SENSITIVITY: Medium. Members of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) have withheld academic results at the end of Session Two 2010, as part of the union’s ongoing industrial dispute with the University of New South Wales (UNSW). This action was reported in today’s Sydney Morning Herald, and is likely to be reported in the Canberra Times tomorrow (3 December 2010).

KEY ISSUES:

• One NTEU academic staff member at UNSW@ADFA withheld academic results at the end of Session Two 2010 in support of the NTEU’s ongoing dispute with UNSW.

• Approximately 20 UNSW@ADFA students have had their marks withheld, including ADFA officer cadets and midshipmen.

• The NTEU member claimed in today’s Sydney Morning Herald that UNSW@ADFA management are falsifying marks and therefore several
graduating officer cadets and midshipmen do not deserve their undergraduate degrees.

- UNSW@ADFA is refuting this claim, as the cadets' assessments have been graded by other academic staff. All assessments were carefully reviewed and no officer cadet or midshipman is considered to have been adversely affected or advantaged by this legitimate process. All affected ADFA personnel have been informed.

- The Rector of UNSW@ADFA conducted an interview with the Canberra Times today and has written a letter to the Sydney Morning Herald in relation to the issue. It is probable that the contents of his interview will appear in an article in tomorrow's edition of the Canberra Times.

- ADFA continues to work with UNSW@ADFA to minimise the impact of the NTEU dispute on its cadets and advanced students.

BACKGROUND:

- This is an ongoing issue for UNSW. NTEU members from the Kensington and UNSW@ADFA campuses have undertaken industrial action in September 2009, and in March, July and November 2010.

- This issue was initially reported in Hot Issues Brief ADFA 04/10, and in subsequent updates.