

War in the Sand Pit

Two-Day Conference: 12-13 May 2017
Monash Centre, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane



In Memoriam - Private Robert Poate, killed in Afghanistan 29 August 2012

Perspectives and Lessons from Australia's War in Afghanistan and Iraq 2001-2014

Conference Program

Day 1 - Friday 12 May 2017

8.00 - 9.00 am Entry into Gallipoli Barracks and Registration.

SESSION ONE - INTRODUCTION

9.00 am **Conference Opening and Welcome:** Colonel Marcus Fielding, Conference Chair and President MHHV, and author of *Red Zone Baghdad: My War in Iraq*.

Opening Remarks: Professor John Blaxland, Head, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC), Bell School, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP), The Australian National University (ANU) and author of *The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard*.

9.20 – 10.05 am **Keynote Speaker:** Professor Robert Hill, AC, former Minister for Defence 2001-2006.

10.05 – 10.35 am Morning tea.



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SESSION TWO - POLICY AND STRATEGY

- Session Chair: Karen Middleton, journalist and author of *An Unwinnable War: Australia in Afghanistan*.
- 10.35 – 11.15 am **Australian National Policy:** Ric Smith, AO, PSM, former Secretary of the Department of Defence 2002-2006.
- 11.15 – 11.55 am **Australian Military Strategy:** Admiral Chris Barrie, AC, RAN (Retd), former Chief of the Defence Force 1998-2002.
- 12.00 – 12.40 pm Buffet lunch.

SESSION THREE - AFGHANISTAN

- Session Chair: Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith, VC, MG, former member Special Air Service Regiment (Retd).
- 12.45 – 1.20 pm **Intervention:** Brigadier Dan McDaniel, DSC, AM, DSM, former member Special Air Service Regiment.
- 1.25 – 2.00 pm **Oruzgan Province:** Brigadier Mick Ryan, AM, former Commanding Officer Reconstruction Task Force 1 in 2006 and 2007.
- 2.05 – 2.40 pm **Control and Reporting Centre at Kandahar:** Air Commodore Chris Westwood, former Officer Commanding No. 41 Wing.
- 2.40 – 3.00 pm Afternoon tea.

SESSION FOUR - IRAQ

- Session Chair: Major General John Cantwell, AO, DSC (Retd), former Deputy Chief of Operations Multi-National Forces-Iraq and Commander Joint Task Force 633, and author of *Exit Wounds: One Australian's War on Terror*.
- 3.05 – 3.40 pm **Stability Operations:** Brigadier Anthony Rawlins, DSC, former Commanding Officer, Overwatch Battle Group West - 2 December 2006 - June 2007.
- 3.45 – 4.20 pm **Maritime Operations:** Vice Admiral Peter Jones, AO, DSC (Retd), former Maritime Interception Operations Screen Commander in 2003.
- 4.25 – 5.00 pm **Embeds:** Major General Jim Molan, AO, DSC, former Chief of Operations, Multi-National Forces-Iraq in 2004.
- 5.00 pm Close of Day - Conference Chair.



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Day 2 - Saturday 13 May 2017

9.00 - 10.00 am Entry into Gallipoli Barracks and morning tea.

SESSION FIVE – JOINT FORCES AND ENABLERS

Session Chair: James Brown, Adjunct Associate Professor and Research Director at the United States Study Centre at the University of Sydney and Iraq and Afghanistan veteran.

10.00 - 10.40 am **Command and Control:** Major General Michael Crane, DSC and Bar, AM (Retd), former Commander Joint Task Force 633 in 2008 and 2012/13.

10.45 - 11.30 am **Intelligence Support:** Colonel Mick Lehmann, CSC (Retd), former intelligence officer in Afghanistan 2007-2015.

11.35 - 12.20 pm Buffet brunch.



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SESSION SIX – PARTNERS

- Session Chair: Dr Alan Ryan, Executive Director of the Australian Civil-Military Centre.
- 12.25 - 1.00 pm **Australian Federal Police:** Superintendent Col Speedie (Retd), former commander second AFP mission to Afghanistan in 2008/09.
- 1.05 - 1.30 pm **Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID):** David Savage, AM, former AusAID Stabilisation Advisor, Provincial Reconstruction Team in 2012.
- 1.35 - 2.00 pm **The United States:** Professor Dan Marston, SDSC, Bell School, ANU and US Special Adviser in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 2.05 - 2.30 pm **Australia's Contribution in a Coalition Campaign:** Doctor Garth Pratten, SDSC, Bell School, ANU and former Regional Command – South War Diarist in 2010.
- 2.30 - 2.50 pm Afternoon tea.

SESSION SEVEN – LESSONS AND LEGACIES

- Session Chair: Professor Craig Stockings, Official Historian of Australian Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Australian Peacekeeping Operations in East Timor.
- 2.50 - 3.25 pm Professor William Maley, Professor of Diplomacy, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific and author of *Reconstructing Afghanistan*.
- 3.30 - 4.05 pm Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, AC (Retd), former Chief of the Army 2002-2008.
- 4.10 - 4.20 pm **Update on the Official History.** Professor Craig Stockings.
- 4.25 - 4.45 pm **Conference Close:** Professor John Blaxland.



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