

Williams Foundation Conference

The Multi-Domain Requirements of an Australian Maritime Strategy

11 April 2024

National Gallery of Australia

Aim

The aim of the April 2024 seminar is to examine the enduring and emerging multi-domain requirements of an Australian maritime strategy in the context of the Defence Strategic Review.

The Seminar examines the requirements through a Defence lens but will consider all national means that contribute to a maritime strategy and the need for coherence across concepts, doctrine, equipment, basing and preparedness. This strategic coherence is needed to synchronise effects across the Whole of Australian Government, Defence and industry, as well as international partners.

Background

The strategic environment continues to deteriorate on a global scale with Australia's immediate region the source of increased risk on a number of levels. Meeting preparedness requirements and implementing the DSR while building for the future will place significant strain on the Defence enterprise.

In meeting these near term and longer-term needs, one aspect of the environment endures: Australia's strategic geography, which demands a resourced, coherent, and executable maritime strategy.

In short, a sophisticated and credible maritime strategy is a multi-domain, multi-agency, whole of nation effort requiring an enduring focus on the generation of national power and options that contribute to Australia's national security outcomes at the lowest political risk.

Multi-domain Requirements of an Australian Maritime Strategy

A maritime strategy considers more than naval operations. It details the ends, ways, and means necessary for the generation of national power that serves all of a nation's interests.

A maritime strategy must therefore contribute to other elements of national power such as diplomatic, informational, and economic, and is not enough to focus on military capabilities alone. It must address the broader efforts of Defence and the other agencies which contribute to the security of borders and the exclusive economic zone, as well as protecting the mobility of trade and data either on, above or below the surface.

In many ways, therefore, the objectives of an Australian maritime strategy are no different to other nations, especially those that also rely heavily on the oceans for the passage of trade and the development of economic power. However, the vast area of interest and Australia's relatively small

population poses a complex challenge when identifying the ways and means by which those national objectives are achieved.

In a practical sense, a maritime strategy requires a highly integrated, multi-agency, multi-domain response enabled by, among others, connectivity, logistics, bases, stores, and decision-making superiority. And with an increasingly challenging threat environment, this must all be resilient and ready.

The Seminar

The April 24 Seminar, The Multi-domain Requirements of an Australian Maritime Strategy, will examine the challenges, gaps, and opportunities, through a Defence lens with contributions across Defence and industry. Delivered in 3 sessions, the first session will examine the enduring requirements and characteristics of a maritime strategy. The second session will explore the opportunities, workforce and technology aspects, with the Group, Agency, and Service Chiefs in the final session identifying the priorities and personal perspectives on the future requirements of an Australian maritime strategy.

Industry Perspectives

Industry participants are invited to contribute to the discussion about maritime strategy in terms of either policy, process, technology, infrastructure, and workforce, or a combination of all. The intent is to promote industry in output terms as integral to the maritime strategy, and more than simply a fundamental input to capability.

Topics for industry consideration are:

- Workforce Management, automation and Development
- Training System Effectiveness & Mission Rehearsal
- Future Technologies
- Accelerating capability
- Preparedness, Basing, Logistics & Supply Chains

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Program

(updated 8 April 2024)

Time	Topic	Speakers
0800-0830	<i>Registration and breakfast</i>	
0830-0835	<i>Welcoming Remarks</i>	AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd) Sir Richard Williams Foundation
0835-0840	<i>Introduction and MC</i>	WGCDR Sally Knox Sir Richard Williams Foundation
0840-0900	<i>Crises, what crisis? Policy perspectives and strategic coherence</i>	Peter Jennings AO, PSM Director Strategic Analysis Australia
0900-0920	<i>The Defence of Australia in the 2020s</i>	Mike Pezzullo AO
0920-0940	<i>Cost-effective options, time, and space: air power in Australia's maritime strategy</i>	Chris McInnes Executive Director, Air Power Institute
0940-1000	<i>Maritime Strategy Perspectives</i>	Michael Outram APM Commissioner Australian Border Force
1000-1030	Break – Morning Tea	
1030-1050	<i>Aligning Maritime Strategy with Capability</i>	AIRCDRE Ross Bender Director General Air Combat Capability – Air Force
1050-1110	<i>Some thoughts on Combat Management System interoperability in the maritime domain</i>	Liam Catterson Business Development Manager, Lockheed Martin Australia
1110-1130	<i>Maritime Strategy: A Global Perspective</i>	Jennifer Parker National Security College, ANU
1130-1150	<i>Space strategy perspectives for Maritime and beyond</i>	Nick Miller Optus Defence SATCOM
1150-1210	<i>Achieving Information Advantage in a Maritime Strategy</i>	MAJGEN Ana Duncan AM, CSC Commander Cyber Command
1210-1230	<i>Layered Defence: The role of Autonomy and autonomous systems in the Maritime</i>	James Lawless Head of Campaign – Maritime and Undersea Northrop Grumman Australia
1230-1330	Lunch	
1330-1350	<i>Multi Domain Requirements of a National Support Strategy</i>	MAJGEN Jason Walk AM Commander Joint Logistics (rep CJC)
1350-1410	<i>Multi-domain C2 Considerations of a Maritime Strategy</i>	AVM Mike Kitcher AM, DSM Former Deputy Chief Joint Operations
1410-1430	<i>Navy Perspective</i>	RADM Stephen Hughes AM, CSC, RAN Head Navy Capability
1430-1450	<i>Army Perspective</i>	BRIG James Davis Director General Future Land Warfare
1450-1510	<i>Air Force Perspective</i>	AIRCDRE Mick Durant – Director General Strategy and Planning – Air Force
1510-1530	<i>Formal Close</i>	AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd) Sir Richard Williams Foundation