



There is a contrast in clarity between messaging from the Australian and NZ militaries.

NZDF

NZDF AND ADF: DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO COVID-19

The difference in public communications around COVID-19 between the Australian and NZ governments has been commented on much in the past month, usually to the detriment of Australia. But perhaps an example at the military/department level also needs some reference.

OPINION | KATHERINE ZIESING | CANBERRA

“NZDF has taken significant steps to reduce our activity levels and we will only be focussing on activities that directly support the Government’s response to COVID-19,” according to a statement from Brigadier R. S. Krushka NZ’s Chief of Joint Defence Services. “As such the NZDF will need to show leadership and meet Government intent of only conducting essential duties in order to combat the spread of this disease.

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"It is acknowledged that our reduced activity levels will have an impact on some of our suppliers as we reorient to only keeping essential services operating, however this is a rapidly evolving situation and we will need to remain flexible with regards our ability to turn activities on or off as required to meet Government requirements."

The three-page statement aimed at industry partners is easy to read and provides clear direction on what to do and who to contact.

The two relevant pages from the Australian Department of Defence are less clear on this front. The Department of Defence page is more aimed at informing people about what Defence is doing as part of a Whole of Government response to the pandemic.

**"THIS IS A TIME WHERE
CLEAR LINES OF CLEAR
AND CONSISTENT
COMMUNICATION ARE
IMPERATIVE"**

"Defence is monitoring possible impact of COVID-19 on industry and the supply chains that support ADF capability," the Defence page states. "Contractors are advised to seek care through their usual health care provider and to call 1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362) to help Defence implement preventative measures and monitor potential impacts on operations."

The only public facing area where Defence has interacted with industry has been around restarting manufacturing of "medical protective equipment such as surgical face masks, sanitizer, goggles and gowns" in regional Victoria.

Minister for Defence Senator Linda Reynolds said around a dozen ADF personnel are helping under Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) arrangements.

"The team, which is comprised of highly qualified engineering maintenance specialists from the Army Logistic Training Centre and the Joint Logistics Unit – Victoria, are supporting the request," Minister Reynolds said.

"These skilled soldiers are with the company's existing staff on production, maintenance and warehousing tasks. The Defence support will fill a short-term gap while Med-Con recruits and trains supplementary staff. This is an example of the kind of exceptional circumstances which the DACC rules are designed to cover."

The Government has also put out a Request for Information (RFI) to get a further understanding of the manufacturing capability and capacity that exists domestically, so that as a country, we are well-positioned to increase production of these products at home, according to the joint statement from Minister for Defence Senator Linda Reynolds and Minister for Industry Science and Technology Karen Andrews.

One would think that such information on national capabilities should already be resident somewhere within CASG or Industry Division or in Minister Andrew's department for a broader picture.

This is a time where clear lines of clear and consistent communication are imperative. Uncertainty is the bane of everyday existence and while this pandemic is throwing the world into confusion on so many fronts, it is the perfect time for Defence as an organisation known for its leadership to demonstrate it at every opportunity.

TEN YEARS OF RAAF SUPER HORNETS

The RAAF is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Boeing F/A-18F Super Hornet strike fighters this week, marking a decade since the arrival of the first five aircraft at RAAF Amberley on March 26, 2010.

NIGEL PITTAWAY | MELBOURNE

The Commonwealth ordered 24 Super Hornets in March 2007 under Project Air 5349, as a 'bridging strategy' between the retirement of the RAAF's ageing F-111C fleet and the introduction of the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter.

The Australian Super Hornets were built to the current US Navy Block II configuration and introduced new technologies and capabilities to the RAAF which included the Raytheon APG-79 active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar and AIM-9X within visual range missile.

Initial Operational Capability (IOC) was declared in December 2010, coinciding with the retirement of the F-111C and delivery of the final four Super Hornets followed in October 2011.

In September 2014, six Super Hornets were deployed to the Middle East as part of Operation Okra and by the time they were replaced by a rotation of F/A-18A 'Classic' Hornets in March 2015, the newer aircraft had flown 418 sorties and 3,361 combat hours and had released 278 precision guided munitions.

This was achieved with a mission success rate of 97 per cent and less than



Australia ordered 24 Super Hornets in March 2007.

NIGEL PITTAWAY

two years after Final Operational Capability (FOC). Initially operated by Nos. 1 & 6 Squadrons, the subsequent purchase of the Boeing EA-18G Growler Electronic Attack aircraft resulted in all RAAF Super Hornets being consolidated within 1 Sqn in November 2016 and a further rotation to the Middle East occurred in May 2017.

Today all 24 aircraft are still operational, flown by 1 Sqn and supported by an Air Force/ Industry partnership under the Air Combat Electronic Attack Sustainment Program (ACEASP), which also supports the Growler fleet. The team consists of Boeing Defence Australia (which replaced Boeing in July 2016) as the prime contractor, together with

sub-contractors Raytheon Australia, Northrop Grumman Australia, Airspeed, Pacific Aerospace Consulting and Martin Baker Australia.

**“THE NEWER AIRCRAFT HAD FLOWN
418 SORTIES AND 3,361 COMBAT
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In March, the ACEASP was awarded a four-year, \$280 million, sustainment contract extension until 2025. Life of type for the Super Hornet is currently 2030 for the Super Hornet and 2035 for the Growler.

“We have 277 people working to support Super Hornet at Amberley, together with a range of Australian companies,” Chris Gray, BDA’s ACESP manager, said. “The way in which we are providing our sustainment services has moved to a relational arrangement with the Commonwealth, rather than a transactional relationship, under the First Principles guidance. This has really enabled Boeing to assume responsibility as the platform steward and do what’s best for the weapons system, using all the resources that Boeing brings as the original equipment manufacturer (OEM).”

An in-depth look at the decade of Super Hornet operations in Australia will appear in the May issue of *ADM*.

LAND FORCES INTENDS TO GO AHEAD IN SEPTEMBER

Ian Honnery, chief executive of Land Forces 2020 organiser AMDA, has said his organisation is dedicated to running the event as planned.

“I believe it is now more important than ever to sustain the relationships which underpin our industry and to remember that this season of adversity will in time give way to recovery, for which we need to be ready,” Honnery said in a statement. “That is why I write now to assure you of our organisation’s dedication to delivering Land Forces 2020.”

Whilst AMDA will continue to follow public health guidelines, these have not yet impacted its ability to deliver the exposition as planned.

“Although Land Forces 2020 is still some six months away, we are closely monitoring developments in relation to the COVID-19 Coronavirus,” Honnery said. “Like all responsible organisations, we will continue to be guided by advice from public health



AMDA, the Queensland Government and the ADF remain committed to delivering Land Forces 2020 on schedule.

DEFENCE

authorities over that period and will comply with directions from the Australian and Queensland Governments. The preservation of public health will always be our paramount commitment.

“Recognising the challenges which the world faces as a result of COVID-19, our dedication continues undiminished to deliver Land Forces 2020 in September, as we believe industry will need a strong platform for interaction as a springboard to recovery.

“With six months to run, preparations are well advanced for Land Forces 2020 to achieve this outcome.”

Honnery indicated that the Queensland Government and Army remain committed to the event.

“Along with our principal supporters, the Queensland Government and the Australian Army, we remain focused on presenting Land Forces 2020 as a premium international platform for engagement between industry, defence, government and academia,” Honnery said. “This is our resolute mission.”

MOST READ ONLINE AT WWW.AUSTRALIANDEFENCE.COM.AU



1. [Boxers to get fewer anti-tank missile launchers](#)
2. [How Defence is responding to Covid-19](#)
3. [Four companies down-selected for Shadow 200 replacement](#)
4. [Leidos calls for industry responses to Land 129 Phase 3](#)
5. [RAAF Classic Hornets get a new lease of life](#)

VICTORIA MUNITIONS PLANT TO SUPPLY US F-35S

Rheinmetall NIOA Munitions (RNM) is set to produce and export ammunition for the US F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program.

RNM has announced that it will begin production of 25mm Frangible Armoured Piercing (FAP) projectiles at the federal government-owned Benalla plant in Victoria.

The deal marks the first expansion of the RNM joint venture beyond its \$60 million artillery shell forging plant in Maryborough, Queensland.

The new Load Assemble Pack (LAP) line at Benalla will be capable of producing 20mm to 35mm medium-calibre ammunition.

RNM aims to serve as a secondary source supplier to the US government for the F-35 JSF program.

Werner Kraemer, chairman of the board of directors at RNM, said that with the Maryborough project on track, it was time to expand the footprint and capabilities of the joint venture company in Australia.

“By committing to develop this medium-calibre production capability here in Australia, we will not only create local jobs and build a supply chain, we will also be developing a proven and sustainable export market,” Kraemer said.

NIOA managing director Robert Nioa noted that the Benalla project would enable development of a true sovereign capability in medium-calibre munitions in Australia.

“The establishment of this new capability at Benalla is a first for Australian industry. On the back of a 100 per cent private sector investment, we will ensure that future munitions supplied to the ADF will be made right here in Australia,” Nioa said.

The line is scheduled to be installed in the first half of 2021 and be at full production by September that year.



RNM aims to serve as a secondary source supplier for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program.

USAF

DEFENCE UPGRADES COVID-19 EFFORTS

The ADF is moving to support the national response to COVID-19 by deploying additional personnel to assist state and territory health authorities.

Reconnaissance and Planning Support Teams have been embedded in the Victorian, Queensland, NT and WA state coordination centres, with additional teams ready to assist remaining states and territories.

Contact Tracing Support Teams are also being established nationwide with a team of ADF personnel supporting NSW Health from Sunday.

“THESE ADF TEAMS WILL PROVIDE LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND GENERAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE”

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said the teams will contribute to the overall strength and resilience of the Australian health system in this challenging time.

“These ADF teams will provide logistics, transport, health and general planning assistance as the workload of civilian medical teams continues to increase as more Australians are diagnosed with, or affected by, COVID-19,” Minister Reynolds said.

“Defence continues to follow the advice of Australian health authorities when prioritising its support arrangements.

“We will continue to ensure Defence medical facilities are appropriately staffed to minimise any impact on our public health system.”



Corporal Sander Vloothuis operates a surgical face mask machine.

DEFENCE

Defence has provided a range of logistical and personnel support in response to COVID-19. These include supplying clinical and epidemiological support to the Department of Health National Incident Room since early February, supporting repatriations to Christmas Island and Howard Springs via RAAF bases Learmonth and Darwin, providing health, logistics and movements support, supporting the Department of Health with logistics and specialist staff, and establishing a taskforce to coordinate Defence's contribution.

The ADF has also provided a small team of engineering maintenance specialists to a surgical face mask factory until supplementary civilian workers can be recruited.

DEVELOPMENTAL TESTING COMPLETE FOR NEXT-GEN JAMMER MID-BAND POD

The US Navy's Next Generation Jammer Mid-Band (NGJ-MB) developmental pod recently completed a portion of developmental testing in the Air Combat Environmental Test and Evaluation Facility anechoic chamber at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland.

The NGJ-MB Engineering Development Model (EDM) pods, developed by Raytheon, completed more than 400 hours of basic functionality, Electromagnetic Environmental Effects (E3) data collection and performance testing over a period of three months.

"This chamber test period was instrumental to the NGJ-MB Developmental Test program, and its success was the direct result of outstanding teamwork among the Program Office, Integrated Test Team, and Raytheon stakeholders," Captain Michael Orr, Airborne Electronic Attack Systems (PMA-234) program manager, said. "Data



Two Next Generation Jammer Mid-Band pods, attached to an EA-18G Growler, undergo testing in the anechoic chamber. US NAVY

captured during this period not only supports our initial flight clearance, but also provided lessons learned that will benefit the entire NGJ-MB test program moving forward.”

**“ITS SUCCESS WAS
THE DIRECT RESULT OF
OUTSTANDING TEAMWORK”**

The NGJ-MB system consists of two pods, referred to as a shipset, which will be loaded onto EA-18G Growler aircraft. The system will provide significantly improved Airborne Electronic Attack (AEA) capabilities against advanced threats in the mid-band frequency range through enhanced agility and precision within jamming assignments, increased interoperability and expanded broadband capacity for greater threat coverage against

a wide variety of radio frequency emitters.

Unlike most capabilities that instantly replace its predecessor, the NGJ-MB systems will initially augment the legacy ALQ-99 Tactical Jamming System until the low – and high-band components are ready to deploy.

NGJ-MB will enter flight testing at the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 in the next few months. The program's Milestone C is projected for the end of this fiscal year.

ORBITAL UAV ANNOUNCES NEW SINGAPOREAN CUSTOMER

Orbital UAV has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with one of Singapore's largest defence companies for the design, development and initial low rate production of multi-fuel engines for unmanned air vehicles (UAVs).



The first phase of work is to develop a prototype multi-fuel engine.

ORBITAL

The agreement outlines three work phases: the development, integration and supply of a first prototype multi-fuel engine; supply of a small number of additional prototype engines for further evaluation requirements; and possible authorisation of a low rate production run of the multi-fuel engine.

Under the MoU, an initial contract has been signed to commence work within phase one of the program. This initial phase of work is anticipated to be completed within the next 18 months.

Commencement of phases two and three are dependent on the successful completion and acceptance by the customer of the first prototype engine identified in Phase 1.

"The MoU and initial contract provide us with the opportunity to further demonstrate our industry leading know-how and technical expertise in the UAV market with a new international customer," Todd Alder, CEO and Managing Director of Orbital UAV, said.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ADM EVENTS

More detail on ADM Events can be found on our [dedicated website](#).

- [ADM Women in Defence Awards](#) – 25 June 2020
- [ADM STEM and Defence Summit](#) – 19 August 2020, Novotel | Brisbane
- [ADM Defence Estate and Base Services Summit](#) – 15 September 2020 | Canberra
- [Defence in the North](#) – 28 October 2020 | Darwin Convention Centre
- [ADM Space Summit](#) – 3 December 2020, Hyatt Hotel | Canberra

AIRBUS DEFENCE AND SPACE INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT ROADSHOW

DATE postponed until further notice

LOCATION Various

WEBSITE www.airbus.com/space.html

The purpose of the briefings is to engage Australian industry and identify potential roles in the pursuit, delivery and support of projects of interest to Airbus Defence and Space such as but not limited to satellite and terrestrial communication networks, processing of imagery and data and surveillance sensors. Airbus are particularly interested in companies with the following capabilities, but not exclusive to: Advanced manufacturing; Electronics/Electrical engineering; Antenna design and manufacturing; Mobile Terminals; Electrical harness; Software development; Payload development; Infrastructure.

CYBER DEFENCE NEXT GENERATION TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE CONFERENCE

DATE: postponed until further notice

LOCATION: Brisbane

WEBSITE: wp.csiro.au/cdng

The Cyber Defence Next Generation Technology and Science Conference, is a first of its kind scientific and technology focused Cyber Defence Conference. The aim is to have the community of cyber-security under the “Next Generation Defence Technologies | Cyber Research” program in collaboration with DST-Data61 and partner universities meet together, expose relevant research activities and discuss future collaborations.

CERTIFICATE IV IN RESPONDING TO ORGANISATIONAL COMPLEXITY | CANBERRA

DATE postponed until further notice
LOCATION to be confirmed
WEBSITE iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-canberra-2020

Developed and offered exclusively by ICCPM (RTO number 41394), the Certificate IV in Responding to Organisational Complexity helps project leaders develop the skills and attributes they need to respond to complexity, as defined in the Complex Project Manager Competency Standards. This is a highly interactive course which introduces project leaders to useful tools and methodologies with a strong focus on the practical application of concepts to real-world situations.

WILLIAMS FOUNDATION SEMINAR: NEXT-GEN AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

DATE postponed until further notice
LOCATION: National Gallery of Australia
WEBSITE www.williamsfoundation.org.au

Building upon the existing foundations of ADF capability, the aim of the March seminar is to explore the force multiplying capability and increasingly complex requirements associated with unmanned systems. From its origins at the platform level, the opportunities and potential of increased autonomy across the enterprise are now expected to fundamentally transform Joint and Coalition operations.

ASIA-PACIFIC SECURITY INNOVATION SUMMIT

DATE postponed until next year
LOCATION Queenstown, NZ
WEBSITE www.apsisummit.com/page/apsi-summit-2020

The theme of this year's APSI summit, to be held in Queenstown on the South Island, is Strengthening Security Resiliency Through Partnerships and Alliances.

AUSCERT 2020

DATE: 02-05 June 2020
LOCATION: The Star, Gold Coast
WEBSITE: www.auscert.org.au/giveaway

The AusCERT Conference is the oldest information security conference in Australia. Each year, we attract in the vicinity of 800 participants and approximately 50 sponsors. AusCERT is hosting more than 50 speakers at AusCERT2020, as well as an array of tutorials, workshops, networking events & much more.

QUANTUM TECHX

DATE 08 June, 2020
LOCATION TBC
WEBSITE www.quantumtx.com.au/qtx-program

TechX is powered by leading innovation providers, Atomic Sky, and its team of experienced business scale-up facilitators. It's supported by a range of financiers, corporate and government partners who provide access to sites, specialist sector expertise, technical mentors and networks. Through the program each company will be provided condensed capability building, tailored site visits and direct mentoring to build capability, capital and connections.

ROTORTECH 2020

DATE 16-18 June 2020
LOCATION Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane
WEBSITE www.rotortech.com.au

RotorTech 2020 is the region's premier helicopter and unmanned flight systems showcase and forum, bringing together operators, manufacturers, suppliers, regulators and government across the Indo-Asia-Pacific. With a comprehensive three-day free industry conference program, RotorTech 2020 will also feature manufacturers technical workshops and an industry exhibition showcasing more than 100 helicopter and unmanned flight related companies.

2020 VERNON PARKER ORATION AND DINNER

DATE 17 June 2020
LOCATION Hotel Realm, Canberra
WEBSITE navalinstitute.com.au/2020-vernon-parker-oration-and-dinner

Sir Peter Cosgrove has kindly agreed to deliver the 2020 Vernon Parker Oration on 17 June. Sir Peter was Governor-General from 2014-2019 and former Chief of the Defence Force. In January 2020 Sir Peter accepted the voluntary role as chairman of the Business Council of Australia's Community Rebuilding Initiative in response to the 2019/20 bushfires.

43RD COSPAR SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY

DATE 15 – 22 August 2020
LOCATION International Convention Centre Sydney
WEBSITE www.cospar2020.org

The Australian space research community enthusiastically extends the invitation to you, to meet with us for COSPAR 2020, and in so doing to forge the friendships and opportunities that will connect space research for global impact. The 2020 Assembly will combine the latest in space research findings with activities designed to enrich the global space research community – including helping equip our future leaders, and workshopping with space industry – and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

PROJECT AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM 2020

DATE 25-26 August 2020
LOCATION Canberra Rex Hotel
WEBSITE www.pgcsymposium.org.au

PGCS 2020 is designed to help project and program managers, and their sponsors and senior managers, develop the skills and understanding needed to deliver projects success in the next decade. Now in its 8th year, PGCS 2020 will focus on ways to build the foundations needed to create project and program success.

LAND FORCES 2020

DATE 01-03 September 2020
LOCATION Brisbane Convention Centre
WEBSITE www.landforces.com.au

The biennial LAND FORCES exposition is an international industry event to showcase equipment, technology and services for the armies of Australia and the Indo-Asia-Pacific. The Land Forces 2020 team is now setting about ensuring the event will achieve its goals of providing an effective platform for the exchange of ideas on key land forces issues and of taking Australian industry to the world

2021

AVALON 2021**DATE** 23 – 28 February 2021**LOCATION** Avalon Airport

The Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition is one of Asia-Pacific's most prestigious aviation and aerospace events and the most comprehensive aviation, aerospace and defence exposition in the southern hemisphere. Avalon hosts multiple concurrent conferences and expo streams, across the spectrum of Defence, Airlines, Business and General Aviation, Sport and Recreational Aviation, Airports, MRO, Space, Unmanned Systems, Air Safety and Ground Equipment.

VARIOUS DATES**NSW DEFENCE INNOVATION NETWORK'S REGIONAL ROAD SHOW****DATE:** Various**LOCATION:** Various**WEBSITE:** defenceinnovationnetwork.com/din-regional-road-show-2019-20

NSW Defence Innovation Network and AIDN will be undertaking a series of small business focused regional forums across NSW. Register to attend and hear about the programs, grants, opportunities and services the NSW Defence Innovation Network (DIN) provides to the small business community across NSW. We encourage small businesses to engage with us and participate in opportunities across our networks, including DIN's seven partner universities, as well as with other state and federal agencies.

DEFENCE READINESS SEMINAR SERIES**DATE** postponed until further notice**LOCATION** Various**WEBSITE** bit.ly/37fipjH

The Defence Readiness Seminar Series kicked off in November last year. If you are considering entering the Defence market, or have staff you consider require orientation to the Defence market, you are strongly encouraged to consider this invaluable series, shaped and developed by people in the Hunter that have worked closely in the Defence Industry over many years. Please see the website for more information on how to get involved.

2020 ICCPM INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE SERIES

DATE Various (April, August)
LOCATION Various
WEBSITE iccpm.com/2020-rs

One of the characteristics of complex projects is that they emerge over time. This creates uncertainty for project leaders. To support project success, project leaders need to understand how to manage risk in uncertainty and identify new opportunities. The International Roundtable Series is a Thought Leadership initiative that brings together senior project leaders and leading academics from different industries to share their experience and international perspectives. The outcomes report will share these insights to improve project success.