HIB Number 000711

Date/Time
Transmitted: 21/09/20 10 13:36

Subject: SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE AT QUEANBEYAN ARCHIVES AND MAIL CENTRE (QAMC).

Comment: LIMITED DISTRIBUTION - NOT TO BE FORWARDED

HOT ISSUE BRIEF

ISSUE: SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE AT QUEANBEYAN ARCHIVES AND MAIL CENTRE (QAMC).

SENSITIVITY: Medium – Businesses and public transport in local area are affected due to street closure, which may attract media interest.

KEY ISSUES:

• At 0745hrs this morning (Tuesday 21 Sep 10) a suspicious package (leaking liquid - as yet unidentified) was discovered in the mail sorting area at the QAMC which was evacuated and locked down. Wycombe Street was also closed off.
• AFP, NSW Police and ACT and NSW Fire Brigade attended, and the package was sealed pending identification of the suspicious substance.
• At approx 1030hrs the emergency services determined that the substance was not a threat and authorised the re-opening of Wycombe Street and the QAMC workplace.
• QAMC staff returned to the workplace at approx 1040hrs and limited mail services to and from QAMC are expected to resume this afternoon, with full service to resume on the morning of Wednesday 22 Sep 10.
Two officers from the AFP remained on site and secured the item pending removal / disposal by Defence.

Arrangements have been made to remove the item.

Contact Officer: Laurie Curry  W: 03 9282 3366  M: 
Authorised by: MAJGEN E  W: 03 9282 7656  M: 

Date issued: 21 September 2010

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CONTINGENCY TALKING POINTS

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE FOUND IN QUEANBEYAN 21 September 2010

- Defence can confirm that a suspicious package of unknown origin was located at the Defence Mail Centre, Queanbeyan NSW at about 7.45am this morning.

- The Australian Federal Police and NSW Police with the assistance of Defence investigated.

- Police took the precaution to temporarily restrict access to the site, including the closure of Wycombe Street.

- The package was determined by emergency services to be non-threatening.

- Defence Staff were allowed back inside the building at about 10.40am.

- The incident provided an opportunity for the Defence Mail Centre to implement their emergency evacuation procedures, which were a success.

- Further enquiries should be referred to the NSW Police Media Centre.
IF ASKED: WHAT WAS THE SUBSTANCE?
- Emergency services identified that the leaking liquid substance was not a threat. The identification of the substance was not determined at that time.
- Further enquiries should be referred to the NSW Police Media Centre.

IF ASKED: DID WORKERS COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE LIQUID?
- One staff member handled the package but did not come into direct contact with the liquid, and suffered no ill effects.

IF ASKED: WAS DEFENCE MAIL AFFECTED?
- Mail sorting was temporarily interrupted, however some deliveries will still be made today.
- All mail services will be returned to normal tomorrow.

IF ASKED: DID THE FIRE BRIGADE ATTEND?
- Yes.

IF ASKED: DID THE AMBULANCE ATTEND?
- No.

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