



# DEFENCE WEEK

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## IN THIS ISSUE

### NATIONAL NEWS

US scrapyards for Manoora and Kanimbla .....	1
PICIP to award \$9.4 million in its second round .....	2
A step closer to Beersheba .....	3
Beersheba's missing maritime concept ..	4
Austal Cape Class as next-gen Armadales? .....	5
Diggerworks report now available ...	6
SATCOM add-on for combat radios ..	6
US facility for Ferra Engineering .....	7
SimTecT early bird discount - book now .....	7
New appointment to Defence SA .....	8
ADM Online: Weekly Summary .....	8

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pentagon hires 1,300 acquisition personnel for contracting .....	9
ScanEagles for UK's Royal Navy .....	9
Weapons score well in flight tests..	10
Cubic wins US contract for next-generation I-TESS .....	10
<b>FORTHCOMING EVENTS .....</b>	<b>11</b>

**DEFENCE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES...** See separate PDF

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## US scrapyards for Manoora and Kanimbla

Tom Muir

Following the release of an RFT offering the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) decommissioned ships *HMAS Manoora* and *HMAS Kanimbla* for sale in June last year (2012), the Government has announced that contract negotiations with the preferred purchaser were completed by May this year with a disposal contract signed on 20 May 2013.

Disappointed perhaps that the ships would not last out their lives as the amphibious force of a minor nation with few enemies, the government has announced that the two vessels will be recycled by purchaser **Southern Recycling LLC** in the US, commensurate with environmental standards expected of such disposal activities, by 2014. The disposal of these vessels required US Government consent in accordance with US International Traffic in Arms Regulations, which has now been achieved.

Southern Recycling, LLC recycles metal-based consumer products, construction and infrastructure metal debris, blue and brown water vessels, and marine structures in the US Gulf Coast region. Its recycling activities include shredding, shearing, and baling; and vessel, barge, and oil platform recycling. In 2006 Southern Recycling was acquired by UK-based multinational, **European Metal Recycling, Ltd. (EMR)**.

The contract details regarding the scrapping of Manoora and Kanimbla are commercial in confidence. Manoora was withdrawn from service in March 2011 and Kanimbla in August 2011 after it was determined that extensive repair work would be uneconomical, given that both vessels were due to be decommissioned by 2014.





Australia's First **Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) HMAS Canberra** is commissioned in 2014.

*HMAS Choules* recently completed a successful period of shakedown training in far north Queensland which included flying operations with a RAN **MRH90 helicopter**, and is currently taking part in the joint Navy and Army amphibious **Exercise SEA LION** from June 10–24, 2013.

The ships were formally decommissioned with ceremonies in 2012. Memorabilia from the ships has been transferred to the Naval Heritage Collection Headquarters and the main repository at Spectacle Island, which are both located in Sydney.

*HMAS Tobruk* and *HMAS Choules* now provide Navy's core amphibious capability together with Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Shield, until



## PICIP to award \$9.4 million in its second round

**Five Australian defence companies will be offered a total of \$9.4 million in funding through the second round of the Priority Industry Capability Innovation Program (PICIP).**

Minister for Defence Materiel **Dr Mike Kelly** said the PICIP provides eligible Australian defence companies with up to \$4 million in matched funding to help commercialise innovative technologies that support and enhance Australia's Priority Industry Capabilities (PIC).

"Four of the five successful applicants being offered funding this round are small to medium enterprises with the grants ranging in size from around \$220,000 to \$3.4 million," Dr Kelly said.

The projects will lead to development in four areas of defence industry identified as PICs within the 2010 Defence Industry Policy Statement including electronic warfare and high frequency and phased array radar.

"These grants will be used by the companies to commercialise their research to produce new technologies and improve their competitiveness both in Australia and in the global marketplace," Dr Kelly said.

The five successful companies offered funding this round through the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) are:

- BAE Systems Pty Ltd
- Chemring Pty Ltd
- Electro Optic Solutions Pty Ltd
- Jenkins Engineering Defence Systems Pty Ltd
- Lintek Pty Ltd

Companies seeking further information on the PIC Innovation Program should visit [www.defence.gov.au/dmo/id/picip/](http://www.defence.gov.au/dmo/id/picip/) or call the program office on 1800 651 292





## A step closer to Beersheba

Tom Muir

Soldiers from 1RAR and 2RAR were exposed to the power and mobility of the new multi-role combat brigade (MCB) formation in the combined arms training activity (CATA) led by 3 Bde held in Townsville from May 9 to June 1. The two battalions formed two of the three combined arms battlegroups along with the 1 Armed Regt led Armoured Cavalry Regiment (ACR).



The exercise aimed to enhance the brigade's foundation warfighting skills while preparing them for certification as the "ready brigade" on Exercise Talisman

Sabre in July. It was designed to test the feasibility and sustainability of the ACR within an MCB. Commander 3 Bde Brigadier Shane Caughey said the current approach to combined arms teams relied on shifting forces between manoeuvre brigades.

"By having an organisation like the ACR embedded and organic within each of the multi-role combat brigades, we will be able to conduct our own internal combined arms training up to formation level," he said.

"What has become abundantly clear throughout CATA is that the addition of the ACR and the reconfiguration into an MCB construct has resulted in a significant enhancement to 3 Bde's combat power, agility, flexibility, robustness and lethality."

The exercise achieved a number of firsts including the first employment of the **MRH-90** for air mobile operations, the first use of the **Tiger helicopter** providing intimate direct fire support with Hellfire missiles, rockets and 30mm cannon in advance of assaulting troops, and a rate of effort from 5 Avn Regt not seen since the early days of Interfet in 1999.

The missions incorporated personnel and equipment from land and Army aviation forces integrating by day and night during a range of challenging high-end warfighting scenarios. The exercise culminated in a deliberate live-fire brigade attack to destroy a mechanised battle group threat force. The soldiers of the brigade will now apply the lessons for the coming major exercises where they will seek out certification as the Army's ready brigade and remain on station until June 2015-Nick Wiseman/Army

### 2nd annual ADM Defence Support Services Summit

**Date:** 19 September 2013, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra

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## Beersheba's missing maritime concept

Tom Muir

While the previous article describes combined arms training activities within the context of the Army's multi role combat brigade formation under Plan Beersheba, the role of the land force in a maritime context, particularly in relation to Army's development of an amphibious capability and acquisition of two Landing Helicopter Docks (LHDs) is noticeably lacking.

Writing in the *Australian Army Journal*, **Allison Casey\***, a Defence employee through the 2012 Graduate Development Program, notes that 2 RAR has been designated to take the initial lead in developing amphibious capability. In turn, these skills are to be spread throughout and beyond 3 Brigade, within which 2 RAR sits. Here, she says, Army's interoperability within itself, as well as the other services, is going to be crucial. She adds that while **LTGEN David Morrison** has recognised this as far as emphasising joint activity is concerned, there is no clear indication just yet of how Army might proceed in doing this.

"Granted, Army has developed relevant concept documents such as Manoeuvre Operations in the Littoral Environment and Entry by Air and Sea. But while these may be useful for promoting an ADF amphibious capability, they have been criticised from a joint viewpoint for smacking of an expeditionary strategy. LTGEN General Morrison's answer thus far is that 'we're going to learn that as we go'.

"If we're lucky, this will occur ahead of time and in practice, and not on the day when the capability is suddenly needed. Given that Marines Corps personnel—the US's specialists in conducting amphibious operations—are now being deployed to northern Australia as part of a new initiative in the Australia–US relationship, there is tremendous opportunity for Army to learn from the experts and do exactly this".

Further to the foregoing, during an 10 April briefing at the Association of the US Army's inaugural **Land Power in the Pacific (LANPAC)** symposium in Honolulu, Hawaii, LTGEN Morrison said the Australian Army was working to standardise the structure of its brigade as the force seeks to enhance its amphibious capabilities.

"We need a standard brigade structure that can survive across the spectrum of conflict," LTGEN Morrison said. He noted that the ADF was not large enough to sustain an array of specialised forces, but rather needed to be capable of meeting near-peer and irregular enemy forces with the a standardised package.

\*Allison Casey: "Knife, Can Opener or Screwdriver? Training Australia's Land Force to be the Swiss Army Knife of the Future", *Australian Army Journal*, Volume IX, Number 3.





## Austal Cape Class as next-gen Armidales?

Tom Muir

In a [post](#) in ASPI's *The Strategist* this week, Andrew Davies suggests that business case conditions for rolling

production might well exist in the case of the patrol boats. At the moment, West Australian shipbuilder Austal is about halfway through the production of eight Cape class patrol boats for the Border Protection Service Command.

Davies says there's at least a prima facie case for continuing the build run to produce the Navy's next generation patrol boats. According to DMO's own assessment in a case study presented in the submarine skills plan, the Cape class boats represent a significant step forward in performance, comfort and design.

### Case Study: Austal Cape class—A third generation Design

Drawing from the experience of designing, building and maintaining the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service's Bay class patrol boats in the late 1990s, Austal created its 56 metre Armidale class patrol boat design for the Australian Navy in the early 2000s, with 14 boats built between 2004 and 2007.

In 2011, Austal then developed its third generation of this design, the Cape class, for Customs. This design benefitted from the experience of building the Armidale vessels as well as feedback from navy crews and people who have been maintaining those ships for many years. Cape class also benefitted from experience with design and build of the Littoral Combat Ship and Joint High Speed Vessel ships. Some of the developments are listed below.

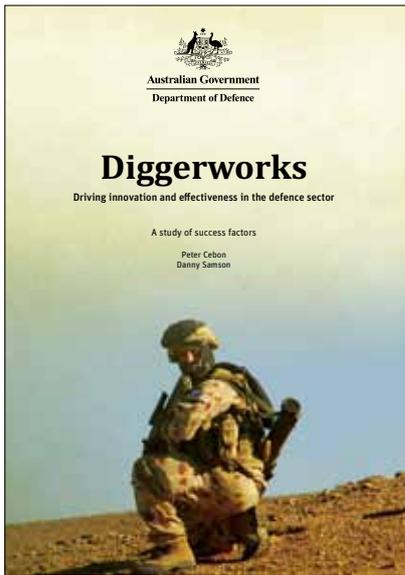
#### Comparative values between Armidale and Cape class patrol Boats (CCPB):

CCPB has 20 per cent more range; 30 per cent more internal volume for only two metre increase in length; can carry 40 per cent more transportees in better comfort; operates with 40 per cent fewer crew; crew accommodation is 7 per cent quieter; is 5 per cent faster for same displacement; and garbage store is 500 per cent larger.

From build lessons learned on Armidale, the Cape class design incorporates; modified structural and equipment arrangements to improve installation efficiency by facilitating better access; changed build sequence to allow more access during hull assembly; manufacturing feedback improved control of weld shrinkage and material distortion; and increased number of switchboards to simplify electrical system upgrades.

From operational lessons learned, the Cape class design incorporated increased internal volume of the ship to maximise crew comfort; new arrangements for transportee accommodation on main deck improve access for persons with reduced mobility; changed boarding party room location to enhance operational efficiency and safety through improved access to the ships boats and proximity to the bridge; optimised ventilation in machinery and internal spaces by modelling air flow using Computational Fluid Dynamics; and improved materials and detail design to simplify maintenance-*Strategist*





## Diggerworks report now available

A study has reinforced how the Department of Defence's Diggerworks initiative has improved the way Australian soldiers are equipped for combat. Diggerworks is a joint initiative between Army, the Defence Materiel Organisation, the Capability Development Group and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) to identify and deliver technology to enhance the fighting capability of our frontline soldiers and tactical unit.

Diggerworks was established in 2011 to rationalise procurement practices for combat ensembles and improve the suitability of equipment based on feedback from soldiers in the field.

The study undertaken by **Danny Samson**, Professor of Management at the **University of Melbourne** and **Dr Peter Cebon**, former Senior Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, analysed the success of the Diggerworks initiative based on feedback from the field.

Downloaded the report at: [www.defence.gov.au/header/publications.htm](http://www.defence.gov.au/header/publications.htm)

## SATCOM add-on for combat radios

Tom Muir

**SlingShot**, an external appliqué which adds a beyond line-of-sight capability to a conventional combat net radio, is expected to complete its initial round of electromagnetic compatibility trials by the end of this month, according to the Spectra Group. The company is developing its new device in partnership with Inmarsat. SlingShot consists of a small frequency convertor and a range of Spectra antennas, which are suitable either for communications on-the-move, on-the-pause, or at-the-halt.

Earlier this year Inmarsat announced that it was expanding the availability of mobile tactical **Beyond-Line-of-Sight (BLOS)** communications to a broad range of new government users through the innovative exploitation of the capabilities of its L-band satellites.

The company's new L-Band service, **L-TAC**, will deliver a 'UHF-like' tactical satellite capability for use with existing UHF tactical radios for approved government customers at low cost. UHF tactical satellite capability is in very high demand by government customers because of its suitability to create Beyond-Line-of-Sight Push-to-Talk networks using tactical radios either man-portable or installed in vehicles, helicopters, ships or other mobile platforms.

**Inmarsat's** L-TAC service complements this existing UHF tactical capacity, providing additional capability when UHF capacity is unavailable. Inmarsat's powerful Inmarsat-4 constellation of satellites provides this capability across the world, with the additional



benefit of supporting small antennas for BLOS communications on the move. To access the service, users require only a small antenna adaptor for their existing tactical radio, which replaces their existing UHF antenna.

Inmarsat partnered with Spectra Group to develop the Slingshot adaptor, which is expected to be commercially available in late Q2 2013. Designed with the soldier in mind, Slingshot will work with existing tactical military radios and with minimal additional training, will provide Beyond-Line-of-Sight communications without the need for additional infrastructure. Slingshot combined with Inmarsat's L-TAC leased service is fully flexible and designed to meet security and reliability requirements cost-effectively. Users will be able to lease the service for a fixed period with leases as short as one month.

According to Inmarsat L-TAC will enable militaries to exercise greater command and control through existing tactical radios at a realistic cost with leases available for periods as short as one month at a time. The operational benefits for soldiers on the ground are enormous, providing low risk, highly resilient and easy to use connectivity independent of local infrastructure or terrain.

Australia is a long time user of Inmarsat services, including through the Maritime Tactical Wide Area Network and its BLOS bearers. Stratos, a leading global provider of remote communication solutions and services, won a competitive contract with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to provide Inmarsat-B voice and data leased services. These services will be used by the ADF for strategic, tactical, and logistic communications among a number of its naval and land-based units. -Spectra/Inmarsat/Stratos



## US facility for Ferra Engineering

**Ferra Engineering announced at the Paris Air Show it is to open a new facility in the US. The new facility, to be based in Grove, Oklahoma, will employ 20 workers and help the company**

**to expand its footprint in the US.**

Ferra Engineering CEO **Mark Sherrer** said that the positioning of the new facility would allow the company "to easily provide service to our customer base on both coasts and international markets".

Ferra Engineering has won a number of key component supply contracts with major US prime contractors over the past year, including a contract to provide wing kits from Boeing to provide extended range capabilities for the **Joint Direct Attack Munition-Extended Range guided munition**, the supply of mission kits and weapons pylons for the **Lockheed MH-60R SeaHawk Romeo**, and components for the **Boeing P-8A Poseidon**. -JDW

## SimTecT early bird discount - book now

Early Bird discount for **SimTecT 2013** closes on 30 June 2013. Register now by going to <http://simtect.com.au/register>.





## New appointment to Defence SA

A new appointment has been made at Defence SA.

**Andrew Fletcher**, Chief Executive Defence SA welcomed the appointment of **Fred Eske** to the agency, in the key role of General Manager - Defence Industry Attraction and Development.

"Having been an owner of a specialist defence company, and most recently worked with **BAE Systems Australia**

- the nation's largest defence company - Fred's extensive industry experience and expertise will prove invaluable to achieving the state's defence ambitions.

Eske will commence with Defence SA on 5 August 2013.



## ADM Online: Weekly Summary

A summary of the latest news and views in the defence industry, locally and overseas. Check out our webpage for daily news updates on the *ADM* home page and make sure you bookmark/RSS this for a regular visit.

This week, **Lovitt Technologies Australia (LTA)** was awarded a contract for work in the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program.

The Bundeswehr announced that they are procuring Rheinmetall's **Rapid Obscurant System Land (ROSY\_L)** for protecting ground vehicles, the first customer to do so.

And, Airbus Military placed a third work package with **South Africa's Denel Aerostructures (DAe)** for the manufacture of structural components for the A400M military transport program.



## International

### Pentagon hires 1,300 acquisition personnel for contracting

The Pentagon hired nearly 1,300 new civilians in fiscal year 2012 with money from the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (DWADF), with more than a third of the new hires specialising in contracting, Defense Department acquisition chief Frank Kendall told lawmakers in a recent report.

DOD obligated \$US626.4 million for the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund in FY-12, according to DOD's FY-12 annual report on the fund submitted to Congress last month.

Since its establishment in 2008, the DAWDF, which was designed to help rebuild the defence acquisition workforce, has helped increase hiring by 8,346 personnel, the document states. Seventy per cent of the funds in FY-12 were designed for recruiting and hiring, which brought in 763 "interns" and 516 "journeymen." Some 35 per cent of new hires are in the contracting category, 22 per cent are in systems planning, research development and engineering, and 18 per cent in production, quality and manufacturing, the report states.

"The fund was used for 135 recruiting bonuses for hard-to-fill positions," the report notes. "The components also conducted 65 outreach efforts through job fairs and university visits with 375 contacts and attendees." *-Inside Defense*



### ScanEagles for UK's Royal Navy

The Royal Navy has signed a GBP 30 million (about \$46.9 million) contract to buy ScanEagle UAVs, for use from Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships like the Bay Class amphibious landing ships, as well as surface combatants like Britain's frigates, destroyers, and helicopter carriers.

This is the Royal Navy's 1st sea-launched UAV, and it will be a big help

to a fleet whose number of ships has dwindled, even as it abandoned maritime patrol aircraft.

ScanEagles can also serve as targeting assets for the Royal Marines, and for Navy ships if Britain buys naval weapons that use laser precision guidance. **Raytheon's** new **Excalibur laser/GPS guided shell** is one such naval option. **MBDA's** proposed maritime adaptation of the British Army's **Fire Shadow** loitering missile is another.



## Weapons score well in flight tests

The US Air Force and Raytheon recently completed a four-year development program of the Miniature Air Launched Decoy-Jammer (MALD-J) under budget.

As part of the development program, the MALD and MALD-J flew a total of 30 successful engineering and operational flight tests with a

perfect 30-for-30 record. The MALD-J's flight test record was 15-for-15 of that total.

"The MALD program continues to surpass expectations in performance and capability," Harry Schulte, vice president of Raytheon Missile Systems' Air Warfare Systems said. "The MALD-J provides significant improvement in strike survivability and tactical electronic attack, giving our warfighters a decisive edge."

MALD is a state-of-the-art, low-cost flight vehicle that is modular, air-launched, autonomous and programmable. It weighs less than 300 pounds and has a range of approximately 500 nautical miles. MALD protects aircraft and their crews by duplicating the combat flight profiles and signatures of US and allied aircraft. MALD-J adds radar-jamming capability to the basic MALD platform.

## Cubic wins US contract for next-generation I-TESS

**Cubic Defense Applications has been awarded an additional delivery order by the US Marine Corps to provide an advanced Instrumented-Tactical Engagement Simulation System (I-TESS) II.**

Cubic will provide an immersive training capacity that replicates the stresses and threats of actual combat. The order will replace older generation systems at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va.

The I-TESS II system consists of a small-arms transmitter, which can be used with automatic weapons, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and AT4 rocket launchers. There also is a man-worn detection system, audio and visual effects to simulate hand grenades, and tracking and engagement gear for vehicles and fixed structures.

The system's GPS and radio system provides real-time tracking of individuals and vehicles, in both indoor and outdoor conditions. The data is collected and briefed to the marine as an objective based after-action review.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.....page 15



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For a full list of defence and industry events, head to **ADM's online events page at [www.australiandefence.com.au](http://www.australiandefence.com.au)**

## DSEI

**DATE:** 10-13 September, 2013, ExCel, London

**ENQUIRIES:** Web: [www.dsei.co.uk](http://www.dsei.co.uk)

DSEI is the largest fully integrated defence and security show in the world, featuring Air, Naval, Land and Security show content. Based in ExCeL, London every two years, the event provides unrivalled access to key markets across the globe.

## SimTect

**DATE:** 16 Sep - 19 Sep, 2013, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland

**ENQUIRIES:** Web: [www.simtect.com.au](http://www.simtect.com.au)

SimTect is the annual Simulation Technology and Training Conference held by Simulation Australia. Since its inception in 1996, SimTect has grown to become Australasia's premier simulation conference for industry, government and academia.

## 2nd annual ADM Defence Support Services Summit

**DATE:** 19 Sep, 2013, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra

**ENQUIRIES:** ADM Events - Jamie Burrage, Ph: 02 9080 4321;

**Email:** [Jamie.burrage@informa.com.au](mailto:Jamie.burrage@informa.com.au) **Web:** [www.admevents.com.au](http://www.admevents.com.au)

The Defence Support and Reform Group has an annual budget of \$3.9 billion, with an asset base in excess of \$20 billion and around 2,600 civilian and 1,100 military staff. It provides a diverse range of products and services to support over 100,000 ADF personnel and Australian Public Service (APS) employees.

## Pacific 2013

**DATE:** 07 - 09 Oct, 2013, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

**ENQUIRIES:** Web: [www.pacific2013imc.com](http://www.pacific2013imc.com)

Pacific 2013 IMC provides a unique opportunity for people involved in maritime and naval affairs around the world to discuss the latest maritime developments in design, naval architecture, engineering, science and technology. With the concurrent Maritime Exposition, the event will provide a meeting place for industry representatives to exchange ideas and to establish personal and business contacts.

## SIA 2nd Submarine science, technology and engineering conference

**DATE:** 15 - 17 Oct, 2013, Adelaide

**ENQUIRIES:** Web: [www.submarineinstitute.com/sia-conferences/](http://www.submarineinstitute.com/sia-conferences/)

The peak event in Australia for engineering of what is one of the most complex Defence assets - conventional submarines. In addition the conference covers the full range of underwater technologies, many of which are relevant and in use for under-sea resources exploration and exploitation.

This conference also provides a national focus for shipbuilding and land-based research, development, test and evaluation and systems integration relevant to submarines.

## Safeskies

**DATE:** 16 - 17 Oct, 2013, Hotel Realm Canberra

**ENQUIRIES:** Web: [www.safeskiesaustralia.org](http://www.safeskiesaustralia.org)

Safeskies Conferences Inc. is an Australian based not-for-profit organisation which holds a biennial aviation safety conference in Canberra. The 2013 conference has as its theme 'People and Technology', and speakers will probe some of the issues surrounding this theme, including UAVs, rotary wing aircraft developments, pilot training and automation, cabin safety, the latest technology in large passenger jets and a case study from the Air France flight 447 accident investigation. There will be speakers from the UK, USA and Europe; and from Boeing, Augusta and Cranfield University.

## ADM Northern Australia Defence Summit

**DATE:** 29 Oct - 30 Oct, 2013, Darwin Convention Centre

**ENQUIRIES:** ADM Events - Jamie Burrage, Ph: 02 9080 4321;

**Email:** [Jamie.burrage@informa.com.au](mailto:Jamie.burrage@informa.com.au)

**Web:** [www.admevents.com.au](http://www.admevents.com.au)

Bringing together key figures from the NT Government, senior military figures, and senior industry representatives, this conference is all about the continuing development and support of Defence in the Top End. Hear about the current and new initiatives offered by Government and what industry can bring to support Defence's strategic objectives..

