

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.3)

Senator Jacqui Lambie asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 15 November 2021:

Senator Jacqui Lambie: Can you tell me who decided to send the Australian special forces to re-deploy in Afghanistan in 2005, what were their objectives?

GEN Angus Campbell: Senator, the government of the day made that decision, and I would have to take it on notice, given it's 2005 we're talking about. And you'll speaking of a particular force element redeploying into Afghanistan.

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

The Government takes decisions to deploy Australian forces overseas.

In 2005, the Special Forces Task Group's (TF 637) objectives were: to counter the threat posed by global terrorist groups using Afghanistan as a safe haven; support alliance partners' operations in Afghanistan; and assist in preparing Afghan security forces to take responsibility for providing security in the country.

COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION

(Question No.4)

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

Senator Kimberley Kitching: So is that all of the equipment that was gifted aside from the Silver Shield Counter IED System? That's it? Was that everything?

Gen. Campbell: Senator, we will take that on notice. I think you are seeking to confirm whether above the Silver Shield, any other Australian equipment through the Afghan National Trust Fund mechanism was gifted. I can assure you no offensive weaponry was gifted but we will come back to you on notice.

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

No other Australian equipment was gifted via the Afghan National Army Trust Fund.