

Annual General Meeting

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS - PROPOSED SEMINAR OUTLINE FOR 2021-2023

28 October 2020

Lead Directors

Tim Barrett

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Preamble

On 7 May 2019 the board accepted a proposal for the strategic direction of future seminar topics over a two year period, building on the existing theme of fifth generation warfare and culminating in a seminar in late 2021 which challenged the arrival of six generation warfare. The board agreed to a program of 2 major seminars a year with a disciplined approach to relate six lunches per annum around the seminar themes.

Since that decision, the COVID 19 pandemic has prevented mass gatherings and the board agreed in August 2020 to postpone the current program of seminars until 2021, assuming a lifting of the health directives on mass gatherings. Concurrent with that decision was a stated desire to accelerate a discussion of space through a dedicated seminar.

Accordingly, the following revised thematic seminar program is proposed.

Proposed Program 2021

Conference 1: Autonomous Systems – Maximising the Fifth Generation Effect

Note: The initial seminar for 2021 would be the postponed seminar on Autonomous systems following the same format as previously advertised. To summarise:

Aims

- Get the broader community looking at the near/far future with regards to Autonomous Systems; to promote an understanding of the potential and the issues
- Give capability managers the chance to set the direction
- Shape the discussion for the next WP/FSR

Topics for Related Lunches

- Loyal Wingman Program (Boeing)
- Review of current autonomous projects (HJC)
- Opportunity for new CAF to speak and tie in UAS development in RAAF

Conference 2: *The Space Domain – Its Challenge to Fifth Generation Warfare*

Aims

- Get the broader community looking at the space domain; to promote an understanding of the effect of space in future warfare (and not as an endstate in itself)
- Give capability managers the chance to set the direction
- Shape the discussion for future Defence contributions to the wider national security discussion on space

Session One would set the scene by providing context on why space is the emerging frontier in next generation warfare. It would cover a brief history of the development of the military's use of space, contemporary space policy (as much as exists), space access and congestion, the reliance on dominant players and their importance as an enabler of next generation warfare and targeting. Speakers would include CJC (as space lead), ASPI and a relevant US official.

Session Two would consider the current ADF capabilities. Discussion of the foundational capabilities in terms of system, infrastructure and C2. Consider the Air Command view of 1RSU, SATCOM, GNSS, 5th Generation dependencies, and the Air Space Operations Centre concept. Relevant Navy and Army operational commanders provide their perspective of space-based capability and the inter-dependencies required. Provide an opportunity for industry reflection on contemporary products and services.

Session Three would look to the future and discuss what more is needed – more ISR/enhanced situational understanding from and to space, enhanced Defence contribution to national security, sovereign industry requirements and opportunities. Speakers from industry, National Security agencies and CJOPS

Topics for Related Lunches

- The Space Agency perspective (CEO)
- Review of current space projects (HJC)
- The National Security perspective (Secretary Dept Home Affairs?)

Program 2022

Conference 1: *Cyber Warfare – The Challenge to Fifth Generation Warfare*

Aims

- Get the broader community looking at cyber warfare; to promote an understanding of the potential and the issues
- Give capability managers the chance to set the direction
- Shape the discussion for the next WP/FSR

Session One will set the scene, investigate the challenges and potential of cyber warfare in the Fifth Generation environment. Examine the Service perspective with senior representation giving personal views. Service Chiefs or their nominated senior representation (ie Deputy).

Session Two examines the operational aspects of cyber, C2 and the legal and social aspects that affect their use. CJC, CJOPS and Legal reps.

Session Three examines current research and development agenda and allows an industry perspective. DST? DG ASCA? And relevant industry reps?

Topic for Related Lunches

- Cyber and Airpower – Lessons from Okra (JOC)
- Impact of Cyber on the industrial support base (Telstra rep)
- Maintaining integrity in the cyber environment (460 Degrees?)

Conference 2: *Strategic Enablers in 5th Generation Warfare*

Aims

- Examine the current limits to strategic access in our regional of interest
- Describe the logistic/sustainment challenges in meeting this
- Describe the future workforce challenges in a 5th Gen context

Session One sets the scene, introducing current understanding of the problem (DEPSEC SPI, DFAT, Legal Rep)

Session Two examines presents the logistic and sustainment challenges and potential solutions (CJLOG, CJOPS)

Session Three examines the future workforce challenges and potential in a 5th Generation Force (Service Chiefs)

Topics for Related Lunches

- FSR or MSC Directions (VCDF)
- Example of recent operations in Fifth Generation sustainment (CJOPS)
- The Australian demographic and its challenge to Defence (Bernard Salt?)

Program 2023

Conference 1: *Beyond 5th Generation Warfare*

Aims

- Revisit the tenets of 5th Generation Warfare (a construct based on
- Pose the question – 6th Gen Warfare: Is there such a thing?
- Shape the discussion for the next WP/FSR

Session One will describe the basis for 5th Generation Warfare from an Australian perspective. Examine the premise that it has been evolved from a particular set of equipment acquisitions. (Heads of Service Capability branches; RAAF led discussion)

Session Two examines the concept of 6th Generation Warfare. Is there such a thing? Is it already here? (Head Joint Capability, Service Chiefs)

Session Three examines whether we have validated its existence and direction – closes out the future strategic direction of Williams Foundation thought.

Topics for Related Lunches

- CAF: His perspective of 5th Generation Warfare – midway through his role)
- US/UK military invite: A perspective of future (6th Generation?) warfare
- Academic invite: Hugh White? Future strategic outlook?