



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Defence Sub Committee**

*Chair: Senator Michael Forshaw
SubComm Chair: The Hon Arch Bevis*

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 4 March 2009

Deseal/reseal spouse study

The Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has posted a link on its website to a study by Coxon and Hartley on the 'Psychological Functioning in Partners and Spouses of Deseal/Reseal Personnel'. The survey found that this group experiences elevated levels of anxiety, depression and stress when compared with a control group. As a result, it finds that 'the F-111 Deseal/Reseal program has had a deleterious effect on the psychological functioning of the spouses of the individuals involved'.

While 'only a limited number of control participants took part in the study', Coxon and Hartley suggest that the study's results are 'very robust', 'at very high levels of significance', which can 'be taken at face value'.

The study can be accessed at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/deseal_reseal/subs/exhibit%2025.pdf

For media inquiries, contact the Sub-Committee Chairman, The Hon Arch Bevis MP on (07) 3356 1555.

For all other inquiries, contact the Senior Research Officer, Muz Ali, on (02) 6277 4466 or visit the committee website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/index.htm>