

**** LUNCHEON SEMINAR ****

DS

Friday 11 March 2022

at the National Press Club

16 National Circuit, Barton

February 2022

Speaker: Air Vice-Marshal Mike Kitcher AM, DSM

Deputy Chief of Joint Operations

'Current ADF Operations'



Newsletter
of the
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STAFF COLLEGE
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GPO Box 1204 Canberra ACT 2601

www.raafsca.org

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(Nominations via separate Luncheon Notice & Registration Form)

From the President

Happy New Year, both Gregorian and Lunar, and best wishes for any other reason you may have to celebrate leaving the last two Covid years behind us, and hopefully going onto something better in 2022 (and beyond).

Notwithstanding any preoccupation we may have with Covid, (a theme to which I will return below), other developments on the international stage remind us that for reasons ranging from disaster relief to the possibility of armed conflict, the Australian Defence Force is required to stand ready to be called upon as part of any national response by Australia. Accordingly, I am very pleased that Deputy Commander of Joint Operations, [Air Vice-Marshal Mike Kitcher, AM, DSM](#) has agreed to update us on current ADF operations at our 11 March lunch meeting. Such an update is very timely, and arguably overdue - you may recall that it has been five years (on 2 March 2017) since we last received such an update, on that occasion from Chief of Joint Operations, Vice-Admiral David Johnston. Clearly the program during the intervening period has been fully occupied by other excellent speakers!

Members who have been unable to join us, for Covid and other reasons, since our February 2021 lunch meeting may be unfamiliar with the changed venue we have used for our last two meetings, and which we will use on 11 March: the National Press Club (NPC) in Barton. Parking there is accessible from 1100 hours through the coded boom gate

accessible from Bourke Street, just behind the Club. (See attached [map](#).) The Club building is accessed via a stairway leading from the carpark to a door, coded with the same numbers as the carpark boom gate. Of course, you don't need to arrive that early, but if you wish to absolutely guarantee a convenient parking spot, feel free to do so and relax with a coffee in the Club's lounge area. If you arrive late and are unable to find a parking spot at the NPC, the closest guaranteed parking is available at the underground carpark, accessible via Burbury Close, just across from the entrance to the NPC carpark entrance (also indicated on the [map](#)).

The code for the NPC carpark boom gate and Club building door changes regularly. Those who have accepted to attend our lunch will receive email advice of the code on Tuesday, immediately prior to the lunch. Also, as previously advised, The National Press Club management has indicated that at the conclusion of our activities in the meeting room, irrespective of whether we are Press Club members or not, we are very welcome to linger in the lounge. In short, those conversations that so often follow our lunch presentations need not be abruptly terminated. Experience from our last two meetings at the NPC has been that this has been a very welcome arrangement. Enjoy a chat and relaxing coffee before driving home.

Of course the question that many are asking is related to the Covid safety of our lunch. As a fully (triple) vaxxed Club member, and displaying my Joint credentials, last week I ground tested the Club's dining arrangements with fellow Club member Raydon Gates to mark the 25th anniversary of a certain maritime operation in which we participated, and which resulted in the rescue of Vendee Globe yachtsmen, Raphael Dinelli, Thierry Dubois and Tony Bullimore. You may have read about it, and yes, it has been 25 years! We (and our wives) were impressed and reassured by the Covid-safe arrangements in place at the NPC. However, while no mandates are in place, the efficacy of those arrangements largely arises from the assumption that all inside the building are fully vaccinated. I ask you to consider your own safety, and that of fellow RAAF Staff College Association members (and NPC staff) when you decide whether or not you are able to attend our forthcoming lunch.

Finally, and as always, I encourage you to monitor our website for earliest advice of any changes to the program, and other news, and of course, I look forward to seeing you on 11 March.

Stay well,

Ian Pearson
Mob: 0407 561 080