

## The Australian Army after Afghanistan?

Australia's operational deployment in Afghanistan has always been dangerous and often controversial. While political support has been bipartisan and solid, public opinion is wavering. A tragic spate of recent casualties has many questioning Australia's involvement.

The latest issue of the Kokoda Foundation's journal, *Security Challenges*, looks beyond these immediate concerns and features an in-depth analysis of the Army Australia will need once the Afghanistan commitment is completed.

According to former Chief of Army, Peter Leahy, the last decade of operational service in Afghanistan has been difficult but it has produced enormous beneficial changes in the Australian Army. "History has shown that an Army changes best when faced with adversity," he says.

"The Army has been tested and it has delivered. Its soldiers have served with courage, compassion and humanity. As the nature of the Army after Afghanistan is explored it must be done with a resolve to keep the best of the old and build on the foundation of a newly confident and accomplished force."

The task will not be an easy one. According to the former Army Chief, "The serial reviews and reorganisations of the Department of Defence have all but obliterated the ability of the Service Chiefs to command their service. A greater clarity of roles and responsibilities is required, with a focus on military output rather than bureaucratic process and employment opportunities for Deputy Secretaries," he says.

Other distinguished authors contributing to this detailed analysis include Professor Hugh White, a long time senior Defence official; Major General John Caligari, the Australian Army's Head of Modernisation and Strategic Planning; Andrew Davies, the Director of the Operations and Capability Program at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute; and, Dr Michael Evans, currently a Fellow at the Australian Defence College and a former Head of the Australian Army's Land Warfare Studies Centre.

*Security Challenges* is the only peer-reviewed journal on future security issues published in Australia. It is a vehicle for innovative thinking about future challenges to the security of Australia and other countries in the Asia Pacific region.

More Information please contact:

Mrs Nicole Quinn  
Chief Operating Officer  
Phone: 0488 033 327/ 6295 1555  
[coo@kokodafoundation.org](mailto:coo@kokodafoundation.org)