



VICE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE



PO Box 7902, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610, AUSTRALIA

VCDF/OUT/2013/421

Dr Kathleen Dermody

Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody,

I write to correct a statement I made during the Budget Estimates hearing held on 03 and 04 June 2013 concerning exercises scheduled to be held around North-West Australia in 2013.

In response to a question from Senator Eggleston (page 105 of *Proof Hansard* 03 June 2013) I made a statement to the committee that ten exercises will be conducted in 2013. There are in fact only nine exercises to be held during this period, these include:

- a. Three combined intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance exercises operating out of Learmonth and around the North West Shelf;
- b. Two Exercise Day Shark activities, which are offshore energy installation recovery training exercise for special forces;
- c. Exercise Western Phoenix, which is an Air Force exercise operating out of Learmonth;
- d. Exercise Iron Moon, which is a counter terrorism activity;
- e. Exercise Python, which did not occur in the area but was conducted with many representatives from there; and
- f. Regular RAN activities to support North West Shelf gas and oil installations. This involves patrolling offshore installations and reporting within the area during transit, which is sent through to Border Protection Command through JTF639.

I apologise for the confusion.

Yours sincerely,

M.D. BINSKIN, AO
Air Marshal
Vice Chief of the Defence Force

12 July 2013