HOT ISSUE BRIEF

ISSUE: INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED USE OF ILLICIT SUBSTANCES HMAS KUTTABUL

SENSITIVITY: High – Allegations of illicit drug use by ADF personnel remains sensitive.

KEY ISSUES:

• During 10 Dec10 (local time) ADFIS investigators, acting on information provided, identified 18 sailors as persons of interest for alleged use of illicit substances.

• ADFIS have taken 15 urine samples for analysis and searched three private residences and three service accommodation rooms.

• ADFIS have seized a quantity of syringes and anabolic steroids, along with a small sum of cash, some non-lethal weapons and other drug-related paraphernalia.

• A number of admissions to supply and use of a number of illicit substances were made while not under caution.

• This operation remains on going and is unlikely to be finalised until early next week.
TALKING POINTS

- On 10 December ADFIS initiated an investigation into alleged use of illicit substances at a Naval Base in Australia.
- A number of sailors are being questioned and their accommodation being searched. Urine samples have been taken for analysis.
- Defence takes the use of illicit substances, including steroids, very seriously.
- All ADF personnel are educated in relation to the dangers of substance abuse annually.
- An investigation into this matter is on-going.