

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS - PROPOSED SEMINAR OUTLINE FOR 2022/23

Annual General Meeting

5 October 2021

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### Strategic Outlook Sub Committee

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### Preamble

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The board accepted a proposal on 7 May 2019 for the strategic direction of future seminar topics over a two-year period, building on the existing theme of fifth generation warfare.

The intent of the proposal was to run two seminars in 2021 around trusted autonomous systems, and cyber warfare. However, due to the emergence of Space as a capability development priority, the cyber warfare seminar was replaced by 'The Sovereign Requirements of a Defence Space Capability'.

Looking ahead, the intent for 2022 is to introduce the emergence of future (6th generation) capabilities within the topics of '5th generation lessons learned', and 'strategic enablers in 5th generation warfare'.

The plan for 2023, is to further develop the theme of next generation capabilities with seminars looking 'beyond 5th Generation warfare', and a 'future perspective on Australian sovereign guided weapon capability'.

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. An updated proposed thematic seminar program is below with topics to be discussed at the next board meeting.

## Proposed Program 2022

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### Conference 1: *Lessons learned from the arrival of 5th Generation capability*

#### Aims

- Examine the transition to a 5th generation force and what has changed
- Describe what has been achieved
- Highlight where there are gaps and ongoing challenges

**Session One** examines the journey from what we thought a 5th generation force would need to where we are today. It will reflect on earlier SRWF seminars and our emerging understanding of the requirements.

**Session Two** describes the key achievements in establishing the 5th generation, full spectrum approach to the Australian way of warfighting,

**Session Three** describes the ongoing multi-agency investment and the growing input from industry needed to exploit ADF 5th generation capability.

#### Topics for related lunches

- Impact of 5th generation capability on JCG
- AWD / Romeo in service
- CAF contemporary perspective on introduction of 5th generation capability (and impact of COVID). Topic to align with Air Power Conference.

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

#### Aims

- Examine the current limits to strategic access in our regional of interest
- Describe the associated preparedness challenges
- Describe the ongoing need for digital transformation

**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 need for ongoing investment in digital transformation (Service Chiefs)

#### Topics for Related Lunches

- Cyber warfare update (HIW)
- Recent examples of 5th generation approach to preparedness (CJOPS)
- Joint C4 program overview (JCG)

## Conference 1: *Beyond 5th Generation Warfare*

### Aims

- Revisit the tenets of 5th Generation Warfare
- 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
- US/UK military invite: A perspective of future (6th Generation?) warfare
- Academic invite: Hugh White? Future strategic outlook?

## Conference 2: *Australian sovereign guided weapon capability*

### Aims

- Explore development of a sovereign GW capability
- Examine emerging technologies and industry R&D
- Gaps, risks, and opportunities

**Session One** will describe the development of a sovereign GW capability

**Session Two** examines the underlying technologies and R&D needed for the next generation of weapon systems.

**Session Three** examines what gaps, risks and opportunities exist the development of a sovereign GW capability.

### Topics for Related Lunches

- CASG perspective
- Service perspectives
- International experiences