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Subject: 3 INCH MORTAR BOMB STRUCK BY CIVIL CONTRACTORS AT
GALLIPOLI BARRACKS, ENOGGERA, QLD

Comment:
Action Area HI

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HOT ISSUE BRIEF

ISSUE: 3 inch mortar bomb struck by civil contractors at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, QLD

SENSITIVITY: There is expected to be high media interest due to UXO being present and struck in the barracks by civilian contractors. The Barracks is surrounded by residential estates.

KEY ISSUES:

- At 1435 Brisbane time on 23 February 2011, a civil contractor, working for the John Holland Group on the Enhanced Land Force Phase 2B project, struck a buried unexploded 3 inch Mortar bomb with machinery in the Mission Rehearsal Site works area within the Gallipoli Barracks cantonment. The striking of the bomb resulted in a flash and smoke.
- Defence Explosive Ordnance Personnel were notified of the incident, attended and confirmed that the smoke was consistent with White Phosphorus ammunition. However, the munition identification process was delayed until the smoke had ceased.
- Once the smoke had cleared, at approximately 1935, the Explosives Ordnance Personnel confirmed the munition as a 3 inch Mortar bomb filled with White Phosphorous.
- An exclusion zone around the Mission Rehearsal Site area has been activated until the Explosives Ordnance Personnel clear the site. Once the facility is

cleared by explosives ordnance personnel, the managing contractor will engage UXO specialists to conduct ground investigations in the surrounding area.

- No persons were injured during this incident.

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BACKGROUND:

- The works at Gallipoli Barracks are part of the Enhanced Land Force (ELF) Stage 2 project, and will provide facilities for the newly raised 8th/9th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment (8/9 RAR). Other elements of the ELF Stage 2 project include the upgrade of training areas and ranges at various sites throughout Australia.
- The need for facilities and infrastructure is driven by the requirement to support the Enhanced Land Force program that will substantially increase the size of the Army. Additionally, the Army's Training Areas and establishments will need to be able to sustain the increase in individual career training requirements and increased collective training requirements.
- The Mission Rehearsal Exercise Site is included in this Scope of Works, and forms a critical part of enabling Defence capability, more specifically, supporting training for 7 Brigade.

TALKING POINTS

- At approximately 1435, Brisbane time on 23 February 2011, civil contractor working for the Enhanced Land Force Phase 2B project, struck a buried unexploded 3 Inch Mortar bomb with machinery in an area of the Gallipoli Barracks cantonment at Enoggera in Brisbane.
- The Unexploded Ordnance did not explode, but let out white smoke from the munition.
- Defence Explosive Personnel confirmed that the unexploded Ordnance was a 3 inch White Phosphorus Mortar bomb.
- An exclusion Zone was set around the area, and Defence Explosive Personnel are in the process of clearing the site
- Nobody was injured during this incident and a full report is expected from the project team in due course.

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