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Subject: RECOVERED USB STICK - UPDATE
Comment:
Action Area: DEPSECIS&S

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HOT ISSUE BRIEF

ISSUE: RECOVERED USB STICK

SENSITIVITY: A radio announcer has claimed to be in possession of Defence USB stick containing classified Defence material. The issue is likely to raise media interest.

KEY ISSUES:

- **A 2GB Radio Sydney announcer broadcast on 10 March 2011, that he was in the possession of a computer memory stick that contained Defence classified information.**
- **The memory stick was allegedly found on a Qantas flight.**
- **The memory stick was collected by Defence staff from the radio station on 10 March 2011.**
- **██████████ confirmed that official information, largely ADF and US Army doctrinal publications, classified at the RESTRICTED level, is stored on the device.**
- **The Australian information is available from the Defence Restricted Network and the US information is available on the internet.**
- **Defence is now undertaking a damage assessment in relation to this incident.**

- **The owner of the thumb drive is a former Army Officer who transferred to the inactive Army Reserve in [REDACTED] 2011.**

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M: [REDACTED]
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Date issued: 11 March 2011


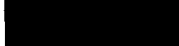
BACKGROUND

1. DSD analysis of the USB stick shows that it holds 18 PDF files and one Word document.
2. The PDF files are ADF doctrinal publications, Defence petroleum and engineering standards and United States Army handbooks. The Australian publications are available on the Defence restricted Network and the US Army handbooks are freely available on the internet.
3. Defence investigators interviewed 2GB staff today in relation to the incident. 2GB staff declined to identify the person who found the thumb drive but agreed to pass the Defence investigators' details to this person and to ask the person to contact Defence.
4. The owner of the thumb drive has been confirmed as a former Army officer who transferred to the inactive Army Reserve in [REDACTED] 2011. This person is now a contractor dealing with Defence and states that he retained the information on the thumb drive due to its relevance to his contracted work with Defence.

TALKING POINTS

- **I am aware that a 2GB Radio announcer yesterday was in possession of a computer memory stick containing classified Defence material.**
- **Defence personnel have collected the memory stick and I can confirm that it does contain Defence documents.**

- **The contents of the memory stick are being analysed and the circumstances around the loss of the stick are under investigation.**
- **Until this investigation is complete, I am unable to provide further comment other than to thank 2GB for arranging the memory stick's return to the department.**

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