Submission No 3

Review of the Defence Annual Report 2006/2007

Name:

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The Hon Arch Bevis, MHR
Chair, Defence Sub-Committee, Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

15 June 2008

Reference A: Hansard Report of the proceedings of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade - Estimates, Wednesday, 20 February 2008

To the Hon Arch Bevis, MHR

A SUBMISSION TO THE DEFENCE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFRAIRS. DEFENCE AND TRADE

After reading the testimony delivered at reference A, a group of experts on the raising, sustainment and delivery of air combat capabilities, compiled an analysis of the witness statements. The Group's assessment was that such responses were at variance with verifiable facts and present a grave risk to Australia's future security should the statements become policy.

The Group dispatched correspondence on their analysis to the Chair of the Senate Standing Committee. As we have received no response, we are now submitting these documents as testimony to the Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The evidentiary documents are attached as Annexes:

Annex A: is the covering letter which provides a summary of our analysis, especially that Australia is at risk of loss of sovereignty, our experience and qualifications to reach such a conclusion, and recommendations for an inquiry into the veracity of the testimony presented to the Committee;

Annex B: presents excerpts from the Hansard record of reference A, marked to highlight statements of suspect veracity, and with comment to explain why those statements might be considered suspect; and

Annexes C and D: is correspondence to the Clerk of the Senate. When no reply was received to our correspondence, one of our colleagues, not party to the original assessment, presented additional material to Mr Harry Evans for examination. No reply on this matter has been received to date.

We are well prepared, should you choose to subpoena us, to provide additional material, and/or debate the testimony previously given to Parliamentary Committees.

Sincerely,



AVM (Retd) P J Criss, AM, AFC

AVM (Retd) B J Graf
AO BSc BE [Aero] Test Pilot

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