

Department of Defence

DEFGRAM 376/2020

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THE *DEFENCE STRATEGIC UPDATE* AND AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE MISSION ALIGNMENT

References:

A. [Joint Secretary and CDF Directive 11/2020](#)¹ - *Defence and Australian Defence Force Missions* of 16 April 2020.

B. [CDF Directive 05/2020](#)² - *Australian Defence Force Mission Set* of 14 July 2020 (updated).

1. Australia's region, the Indo-Pacific, is in the midst of the most consequential strategic realignment since WWII. The *2020 Defence Strategic Update* (2020 DSU) sets out new strategic objectives to guide all Defence planning, including force generation, international engagement and operations, aligned to broader Government initiatives. Achieving these strategic objectives depends upon a strong joint force, integrated with the Defence enterprise. This improved alignment is not simply a matter of policy and structure; it depends upon active leadership, to break down stovepipes, create a positive culture, and provide clarity on the 'big picture'.

2. **Background.** From 2019, the ADF Chiefs discussed a series of objectives considered central to strengthening institutional alignment within the ADF, and for the ADF within Defence. One of these objectives was to develop a nested and complementary set of missions for the ADF, which would contribute to achieving an agreed, superior Defence mission, to serve the Government and deliver the commitments made in the 2020 DSU.

3. A mission is a clear, concise statement of a command's task and the purpose to which that task contributes. It directs our decisions and aligns group efforts.

4. The changes to the Defence and ADF missions may seem simple, or administrative, but they are a powerful statement for each of us to use in understanding what we contribute to the ADF, Defence, and to other elements of Australia's national power, and to ultimately achieve what the Government and the Australian people expect of us.

5. **Defence Mission.** The new Defence mission, is to *defend Australia and its national interests in order to advance Australia's security and prosperity.*

¹ <https://objective/id:BN15672584>

² <https://objective/id:BN15671947>

6. We will deliver Defence's mission by pursuing the three strategic objectives of the 2020 DSU: *to **shape** Australia's strategic environment; to **deter** actions against Australia's interests; and to **respond** with credible military force when required.*

7. The **Defence Mission** and **ADF Mission Set**, advised at the References, are:

Command	Mission
Defence	<i>To defend Australia and its national interests in order to advance Australia's security and prosperity</i>
ADF	<i>To apply military power in order to defend Australia and its national interests</i>
VCDF Executive	<i>To design the joint force in order to defend Australia and its national interests</i>
Navy	<i>To prepare naval power in order to enable the joint force in peace and war</i>
Army	<i>To prepare land power in order to enable the joint force in peace and war</i>
Air Force	<i>To prepare air and space power in order to enable the joint force in peace and war</i>
Joint Capabilities Group	<i>To prepare supporting capabilities in order to enable the joint force in peace and war</i>
Joint Operations Command	<i>To employ joint forces and effects in peace and war in order to defend Australia and its national interests</i>

8. Service and Group Chiefs are authorised in reference B to issue complementary subordinate missions as necessary. Similarly, Group Heads may also establish complementary and subordinate statements in support of the Defence Mission.

9. **Service mottos.** Our well known Service Mottos will be retained:

Service	Motto
Navy	<i>To fight and win at sea</i>
Army	<i>Serving the nation</i>
Air Force	<i>Per Ardua Ad Astra (through struggle to the stars)</i>
Joint Capabilities Group	<i>For the war fighter</i>

Conclusion

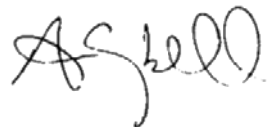
10. Our alignment journey commenced almost 50 years ago when the three Services were united to create the ADF, working alongside the Department of Defence, to create a single Australian Defence Organisation.

11. The organisation has continued to reform, most recently in the *First Principles Review* in 2016 where the One Defence foundation was established. This ongoing work helps to build a Defence enterprise that is fit for purpose and resilient in a more complex and contested environment. The DSU 20 reminds us of the purpose and importance of this alignment.

12. As we look to the future, you should expect further change to strengthen the organisation. We ask that you consider the part you have to play in achieving our mission, wherever you serve.



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