
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Review of the Defence Annual Report 2005-2006

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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Canberra

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Cover photo captions

HMAS Warramunga, HMAS Stuart, HMAS Yarra, HMAS Gascoyne and HMAS Sydney during Officer Of The Watch manoeuvres during Exercise Ocean Protector 2006.

(Official No: 20050203ran8098978_023)

Private Adam Marsh from the Brisbane-based 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, as part of the 1st Reconstruction Task Force provides a security screen during a patrol to visit the nearby Tarin Kowt hospital and police station in southern Afghanistan. (Official No: 20061208adf8185016_0008)

An Australian C-17 taxis down the Nackeroo airfield towards a turning apron at Bradshaw Field Training Area in the Northern Territory. (Official No: 20070629adf8243523_050)



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Foreword

This review of the Defence Annual Report 2005-06 was undertaken by the Defence Sub-Committee of the 41st Parliament. Due to the 2007 election, the Committee's deliberation of this report was interrupted and its finalisation has had to occur during this, the 42nd Parliament's tenure. The current Committee did not feel it was necessary to seek new evidence or conduct additional hearings prior to considering and tabling this review. The Committee of the 42nd Parliament is now focussed on the review of the Defence Annual Report 2006-07, which has been adopted as an inquiry and Public Hearings for this review will be conducted during June and July 2008.

This report focuses on the activities, achievements and undertakings of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Department of Defence during the period July 2005 to June 2006. During this period, ADF personnel continued to serve in a wide variety of operational deployments world-wide, including new overseas operational deployments to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Timor-Leste. Despite the high operational tempo, the ADF was also heavily involved in providing humanitarian relief to the people of Pakistan, following the earthquake in October 2005 and to the people of North Queensland following Cyclone Harry.


During the 2005-06 reporting period, in addition to the focus on military operations, Defence continued to address its financial management and ADF recruitment and retention concerns. In June 2006, the Defence Capability Plan was released, providing the blueprint for capability investments over the next ten years.

The five major topics reviewed in this report provided an opportunity for the Committee to seek further information on how Defence is addressing current opportunities and challenges. The five focus areas were the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), the Navy's Patrol Boat Capability, the Remuneration Reform Project (RRP), Army's current and future projects and Army Aviation.

To conclude the review of the Defence Annual Report 2005-06, the Chief of the Defence Force and the Acting Secretary of Defence made themselves available at the end of the Public Hearing for wide-ranging discussions on current issues across the entire Defence Annual Report.

In conclusion, the Committee would like to express their appreciation for the outstanding work that continues to be done by the men and women of the ADF in support of operations in Australia and around the world.

The Hon Arch Bevis MP
Chair - Defence Sub Committee
42nd Parliament



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Terms of reference

Pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of its resolution of appointment, the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade is empowered to consider and report on the annual reports of government agencies, in accordance with a schedule presented by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.¹

The Speaker's schedule lists annual reports from agencies within the Defence and Foreign Affairs portfolios as being available for review by the Committee.²

1 See *Votes and Proceedings*.

2 Speaker's Schedule: Allocation to Committees of Annual Reports of Departments, Agencies, Authorities and Companies.



List of abbreviations

| | |
|------|---|
| ADF | Australian Defence Force |
| ACPB | Armidale Class Patrol Boat |
| ARH | Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter |
| CDF | Chief of Defence Force |
| CIT | Common Induction Training |
| CO | Commanding Officer |
| DFAT | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| DFRT | Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal |
| DMO | Defence Material Organisation |
| DRSC | Defence Reserve Support Council |
| EEZ | Exclusive Economic Zone |
| ELF | Enhanced Land Force |
| FCPB | Fremantle Class Patrol Boats |
| HNA | Hardened and Networked Army |
| HRR | High Readiness Reserve |
| OEG | Operational Experts Group |

| | |
|------|---|
| Q&S | Qualifications and Skills |
| RAAF | Royal Australian Air Force |
| RAN | Royal Australian Navy |
| RAR | Royal Australian Regiment |
| RHIB | Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats |
| RRP | Remuneration Reform Project |
| PAES | Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements |
| PBS | Portfolio Budget Statements |
| PSI | Proliferation Security Initiative |
| WMD | Weapons of Mass Destruction |
| WO1 | Warrant Officer Class 1 |



List of recommendations

2 Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that an invitation be extended to Defence sub-committee members to observe and/or participate in the next Pacific Protector exercise hosted by Australia.

5 Army—Current and Future Projects

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that Defence reports to the Defence Sub Committee on the implementation of the HNA and ELF programs, with a focus on the delivery schedule of the additional battalions.

