

Bass Hill RSL Sub-Branch

PO Box 7019,
Bass Hill, NSW 2197

Email: sub-branch@basshillrslsb.org.au
www.basshillrslsb.org.au

Now on Facebook



"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance"

Newsletter

Issue 120

January, 2024

SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE—2023—2026

- President** Ian Muirhead*
- Vice Presidents**..... Ambrose Dinh JP, Jamil (Jim) Baba
- Secretary**..... Gary Roser JP * - 0409 919 364
- Treasurer** Ron Duckworth *
- Minute Secretary** Lee-Ann Taylor JP*
- Committee** Trevor Philip, David Tu, Brian Abbot,
..... Greg Brown
- Welfare Officer** Greg Brown
- FSMDC Delegates** Ron Duckworth, Ian Muirhead
- FSMDC Alt Delegate**..... Gary Roser JP
- Sub-Branch Trustees** Ron Duckworth, Jim Baba, Jeff Stone
- Newsletter Editor**..... Gary Roser JP - 0409 919 364
- Newsletter Editorial Production**..... Ron Duckworth
- Bankstown City Aged Care** Ian Muirhead, Greg Brown
- Schools Liaison Officer** Ambrose Dinh JP

For service, ring the Secretary, Gary Roser on 0409 919 364
** Life Member*



EDITORIAL**
Gary Roser, Editor

The commencement of 2024 makes me wonder what we have in store for us. Russia invading The Ukraine, Palestinian terrorists killing and kidnapping innocent Israelis. Innocent Palestinians being killed by Israelis. China building itself many war ships and bases in the China Sea; threatening Taiwan with invasion. Terrorists insurgency in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria and Sudan. Civil War in Colombia due to drugs, Civil War in Ethiopia, Mali, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. Iran backed Houthi and Somali pirates terrorising shipping in the Red Sea. Even the Mexican and Columbian Governments are waging war against the drug cartels.

What is the future for our world? There has always been war somewhere, but currently this look very scary. We don't want to be involved in other people's wars, but we are allies of the USA and have signed a pact with them. Which way the USA will jump we don't know. I can only hope Australia does not become involved in any war. Vietnam and Afghanistan are prime examples of wars that we couldn't control. My opinion.

***The editorial is entirely my own opinion and does not reflect the Sub-Branch Executive.*

| Sub-Branch Meetings | |
|---|--|
| <u>Committee</u> Mondays 16:15 | <u>Sub-Branch</u> Sundays 10:30am |
| 15/01/24 | 21/01/24 |
| 19/02/24 | 25/02/24 10:00 AGM |
| 18/03/24 | 24/03/24 |

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Happy New Year to all. I trust that everyone had a good Christmas and you are now ready for even better year in 2024.

In saying that, Membership renewals are now due. With this newsletter is a renewal letter. Fees may be paid in cash at the next meeting or follow the instructions in the letter.

The year did not start well as we had a funeral to conduct following the passing of Ron Schulties just before Christmas. Ron was our oldest Member, turning 104 last October.

Ron joined the sub-Branch in March 2014, transferring from Foster-Tuncurry RSL sub-Branch when he moved into the Georges Manor Nursing Home.

My thanks to Greg Brown, our Welfare Officer for looking after Ron whilst in the Nursing Home and to Ron Duckworth for conducting the RSL Tribute.

We are in the process of completing our Annual Audit and this will be presented at the AGM in February. We will also be conducting an election to fill a casual vacancy left by the death of Ian Kennedy.

Stay safe and we will see you at the meeting.

Ian Muirhead
President



Shelled Tank

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Another year older. And many of us can feel it in our bones. But that's no time to rest.

After being to the funeral of our oldest Member, Ron Schulties, aged 104, I realise that many of us lead a productive life and give our all to our families throughout the years. He was a great provider and a real family man, just like many of our Members.

This year, 2024, will be no different for some of us who put our heart and soul into the sub-Branch. When we look at some other some Branches we see that they are doing very little for their Members. Welfare of our Members is the main reason we are here. I have been told of a sub-Branch who have given big money to RSLNSW but do almost nothing for their Members. Just to have a meeting 4 times a year and do nothing else is not what we are about. And at this moment their Committee is in turmoil.

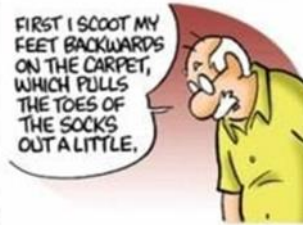
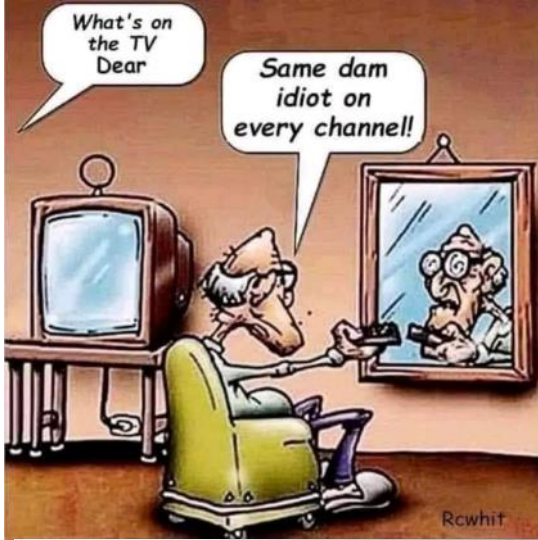
But saying that, it is up to you (the Members) to think about stepping up to the plate in the future to help run Bass Hill. Ron has been on the executive for umpteen years and I for about 17 years. I know I won't be standing next election although it is two years away.

Jim Baba is standing in for me whilst I am in New Zealand. Good luck Jim. It's not an easy road. I know Ron will be able to answer any questions and Lee-Ann is well versed in secretarial work, but she still works full time.

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway school excursions we pay for have been a great success. We would like to see more of our Members take our place now and then. Basically, it is the same people who go with the kids. On saying this we need to thank our Associate Member Franklin Davies, (known to us as Frank) for his dedication to the kids excursions. Very seldom he misses out attending. He marshals the kids and makes it easy for the teachers and guides. Also he made a great Santa Clause last month. And of course our own Reg Chard who is a guide at the Kokoda Memorial. He is now our oldest Member at age 100. If he can still work then it's not hard for other Members to help our sub-Branch every now and then. Have a great 2024, be safe and stay above ground.

Gary Roser, J.P.

You Know When Your Over the Hill When.....



©Brian Crane Dist. by The Washington Post Writers Group

Feature Article

Unveiling the Mighty DDG 1000:

Exploring the Impressive United States Navy Elmo Zumwalt Class Destroyer

*By **Top Zedd** [Unveiling the Mighty DDG 1000: Exploring the Impressive Elmo Zumwalt Class Destroyer \(bantins.online\)](#)*



Developed under the DD(X) destroyer program, the Zumwalt-class destroyer (DDG 1000) is the lead ship of a class of next-generation multi-mission surface combatants tailored for land attack and littoral dominance with capabilities that defeat current and projected threats.

DDG 1000 will triple naval surface fires coverage as well as tripling capability against anti-ship cruise missiles. DDG 1000 has a 50-fold radar cross section reduction compared to current destroyers, improves strike group defense 10-fold and has 10 times the operating area in shallow water regions against mines. For today's warfighter, DDG 1000 fills an immediate and critical naval-warfare gap, meeting validated Marine Corps fire support requirements.

In July 2008, the United States Navy announced its decision to truncate the DDG 1000 program at three ships and restart the construction of BMD capable DDG 51s. The Department's decision to truncate the DDG 1000 program and continue building DDG 51 class ships triggered a

Nonni McCurdy critical cost breach due primarily to a reduction in total procurement quantity.

The multi-mission DDG 1000 is tailored for sustained operations in the littorals and land attack, and will provide independent forward presence and deterrence, support special operations forces, and operate as an integral part of joint and combined expeditionary forces. Its multi-mission design and littoral capabilities make it a 100% percent globally deployable asset to the Fleet.

Designed to combat the threats of today as well as those of coming decades, these ships are equipped with numerous advanced technology and survivability systems.

DDG 1000 is the first U.S. Navy surface combatant to employ an innovative and highly survivable Integrated power System (IPS). Key design features that make the DDG 1000 IPS architecture unique include the ability to provide power to propulsion, ship's service, and combat system loads from the same gas turbine prime movers. DDG 1000's power allocation flexibility allows for potentially significant energy savings and is well-suited to enable future high energy weapons and sensors.

The wave-piercing Tumblehome ship design has provided a wide array of advancements. The composite superstructure significantly reduces cross section and acoustic output making the ship harder to detect by enemies at sea. The design also allows for optimal manning with a standard crew size of 158 sailors (including air det) thereby decreasing lifecycle operations and support costs.

DDG 1000 will employ active and passive sensors and a Multi-Function Radar (MFR) capable of conducting area air surveillance, including over-land, throughout the extremely difficult and cluttered sea-land interface.

Each ship features a battery of two Advanced gun Systems (AGS) firing Long-Range Land attack Projectiles (LRLAP) that reach up to 63 nautical miles, providing a three-fold range improvement in naval surface fires coverage.

General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (BIW) is responsible for design, construction, integration, testing and delivery of the DDG 1000 class, and DDG 1002 steel deckhouse, hangar and aft Peripheral Vertical Launch System (PVLS). Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) is responsible for the fabrication of the composite deckhouse, helo hangar and aft PVLS for DDG 1000 and DDG 1001. Raytheon is responsible for

software development and integration with BAE providing the AGS and LRLAP.

PEO Ships and its industry partners worked diligently to mature the ship's design and ready industrial facilities to ensure this advanced surface combatant is built on cost and on schedule. At 85 percent complete, the DDG 1000 design was more mature at start of fabrication than any lead surface combatant in history.

The US Navy intends to procure three Zumwalt Class Destroyers which are named in honor of former Chief of Naval Operations, Elmo R. "Bud" Zumwalt Jr.



Construction on DDG 1000 (ZUMWALT) commenced in February 2009. Launch is scheduled for Fall 2013, followed by HM&E delivery in 2014.

DDG 1001 was named MICHAEL MONSOOR in October 2008 by then-Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter, honoring Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Monsoor, a Navy sea who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Ramadi, Iraq, Sept. 29, 2006. DDG 1001 start of fabrication took place in October 2009. Launch is scheduled for 2014, followed by HM&E delivery in 2015.

In April 2012, DDG 1002 was named LYNDON B. JOHNSON by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. The selection of Lyndon B. Johnson honors the nation's 36th president and continues the Navy tradition of naming ships after presidents. DDG 1002 start of fabrication took place April 4, 2012.

Ships in class:

PCU Zumwalt (DDG 1000), Under construction

PCU Michael Monsoor (DDG 1001), Under construction

PCU Lyndon B. Johnson (DDG 1002), Under construction

Armament:

Mk57 vertical launch system;

Tomahawk missiles; SM-3;

Evolved Sea Sparrow;

Mk110 57mm gun;

155mm Advanced gun

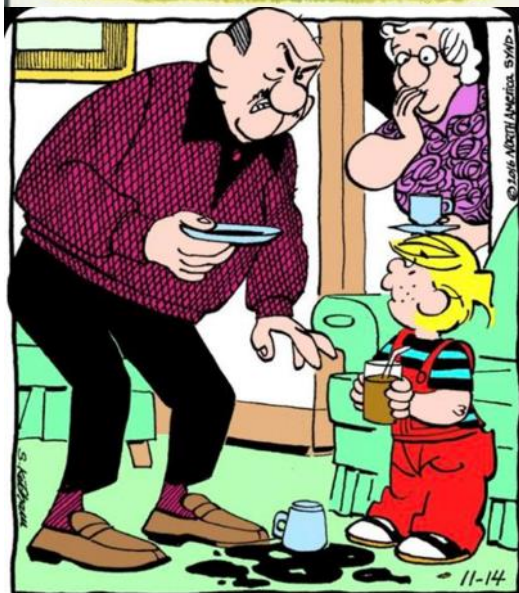
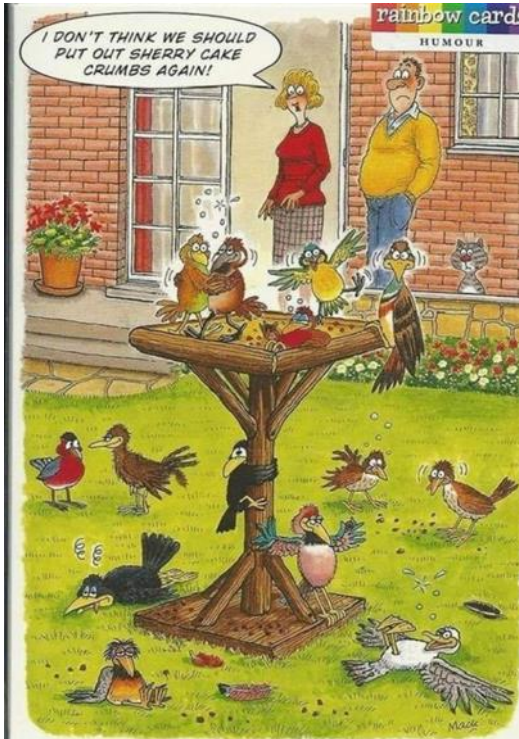
System Speed: 30 kts

Crew: 158 (including air det)

Aircraft: (2) MH60R or (1) MH60R and (3) VTUAVs



*Japanese POW's
New Guinea - WW2*



"I SUPPOSE AT YOUR AGE... GETTIN' MAD IS ABOUT THE ONLY FUN YOU HAVE LEFT."



With the recent windy weather I am a bit concerned about the caravan in my garden. It wasn't there yesterday...



Why they don't allow fraternization.

IN-COUNTRY

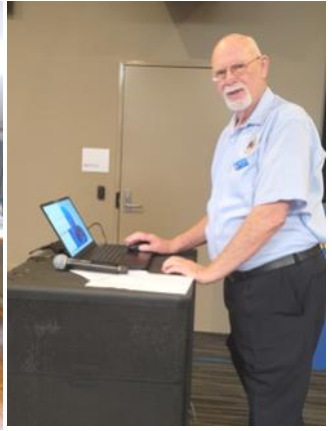


COMPANY C GETS A NEW ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR!

The Christmas get together and fund raiser for the RSL Auxiliary

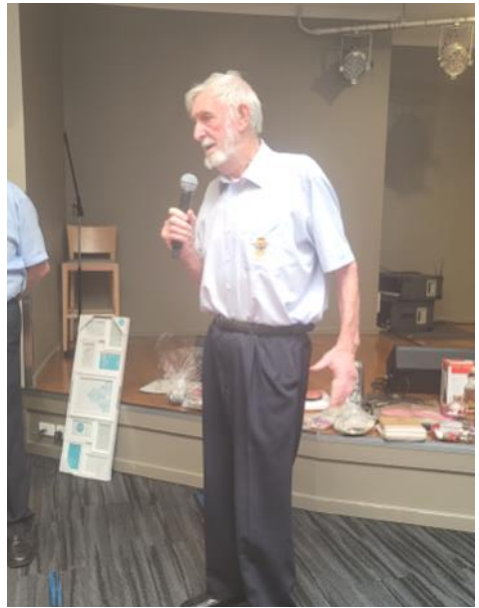
Photos by Hao Xuan Ny





Many Thanks to our resident Santa Clause, Frank Davies





A Great Time
Had By All

Willis Island's BOM weather station evacuated as Cyclone Jasper approaches Queensland

By Lieutenant Commander Andrew Herring

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2023-12-13/navy-evacuates-weather-bureau-staff-heavy-seas>



Leading Seaman Matthew Parry escorts Liam Glackin from HMAS Brisbane's embarked MH-60R helicopter while conducting an evacuation from Willis Island off the coast of Queensland

Four Bureau of Meteorology personnel have escaped Severe Tropical Cyclone Jasper and are safely ashore in Sydney after being evacuated from a remote offshore weather station by a Navy warship.

The guided missile destroyer HMAS *Brisbane* was operating in the Coral Sea during the evening of Friday, December 8 when it was diverted north towards the weather station on Willis Island, located about 480 kilometres east of Cape Tribulation in Far North Queensland and directly in the path of the approaching

cyclone.

After closing the distance overnight, *Brisbane* commenced the evacuation after first light on Saturday, December 9, deploying its embarked MH-60R Seahawk helicopter to evacuate all four bureau staff from the small, exposed sand island in four flights.

Brisbane's ship's company and flight crew had to contend with heavy seas brought on by the storm, with three metre waves, sustained 25 knot (46 km/h) winds and sea spray showering the front of the ship as it cleaved through the swell while repeatedly launching and recovering the helicopter.

All four evacuees were safely off the island and aboard the destroyer by around 7.30am local time before *Brisbane* turned southward away from the worsening conditions.

Brisbane's Flight Commander, Lieutenant Commander Matthew Urquhart, said the operation was not without its risks.

"There were some extreme challenges with this evacuation, most notably the weather, however this is why we train. The whole flight team was responsive and we successfully executed the mission," Lieutenant Commander Urquhart said.

“We were just happy to get ahead of the cyclone.”

The weather presented similar challenges for those on the ship but operations officer Lieutenant Kyle Livingstone considered it all in a day’s work for team *Brisbane*.

“Responding to emergencies is part of our job in the Navy. Once we received our tasking, HMAS *Brisbane* was able to quickly set up to conduct the evacuation,” Lieutenant Livingstone said.

“The weather conditions presented a challenge, but the skills and training of our people allowed us to safely conduct the evacuation before the weather conditions got any worse.”

Commanding Officer HMAS *Brisbane* Commander Bernard Dobson is proud of how his whole ship’s company responded in the face of danger

“Mariners will go to great lengths to preserve safety of life at sea. We had no issues turning towards danger if it meant evacuating our fellow Australians from a tight spot. I am proud of my team for their quick response and the professional execution of the mission,” Commander Dobson said.

“With Severe Tropical Cyclone Jasper behind us, *Brisbane* was returning from a successful deployment in Northeast Asia, despite the challenging weather conditions and rough seas we made the call early to turn back towards the cyclone and get in and out as quickly and safely as possible.

“It has been pretty rough so we were pleased to again get ahead of the storm and be pointed for home.”

None were more relieved than the four Bureau of Meteorology evacuees, who have since been adjusting to life at sea as guests aboard *Brisbane*.

“We are all extremely grateful for all of the crew,” Meteorologist William Tom said.

"Waiting out Severe Tropical Cyclone Jasper on Willis Island was not something we wanted to take a chance on."

Bureau colleague Nicholas Cox is equally grateful, but struggling to find his sea legs.

“It sounds clichéd, but the food on board is really good. The movement of the ship though ... I’m not too sure how the crew deals with this much movement,” he said.

The Willis Island evacuees disembarked *Brisbane* at Fleet Base East, Sydney during the morning of Tuesday, December 12.

The evacuation was conducted under Defence Aid to the Civil Community arrangements, which in this case were invoked to utilise the capabilities of the Australian Defence Force to preserve the safety of life at sea.

Brisbane was returning from a three-month Indo-Pacific regional presence deployment, during which the ship participated in training, exercises and other engagements with Australia’s regional partners, along with HMA Ships *Stalwart* and *Toowoomba*.

Basic Reconnaissance Course at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.

https://images.defence.gov.au/assets/Home/Search?Query=20231013army8655703_0237.jpg&Type=Filename

Members from the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, conducted the Basic Reconnaissance Course at Gallipoli Barracks and Canungra Training Area in late 2023. The training featured a variety of reconnaissance tactics, while also pushing the participants mentally and physically. After conducting the majority of their training at Gallipoli Barracks, members travelled to Canungra Training Area for the culminating activity, which allowed them to test their broad range of skills in difficult terrain.



An Australian Army Rifleman from the 6th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, conducts battle PT session apart of the Basic Reconnaissance Course at Gallipoli Barracks Brisbane.

Photo: PTE Andrew Shaw <http://images.defence.gov.au/S20233940>



Australian Army riflemen from the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment demonstrate break contact drills on the Basic Reconnaissance Course at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.

Photo: PTE Andrew Shaw <http://images.defence.gov.au/S20233940>



Port Moresby Harbour—WW2

The perfect gift for PNG

By Tastri Murdoch

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2023-12-13/perfect-gift-png>



(L-R) RAAF Squadron Leader David Thornton, PNGDF Lieutenant Colonel Doug Vavar, RAAF Group Captain Stephen Fielder, and in the front row, Wing Commander Tim Shaw stand with a PAC-750XL at the Air Transport Wing, Port Moresby.

Australia has gifted two new PAC-750XL aircraft to the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF), continuing to deepen its defence partnership.

The aircraft will increase the PNGDF's ability to support the PNG community and civil authorities through transport, search, rescue and surveillance.

It is also an important training platform for new pilots, aircrew and maintenance personnel undergoing training through the Flights of Excellence program supported by RAAF.

The PNGDF selected the PAC-750XL for its ability to take off and land on shorter, less-prepared airfields, adding highly valued capability in PNG's diverse and challenging terrain.

The aircraft will work alongside a RAAF C-27J Spartan that regularly deploys to PNG under the Defence Pacific Air Program.

Defence Minister Richard Marles and PNG's Minister for Defence Win Bakri Daki announced the program in October.

An official handover ceremony was held on November 2 at the Air Transport Wing, Jacksons International Airport, Port Moresby, and was attended by Australian Assistant Minister for Defence Matt Thistlethwaite and PNG Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso.

"Australia is pleased to be able to partner with the PNGDF to strengthen their aviation capability and to respond to the needs of the government and people of Papua New Guinea," Mr Thistlethwaite said.

"The two aircraft will create new opportunities for our forces to work together, building on our longstanding defence partnership."

Australia successfully remediated PNG's existing PAC-750XL in 2021, with this acquisition bolstering the PNGDF's fleet to three aircraft.

Mr Rosso acknowledged and thanked Australia for its support.

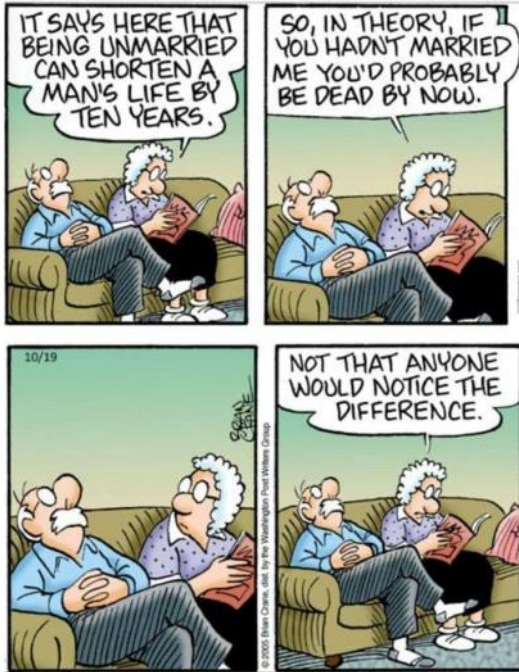
"These two aircraft are very important platforms that will be brought into service in the PNGDF Air Transport Wing [ATW]. I would like to acknowledge and thank Australia for effectively supporting the Flights of Excellence program, as this pathway has laid the foundations for building PNGDF sovereign air operations," Mr Rosso said.

"I would also like to thank the Australian government for the refurbishment of the ATW hangar. This is a significant investment into building PNGDF's sovereign air capability. It is a significant contribution by Australia towards ensuring peace, security and stability in our region and provides opportunities for PNGDF and ADF to work together as partners."

Director PNG Sovereign Air Capability Group Captain Stephen Fielder has been an integral part of the Flights of Excellence program since its beginning in 2019.

"Walking alongside my PNGDF counterparts as together we rebuild and develop PNG's sovereign aviation capability continues to be a richly rewarding experience," Group Captain Fielder said.

"Having been closely involved in the PAC-750XL acquisition and gifting project from inception to delivery, I am thrilled to finally see the aircraft now accepted into the PNGDF."



Looking at our Allies

In this edition of the Newsletter we look at what other countries are up to regarding weapons. British Forces have just taken on a new rifle for their special forces.

KS-1



Barrel: 13.7" (34.8cm) 1:7 Twist

Caliber: 5.56mm

Weight: 6.88 lbs (3.12kg)

Length: 32.2" (81.8cm) to 34.2" (86.9cm)

The **KS (Knight's Stoner) Carbine**, is a series of Armalite AR-15 style rifles produced by Knight's Armament Company (KAC). It is designed as an improved version of their SR-16 family of rifles. The 13.7" KS-1 variant was adopted as the L403A1-AIW by the British Armed Forces in 2023 to replace the L85A2-A3 and L119A1-A2 rifles used by British Army and Royal Marines special operations-capable forces.

The KS family of rifles was unveiled at military small arms conventions in 2022 as being developed for an international special operations forces (SOF) requirement. In September 2023, the British Armed Forces selected the KS-1 rifle under Project Hunter to replace the L85A2-A3 and L119A1-A2 rifles used by the British Army Special Operations Brigade and elements of the Royal Marines including strike companies and the Surveillance and Reconnaissance Squadron.

The KS-1 has been given the designation L403A1 and is known as the Alternative Individual Weapon (AIW) system. The Royal Marines have purchased more than a thousand KS-1 rifles and the British Army has purchased 1,620 KS-1 rifles worth £15 million. Knight's Armament's submission (KS-1) was selected over other notable competitors including Heckler & Koch, SIG Sauer, Daniel Defense, and Glock. The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) contract includes a £90 million option to purchase up to 10,000 rifles over the next decade.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KS-1_rifle

LAST POST

Ronald Lyle Schulties

Corporal, 36293

Carpenter Rigger

R.A.A.F.

1941 - 1945

29 October 1919 - 21 December 2023



Lest We Forget

STOP PRESS

