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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **A Change At The Helm**

After four years of outstanding service, Serge DeSilva-Ranasinghe is stepping aside from the presidency of AIDN-WA to pursue his business interests. He will, however, retain a strong link with AIDN-WA as a member of its Senior Advisory Panel and assist the incoming president to affect a smooth transition.

Under his leadership, Serge has taken the Association from one of its low points to an historical high, leaving in his wake a credible legacy for WA's Defence sector. For instance, he established the biennial West Coast Defence Dialogue, a Chatham House discussion forum to serve as WA's premier defence policy development mechanism, and founded AIDN-WA's trademark annual keynote speaker event: the Sir John Forrest Oration. The latter which has seen prominent speakers brought to Perth from both senior Defence ranks and from overseas.

Serge's growing reputation has brought numerous openings for engagement with sponsors to fund AIDN-WA events, and jointly staged events with other reputable organisations. Similarly, his commitment to a corporate social responsibility led to hosting events on the recruitment and retention of Indigenous people in Defence, and on the representation of women in Defence: both of which were a first for WA.

Providing the impetus for an effective advocacy and briefing program to inform about WA's Defence sector, Serge engaged politicians, peak body heads, federal, state and local government officials representing AIDN-WA. He also orchestrated AIDN-WA's comprehensive policy submission to the 2016 Defence White Paper, and established a Senior Advisory Panel for AIDN-WA, which consists of Senior Associates with outstanding senior Defence and/or defence industry experience to support the work of the Board.

Serge is leaving to put his energies into establishing his on-line magazine: [WA DEFENCE REVIEW](#). Under this brand he will still be mounting defence relevant events on the Perth scene. The new business will be officially launched at an event on April 19.

Temporarily holding the presidency until a more permanent replacement is confirmed at the AGM, is Paul Roberts of L3 Oceania. The company is a leading provider of maritime systems and solutions in the surface, undersea, geospatial and network centric spheres of operation for both defence and commercial applications. Paul has until now been a vice president of AIDN-WA with a specialisation in representing WA with the AIDN national organisation.

The Board of AIDN-WA wished Serge DeSilva-Ranasinghe every success in his new endeavours and believed they would long appreciate his dedicated application and success in effecting the Association's revitalisation.