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### DEFENCE BUSINESS

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## The future of mothballed Abrams and M113AS4?

The government's decision to mothball an undisclosed number of Army's 59 M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks (MBT) and at least 100 of its 350 newly upgraded M113AS4 armoured personnel carriers appears to have caught Defence on the hop.

The decision was disclosed on 3 May. In late July, Defence was asked for information about the mothballing process; how, when, where, and by whom.

Information had yet to be finalised, Defence advised, suggesting that the questions be resubmitted in September - a mere six months after the initial announcement.

ADM will let you know more information as we hear it.

If ever there was an image that captures the state of the Australian Army's much-anguished-over heavy armoured capability, this is it.

No less than 29 M1A1 Abrams MBTs of 1 Armd Regt can be seen awaiting transport back to Darwin following the conclusion of Exercise Hamel in Shoalwater Bay.

After the Government's announcement that a squadron of Abrams is to be mothballed to save money, the photo shows more than the entire MBT capability that Australia will have available for the foreseeable future - right there in a holding yard at Gladstone measuring about 100 metres square.

"We bought a total of 59 Abrams tanks from the US in 2005/06, with first deliveries in 2007," according to comments from ►

Major General Jim Molan (retired). “Of those 59 tanks, only 41 are actually available for operations the remainder being set aside for training and attrition stocks. In time of conflict, 41 tanks is all we would have available to send on operations.

“Those 41 tanks are operated by 1st Armoured Regiment in Darwin, which is our only tank unit. Now comes the Government intention, announced during the May Budget, to mothball a squadron of tanks, bearing in mind there are 14 tanks in a squadron. Therefore, 41 minus 14 = 27 tanks left. So in fact the photo you see shows two tanks too many! The actual number will be 27 tanks.”

ADM also understands that at least **nine of the 59-strong Abrams fleet** have been cannibalised for parts and the upgrade intended under Land 907 has disappeared from the Defence Capability Plan.



## Role for Bushmaster post Afghanistan

According to Defence, the Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) will provide an enduring protected mobility capability for Army as operations draw down in Afghanistan. Drawing from its experience over the past decade – a period of high operational tempo – the Army is currently reviewing its force structure and equipment provisioning as part of Plan Beersheba, with the aim of establishing a more capable army for the future.

Plan Beersheba involves, in the first instance, the development of **Multi-role Combat Brigades**, based on the **1st, 3rd and 7th Brigades**, which have fundamentally common structures containing all elements of the combined arms team.

Defence says the Bushmaster will be an integral component of the Plan, particularly within the Multi-role Combat Brigades, and with Bushmaster more widely distributed across Army.

Looking at potential future roles for the Bushmaster PMV the **Land 400 Concept of Operations** provides further Defence thinking on the provisioning of the three Beersheba manoeuvre brigades, and discusses the roles of combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) assets within the close combat zone. ▶

Within the direct fire zone, there will be the combatants and enablers required to win the close battle. Those enablers that transit the direct fire zone will be mounted in protected mobility platforms provided by Land 121 and legacy fleets. There will be an increased reliance on Land 121, legacy fleet protected mobility and rotary wing assets to transport dismounted systems (e.g. personnel, weapons, sensors) to support LCVS-based Schemes of Manoeuvre.

Due to the high level of protection the Bushmaster PMV and its family of single and dual cab vehicles offers over Land 121 logistics vehicles, where protection is focussed on the cabin, it may make sense to acquire a number of these combat service support-style vehicles for the transport/resupply of ammunition, weapons and sensors, close to and within the direct fire zone, especially in urban terrain where mines/IEDs and small arms fire may predominate.

*For more on the Bushmaster fleet, keep an eye out for the upcoming September edition of ADM.*



## Improving submarine escape training

Engineering consultancy Frazer-Nash has carried out an Operational Risk Assessment (ORA) for the Capability Development Group – Maritime Development Branch on Submarine Escape, Rescue and Abandonment Systems (SERAS). The company was selected following a competitive tender process.

As part of **Project Sea1354** Frazer-Nash was appointed to carry out the ORA to assess the capability of the existing SERAS, to evaluate the safety, fitness for purpose and environmental risks associated with submarine escape, rescue and abandonment operations.

Following the assessment a risk management plan was provided to recommend how to address these potential risks.

Frazer-Nash was able to call on relevant engineering capability not only from within their Australian operations, but also experts from the UK who have extensive experience working on submarine programmes for the MoD, including NATO Submarine Rescue System (NSRS).



## Thales to represent General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems in Australia

Thales Australia has strengthened its relationship with General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, having been named the U.S. based company's representative for ammunition products in Australia and New Zealand.

The two companies have worked closely together since signing a long-term teaming agreement in early 2011. A key objective of the partnership is to transfer technology and know-how in order to deliver an improved offering to the Australian Defence Force beyond Thales's existing explosive ordnance supply contracts.

With significant explosives and munitions facilities in regional Australia, Thales is currently focusing on further streamlining manufacturing processes to help the Department of Defence meet savings targets specified under its Strategic Reform Program.

**Mike Wilson, President of General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems**, said: "Appointing Thales Australia as our representative in the region will provide an enhanced and more integrated approach to supporting the ammunition requirements of the Australian Defence Force."

**Chris Jenkins, Thales Australia's CEO**, said: "We are very pleased to strengthen our relationship with General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems – one of the world's leading suppliers of explosive ordnance – and look forward to collaborating on market opportunities now and in the future."



### Choules out for rest of year

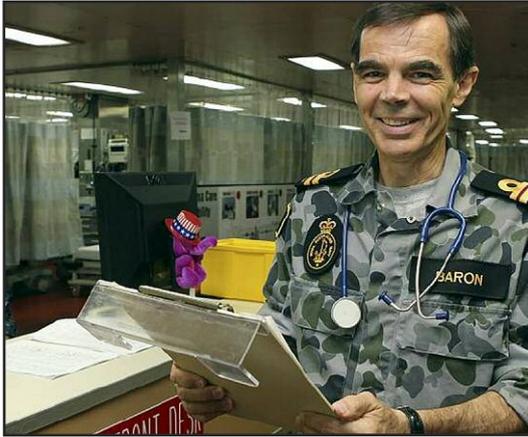
The Royal Australian Navy's recently acquired Bay-class amphibious ship HMAS Choules will be out of action until at least the end of 2012 because of the transformer defect, a Department of Defence (DoD) spokesperson confirmed to IHS Jane's this month. The 16,190-tonne former UK Royal Fleet Auxiliary dock landing ship was purchased for \$100 million in early 2011 and commissioned by the RAN in December that year.



### Targeting systems for RAN's new Seahawks

Raytheon has been awarded a US\$23.9 million contract to provide 24 AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems (MTS) for the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN's) fleet of 24 Sikorsky MH-60R Seahawk multirole maritime helicopters, the US Department of Defense announced on 3 August.

The system, which is a derivative of the system originally fitted aboard the F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter, is described as a turret-based "electro-optic, forward-looking infrared (FLIR) sensor package that provides long-range surveillance, high-altitude target acquisition, tracking, range-finding and laser designation for all tri-service and NATO laser-guided munitions".



## Pacific Partnership 2012 concludes

Australia's involvement in Pacific Partnership 2012 has drawn to a successful conclusion following the return of Australia's contingent.

The US Navy Pacific Fleet-led Pacific Partnership series is the largest annual humanitarian assistance program in the Asia-Pacific region, delivering medical, dental, engineering and veterinary aid projects to participating host nations which, this year, included Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia. Through the civic aid projects participating nations build regional capability to respond to any future large-scale natural disaster.

During the 14 week partnership, some 64 ADF engineers, medical, dental, veterinary and supporting personnel worked as part of the 1,100-strong multinational force of regional military and non-government organisation specialists based onboard the US Navy hospital ship *USNS Mercy*.



## Conservator sought for Scottsdale's guns

The Department of Defence is seeking tenders for the conservation of a field gun and two cannons which are located at DSTO's Scottsdale facility in north-east Tasmania.

Scottsdale has been the recipient of a number of 'gate guards' (heritage objects) in recognition of their work with sections of the Defence Services. These heritage objects have been displayed at the site's entrance and now show marked signs of environmental deterioration. In view of their present condition and their ongoing importance to the organisation, the DSTO seeks to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to conserve three of these objects, one field gun and two cannons, to enable their long term external display at the DSTO Scottsdale.

There are two phases to this contract. **Phase 1** is the conservation of the field gun and **Phase 2** is the conservation of the two cannons. Both stages are required to be completed by 19 April 2013. *Full details of the tender appeared in last week's DWP 217 Defence Tender PDF.*



## Super Hornet debut at Exercise Pitch Black

The RAAF Super Hornets of No. 1 Squadron have made their Exercise Pitch Black debut appearance. Nine Super Hornets are operating alongside other RAAF aircraft and international participants for the exercise.

**Commanding Officer No. 1 Squadron, Wing Commander Murray Jones**, said the Super Hornet had brought Air Force a tremendous increase in capability at Exercise Pitch Black.

“For the first time, No. 1 Squadron has come to Exercise Pitch Black with a true multi-role capability,” WGCDR Jones said. “Unlike the F-111 previously operated by No. 1 Squadron, the Super Hornet can fly missions which combine air-to-air against enemy fighters and air-to-surface strike against ground targets.”

The Super Hornet is equipped with advanced electronics systems which include the **APG-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar**. This provides a continuous picture of the battlespace, whereas older mechanically-steered radars would ‘sweep’ a radar beam over the same area.

“Missions at Pitch Black can involve 60 to 80 aircraft, so it’s critical we have an uninterrupted view of what is happening in the battle space,” WGCDR Jones said. “The coverage of the AESA radar, combined with an excellent data-link system, means that the Pilot and Weapons System Officer can have constant situational awareness of what is happening all around them, and can conduct near simultaneous air-to-air and air-to-ground attacks when required.”

The power of the Super Hornet is further extended when operating alongside other aircraft like the **Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft**, which can provide a continuous radar feed to other aircraft.

## ASPI Analysis: doing more with less

**Many commentators have expressed dismay at the recent cuts to defence spending. The fear is that the government’s long-term commitment to strengthen Australia’s defence has evaporated.**

To add to their concerns, there are few signs that the opposition is any more willing to do so should it win power. But how much does it really matter? Would Australia’s security be compromised if we settled on a less ambitious plan for our defence force than that set out in the 2009 Defence White Paper?

In this **ASPI Policy Analysis**, **Mark Thomson** argues that Australia can get by with less. Thomson has prepared an accompanying piece on ASPI’s blog *The Strategist*.

**It can be found here:**

<http://www.aspistrategist.org.au/how-much-is-too-little-learning-to-live-with-a-smaller-force/>



## Former Army chief joins Australian Aerospace

**Lieutenant General (retired) Ken Gillespie, AC, DSC, CSM, has joined the Board of Directors of Australian Aerospace Limited.**

LTGEN Gillespie, who served with the ADF for over 43 years, was appointed Chief of Army in July 2008, a position he held until his retirement in June last year. Previously he had served as Land Commander Australia and Vice Chief of the Defence Force. ▶

## International



Photo: Lockheed Martin

### JSF as bomber

Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) last week completed its first test flight with the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter dropping a bomb over water in an Atlantic test range

while travelling at 400 knots at an altitude of 4,200 feet. An inert 1,000-pound GBU-32 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) was dropped from the STOVL F-35B variant fighter.

NAVAIR said that this test marked the “start of validating the F-35’s capability to employ precision weapons and allow pilots to engage the enemy on the ground and in the air.”

The Director of test for F-35 naval variants, said: “While this weapons separation test is just one event in a series of hundreds of flights and thousands of test points that we are executing this year, it does represent a significant entry into a new phase of testing for the F-35 program.

Reuters reported that this test was not designed to check the targeting system but for a smooth release of the bomb from the aircraft. Targeting tests are scheduled to take place at another date.



### US Army lacking in science and technology

The US Army is considered to be falling behind the other services in science and technology (S&T) even as leadership in these areas is crucial to equipping the ground service for future threats, according to a yet-unreleased

#### Army Science Board study.

To blame are the shortfalls in Army-wide S&T management, a lack of competition in awarding research funds, and workforce policies not conducive to attracting top scientists, according to sources familiar with the study’s results. Advisers also decry the absence of a strategic plan that would help sharpen the Army’s S&T focus and determine which projects to retain in-house and which ones to leave to the commercial sector as funds become scarcer, according to these sources.

The study comes in the wake of two key assessments during recent years that touched on the problems of a significantly overstuffed Army materiel enterprise - 18,000 excess government workers and contractors, according to an internal assessment from last year - trying to develop and transition leading-edge technology to soldiers.

Army Materiel Command plus the program executive offices under the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology make up what service officials call the “materiel enterprise.” — *Insidedefense.com*



## Elbit Systems' CEO Ackerman to retire next year



Elbit Systems Ltd. has announced that the Company's President and CEO, Joseph Ackerman, will retire from his position in the coming months. The Board confirmed the appointment of Bezahel (Butzi) Machlis as his successor.

The retirement and new appointment will become effective on April 1, 2013, and until that time Ackerman will continue to serve as the Company's President and CEO, leading a gradual succession process. The Company's Board of Directors intends to recommend to the Company's shareholders, that following his retirement as President and CEO, Ackerman be appointed to the Company's Board of Directors as Vice Chairman.



## General Dynamics to supply US with additional JTRS

General Dynamics C4 Systems has received a new order from the US Army for an additional 13,000 Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) Handheld, Manpack, Small Form Fit (HMS) AN/PRC-154 Rifleman radios and accessory kits.

This is the second order placed by the Army for PRC-154 Rifleman radios, bringing the number of radios ordered by the government to more than 19,000. The new order is valued at approximately US\$53.9 million.

Both the JTRS HMS PRC-154 Rifleman and two-channel AN/PRC-155 Manpack networking radios are planned for inclusion in the Army's Capability Set 13, which is to be delivered to Infantry Brigade Combat Teams beginning in October 2012. Capability Set 13 delivers a package of network components, associated equipment and software to soldiers, enabling networked voice and data capabilities to reach the tactical edge, even while units are moving across the battlefield.



## Cobham awarded KC-390 contract

Cobham has been awarded a contract by Embraer Defense and Security worth some US\$30 million, to develop and supply the Auxiliary Fuselage Fuel Tank (AFFT) for the KC-390

tanker aircraft.

Cobham's AFFT will enable the aircraft's core mission capabilities, including increased range for search and rescue operations and maximised fuel offload for air-to-air refuelling. The Brazilian Air Force is the launch customer for the KC-390, which is scheduled to enter service in 2015. Embraer expects to secure significant additional orders for the KC-390 from export customers



## ADM Online: Weekly News 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.

In the news headlines this week

- the Army's new, purpose-built headquarters for 1st Division and Deployable Joint Force Headquarters was officially opened at Gallipoli Barracks.
- Turbomeca became a certified Approved Maintenance Organisation while Sentient announced they will provide additional Kestrel Land MTI licenses in support of operations in Afghanistan.

Also

- the Defence Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centre has taken delivery of the latest CBRN training simulation systems.
- Toll Transitions had utilised Oracle software to relocate 25,000 Australian Defence Force personnel and reduce relocation processing time from three days to one hour.

## Forthcoming Events:

### ADM's Defence Workforce Participation Summit

**27 – 28 September 2012, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra**

ADM's annual Defence Skilling Summit is an important event examining the issues of training and maintaining a skilled workforce for Australia's defence industry. It's an event not to be missed!

**Further Information:** ADM Events - Jamie Burrage, Ph: 02 9080 4321;  
Email: jamie.burrage@informa.com.au Web: www.admevents.com.au

### UAV Challenge

**1-3 October 2012, Kingaroy, Qld**

The UAV Challenge - Outback Rescue has been developed to promote UAV's significance to Australia. The UAV Challenge is a joint initiative between the Queensland Government, the Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation (ARCAA, a partnership between QUT and CSIRO), Aviation Development Australia Limited and AUVS-Australia - a prime example of government, industry and research organisations working together.

**Further Information:** [www.uavoutbackchallenge.com.au](http://www.uavoutbackchallenge.com.au)

### New Zealand Defence Industry Association Forum

**16-17 October 2012, Wellington New Zealand**

At the forum you can join with other defence industry companies from New Zealand and overseas, and with key members of the New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Defence to gain greater understanding of the defence procurement processes and hear about future defence procurement plans.

**Further Information:** Sue Peck Email: [sue@spconferences.co.nz](mailto:sue@spconferences.co.nz)  
[www.nzdia.co.nz](http://www.nzdia.co.nz)

## Land Warfare Conference 2012

**29 October – 2 November 2012, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne**

The Land Warfare Conference is a major event for users, providers, academics, designers and manufacturers to meet, present, share and exchange new and visionary ideas on Land Systems. Academics, commercial organisations, defence research institutions, and military are encouraged to attend and/or offer papers in the field of Land Warfare and related disciplines. An Exhibitor Booth Registration Form and Floor Plan are now available online.

**Further Information:** Land Warfare Conference Admin Support Office,  
Phone: 08 7389 5455; Fax: 08 7389 5196; Email: lwcc@dsto.defence.gov.au  
Web: <http://www.dsto.defence.gov.au/lwc2012/>

## MilCIS 2012

**6 – 8 November 2012, National Convention Centre, Canberra**

MilCIS is an annual conference aimed at attendees from military and government organisations, academia, and defence industry, who contribute to key decisions in investments in communications and information systems. In addition to keynote presentations, technical presentations, panel discussions and tutorials, MilCIS features an exposition that provides an opportunity for exhibitors to demonstrate new technologies and promote their products and services to attendees. MilCIS is the only Australian conference focussing directly on the crucial technologies, products, systems and services associated with military communications and information systems.

**Further Information:** Consec – Conference Management, Phone: 02 6251 0675; Fax: 02 6251 0672; Email: milcis2012@consec.com.au; Web: <http://www.milcis.com.au/>

## 6th Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) Biennial Conference 2012

**14-15 November 2012, The Shine Dome, Canberra**

2012 will be a pivotal year for decisions concerning submarines. With the recent announcement of \$214m in funding for the Future Submarine Program and a significant boost in Sustainment funding for the Collins class, the SIA is grasping the opportunity to present powerful arguments to contribute to the development of the 2013 Defence White Paper against the most challenging budgetary circumstances for Defence since 1938. Delegates to the 6th Biennial Conference will hear from a range of influential speakers from Government, overseas and both the Public and Private sectors as they discuss the pivotal considerations for Australia's submarine capability.

**Further Information:** Mr David Nicholls (Executive Manager),  
Email [execmgr@submarineinstitute.com](mailto:execmgr@submarineinstitute.com) Phone: +61 413 133 391 Fax: +61 2 6260 5416

## ADM's Social Media in the Defence Environment

**5-6 December 2012, Hotel Realm, Canberra**

Inaugural event! More details soon.

**Further Information:** 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)

## ADM2013: 10th Annual ADM Defence/Industry Congress

**12 – 13 February 2013, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra**

The annual ADM Congress has evolved into a pivotal event in the Defence calendar, attracting senior officials from all areas of the Defence Force and Defence Industry.

It is a critical forum for any organisation operating within the defence business sector.

Also do not miss the ADM Awards Dinner. The dinner is the perfect opportunity for you to continue networking with colleagues and new contacts made at the Congress.

More details to be released closer to the date

**Further Information:** 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)