

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE SUBMISSION TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT ON THE REVIEW OF AVIATION SECURITY IN AUSTRALIA

Introduction

1. Under current arrangements, Army and Air Force share facilities with civil aviation operators at several establishments. Defence shared facilities include:
 - a. Oakey;
 - b. Darwin;
 - c. Townsville;
 - d. Williamtown;
 - e. Tindal (Katherine); and
 - f. Canberra.
2. At these shared facilities Defence is responsible for the security of its own assets and shares responsibilities with the civil operators for aspects of boundary security. Defence is broadly satisfied with the boundary security provided by the civil operators at these airports.

Defence Establishments - Aviation Asset Security

3. Air Force is reviewing the security of its aviation assets at Tindal and is discussing enhancement of the perimeter fencing and access control with the civil operator.
4. Navy has aviation assets based at HMAS Albatross. The Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) has proposed opening up HMAS Albatross to commercial operations. Defence has advised the SCC of its objection to this proposal on the grounds of safety, liability and costs that would be prohibitive to both the department and the civil operator.

Defence Security Alert System

5. Protective security measures for Defence aviation assets are determined by a system of threat categorisation. The type and number of assets at a location determine a site rating which in turn invokes a range of protective security measures to ensure asset integrity. Aviation assets are generally rated in the highest protective category.

Compliance with legislation and regulations

6. The terms of reference of the Aviation Security Review emphasise compliance issues. In this regard it should be noted that the Department of Transport and Regional Services acknowledged the distinction between Defence and civil aviation and has agreed to exempt Defence from provisions of the proposed Aviation Security Bill.

Risk Mitigation

7. Defence monitors security requirements at locations where aviation assets are maintained on an ongoing basis.

Department of Defence

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