

**29TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MILITARY OPERATIONAL RESEARCH
(29 ISMOR)**

28-31 August 2012

New Place, Shirrell Heath, Southampton SO32 2JH, UK

SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

ISMOR is an annual international symposium sponsored by the UK Ministry of Defence and is now in its 29th year. ISMOR's purpose is to foster excellence in analysis and its application to defence and security through providing a forum for staff in national and international government departments, agencies and industry. It is open to all who would like to participate in its discussions. Participants from all nations are welcome; recent symposia have included delegates from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and USA. The UK Operational Research Society is co-sponsor and the US Military Operations Research Society provides strong support. ISMOR is self-funding and non-profit making.

This year's symposium will be held at New Place from 28th to 31st August 2012. This venue is self-contained with all accommodation on-site, enabling delegates to complement the high quality presentations, discussions and workshops with extended ad hoc discussions and networking. To facilitate engagement, the number of participants will be limited to 100.

Papers and posters are welcome on all aspects of the application of analysis to defence and security. We are especially interested in those that address three challenging, current themes that will each have their own session, introduced by a distinguished keynote speaker:

- Affordability – what does it mean and how do we assess it?
- Support to operations and conflict prevention – new approaches to new issues
- Systems and capability for an uncertain future

We welcome papers that explore case studies, demonstrate new techniques, shed light on our most important issues or that bring a multi-disciplinary approach to solving today's problems (complementing OR with disciplines such as management science, risk, aspects of economics and human sciences). As well as the selection process for papers based on submitted abstracts, there is the option of full peer review of papers.

The three themed sessions will be complemented by sessions addressing all aspects of defence and security, workshops, a dedicated poster session (although the posters will also be available throughout the symposium) and tutorials covering techniques and case studies. The workshops, tutorials and poster session will be held on the same day (29th August). To help further broaden participation in ISMOR, particularly by analysts in the early years of their careers, it will also be possible for additional delegates to attend just for that day at a special rate. Topics for the workshops and tutorials will include best practice in the use of judgemental methods and a contemporary operations-related theme such as analysis of the recent events in the Middle East or of piracy.

Maj Gen Mungo Melvin will deliver the Ronnie Shephard Memorial Address at the Symposium Dinner. General Melvin, who recently retired from the British Army after 37 years' service, is a

distinguished soldier, strategist and military historian and has been engaged with the application of analysis through much of his career.

The symposium will again be held at New Place, a country house, set in the Hampshire countryside, to which extensive conference facilities have been added. All guest rooms are en-suite with direct dial telephones, complimentary high speed internet access and satellite television. There is an indoor pool, fitness centre, tennis court, cricket pitch and a trim trail. There are several golf courses nearby. A number of double rooms are available at extra charge; those wishing to bring partners should indicate that on the booking form.

As an alternative to the tutorial session, there will be an opportunity to visit the historic naval dockyard at Portsmouth.

Attendance at ISMOR offers a unique opportunity to spend four days exploring current issues in the application of analysis to practical issues in defence and security with a wide range of colleagues from across the world, in government, industry and academia. As well as inspiring experienced practitioners with exposure to new approaches, innovative solutions and providing informal testing of ideas, it offers excellent development to early career analysts and an opportunity for the users of analysis to understand its potential.

The symposium will assemble in time for dinner on Monday 27th August and will end after lunch on Friday 31st August. The cost of attendance will be £1195 plus VAT (£1434 inclusive) but there will be a discounted rate of just £995 plus VAT (£1194 inclusive) for those who register and pay by 30th April 2012. This covers the symposium, accommodation and all meals including the Symposium Dinner. The special day rate for the workshops and tutorial day is £250 plus VAT (£300 inclusive) to include meals but not accommodation.

To secure your place at this year's symposium, please complete and return the attached booking form. Attendance is limited to 100 delegates so early application is advised. If you are offering a paper or poster please submit a brief (up to 200 words) abstract by 31st May. Notification of papers accepted will be sent with the Joining Instructions in June. Authors will be asked to give permission for publication of their paper on the ISMOR web site and an electronic copy will be required before the symposium. To receive updates on the symposium, please send your contact details to mailinglist@ismor.com.

Further information, updates to the programme and the archive of papers from previous years are at the symposium website: www.ismor.com

Peter Starkey
ISMOR Chair

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