CHIEF OF ARMY’S FUTURES ACTIVITY – AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE

PURPOSE: To introduce amphibious capability developments that will have significant impact on Army in the longer term

METHOD: Central presentation

ENDSTATE: Understand the potential for change to Army through introduction of the amphibious capabilities.
Australia’s Future Amphibious Warfare Capability

LTCOL Jon Hawkins
Joint Amphibious Capability Implementation Team
Scope

- Amphibious Deployment and Sustainment System - JP2048
- Australia’s Amphibious Concept
JP 2048 – Amphibious Deployment and Sustainment (ADAS) System

Phase 1 - LCM2000 Watercraft.
Phase 2 - Study
Phase 3 - LHD Watercraft
Phase 4 A/B - 2 x CANBERRA Class LHD
Phase 4 C - Strategic Sealift Capability
Phase 5 - Independent Watercraft
Phase 3 – LHD Watercraft

- 23 kts unladen, 12 kts laden.
- Carries a M1A1 Abrams Main Battle tank
- Delivery 2012 /13-2014
- Navy crewed
- Four per LHD
Each LHD will embark 1000 troops and 8-10 helos
RN LPD Steel Beach, Well Dock
HMAS Melbourne (CV)
DRAFT SCHEME OF COMPLEMENT

► Still “Indicative Draft” until BAES TNA returned and analysed

► Presently around 430 (which includes 73 pers whose AFS comes from elsewhere: Navy flight of 19, Amphib Beach Team and 6 crews for four landing craft of 46)
  - Navy: ~ 330 (+ 37)
  - Army: 56
  - RAAF: 2 (Air Traffic Controller)

► A true Joint Crew.
Ph 4C Sealift “Capability”

Roles: Deploy remainder of Amphib BG and then Sustainment tasks

- Troops: approx 350
- 1100 Lane metres i.e.
  - Approx 26 MBT & 70 lt veh + 200 tons cargo
  - Crew - 137 Navy and 48 Army (AFS)

Containers / Bulk Items

Discharge by air and over a beach in SS4
Bay Class LSD(A)
LOTS Enabler. < 9% of ports in region have Ro-Ro.
Ph 5: 6 x LCH Replacement

Ultra Heavy-lift Amphibious Connector

Stern Landing Vessel

47 Army AFS
47 RAN AFS
Deployable Tactical Littoral Craft Manoeuvre ("Riverine Warfare")

Small Unit Riverine Craft (USN, NECC)

Joint Multi-mission Expeditionary Craft (US)

Offshore Raiding Craft (RM)
• Equivalent in scale to a USN/USMC ARG/MEU or UK Lead Cdo Gp embarked.

CURRENT AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITY

- LSH
- LPA x 2
- LCM8 x 4
- LCH x 6

TONNAGE

- LPA x 2 = 16900 T
- LSH x 1 = 5700 T
- LCH x 6 = 3018 T
- LCM x 15 = 1500 T
- Total = 27,118 T

Embarked Force = 1115
Lane Metres = 788m
Comms Circuits = 17
Helicopters = 8
Hanged
Hospital (level 3) = Each LPA has - 1 op theatre, limited ICU and x-ray

TOTAL MANPOWER

625 Navy
100 Army

FUTURE AMPHIBIOUS CAPABILITY

- LHD x 2
- JP2048 Phase 4C
- LCM x 12

JP2048 Phase 5

TONNAGE

- LHD x 2 = 54000 T
- Phase 4C x 1 = 16000
- Phase 5 x 6 = 7800 T
- LCM x 12 = 1500 T
- Total = 79,300 T

Embarked Force = 2600
Lane Metres = 2800m
Comms Circuits = 58
Helicopters = 16 - Hungared
8-12 deck parked
Hospital (level 3) = Each LHD has - 2 op theatres, 8 ICU and 20+ MDU beds, x-ray etc
Operations up to and including Sea State 4
The Australian Amphibious Concept and Army’s requirement...
Army is directed to undertake amphibious manoeuvre as part of maritime or littoral manoeuvre and;

“Amphibious and sea-lift ships … and other capabilities are required for strategic mobility for our forces and to provide us with the ability to project military power throughout our primary operational environment and, on occasions, beyond”
Regional Environment: Riverine and Archipelagic

**Navigable Waterways:**
- Indonesia: 21,579 km
- Vietnam: 17,702 km
- Burma: 12,800 km
- PNG: 11,000 km
- Malaysia: 7,200 km
- Laos: 4,600 km
- Thailand: 4,000 km
- Philippines: 3,219 km
- Cambodia: 2,400 km
- Australia: 2,000 km
- Fiji: 203 km
- **Total of 85,000 km**

**Islands per archipelago:**
- Indonesia: 17,508
- Philippines: 7,107
- Solomon Islands: ~1,000
- Papua New Guinea: ~600
- Fiji: 332
- **Total of 25,000 Islands**
Australia's Amphibious Concept (AAC),
- endorsed by the Joint Amphibious Council (DCN, DCA and DCJ OPS) on 26 Feb 08, and again on 19 May 10.
- establishes the ADF approach to contemporary and future expeditionary amphibious operations.

The AAC:
- reflects Australia’s strategic environment and guidance; and developing ADF capabilities. Complement, and consistent with, Future Joint, Maritime, Land and Special Forces’ Operational Concepts
- Directly reflects emergent and extant US / UK / NATO Doctrine and practices.
Australia’s Amphibious Concept

► Missions
  ▪ Amphibious Operations – Demonstrations, Raids, Assault, Withdrawal

► Military Support Operations
  ▪ HA, NEO, Peace Operations, Defence Aid to Civil Community

► Sea Lift
  ▪ Administrative movement of personnel and equipment
Australia’s Amphibious Concept

- ADF Approach to Amphibious Operations
  - Ship-to-Objective Manoeuvre (STOM)
  - Distributed Manoeuvre (DM)
  - Sea-Basing
  - OVP of 10 days operations ashore
20th Century: Amphibious Assault

- UTH Operations
- Seize beach head, build up combat power
- Separation of ATG and LF
- Strike inland to actual objective
- Limited Manoeuvre and Operational Pause

“The way we used to be.”
21st Century: Ship-To-Objective Manoeuvre

- Focus on the objective
  - No beach head
  - Rapid tempo
- Integrated fire and maneuver of ATG and LF
  - Avoid/bypass enemy strong points
- OTH Operations
- Seabased/Networked:
  - Joint Fires
  - C2
  - Logistics

“The way we will be.”
Australia’s Amphibious Concept

Components of Capability

- **Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)** – Medium Weight Battle Group (BG) of 2056 personnel and associated stores. Two or more ships.

- BG comprised of infantry, armour, artillery, engineers equipment and other vehicles. It is supported by armed reconnaissance, heavy and medium lift helicopters.
ARG Capable of conducting coordinated air and surface STOM assaults, of up to 4 Coy CT, plus an OS Bty and BG HQ Tac from 30 nm OTH to an initial radius of action of 90nm, within a 6 hour cycle of darkness.

- LF CONEMP Jun 2009
Pers: 2056 (ARG HQ and PCRF have been excluded)

Veh: A 198, B 520, C 14, D 14

RW: ARH 8, MRH 10, MLH 2

* Advance Force composition is threat and effect dependant. Data is ROM only
Amphibious Ready Element

- ARE provides the short-notice amphibious capability as its primary role.
- Be prepared to conduct HA/NEO within 48 hours.
- ARE based on an infantry company with protected mobility, indirect offensive fire support, mobility and survivability attachments and ISTAR assets. May include medium lift helicopters, resuscitation element and superior Tac HQ.
Amphibious Ready Element

ARE should be capable of conducting coordinated air and surface STOM type actions, of up to 4 PI/Tp elms, plus an OS Det and CT HQ Tac from 30 nm OTH to an initial radius of action of 90nm, within a 6 hour cycle of darkness.

- LF CONEMP Jun 2009
Advance Force composition is threat and effect dependant. Data is ROM only.
Force Generation Cycle

- Individual Foundation Warfighting training & career development
- Post-deployment decompression
- Leave
- Reconstitution

- Deploy on operations, or
- Remain on standby for contingency tasks

- Collective Foundation Warfighting training
- Exercise HAMEL
- Collective pre-deployment training
- Priority for resources & equipment
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Source: JP2048 Proposed Maintenance Schedule for LHD, as at Apr 09

**Table 4 – Proposed LHD Maintenance Schedule**
Table 2 – USMC MEU/ESG Training and Certification Schedule
OPTION ONE

Placing one Battle Group as the amphibious specialist battalion, similar to an Airborne Battle Group, with group enablers, such as fires, comms and logistics assets in support. This option will allow a high level of capability to be achieved, comparable to US and UK standards, but introduces significant rotation issues on Army especially under the current operational constraints.
OPTION TWO

- Similar to the USMC MEUs and the UK’s 3 Cdo Bde (RM), an Australian Bde, grouped as a combined arms task force, may be best placed to be the Army’s amphibious specialist, providing entry and allowing heavier, or follow-on, forces to penetrate subsequent to the amphibious operation. This would allow capability comparable to the US and UK certifications levels.
OPTION THREE

Rotate the Army’s 10 battle groups through the role, which is similar to the French model where, until recently, annual changeovers occurred between battle groups. This would allow capability development to be broad but would not achieve US and UK comparable standards.
AOR

LF: Combat Team 150-220 pers

C2 Elem based on COMAUSATG (CATF) and CLF HQ (Bn/ Bde)

ARE

LF: Battle Group 2200 Pers

REA, MCM, SF (Not Embarked)

ARG

LHD

LSD

x 6 LCH

x 12-24 MRH/MSH/ARH

x 8-10 LCM1E

LF: Battle Group 2200 Pers

REA, MCM, SF (Not Embarked)

ARE

LF: Combat Team 150-220 pers

REA, MCM, SF (Not Embarked)

Escorts / Strike Gp (task-organised against threat)

SH60B / FNACS

CAP / CAS

DDG

FFH x 2

MPA

AOR

SSK

AEWC
Figure 1: Proposed structure of HQJAAF
• JAS AS SHOWN CAPABLE OF COMD AMPHIB ACTION AS PART OF PERMISSIVE NEO AT ARE LEVEL WITHOUT FURTHER C2
• CAPABLE OF COMD OF AMPHIB ACTION AS PART OF JTF OPERATION ICW MCC OR LCC C2 ELMS AT ARG LEVEL. NO INCREASE TO JAS REQUIRED.
• CAPABLE OF SCALEABLE C2 TO RTS ACTYS UP TO AND INCL COMBINED EX AT ARG LEVEL.
Key Army Considerations

- Develop Army’s amphibious culture, including an analysis of Army’s role in amphibious manoeuvre and C2,

- Concept for Seabasing (which includes C2, Fires and Log),

- Small craft to protect LCM1E, low signature interaction with the local population, inserting patrols from the sea or conduct patrolling in the littoral,

- Training Needs Analysis for Landing Force, and

- Force generation continuum
Thank you