

Hot Issue Brief Tracking System

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Subject: LOSS OF USB THUMB DRIVE CONTAINING SENSITIVE
INFORMATION RELATING TO THE MILHOP MEAO STUDY
Comment:
Group: VCDF

LOSS OF USB THUMB DRIVE CONTAINING SENSITIVE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE MILHOP MEAO STUDY

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT:

- An unprotected USB thumb drive containing sensitive information related to the Military Health Outcomes Program has been misplaced during travel.
- The thumb drive was being carried by a researcher travelling from Brisbane to Canberra.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT:

- The incident occurred on the morning of 11 May 2012 between the individual leaving Brisbane and arriving in Canberra.

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- QANTAS domestic airline lost property services have been contacted to advise the loss may have occurred on QF951 0550-0800 BNE/CBR.
- The individual has contacted family to check if the thumb drive is at the individual's residence.
- A security incident report has been lodged.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The researcher was attending the Program Management Board to brief the Joint Health Command on the 'draft' working paper produced by the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH) to report the findings of the MEAO Study.
- CMVH was contracted by Defence to undertake the MILHOP series of research studies. The MEAO Study was conducted by CMVH University of Queensland research staff.
- The program is a comprehensive study to determine the stress factors people and their families face as a result of deployments to the MEAO.
- Data collection has been concluded and data analysis is continuing.

A draft working paper produced for initial consideration by Defence. Formal presentation of the MEAO Study Report is to occur on 25 June 2012.

- The draft findings are yet to undergo detailed scientific or Defence analysis and may substantially change prior to the final report being agreed.
- Inadvertent release of the preliminary information into the public domain may cause concern among the serving or veteran community.

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