



Army in Motion

Accelerated Warfare Statement

by Lieutenant General Rick Burr, AO, DSC, MVO

The Challenge: Accelerated Warfare

Accelerated Warfare describes changes occurring in global, regional and domestic operating environments.

Army's teams have always adapted to new challenges, but we are now experiencing changes to the character of warfare at a rate faster than many of our processes, concepts, capabilities and structures were designed for.

Grouping these changes under the term **Accelerated Warfare** focuses our thinking on how Army's teams contribute to the joint and integrated force – for today's operations and how they need to adapt for the future.

Army is responding to **Accelerated Warfare** as an **Army in Motion** – our teams are *ready now* and *future ready* for cooperation, competition and conflict.

Accelerating and converging change

Change is occurring across political, military, economic, social, physical and informational environments.

These accelerating changes are combining with new ideas and concepts. This challenges how Army thinks, equips, trains, educates, organises and prepares.

Army is alert to the following threats and trends:

- **War.** Warfare takes many forms. Combat readiness for operations and contingencies remains essential to deter and defend against conventional and unconventional threats.
- **Strategic competition.** Some state and non-state actors are using coercive means below the threshold of war to gain advantage and disrupt other actors. These 'grey zone' actions, combined with information operations and cyber-attacks, are increasing the intensity of competitive actions across diplomatic, information, military and economic elements of national power.
- **Weapons proliferation.** The pace of weapons proliferation including missiles and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons is increasing. This is challenging international norms.
- **Violent extremist organisations.** The actions of violent extremist organisations continue to threaten Australia's security. It is difficult to know when and where this threat will manifest.
- **Demographics and societal change.** Demographic drivers, societal shifts, the pace of urbanisation and climate change are all

impacting our region. This is increasing the likelihood and consequences of disaster events.

- **Technology convergence.** Technology is evolving rapidly in artificial intelligence, machine-learning, robotics, autonomous systems, space, quantum computing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, directed energy, hypersonics, precision weaponry, power sources, signature management, network integration and advanced materials. The convergence of this technology is challenging our traditional structures and processes.
- **Warfare in all domains.** Military forces are being challenged by new technology that gives actors the capability to operate in all domains (land, air, maritime, space, cyber and information, and the human dimension). No single system can address the breadth of vulnerabilities and opportunities.
- **Warfare at all ranges.** Weapons technology are combining with sophisticated concepts for anti-access/area denial (A2/AD). This is creating the ability for state and non-state actors to strike vehicles, aircraft, ships and infrastructure at hundreds and thousands of kilometres.
- **Robotic and autonomous systems.** Swarming low-cost technologies are increasing. This makes major military systems across ground, air, surface and sub-surface platforms vulnerable.
- **Information, cyber and data.** New technologies are being supported by space control, information dominance and cyber-attacks. Data is key. The challenge is to collect, process and disseminate this information at meaningful volume, speed and accuracy while protecting it from disruption and deception.

The pace and combination of these changes demands a response.

The Response: Army in Motion

The world is always changing, and we can never stand still. **Accelerated Warfare** requires Army to be comfortable with the need for continual change. This means purposefully learning, adapting and transforming while ensuring continuity, where needed, for the things we do well.

Army in Motion describes Army's central idea in a time of accelerating and converging change. We are *ready now* for today's operations while preparing to be *future ready* for the challenges ahead.

Cooperation, competition and conflict

Simultaneous cooperation, competition and conflict is occurring across all domains and elements of national power. Advantage lies with the side who can excel in cooperation, who can best prepare the environment in competition and who can adapt the fastest in

conditions of volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity.

- **Cooperation.** Australia's relationship with allies and partners are critical to mitigate threats, create military advantage and shape our environment. Cooperation is part of Army's DNA. Army progresses shared strategic interests through our Army-to-Army people links. We cooperate through understanding, respect and mutual advancement. Australia's **good soldiers** – professional and ethical leaders – provide a competitive advantage in cooperation.
- **Competition.** Army contributes to managing and resolving contests before conflict starts. Army is 'stepping up' its competitive actions in accordance with the Defence Strategic Update. We are continuing to be responsive to disasters and crisis, countering the threat of violent extremist organisations and supporting the Joint Force to deter potential adversaries.
- **Conflict.** War remains a human endeavour. The outcomes of war are most readily felt by populations that live on land. Army's people must be prepared for war – its violence, friction, uncertainty, chance and human dimension. Conflict will be fought underground, in jungles, swamps, deserts, mountains and wherever people are. This will be increasingly in urban and littoral areas, across the electromagnetic spectrum and within the cyber and information domains. We must be prepared to respond and conduct warfare in all domains and at all ranges.

Army's Contribution to Defence Strategy

Army is not sitting still and waiting to react to the future. We are responding proactively and meaningfully to Defence strategy. *Army's Contribution to Defence Strategy Edition Two* outlines what Army is doing to be *ready now*, *future ready* for **Accelerated Warfare**. Army is:

- Transforming our **training system** and **workforce** to increase capacity and agility.
- Introducing **new capability** and **concepts**. This includes protected manoeuvre; integrated air and missile defence; long range fires; human performance; information advantage; cyber; data; special warfare; smarter and smaller distributed systems; robotic and autonomous systems; and vehicles, helicopters and watercraft for regional access.
- Engaging in a continuous **contest of ideas** and creating capacity by **simplifying the Army**.

Together these actions will enable Army to prepare more teams, for more tasks, more often to meet the demands of Defence Strategy.