

American  
Australian  
Association

TEAM DEFENCE  
AUSTRALIA

NORTHROP  
GRUMMAN

# G'DAY USA DEFENCE INDUSTRY DIALOGUE

Strengthening Alliances

A circular logo with a green background. The word 'AUS' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font above the word 'USA', which is also in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly offset to the right.

AUS  
USA

Thursday October 12, 2023

# AMPLIFY UNIFY CONNECT

In celebrating our many differences, Americans and Australians have always come together under a common belief in freedom, openness and optimism.

For 75 years, the American Australian Association has connected our two cultures, guided our people and provided new opportunities for a diverse network of trail blazers. We build enduring connections where culture, commerce and community come together to open the door to boundless possibility.

Become a Corporate Member of the Association and join a prominent group of corporations that actively support the Association and the American Australian relationship.

# WELCOME MESSAGE

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On behalf of the American Australian Association, we are delighted to welcome you to the 2023 G'Day USA Defence Industry Dialogue in Washington DC. We are pleased to present this annual event in partnership with Team Defence Australia and Northrop Grumman.

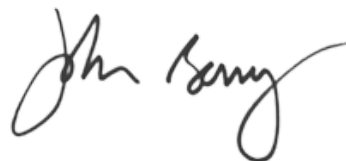
For 75 years the American Australian Association has worked closely with American and Australian business and government leaders to deepen cooperation and strengthen economic growth, trade and investment between our two countries.

The G'Day USA Defence Industry Dialogue brings together US & Australian Defence Industry leaders for discussions on emerging issues and opportunities for continued collaboration. The goal of the Dialogue is to strengthen and develop the US-AUS relationship and to provide a forum for American and Australian Defence Industry business and government leaders to connect and continue their success.

We thank all of you for joining us today to celebrate and advance collaboration and for your contribution to this dynamic and important relationship.



Craig Chapman  
Chairman



Amb. John Berry (Ret.)  
President

# AGENDA

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## Session 1 | 10.00 - 11.20 | Bilateral industrial collaboration in the AUKUS era

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### Welcome Remarks

Amb. John Berry (Ret.), President American Australian Association

### AUS Keynote

David Nockels, First Asst. Secretary Defence Industry Policy

### US Keynote

Jason Israel, Special Assistant to the President & Senior Director for Defense Policy  
National Security Council

### Fireside Chat: The Role of Defence Industry in a Time of Strategic Competition:

HE the Hon Dr. Kevin Rudd AC, Australian Ambassador to the United States

Stacie Pettyjohn, Senior Fellow & Director, Defense Program Center for a New American Security

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## Morning Tea | 11.20 - 11.50

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## Session 2 | 11.50 - 13.15 | Integration through supply chains and partnerships

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### Introductory Remarks

Amelia Proudlove, Policy Officer, Defence Australia

### Allied Cooperation and private capital in the acquisition ecosystem

The Hon. Richard V. Spencer, 76th Secretary of the Navy

### Panel: Successful examples of Australian industry supplying to Global Primes to deliver advanced capabilities

Todd Moore, Thales

Josh Streett, Northrop Grumman

Angus Hutchinson, Thomas Global

Jim Alexander, Senetas

Moderator: Gemma Whiting, Honeywell

### Success Story: Australian small business delivering innovative solutions to US Dod

Brad Brown & Roy Priest, Marathon Targets

### Industrial partnerships and collaboration

The Hon Ellen Lord, Former Undersecretary of Defense, Acquisition & Sustainment

Continued on next page...

## **Buffet Lunch | 1:15pm - 2:30pm**

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## **Session 3 | 2:30pm - 3:50pm | Innovation and accelerating commercialization**

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### **Introductory Remarks**

David McCue, Austrade

### **Allied Innovation Programs**

Steve “Bucky” Butow, Defence Innovation Unit (DIU)

Dr Darren Sutton, Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator

Col Jeffrey Naff USAF, US Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT)

### **Panel: Allied innovation in practice to maintain the competitive advantage**

Darren Schuback, The Whiskey Project Group

Callum McGregor, Sentient Vision Systems

Amanda Holt, Sypaq Systems

Col Jeffrey Naff USAF, US Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT)

Steve “Bucky” Butow, Defence Innovation Unit (DIU)

Moderator: David McCue, Austrade

### **Closing Remarks**

Amb. John Berry (Ret.), American Australian Association

## **Reception | 5:00pm - 7:00pm**

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Please join us at the Embassy of Australia

## SESSION 1

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**AMB. JOHN BERRY (RET.)**  
**President, American Australian Association**

Amb. Berry joined the American Australian Association as President in 2016. He came to the job well prepared after serving as the 25th US Ambassador and President Obama’s personal representative to Australia.

Prior to that, John served in multiple senior government positions, earning three unanimous Senate confirmations, including: the head of “HR” for the Federal government as Director of the Office of Personnel Management; the “COO” of the Department of Interior as Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget; the head of 40% of Federal law enforcement as Acting Assistant Secretary for Enforcement at the Treasury Department; and Legislative Director for Rep. Steny Hoyer.

John has also been a leader in the non-profit sector, serving as the Director of the Smithsonian National Zoo; The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Government Relations for the Smithsonian Institution.

John has accomplished many firsts, most notably, the first openly LGBT US Ambassador to a G20 country and while at OPM, he was the highest ranking LGBT executive official in US history.

He has stood atop both poles – north and south, visited all of the world’s continents, as well as all of the states of both the USA and Australia. His most favorite recognitions of the many received have been the Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, a lion named “John” in his honor and a mountain in Antarctica called the “Berry Bastion.” He is married to his partner of over 25 years, Curtis Yee.



**DAVID NOCKELS**  
**First Asst. Secretary Defence Industry Policy,**  
**Strategic Policy & Industry Group, Department of Defence**

David is the First Assistant Secretary, Defence Industry Policy, in the Australian Department of Defence and is responsible for Defence Export Controls, Defence Industry Policy and Defence Industry Domestic Policy. The Division has responsibility for effective implementation of the Government's approach to Defence industry policy and creation of a strategy-led program of industry engagement and innovation. David previously held the role of First Assistant Secretary People Policy and Culture. In this role, David was responsible for People Policy & Employment Conditions, Defence Learning, and Culture & People Development.

Prior to David's role in Defence he was responsible for the Identity and Biometrics Division, Department of Home Affairs. While at Home Affairs he also oversaw Departmental property requirements, major procurement activity and contract management covering garrison support, health services, and infrastructure in support of the Immigration Detention Network. He was also responsible for contracts relating to supporting Regional Processing Centres in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Other roles in Home Affairs included Commander in the Australian Border Force running the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Branch, Investigations Division, and managing the Department's regional processing infrastructure program.

David has also acted as the Executive Director for the Office of Transport Security (OTS) and ran OTS' international program, including capacity building projects in South East Asia and the Pacific. He ran the risk and security aspects of OTS' engagement with the Australian Intelligence Community and transport industry in Australia. He has significant experience in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with time spent in the USA and Thailand in diplomatic missions.

David's private sector experience spanned eight years working for multinational companies as a consultant and strategic sales manager. At Fujitsu Australia he provided strategic advice to their Australian Federal Government business and developed strategies to meet a wide range of Federal Government ICT needs. David headed up KAZ Group's consulting practice focused on Australia's Federal Government information management challenges. While in the UK working for management consulting organisations PA Consulting and Accenture he led teams delivering a variety of Change Management/Project Management outcomes for a number of UK public sector clients including in the criminal justice arena.

David holds an Executive MBA from the Australian Graduate School of Management, University of New South Wales, a Master's Degree in Security Policy Studies from the George Washington University in the USA, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.





## **JASON ISRAEL**

**Special Assistant to the President & Senior Director for Defense Policy, The White House**

Jason Israel is the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Defense Policy for the White House where he advises and helps implement national security and foreign policy decisions across federal agencies. Israel is also currently a Captain in the US Navy Reserve.

Prior to becoming Special Assistant, he worked as a Strategy Advisor for Hart International and as a Policy Advisor for Partners in Performance. In these positions, Israel provided policy analysis and guidance on pressing issues of importance. Israel formerly worked with the National Security Council under the Obama Administration.

Israel is a frequent media contributor and he frequently provides analysis on leadership and global affairs on Sky News, ABC, The Interpreter, and Sydney Morning Herald. Israel is also a former non-resident fellow with the Transatlantic Defense and Security program at CEPA.

Israel holds an MPP in International/Global Affairs from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and an MEM in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University. He also holds a BS in Systems Engineering from the US Naval Academy.





## **HE THE HON DR KEVIN RUDD AC** **Australia's Ambassador to the United States**

HE the Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC is Australia's Ambassador to the United States of America, taking up his posting in Washington in March 2023.

Ambassador Rudd served as Australia's twenty-sixth Prime Minister from 2007 to 2010, then as Minister for Foreign Affairs, before a second term as Prime Minister in 2013. He was Member for Griffith in the Australian Parliament from 1998 to 2013.

Since leaving government, Ambassador Rudd has resided in the United States where he is recognised as a leading analyst of China. In 2015, he became inaugural President of the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York.

In 2020, he was appointed President and CEO of the Asia Society globally and, in 2022, he founded the Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis. In 2019, Ambassador Rudd was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for eminent service to Indigenous reconciliation, innovative economic initiatives, and major policy reform, and through senior advisory roles with international organisations. Ambassador Rudd holds honorary positions at the Atlantic Council and Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC; the Asia Society, Schwartzman Scholars and Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New York; the Paulson Institute in Chicago; the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po in Paris, France; the Chancellor Helmut Schmidt Foundation in Hamburg, Germany; and Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in Canberra. He is founder and co-chair of an Australian charity, the National Apology Foundation, and a trustee of the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City.

Ambassador Rudd started his diplomatic career in 1981 with postings to Beijing and Stockholm. In 1988, he was appointed Chief of Staff to the Hon Wayne Goss and served him as Premier of Queensland. He was Director-General of the Cabinet Office in Queensland from 1991 to 1995, and Senior China Consultant for KPMG from 1996 to 1998.

Ambassador Rudd graduated with Honours in Asian Studies from the Australian National University and received his PhD from Oxford University in 2022. He also studied at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei.

Ambassador Rudd is accompanied on his posting by his wife, Thérèse Rein.



**STACIE PETTYJOHN**  
**Senior Fellow & Director, Defense Program, Center for a New American Security (CNAS)**

Stacie Pettyjohn is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Defense Program at CNAS. Her areas of expertise include defense strategy, posture, force planning, the defense budget, and wargaming.

Prior to joining CNAS, Pettyjohn spent over 10 years at the RAND Corporation as a political scientist. Between 2019–2021, she was the director of the strategy and doctrine program in Project Air Force. From 2014–2020, she served as the co-director of the Center for Gaming. In 2020, she was a volunteer on the Biden administration’s defense transition team.

She has designed and led strategic and operational games that have assessed new operational concepts, tested the impacts of new technology, examined nuclear escalation and warfighting, and explored unclear phenomena, such as gray zone tactics and information warfare. Previously, she was a research fellow at the Brookings Institution, a peace scholar at the United States Institute of Peace, and a TAPIR fellow at the RAND Corporation.

Pettyjohn has authored or co-authored reports on a wide range of issues, including defense strategy and budgets, readiness and responsiveness, the role of airpower in defeating the Islamic State, competition with Russia, possible war fighting scenarios with North Korea, and command and control of multi-national NATO amphibious forces. Additionally, she has crafted a large body of work on the United States’ overseas posture, which explores the operational requirements, its vulnerability to attack, and the political access challenges that the United States faces.

Pettyjohn's work has appeared in The Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, War on the Rocks, Defense News, The National Interest, Foreign Policy, and Lawfare. She has a PhD and an MA in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia and a BA in history and political science from the Ohio State University.

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## SESSION 2

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**AMELIA PROUDLOVE**  
**Policy Officer, Defence Australia**

Amelia Proudlove is an Assistant Director in the Defence Industry Policy Division. Prior to joining the Department of Defence, Amelia held a number of roles in the Attorney-General’s Department. Amelia is an admitted lawyer in the NSW Supreme Court, has experience in complex litigation both in government and the private sector and has a strong understanding of national security policy. In her free time, Amelia is training for a triathlon.



**SECRETARY RICHARD SPENCER (RET.)**  
**Global Chair, Bondi Partners**

Richard was the 76th Secretary of the U.S. Navy, sworn into office in August 2017 and served until November 2019. Through his appointment his career came full circle having served in the U.S. Marine Corps following his university graduation where he proudly served as an H-46 (Phrog) pilot until 1981.

After leaving active duty, Richard began a successful career in finance having worked on Wall Street for 16 years, before becoming President of Crossroads Investment Management LLC, then Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. (NYSE-ICE) and later Managing Director of Fall Creek Management LLC which helps enhance private companies through capital investment and advice .

Richard provides Bondi Partners with high level insights and strategic advice to support the firm's global direction and help our clients achieve their Trans-Pacific goals. He is also Managing Director of Pallas Ventures, an investment fund focusing on developing technologies with compelling national security applications.

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**TODD MOORE**  
**Global Head of Data Security Products, Thales**

Todd Moore is the Global Vice President of Data Encryption products at Thales. He is responsible for setting the business line and go to market strategies for an industry leading cybersecurity business. He routinely helps enterprises build solutions for a wide range of complex data security problems and use cases. Todd holds several management and technical degrees from the University of Virginia, Rochester Institute of Technology, Cornell University and Ithaca College. He is active in his community, loves to travel and spends much of his free time supporting his family pursue their various passions.

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**JOSH STREETT**  
**Manger International Sourcing Strategy, Northrup Grumman**

Josh leads Northrop Grumman Corporation's (NGC) US enterprise-wide execution team for the Australia Global Supply Chain Program (GSCP). In this role Josh leads a supply chain, engineering, manufacturing, and data analytics team charged with assisting Australian small to medium sized companies increase their defence and electronic exports. He is the primary focal point for all four NGC sectors and collaborates with his counterpart at Northrop Grumman – Australia. In this position Josh has led a revamped architecture, strategy, and approach to NGC sourcing in Australia. This approach has led to greater visibility & success for Australian suppliers across NG's Enterprise. Since 2017 NGC has created exports for Australian companies exceeding \$75M.

Josh started his career with NGC in 2019 and has taken on increasingly challenging positions. As a subcontracts manager, he led a Sector team in negotiating complex sector-wide strategic agreements with key suppliers in the US and internationally. Josh routinely interfaces and collaborates with NGC leadership to solve supply chain problems. Josh has led monthly trainings or served as a guest speaker for NGC over the past several years on topics such as negotiation, terms & conditions, and evaluating & mitigating risk for NGC.

Josh attended Misericordia University for his bachelor's degree and University of Baltimore for his Juris Doctorate. Josh currently resides in the Baltimore metro area with his wife and two sons. He and his family are involved in many local organizations and activities, they enjoy going to and participating in local sporting events.

Northrop Grumman solves the toughest problems in space, aeronautics, defense and cyberspace to meet the ever-evolving needs of our customers worldwide. Our 90,000 employees define possible every day using science, technology and engineering to create and deliver advanced systems, products and services.



**ANGUS HUTCHINSON**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Thomas Global**

Angus Hutchinson is CEO of Thomas Global Systems, a manufacturer of high-integrity aviation and defense electronics specializing in avionics, armoured vehicle electronics and tactical & gunnery training systems. Angus joined Thomas Global Systems in 2011 as Vice President, Commercial focusing on the group's commercial aerospace and business development activities. He was appointed CEO in 2014.

Prior to joining Thomas Global Systems, Angus worked as a Vice President in the Investment Banking Division of Rothschild & Co in Sydney and Washington, D.C., where he focused on mergers and acquisitions and project finance transactions in the natural resources sector.

Angus holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Sydney. Angus is member of the Advisory Board of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme and is a member of the Australian Industry Group's NSW Advisory Council.

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**JIM ALEXANDER**  
**Senetas VP Business Development, Americas**

Jim Alexander, Cybersecurity Trusted Advisor, VP Americas of Senetas Corporation Limited 'leading high-assurance encryption technology used to protect government, defence and commercial enterprise networks in more than forty countries.

Jim's responsibilities include business development with Thales' service providers, channel partners and major customers in the Americas to identify their current and emerging data security needs.

With more than 25 years of extensive experience in Business Development, in the Public and Private sectors to C-level, Enterprise Software, IT Infrastructure Network Security Solutions.

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**GEMMA WHITING**  
**Director of Government Relations, Honeywell**

Gemma Whiting joined Honeywell at the start of the year as the Director of Government Relations in APAC Gemma is part of the Core Leadership Team and is responsible for managing and strengthening Honeywell's relationships with government. She has 15 years of experience working in both Government and industry in the defence and resources sector.

Prior to joining Honeywell, Gemma was managing policy for the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (where she created and launched their critical minerals strategy. Gemma previously led Government affairs for Austal and served as an advisor to Senator the Hon David Johnston who served as Minister for Defence from 2013 to 2015.

Gemma has a BA/LLB Hons from the University of Western Australia, Executive Education in Strategy and Disruptive from Harvard Business School and is in the final few months of her MBA from Melbourne Business School.





**BRAD BROWN**  
General Manager, Marathon Targets

Brad is a graduate of Monash University with a BEng (honors) in Mechatronic Engineering. He started with Marathon in 2010 as the 5th person in the company and worked in the design team. In 2014 Brad moved to the US to help integrate robots into the US Army Sniper School and has since then been in charge of Marathon's US operations.



**ROY PRIEST**  
President, Marathon Targets

Roy has worked with Marathon since 2017. In October 2023 he was selected to lead growth of the company in North America. Roy has a 25-year career as a Congressional staffer, NASA-Marshall PAO, and senior leader at the innovative inflatable satellite antenna company GATR, which he helped grow from a 3-person start-up to a billion-dollar Program of Record and a \$230 million acquisition in 2016.



**ELLEN LORD**  
Former Undersecretary of Defense, Acquisition & Sustainment

As a Senior Advisor, Ellen Lord shares her expertise after more than thirty years of experience holding senior positions in the defense industry. At The Chertoff Group she provides counsel regarding defense programs, homeland security and the protection of critical infrastructure.

Until recently, Ms. Lord served as the first Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (A&S), leading the Department of Defense's personnel, policies and processes involved in Pentagon acquisition, contracts, logistics, and the defense industrial base.

Prior to this appointment, from October 2012 – June 2017, Ms. Lord served as the President and CEO of Textron Systems, a subsidiary of the Textron Company. In this role, she led a multi-billion dollar business with a broad range of products and services supporting defense, homeland security, aerospace, and infrastructure

protection. Earlier in her career, Ms. Lord served as Vice President of Integration Management for Textron Systems and Vice President of Intelligent Battlefield Systems for Textron Defense Systems, in addition to other business and operations positions.

Ms. Lord is a former Vice Chairman of the National Defense Industrial Association, as well as a former Director of the U.S.-India Business Council. She has served on the industry steering committee for the Center for New American Security's (CNAS) task force on "Strategy, Technology and the Global Defense Industry," as well as CNAS's DoD-Industry collaborative project, "Future Foundry: Forging New Industries for Defense," which was formed to examine key technological trends and challenges facing the global defense industry. Ms. Lord has also served on the Board of Trustees of the U.S. Naval Institute Foundation.

Ms. Lord earned a Master of Science degree in chemistry from the University of New Hampshire, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry from Connecticut College.

## SESSION 3

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**DAVID McCUE**  
**Defence & Security Director - USA, Australian Trade and Investment Commission**

David McCue joined Austrade at the Australian Embassy in Washington in 2019 as the first Defence and Security Director, a new position established by the Australian Defence Export Strategy. In this role, Dave supports Australian defence industry companies achieve export success in the US.

Before joining Austrade, David enjoyed a 20 year career as a commissioned officer in the Royal Australian Navy, followed by a few years working in the US defence industry in San Diego CA.

David is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Australian Command and Staff College, and holds master's degrees in Strategy and Policy, and International Relations.

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**STEVE "BUCKY" BUTOW**  
**Director of the Space Portfolio, Defence Innovation Unit (DIU)**

Steve "Bucky" Butow is the Director of the Space Portfolio at the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU). He joined the team in 2015 as an early plank owner when DIU was known as the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DIUx) and helped establish the organization's operating locations in Silicon Valley, California; Boston, Massachusetts; and Austin, Texas.

In his reserve capacity, Butow is a Brigadier General serving as the Commander of the California Air National Guard where he leads 4,900 Airmen assigned to five wings and a headquarters staff. Prior to this assignment, he was a Special Assistant to the Director, Air National Guard.

Butow is a former Commander of the 129th Rescue Wing at Moffett Federal Airfield in California, where his responsibilities included organizing, training, equipping, and maintaining 970 combat-ready forces and \$1 billion dollars of special mission aircraft and equipment supporting the U.S. Air Force's combat rescue and personnel recovery missions. He has previously served as the Deputy Director of the Joint Search and Rescue Center for U.S. Central Command in 2005, and as Chief of Personnel Recovery for U.S. Air Forces Central in 2007 supporting Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM. Prior to joining DIU, Butow was the Vice Chief of the Joint Staff, California Military Department with responsibilities including cybersecurity, incident awareness and innovation. He has more than 3,500 flying hours in T-37, T-38, C-130, HC-130 and MC-130P aircraft.

As a researcher with the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute, Butow worked on instrument concepts for Mars surface soil analysis at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California. He later served as co-principal investigator for a series of airborne science missions for which he was recognized for outstanding achievement and contributions to the Space Science Division in 1999 and received an Ames Honor Award as a member of an Astrobiology Mission Project Team in 2000.

Butow graduated from San Jose State University with a B.A. in Physics & Astronomy and earned a M.S. in Management with specialization in Air and Space Strategic Studies from the University of Maryland. He has also completed executive courses at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and was a member of the National Leadership Preparedness Initiative (NPLI) Cohort 16. Butow is a lifetime member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi for academic achievement.

# SPEAKERS



**DR DARREN J. SUTTON**  
**Minister-Counsellor Defence Science & Technology**  
**Embassy of Australia, Washington DC**

Dr Darren Sutton is the Minister-Counsellor Defence Science and Technology at the Embassy of Australia in Washington DC. He represents the Chief Defence Scientist in the United States and Canada, and is responsible for strategic engagement with relevant government and research organisations in North America to support defence science and technology collaboration with Australia. As part of this role, he also holds the position of Australian Deputy for The Technical Cooperation Program (TTCP).

Dr Sutton was previously Program Leader Intelligence where he worked with Defence Intelligence Group stakeholders to develop an Innovation, Science and Technology Program to achieve Assured Decision Advantage. He was previously Research Leader Space Intelligence and Research Leader Imaging Systems, where he led research on space platforms, space based sensors and processing the data collected. Other notable roles include Specialist Adviser to the 2016 Defence White Paper; Attaché Defence Science (Washington); and Navy Scientific Adviser.

Dr Sutton received a Chief Defence Scientist (CDS) Gold Commendation and a Secretary of Defence / Chief of the Defence Force Gold Commendation for his contributions to the 2016 White Paper. Dr Sutton has a Bachelor of Science with Honours and a Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Science from the Australian National University. He joined the Defence Science and Technology Group as a Cadet in 1997.

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**COL JEFFREY NAFF**  
**Director of the Foreign Comparative Testing, Office of the**  
**Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering**

Col Jeffrey Naff is the Director of the Foreign Comparative Testing program within the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering in Washington, DC. Col Naff leads the effort to acquire, evaluate, and field Partner-Nation technologies within the U.S Military Services, and, on behalf of the Department of Defense, acts as a liaison to Partner-Nation Governments and Corporate Entities to facilitate international technology experimentation and assessment.

Col Naff earned his commission through the Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB in 2002. He has led programmatic efforts in basic and applied research, transitioned R&D hardware from bench test to fielded operational capability, and developed full





## **DARREN SCHUBACK**

**Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, The Whiskey Project Group**

Darren Schuback is an Australian entrepreneur and award-winning CEO who founded The Whiskey Project Group in 2019 with the mission to create operator-focused watercraft that provide optimal performance and protection for those who risk their lives in the maritime environment. Darren is a former military officer with over 24 years of operational and leadership experience in the Royal Australian Navy and ADF Special Operations. Darren's naval experience included operational oversight of a warfare operation command centre, a military training institution, naval warships and a special operations counter terrorism unit. In each of these roles he designed and led the deployment of operational strategies to meet Australian Defence Force directives.

Darren has a distinguished record in leading, mentoring and guiding staff at all levels within his organisation, through change management projects, cultural improvement and creating efficiencies in capability output. Darren is professionally renowned for 'making it happen'- converting project plans into successful outcomes. This unwavering focus is now concentrated on The Whiskey Project Group, which he oversees as Chief Executive Officer.

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## **CALLUM MCGREGOR**

**Chief Technology Officer, Sentient Vision Systems**

Callum is the Chief Technology Officer for Sentient Vision based in Melbourne Australia. He oversees the product innovation and delivery functions at Sentient Vision and is responsible for Technical Strategy, Product Development, Technical Innovation and Product Delivery. Callum leads Sentient Vision's team of Software, Mechanical, Mechatronics and Aerospace Engineers as well as Project Managers, Operational Trainers and assembly Technicians to design, build, test, integrate, and deliver Sentient Vision's Optical Surveillance Payloads. Prior roles at Sentient Vision include Program Director and Hardware Engineering Manager. Before joining Sentient Vision, Callum spent 13 years delivering Aeronautical Engineering Services to the Australian Defence Force including but not limited to,

Structural Repair Design, Certification, Airworthiness Management and Aircraft Structural Integrity Management. Callum holds a MBA from Melbourne Business School and a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering from RMIT University.



**AMANDA HOLT**  
**Chief Executive Officer, SYPAQ Systems**

Amanda holds tertiary qualifications in Aerospace Engineering and Business, complemented by post-graduate studies in Remote Sensing, Systems and Software Engineering, and has recently completed the Senior Executive MBA at Melbourne Business School.

Commencing her career in Military Systems Engineering developing interoperable Combat, Communications and Simulation Systems for the Royal Australian Navy working for Adacel, ADI and Thales, Amanda further developed her understanding of the integration of complex military systems upon joining SYPAQ Systems in 2007. SYPAQ offered the opportunity to work with capabilities as broad as Naval Shipbuilding, Submarine Systems, Naval Aviation, Army Aviation, Aerospace Systems, Land Surveillance Systems, Joint C4ISREW Systems, Autonomous Systems, Simulation based tools and ICT intensive Joint Intelligence Capabilities including Artificial Intelligence, Distributed Network Effects and PED capabilities. In 2015, Amanda was appointed as SYPAQ's Chief Executive Officer, having held the role as General Manager – Defence and Aerospace and Chief Engineer for 4 years prior. SYPAQ employs almost 200 engineering and technical personnel across Australia, delivering specialist services in the fields of C4I systems integration, trusted autonomous systems, software intensive systems, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and cyber capabilities.

Amanda is a Fellow and Engineering Executive of Engineers Australia, a member of Defence Council of Victoria, a member of the RMIT Aerospace Engineering Advisory Board, the co-chair of the Defence Maritime Environmental Working Group, the Defence Land Environmental Working Group, and previously served as a Director of the Sir Richard Williams Foundation and as a Board Member of the Centre for Defence Industry Capability.

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