

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.5)

Senator Kimberley Kitching asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 15 November 2021:

Senator Kitching: My last question is, is it possible to get on notice the numbers of captured and the numbers of killed in each year we were in Afghanistan? This goes back to my previous question in relation to the evidence given by Mr Russell this morning

GEN Angus Campbell: We'll take that on notice and of course, we'll provide whatever we can. I'm just not sure the quality of our records, particularly with regard to captured and killed early on. But we'll see that I whatever we can find. It's 20 years..

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Historically Defence has not published aggregated enemy casualty numbers, as this is not a measure of performance or effectiveness for the Australian Defence Force. Given the complexity of Australia's mission in denying Afghanistan as a safe haven for international terrorism, and the nature of some air and land combat operations, accurate enemy casualty numbers are often difficult to obtain and are likely to be inaccurate.

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.6)

Senator Kimberley Kitching asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 15 November 2021:

Senator Kitching: Can I just ask, so this morning Heston Russell said that Australian troops killed or captured 11,000 enemy combatants. Is that accurate? And if it's not, what is the accurate number?

GEN Angus Campbell: Taken on Notice

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Refer to Question 5.