

Foreword

Australian Maritime Doctrine is the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) capstone work of doctrine. It is a guide to understanding the unique nature of the RAN's contribution to Australia's national security and how the Navy goes about its business. This book brings together the key concepts and themes of sea power, places them in an Australian context and explains them in a clear and straightforward fashion. Equally important, it lays out the ways in which the RAN operates as part of a joint and integrated Australian Defence Force (ADF) to accomplish the maritime security goals set by the Australian Government.

Much has happened in the maritime domain over the decade since the first edition of *Australian Maritime Doctrine* was released. There is now far greater awareness of the need for international cooperation when it comes to dealing with the complex threats facing the operation of the global system of commerce and security. The launch of the United States led Global Maritime Partnership concept and the introduction of the Proliferation Security Initiative are just two recent examples of this trend.

Notwithstanding these changes, the RAN's doctrinal principles as established in *Australian Maritime Doctrine* are enduring. This second edition builds on the solid reputation established by the first and seeks to refine rather than rewrite. It has been written to appeal to the widest possible audience, not only those within the Navy and the ADF, but also to all those who have responsibilities for or are interested in Australia's national security and its instruments. The high quality of the discussion provides further evidence that the RAN has developed a deep understanding of global maritime affairs and that its doctrinal development remains of an international standard.

Australian Maritime Doctrine provides an authoritative guide to current naval thinking and is thus a vital component of the training and education of all the RAN's men and women. It is fundamental to improving our knowledge of ourselves and our Service, and likewise a key element in our work to ensure that all Australians understand better the continuing importance to their nation of the sea and sea power. I expect all the members of the RAN to read *Australian Maritime Doctrine*, and I urge them to discuss its contents with each other, with other members of the ADF and with the Australian public. The better informed we all are, the better able we will be to confront the strategic, social and technological challenges of the future.

I commend this second edition of *Australian Maritime Doctrine* to you, but just as our Service evolves to meet new challenges, so too will our doctrine continue to change and develop. Your thoughts on how these changes should be incorporated into future editions of this book are extremely important, and I encourage every reader to take advantage of the invitation to contribute provided on the last page.

Navy - Serving Australia with Pride.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "R Crane", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

VICE ADMIRAL Russ Crane, AO, CSM, RAN

Chief of Navy

1 March 2010