

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(SE16/054) - A Current Affair - Operation Sovereign Borders**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 138) asked:

Senator McKIM: Okay. I want to ask you about the embedding of A Current Affair. There was an asylum seeker's face shown in that program. Has action been taken against A Current Affair or Channel Nine for that?

Major Gen. Bottrell: I am not aware of that particular issue. I will have to take that on notice.

Senator McKIM: I would appreciate it if you would. Thank you. In that story, what were the officers shooting at?

Major Gen. Bottrell: Again, I would have to suggest that that was a training activity.

Senator McKIM: Do you know what they were shooting at?

Major Gen. Bottrell: No, I do not. I will take that on notice. But, to offer you an answer, I would suggest that that was a training activity for maintenance of skills. I can tell you that there has been no firing or discharge of weapons as a result of any turn-back activity relating to illegal maritime arrivals.

*Answer:*

The Department understands that the image of an asylum seeker wearing Australian cricket team supporters' clothing was widely reproduced by media outlets in 2013 and available on the internet. The Department did not provide the image to *A Current Affair*.

The footage on *A Current Affair* showed officers participating in a live firing training exercise required to ensure the maintenance of skills.