

HIB Number: 000746

Date/Time  
Transmitted: 21/11/2010 10:45

Subject: DISCOVERY OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS IN HMAS MELBOURNE  
Comment:  
Action Area: CJOPS

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION - NOT TO BE FORWARDED

## HOT ISSUE BRIEF

### ISSUE: DISCOVERY OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS IN HMAS MELBOURNE

**SENSITIVITY: High – Allegations of drug use by deployed personnel remains highly sensitive.**

#### KEY ISSUES:

- During the afternoon of 20 Nov 10 (local time) a sailor onboard HMAS *Melbourne* discovered a bag containing medication in the ship's seamanship storeroom.
- The bag was inspected, identified as steroids and taken into custody by *Melbourne's* Naval Police Coxswains. The storeroom was then secured.
- A further search of the storeroom was conducted later that evening during which second bag of steroids was located and taken into custody. The storeroom was again secured on completion.
- Total quantity discovered was [REDACTED]

- Quantity is assessed as sufficient for six months use by one person.
- [REDACTED] and an unknown quantity of tablets ([REDACTED]) have been used.
- An investigation into the incident is underway.

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**Date issued: 21 November 2010**

### **TALKING POINTS**

- On 20 November a quantity of anabolic steroids was discovered on board an RAN ship deployed on operations in the Middle East.
- Defence takes the use of illicit substances, including steroids, very seriously.
- All members deployed to the Middle East are subject to random drug testing.
- All personnel are briefed on the defence policy in relation to prohibited substance abuse prior to deploying to the Middle East.
- All ADF personnel are educated in relation to the dangers of substance abuse annually.
- An investigation into the discovery of prohibited substances on one of our ships is underway.