



## **ASDE NATIONAL E NEWSLETTER      No 2 March 2011**

### **Message from the National Chairman – Doug Roser**

Welcome to the second of our National Newsletters which follows the recent teleconference meeting of the National Committee. The main focus of ASDE currently is to ensure the contribution made by defence engineers is recognised during this Engineers Australia's Year of Humanitarian Engineering (YoHE). The lack of continuity of defence work is also in our focus. The report of the National Committee provides further information on these subjects.

In writing this I recall, with deep sadness, that another Sapper, Jamie Ronald Larcombe, a South Australian from Darwin 1st Combat Engineer Regiment, Mentoring Taskforce 2, has been killed in Afghanistan. He was from the same regiment as Corporal Richard Atkinson, who was killed by a roadside bomb earlier in February.

As I move around I meet many wonderful young Australians from many professions and various walks of life. I am so impressed with these young Australians and always reflect on how well prepared these young people, who truly reflect the best of what it is to be Australian, are to take our country forward and to meet the many problems we know it will face. I am particularly impressed by the capability, self confidence, and capacity of our young ADF personnel to meet the many and varied operations our country now expects of them.

The death of such fine young Australians leaves me saddened. But we should all be so proud of our ADF personnel. They, in most of their operations today, are at the heart of humanitarian engineering.

### **National Committee Report**

The main item discussed at the recent meeting was the ASDE involvement in Engineers Australia's 2011 as the Year of Humanitarian Engineering (YoHE). ASDE has consistently highlighted the need for the contribution made by the ADF and its supporting industry to humanitarian engineering both in Australia and overseas in the form of disaster recovery and stabilisation operations to be recognised in this YoHE.

The response within Engineers Australia has been most pleasing in that the February edition of Engineers Australia had several articles on Defence and a special statement of recognition of the ADF's role in the recent Queensland floods in the President's message.

In addition the Chapters are involved in the various events in the Divisions throughout the year to ensure the contribution of defence engineering is recognised, including in the final conference in Melbourne at the end of the year. The support of the Army and the willingness

of its representatives to participate in the YoHE has been most evident and is greatly appreciated. Members are asked to visit the EA website and to include stories/reports of their involvement in humanitarian engineering tasks.

The other issue which is receiving attention within ASDE is the lack of continuity of defence work within the Defence industry with the attendant loss of the engineering skills to support the ADF. The Victorian Chapter has highlighted this matter in its recent newsletter. ASDE also made a submission to the Naval Engineering Review. Furthermore, the National Committee is in the process of arranging, in cooperation with the Submarine Institute of Australia, one day of a 3 day conference in Adelaide over the period 8/9/10 November. Our day, the 10th, will focus on the engineering workforce required to support the new submarine project in whatever form it takes.

The Committee was pleased to hear of the efforts of Paul Hobbs to kickstart ASDE in Queensland. He has a number of events planned including a presentation of the response to the recent floods, in which Paul was involved.

In South Australia, Greg Marsh is looking for new blood to contribute to the local Committee. This is a concern of all chapters so could all members consider if you can contribute to the local committees. Greg Marsh is also following up the aim of National Committee to extend our prize giving to defence related studies in South Australia.

At the meeting the National Chairman reported on his attendance to the Engineers Australia Engineering Practice Advisory Committee held very recently in Sydney. The main items from this report are that a Committee of the Council is reviewing the value and pathways to CPEng. The need for a more integrated approach to EA accreditations arose from the meeting. Also, the February Engineers Australia has an article on national registration of engineers which is an ongoing objective of EA. Next year is the Year of the Regional Engineer and ASDE should look for ways to contribute.

Finally the Committee is pleased to report that ASDE is still in good financial shape.

## **Chapter Reports**

### **Qld Chapter**

After a very quiet 2010 the Queensland Committee has attracted new members and is preparing for an active year in 2011. The new Committee consists Paul Hobbs (Chair), Mike Rinaudo, Bill Thomson, Julie Green, Chris MacDonald, Ben Seesink and Peter Ruff.

Being the Year of Humanitarian Engineering The Queensland Chapter commenced 2011 with two presentations related to that theme. Lt Colonel Matt Galton, Commanding Officer of the 6th Engineer Support Regiment provided a presentation on his Regiment's response to the Queensland Flood Disaster, and Major Tim Kuffer Officer Commanding 21 Construction Squadron provided a presentation on the Army's Aboriginal Community Assistance Program. On the 25 March 2011 the Chapter is holding a social networking event at the QLD Rugby Club. This event is kindly sponsored by GHD and will commence at 3pm with light refreshments.

The next Seminar is scheduled for the evening of 10 May 2011, where presentations on the C17 project and RAAF Airfield Engineering are planned. Other Seminars are planned for

August and November, along with another networking function in September. Details will be posted on the EA web site as arrangements are confirmed.

It has been a good start to the year in Queensland with one successful Seminar already conducted and planning for the remainder of the year well advanced. Interest from within Defence and Industry has been encouraging and offers of corporate sponsorship will assist and are greatly appreciated.

## **NSW Chapter**

The main emphasis of the NSW Chapter over the last few months has been the YoHE.

A particularly successful presentation was delivered in February by Brigadier Budd on the Corps of the Royal Australian Engineers (RAE), which was attended by 70 or so including a course of ADFA/RMC graduates from the School of Military Engineering. This can now be viewed on the EA website. NSW ASDE also arranged for Army to be one of 3 speakers at the YoHE Launch 24 February – Colonel Shanahan spoke on the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program (AACAP). An event covering this program and other engineering work of the Army in full is being planned for Sydney during the year, probably as part of Engineering Week.

Another 3 presentations by ASDE NSW are planned for 2011 – the next one from a RAAF representative on Technical Airworthiness, scheduled for 2 May 2011.

## **Victoria Chapter**

Victoria Chapter is concerned that Defence is looking to buy “off the shelf” for future defence purchases. During January, the AIDN released a paper relating to Land 121 Phase 3 Overlander – Field Vehicles and Trailers may be an overseas buy, with little or no room for local industry involvement. The paper was distributed to our members as part of arrangement with the AIDN.

During January Steven Smith announced that he would consider buying or leasing a LHD from the UK and The Australian called for ADF to purchase second hand nuclear submarines from the US rather than build our own.

In line with our policy of providing information to our members, we have joined the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

While we are disappointed with the loss of some 14 members over the past year, our program for 2011 will provide at least four presentations. On April 4, 2011, Brad Yelland General Manager, AASD at BAE Systems, will speak on “The BAE Engineering Hub”.

We will join the Senior Engineers at their presentation on the life of Sir John Monash, and the visit to the Monegetta DMO Proving Ground with the Mechanical Branch late in the year. We will also enjoy a presentation on Australia’s amphibious capabilities.

## **General News**

### **Defence chases a heavy amphibious lift ship**

Defence Minister, Stephen Smith, was in London recently for meetings with the UK Defence Secretary, William Fox and with officials at BAE headquarters. He

discussed with Defence Secretary Fox, Australia's keen interest in acquiring either by lease or by purchase a heavy amphibious lift-ship – a Bay Class ship.

Mr Smith visited the headquarters of BAE. He said BAE is a very important part of Australia's defence industry and involved in a number of important projects including two naval projects – the Air Warfare Destroyer and the Landing Helicopter Dock project – the LHD.

### **Chinook contract signed**


Defence had signed a contract with BAE Systems to maintain the Army's fleet of Chinook Helicopters. The \$20.9 million contract means that BAE will maintain and support the Chinooks over the next six years.

Chinooks were an important part of the Defence Force's response to the Queensland floods. They transported the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and emergency service workers as well as food and shelters into places like Condamine.

"They have also been hard at work supporting our troops in Afghanistan in recent times providing logistical support and moving combat units into battle.

"None of this happens if they aren't well-maintained."

The Chinook fleet was based in Townsville and BAE Systems Australia is working there with Army Aviation. BAE Systems have been maintaining the Chinook fleet since 1995.

There are currently six helicopters in the Chinook fleet operated by the 5<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment in Townsville. Since 1995 Chinook helicopters have been the Australian Defence Force's deployable medium-lift helicopter capability 

### **Silverwater company is helping troops to fly**

The pilots who rescued hundreds of Queenslanders during the floods and delivered food, medical equipment and sandbags, learnt to fly on simulators supplied or maintained by Silverwater company CAE. CAE supplies and/or maintains military flight simulators for:

- C130J and C130H (Hercules transports);
- Seahawk helicopters;
- Sea King helicopters; and
- Blackhawk helicopters.

The more training and practice the pilots receive, the better they will perform in real life situations. Director of Business Development for CAE, Andrew Rankin, said simulation training provided a number of benefits. "Simulation offers a range of benefits, including being environmentally friendly, reducing the overall cost of training, and saving wear and tear on aircraft," Mr Rankin said.

"More importantly, however, simulator training helps prepare Defence for mission success, and there are some tasks which are just too dangerous to train anywhere but in a simulator. CAE is very proud to play a key role in training the men and women in the Australian Defence Force to be fully prepared for the challenges they face"

### **Better communications system for soldiers**

Defence has signed a \$69 million contract to deliver faster and more reliable communications on the battlefield.

Jason Clare said the contract with Raytheon would provide: more than 1000 radios, which will be mounted on Army vehicles, primarily Bushmasters and M113 armoured vehicles, and handheld portable radios to be carried by soldiers in the field; equipment needed to mount and operate the radios; and maintenance and support services for three years.

“The new radios will give frontline soldiers and the Commanders directing them instant information on where they are, where they need to be and what is happening around them,” Mr Clare said.

The Army is using an older, analogue system which is fast becoming obsolete, it has served our troops well, but it’s time to move the Army forward into the digital age. The new system will be faster and more reliable, allowing troops to communicate instantly with the central command post. It is the next step in the plan to deliver a fully digital communications system to the Army.

### **Victorian company secures major defence contract**

Manufacturing, Exports and Trade Minister Richard Dalla-Riva has welcomed the announcement by Victorian company Marand that it has secured a major international contract with two of the world’s leading aerospace and defence firms.

In a landmark agreement with aerospace giants BAE Systems (UK) and Lockheed Martin, the Moorabbin-based company has secured the contract to manufacture vertical tail assemblies for the global Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program.

Mr Dalla-Riva said the contract was Australia’s largest JSF manufacturing contract to date, potentially worth \$800 million over the life of the program and creating hundreds of high-value jobs in the state.

### **New HQ opened in South Australia for Warship project**

Air Warfare Destroyer Systems Centre has been opened at Techport Australia - South Australia’s world class naval shipbuilding precinct.

The construction of the three new Air Warfare Destroyers was one of the largest naval shipbuilding projects ever undertaken in Australia. They will be the most powerful and advanced warships Australia has ever had. They will be built here in Australia, creating about 3,000 jobs. The opening of the Systems Centre marks an important milestone in the project.

It brings together 300 expert naval architects, project managers and combat systems engineers under one roof to get on with the job of delivering Australia’s new warships.

The project will see an investment of about \$2 billion in South Australia and that means jobs. More than 800 people are working on the new Air Warfare Destroyers at the Techport precinct, and that number will reach more than 1,000 in 2012. There are already 130 people working on building the ships at the ASC shipyard including 20 apprentices.

The premier of South Australia Mr Neville Rann said that the facility presents a fantastic opportunity for South Australia to become Australia’s premier naval shipbuilding state. It means Defence jobs and the flow-on opportunities that come with them.

“A has developed, and proudly maintains, a reputation for delivering world-class defence projects, and is now home to more than a quarter of the nation’s defence industry” Mr Rann said

“South Australia’s defence sector now employs around 25,000 people directly and indirectly, with the strongest jobs growth taking place in shipbuilding and repair, led by the AWD project” he added

### **JSF parts to be built in Bankstown**

The next generation fighter planes being for built Australia, the US, the UK and six other countries will have parts made in Bankstown. The Boeing site at Bankstown Airport will be taken over by Perth manufacturer Quickstep, and is likely to inject more than half a billion dollars and lead to the creation of up to 400 jobs. Jason Clare said \$10 million in assistance from the Federal Government had helped lure Quickstep to Bankstown. [L:SEP] “The JSF is a long-range stealth fighter. It’s the future of fighter planes and part of that will be made here in Bankstown,”

Mr Clare said

“Australia is partnering with the US and seven other countries to deliver this next generation fighter plane.” [L:SEP]

Mr Clare said Quickstep had signed a Long Term Agreement with Northrop Grumman – one of the major multi-national Defence companies building the JSF. [L:SEP] “That’s terrific news for Bankstown. Around 3,000 of these planes are expected to be built over the next 20 years and Quickstep plans to build parts for many of them.” The Long Term Agreement is a binding agreement under which individual contracts are awarded for different components of the JSF. The agreement now means Quickstep is in a position to secure up to \$580 million worth of work over the next 20 years, building [L:SEP]


- access panels;
- fuel tank covers;
- aircraft skins; and
- in-board weapons bay doors.

Quickstep has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Marand Precision Engineering of Victoria to supply composite vertical tail skins for the JSF. Australia has already committed to buying 14 JSF planes. [L:SEP] A Government decision to acquire at least 58 more to form the first three operational squadrons and a training unit will be made in 2012. [L:SEP]

Mr Clare said this agreement built on others being made to secure work for Australian companies. [L:SEP] “I’m also happy to announce that I recently signed a Global Supply Deed with Lockheed Martin, the prime contractor on the JSF project,” Mr Clare said. [L:SEP]

“Under the agreement Lockheed Martin will put in place a team of people dedicated to finding opportunities for Australian companies on top of the JSF project.

“Lockheed Martin is one of the biggest Defence companies in the world, employing 136,000 people. “They’re in charge of some big and important projects around the world and this

gives Australian companies access to the work that flows out of that.  "It's a chance for Australian companies to take their expertise to the world."