

Hot Issue Brief Tracking System

HIB Number: 001069
Date/Time Transmitted: 07/12/2012 16:32
Subject: UNEXPLODED SMOKE MARKER - TOWNSVILLE
Comment:
Group: AIR FORCE

UNEXPLODED SMOKE MARKER – TOWNSVILLE

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT:

- Three military Marker Location Marine (smoke markers) have been found washed up on Townsville beaches, over the last three days, following Air Force aircrew training flights.
- One of the smoke markers was unexploded.
- The smoke markers contain a small explosive charge that may be harmful if not properly handled.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT:

- On Saturday 1 December and Monday 3 December 2012, quantities of smoke markers were dispensed from the rear of RAAF C130J aircraft as part of Air Force aircrew training flights.
- It appears that at least one of the smoke markers has failed to activate after hitting the water, which includes sinking after a certain burning time.

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- Air Force is working with Queensland Police to dispose of any recovered smoke markers.
- Air Force has put out a media release warning local residents not to handle these smoke markers and asking that they report any smoke markers found to the local Queensland police.
- Defence staff are investigating why at least one of the smoke markers failed to operate as designed.

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Date Issued: 7 December 2012