

# Editorial

## THE PRIVATE WORLD OF INTELLIGENCE

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### Special Edition Editors

It has been argued that since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, no other profession has experienced change to the same extent as that of intelligence. As evidence of this we have seen the profession grow in the number of analysts being employed and the targets they are tasked to address. As well as these changes, intelligence projects and missions have become more complex. Moreover, the increased activities associated with post-9/11 intelligence have resulted in privatising some aspects of intelligence work. As an indicator, we are now seeing scholarly texts appear in the subject literature that are specifically addressing the privatisation of intelligence as a topic—one such book is reviewed in this special issue of *Salus Journal*. The topic of privatisation of intelligence was discussed in its worldwide context during a one-day symposium in Canberra on 8 August 2013.

The symposium was hosted by Charles Sturt University and the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security, and was held at the National Press Club. Dr Troy Whitford, a lecturer in history and politics at Charles Sturt University, was the symposium's convenor. During Dr Whitford's opening address to the delegates, he pointed out that intelligence activities such as agent and analyst recruitment, open-source information gathering, covert surveillance, and data analysis are being privatised. In response, private investigation firms are now contracting services to government and non-government organisations, as well as the corporate sector.

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Dr Whitford welcomed speakers at *The Privatisation of Intelligence* symposium who included: former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Professor Mick Palmer, AO, APM; Head of the Olympic Intelligence Centre and the National Olympic Intelligence Project for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games, Ms Sue Wilkinson; Director at Civil Liberties Australia, Mr Tim Vines; and Assistant Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security, Mr Jake Blight.

Papers presented at the symposium were considered for inclusion in this special issue of *Salus Journal*—we are pleased to be able to present two critical essays and three unclassified papers representing the sampling of perspectives of the practitioners and academics who attended. We commend these papers to you as examples of “the private world of intelligence,” and in doing so extend our gratitude to the Editorial Board’s Associate Editors for giving of their time to review them.

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