

## DMPLS Hot Issue Brief TRACKING SYSTEM

HIB Number: 000747

Date/Time  
Transmitted: 21/11/2010 21:31

Subject: RECOVERY OF THE MU90 LIGHTWEIGHT EXERCISE TORPEDO THAT WAS  
LOST IN THE NAVY'S WESTERN AUSTRALIA EXERCISE AREA ON 18  
NOVEMBER 2010 - SUNDAY 21 NOV 2010 UPDATE

Comment:  
Action Area DNMC

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### **HOT ISSUE BRIEF (Sunday 21 Nov 2010 Update)**

### **ISSUE: RECOVERY OF THE MU90 LIGHTWEIGHT EXERCISE TORPEDO THAT WAS LOST IN THE NAVY'S WESTERN AUSTRALIA EXERCISE AREA ON 18 NOVEMBER 2010**

**SENSITIVITY: Medium.** JP2070 Replacement Lightweight Torpedo Project is being managed as a Project of Concern by the Defence Materiel Organisation.

#### **KEY ISSUES:**

- The MU90 exercise torpedo that was lost in the Navy's Western Australia Exercise Area on Thursday 18 Nov 2010 was recovered by Navy Clearance Diver Team 4 on Saturday 20 November 2010.
- The torpedo has been returned to the Torpedo Maintenance Facility at HMAS STIRLING where a detailed defect investigation will be undertaken.
- There will be no further Hot Issue Brief progress updates on this issue.

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**Date issued: 21 Nov 2010**

## **BACKGROUND:**

Joint Project 2070 is acquiring the MU90 light weight anti-submarine torpedo to replace the aging Mk46 for Navy.

The project is in the test and evaluation stage and the firing of an exercise torpedo was conducted as part of the acceptance test process. The torpedo was to be recovered and refurbished as part of the certification process for a mobile post exercise facility.

The JP2070 project has recently been audited by the Australian National Audit Office which was critical of Defence's management of the project. Many of the issues raised in the audit have been addressed.

JP2070 is being managed by DMO as a Project of Concern.

## **TALKING POINTS**

- **An MU90 lightweight exercise torpedo was lost on Thursday 18 November 2010 after being fired from HMAS WARRAMUNGA in the Navy's exercise area in Western Australia. The test firing was undertaken as part of acceptance test and evaluation of the MU90 lightweight torpedo system.**
- **The torpedo was recovered on Saturday 20 November 2010 by Navy Clearance Diver Team 4 and returned to HMAS STIRLING.**
- **The torpedo will undergo a detailed defect investigation to establish the reasons why the test firing did not proceed as planned.**
- **The torpedo is an exercise torpedo and does not have a warhead. The torpedo posed no danger to the public or the environment.**

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