



‘Breaking In’ to Amphibious Operations

A Cove Intro

Kelly Dunne

The #BreakIn is the Cove’s channel dedicated to the professional development of Small Unit Leadership Teams and those approaching the Australian Command and Staff College. The concepts in the #BreakIn can be complex, so to help we have designed a series of ‘introductory courses’ that are designed to help you ‘break in’ to the subject matter.

Here we present ‘Breaking In’ to Amphibious Operations which has been reviewed by a number of subject-matter experts and key stakeholders. The pathway of questions and resources below is designed to introduce you to the concept of amphibious operations as we progress forward into this space as an Army.

By the end of this short intro you should better understand what amphibious operations are, and why they are so important to Australia and its national interests.

Core Resources

Book: Ian Speller and Christopher Tuck, *Amphibious Warfare: Strategy and Tactics*, MBI, London, 2001. This is a very good general introduction covering everything from planning to equipment and operations, written for newbies to the field. (DLS link for ADF members [here](#))

Doctrine: NATO. [ATP-08 Doctrine for Amphibious Operations, 2017](#) (Royal Australian Navy). This publication provides specific doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures for the conduct of amphibious operations, and is a reference for the amphibious warfare chapter within ATP-01. The purpose of ATP-08 is to ensure a uniformity of amphibious operations while permitting maximum tactical flexibility across the range of military operations.

Article: ‘[All ashore: the utility of amphibious operations](#)’ by Peter Dean (2012). This article explains that amphibious assets are not only critical in the strategically important littoral regions; they also provide platforms that are extremely versatile. It illustrates multiple examples of the utility of amphibious assets throughout history.

Article: Leece, David. [Amphibious operations: An introduction](#) [online]. *United Service*, Vol. 65, No. 3, Spring 2014: 9-13. Its geo-strategic circumstances dictate that Australia adopts a maritime strategy, integral to which are amphibious operations. These involve the projection of a military force from the sea onto a hostile, or potentially hostile, shore; and include assaults, withdrawals, raids and demonstrations. These operations and contemporary amphibious tactics are described. Amphibious forces also can provide logistic support to deployed forces; and military support in non-warlike circumstances. Australia is building an amphibious force modelled on United States and British amphibious forces

Course (DPN Only, serving members only): Via CAMPUS search ‘Introduction to Amphibious Operations’ (Course ID: 00009971, PMKeys: 214807). A free 40 minute online course which provides an understanding of ADF amphibious operational and doctrinal concepts, amphibious C2, and amphibious capabilities.

Books

Tristian Lovering (ed), *Amphibious Assault: Manoeuvre from the Sea*, Seafarer Books, 2007 (this is an excellent introduction / overview from Gallipoli to Iraq 2003. A landscape book with brief chapters on different major amphibious operations throughout history. (DLS link for ADF members [here](#))

Joseph H Alexander & Merrill L. Bartlett, *Sea Soldiers in the Cold War: Amphibious Warfare 1945-1991.*, Naval Institute Press, 1995. This book is an operational history of amphibious warfare in the cold war, principally as refined and executed by the two superpowers, their allies, and surrogates. (DLS link for ADF members [here](#))

Theodore L. Gatchel, *At the Water's Edge: Defending against Modern Amphibious Assault*, Naval Institute Press, 1996. This book examines amphibious operations from Gallipoli to the Falkland Islands to determine why the defenders were unable to prevent the attackers from landing. It examines how epic battles such as Normandy, Iwo Jima, and Inchon are planned and fought, and then uses these cases to explain why the defenders were unable to successfully defend against enemy landings. (DLS link for ADF members [here](#))

Clapp, M. *Amphibious Assault Falklands: The Battle of San Carlos Water*, Leo Cooper, 1996. This book covers the amphibious assault on the Falklands from the perspective of the naval Amphibious Task Group Command in the Falklands Islands. It provides a detailed examination of the planning and execution of the amphibious operations that formed the centrepiece of the successful U.K. campaign. The book underscores the gaps in U.K. capabilities for amphibious operations, and infers how long-term programming and resourcing decisions in an austere fiscal environment can go astray when not guided by a clear institutional vision.

Doctrine/Official:

ADF (DPN only). [ADDP 3.2 Amphibious Operations](#). This doctrine provides broad guidance for commanders and staff at all levels of the ADF, on the nature and scope of amphibious warfare within the ADF.

ADF (DPN only). [ADDP 3.2.1 Amphibious Operations Procedures](#) (provisional). This doctrine provides practical guidance on the procedures required to conduct and support amphibious operations in the ADF.

ADF (DPN Only) '[Concept for Employment of the Australian Amphibious Force.](#)' This Concept for Employment of the Australian Amphibious Force articulates the evolved role, organisation and tasks of the Amphibious Force; the employment of the amphibious capability; the amphibious concepts underpinning the Amphibious Force; the force generation and certification model; and the capability gaps and shortfalls yet to be adequately addressed.

United States. [JP 3-02 Amphibious Operations](#). This publication provides fundamental principles and guidance to assist commanders in the planning, execution, and assessment of amphibious operations.

United States. [JP 3-02.1 Joint Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Landing Force Operations](#). This publication establishes doctrine and joint tactics, techniques, and procedures for all phases of planning and conducting joint amphibious operations from the perspective of the landing force. It addresses unique landing force operations, including planning, ship-to-shore movement, and fire support. It also covers the organization, command and control, and related operations of the landing force and its major components.

United States. [MCDP 3 Expeditionary Operations](#). This publication is designed for Marine Corps leaders or those who conduct expeditionary operations or advise others on the effective employment of Marine Corps forces.

United States. [Expeditionary Force 21 USMC](#). This document provides guidance for how the U.S. Marine Corps Total Force will be postured, organized, trained, and equipped to fulfil assigned public law and national policy responsibilities. It does not change *what* Marines do, but *how* they will do it. Expeditionary Force 21 draws guidance from national security direction and naval strategy.

United States: [Littoral Operations in a Contested Environment 2017](#). This concept paper describes the integration of Navy and Marine Corps capabilities to overcome emerging threats within littoral regions that are rapidly expanding in operational depth, complexity and lethality. The concept paper is designed to provide a unified framework for Navy-Marine Corps innovation. It places a renewed emphasis on fighting for and gaining sea control, to include employing sea-based and land-based capabilities to support the sea control fight.

Journal articles & Blog Posts:

Steve Paget "[Coming Full Circle: The Renaissance of Anzac Amphibiosity](#)" *Naval War College Review* Vol. 70, No. 2, 03.2017, p. 113-136. This article discusses the requirement for amphibious capability within the strategic environment and the benefits of Australia and New Zealand working together to build the amphibious capability.

'[Beyond 2017: The Australian Defence Force and amphibious warfare](#),' by Ken Gleiman and Peter Dean (2015). This paper aims to identify some of the key decisions to be made by ADF leaders over the next two years to ensure that Australia has an amphibious warfare capability that's effective and relevant to future challenges.

'[The Amphibious Endeavour: Tactical Risk, Strategic Influence](#)' by G. Garnier (2014). This article illustrates the advantages of amphibious operations as part of a low of medium intensity operation.

'[A Capability of First Resort: Australia and amphibious warfare](#)' by Peter Dean (2013). This article discusses the amphibious capability gap and the increasing importance of both our immediate region and the wider Indo-Pacific region to our defence priorities.

'[Thinking amphibiously](#)' by James Goldrick (2013). This article discusses the idea that given potential opponents in lower intensity conflicts, the capacity of the ADF to rapidly achieve over-match in an amphibious entry will be vital in future. It suggests that this will demand mastery of high intensity and closely coordinated operational amphibious techniques.

'[Amphibious capability is exactly what Australia's maritime strategy needs](#)' by Thomas Lonergan (2013). This article is a rebuttal piece designed to provide counter arguments that criticize the ADF's approach to building amphibious capability.

'[Why an amphibious capability? \(part 1\)](#)' by Peter Dean (2013). This article makes the case for why Australia needs an amphibious capability in order to meet the tasks set of the ADF in the Defence White Paper.

'[Why an amphibious capability? \(part 2\)](#)' by Peter Dean (2013). This follow up to part 1 focuses specifically on the LHD capability.

'[Thinking beyond platforms: Australia's future amphibious capability](#)' by Thomas Lonergan (2013). This article argues that we need to avoid fixating on platforms and focus on the amphibious capability as a whole.

'[A big boat doesn't equal amphibious capability](#)' by Jan Gleiman (2014). This article warns the ADF that a ship alone doesn't equate to a capability, and that deep amphibious expertise is needed in supporting arms and services, notably intelligence, logistics, aviation, and engineering.

[‘Empowering command and building amphibious culture’](#) by Peter Dean, Jan K. Gleiman and Sarah Hately (2015). This article suggests that ADF currently lacks the tradition, culture and organisational expertise to maintain and deploy a world class amphibious warfare capability. It argues that the current C2 structures don’t adequately address the high degree of specialisation needed to meet the likely demands of Australia’s emerging amphibious warfare capability.

[‘Adapting Army: Amphibious Warfare and Plan Beersheba’](#) by Peter Dean, Jan K. Gleiman and Sarah Hately (2015). This paper argues that Plan Beersheba doesn’t adequately meet the potential demands for joint amphibious operations within the ADF’s primary operating environment and the broader Indo-Pacific region.

[‘The bigger challenge for the ADF’s amphibious capability’](#) by David Beaumont (2015). This article suggests that the practical experiences of coming years that will prove to be the most vital factor in establishing confidence in the ADF’s amphibious capabilities and determining what is operationally achievable.

[‘Beyond 2017: Army’s amphibious destiny’ by Albert Palazzo](#) (2015). Argues that various authors of ADF amphibious papers have ‘played it safe’ and that none of the options for Army’s amphibious development discussed will lead to the ADF’s possession of an effective capability. It argues that they will provide an illusion of progress without real achievement, and offers alternate options.

[‘The ADF’s amphibious capability—some additional thoughts’](#) by Michael Clifford (2015). This article adds additional points to the debate around amphibious capability for the ADF, and looks specifically at the ‘amphibious assault’ capability.

Dean, P. J. (2014). [Amphibious operations and the evolution of Australian defence policy](#). *Naval War College Review*, 67(4), 20. This article traces the role of amphibious operations in the evolution of Australian defense policy. It argues that the Australian experience with amphibious operations has been ironic, in that while Australia's military forces conducted them in both world wars to support its interests and those of its major alliance partners, the potential for managing the nation's own regional security was not realized. However, with the end of the Cold War the ADF was forced to reorient its security strategy toward one requiring moderate projection and sustainment of forces to promote regional stability.

Dean, P. (2012). [Amphibious Warfare: Lessons from the Past for the ADF's Future](#). This article provides some exceptionally important lessons on training, doctrine, joint operations and cooperation with allies; especially in relation to Australia’s only modern maritime campaign, the South West Pacific Area 1942-45.

Evans, M. (2011). [On Military Grammar: The Australian Army beyond Afghanistan](#). *Security Challenges*, 7(2), 33-40. This article covers a number of topics, but pages 36-38 specifically focus on the need for improved knowledge of stabilisation and amphibious warfare.

Crawley, R. (2014). [Sustaining amphibious operations in the Asia-Pacific: Logistic lessons for Australia, 1914-2014](#). *Australian Defence Force Journal*, (193), 28. (See pages 28-39) Through a series of case studies, chosen because they represent three very different military operations over nearly a century of service, this article examines the logistic systems and both the successes and failures of past attempts at sustaining operations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Leggatt, R. J. (2013). [The future of the Amphibious Task Force](#). *United Service*, 64(3), 21.

Link required to full article – This article explains how an amphibious task force capability fits into Australia’s maritime strategy and then explain what an amphibious task force can contribute to a maritime strategy.

Brett Friedman " Blood and Water: The Present and Future of Amphibious Operations", *Journal of Military Operations*, Volume 1, Issue No. 2, Fall 2012, pages 12-15.

Cole Petersen "[Over the Beach: The Enduring Utility of Amphibious Operations](#)" *Journal of Military Operations*, Volume 2, Issue No. 4, Fall 2014, pages 22-26. The report suggests that the largest inhibiting factor for today's amphibious forces is the resource requirement to counter, degrade or circumvent the technological capabilities of the defender. Amphibious operations are a true joint force capability, requiring investment in all facets of the system to ensure viability.

Think Tank reports

Martin, B. (2017). [Amphibious Operations in Contested Environments](#). This testimony examines amphibious missions and operations, the challenges associated with such operations, and changes in future threats and capabilities

Byran Clark & Jesse Sloman, [Advancing Beyond the Beach: Amphibious Operation in an era of precision weapons](#). CSBA, 2016. This is a great read and one of the best assessment of where Amphib is going in the contemporary operating environment - highly recommended for those supporting and involved with amphibious operations.

Additional Resources

The remainder of the resources will expand your knowledge for those with a keen interest in understanding strategy.

Some of the links won't work on the DPN / DSN, so the best thing to do is forward the list to a civilian email address or tablet. After that you should be able to access everything. Many books are available to be delivered to your work address via the Defence Library Service (email: askalibrarian@defence.gov.au) or on Kindle.

Web Resources, Videos, Podcasts, Articles and Case Studies:

ADF [Amphibious Capability Development](#) Website (DPN Only). The official site of HQ 1 Div/DJGFH which aims to achieve capability development milestones laid out in the Canberra Class Amphibious Assault Ship Capability Realisation Plan (CRP).

Course (DPN Only, serving members only): [Introduction to Amphibious Planning Course \(IAPC\)](#). A one-week course offered by the ADF Warfare Training Centre for E6-O4 designed to train students in the planning and execution of amphibious operations. Speak to your unit chain of command to see if you can attend.

Video: [USMC Amphibious operations documentary](#). This 24 minute video primarily showcases the various weapons, equipment and technologies available within the USMC and how they are used to support amphibious assault tasks.

Video: 2013 International Conference on WWII – [Learning the lessons of amphibious landings](#). Conference footage starts at 12:25 and provides two presentations on amphibious landings followed by a Q&A session. The first by Rick Atkinson on 'a tale of two invasions: Salerno vs. Anzio' and the second by Dr Allan Millett on 'Tarawa and the future landings in the Pacific.'

Video: [Working with pacific allies and partners in amphibious operations](#) panel discussion. A panel featuring COL Masashi Yamamoto (Military Attaché, Japan Ground Self Defense Force) and Andrew Shearer (Former Australian National Security Advisor) talking about the value of amphibious forces and working with allies in the region. Watch from 12:00 to hear the Australia-specific discussion, and Q&A session.

Podcast: [Amphibious Series - Episode 1 Defining Australian Amphibious Capability](#). During the interview they discuss what we need to know about amphibious operations, the relationship between the CATF and CLF and the ADF's amphibious platforms.

Podcast: [Amphibious Series - Episode 2 The unit at the heart of Australia's Amphibious Capability](#). During the interview they discuss how 2 RAR's structure supports amphibious operations, the development of the pre-landing force, the enablers required to make it work, and the unique challenges with the unit's composition.

Podcast: [Amphibious Series - Episode 3 Using the Amphibious capability to contribute to Contemporary Operations](#). During the interview they discuss the opportunities the capability offers commanders, the lessons learned from conducting operations, and the importance of effective junior leadership.

Podcast: [Amphibious Operations in WWII](#). This episode of the WWII Podcast looks at the amphibious operations during the war. Many are familiar with those in the European theatre, but few are aware of the number in the Pacific. The episode features Mike Walling the author of 'Bloodstained Sands.'

Podcast: [Sea control Falklands series – amphibious panel](#). Amphibious Task Group Commander, Captain Michael Clapp, the Brigade Commander 3rd Commando Brigade, Major General Julian Thompson, and the Amphibious Task Group's Chief of Staff & Flag Captain, Rear Admiral Jeremy Larken. This was the command group of the amphibious forces in the Falklands, the commanders who lead the Royal Marines and Royal Navy into San Carlos.