer review process. This process can be lengthy (up to 12 weeks); and reviews may recommend revision and resubmission. Please see the editorial policies for further details on the peer review process.

Submissions of commentary, reviews and correspondence are assessed by the editorial office and editorial review board; every effort is made to provide responses within 8 to 12 weeks from submission.

Book reviews should include the full title, author, publisher and year of publication of the work being reviewed. If submitting an unsolicited book review please provide a cover image of the title.

Declarations

When submitting work for consideration authors should attach a declaration statement confirming that:

- they are the copyright owner and provide the Commonwealth of Australia with right to publish the manuscript under a creative common copyright and have the authority to do so.
- the work is original and not under consideration elsewhere.
- the views and opinions provided in the submission reflect the views of the author/s and contributor/s and not those of the commonwealth Government, the Australian Defence Force or Australian Defence College. If required by their own institution authors should also declare whether their views are private or reflect the view of their employer or institution.
- all individuals listed as authors qualify as authors and have approved the submitted version and order of names listed
- they have gained permission to reproduce within the work any third party material (figures, photos, illustrations etc.) or material previously published and provide evidence of the rights provided.
- they have acknowledged any other relevant forms of support that contributed to the production of the manuscript
- that they have no conflicts of interest or financial advantage in promoting the submission's conclusions, findings or research
- they are complying with the requirements of and declaring any funding received to produce the article or research.

If selected for publication authors are required to sign an Intellectual Property Licence Consent Deed in line with publication under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence.

Audience

AJDSS seeks to engage with Australian military and Defence personnel, our allies and partners as well as international academics, researchers, policymakers, defence-sector stakeholders and interested general readers.

Submission guidelines

Style

Write for a sophisticated general audience using plain English that is direct, dynamic, coherent, well organised and engaging.

- Manuscripts should be provided in Microsoft Word format.
- Standard fonts and 12pt size are preferred.
- Spell check and proofread your manuscript before submission.
- Use plain English.
- Avoid management speak, military jargon and excessive acronyms.
- Use the Macquarie Dictionary for Australian English spelling.
- Spell out all acronyms in full when they are first used.
- Ensure technical concepts and terminology are well defined and used in a context that is clear to a non-specialist reader.
- Use sentence style for titles, headings, sub-headings, illustrations and captions.
- Use titles that are unambiguous and indicate the broad subject matter of the manuscript.
- For guidance on matters of grammar and style please refer to the [Australian Government Style Manual](#).
- References to the Australian Government Department of Defence can be shortened to Defence but should be capitalised as a proper noun, in order to distinguish the term from instances where it is used as a common noun, i.e. defence.
- Reference to the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force should be capitalised as should references to the Services
- Capital letters are used to mark titles and honorific names used as a form of address but are not used when used as adjectives, plurals or common nouns, for example 'Major General Sam Smith attended the event' but 'Sam Smith is a major general' (see ADF Writing Manual 3-7).

Referencing

AJDSS cites references with sequential superscript Arabic numerals and full details of the source in footnotes at the bottom of the page following the **documentary-note style** outlined in the [Australian Government Style Manual](#), noting the following variations.

The AJDSS style requires:

- full first names of authors (not initials)
- italics and headline style for book titles, for example *On War*
- sentence case and italics for journal titles, media mastheads, report titles and webpages
- single apostrophes for articles, news reports and chapters in books
- the listing of all authors at first mention and shortened form references for subsequent notes, e.g. first author's surname et al.
- online sources list the full url, as this is a printed publication,
- include digital object identifiers and write out as full urls.

The AJDSS style does not require:

- bibliographies
- endnotes
- access dates for online references.

Submission guidelines

For any referencing not covered in the Australian Style Manual, refer to the Chicago Manual of Style 17th edition. See www.chicagomanualofstyle.org.

Tables, figures and images

Tables, figures, charts, maps, graphics and illustrations should be clear, relevant and comprehensible without reference to the text. Avoid unnecessary complexity in colour, shading and line work that may not reproduce well, particularly avoid layering text with shaded or coloured sections as this inhibits accessibility.

- All tables, figures, charts, maps, graphics, illustrations or photographs must be provided separately in appropriate file format and quality (at least 300 dpi for photographs).
- Authors should provide appropriate alt-text for all tables, figures, diagrams and images.
- Authors should indicate within their manuscript where they wish supplementary material to appear; however, the designer and editorial office reserve the right to decide the final placement and size of tables and graphics.
- Authors are responsible for ensuring they have permission to use third-party copyright materials and must be able to provide evidence of the permissions given.

For information on providing appropriate alt-text see the Australian Government Style Manual guidance on alt-text, text captions and titles for images at <https://www.stylemanual.gov.au/content-types/images/alt-text-captions-and-titles-images>

Reviews

AJDSS generally commissions reviews, however unsolicited reviews will be considered. Authors interested in writing a review of a particular work should contact the editorial office via email prior to submission. Reviews can include books, podcasts, films or documentaries or other scholarly resources. See 'Writing a review'.

As noted above, reviews should be between 800 and 2,000 words. Review essays that compare and contrast multiple works may be longer; however, it is preferable to contact the editorial office prior to submission.

Frequency

AJDSS is published in hardcopy twice annually in print and electronic format online. Articles may be published online prior to the hardcopy edition or as online-only content when required due to publishing or timeliness constraints or as decided by the editor.