

pre-excuse - I'll come back to SURTASS-E and Minimum Feasible Capability on Sunday -will not get it reliable in the next hour and they can handle a wait while I clear some emergent fun:

WHAT A GREAT STORY (I just stumbled over - the Gods of War must be back inside!)

<https://www.ans.org/news/article-1635/they-harnessed-the-atom-the-first-navy-prototype-nuclear-plant/>

Given the Hunter ANAO blade (to add another cut to ones the other 10-15 million hampy camper taxpayers want to inflict)

<https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/department-defences-procurement-hunter-class-frigates> I just want to direct people to the time timetable from go to 'underway on nuclear power'

Timetable of Submarine Thermal Reactor Project

- *April 1948 - Formal project established at Argonne National Laboratory*
- *June 1948 - Original Navy-Westinghouse contract*
- *December 1948 - Original AEC-Westinghouse contract*
- *March 1950 - Occupancy of new facilities at Bettis Site*
- *August 1950 - Commencement of STR Mark I construction, National Reactor Testing Station, Idaho*
- *August 1951 - Award of NAUTILUS construction contract to Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corporation*
- *June 1952 - Keel plate laying of USS NAUTILUS (SSN-571)*
- *March 1953 - First critical operation of STR Mark I prototype plant*
- *January 1954 - Launching of USS NAUTILUS*
- *September 1954 - Commissioning of USS NAUTILUS*

January 1955 With a simple radio message of "Underway on Nuclear Power," on the morning of 17 January 1955, the submarine Nautilus (SSN-571) cast off her mooring lines and steamed into a new era.

-this joint just doesn't have the bottle to even do it in even twice the time and with an existing technology base to learn from, shooting for 4 times and you know where that will end up.

And While you are at the Link for the ANAO on Hunter

<https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/department-defences-procurement-hunter-class-frigates>

The ANAO report is, as one engineer accurately described to me, like looking through the rear vision mirror. I guess that is the nature of Audit - and why we really really need a Government Accountability Office a la the USA - that can look forwards and sideways as well as through the wing and rear vision mirrors and their equivalent cameras (which could keep it all on the record). And when you read these reports and see the inexplicable gaps in the timelines you can only guess who was giving the orders off the record to omit certain elements of pretty straight forward processes. And for Defence to admit there are 730,000 documents (at least) already existing for a ship that doesn't simply highlights why so much dross is on record and so little key isn't. I wonder if the 10 unlocated documents are of the same import of the 10 things Moses had under his arm when he came back down from talking to the big boss of the day: I'd be betting they are.

and for those that don't want to suffer the detail in the link a Defence Connect story is at the bottom of the drop

The **AUKUS Unclassified Seminar** that is like Australian PROTECTED LIMDIST so it is really a NOFORN US only affair. Pretty much what the high fliers have committed the trench dwellers to be treated like for the rest of AUKUS really. No whinge against the US, it's always been like that - it's a country that looks after its industry rather than talking about looking after its industry whilst in the International Captain's Lounge, DFs in the bag, looking forward to some interesting foreign free lunches.

AUKUS Unclassified Seminar / 1PM on 30 May

This brief is being given at the **Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) / Distribution Statement D**: Distribution authorized to Department of Defense and U.S. DoD contractors level. Consequently, the information being shared is not publicly releasable and **only DoD contractors will be allowed to attend**. There will be no cell phones, recording, photography, or broadcasting of the slides or discussion. This is being done to allow for a full and open discussion between the government and vendors.

If you are eligible, check the NSL website page for more information and the link to Register:

<https://www.navalsubleague.org/events/unclassifiedseminar/>

This seminar is being sponsored by **Carahsoft**

Ah the anticipation of working with more of this sort of dedication from the other side of the pond as well. Oh that's right I'll be long gone -good luck kiddies. The highlights are the retired US Admiral's.

Iain Ballantyne, Editor at WARSHIPS IFR

"I was there to see HMS Vanguard arrive at Faslane for the first time in late 1992, then to see the nuclear deterrent submarine arrive at Plymouth for her 2002 refit. Last night was my first time observing the same SSBN leaving after completing a refit at Devonport Dockyard. Just happened to be having some beers with friends at a waterfront bar when said submarine made her way out across the Sound (seven years and five months after arriving at Devonport for refit two)."



[Classified Documents](#)

Senators propose classification system shake-up after Biden and Trump scandals

by [Samantha-Jo Roth, Congressional Reporter](#) |

May 10, 2023 02:34 PM

Interesting this is getting some air right now in view of AUKUS and the issues they are willing to try to change are totally refreshing in view of what we don't get to see because of Australia's incredible stance of protecting the reputations of the perpetrators with equal to more vigour than protecting the interests of the nation as a whole And if you don't believe me go here

<https://www.protectivesecurity.gov.au/system/files/2023-01/pspf-policy-08-sensitive-and-classified-information.pdf> and then

ponder Techo Rex's very successful attacks on the National Cabinet Claiming protection under such rules

<https://michaelwest.com.au/scott-morrison-s-secrecy-fetish-exposed-by-release-of-national-cabinet-papers/>

A bipartisan group of [senators](#) introduced two pieces of legislation on Wednesday that would make major changes to the security classification system in an effort to classify less material and tighten access to the nation's most sensitive secrets.

Sens. [Mark Warner \(D-VA\)](#), [John Cornyn \(R-TX\)](#), [Ron Wyden \(D-OR\)](#), and [Jerry Moran \(R-KS\)](#) introduced the legislation in an effort to reform the classification system after members of the Senate Intelligence Committee have struggled to conduct oversight of the

mishandling of classified documents by [President Joe Biden](#), [former President Donald Trump](#), and [former Vice President Mike Pence](#).

[MARK WARNER SAYS US SHOULD 'CLASSIFY LESS' FOLLOWING CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT LEAK](#)

Lawmakers only recently received access to the trove of documents after [pushing for months to learn more](#) about the items seized by the Justice Department, which maintains the existence of special counsels in the Trump and Biden cases limited its ability to share information with Congress. The DOJ has also argued the nature of the sensitive information could compromise the investigation.

The senators also aim to combat leaks of sensitive and highly classified material with specific provisions in a separate bill after a 21-year-old serviceman was [accused of leaking classified information](#) about the war in Ukraine into a chat on the encrypted communications platform Discord. It then made its way onto other social media platforms.

“We’ve got a byzantine, bizarre, bureaucratic system that has not kept up with the times, has not moved at all with digitalization,” said Warner, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, at a press conference on Wednesday. “So, consequently, we continue to over classify huge amounts of information, while at the same time not fully protecting our nation’s most important secrets.”

The [Classification Reform Act of 2023](#) would designate the director of national intelligence as the main point person for classification and declassification. Currently, there’s no one in charge of classification, and decisions are made across individual agencies. The bill would ensure information only remains classified when the harm to national security outweighs the public risk. It would enforce a maximum 25-year period for classification and would only allow agency heads or the president to extend classification protections beyond that duration. It would tax agencies based on how many classified records they generate and require a security review of presidential and vice presidential records to ensure classified documents are not marked as personal records. The legislation would also require minimum standards for executive branch insider threats programs, in an effort to prevent future leaks.

“It would make sure that there is an insider threat common standard across the communities,” Warner said in response to a question from the *Washington Examiner* about how the legislation would prevent leaks of classified material. “There are ways you can make sure you monitor how many copies are being made. There are ways to make sure people are not walking off with documents.”

“It goes to the point that basically everybody has made, if you have by default virtually everything classified, that the ability to keep that level of security high goes down,” Warner added.

The [Sensible Classification Act of 2023](#) will organize classification authority, dedicate more resources to declassifying materials, invest in new technology to improve the classification system, and evaluate the number of existing security clearances with sufficient justification.

“I just want to mention a more fundamental reason why we need to review our classification and declassification process, our democracy,” Cornyn said during the press conference. “Our ability to govern ourselves depends on the public getting access to information about what our government is doing and what government officials are doing.”

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack, Congress enacted reforms to cut through intelligence silos and ensure that information-sharing was occurring across federal agencies. But the group of senators said the federal government has yet to modernize the system, which is affecting the information-sharing process.

“Even after the records no longer meet the requirements for classification, they just keep piling up and piling up and never see the light of day,” Wyden said. “Sometimes, the agencies can’t find the records. Sometimes, they are hampered by the fact that the systems don’t talk to each other. Get this. The result is in 2023, documents actually have to be printed out and walked around town to get everybody to sign off before they are classified. So, we are not even in the right century with respect to technology on these crucial issues.”

The senators said officials at the White House have been made aware of the bill and admitted there are elements of the bill that likely could frustrate them.

“There will be some parts of the [intelligence community] that may have consternation, and we know we are being pretty aggressive here, but this is a debate whose time has come,” Warner said.

Warner said they have not had in-depth discussions with their counterparts in the House on the legislation and whether they intend to introduce a companion bill in the lower chamber.

Budget underscores how organising principles can advance core APS values

from today's The Mandarin

Having worked Tinsel Town I am just wondering how many blind alleys they can deliberately turn into as they try to Morph the behaviour from Indifference to reality to Integrity in all things WHEN THE DIRECT ROUTE IS PUT EVERYTHING ON THE RECORD from the Ministers nod and a wink down and every piece of advice and dissent upwards.

I recall John Diercks turning up some time in the middle of the Prescott MacIntosh Review Two Step (for the young: JD was a Dagger of the 80s who drove OXLEY and a short stint in ONONDAGA) before coming DCASS and he was reading the Tender Evaluation Working Group Reports of 1986 (ie 12 years prior) and because I was handy asked me if my Dissent Report on a particular subject was still valid - and he got his answer in Ultra Panavision 70 -yep they built exactly what I was dissenting about because the players didn't care that you couldn't speed translate a digital replica, you did not need to listen to the noise when you had signal processors doing it for you. JD instantly accepted, but 12 years prior the WEEOs and even the Dagger present showed me the door when I spat the dummy on that story! But the real reason JD was happy was because the record was there and it was consistent with the then current gripe from COLLINS. No work for him to further investigate fact/fiction and a story with its own time line integrity.

Integrity is one of four APS reform areas highlighted in the government's May Budget, with a mission to affirm and clarify the significance of an impartial and apolitical bureaucracy

The principles sit at the heart of stewardship, which is a concept that will be added to an official expansion of APS Values by updating the Public Service Act 1999.

In addition to a special APS integrity taskforce and embedding 'integrity' into the APS Values, optimal management structures were also flagged in Budget paper no.4 as central to the public service reform agenda that will build better trust and integrity in federal institutions.

"This includes supporting work to be done at the lowest appropriate level through optimal management structures," the paper read.

"The integrity of advice and ability of the APS to deliver policies and programs that respond to community needs not only builds government trust in the APS, most importantly it builds the Australian community's trust in government.

"To be effective stewards, public servants must work collectively to harness experience, diversity and resources to deliver common objectives."

The Mandarin previously reported on the APS integrity goals of the new NACC, due to commence on 1 July, as well as a special integrity taskforce working on system-wide integrity improvements across the government.

But public service minister Katy Gallagher also used Tuesday's Budget to outline how comprehensive reform of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013 (PID) would improve the protections afforded to commonwealth employees who wanted to blow the whistle on corruption and wrongdoing.

She noted there would be public consultation on redrafting of the PID Act around mid-2023 and the government planned to release a discussion paper for comment exploring the merits of establishing a new whistleblower commissioner's role or whistleblower protection authority.

"Following passage of priority amendments to the PID Act to make immediate improvements to the public sector whistleblowing scheme, the government will commence a second stage of reforms in 2023," the paper read.

The other three APS reform areas prioritised in budget paper no.4 were putting people and businesses at the centre of policy and services; making the APS a model employer; and lifting APS capability so staff can serve the public well.

\$4.6bn Hunter class frigates broadsided by ANAO as overdue, over budget

Defence minister Richard Marles and treasurer Jim Chalmers have been handed another piece of cost-cutting ammunition after a crucial audit of the problematic \$45.6 billion Hunter class frigate project revealed fresh cost blowouts and delivery time slip.

In a stinging Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report released on Wednesday, the locally built and heavily customised big boats have been found to be lacking in key value-for-money criteria and the procurement process for the design of the boats to be flawed.

“Defence’s procurement process and related advisory processes lacked a value for money focus, and key records, including the rationale for the procurement approach, were not retained,” the audit conclusion said.

“Contract expenditure to date has not been effective in delivering on project milestones, and the project is experiencing an 18-month delay and additional costs due in large part to design immaturity.

“Defence did not conduct an effective limited tender process for the ship design. The value for money of the three competing designs was not assessed by officials, as the Tender Evaluation Plan (TEP) proposed that government would do so.”

The Hunter class ships are replacing the Anzac frigates that have been in service since 1996 and are being designed by BAE Systems and built by ASC Shipbuilding.

Aside from providing the Royal Australian Navy with an advanced anti-submarine warship muscle, the vessels — based on BAE’s Global Combat Ship but with locally built radar — are a cornerstone of Australia’s sovereign continuous naval shipbuilding program and are slated to create 4,000 jobs nationally.

A key element of the Hunter class program is that they are built from locally produced steel, securing a key domestic heavy manufacturing capability amid growing global geopolitical instability.

Commissioned well before the AUKUS pact was bedded down, a key question arising out of the recent alliance is whether the program will need to be modified or scaled because of the decision for Australia to procure nuclear-powered submarines that will fire Tomahawk cruise missiles, another recent addition to Australia’s planned conventional naval arsenal.

A critical element of the recent Defence Strategic Review is [a review of Australia’s naval surface fleet](#) by retired US Vice Admiral William H. Hilarides with the former secretary of the Department of Finance Rosemary Huxtable and former RAN fleet commander Vice-Admiral Stuart Mayer (ret.).

That review is likely to canvas what the optimal ship size may now be given that Australia’s new nuclear-powered submarines, initially to be US Virginia class boats, will play in force projection and undersea and surface warfare posture.

Tomahawks are also in that mix, especially if smaller and faster ships can carry them and provide greater coverage of Australia’s areas of strategic interest.

The audit report also found Defence is still trying to figure out what the Hunter class frigates will ultimately cost.

“As of March 2023, while Defence had advised portfolio ministers that the program is under extreme cost pressure, it had not advised government of its revised acquisition cost estimate, on the basis that it is still refining and validating the estimate,” the audit report said.

However, Defence, as is its wont, has fired back in its response to the grim audit report, especially the finding about issues with record keeping.

“Defence is committed to complying with statutory record-keeping requirements,” it said. “Defence notes that the Hunter class frigate project has over 730,000 documents (more if the multiple versions of documents as they are amended over time are included) within its Records Management System. Of the thousands of documents identified and requested by the ANAO, less than 10 documents were unable to be located across the department.

“Defence ensures all procurement advice to government on major acquisition projects includes the basis and rationale for proposed decisions, including value for money and whole-of-life cost estimates, and contends that this did occur in relation to the Hunter class frigate project.”