

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INDUSTRIAL MOBILISATION COURSE (IMC), THE DEFENCE AND INDUSTRY STUDY COURSE (DISC) AND THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY COURSES ALUMNI (DICA)

What follows is a brief history of the IMC and DISC and their DICA connection.

The story begins during the Second World War.

The Industrial Mobilisation Course (IMC)

1939-45: During the Second World War, Sir John Storey experienced the difficulties encountered by Industry in trying to meet the demands of the Services in times of emergency. These demands on occasions were unreasonable and they indicated a serious lack of understanding on the part of the Service officers of the complications, limitations and difficulties of manufacture and production. On the other hand, some industries were ignorant of the practical requirements of the Services for mobilisation. In 1949 the Joint War Production Committee (JWPC) was formed and Sir John was appointed Chairman.

1953-54: Early in 1953, following a recommendation by the JWPC, a course of lectures was developed to give selected officers of the Departments of Defence, Navy, Army, Air, Treasury, Defence Production and Supply, an understanding of Australia's industrial potential and the problems associated with industrial mobilisation.

This initial course was conducted in Melbourne over a two-year period. It was attended by some 144 students, many of whom were posted away during the term of the Course. As a result only 84 attended sufficient lectures to be regarded as having completed the Course.

The first lectures from March 1953 to May 1953 were held in the RAAMC Drill Hall, William Street, Melbourne. This hall proved unsuitable and from June 1953 to November 1954 the Lecture Theatre at the School of Commerce, Melbourne University was used. Twenty lectures and seven industrial visits were programmed.

Later in 1953, Sir John Storey visited the U.S. Industrial College to study how its aims could best be achieved in Australia. After the Defence Committee considered his report it was decided to develop the initial course of lectures further and to appoint a full-time officer as Director of Studies. It was decided that the post of Director of Studies be occupied in turn, for a two-year period by an officer from each of the three Services, with the rank of Colonel or equivalent. On 1 November 1954 Group Captain C.G. Cleary, RAAF was appointed as the first Director and was located in Room 121, A Block, Victoria Barracks in Melbourne.

In principle the Industrial Mobilisation Course followed the pattern set by the United States Industrial College of the Armed Forces. The United States Army Industrial College later expanded to include all Services, was established in 1924 with the charter to study the problems of the planning and administration of the mobilisation of the American economy in time of national emergency.

The first few courses were composed principally of Service officers, with only a few members from Industry.

1955: This was the first year that the Industrial Mobilisation Course was conducted in both Melbourne and Sydney. The Victorian IMC extended from February to October

1955, and the NSW IMC from March to November. These Courses consisted of two symposia, evening lectures and visits to industrial organisations.

The first and second symposia, of two and four days duration respectively, were held at Melbourne University and were attended by both Courses. The Courses comprised some 24 lectures, including 9 lectures which were delivered at the initial symposia, and visits to industrial organisations such as BHP, Cockatoo Dockyard, Shell, Olympic Tyre and Rubber Co, Long Range Weapons Establishment, Snowy Mountain Authority, Heinz, Government Aircraft Factories, Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, etc.

1956: Sir Ian McLennan became Chairman of the JWPC in December 1956 and assumed the responsibility, through that Committee, for policy in relation to the conduct of Industrial Mobilisation Courses.

1956-60: Courses were held annually in both Sydney and Melbourne.

1961: An additional course was held in Brisbane. Thereafter the Course rotated between Brisbane, Adelaide (1962) and Perth (1963).

1963: First Melbourne Refresher Course was held at Melbourne University on 22 May 1963 for about 60 graduates.

1965: Refresher Course held in Canberra.

Refresher Courses continued each year until 1970 in the following locations:

- Melbourne (1966 and 68)
- Sydney (1967)
- Brisbane(1969)
- Adelaide (1970)

These courses were attended by approximately 100 graduates and were typically scheduled over two consecutive days.

1969: 1969 saw the JWPC replaced by the Defence (Industrial) Committee. Sir Ian continued as Chairman of the D(I)C until his retirement in September 1977. Subsequently the D(I)C was retitled as the Defence Industry Committee (DIC). A Course was held in ACT. This was repeated in 1975 and 1978 and then ceased.

1975: Visit to Australia by 1975 class of the US Industrial college of the Armed Forces.

1979: IMC Silver Jubilee Dinner (1955- 79) held at RAAF Laverton on 2 December 1979 and attended by approximately 150 graduates and invited guests. The dinner was preceded by a buffet luncheon and a seminar which included presentations by Mr D.H. Elthrigam (Deputy Secretary C, Department of Defence), Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot, KBE, AO, RAN (Chief of Defence Force Staff), Mr B. Loton (Vice Chairman DIC and Chief General Manager BHP) and Mr A. Maitland (Chief Economist ANZ Banking Group Ltd). The speaker at the dinner was The Honourable D.J. Killen, MP, Minister for Defence.

The Defence (and) Industry Study Course (DISC)

In 1992 the then Minister for Defence, Senator Ray, commissioned an independent consultant to review all aspects of the IMC and consider the relative merits and benefits of the Course. As a result of this review and many messages of support from industry, a re-focused course was trialed in New South Wales in 1993. The format of the Course was changed to focus more on the broader strategic issues rather than a visit-based syllabus. This new Course was named the Defence Industry Study Course (DISC) and its aim was:

“To enhance the business relationships between Defence and industry by facilitating a mutual understanding of the cultures, policies, capabilities, limitations, strengths and weaknesses of Defence, industry and the Public Service (Commonwealth and State).”

From 1994, Defence Industry Study Courses have been run annually in Victoria and New South Wales and in South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland whenever numbers permit. The format of the DISC is similar to that of the IMC in that the course is comprised of lectures, seminars and visits to different Industries and military installations.

In 1996 the Course name had a major yet significant change. The new name became the Defence **and** Industry Study Course to reflect the emphasis of a course that involved representatives from industry and Defence studying together rather than the emphasis being on a "Defence Industry" course. It was obvious that some relatively younger managers, who were not familiar with the old IMC or DISC, perceived the course as being of interest only to industries that were involved with Defence work. The name change aimed at correcting this misconception.

INDUSTRIAL MOBILISATION COURSE ASSOCIATION (IMCA) AND DEFENCE AND INDUSTRY COURSES ASSOCIATION (DAICA)

The formation of an association for IMC graduates was proposed in 1989 and an Interim Council, chaired by Tom Trinder, was established. The first AGM of IMCA was held in 1990 with Major General John Stevenson elected as the Association's President. State Chapters were also formed in Vic, NSW, Qld, ACT, WA and SA.

The IMCA became the Defence and Industry Courses Association (DAICA) in October 1997 for graduates of both the IMC and DISC.

The Defence Industry Courses Alumni (DICA)

DAICA was renamed the Defence Industry Courses Alumni (DICA) from 24th November 2010.

The matter of a name change first arose as an element of an overall Review of DAICA carried out in August 2007.

Apart from the push for change which began in mid-2007, the consensus view was that the name DAICA failed to capture the organisation’s alumni focus and thrust which could prove important for the organisation’s future business direction.

The name change had to accommodate non-graduate as well as graduate members of the IMC and DISC (and the full range of prospective future classes of members)and a range of alternative names were canvassed including the following:

- DISCA – Defence Industry Study Course Association (dismissed due to perceived disenfranchising of IMC graduates)
- DIA - Defence Industry Association (dismissed as too broad)
- DICA – Defence Industry College Alumni (dismissed as college status uncertain)
- DICA – Defence Industry Council of Australia (dismissed as too grand)
- DICA – Defence Industry Courses Alumni (function and description well aligned)

DICA is organised at a National level with a National Council and State Chapters.

Since 2002 DISC students are granted a two-year complimentary DICA membership at the time they commence the Course. Continuing membership is then subject to payment of an annual or Life membership subscription.

Since its formation in 1989 until today, DICA has grown steadily in stature with the Department of Defence and Government as an important link in the Defence/industry relationship.

.....