

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

### **(AE17/025) - Number of armed officers in Canberra - Programme 1.2: Border Management**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 50) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Right. It is not a very big requirement, is it, for officers in Canberra to be armed?

Mr Quaedvlieg: Well, there are armed officers in Canberra. We have field operations. We have a counterterrorism unit team for the airport—

Senator KIM CARR: How many are—

Mr Quaedvlieg: I do not have that figure on hand, but I can find it.

Senator KIM CARR: Do you have contractors who are required to be armed?

Mr Quaedvlieg: No.

Senator KIM CARR: So, it is only departmental officers who are authorised to carry arms?

Mr Quaedvlieg: That is correct.

Senator KIM CARR: And there are 957 of them?

Mr Quaedvlieg: Globally, across the board, yes. But even in the case of one officer with a firearm in Canberra we would need to secure that firearm.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, I would presume you would need to store securely; I am just interested to know the size of this facility in Canberra.

Mr Quaedvlieg: Sure. I can take that on notice, as I will the number of armed officers in Canberra.

*Answer:*

There are 384 Use of Force permit holders assigned to the Australian Capital Territory, of which 348 are Marine crew who are geographically dispersed throughout the country but are organisationally assigned to their Headquarters in Canberra. Personal Defensive Equipment required by Marine crew is stored on-board Australian Border Force vessels.