

## SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF

Operations 2  
Secretary's and CDF's pack

### OPERATIONS 2: AFGHANISTAN TRANSITION – STRATEGIC ISSUES

#### Key Facts

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Afghan National Army 4/205 Brigade in Uruzgan Province, continues to develop, with all four infantry kandaks operating independently without advisers.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia will contribute US\$100.0 million annually for three years from 2015 to support the development of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).</b></li> </ul>
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#### Key Issues

- The ADF will continue to be engaged in Afghanistan through training and advisory support, including at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy in Kabul.
  - Australia supports an Afghan-led reconciliation process.

#### Campaign Progress

- Afghan security forces are becoming stronger, more capable and more confident. They continue to grow into a fully-fledged and professional force.
  - The insurgency is now faced with a force consisting of six ANA combat corps, a special operations command, hundreds of ANP units and an ever growing air force.
  - The ANSF participate in all and lead 95% of operations and are taking the lead in for security for 87% of the Afghan population.

#### Uruzgan Province

- Uruzgan province formally entered transition on 17 July 2012 and the ANSF is on track to assume security lead for the province by the end of 2013.
- All four of the ANA 4/205 Brigade Infantry Kandaks in Uruzgan are operating independently [*since Nov 2012*].

- The ADF task group's primary effort is now advising the leadership of the ANA 4/205 Brigade, rather than at the kandak level.
- On 26 March, the Prime Minister and Minister for Defence announced Australia will transfer its facilities at Multi-National Base Tarin-Kot (MNB-TK) to the Afghan Government by December 2013.
- This milestone will coincide with the conclusion of Australia's training mission in Uruzgan province.
- The ADF has now commenced redeployment and remediation of Australian assets back to Australia.
- Once the ADF's mission in Uruzgan is complete, the ADF's conventional force contribution will continue, albeit on a smaller scale, with the Afghan National Officer Academy and Logistics Advisory Training Team in Kabul. Additionally, the ADF 205 Corps Coalition Advisory Team will continue beyond 2013.

#### **Defence's potential post-2014 footprint and role in Afghanistan**

- The ADF will maintain a presence in Afghanistan beyond 2014 in recognition that Australia has a national interest in supporting Afghanistan's stability and security.
- Post-2014, the ADF will continue to be engaged in Afghanistan through training and advisory support, including at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy in Kabul.
- We will also consider a possible Special Forces contribution, in the right circumstances and under the right mandate.
- Australia will contribute US\$100 million annually for three years from 2015 as part of international efforts to help sustain and support the ANSF beyond the transition process.

#### **Reporting on the continued influence of senior figures in Uruzgan, including Provincial Chief of Police Matiullah Khan.**

- Appointments to Government positions are a matter for the Afghan Government.
- As with all Australian involvement with influential people in Uruzgan, we aim to ensure that their influence is used positively, in support of governance and security in the province.

#### **If Asked: Reporting on the capacity of Afghanistan to develop stable and democratic Government [reference: 25 March 4 Corners Program "Mission Accomplished"]**

- Strengthening the capacity of the Afghan government, economy and institutions will be a long-term prospect essential to ensuring that the gains made to date are not reversed.
- The international community, including Australia, has signed a number of long-term partnership agreements with Afghanistan which include support for building capacity and governance.
  - The ISAF campaign has provided the time, space and opportunity for government and development to grow.

**If asked: Widespread reporting that Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Dr Zalmi Rassoul "appears to have ruled out a combat role for Australian special forces after the withdrawal of coalition troops."**

- The need for an Australian Special Forces contribution beyond 2014 will be the subject of discussions between Afghanistan, the US and NATO.
- The Government will consider a possible Special Forces contribution, in the right circumstances and under the right mandate.

### Questions on Notice

- **In QON 41 Provincial Reconstruction Team & correction to the error in Defence Reporting on ODA** – Senator Rhiannon asked a series of questions related to the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Uruzgan and ADF expenditure on individual aid projects.
- **Tabled 29 May 2013**

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Date: 16 May 2013

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### ATTACHMENTS.

- A. **BACKGROUND**
- B. **RESPONSE TO QON 41.**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Defence's error in calculating Official Development Assistance for Afghanistan.**

The ADF, with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and AusAID, works within the Uruzgan Provincial Reconstruction Team to conduct developmental projects.

These are funded from within the Defence budget, under operational funding arrangements within ODA eligibility guidelines.

On 24 October, Defence identified costs which are not ODA-eligible under the Reporting Directives that were incorrectly included in ODA-eligible expenditure for Afghanistan.

Correcting these errors has resulted in the cost of Defence's ODA eligible projects from financial years 2006-2007 to 2010-2011 totalling \$57.722 million and not \$255.413 million as previously reported in Defence's original submission.

The 2011-12 ODA eligible figures have been finalised and included in the Senate Inquiry Correction and the correction to QoN 41 (attached).

## SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF

Operations 3  
Secretary's and CDF's pack

### OPERATIONS 03: AFGHANISTAN TRANSITION – OTHER ISSUES

#### Key Facts

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 13 December 2012, the Australian Government announced a visa policy that will offer resettlement to Australia to eligible locally engaged Afghan employees at risk of harm due to their employment in support of Australia's mission in Afghanistan.</li> <li>• The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade released its report <i>Australia's Overseas Development Programs in Afghanistan</i> on 16 May with 3 recommendations for Defence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the 2013-14 Budget, Government has approved net additional costs of \$874.9 million for Operation SLIPPER which included \$33.9 million for strategic lift related to redeployment and remediation activities.</li> </ul>
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#### Key Issues

##### Planning for redeployment and remediation

- As a result of the completion of our training mission in Uruzgan and subsequent closure of Multi-National Base Tarin-Kot (MNB-TK), many of our troops will return home towards the end of 2013.
  - The overall number of ADF personnel will not substantially decrease until towards the end of 2013 as additional personnel are deployed temporarily to support the transition and redeployment effort.
- The ADF continues to work closely with our International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) partners to ensure that Australia's redeployment planning is aligned with ISAF and NATO guidelines, and the Afghan Government.

##### Cost of transition & withdrawal

- The specific costs of the ADF's drawdown from Uruzgan will be determined through 2013.

- The cost of deconstruction is based on using contracted labour to demolish or deconstruct all Australian owned infrastructures to bare ground.
- In the 2013-14 Budget, Government has approved net additional costs of \$874.9 million for Operation SLIPPER which included \$33.9 million for strategic lift related to redeployment and remediation activities.

### **Work to assess the options for sale, gifting, return to Australia, relocation within Afghanistan to support our post 2014 posture or destruction**

- The ADF has equipment in Uruzgan, Kandahar and Kabul as well as our logistics hub in the United Arab Emirates.
- A variety of options for the redeployment or disposal of equipment are being investigated, including return to Australia, gifting or sale (to the Afghan Government, other coalition partners or commercial operators) or destruction.
  - There is no intent to gift ADF weapons, ammunition or body armour to the Afghan National Security Forces. These items will be returned to Australia or comprehensively destroyed in Afghanistan.
- Defence is working to ensure options for redeployment of equipment align with our International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) partners.

### **Tactical Payments Scheme (TPS)**

- In situations where an individual, family or community has sustained a loss due to conflict, the ADF is able to use the TPS to make a small payment to those who have suffered, as an expression of sympathy and to assist recovery in line with local custom.
  - TPS payments do not imply any wrong-doing by members of the ADF, nor are they an admission of guilt. Such payments are an indicator of the ADF's good faith towards the people of Afghanistan.

### **Australia's Visa Policy for Locally Engaged Employees**

- Defence is committed to ensuring the safety of all personnel, including locally engaged employees.
- On 13 December 2012, the Australian Government announced a visa policy that will offer resettlement to Australia to eligible locally engaged Afghan employees at risk of harm due to their employment in support of Australia's mission in Afghanistan.

- Successful applicants will be resettled to Australia under Australia's Humanitarian program, administered by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

### **Support for Australian development projects post-transition**

- The Comprehensive Long-Term Partnership, signed at Chicago in May 2012, demonstrates Australia's commitment to Afghanistan beyond 2014, through cooperation in security, trade and development.
- Australia will contribute US\$100 million annually for three years from 2015 as part of international efforts to help sustain and support the ANSF beyond transition.
- Australia's total Official Development Assistance to Afghanistan will increase to \$250 million per year by 2015-16.
- Further questions relating to development projects post-transition should be directed to AusAID.

### **Senate Inquiry Report on Australia's ODA programs in Afghanistan**

- Aware of the release of the report on *Australia's Overseas Development Programs in Afghanistan* by the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade [on 16 May].
- We thank the committee for its efforts in looking at this complex area of Australia's mission to Afghanistan.
  - We are considering the report's findings and recommendations in detail.
- The ADF campaign plan for its operations in Afghanistan is closely aligned with other Australian Government agencies including AusAID.
- The ADF, with representatives from DFAT and AusAID, works within the Uruzgan Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) to develop projects in close consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including Afghan and ISAF partners, provincial and district administration leaders and local communities.
- While Defence is not an aid agency, it has undertaken construction projects in Uruzgan to support national capacity building and campaign objectives.
  - Military construction activities have often been delivered where civilian aid cannot due to the security risks.

**If asked: Does the ADF monitor the development impact of construction projects? If not, why not?**

- Defence projects are monitored during the construction period to ensure that they are suitable for their intended purpose and meet the required construction standards.
  - For example, the Tarin Kot Waste Management facility is currently being monitored through to completion of the contracted requirements.
- Defence hands the projects over to the relevant authority in Afghanistan once the contracted requirements are completed.
  - Afghan authorities then have ownership of the resource and the local Afghan community uses the resource as it sees fit.

- **In QON 5 Future Advisors after troop withdrawal - Senator Rhiannon asked a series of questions related to the advisers that will remain in Afghanistan after the ADF draws down Tabled 3 December 2012.**
- **In QON 15 Locally Engaged Employee's - Senator Rhiannon asked a question regarding arrangements for Afghans and their families who have been associated through work with the ADF Tabled 3 December 2012.**

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. RESPONSE TO QON NO. 5
- B. RESPONSE TO QON NO. 15



## BACKGROUND

### *Closure of Multi-National Base Train-Kot*

On 26 March 2013, the Prime Minister and Minister for Defence announced the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) decision to close Multi National Base – Tarin Kot (MNB-TK) in Uruzgan Province at the end of this year.

The decision to drawdown and close MNB-TK and hand over to the ANSF was made after consultation with Australia, which leads Combined Team – Uruzgan, and Afghan authorities and is in line with the timetable to transition to full Afghan led security responsibility in Uruzgan Province by the end of 2013.

The overall number of ADF personnel will not substantially decrease until towards the end of 2013 as additional personnel are deployed temporarily to support the transition and redeployment effort. At least 1,000 ADF personnel will return to Australia and the end 2013, marking the end of an ongoing ADF presence in Uruzgan.

### *Infrastructure & Equipment*

The ADF has developed extensive infrastructure within Afghanistan and the MEAO over the last 10 years. Where the ANSF determine they do not require a Coalition Patrol Base and it is closed, the site will be remediated and all infrastructure and equipment removed. A robust environmental plan has been developed to ensure all sites are remediated to a high standard and that all demolished infrastructure is removed and disposed of appropriately.

The ADF has equipment located in Uruzgan, Kandahar and Kabul within Afghanistan. It also has equipment at its logistics hub in the UAE. The ADF inventory in the MEAO includes approximately: 1,300 Drehtainer armoured accommodation modules, 600 shipping containers, 275 vehicles (as at 12 April 2013).

There are around 3,500 computer terminals in more than 170 buildings across the MEAO. The ADF will work closely with Biosecurity Australia to ensure all quarantine requirements are met before material is imported back into Australia. A decision has yet to be made for the location of cleaning points.

### Senate Inquiry Report: Australia's Overseas Development Programs in Afghanistan

On 20 September 2012, Defence provided a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into *The administration, management and objectives of Australia's overseas development programs in Afghanistan in the context of the 'Transition Decade'*. Defence also provided a supplementary submission on 3 December 2012.

Defence witnesses attended the Inquiry on 13 December 2012 and 22 March 2013, and provided responses to additional questions on notice from the Committee.

Some witnesses and committee members expressed reservations about:

- The effectiveness of aid delivered by the ADF in Uruzgan suggesting that some projects were 'quick fixes' and unsustainable;
- The monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of Australia's Official Development Assistance (ODA) -eligible activities in Afghanistan; and

- The safety of aid recipients or non-military aid workers due to the military's involvement in development assistance.

On 16 May, the Senate Committee released a report on its findings, *Australia's Overseas Development Programs in Afghanistan*, and provided three recommendations relating to Defence:

- A review be undertaken by the Australian Civil Military Centre on the effects (positive and negative) of the ADF's involvement in the deliverance of development assistance in Afghanistan;
- The Australian Government ensure that the resettlement program is available to all such locally engaged staff at credible risk and not just those at the greatest risk of harm; and
- The ADF (and AFP) take the opportunity in their training, mentoring and advisory role with their Afghan counterparts to help create an awareness of the importance of gender equality and human rights and to encourage greater participation of Afghan women in Afghanistan's military and police forces.

Ministerial and Executive Support Branch is liaising with Defence stakeholders and other agencies to develop a response for your (Secretary and CDF) consideration.