

Mr D. Sullivan
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600


Dear Mr Sullivan,

I write to correct and clarify evidence I gave at the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Senate Budget Estimates hearing held on 2-3 June 2014.


In my opening statement on 2 June (Page 6 of Proof Hansard 2 June 2014), I provided the Committee with information on the search for MH370 in the Southern Indian Ocean. I inadvertently neglected to acknowledge the involvement of Sonartech Atlas in the Operation and would like to take this opportunity to recognise the substantial contribution Sonartech Atlas products and personnel made. The considerable support and effort Sonartech Atlas contributed to the search effort, and in particular the enhancement of the AP-3C acoustic capability was extremely valuable to the operation, with Sonartech Atlas staff working long hours to ensure training, integration and analysis of the product was successfully completed.

In answer to a question from Senator McKenzie (Page 35 of Proof Hansard 3 June 2014), I advised the Committee that two Australia-Indonesia exercises were underway when curtailment of the bilateral relationship commenced and were subsequently cancelled. This information was incorrect as a third exercise was also underway and was cancelled. Exercise Elang Ausindo commenced on 18 November and was cancelled mid exercise.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.


Yours sincerely,

D.J. HURLEY, AC, DSC, (Retd)
General

 July 2014