



• Possible violations of responsible use of alcohol procedures at an ADF bar facility.

• A source informed Headquarters Northern Command that a SERCO compliance officer has engaged the NT Department of Justice (Liquor Licensing) to seek advice. The department's media section is aware of the incident and preparing a standard response.

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**Date issued: 8 December 2011**

**BACKGROUND:**

A misunderstanding regarding the closing time of the Larrakeyah Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess bar sparked a chain of events leading to an incident in the bar.

At 11pm the SERCO bar staff member announced to the President of the Mess Committee (PMC) that he was closing the bar. The PMC proceeded to inform the bar staff that the facility had been extended until 1am and proceeded to call the SERCO manager to clear up confusion.

At some time after this conversation the bar staff member was allegedly assaulted by a female WO2 and he proceeded to leave the facility. The PMC instructed the cash register be secured and a member of the mess asked to manage the bar on a chit system until conclusion of the function.

The civilian bar staff member has proceeded to the security office where he has informed them of his alleged assault and reported personnel were utilising the bar facility without SERCO supervision.

The officer of the day from HMAS COONAWARRA was called and attended the scene, as did Army Military Police and subsequently NORFORCE Duty Officer and Northern Territory police.

A male WO2 then allegedly assaulted military police, was insubordinate and made inappropriate comments to an officer who was trying to resolve the situation. He was restrained and later released. The situation was diffused and the WO2 left in company of his unit Duty Officer.

Respective officers of the day from HMAS Coonawarra and NORFORCE failed to complete a Notifiable Incident Report. This was rectified on 7 December 2011.

Military police are conducting an investigation into alleged assault and insubordination under the Defence Force Discipline Act. An administrative inquiry has been actioned to investigate the operation of mess and bar facilities at Larrakeyah Barracks. A review is being undertaken of the Duty Officer system and Reporting of Notifiable Incidents on base.

## **TALKING POINTS:**

- The Australian Defence Force is investigating allegations of inappropriate conduct by service personnel during a Christmas social function on 3 December 2011 at Larrakeyah Barracks.
- The incident occurred between a serving member, civilian staff and military police. An investigation is underway and it would be inappropriate to discuss further details of the incident until that investigation complete.
- The ADF promotes responsible consumption of alcohol.

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