# Thinking Through Tradeoffs

Mr Chris McInnes, Sir Richard Williams Foundation



## 50 Lowest Test Cricket Scores to April 2022



"...the human mind thinks with ideas, not with information. Ideas create information, they are the integrating patterns that derive not from information but from experience."

Frans Osinga, Science, Strategy and War: The Strategy Theory of John Boyd, 2005



### What Defence Does



#### What Defence is For



"Battle is portrayed as the final arena of will and power... This is nonsense on stilts, but its allure abides nonetheless."

Cathal Nolan, The Allure of Battle, 2017



"Defense strategy too often is reduced to my widget is lethal, lethality wins war, my widget will win the next war. Context, obstacles, and competition are wished away. Joint?

Integrated?

Complex historical cases are reduced to mythmaking and trends divined into simplistic scenarios to justify predictions derived from deduction."

Benjamin Jensen, Michael Rountree. Driving the Dark Road to the Future, 2022

"If one is prepared to enter the imaginative world animating the document, a world dominated by the pathologies of globalisation, coagulated into an anarchic and infinitely threatening, predominately urban environment, the unfolding logic makes a kind of sense.

This logic culminates in the need for capabilities appropriate to what the document calls complex environments... This world is persuasive, which shows its imaginative strength.

But how real is it? Does it make sense in an Australian context?"

Brendan Sargeant, Burning Bright, 2006



### Points to ponder

Are we playing away? How do we adapt our models? How do we practice?



"Yes, it was very good. Very good indeed. But what is it for?"

Group Captain Arthur Tedder, RAF Hendon, 1932 after observing a flying display. Tedder went on to become one of the outstanding joint commanders of the Second World War, ending the war as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

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