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Subject: FOREIGN MILITARY STUDENT VERY SERIOUSLY ILL
Comment:
Action Area FASIP

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HOT ISSUES BRIEF

ISSUE: FOREIGN MILITARY STUDENT VERY SERIOUSLY ILL

SENSITIVITY: Medium. Media attention is unlikely however delays in informing Next of Kin may heighten sensitivity post-event.

KEY ISSUES:

- On 6 April 2011, International Policy Division received advice from the Defence International Training Centre that a foreign military officer studying at the Centre had been admitted to Royal Melbourne Hospital with a life-threatening medical condition.
- The officer had presented to RAAF Williams Medical Centre in the morning with dizziness, mobility issues and vomiting.
- He was subsequently transferred to Western General Hospital and later Royal Melbourne Hospital for specialist diagnosis and has since undergone emergency surgery.

- Diagnosis is confirmed as multiple aneurisms on the brain. Prognosis is that the foreign military student is unlikely to survive.
- The officer is in intensive care on life support at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.
- Next of Kin have been notified through Defence staff in [REDACTED] and full Departmental support is being provided.
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Date issued: 7 April 2011

BACKGROUND:

On 6 Apr 11, the Defence International Training Centre (DITC) advised the Defence Cooperation Liaison Office (DCLO) within International Policy Division that a [REDACTED] attending the Centre had been admitted to hospital with a life-threatening medical condition. The member had presented to Base medical staff with dizziness, difficulty standing and had been vomiting blood. Base medical staff arranged for immediate transfer to Western General Hospital for testing.

The [REDACTED] officer's conditions worsened during the day and he was immediately transferred to Royal Melbourne Hospital for further testing. Emergency surgery was subsequently undertaken and the officer remains in a very serious condition.

Medical advice is that there is a high probability that the officer will not survive.

At 2354 hrs, DITC advised that the [REDACTED] officer was now considered to be in a critical condition and was on life support.

The Defence Attaché in [REDACTED] Australian Language Adviser - [REDACTED] and the Australian Embassy in [REDACTED] have been advised and updated throughout.

The [REDACTED] Embassy in Canberra is aware and is providing assistance to NOK and other [REDACTED] officer's studying at the Centre.

NOK have been contacted and work is underway to bring the officer's parents to Australia. Arrangements have been put in place to facilitate emergency passport and visa issue.

TALKING POINTS:

FOREIGN MILITARY STUDENT ATTENDING AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE TRAINING GRAVELY ILL

- **A foreign military officer who was attending Australian language training at the Defence International Training Centre in Melbourne has been admitted to hospital with a life-threatening medical condition.**
- **Emergency medical treatment is being provided to the officer; however, the prognosis is grave.**
- **The foreign military officer's Next of Kin have been notified and arrangements are being made for them to travel to Australia.**
- **Defence is continuing to provide every support to the officer in Australia and with his family through our overseas Defence staff.**

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