

The Central Blue Contributor Guidelines

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Thank you for your interest in contributing to *The Central Blue*.

The Central Blue is a forum designed to promote informed discussion and debate about air power & force design issues affecting Australia. Our scope is broad, covering topics from tactical integration to strategic theory; from historical lessons to future capabilities; from platform & systems engineering to organisational design.

We welcome submissions from contributors of all backgrounds, and particularly encourage serving military practitioners to contribute, in order to foster a new generation of air power thinkers.

The Central Blue is read by a broad Australian and international audience, including Service Chiefs, operational service members, academics, technology strategists, and industry leaders. Your contribution will promote professional discourse in these broad arenas of interest. In addition to occasional/specific Calls for Submissions, we recommend that you read the existing published works on *The Central Blue* to get an appreciation for the types of issues and topics that have typically been of interest to us.

Editorial philosophy

Submissions made to *The Central Blue* will be reviewed by members of the [Editorial Team](#), with the aim of developing the submission for publication while helping writers to grow their writing craft. The Editorial Team aims to encourage writers to find their own voice and build their confidence to engage in an active dialogue as part of their ongoing learning and professional development. *The Central Blue* is part of a [strong blogging community](#) and we can also suggest more appropriate avenues for publication if the subject matter of a submission is more appropriate elsewhere.

General guidelines

The Central Blue accepts a wide range of contributions to create a rich and varied offerings to our readers. Your contribution should be written for a broad readership, and be focused on providing arguments that are supported by a thorough analysis and appropriate evidence. We accept essays and reflective articles, as well as book reviews, and works of fiction that highlight the key issues or problems related to our topics of interest. Submissions should be 800 to 1500 words in length. Any submissions that exceed these limits will be considered on a case-by-case basis. We only accept submissions that are not currently being considered by other publications.

Style guide

- Keep your articles clear, concise, and jargon-free
- If you are using acronyms, please define them in footnotes for the benefit of the general audience.
- Consider opening your articles with a counterintuitive statement, a question, or an engaging anecdote to catch the eye of the audience. (See <https://visme.co/blog/how-to-start-a-presentation/>)
- Devise an engaging title that uses 100 characters or less. Note that Editors reserve the right to make title changes as part of the review process
- You are welcome to write about your personal experiences and lessons learned if you think this will help readers in their professional development.
- You must provide references for the evidence that you use to support your assertions. Any borrowed graphics, diagrams, charts, etc must be properly cited. The preferred citation style for *The Central Blue* is [Chicago Manual of Style formatting](#)
- Please add your biography (**no more than 200 words**) at the end of your submission. This will help people know who you are, and may help understand where you are coming from. It is also a chance for you to **share your social media handles**, such as LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, for expanding your network.
- Include (separately from the article) two questions to pose to readers to prompt further/deeper thinking about the arguments you raise. This will be helpful in our social media efforts to drive engagement in your piece.

Format

- The submissions must be in MS Word format, font size 12-pt, Times New Roman or Calibri.
- Images resolution must be at least 72ppi:
 - You can find relevant high-quality images on the Defence Image Gallery.
 - If you cannot find a suitable image, please leave a note for the editors to add one.
 - If you are unsure figures are at 72ppi or above, please provide original images/figures as separate files to help us identify resolution matters. So that we also know the intended sequence/placement, please also include a copy of that image in your preferred location in the MS Word document
- The Author must be clearly identified. Please avoid Nicknames.
- Tags are used to search and classify content. So please add the tags that would make your content easily searchable (for example, “Air power, Strategy, Battlespace management, Safety”). A minimum of 4 tags is requested

Academic papers

The Central Blue is focused on promoting discourse through well considered but accessible contributions. Articles on academic or research topics should be simplified for a wider audience. *The Central Blue* may be able to identify a more suitable outlet for publication. Our team can put you in contact with them.

Book reviews

The Central Blue accepts reviews of books that are relevant to our topics of interest. Book reviews are not just a summary of the work, but an analysis of the book author's ideas and how the book sits within existing literature on the topic. The book review should cover the following issues:

- What does the book contribute to the existing literature and debates in the relevant field?
- Has the author been successful in achieving the purpose of the book? This includes a critique of the author's writing style, and should include text from the book to support the reviewer's perspective.
- Why should this book be read, and by whom?

Process for Contributions

All contributions should be sent to thecentralblue@gmail.com

Contributors are fully engaged in the editorial process and all proposed edits are provided to contributors prior to publication. A member of the Editorial Team will respond to you as soon as possible with initial feedback and the editorial process for your contribution.