



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Australian Maritime Doctrine* explains how the Royal Australian Navy thinks about, prepares for and operates in peace and conflict. It sets out Navy's place within a joint and integrated Australian Defence Force and its roles in Australia's military strategy. It shows the ways in which the RAN provides its unique and essential contribution to the overall ADF effort to protect Australia's security interests.

## **Chapter One:**

*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 Navy doctrine fits within that of the Australian Defence Force as a whole and how it complements the doctrine of the other services.

## **Chapter Two:**

*The Maritime Environment* describes the physical, economic and social factors which define Australia's relationships with the maritime environment. It shows that Australia is an island continent in a maritime region. It explains the importance of the sea for access and transportation for the Asia-Pacific 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. This Chapter also describes the vital relationship between maritime affairs and international law.

## **Chapter Three:**

*Armed Conflict* details the features of armed conflict in the modern world. It explains the concept of the Spectrum of Conflict and the ways in which changes in the nature of conflict are affecting maritime operations. It shows how navies must be prepared to face a wide range of contingencies. This chapter sets out the Principles of War and gives examples of their importance from the RAN's own experience of conflict.

## **Chapter Four:**

*Strategic Policy* outlines the nature of Australia's security policy and proceeds from this to explain Australia's strategic environment and its enduring strategic interests. Australia's strategic characteristics and the influence of history on our national outlook

are described. The importance of maritime capabilities in achieving all the aims of Australia's Military Strategy is emphasised.

#### **Chapter Five:**

*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 effective projection of power in a maritime environment, particularly when the sea is being utilised to transport or support land forces.

#### **Chapter Six:**

*Maritime Operational Concepts* explains the relationships between land, air and sea forces. It defines the unique characteristics of maritime power and the contribution which it can make. 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 limitations of maritime power and the way in which it is complemented by the strengths of air and land power. It sets out the means by which an effective Joint approach can achieve manoeuvre from the sea.

#### **Chapter Seven:**

*The Span of 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 the flexibility to support many other activities of government, whether to forward the aims of foreign or domestic policy.

#### **Chapter Eight:**

*The Most Important Factor* explains the dependence of all naval capabilities upon the men and women who make up the Navy 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 ships' companies. It explains the way in which battle readiness is achieved and maintained and combat stress is managed.

#### **Chapter Nine:**

*The Enablers of Maritime Forces* describes the ways in which the structure and organisation of the Navy 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 Defence organisation in achieving its goals. 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 Ten:**

*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, whether of the various types of naval forces alone or of air and land forces as well.

#### **Chapter Eleven:**

*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 Twelve:**

*Future Australian Maritime Forces* sets out the likely challenges and opportunities facing maritime forces 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 maritime forces may increase their ability to directly influence events on land.

#### **A Note on Sources:**

*A Note on Sources* 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.

#### **Glossary:**

The *Glossary* includes definitions of key terms and concepts relevant to maritime operations. They are sourced from Australian Defence Force doctrinal publications. Where ADF guidance has not existed, these definitions have been either drawn from appropriate international works or developed specifically for this volume.