

DS

July 2020

Strategic Update 2020



Newsletter
of the
RAAF
STAFF COLLEGE
ASSOCIATION Inc

GPO Box 1204 Canberra ACT 2601
www.raafsa.org

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MR F.J. KELLY Ph: 0428 266 134

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From the President

Normally, by this time we would have already had our mid-year meeting, or at least you would have received the DS notice for that event. Clearly these are not normal times, as highlighted by the unfolding developments associated with recent new detections of COVID-19. I'm sure our thoughts are with those whose lives have been and continue to be disrupted by the yet-to-be contained virus, with those who are working to keep all of us safe, and of course, with those working to develop a safe, fully functioning vaccine.

While news coverage has been dominated by the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the recent release of the 2020 Defence Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan will also be of great interest to our members. Despite receiving far less 'airtime' than COVID-19 reporting, these significant documents will also be of great interest to the broader community. The DEFGRAM released on 1 July by CDF and the Secretary describes the Defence Strategic Update as setting out:

'... a new strategic defence policy that will guide all aspects of defence planning across strategy, capability, reform and communications. This follows Defence's review of the policy settings underpinning the 2016 Defence White Paper. The Update outlines important adjustments that are required to better position Australia to respond to changes in the strategic environment. The 2020 Force Structure Plan details the planned adjustments to the Australian Defence Force's capabilities to deliver on the Government's new defence strategic policy.'

The Strategic Update 2020 [webpage](#) contains a wealth of information about the analysis underpinning the Update and the 2020 Force Structure Plan that arises from it. It also details how the Strategic Update replaces the Strategic Defence Framework set out in the 2016 Defence White Paper with three new strategic objectives:

- to shape Australia's strategic environment;
- to deter actions against Australia's interests; and
- to respond with credible military force, when required.

I encourage you to browse the Strategic Update 2020 [webpage](#) for further information. The attached diagram from that website, showing the proposed Air Capability Plan associated with the Update might provide appropriate encouragement for you to investigate further, at least so you can see the diagram below with a larger font!



As always, plans such as those associated with the Strategic Update are only as good as the response they receive from across the ADF and the broader community. This week, Chief of Air Force made the RAAF's position clear through his [statement of intent](#).

Finally, having opened this DS with a reference to our (abandoned) mid-year lunch, I can tell you that COVID-19 restrictions permitting, we continue to plan for our end-of-year lunch on Friday 9 October, when our guest speaker will be [Peter Jennings](#), highly respected Defence commentator, and executive director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI). We hope to confirm with a further edition of DS by the first week in September that we can go ahead with the lunch as planned. In the meantime, please keep an eye on the RAAFSCA [website](#) for updates, and most importantly, please stay well!

Ian Pearson

Mobile: 0407 561 080