



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

Reference: R33757381

**FOI 226/17/18 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:

*“In relation to the Implementation of 'Women, Peace and Security' - Principles into exercise Talisman Sabre 15, I would like the final versions of:*

- 1. Policy, reports, briefs or minutes that detail how the WPS principles were incorporated during the exercise.*
- 2. A report, brief or minute which outlines the focused education and training provided to ensure wide awareness of the key WPS messages and themes.*
- 3. Reports, briefs or minutes containing guidance to the Gender Advisers for the planning and execution phases of the exercise.*
- 4. Reports, briefs or minutes from the Command Team which reinforced the importance and necessity of Women, Peace and Security at key times throughout the exercise.”*

**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 nine documents as matching the description of the request.
4. The decision in relation to each document is detailed in a schedule of documents.
5. I have added an FOI reference number and Item/Serial number to each of the documents, which corresponds with the schedule.

**Decision**

6. I have decided to:
  - a. release six documents in full;
  - b. partially release three documents in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] of the FOI Act, on the grounds that the deleted material is considered exempt under section 33(a)(iii) [Documents affecting international relations] of the FOI Act; and
  - c. remove irrelevant material as referred to in the scope of the request in accordance with section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

**Material taken into account**

7. 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;
- 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 the US Government.

### **Reasons for decision**

#### **Section 33(a)(iii) – Documents affecting international relations**

8. Upon examination of the documents, I identified information, specifically the names of US civilian and enlisted military personnel. Consultation with the United States was undertaken on the documents and they had no objections to the release of the documents with the names of the identified personnel excluded.

9. Noting the documents are otherwise substantially complete, I was satisfied that the relevant material is exempt under subparagraph 33(a)(iii) of the FOI Act as it would diminish the confidence which another country would have in Australia and impact future cooperation with Australian agencies.

#### **Further Information**

10. Item 1 Serial 2 is a paper or brief that has been stored as a record within the Defence Records Management System (DRMS). The stored copy contains an error reference (page 21) and a page that is clearly not relevant to the paper (page 23), indicating that the stored document is not a final copy. Because the Item 1 Serial 2 document is relevant to the FOI request, it is being released. However, the final status, use or eventual publication of this incomplete paper is unknown.

11. Please note that Page 23 of Item 1 Serial 2 was redacted, as it contained personal information of the author that I am satisfied is irrelevant material as referred to in the scope of the request.

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N.A. Cram  
Accredited Decision Maker  
Joint Operations Command Group