

DS

March 2016



**Newsletter
of the
RAAF
STAFF COLLEGE
ASSOCIATION Inc**

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****** LUNCHEON SEMINAR ******

Friday, 18 March 2016

at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla

Speaker: Air Vice-Marshal Neil Hart, AM

Head One Defence Implementation - Head Force Structure Review

'The 2016 Defence White Paper'

(via separate Luncheon Notice & Registration Form)

From the President

This edition of DS is sent to briefly confirm, and tell you about the speaker for our 18 March luncheon. I also take the opportunity to apologise for the confusing advice provided to date. While your executive committee seeks to secure the best speakers for our meetings, by definition those in demand by us also have other very important calls on their time. This has certainly been the case with the two speakers previously identified for 18 March.

Nevertheless, those disappointments have provided a timely opportunity to learn about the Defence White Paper 2016 from one of those who played a central role in its development.

Air Vice-Marshal Hart is currently co-leading the Force Structure Review, tasked to develop a comprehensive plan for a costed and affordable future Defence capability, as a key component of the Defence White Paper planned for release in 2015. From April 2015, he was also appointed as Head One Defence Implementation, co-leading the Implementation Office tasked to develop and oversee the implementation plan from the outcomes The First Principles Review "Creating One Defence". He was promoted to Air Vice-Marshal in June 2011 on appointment as Deputy Chief of Air Force, prior to subsequently being appointed as the Head of Joint Capability Coordination Division in January 2012. In that position, he was responsible to the Vice Chief of Defence Force for strategic and joint capability planning and integration, simulation, preparedness, force posture and the Counter-IED Task Force. Neil was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for his work as head of this division, along with previous service as Commander Air Combat Group. Neil is a fighter pilot and flying instructor with over 3000 hours in a variety of flying and command positions. His first operational flying posting was on Mirage III fighter aircraft in 79SQN based at Butterworth, Malaysia. This was followed by several tours on the F/A-18 multi-role fighter aircraft both at Williamtown and Tindal, and as a lead-in fighter instructor and flight commander on the Macchi MB-326H. Neil was appointed to command Number 3 Fighter Squadron in 1999, operating the F/A-18 Hornet fighter aircraft throughout Australia and the region, including leading the squadron on an operational deployment as a part of Operation Slipper. On promotion to Air Commodore in 2008 he held the appointment of Commander Air Combat Group from 2008 to 2009, responsible for all of Australia's air combat and strike capabilities.

He held a subsequently operational command, deployed to the Middle-East as Director of the US Central Command Combined Air Operations Centre.

He has held a variety of staff appointments including as a Deputy Course Director at the USAF Command and Staff Course, staff officer in Number 81 Wing Headquarters and Deputy Director for the New Air Combat Capability. On attaining Group Captain rank he was appointed as Director of the Airworthiness Coordination and Policy Agency for the ADF, and then posted as Director Special Operations Development within Special Operations Command. As an Air Commodore he also held the position of Director General of Capability Planning for Air Force. Air Vice-Marshal Hart joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1982, graduating with distinction from the final RAAF Academy course at Point Cook, awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from Melbourne University. He is a 1997 graduate of the USAF Command and Staff College course in Alabama, and a 2007 graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies course in London. Neil and Ali are living in Canberra, and along with their three children enjoy a range of activities including cycling, music, ballet and trying to outwit their dogs.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at lunch on 18 March.

Regards,

Ian Pearson

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