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As the inaugural Chief of Joint Capabilities, I am pleased to introduce this issue of the Australian Defence Force Journal. Its publication coincides with the formation of Joint Capabilities Group, established in July 2017 as a part of the Australian Defence Force Headquarters.

Joint Capabilities Group is about maintaining a military warfighting edge, not a corporate edge. We are the linchpin of key capabilities that underpin our joint force, with our success or failure directly affecting those we support. We support Defence and Command by providing education and training, healthcare and logistics, and by ensuring that we lead in information warfare. We undertake these activities so as to assist our allies and protect against those who seek to do us harm.

It is important that the ADF’s professional interests are reflected in the Australian Defence Force Journal. This publication has an established reputation as the journal of “the profession of arms in Australia”, which increasingly in recent years has focused on the “joint” aspects of contemporary operations. I encourage all members of the ADF to contribute to our professional discourse through contributions to the Journal.

As identified in the First Principles Review, a critical aspect of the development of joint capabilities is a greater investment in intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, electronic warfare, space and cyber capabilities. The ‘force multiplier’ effect of C4ISR—command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance—and an emphasis on building network-centric warfare capability lie at the heart of ADF capability development.

I am pleased that this issue of the Journal—and indeed most recent issues—contain articles on one or more of these capabilities, with cyber in particular being extensively addressed. I would welcome further discussion in future issues on these important joint capabilities, which will enable the ADF to exploit its ‘knowledge edge’ and better coordinate and synchronise its future military operations.

Air Vice-Marshal Warren McDonald, AM, CSC
Chief of Joint Capabilities
Chair's comments


I am particularly pleased that this is the first ‘regular’ edition in our new-look format, which is also being published in both electronic and hard-copy versions. The Board is optimistic that the reinstatement of the printed version will encourage an increase in contributions, recognising that many authors are keen to see their submissions published in the printed form.

This issue contains some very good quality articles on a range of topics, including several from relatively junior officers. The Board has selected the article by Sub Lieutenants Nick Boswell, James Keane and Connor Mooney-Collett as the best article in this issue. They will receive a certificate signed personally by the Chief of the Defence Force and the Secretary of the Department of Defence. The Board also ‘highly commended’ the article by Warrant Officer Class 2 Aaron Waddell, who will receive a similar certificate.

Readers will note that in addition to the redesigned format, we have made some structural changes to this issue, which will be replicated on the Journal’s new website (details of which will be publicised shortly).

In particular, we have grouped like contributions, in this case under the heading ‘Cyber security in the ADF’. We intend to continue this practice and invite contributions for the November/December issue—ideally by mid-September—on the theme of veterans’ mental health. Contributions can be in the form of articles or shorter commentary/opinion pieces, which could be <1500 words and without the need for endnotes. Of course, we will also welcome contributions, either as articles or shorter commentaries, on the normal range of general topics.

As always, we have also included a selection of reviews of books provided to the Journal by publishers both in Australia and overseas. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, please send your details to editoradfjournal@internode.on.net.

In closing, I would like to thank Colonel Andrew Hocking and Group Captain David Millar for their much-appreciated work as members of the Board. Their replacements are Colonel Ashley Collingburn and Group Captain Andrew Gilbert, representing Army and Air Force respectively. I would also like to welcome Dr Lacy Pejcinovic who, as Assistant Director Research at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, is Defence’s manager for administration and publication of the Journal.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Ian Errington, AM, CSC
Principal
Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies
Chair Australian Defence Force Journal Board