

# association update

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## Vale Brigadier James Osmond Furner, AO, CBE, DSM (Retd)

Jim Furner, who died at home in Terrigal, NSW, on 17 September 2007 after a short illness, holds the distinction of being the only career intelligence officer to have been head of two of Australia's intelligence agencies. He was initially Director of the then Joint Intelligence Organisation (JIO) and subsequently Director-General of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS). He also holds the distinction of being the longest serving Director-General of ASIS.

Jim was born in Warrigal, Victoria, in 1927, attained a BA at Melbourne University and first joined the workforce as a school teacher. In 1952 he sought a career change and enlisted in the Army as one of the first intake into the Officer Cadet School (OCS) at Portsea. Jim initially joined the infantry and first saw overseas service with the 1st Commonwealth Division in South Korea during 1955-56. On his return from South Korea, Jim transferred to the Australian Intelligence Corps. His subsequent postings as a military intelligence officer included Headquarters Far East Land Forces in Hong Kong (1958-60), an Intelligence staff exchange posting with the US Defence Intelligence Agency in Washington (1963-66), the senior Australian military intelligence appointment in Vietnam as GSO2 (Intelligence) at Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force (1967-68), Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor of the Australian Army Intelligence Centre at Woodside (1969-70), SEATO Headquarters in Bangkok (1973), Headquarters Field Force Command in Sydney (1975-78) and Deputy Director (Military) JIO during 1978-82. Jim filled the latter appointment on promotion to brigadier, the first OCS graduate to reach that rank.

He retired from the Army on age in early 1982. Later that year he was appointed, as a civilian, as Director JIO, later renamed the Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO). He was the first career intelligence officer to head JIO (and one of only two to ever do so thus far).

When directed by Foreign Minister, Bill Hayden, to take over ASIS in early 1984 (he was given just 24 hours to transfer jobs), Jim inherited an organisation, thanks to the Sheraton Hotel affair, that was both dispirited and whose future was very much under the political microscope. Also, at that time ASIS was already undergoing significant disruption, with an accompanying loss of many experienced staff, due to the imminent move of its headquarters from Melbourne to Canberra

Jim served 8½ years at the helm of ASIS, longer than any of his predecessors or successors, retiring in November 1992 just one day prior to his 65th birthday. From a very

challenging beginning, he left an organisation that was organisationally sound and highly respected, both politically and professionally. This he achieved through his many qualities, including his intellect, pragmatism, energy, and commitment to teamwork through a collaborative approach with staff.

Jim's distinguished service with the Army, JIO and ASIS was appropriately recognised by government. He was awarded a DSM for his service in Vietnam, a CBE in 1980 for his service to Defence intelligence, and an AO in 1993 for his service to international relations.

As a person, Jim was unassuming, very direct in his dealings, always approachable, and had a good sense of humour. For those who had the privilege to serve with him, he will be remembered with respect and affection. ♦

## Vale Major General Paul Cullen, AC, CBE, DSO\*, ED, FCA (Retd)

Australia lost one of its most distinguished citizen soldiers when Major General Paul Cullen passed away on the 19 September 2007. Born at Newcastle on 13 February 1909, throughout his 98 years he made an outstanding contribution to soldiering, commerce and humanitarian causes.

Paul's lifetime of Army service commenced as one of the last conscripts in 1927 and then as a member of the Militia. The outbreak of World War II saw him as a very early volunteer (NX163) for the 2nd AIF. Leaving Australia in February 1940 he saw service in the Western Desert, Syria, Greece, Crete (where he commanded a battalion comprised of elements from various escaping units), and New Guinea – where he commanded with distinction and bravery the 2nd/1st Infantry Battalion.

### BEQUESTS TO THE ADA

Have you considered making a donation or bequest to the Australia Defence Association?

The Association runs a very lean operation and every dollar makes a difference. A suitable form of bequest is 'I bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Australia Defence Association (ABN 16 083 007 390)'.

If you have already made a will, you don't have to change it; you can simply make a codicil.

The Association can assist with the provision of will or codicil forms, or referral to a solicitor. Further details may be obtained from [bequests@ada.asn.au](mailto:bequests@ada.asn.au)