Remembrance Day Contest - Introduction - 2023

lead-in countdown beeps

THIS TRANSMISSION STARTS

so that the *last* word (“Open”) is at 02:59:58UTC

(Competition starts: Sat 12th August 2023, 0300 UTC / 1300AEST)

**Peter Ellis VK1PE**

Welcome in 2023 to the Remembrance Day Contest, Australia’s biggest and most significant annual amateur radio competition. I am Peter Ellis VK1PE, formerly a full-time officer in the Navy and Reservist.

Each year we pause to consider the roles that amateurs played in World War II, and we honour the passing of the brave service men (and we know of no women) who were killed during the hostilities. But, if you need reminding, idea of the contest is to have fun. For this 24 hours, the bands will be at their busiest for the whole year, so please be involved.

The rules for this weekend’s contest were published on the WIA website, [*wia.org.au*](http://www.wia.org.au). Participate or just listen, but with even 30 minutes on air - particularly by submitting a log - your involvement will make a difference. Have you done many RD Contests, or is this your first RD? We’re confident that this 24 hour contest will be enjoyable. This contest for us Amateurs, just it has been every year since the late 1940s.

We conduct the RD Contest for 24 hours on the weekend closest to the day called VP Day – Victory in the Pacific Day, 15 August 1945. This day formally marked the end of World War II.

But let’s not forget these events on 13 August from WW2:

* 1940: The Canberra Air Disaster, the crash of a Lockheed Hudson just a few miles from touchdown, killed the Minister for the Army and Repatriation, [Brigadier Geoffrey Street](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoffrey_Street); Minister for Air and Civil Aviation, James Fairbairn; Chief of General Staff, [General Sir Brundenell White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brudenell_White); and the crew.
* 1941: The Australian Women’s Army Service was created.

So, each year in the RD we spend a little while quiet contemplating prior to its 0300 Zulu start, remembering those people who didn't make it back but whose efforts helped to save our nation; then, after 0300 Zulu we celebrate by competing together for up to 24 hours in a state versus state race to win the most on air contacts.

This year, we will hear from the President of the WIA, **Scott Williams  VK3KJ**, and have a reading of the names of Amateur Radio operators known to have been killed during WW2.

recorded msg ~2min , President WIA

reading of the names of the fallen Amateurs

Now, to our official speaker.

## Commodore James Nash, RAN

# Director General Explosive Ordnance – Joint Capabilities Group

CDRE James Nash is a Weapons Electrical Engineering officer by specialisation, with a sub-specialisation in Armaments Engineering. His shore postings have included acquisition, waterfront engineering, Navy, Joint and Overseas Headquarters positions.

Navy shore postings have included Technical Staff Officer (Navy) and Assistant Director Armaments. His sea-going postings have included postings in the frigate HMAS Adelaide (FFG-Oliver Hazard Perry Class), and Deputy Weapons Engineer in the destroyer HMAS Perth (DDG-Charles F. Adams Class). With his last sea posting as the Weapons Engineering Officer in HMAS Stuart (FFH- ANZAC Class). Operational postings have included six months as the Naval Assistant to Australian Ambassador Cairo in support of UN Sanction enforcement operations against Iraq. Whilst on HMAS Stuart, he was deployed in support of OP CATALYST.

In January 2012, he was promoted to Captain and was posted to the Destroyer Program Combat System Director, responsible for the delivery of the Aegis weapon system into the Australian Shipbuilding program. In July 2020, he graduated from the Eisenhower School at the USA’s National Defense University (NDU) and was posted to the Pentagon as an exchange officer with the US Navy. On return to Australia he was Director Interoperability within Force Integration Division.

In May 2022, he was promoted to Commodore and is posted as Director General Explosive within the Joint Capability Group.

CDRE Nash holds the degrees of: Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from University of NSW, Master in Science (Explosive Ordnance Engineering) from Cranfield University UK, Master in Business Administration and Complex Project Management from Queensland University of Technology, and Master in Science in National Resource Strategy from National Defense University, USA.

CDRE Nash is married to Kate and they have five children and a Labrador “Toby”.​​​​​​​​​

*Some personal remarks….*

**INTRODUCTION**

PE: **Commodore James Nash**, on behalf of the Wireless Institute of Australia, and the Amateur Radio operators of the nation, thank you for so readily agreeing to be our RD Contest speaker. As Amateurs, our interest is different from that of professional communicators, but it’s also interesting how many of us go out of our way to be of use to the community, not least through the WIA’s Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network.

I invite you to deliver the opening address.

**OPENING SPEECH**

Hello, I am pleased to be speaking to you for the Remembrance Day Contest, following others such as **Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, Major General Marcus Thompson, and last year Commodore Matt Doornbos**.

***Personal remarks:*** It is somewhat obvious that a Navy Weapons Electrical Engineering Officer is the person who knows about weapons; It is the first word in our title. In addition to weapons a significant part of my career has been focused on combat system and the associated networks that support the delivery of naval weapons.

When offered the opportunity to open this competition I had pause to reflect on the challenges and faced when operating wireless networks, the vagaries of atmospherics and the skill required to optimise the system. A challenge that I am well accustomed to when optimising radar and external communications performance on board navy vessels. The very fact that with WIA these has been a group in Australia honing these skills is testament to all those who have come before you and those of you who continue to develop skill in this area.

Now as Director General Explosive Ordnance in Joint Capabilities Group, I manage a network that delivers explosive ordnance to the Australian Defence Force as a whole. Do I sleep at night? Yes. The explosive ordnance organisation as with all of Defence has dedicated people, all over Australia, supporting the Defence Mission.

Australian service men and women continue to serve on operations and exercises around the globe just as their predecessors did. Poignantly, this year, we had the loss of four Army aviators onboard an MRH-90 Taipan helicopter of the 6th Aviation Regiment, in Queensland's Whitsunday area, during the international Exercise Talisman Sabre just two weeks ago.

They were:

Captain Danniel Lyon, Lieutenant Max Nugent,

Warrant Officer Class Two Joseph Laycock and Corporal Alexander Naggs.

Australian service men and women continue to serve on operations and exercises around the globe just as their predecessors did. Poignantly, this year, we had the loss of four Army crew onboard an MRH90 Taipan helicopter of the 6th Aviation Regiment, in Queensland's Whitsunday area, during the international Exercise Talisman Sabre just two weeks ago.

They were:

Captain Danniel Lyon, Lieutenant Max Nugent,

Warrant Officer Class Two Joseph Laycock and Corporal Alexander Naggs.

Radio Amateurs of Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea, on this weekend nearest the anniversary of VP Day, it is my great pleasure to formally **declare** the **Remembrance Day Contest** for **2023 -- Open**.

lead-out long “AR” .\_.\_. (“end of message”)

“CT” \_.\_.\_ (“commence transmission”)

CONTEST COMMENCES

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