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 35
• Quantity is assessed as sufficient for six months use by one person.

• and an unknown quantity of tablets have been used.

• An investigation into the incident is underway.

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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.