

PROGRAM FOUR: AIR FORCE

OBJECTIVE

To prepare for, conduct and sustain effective air operations to promote Australia's security and interests.

DESCRIPTION

The Air Force Program provides forces for air operations, including offensive and defensive counter air operations, precision strike operations, airlift, reconnaissance and surveillance.

The Program Manager is the Chief of Air Force who is responsible for the command of the RAAF, preparation of forces for the conduct of air operations and the efficient and effective strategic management of the Program. The Air Force Program comprises three Sub-Programs:

- 4.1 Combat Forces: Maintain air forces capable of meeting ADF preparedness requirements for joint and independent air operations, national Defence tasks and international activities. Support Commander Australian Theatre with the provision of planning and operations staff and assigned forces.
- 4.2 Executive: Provide strategic-level support to the Chief of Air Force necessary to meet command and Program management responsibilities (including accountability) for the achievement of agreed Air Force objectives, and to meet advisory and support functions for the CDF and the Secretary to the Department of Defence. Agencies that report directly to Air Force Headquarters, including those responsible for flying safety, airworthiness and air power studies, also part of the Executive Sub-Program.
- 4.3 Training: Provide Service-specific training and single-Service management of specified joint training activities to ensure the competencies required by members of the Air Force and other customers are met.

The Chief of the Air Force will draw on an agreed level of support and resources from other Programs, particularly Support Command Australia, Defence Personnel Executive and Defence Corporate Support, in managing the Air Force and achieving Air Force performance targets for 1998-99.

STRATEGIES FOR 1998-99

In pursuit of Defence and Air Force objectives, the Air Force Program will:

- a. prioritise activities and allocate resources to meet ADF operational requirements, other national defence tasks, regional cooperation and other international activities;

- b. develop and maintain Air Force capabilities in terms of doctrine, command and control, standards, weapon systems, combat support systems, infrastructure, logistic support systems, training, personnel and support resources;
- c. influence the development of a force structure and organisation that is consistent with ADF air power needs and structured for war;
- d. lead a combat-focused air power team, with a sustainable balance of Service, civilian and contractor components, in ways that reflect respect for Air Force values and the welfare and contribution of individuals;
- e. influence the development of personnel policies and practices that recognise the special nature of Air Force service, reflect wider community standards and enhance the attraction of a career in the Air Force;
- f. employ strategic planning, resource management and evaluation, performance measurement, and environmental management in the performance of all Air Force activities; and
- g. promote understanding of the importance of air power to Australia's security and interests.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR 1998-99

The Air Force's performance will be measured by reference to the key result areas of:

- a. capability for air strike/reconnaissance;
- b. capability for tactical fighter operations;
- c. capability for strategic surveillance;
- d. capability for maritime patrol aircraft operations;
- e. capability for airlift;
- f. capability for combat support of air operations;
- g. contribution to international relations;
- h. contribution to national tasks;
- i. safety; and
- j. effective and efficient management of personnel and resources.

PERFORMANCE FORECAST FOR 1998-99

In support of Defence and Air Force objectives, the Air Force will:

- achieve the planned flying hour program at Tables 4.1 to 4.6 to meet training, preparedness, developmental and other tasks;
- improve operational capability through training, operations and exercises, and enhance cooperation with regional and allied forces, by participating in the exercise programs detailed at Tables 4.7 and 4.8;
- conduct successfully the maritime surveillance operations listed at Table 4.9;
- maintain a force that is trained, fit and ready to fight;
- contribute to international relations including Defence Cooperation, regional cooperation, peace operations and international obligations;
- contribute to national tasks including the provision of aid to the civil community, assistance to other government agencies and support to events of national significance;
- manage ADF flying safety and airworthiness;
- manage efficiently and effectively the financial resources allocated to Air Force as detailed at Table 4.10;
- implement Air Force aspects of the Defence Reform Program;
- complete a review of Air Force's Force Element Group structure, including use of Reserves and the ability to recruit, train and qualify within warning time;
- enhance performance management at the Program level within Air Force;
- establish appropriate agreements for effective transition of new capabilities and capital equipment into service through the weapon system capability management process;
- promote a wider understanding of air power doctrine throughout the Defence organisation, the community and the region;
- conduct an Air Force cultural assessment to identify and address issues relevant to maintaining the ethos, values and attitudes of Air Force personnel;
- implement training initiatives which ensure the development and maintenance of Air Force values and attitudes;
- establish a formal process for matching available funding to required capability levels; and
- evaluate implementation of the Air Power Education Program.

Table 4.1: Planned Tactical Fighter Group Flying Hours ⁽¹⁾

Aircraft Type	F/A-18 HORNET	MACCHI	PC9
Total Planned Flying Hours	13,020	7,355	1,500
Defence Support	330	10	5
Program of Major Service Activities ⁽²⁾	1,180	120	70
Training	10,220	6,095	930
Navy Support	820	480	
Army Support	200	300	200
RAAF Support	270	350	300
Over allocation			5

Notes:

1. The individual planned-hour allocations may not sum to the total allocation. The differences allow for efficiencies to be achieved through concurrent tasking.
2. Program of Major Service Activities specifies flying hours consumed in support of joint and combined exercises.

Table 4.2: Planned Strike Reconnaissance Group Flying Hours

Aircraft Type	F-111
Total Planned Flying Hours	4,400
Defence Support	8
Training	2,570
Navy Support	200
Army Support	250
RAAF Support	622
Program of Major Service Activities	750

Table 4.3: Planned Maritime Patrol Group Flying Hours ⁽¹⁾

Aircraft Type	P-3C
Total Planned Flying Hours	8,700
Defence Support ⁽²⁾	1,892
Training	3,716
National Support	100
Navy Support	850
Program of Major Service Activities	1,445
RAAF Support	1,095
Over allocation	398

Notes:

1. The individual planned-hour allocations may not sum to the total allocation. The differences allow for efficiencies to be achieved through concurrent tasking.
2. Includes Search and Rescue.

Table 4.4: Planned Air Lift Group Flying Hours (86 Wing) ⁽¹⁾

Aircraft Type	C-130	B-707	DAKOTA
Total Planned Flying Hours	16,500	2,600	1,000
National Tasks	250	10	
Defence Support	1,077	304	342
PMSA	4,800	450	
Navy Support	464	26	
Army Support	1,900	75	205
Scheduled Services	2,571	535	
VIP		100	
Training	4,393	1,283	225
RAAF Support	1,860	125	228
Over allocation	815	308	

Note:

- The individual planned-hour allocations may not sum to the total allocation. The differences allow for efficiencies to be achieved through concurrent tasking.

Table 4.5: Planned Air Lift Group Flying Hours (84 Wing) ⁽¹⁾

Aircraft Type	Caribou	HS748	FAL 900
Total Planned Flying Hours	5,000	3,500	3,975
National Tasks	50		
Defence Support	203		
Program of Major Service Activities	600		
Army Support	1,550		
VIP			2,800
Training	2,235	640	1,039
RAAF Support	630	170	299
Course Support		2,690	
Over allocation	268		163

Note:

- The individual planned-hour allocations may not sum to the total allocation. The differences allow for efficiencies to be achieved through concurrent tasking.

Table 4.6: Planned Training Command Flying Hours

Aircraft Type	PC9/A
Total Planned Flying Hours	27,200
Training	9,557
Pilot Training	15,403
Defence Support	660
RAAF Support	80
Roulettes	1,500

Table 4.7: Combined Exercises

EXERCISE	DATE	FORCE	OBJECTIVE
Albatross Ausindo 98-4, 99-1	September 1998, January 1999	MPG, Indonesian Air Force	To conduct effective combined maritime air surveillance with the Indonesian Air Force
Cope Thunder 98	July 1998	TFG, USAF, RAF	To conduct combined air defence and interdiction training in a realistic, high threat scenario
Elang Ausindo 98	November 1998	TFG, ALG, Indonesian Air Force	To improve relations and develop interoperability between the RAAF and the Indonesian Air Force
Extendex 98-3, 98-4, 99-1, 99-2	Quarterly	MPG, USN	To conduct Anti-Submarine Warfare training and increase interoperability with USN Multi-Purpose Activity forces
Fincastle 98	November 1998	MPG, RAF, Canadian Forces (Air), RNZAF	To maintain proficiency and interoperability for Anti-Submarine Warfare operations with UK, NZ and Canadian Air Forces
Pitch Black 98	August 1998	TFG, SRG, ALG, USAF, RSAF	To exercise the national air defence system and to conduct combined strike operations with US and Singaporean forces
Silent Pearl 98-3, 98-4, 99-1	September 1998, November 1998, April 1999	MPG, USN and Chilean Navy	To conduct training and maintain interoperability in combined maritime warfare roles
Tamex 98-2, 99-1, 99-2	November 1998, March 1999, June 1999	MPG, RAN & either RNZAF or USN	To maintain proficiency in Anti-Submarine Warfare operations
Willoh 99-1	March 1999	TFG, RNZAF	To conduct combined air-to-air and air-to-ground operations and improve interoperability with the RNZAF

Table 4.8: Joint/Combined Exercises

EXERCISE	DATE	FORCES	OBJECTIVE
Aswex 98	November 1998	RAN, MPG, RNZAF	To conduct Anti-Submarine Warfare training involving air, surface and sub-surface assets
Cassowary 98-2, 99-1	August 1998, April 1999	RAN, MPG, Indonesian Navy	To conduct effective maritime surveillance training with surface forces involved
Gun Runner 99	February/March 1999	SRG, RNZAF	To practise land strike, weapons-effect planning and tactical reconnaissance with RNZAF

EXERCISE	DATE	FORCES	OBJECTIVE
IADS ADEX 99-2	March 1999	TFG, ALG, RAN, RAF, RNZAF	To contribute to the maintenance of the Five Power Defence Arrangements maritime and air defence capabilities, and to further relations with FPDA members
Night Crocodile 98	October 1998	ARA, SRG, TFG, ALG	To conduct special forces air support training.
Rimpac 98	July/August 1998	MPG, RAN, USN, Canadian Forces, Republic of Korea Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, Chilean Navy	To conduct training and maintain interoperability in all aspects of combined maritime warfare in a complex, multi-threat, coalition exercise
Singaroo 98	October 1998	MPG, TFG, RAN and Republic of Singapore Navy	To enhance interoperability with Singaporean Navy in fleet operations
Stardex 98	September 1998	TFG, MPG, RAN, Royal Navy, RNZN, Royal Malaysian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy	To conduct training and maintain interoperability with FPDA forces in combined maritime warfare operations
Thunder Bay 99	May 1999	RAN, ARA, TFG, SRG, ALG, USAF	To practise airspace coordination, Close Air Support and Precision Air Support in a joint/combined environment

Table 4. 9: Planned Operations

OPERATION	FORCES	OBJECTIVE
Gateway	Maritime Patrol Group	To conduct regular maritime surveillance of the high seas in cooperation with Malaysia
Solania	Maritime Patrol Group	To conduct regular surveillance of exclusive economic zones and high seas surrounding Pacific Islands in the South West Pacific, as mutually agreed
Australian EEZ Patrol	Maritime Patrol Group	To conduct maritime surveillance of the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone

RESOURCES

Table 4.10: Defence Function Outlays Summary

Sub-Program	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1998-99	Variation	
	Budget	Revised	Estimated	Budget	98-99 Budget less	
	Estimate	Estimate	Outcome	Estimate	97-98 Outcome	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
4.1 Combat Forces	582,878	506,964	543,499	541,168	-2,331	-0.4
4.2 Executive	37,448	67,391	61,210	55,447	-5,763	-9.4
4.3 Training	158,113	139,357	134,498	145,169	10,671	7.9
Program Total	778,439	713,712	739,207	741,784	2,577	0.3

Table 4.11: Staffing Summary

Sub-Program	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1998-99	Variation	
	Budget	Revised	Estimated	Budget	98-99 Budget less	
	Estimate	Estimate	Outcome	Estimate	97-98 Outcome	
	Personnel Numbers					%
4.1 Combat Forces	10,149	8,192	8,268	8,490	222	2.7
4.2 Executive	682	694	742	737	-5	-0.7
4.3 Training	2,554	2,407	2,207	2,079	-128	-5.8
Program Total	13,385	11,293	11,217	11,306	89	0.8

Table 4.12: Staffing Profile

Personnel		Sub-Program			Total
		4.1	4.2	4.3	
Permanent Force	97-98 Revised	6,686	206	2,272	9,164
	97-98 Estimated	6,762	254	2,072	9,088
	98-99 Budget	6,929	254	1,942	9,125
Reserves	97-98 Revised	1,060	405		1,465
	97-98 Estimated	1,060	405		1,465
	98-99 Budget	1,100	405		1,505
Ready Reserves	97-98 Revised	295			295
	97-98 Estimated	295			295
	98-99 Budget	295			295
Civilian	97-98 Revised	151	83	135	369
	97-98 Estimated	151	83	135	369
	98-99 Budget	166	78	137	381
Total	97-98 Revised	8,192	694	2,407	11,293
Personnel	97-98 Estimated	8,268	742	2,207	11,217
	98-99 Budget	8,490	737	2,079	11,306

Table 4.13: Defence Portfolio Outlays Summary

Division/Appropriation Item	1997-98	1997-98	1997-98	1998-99	Variation	
	Budget	Revised	Estimated	Budget	98-99 Budget less	
	Estimate	Estimate	Outcome	Estimate	97-98 Outcome	%
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
180-01 RUNNING COSTS						
Service Personnel	610,310	513,345	544,949	547,155	2,206	0.4
Civilian Personnel	19,494	15,710	16,240	17,220	980	6.0
Administrative Expenses	64,647	72,364	67,027	64,147	-2,880	-4.3
181 EQUIPMENT AND STORES	132,459	143,512	138,231	139,639	1,408	1.0
Total Defence Function Appropriations (A)	826,910	744,931	766,447	768,161	1,714	0.2
Total Defence Function Receipts (Offset Within Outlays) (B)	-48,471	-31,219	-27,240	-26,377	863	-3.2
Total Defence Function Outlays (A+B)	778,439	713,712	739,207	741,784	2,577	0.3

Defence Reform Program

DRP savings relate to business process re-engineering of the Aircraft Research and Development Unit to achieve improved capability and efficiencies, and a phased reduction in the size of the training force. The Air Force is also actively managing the overall restructure of the Permanent Air Force to achieve the 13,000 target.

Table 4.14: Estimated Cumulative DRP Savings ⁽¹⁾

Category (\$m)	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	Mature
Defence Command and Management Arrangements		1.1	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6
Intelligence			0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Acquisition and Industry		0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.1
Science and Technology		1.1				
Logistics		0.2	3.3	8.5	8.8	9.2
Personnel Planning	1.7	1.0	1.4	2.8	4.3	4.5
Training and Education	1.9	2.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	22.9
Administrative Support		1.1	2.5	3.7	3.7	3.7
Information Management			0.4	1.3	1.7	2.1
Total	3.6	7.4	16.4	25.4	27.8	46.2

Note:

1. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 4.15: Estimated Cumulative DRP Personnel Savings

Category	1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		MATURE	
	ADF	APS	ADF	APS	ADF	APS	ADF	APS	ADF	APS
Defence Command and Management Arrangements			8		8		8		8	
Science and Technology ⁽¹⁾	20									
Training and Education	35		103		103		103		405	
Total	55		111		111		111		413	

Note:

1. Anticipated reduction of ADF positions at the Aircraft Research and Development Unit; the longer-term workforce structure is still uncertain.

The Air Force will seek investment of DRP savings to fund Major Capital Equipment such as airborne early warning and control aircraft, the Jindalee Operational Radar Network and replacement ground radar equipment, supplement in-service capability where required through initiatives such as the achievement of higher combat crew ratios for some weapon platforms; and enhance the logistic support of key capability delivery systems.

Table 4.16: Estimated Reallocation of DRP Savings ⁽¹⁾

Category (\$m)	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Net Personnel & Operating Costs	-1.6	-1.6	3.3	3.3
Provision for 50,000 ADF			14.0	64.0
ADF-wide Pilot Training	4.0	5.3	4.0	4.0
Total	2.4	3.7	21.3	71.3

Note:

1. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 4.17: Explanation of Major Variations

Explanation for Variations Between 1997-98 Estimated Outcome and 1998-99 Budget Estimate Contained in Table 4.13		(\$'000)	%
Defence Function Outlay (1997-98 Estimated Outcome)		739,207	
180-01 RUNNING COSTS			
<i>Service Personnel</i>			
Real Variations			
Increased provision associated with ADF Workplace Bargaining Agreement		10,313	
Provision for increased Reserve activity		430	
Variation in 3% Productivity Benefits payments resulting from movements in average staffing levels and changes in per capita rates, including the impact of pay increases		357	
Variations in Accrual Based Superannuation payments resulting from the impact of pay increases, revised Employer Contribution Rates and movements in average staffing levels		252	
Increased provision associated with changes in rank and profile structure		100	
Increased provision for Cadet Scheme (Brewer report)		50	

Explanation for Variations Between 1997-98 Estimated Outcome and 1998-99 Budget Estimate Contained in Table 4.13	(\$'000)	%
Reduced provision for Disability Allowance	-677	
Reduced provision for allowances	-3,706	
DRP Savings		
Related to Science and Technology	-900	
DRP Reinvestment		
New Capabilities - Net Personnel Operating Costs	-1,627	
Transfers		
Transfer of Living Out Allowance to Program 8 arising from the Housing and Accommodation Policy Review	-2,386	
Total Service Personnel	2,206	0.4
<i>Civilian Personnel</i>		
Real Variations		
Variation in 3% Productivity Benefits payments resulting from movements in average staffing levels and changes in per capita rates	97	
Variations in Accrual Based Superannuation payments resulting from the revised Employer Contribution Rates and movements in average staffing levels	-78	
Non-recurrence of provision for Trainee Administrative Service Officers	-124	
Miscellaneous minor variations	285	
DRP Reinvestment		
Civilianisation of Science and Technology-related Service positions	800	
Total Civilian Personnel	980	6.0
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>		
Real Variations		
Increased travel and allowance provision to maximise the availability of flying hours allocated to operational training	2,648	
Variation in Fringe Benefits Tax Payments	-651	
Non-recurrence of provision for Operation Dirk	-2,539	
DRP Savings		
Related to Defence Command and Management Arrangements	-1,147	
Related to Science and Technology	-89	
Related to Facilities and Long Term Force Disposition	-4	
Related to Acquisition	-322	
Related to Logistics	-169	
Related to Personnel Planning	-956	
Related to Training and Education	-838	
Related to Administrative Support	-1,148	

Explanation for Variations Between 1997-98 Estimated Outcome and 1998-99 Budget Estimate Contained in Table 4.13	(\$'000)	%
Transfers		
Net transfers from Program 8 for RAAF Support Unit Butterworth rationalisation	2,100	
Impact of non-recurring transfer in 1997-98 to Program 8 for Government Initiative on Medal Procurement	225	
Transfer from Program 3 for Air Movement Training Development Unit	10	
Total Administrative Expenses	-2,880	-4.3
181-00 EQUIPMENT AND STORES		
Real Variations		
Increased provision for the supply of fuel and other support to visiting foreign military forces	4,090	
Non-recurrence of supplementation from Program 3 for increased Basic Pilot Training through-put	-636	
Net effect of retrospective price and exchange movement	-3,906	
DRP Reinvestment		
ADF Basic Pilot Training contract	4,000	
Transfers		
Transfer to Program 6 for Aeronautical Research & Development Unit Restructure	-2,155	
Price/Exchange Variations		
Movement from 1997-98 Budget to 1998-99 price and exchange rate parameters	15	
Total Equipment and Stores	1,408	1.0
Total Defence Function Appropriations Variation (A)	1,714	0.2
DEFENCE RECEIPTS		
Real Variations		
Net effect of retrospective price and exchange movement	863	
Total Defence Receipts Variation (B)	863	-3.2
Total Defence Function Outlay Variation (A+B)	2,577	0.3
TOTAL DEFENCE FUNCTION OUTLAY (1998-99 BUDGET ESTIMATE)	741,784	