



**GDAY USA**

**DEFENCE INDUSTRY  
DIALOGUE**

Thursday October 17, 2024

**AUS  
USA**

**TEAM DEFENCE  
AUSTRALIA**

**QINETIQ**

**American  
Australian  
Association**

# WELCOME MESSAGE

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On behalf of the American Australian Association, we are delighted to welcome you to the 2024 G'Day USA Defence Industry Dialogue in Washington DC. We are pleased to present this annual event in partnership with Team Defence Australia and QinetiQ.

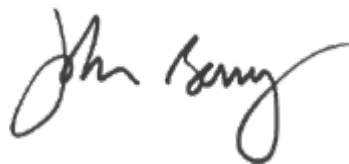
For 75 years the American Australian Association has worked closely with American and Australian business and government leaders to deepen cooperation and strengthen economic growth, trade and investment between our two countries.

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

**AMPLIFY**  
**UNIFY**  
**CONNECT**

Want to continue to be involved in the conversation and join a prominent group of corporations that actively support the Association and the American Australian relationship? Become a Corporate Member of the Association.

Erin Gray | [erin.gray@americanaustralian.org](mailto:erin.gray@americanaustralian.org) | (310) 877-1651

# AGENDA

## Session One

### Bilateral industrial collaboration in the AUKUS era

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0930 – 1000	Registration – Welcome Coffee	
1000 – 1005	Welcome Remarks	<b>Ambassador John Berry (Ret)</b> President, American Australian Association
1005 – 1040	<b>FIRESIDE CHAT:</b> <b>Australia – US Alliance: In Conversation</b>	<b>HE The Hon Dr Kevin Rudd AC</b> Australian Ambassador to United States <b>Ambassador John Berry (Ret.)</b> President, American Australian Association
1040 – 1050	<b>AUSTRALIAN KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Chris Deeble</b> Australian Deputy Secretary, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
1050 – 1100	<b>AMERICAN KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Frederick “Jay” Stefany</b> Principal Civilian Deputy, US Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition)
1100 – 1120	<b>BREAK – Morning Coffee Break</b>	

## Session Two

### Integration & Strengthening of the Industrial Base

#### Master of Ceremonies

#### Peter Coleman

Counsellor Defence Materiel, Embassy of Australia

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1120 – 1135	<b>From Interoperability to Interchangeability: Strengthening Bilateral Industrial Collaboration in the AUKUS Era</b>	<b>Gary Stewart</b> Chief Executive for QinetiQ Australia
1135-1215	<b>PANEL: How to establish a license free export environment</b>	
	<b>Graham Farnsworth</b> Counsellor (Defence Legal), UK Defence Acquisition and Technology	<b>Michael Vaccaro</b> US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Defense Trade Controls
	<b>Kylie Wright</b> Australian Assistant Secretary Defence Industry Policy	<b>MODERATOR: Peter Frazer</b> ITC – Licensing, General Atomics

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# AGENDA

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**1215 – 1255**      **PANEL: Exporting in a license free environment**

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**Christopher King**  
Director Global Defense, Anduril

**Rob Nioa**  
CEO, NIOA Group

**Dr Karen Stanton**  
Director – Corporate & Strategy, HTA Global

**Mark Webber**  
Vice President, International Trade & Supply Chain, Lockheed Martin

**MODERATOR: Kylie Wright**  
Australian Assistant Secretary Defence Industry Policy

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**1255 – 1345**      **BREAK – Buffet Lunch**

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## Session Three

### Sustaining Capabilities

**Master of Ceremonies**

**Paul Burfield**  
Minister-Counsellor, Commercial

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**1345 – 1425**      **PANEL: Uplifting the Supply Chain**

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**Admiral Michael Gilday (Ret.)**  
Former US Chief of Naval Operations

**Air Marshal Leon Phillips**  
Chief, Australian GWEO Group

**Phoebe Greentree**  
Minister-Counsellor AUKUS

**Whitney Jones**  
Director, US Submarines Industrial Base

**MODERATOR: Sam Lewis**  
Chief Growth Officer, QinetiQ

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**1425-1435**      **GWEO KEYNOTE**

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**Air Marshal Leon Phillips**  
Australian Chief Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance

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**1435 – 1515**      **PANEL: Advanced Manufacturing to excel capabilities**

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**Rob Lehman**  
Co-founder & Chief Commercial Officer, Saronic

**Professor Emily Hilder**  
Head, Australian Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator

**Whitney Jones**  
Director, US Submarines Industrial Base

**Brad Coulter**  
Senior Technical Consultant, AML3D

**MODERATOR: Phoebe Greentree**  
Minister-Counsellor AUKUS

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**1515 – 1520**      **Closing remarks and invitation to post-event drinks**

**Ambassador John Berry (Ret)**  
President, American Australian Association

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**1700-1900**      **Networking Reception at the Embassy**

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## Session 1

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### **AMBASSADOR JOHN BERRY (RET)**

**President, American Australian Association**

Amb. John 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.



**HE THE HON DR KEVIN RUDD AC**  
**Australian Ambassador to 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.



## **CHRIS DEEBLE**

### **Australian Deputy Secretary, Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group**

Chris Deeble is the Deputy Secretary of the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) in Defence.

Chris has extensive experience spanning the defence, industry and commercial sectors and working with Government. He also served for 37 years in the Australian Defence Force, most notably as an Air Vice-Marshal.

His most recent appointment was Chief Executive at Northrop Grumman Australia. Prior to that he worked for Airservices Australia as the program executive for OneSKY, responsible for delivering the Civil Military Air Traffic Management System for Australia.

Chris returns to CASG after previously holding the role of Senior Program Manager where he managed more than \$25 billion of complex acquisition and sustainment programs including the Joint Strike Fighter, Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control, Multi Role Tanker Transport and Collins Class Submarine.

Chris has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Sydney. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) in 2007, and recognized in 2016 as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

Chris is married to Donna and they have five adult children. They enjoy travel, movies and spending time with family.



## **FREDERICK “JAY” STEFANY**

**Principal Civilian Deputy, US Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition)**

Since January 2021, Mr. Frederick J. “Jay” Stefany has led the Department of the Navy’s (DON) Research, Development, Acquisition, and Sustainment programs and the DON’s contracting community serving as either the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN RDA) (Jan-Nov 2021, Nov 2022-present) or by performing the duties of (PTDO) ASN RDA. Prior to, and concurrent with, this assignment, he serves as the Principal Civilian Deputy to the ASN RDA, beginning in October 2019. His responsibilities include oversight and policy for Navy and Marine Corps research, development, acquisition, and sustainment programs for shipbuilding, aviation, space, weapon systems, and communication systems. His portfolio includes oversight of more than 50,000 acquisition professionals and annual budgets in excess of \$120 billion. Mr. Stefany also leads the Department’s Senior Executive Acquisition Corps.

From April 2018 through September 2019, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs. In this role, he was responsible for executive oversight of all naval shipbuilding programs, major ship conversions, and the modernization and disposal of in-service ships. He was also responsible for executive oversight of cost, schedule and performance of surface ship, submarine, and Marine Corps combat systems, electronic warfare systems, shipboard radars, and Navy missile defense programs.

Previously Mr. Stefany served as Executive Director, Amphibious, Auxiliary and Sealift Office, Program Executive Office, Ships where he oversaw one of the broadest acquisition portfolios in the Navy. His responsibilities spanned four major program offices managing numerous major shipbuilding programs including LHA 6, LPD 17, EPF, ESB, T-AKE, T-AO(X), and Heavy Icebreaker ship classes, as well as ship-to-shore connectors, landing craft, research ships, service craft & boats, and procurement of vessels for our Foreign Military Sales and other Federal Government partners.

Mr. Stefany entered the Senior Executive Service in March 2012, and has been in civil service for more than 40 years. He has served in a variety of key leadership positions throughout his career, including Program Manager and Deputy Program Manager for the LPD 17 Class Amphibious Transport Dock ship program (2004-2012). During his tenure, the first six ships of the San Antonio Class were delivered; and construction started on four additional hulls. He also assumed responsibilities for management of the initial concept work on a replacement for the Navy’s Command & Control Ships and later, the replacement for the LSD 41 and 49 class ships.

Mr. Stefany received a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., and a Master of Science in management from the Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Fla. He is also a 1996 graduate of the Defense Systems Management College, Advanced Program Management Course. During his distinguished federal career, Mr. Stefany has received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service, Navy Civilian Meritorious Service Award and two Navy Civilian Superior Service Awards. *tellus a massa interdum eleifend. In bibendum cursus hendrerit.*



## Session 2

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### **PETER COLEMAN**

#### **Counsellor Defence Materiel, Embassy of Australia**

As Counsellor – Defence Materiel, Peter Coleman is attached to the Embassy of Australia in Washington DC as the Deputy of the branch representing the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, Department of Defence (DoD). The branch manages Australia’s acquisition and sustainment relationship with the United States, including through representing Australia’s National Armaments Director in Washington during government to government conversations, while undertaking industry, commercial and foreign military sales engagement.

Before posting to Washington, Peter was most recently working in Canberra as Executive Director – Workforce within the Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Group (NSSG), DoD. The role spanned key priorities providing leadership to four Directors across both HR/ people policy and analysis for the NSSG and labour market policy and program delivery for Australia’s naval shipyards.

Previously Peter worked with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission for eight years. As Trade Commissioner and Consul posted for three years at the Consulate-General in Mumbai, Peter was a public facing representative for the Australian Government leading the education and training trade priority and eleven direct reports located across the subcontinent.

Peter holds a Master of International Affairs from the Australian National University, along with a Bachelor of Economics (Money and Banking, Corporate Finance and International Business Economics) and Diploma of Modern Language (Mandarin) from the University of Western Australia.



### **GARY STEWART**

#### **Chief Executive for QinetiQ Australia**

Gary Stewart joined QinetiQ in May 2023 as Chief Executive of QinetiQ’s Australia Sector. Gary leads QinetiQ’s global threat representation offering and multi-national Sector, comprising; Australia (including the recent acquisition of Air Affairs), Target Systems (UK and Canada) and Germany. Headquartered in Canberra, the Australia Sector has more than 1,200 employees worldwide.

Before joining QinetiQ, Gary was Managing Director of Rheinmetall Defence Australia where he was responsible for strategy and operational delivery in the Asia Pacific region. Gary has a proven track record of transforming and growing businesses, with more than 20 years of experience within the defence industry in the US, Canada, UK, Germany and Australia. He is an engineer and served in the Royal Australian Air Force for 11 years.

Gary has a degree in Electrical Engineering from University of NSW and a Masters of Science, Aerosystems Engineering from Loughborough University.



## **GRAHAM FARNSWORTH**

**Counsellor (Defence Legal), UK Defence Acquisition and Technology**

Graham is an Aeronautical Engineer by first degree, initially working with British Aerospace as a cockpit Systems engineer. He joined the Defence Intellectual Property team in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in 1993, where he qualified as a Patent and Trade Mark Attorney.

During his time in MOD, Graham has worked in a variety of roles providing Intellectual Property (IP) related support to MOD clients across defence and security. Following a period providing advice on procurement and international collaboration issues to DE&S customers, he joined the British Embassy staff in Washington DC in 2003 working as the then Attaché Defence Equipment Legal. On returning to the UK he took over responsibility for the MOD team charged with protecting and exploiting MOD owned technologies and worked with the Defence Public Relations team to develop and protect the RAF, Army and Navy brands.

In his previous role, Graham was Head of Intellectual Property for the Defence Science and Technology Laboratories (DSTL) where he has been responsible for all IP elements of S&T procurement alongside protecting and exploiting DSTL's internally generated technology working with DSTL's technology transfer company, Ploughshare Innovations. Graham also represented DSTL as a Core Partner in the UK Innovation and Science Seed Fund, an investment fund backed by the government, providing seed funding to science & technology start-ups and SMEs.

Graham joined the Defence Acquisition and Technology team in the British Defence Staff US in September 2021 and is responsible for providing legal and IP advice relating to US-UK defence technology transfer.



## **KYLIE WRIGHT**

**Australian Assistant Secretary Defence Industry Policy**

Kylie Wright commenced in the role of Assistant Secretary Defence Industry International Policy Branch in June 2022.

Prior to joining the Defence Industry team, Kylie held a number of senior positions in the Department of Health and Department of Defence, including Senior Advisor to the Hon. Greg Hunt.

Kylie has a degree in Commerce, majoring in economics and accounting and is a chartered practicing accountant (CPA).



## **MICHAEL VACCARO**

**US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Defense Trade Controls**

Mr. Vaccaro is currently Performing the Duties of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy. In this role, Mr. Vaccaro leads and supports the Department of Defense's efforts to develop and maintain the U.S. defense industrial base to ensure a secure supply of materials critical to national security.

Prior to this new position, Mr. Vaccaro served as the Acting Executive Director, International Cooperation. In this capacity, he advised the Under Secretary of Defense (A&S) and other A&S Principals in managing the Department of Defense's cooperative relationships with foreign countries. Mr. Vaccaro co-chaired bilateral forums with key European, Indo-Pacific, and Western Hemisphere allies and partners to further international research, development, production, and acquisition armaments cooperation.



## **PETER FRAZER**

**ITC – Licensing, General Atomics**

Peter Frazer is part of the International Trade Compliance (ITC) team within General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc (GA-ASI), based in Washington D.C. He is responsible for providing trade compliance guidance and export authorizations to support international sales and technology collaboration.

His focus area is managing the use of ITAR exemptions to facilitate the transfer of MQ-9 unmanned aircraft, and related services, purchased by foreign governments under Foreign Military Sales (FMS) arrangements. Prior to commencing this role, Peter worked for the Australian Department of Defence in Canberra (2007-2012), and the Australian Embassy in Washington D.C. (2012-2024).

## **CHRISTOPHER KING**

**Director Global Defense, Anduril**

Mr. Christopher King is Anduril's Director of Global Defense. In this role, he is responsible for managing Anduril's Security Cooperation activities with USG and foreign partners. Prior to this role, Mr. King worked for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) as the Deputy Assistant Director for Regional Operations (D-AD REX), where he managed 5 integrated regional teams consisting of 80 country portfolio directors and regional planners that oversaw execution of all FMS cases for the DOD. In a previous position at DSCA, he was the Weapons Portfolio Director for non-kinetic effects (secure communications, electronic warfare, space and cyber) and drafted policy that supported FMS cases for allies and partners across the world. He also worked for the Navy International Programs Office as the service's Electronic Warfare FMS Functional Manager. Chris started his career as a Combat Systems Officer (CSO) in the USAF, flying ~1,700 hours and 985 combat hours in the EC-30H.

Mr. King is a graduate of National Defense University's Eisenhower School and has graduate degrees in National Security from National Military University and undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and Biblical Languages from Oklahoma Baptist University.



**ROB NIOA**  
**CEO, NIOA Group**

Rob Nioa is the owner and Chief Executive Officer of the NIOA Group.

The NIOA Group of companies includes NIOA Australia, NIOA New Zealand, the Australian Missile Corporation, Barrett (USA) and joint venture company, Rheinmetall NIOA Munitions.

NIOA is the largest Australian-owned supplier of firearms, weapons and munitions to the Australian and New Zealand defence forces, law enforcement community and licensed firearms dealer network.

The group's Barrett operation is the primary supplier of long-range sniper systems to the US military and exports to 75 US Department of State approved countries around the world.

Headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, the NIOA Group has offices and operations in Canberra, Melbourne and Benalla, in regional Victoria, Maryborough, in regional Queensland, as well as New Zealand, the United States and the UK.

Rob is Chairman of Barrett and Deputy Chairman of joint venture company Rheinmetall NIOA Munitions (RNM).

Rob is a strong advocate for industry leadership of community safety. He is actively involved in the Australian firearms community and spends considerable time furthering the industry's interests at a state and national level.

He is a member of the Queensland Ministerial Weapons Advisory Panel, providing advice to the Queensland Government on a wide range of firearms issues. He is the president of the National Firearm Dealers Association, and vice president of the Queensland Firearm Dealers Association. He is a director of the Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia and has been a regular contributor to national working groups on firearm related issues in Australia for more than 25 years.

Rob is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Harvard Business School Owner/President Management Program.

He and wife Eliza are passionate about rural communities and also own the NIOA Pastoral Co. located in Queensland's Southern Downs region.



**DR KAREN STANTON**  
**Director – Corporate & Strategy, HTA Global**

Karen Stanton is a director at HTA Group, a manufacturing company with facilities throughout Australia and in Los Angeles, USA. HTA is the largest supplier of heat treat services in Australia and is an integral part of Australian defense and aerospace supply chains. As part of the HTA Team for more than 25 years, Karen has extensive experience in the manufacturing sector within Australia.

Karen is also an advocate for continual learning. With several undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in business and technology, including a business doctorate with the research focused on customer expectations.

Karen passionately advocates for SMEs in manufacturing and has demonstrated dedication to the development of the Australian defence industry at both state and national levels.

Karen is the Executive Chair of the Board for Elbit Systems of Australia and an Advisory Board member of Amphibian Aerospace Industries.



## **MARK WEBBER**

**Vice President, International Trade & Supply Chain, Lockheed Martin**

Mark J. Webber is Vice President, International, Global Programs & Policy within Lockheed Martin's Government Affairs organization, where he is responsible for managing a diverse portfolio of issues affecting Lockheed Martin's global programs and business, including international trade, export control policy and sanctions, export financing and advocacy, global supply chain, foreign direct investment, and other international regulatory issues.

Before joining Lockheed Martin in 2011, Mr. Webber held several senior positions within the U.S. Government, including Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for South and Central Asia on the National Security Council Staff, and Special Advisor for National Security Affairs in the Office of the Vice President of the United States. Mr. Webber also served as the Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Industry and Security and as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Prior to serving in the U.S. Government, Mr. Webber worked under contract for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the former U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency as an advisor on missile defense and strategic arms control issues.

Mr. Webber received his J.D. from the George Washington University Law School and is a member of the Maryland State Bar. He earned his M.A. and B.A. in comparative politics from American University in Washington, DC.

Mr. Webber lives in Maryland with his wife and two sons.



## Session 3

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### **PAUL BURFIELD**

#### **Minister-Counsellor, Commercial**

Paul Burfield currently co-leads Austrade's Defence, Space & Infrastructure sectors across North America, working closely with Austrade's trade & investment specialists to create opportunities for Australian companies to win business across the region in addition to driving productive foreign direct investment into Australia from North American Investors.

Paul also serves as Trade Practices Leader for The Americas taking overall responsibility for expanding Austrade's development & delivery of Trade Services to Australian companies across the region.

Paul recently joined Austrade after concluding a 19-year career with Enterprise Ireland, the Venture Capital arm of the Government of Ireland.

Over this time, Paul has led numerous senior executive teams across multiple geographies including the UK, Australia/New Zealand and the United States, supporting Irish technology companies to start, commercialize & globalize, in addition to managing relationships with critical stakeholders at the most senior levels of Government & industry.

In his most recent role in San Francisco, Paul and his team were responsible for providing strategic direction & business development connections for a \$1.69bn portfolio of 300+ Irish technology companies crossing multiple sectors including Cybersecurity, IoT, Telecommunications, Travel, Media & Content and Enterprise SaaS.

Prior to joining Enterprise Ireland, Paul worked in senior marketing roles with Fortune 500 company, Avery Dennison, across Europe in addition to being part of the founding team of a consumer product start-up company in Australia.

A native of Adelaide, Paul holds degree qualifications in Marketing and Accounting from the University of South Australia & University of Tasmania.



## **ADMIRAL MICHAEL GILDAY (RET.)**

### **Former US Chief of Naval Operations**

Admiral Mike Gilday is the CEO of Crossover Solutions National Security USA, a global manufacturing consultancy focused on improving the performance and resilience of manufacturers in the defense industrial base supply chain. He also serves on the advisory boards of private equity and hi-tech firms.

He retired from the U.S. Navy a year ago as the 32nd Chief of Naval Operations and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His 38-year career included command at every level – from warships to an aircraft carrier strike group, to the Navy’s cyber fleet. He also served in leadership positions on the Joint Staff, NATO, U.S. Cyber Command, and the White House.

Admiral Gilday has worked and lived internationally, building relationships with senior defense officials and diplomatic professionals around the globe. He played a key leadership role in forging the historic AUKUS partnership with Australia and the United Kingdom and has dramatically improved the U.S. Navy’s interoperability with allies and partners. He also developed deep working relations with industry, from shipbuilding and aviation production to hi-tech start-ups.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he also holds Masters degrees from Harvard’s Kennedy School and the National War College in Washington, D.C. He has received numerous awards recognizing his contributions to national security and has been decorated by the governments of Japan, Singapore, France, Italy, Peru, and Columbia.



## **AIR MARSHAL LEON PHILLIPS**

### **Chief, Australian GWEO Group**

As an engineer and program manager, Air Marshal Leon Phillips has over 36 years of extensive experience across Defence, with a proven reputation for establishing highly effective teams to deliver complex aerospace projects and manage their in-service support. In May 2023, on promotion to Air Marshal, he was appointed the inaugural Chief to head the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO) Group.

His junior appointments spanned a range of materiel support, engineering and staff roles supporting the F-111, Classic Hornet and Headquarters Northern Command. In 2008, Air Marshal Phillips was posted to the Airborne Early Warning and Control Program as Engineering Manager in Seattle USA, culminating in him accepting the first two E-7 Wedgetail aircraft.

Promoted to Group Captain in 2012, he was appointed as the Project Director responsible for the \$8 billion portfolio of Maritime Surveillance projects, where he guided the Air Force's P-8A acquisition through Government approval and established the initial procurements. Air Marshal Leon Phillips was then appointed as Officer Commanding, Surveillance and Control Systems Program Office, responsible for the acquisition and sustainment of assigned airspace surveillance, control, and communications systems for the Australian Defence Force.

In 2017 he was promoted to Air Commodore and given responsibility for the acquisition and sustainment of Air Force's maritime patrol, airborne surveillance and aircrew training capabilities as well as fleetwide-enabling aerospace materiel.

In 2019, Air Marshal Leon Phillips joined the Chief Information Officer Group and was responsible for connecting Defence Groups and Services with ICT solutions, and subsequently involved in integrating major weapon systems into the strategic ICT network.

In 2022, he was promoted to Air Vice-Marshal and appointed as the Head of Aerospace Systems Division within Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, responsible for the materiel acquisition and sustainment for all of Air Force's airborne air combat, surveillance and air mobility capabilities.

Air Marshal Leon Phillips has a degree in Electronic Engineering, Masters in Project Management and an Executive Masters in Business. He is also a Master Project Director with the Australian Institute of Project Management and a Fellow of Engineers Australia. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2018 for his work in complex acquisition projects and for mentoring staff.

Air Marshal Leon Phillips is married to his best friend and mentor Air Commodore (retired) Angie Castner, and has four adult children. His interests include a lifelong obsession with field hockey, having played in Australia's National Hockey League and competing for Australia at the Masters level. In his spare time he also enjoys cycling and cooking.



**PHOEBE GREENTREE**  
**Minister-Counsellor AUKUS**

Phoebe is an international defence policy specialist with experience spanning multilateral diplomacy and representational roles, including at Australia’s Missions to NATO and the European Union, and the United Nations.

Phoebe has led high-performing teams to develop and implement policies related to, for instance, Australia’s acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines under AUKUS, support to Ukraine, partnership with NATO, enhanced engagement with Pacific partners, and support for at-risk locally engaged Afghan employees.

Prior arriving in Washington, D.C. she was Assistant Director General for International and Strategic Policy at the Australian Submarine Agency. She has also held roles in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Defence.

At Defence, Phoebe played a key role in developing and implementing Defence’s contribution to Australia’s Pacific Step-Up. This built on her earlier experience supporting Defence Cooperation Programs in the Pacific and leading the development of Australia’s Pacific Maritime Security Program.

Phoebe holds a Master of Public & International Law from Melbourne University, and Bachelors of Science and Arts from the University of New South Wales. She is proficient in French, German and Dutch.



## **WHITNEY JONES**

### **Director, US Submarines Industrial Base**

Whitney Jones is the Deputy Program Manager for the Navy's Maritime Industrial Base (MIB) program. Leading up to this role, Whitney served as the Director, Submarine Industrial Base (SIB), a component of the Navy's (DON) Program Executive Office, Strategic Submarines (PEO SSBN).

As Deputy of MIB, Ms. Jones is responsible for leading enterprise efforts to develop and deploy the industrial base capacity and capability required to build and sustain maritime warfighting needs. In this capacity, Ms. Jones is accountable for collaborative efforts across a multi-billion dollar portfolio that includes defense workforce, manufacturing technology, infrastructure, supply chain, and public-private partnership. Her role focuses on fostering relationships between Navy and industry/academia to improve communications, industrial processes, and capacity.

Between February 2019 – July 2020, Ms. Jones served as Deputy, Shipbuilding Industrial Base Task Force, where she leveraged her shipbuilding acquisition and supply chain experience to coordinate cross-enterprise efforts and oversee strategic communications. She also led Navy Enterprise response, engagement, and assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 on the defense industrial base, working closely with industry to mitigate the pandemic's impact on key suppliers by maintaining defense supply chains as part of "critical infrastructure" exempt from work stoppages.

Additionally, she served as the submarine enterprise lead for a Columbia (CLB) and Virginia Submarine (VCS) Industrial Base assessment with Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) Cost Assessment Program Evaluation (CAPE). During this same time period, she implemented submarine enterprise efforts on benchmark setting workforce development pilots including Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing (ATDM) and the Pennsylvania Talent Pipeline Project.

From 2017-2019 Ms. Jones gained valuable defense industry experience in roles that included strategy and communications support for the Columbia Class Submarine Program, and Strategy Development for a major defense electronics supplier. Prior to these roles, she served in Team Ships, where she provided direct strategic communications and management support to the Flag Officer and Executive Director of Surface Ship Maintenance, Modernization, and Sustainment.

From 2015-2016, Ms. Jones was the Director of Operations for the DDG 1000 Zumwalt Class Destroyer Program. In this role, and in the year leading up to first-of-class delivery, she was responsible for all strategic operations and internal and external communications for the DDG 1000 program, to include setting program priorities and managing daily execution of program resources.

Early in her Navy civilian career, Ms. Jones served as a Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for a number of multi-million dollar projects, to include Primary COR on a Follow-On Technical Support (FOTS) services contract valued at \$1.3B and requiring over 300 contracting actions per year in support of technical services and procurements.

She began her career and connection to the Navy mission as the Communications Coordinator for the United Service Organization (USO) in Fort Myer, Virginia.

She has also earned Program Management Certification from the Defense Acquisition University. Her awards include DON Innovation Excellence Acquisition Team of the Year (July 2021) and numerous special action and performance awards from both her industry and government service.





## **SAM LEWIS**

**Chief Growth Officer, QinetiQ**

Sam Lewis joined QinetiQ from Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII). Mr Lewis led the company's efforts to integrate the former Spatial Integrated Systems (SIS) and lead all unmanned surface and ground vehicle efforts.

Prior to the acquisition of SIS, Mr. Lewis served as President and Chief Operating Officer for a leading provider of autonomy solutions and lifecycle engineering. Mr. Lewis was responsible for operations, growth and strategy. He also orchestrated the sale of SIS's autonomy portfolio to HII.

Previously Mr. Lewis served as the Chief Executive Officer, in an acting capacity for six months, and Senior Vice President for Automation, Digitalization, and Electrification for Siemens Government Technologies Inc. (SGT). In this role he brought Siemens' innovative products, technologies and services for programs and requirements at federal government agencies and departments in the areas of energy generation, transmission, distribution and efficiency, infrastructure modernization, industrial applications and integrated electric power solutions for the air, land and sea domains. Previously, Lewis served as the Vice President of Programs, leading operations across SGT's portfolio including two large programs supporting infrastructure and security maintenance and modernization for contracts with the U.S. Department of State and Transportation Security Administration.

Prior to joining Siemens, Lewis served in several capacities both direct to the customer and in corporate leadership positions at two federally-focused information technology companies – most recently as head of strategy – and in prior roles leading business development and operations for a \$1 billion defense and intelligence community focused business group. Earlier, Lewis served in the U.S. Navy as a surface warfare officer, culminating in assignments supporting Naval Intelligence.

Lewis is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the Naval War College National Security Affairs and Strategic Studies program. He makes his home in Fairfax, VA., with his wife Laura and two children.



## **ROB LEHMAN**

**Co-founder & Chief Commercial Officer, Saronic**

Rob Lehman is Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer of Saronic Technologies, where he leads all marketing, sales, and customer support activities for the company.

Rob brings 21 years of combined active duty and reserve experience as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marine Corps, forging an essential connection to those who rely on the solutions developed by Saronic Technologies.

After leaving active duty in 2006, Rob supported multiple Navy and Marine Corps programs at both Northrop Grumman and ManTech International. As CEO of TTI, a leading maritime technology supplier, he led the design and delivery of technologies that are afloat on multiple surface combatants today. Most recently, Rob brought his expertise to 9 Line Solutions, a government relations and consulting firm he co-founded to help technology companies navigate the U.S. Department of Defense acquisition process.

Rob holds a BA in international politics from Pennsylvania State University.



## **PROFESSOR EMILY HILDER**

**Head, Australian Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator**

The purpose of the Defence Accelerator is to accelerate the development and transition into service of disruptive solutions to priority defence challenges at the pace and scale required to deliver advantage to our military.

Emily joined Defence as Chief Maritime in DSTG in November 2020, and held the role of Chief Platforms from July 2022 to April 2023. Prior to joining Defence she was Director of the Future Industries Institute (FII) and Deputy Director of the ARC Research Hub for integrated devices for end-user analysis at low levels (IDEAL) at University of South Australia.

She is a graduate of the University of Tasmania where she completed her PhD in analytical chemistry in 2000. Following postdoctoral positions at Johannes Kepler University (Austria) and the E.O. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (USA) she returned to Australia and University of Tasmania in 2004 where she held two ARC Fellowships (APD, Future Fellowship) as well as positions as Assistant Dean of Graduate Research and Head of Chemistry. She was inaugural Director of the ARC Training Centre for Portable Analytical Separation Technologies (ASTech) before relocating to the University of South Australia in 2016.

Her research is in the field of analytical chemistry and materials science and is focused on the design and application of new materials that can be used to improve analytical measurements. Her work has led to commercial and field adoption in separation science, bioanalysis, disease diagnosis, environment and food science, defence and national security.

Emily is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE) and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) and has been recognised by a number of awards including the Eureka Prize for Outstanding Science in Safeguarding Australia (2019), RACI Doreen Clarke Analytical Medal (2016), UTAS Foundation Graduate Award (2010) and has been included in the Analytical Scientist Power Lists from 2013-2017, 2019-2021 including the 'Top 40 under 40' and as one of the top 10 leaders in analytical science.

She is an Associate Editor of Analytical Chemistry (ACS) and a member of the Advisory Board of the Australian Maritime College (University of Tasmania) and Defence Trailblazer.



## **BRAD COULTER**

**Senior Technical Consultant, AML3D**

Brad Coulter is the Senior Technical Sales Consultant for AML3D. Starting his career, 30 years ago as a precision manufacturing engineer, Brad transitioned into sales leveraging his engineering experience across a range of industry sectors, including maritime, defence and oil & gas. Brad's extensive specialty metals and precision manufacturing knowledge is critical to supporting AML3D's Wire-arc Additive Manufacturing projects and the global delivery of ARCEMY, industrial metal 3D printers. Brad's industry experience, paired with his MBA from the Australian Institute of Business, places him in a unique position whereby he understands the pressures of program delivery, mixed with the importance of quality and requirements of stringent standards. Behind the scenes, Brad is a family man, residing in Adelaide, Australia with a passion for muscle cars and is a motor bike enthusiast.

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Richard Burrows, Director of Education  
richard.burrows@americanaustralian.org.

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- Candidates must be honorably discharged post 9/11;
- Candidates must be undertaking or planning to undertake a minimum of one-year full-time study at an accredited educational institution in Australia or the U.S., and;
- Applicants do not need to have been accepted into an institution at the time of application, though should be actively looking for placement.

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