



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Reference: AM2868717

**FOI 150/16/17 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

1. I refer to the application by [REDACTED] under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to:

*“... The following email is a FOI request for unredacted copies of photos of weapons seized by the HMAS Darwin from a dhow sailing off the coast of Oman in late February 2016 (see <https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/2016/03/06/hmas-darwin-seizes-large-weapons-cache/>).*

*Specifically, I am requesting unredacted versions of Image 5, Image 12, Image 35 and Image 41 provided to me (with redactions) in response to FOI 326/15/16.*

*As evidenced by the release of comparable, unredacted photos of the seized weapons to Conflict Armament Research (see [http://www.conflictarm.com/download-file/?report\\_id=2444&file\\_id=2445](http://www.conflictarm.com/download-file/?report_id=2444&file_id=2445), see pp. 6-9), which include legible images of serial numbers and other markings, the concerns about the release of the unredacted photos that led to the redaction of the photos provided in response to FOI 326/15/16 clearly no longer apply...”*

**FOI decision maker**

2. I am the Accredited Officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

**Documents identified**

3. I identified four documents, being the four images as matching the description of the request.

**Decision**

4. I have decided to release the identified documents in full.

**Material taken into account**

5. In making my decision, I had regard to:

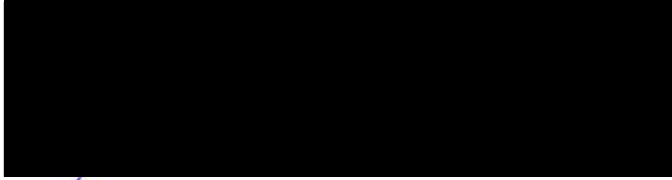
- a. the terms of the request;
- b. the content of the identified documents in issue;
- c. relevant provisions in the FOI Act; and
- d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines); and
- e. advice received from Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 (HQ JTF 633) & Maritime Operational Support Group (CMF).

**Clarification**

6. Please note that while Item 3 contains text below the photo stating 'Image 36', the image is in fact Image 35. The titles for all images were contained above each image and as such it did not carry over from the previous page. Image 36 was not captured by the request,

**Further Information**

7. A number of the documents matching the scope of this request were classified. I have declassified the versions of the documents that are approved for release.



✓ COL Michael Collie  
Accredited Decision Maker  
Headquarters Joint Operations Command

✓ December 2016