

DS

February 2019



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

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**** LUNCHEON SEMINAR ****

Friday, 22 March 2019

at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla

Speaker: Air Commodore Phil Champion

*Chief of Staff Air Force Headquarters and recently returned Deputy J5
Regional and Multinational Assistance, US Pacific Command*

**'What deterrence looks like in the Indo-Pacific
Area of Responsibility'**

(nominations via separate Luncheon Notice & Registration Form)

From the President

My very belated best wishes to you and your families for 2019 - may the Year of the Pig be very kind to you.

Our Association's 2018 year ended on a very high note with the presentation by recently retired CDF and Association co-patron, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin. Even the AGM did not put members off, the event enjoying what might have been a record attendance at our lunches. I thank you all for your support for our Association, and to those who brought guest, please continue to do so!

Given my opening allusion to our broader region, our 2019 lunchtime meeting year will appropriately commence with a speaker particularly well placed to brief us on current thinking on regional strategic security issues. During the past two years Air Commodore Phil Champion, who recently took up duties as the Chief of Staff at Air Force Headquarters, enjoyed privileged access to deliberations on these matters by the most senior military and government officials at Pacific Command in Hawaii. I encourage you to read Phil's biography, which accompanies this newsletter: you will be impressed! Apart from his many other considerable career achievements, not the least being the first Airborne Electronic Analyst to reach air rank, Phil's performance as a student on the inaugural Australian Command and Staff Course in 2001 is well worth noting. In an environment often considered to be dominated by Army students, Phil showed the way for future courses by winning the Chief of Defence Force prize, the Academic Achievement prize and (incidentally), the Air Force Single Service Component prize – clearly a great effort by Phil and an outstanding result for Air Force!

As we approach the Air Force's 98th anniversary you are probably aware that planning is now well underway for the Centenary of Air Force in 2021, which promises to be an exceptional year. You can stay in touch with the preparations for the Air Forces centenary year via the website: www.airforce.gov.au/our-mission/air-force-2021 Additionally, you can connect with the centenary planning team, or sign up to receive updates via email: RAAF.2021@defence.gov.au

Finally, I want to give you a brief heads-up about the Australian Command and Staff College's intentions with respect to the Air Force single Service function this year. You will recall that Air Force staff and students kindly invited Association members to attend a cocktail

party last November. Preliminary advice from the Air Force Director of Studies is that this year's function, to which I understand we will again be invited, will be held much earlier in the year, possibly as early as April. I will release a supplementary edition of DS as soon as I have all the necessary details.

In the meantime, for those of you going to this year's airshow at Avalon, travel safe, enjoy the displays, and don't get too much sun! And as always, I look forward to joining with you on 22 March for what promises to be a very interesting presentation, an enjoyable lunch and of course each other's company.

Kind regards,

Ian Pearson

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