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Subject: JASSM LIVE FIRE
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HOT ISSUE BRIEF

ISSUE: JASSM LIVE FIRE

SENSITIVITY: Medium. AIR 5418 has recently been listed as a Project of Concern and has been the subject of media scrutiny. This capability is one of the enablers to bridge the capability gap due to the withdrawal from service of the F111.

KEY ISSUES:

- The live fire of a Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) from an Australian F/A-18 A/B (Classic) Hornet aircraft was completed on 3 December 2010.
- The live fire was conducted at the US Navy's China Lake Air Weapons Centre as part of the project AIR 5418 test activities.
- The missile successfully launched, navigated via the pre-planned route and impacted the designated target without incident.
- Detailed analysis of the firing will now be undertaken and should be available early in the new year.
- This event signifies the final test of a complex program to integrate the missile into the Australian Classic Hornet operational flight program software.

- Work will continue on finalising and proving the complete end to end capability of the JASSM system.
- A Ministerial Submission will follow.

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BACKGROUND:

The JASSM used during the China Lake test event was a test missile (i.e. it carried a telemetry kit, flight termination system and inert warhead).

This is the first time that a JASSM has been launched from an F/A-18 Hornet (US or Australian).

If after detailed analysis it is determined that the trial was successful we would expect a letter from US Navy certifying that JASSM has been integrated into the F/A-18 A/B Operational Flight Program software in early 2011.

Operational test and evaluation is planned to be conducted at the Woomera Test Range during 2011, leading to an Initial Operational Capability by the end of 2011.

TALKING POINTS

- **The test firing of a Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) was conducted in the United States using an RAAF F/A-18 A/B (Classic) Hornet on Friday 3 December (West Coast USA time).**