The Future of the Warfighter Conference:
Armed Forces People in the 21st Century

Thursday 23rd November 2017
61 Whitehall, London, SWA1 2ET

0930 Registration and Refreshments

1000 Opening Keynote
Speaker: Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP, Minister for Defence People and Veterans

1030 Session One: Understanding the Requirement
- What does the future warfighter look like? What sort of skills and capabilities will be required, and will the requirement change in terms of numbers as robotics within the workforce becomes normalised? How are these requirements reflected in society?
- Should Defence and the armed forces play a role in developing required skills before recruitment?
- Do we understand the requirement for STEM/critical thinking skills in military personnel and the extent to which these will be available in broader society or will require development?
- How much AI can replace the role of commanders and their specialist military experience?

Chair: Ewan Lawson, Senior Research Fellow, Military Influence, RUSI
General Sir Richard Barrons, Senior Associate Fellow, RUSI
Professor David Betz, Professor of War in the Modern World, King’s College London

1200 Lunch

1300 Gallipoli Memorial Lecture
Conference Attendees are welcome to attend this exclusive RUSI event in which Admiral Sir Philip Jones will consider the lessons of the Gallipoli Campaign and its significance in the planning of future combined operations.

Speaker: Admiral Sir Philip Jones, First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff

1400 Session Two: Recruiting the Future Warfighter
- Do the next generation of recruitment targets need a different offer? If so, what might that look like and what lessons are transferable from industry and further abroad? Do we have a sufficiently robust understanding of those potential recruitment targets?
- What other opportunities exist for novel ways of recruitment such as lateral entry and how successful is such an approach likely to be?
- Are there any lessons to be learned from those European countries that still utilise conscription?

Chair: Dr Peter Roberts, Director - Military Sciences, RUSI
Elisabeth Braw, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council and Senior Consultant, Control Risks
Group Captain Wendy Rothery, Recruiting and Selection, Royal Air Force

1500 Refreshments
1530  **Session Four: Retaining the Warfighter**

- Outflows from the Armed Forces vary depending upon a variety of factors including operational tempo and the health of the economy. What are the factors that drive the approach of the individual services towards long-term contracts or limited contracts?
- What are the factors that contribute to service personnel deciding to leave early or extend?
- What are the levers that can be applied to control these flows?

**Chair:**  
**Professor John Louth,** Director - Defence, Industry and Society, RUSI  
**Air Commodore Brian Edwards,** Head, Australian Defence Staff, Australian High Commission  
**Dr Gabriela Thompson,** Research Fellow, RUSI

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1645  **Closing Keynote**

1715  **Conference End**