



# Executive Summary

The first edition of *Australian Maritime Doctrine* was published in 2000 and immediately initiated widespread acceptance of the strategic precepts it contained. This second edition aims to build on the achievements of the first, but like its predecessor it still seeks to describe the importance of the sea to all Australians and sets out the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) unique place within a joint and integrated Australian Defence Force (ADF).

*Australian Maritime Doctrine* is designed to be read in logical progression. First, it provides the theoretical background to the nature and potential of sea power. It then demonstrates the linkages between this broader maritime foundation and our shifting national strategic circumstances and evolving strategic policy. By the final chapter the reader should be familiar with how the RAN thinks about, prepares for and operates across the possible spectrum of operations. At a fundamental level this book explains what the RAN does and why or, more prosaically, how maritime operations contribute to the overall ADF effort to protect Australia's sovereignty, interests and values.

At the philosophical level, the key strategic concepts of *Australian Maritime Doctrine* continue to be sea control, sea denial and maritime power projection. These concepts are defined and explained in Chapter 8, while the unique characteristics of sea power, which enable these strategic concepts to be applied in maritime operations, are then discussed in Chapter 9. These operations, in turn, will reflect one or more of the wide range of maritime roles and tasks which are described in Chapter 10. The 'triangle of sea usage' first appeared in the 2000 edition of *Australian Maritime Doctrine*, and is reproduced here in an amended form as Figure 10.1. The diagram remains as an extremely useful means to describe the interrelationship between the three key roles of maritime forces: military, diplomatic and constabulary. It should nevertheless be remembered that these roles and their subordinate tasks are illustrative only, and are not intended to reflect every situation or operation that may be encountered.

Throughout *Australian Maritime Doctrine* much emphasis is placed upon ways in which naval forces support and enable operations ashore, just as air power and land forces contribute to the Navy's efforts at sea. One of the most important elements of the text, however, is the continuing prominence given to the absolute dependence of RAN capability upon the people who serve in and support the Navy.

## Chapter 1:

**Understanding Maritime Doctrine** explains the origins and nature of Australian maritime doctrine. It demonstrates that doctrine is a key element of Navy's capability, derived from hard-won national and international experience. It shows how the RAN's doctrine fits within that of the ADF as a whole and how it complements the doctrine of the other services.

## Chapter 2:

**The Human Factor** explains the dependence of all naval capabilities upon the men and women who make up the RAN and its supporting organisations. This chapter explains the elements of naval command and leadership. It describes the unique nature of service at sea and the mechanisms by which personnel are prepared for the challenges they face, both as individuals and as the members of a ship's company. It explains the way in which mission readiness is achieved and maintained and combat stress is managed. It reiterates the importance of the RAN's core values and how these contribute to the Navy's professionalism and effectiveness.

## Chapter 3:

**The Sea** describes the physical, economic and social factors which define Australia's relationships with the maritime environment. It illustrates how Australia is an island continent in a maritime region. It explains the importance of the sea for access and transportation for the Asia-Pacific region as a whole as well as making clear Australia's economic dependence upon seaborne imports and exports. It demonstrates the extent to which our national security is affected by unique problems of distance and scale and at the same time highlights the need to preserve and protect our natural environment. This chapter also explains the need for knowledge of the environment and the ways in which hydrography, oceanography and meteorology function as enablers for the operations of maritime forces.

## Chapter 4:

**The Legal Context** describes the vital relationship between maritime affairs and international law. It illustrates the extent of our maritime jurisdiction and the complexities and anomalies inherent to maritime regions. It introduces the general principles of the Law of Armed Conflict and naval warfare.

## Chapter 5:

**Strategic Policy** outlines the nature of Australia's national security policy and proceeds from this to explain Australia's strategic environment and its abiding strategic interests. Australia's strategic characteristics and the influence of history on our national outlook are described. The importance of naval capabilities in achieving all the aims of Australia's maritime strategy is emphasised.

## Chapter 6:

**The Spectrum of Operations** explains the concept of the Spectrum of Operations and the ways in which changes in the nature of conflict are affecting maritime operations. It shows how effective navies must possess balanced forces and be prepared to face a wide range of contingencies.

## Chapter 7:

**The Features of Armed Conflict** details the character of armed conflict in the modern world. It sets out the ten Principles of War used by the ADF and gives examples of their importance from the RAN's own experience of conflict.

## Chapter 8:

**Maritime Strategic Concepts** analyses the origins of maritime strategic thought and the relevance of maritime strategic concepts today and tomorrow. It sets out the principal objectives of naval forces in conflict. It makes clear that the ability to use the sea and deny its use to an opponent - known as sea control - is fundamental to maritime nations such as Australia in achieving their strategic goals. This chapter shows that sea control is also critical to the effective projection of power in a maritime environment, particularly when the sea is being used to transport or support land forces.

## Chapter 9:

**Maritime Operational Concepts** explains the relationships between land forces, sea and air power. It defines the unique characteristics and attributes of sea power and the contribution which it can make to joint operations. The mobility, flexibility and adaptability of warships, their access and reach and their ability to poise, as well as the capacity of ships to transport a critical mass of combat power over long distances provide many options for political and strategic decision makers across a wide range of contingencies. This chapter also explains the potential limitations of sea power and the way in which it is complemented by the strengths of other forces. It sets out the means by which an effective joint approach can achieve manoeuvre from the sea.

## Chapter 10:

**Maritime Operations** describes the many different ways in which maritime forces can be used. It explains that the roles of maritime forces depend fundamentally upon their warfighting capabilities but also shows the extent to which those capabilities confer on government the flexibility to forward the aims of foreign and domestic policy.

## Chapter 11:

**The Enablers of Sea Power** describes the ways in which the structure and organisation of the RAN support its ability to raise, train and sustain effective forces. It sets out the components of maritime logistics and shows how the Navy is dependent upon effective relationships with national industry as well as other parts of the Australian Defence Organisation in achieving its goals.

## Chapter 12:

**The Constituents of Maritime Combat Forces** explains how maritime forces are organised by task. It shows the contributions which are made to maritime operations by all major systems and platforms within the ADF and how the capabilities of units are combined to achieve the greatest effects. It shows that true flexibility in the maritime environment is dependent upon the ability to make such combinations from among the various types of naval forces, together with appropriate land forces and air power.

## Chapter 13:

**Maritime Campaigning** details the principal factors in planning and executing a maritime campaign. It explains the considerations applicable to the employment of naval forces, as well as those of the air and land in the successful conduct of a campaign. It shows how the maritime environment can be exploited to achieve the operational commander's objective.

## Chapter 14:

**The Future Navy** sets out the likely challenges and opportunities facing sea power in the future. It explores the potential implications of key technological, social and economic developments for the shape and roles of maritime forces, particularly the ways in which navies may increase their ability to directly influence events on land.

## Glossary:

**The Glossary** includes definitions of key terms and concepts relevant to maritime operations. They are sourced from ADF doctrinal publications. Where such guidance does not exist, these definitions have been either drawn from appropriate international works or developed specifically for this volume. They are italicised on first usage in the text.

## Further Reading:

**Further Reading** summarises the principal sources used in the development of *Australian Maritime Doctrine* and guides the reader to works on maritime strategy and maritime operations which provide more detailed assessments of these complex subjects.