

SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF

Brief No. 03
Group Top Issues

MISSING MILITARY ORDNANCE

Key Message

- Defence takes the security of its weapons, munitions and explosive ordnance very seriously and has a range of measures in place to safeguard them.

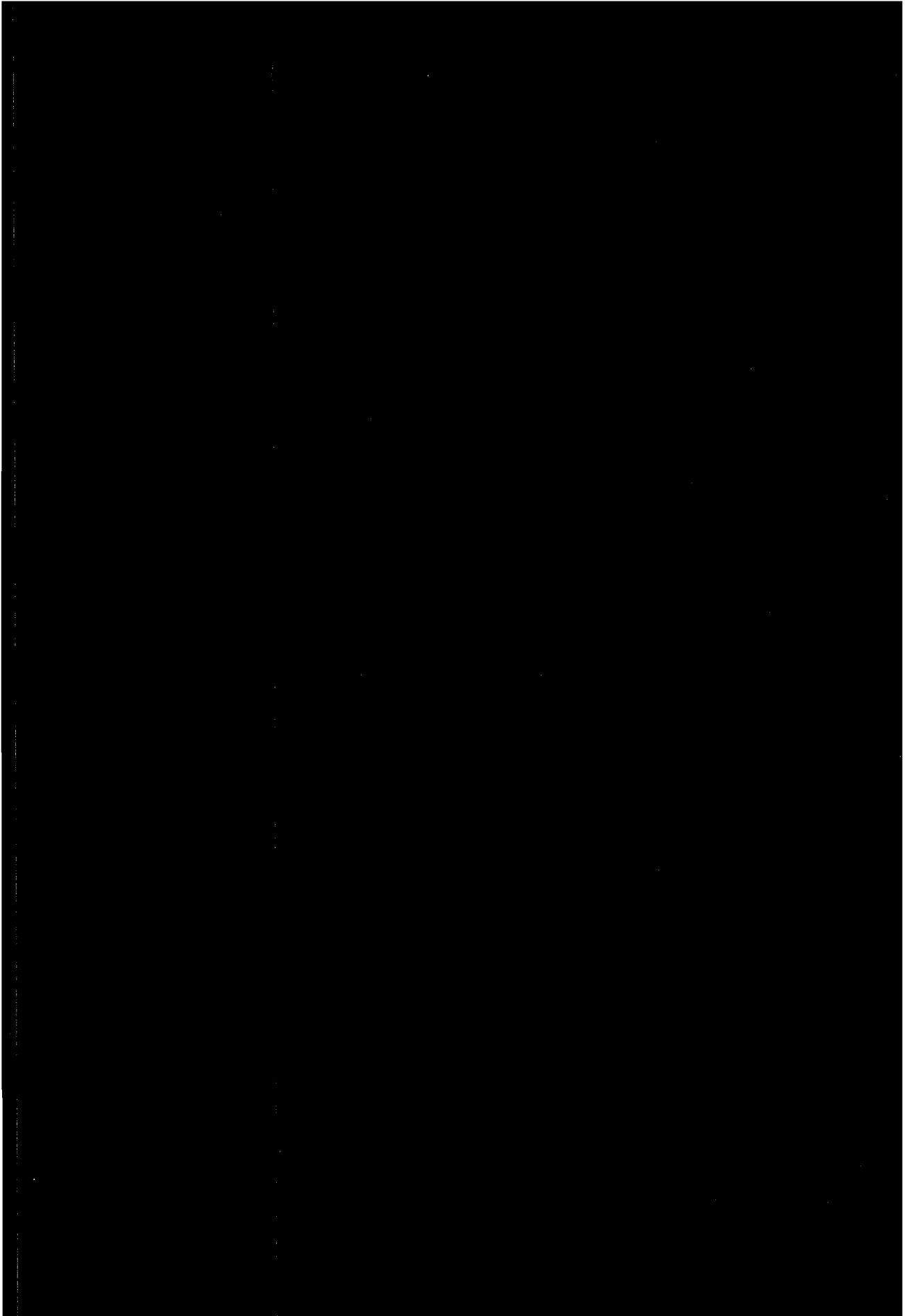
Context

- The effectiveness of the security regime applying to Defence weapons, munitions and explosives is a significant issue for Defence, affecting its reputation, public safety and the public's confidence in Defence's ability to control its equipment.

Current Situation

Loss of weapons: 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011

- Six Defence weapons were lost during the period 1 January to 31 December 2011.
 - Of these, five were recovered.
 - The weapon that was not recovered was an F88 Steyr that was lost on ADF operations in the Middle Eastern Area of Operations (MEAO).





Way Ahead

- Defence continuously improves its policy on securing and accounting for weapons and munitions, and to investigate reported loss and theft of both in Australia and overseas.

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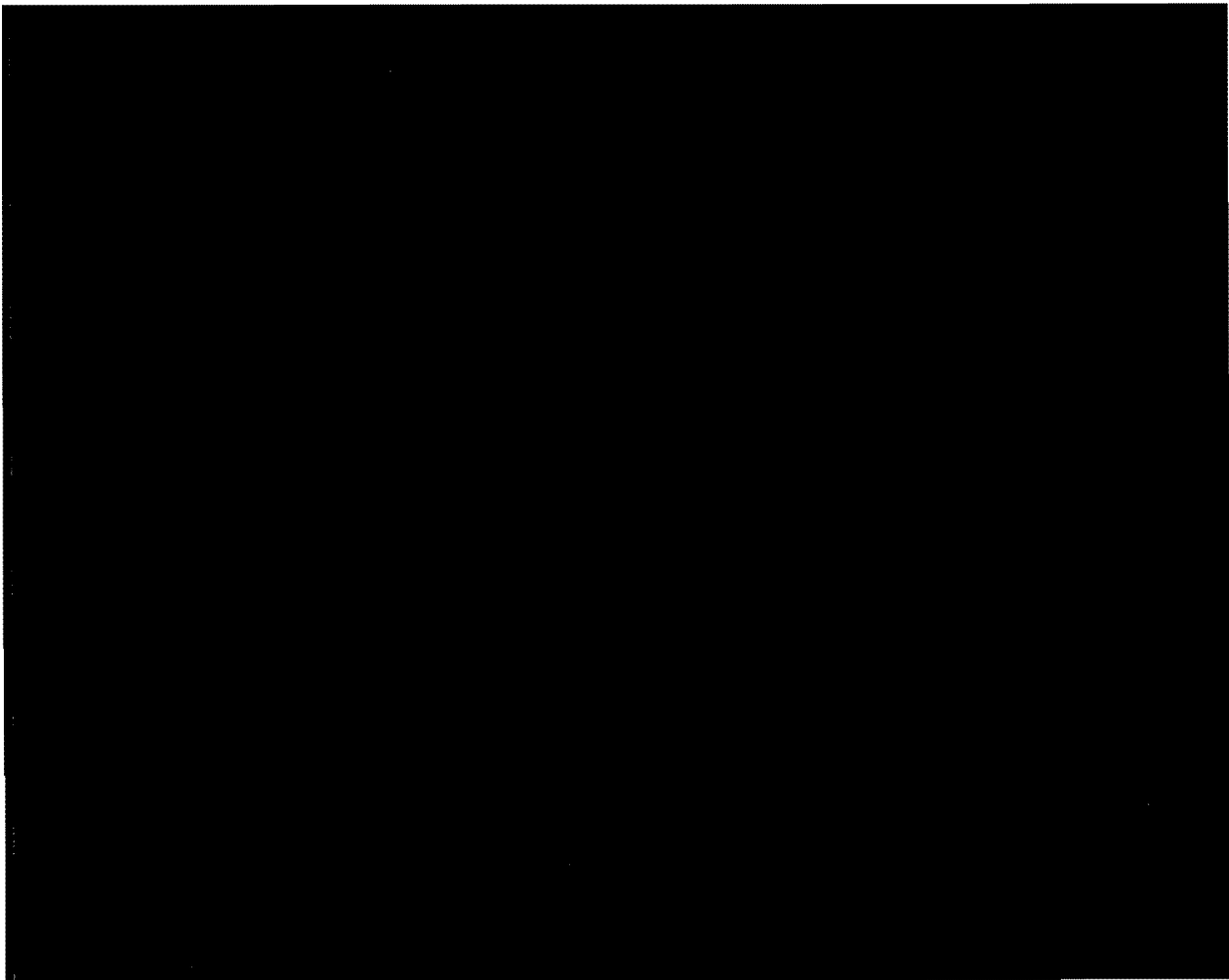
Tel: 02 6266 2504
Date: 19 January 2012

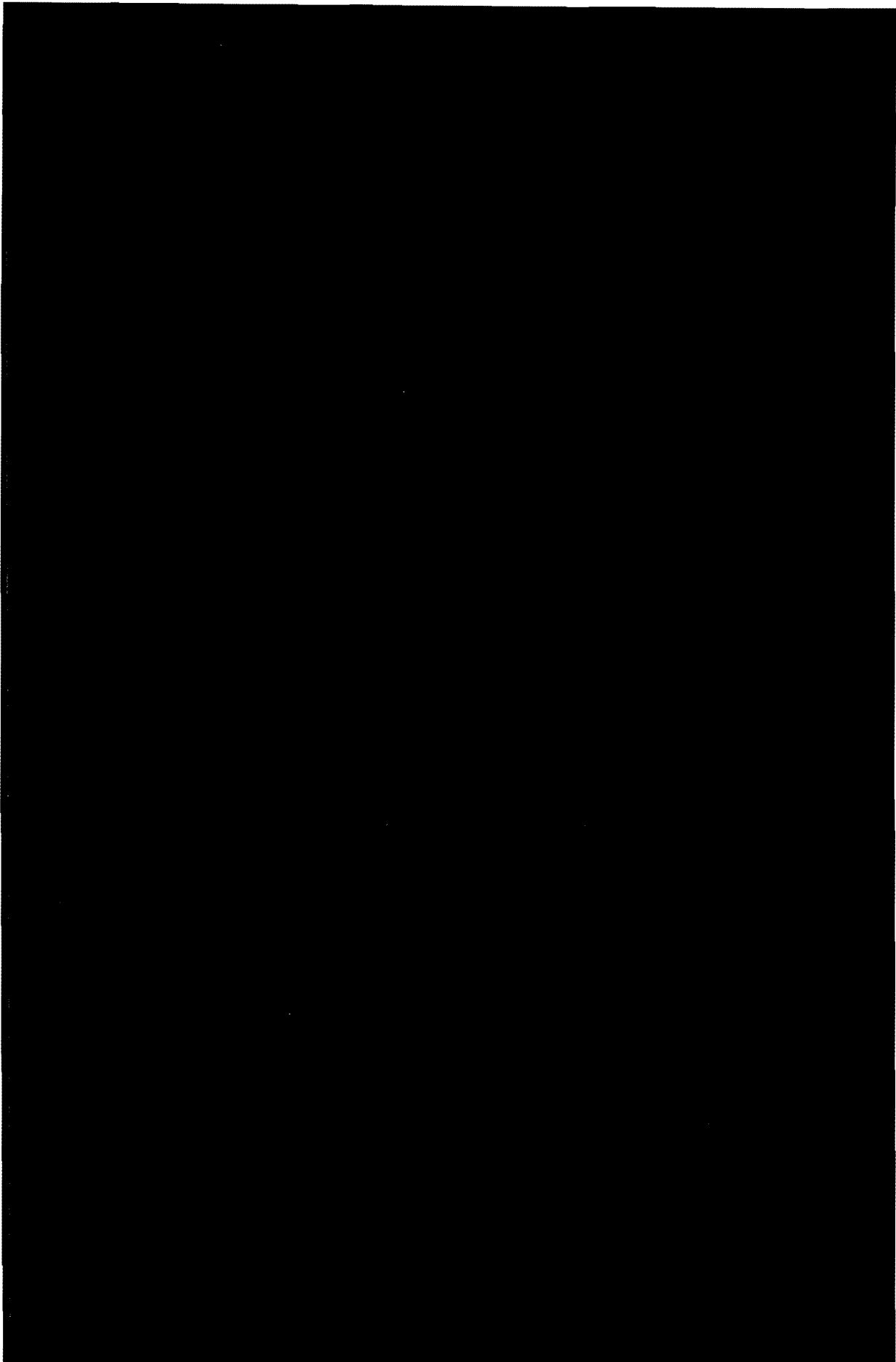
BACKGROUND

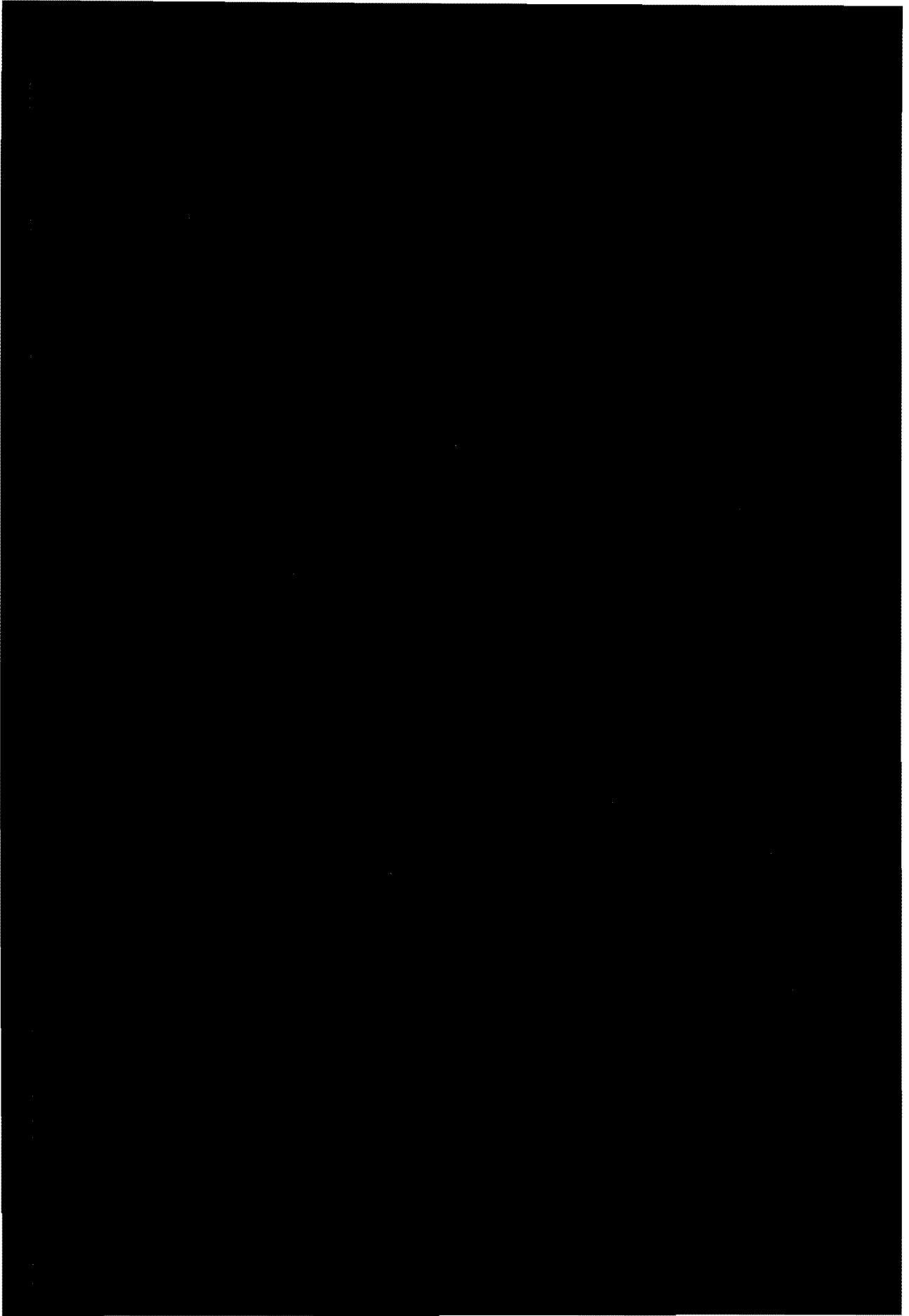
Weapons lost but not recovered: 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011

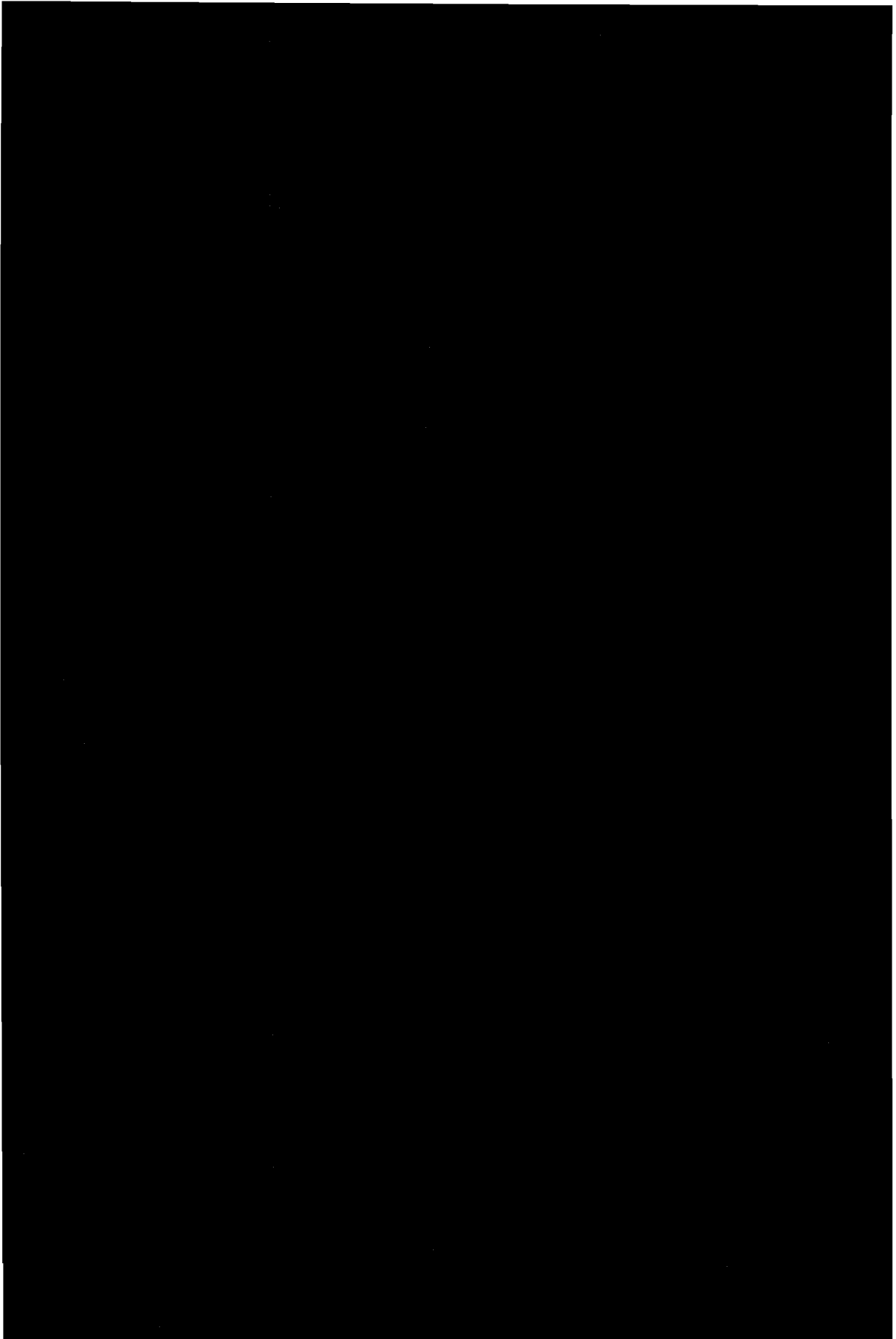
- One weapon was lost and not recovered:
 - An F88 Steyr was lost on ADF operations in the Middle Eastern Area of Operations (MEAO) in 2011. The rifle was not recovered.

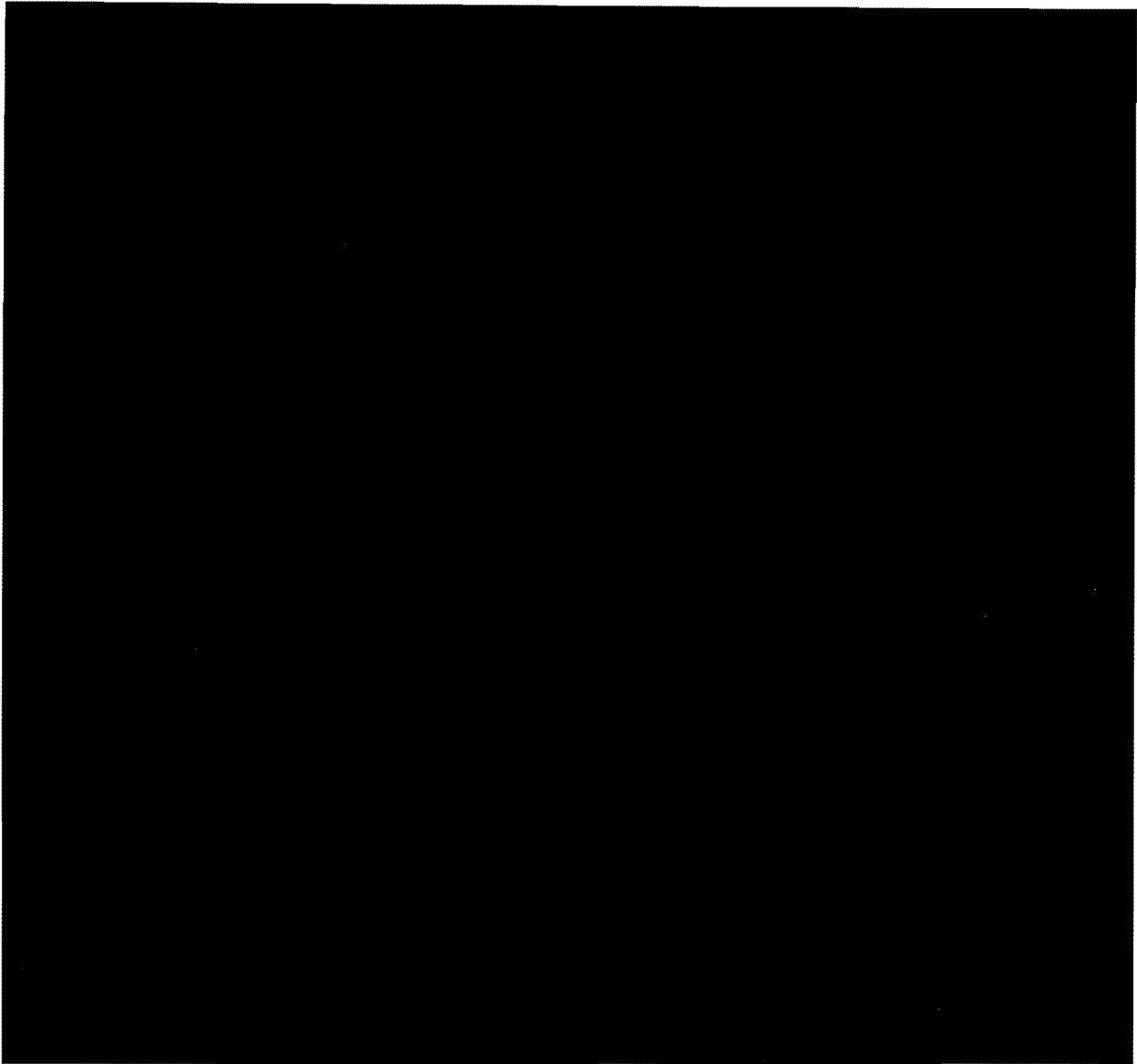
Weapons lost but recovered

- Five weapons were lost but later recovered:
 - A Defence member left a 9mm pistol insecure in the MEAO. The item was located shortly after and returned to the member.
 - During a training exercise an F88 was lost in a creek at Puckapunyal. Subsequent searches located the rifle.
 - A Defence member left a 9mm pistol in a common area in the MEAO. The item was located shortly after.
 - A Browning 9mm Pistol was lost on ADF operations in the Solomon Islands. The weapon was discovered by a civilian and returned to the ADF.
 - An F88 Steyr was lost on ADF operations in East Timor. The weapon was discovered by a civilian and returned to the ADF.
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Weapons, Munitions and Explosives Control Measures

- Defence has a range of measures in place to safeguard its weapons, munitions and explosives holdings, including:
 - Security policy that sets out security precautions and standards required for the storage, distribution and use of weapons, munitions and explosives.
 - Regular checks of weapons holdings:
 - at unit level, weapons are accounted for by 100 % musters conducted fortnightly;
 - at small warehouse level, a 100% stocktake is undertaken every three months;
 - at large warehouse level, a 12 month rolling stocktake is undertaken; and
 - at Defence level, an annual weapons census.
 - Regular checks of munitions and explosives holdings:
 - at unit level, a 100% stocktake is undertaken fortnightly;
 - at small warehouse level, a 100% stocktake is undertaken every three months; and
 - at large warehouse level, a 12 month rolling stocktake is undertaken.
 - Procedures for reporting and investigating loss or accounting anomalies involving weapons, munitions and explosives.

- Requiring private companies involved in the storage, distribution and destruction of Defence weapons, munitions and explosives to be members of the Defence Industry Security Program.
- Security checks on people involved in handling Defence weapons, munitions and explosives.
- A program of security audits to evaluate the effectiveness of security measures at facilities (including ADF units) holding and managing weapons, munitions and explosives.
- Defence reviewed the effectiveness of its weapons and explosives ordnance security measures in 2007 in a comprehensive weapons, munitions and explosives security performance audit. The audit made 22 main and 36 sub-recommendations. 43 recommendations have been formally closed and a further 10 are scheduled for closure in FY 11/12. The remaining 5 recommendations continue to be managed and are scheduled to be completed by 2015.
- The ANAO published an audit of Management of Explosives Ordnance held by the Air Force, Army and Navy in April 2011. The audit focused on and made recommendations for:
 - Reviews and Reforms of Explosive Ordnance Management,
 - Management of Explosive Ordnance at ADF Units,
 - Information and Reports Management Systems, and
 - Security Incident Management for Explosive Ordnance at Units.
- Some of the issues highlighted in the audit are already undergoing remedial treatments.
- Strategies to address the other issues highlighted in the report are currently under development.

Processes and Procedures When Loss of WME is Determined

- An item of Defence weapons, munitions or explosives is discovered missing or compromised.
- The matter is reported immediately to the officer in charge of the item or group and a search is conducted for the item.
- Once the loss is confirmed; it is reported through the chain of command and as a security incident to the Defence Security Authority. The unit also informs the Australian Defence Force Investigative Service of the loss.
- The Defence Security Authority notifies the state police of any loss that could endanger public safety if it has not already been reported to them.
- Where there have been serial criminal offences, the relevant jurisdiction will assume responsibility for investigating the loss.
- Where the state police, or other law enforcement agency, do not wish to investigate the matter, the Defence Security Authority allocates responsibilities for investigating the loss within the Defence Security Authority or to the Australian Defence Force Investigative Service or local Service Police.

- The results of the investigation conducted into the loss or compromise are actioned and any weakness in the Defence or local system is rectified.

Attachments:

1. Weapons Reported Missing / Not Recovered from 1 January to 31 December 2011
2. Weapons Reported Missing / Recovered from 1 January to 31 December 2011



WEAPON REPORTED MISSING / NOT RECOVERED FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2011

Attachment 1

No.	DPSMS Reference	Date	Weapons Type	Incident Summary	Recovered	Circumstances	Investigation Status
1.1	IR-ADF01-AFG-2011-5	17 Jan 11	1 x F88	During an operational activity an F88 was lost in a river in the Middle East Area of Operations. The F88 was unable to be recovered.	No	ADFIS Investigated	Closed

WEAPONS REPORTED LOST AND SUBSEQUENTLY RECOVERED FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2011**Attachment 2**

No.	DPSMS Reference	Date	Weapons Type	Incident Summary	Recovered	Circumstances	Investigation Status
2.1	IR-ADF01-AFG-2011-3	12 Jan 11	1 x 9mm Pistol	A Defence member left their 9mm pistol insecure in the Middle Eastern Area of Operations. The items was located shortly after and returned to the member.	Yes	ADFIS Investigated	Closed
2.2	IR-ARM04-DPPUK-2011-21	6 Feb 11	1 x F88	During a training exercise an F88 was lost in a creek at Puckapunyal. Subsequent searches located the rifle.	Yes	ADFIS Investigated	Closed
2.3	IR-AF001-633.2-2011-47 IR-ADF01-HQCR-2011-3	13 Aug 11	1 x 9mm Pistol	A Defence member left a 9mm pistol in a common area in the Middle Eastern Area of Operations. The item was located shortly after.	Yes	ADFIS Investigating	Active Closed
2.4	IR-DSA01-SIC-2011-1614	24 Oct 11	1 x 9mm Pistol	A Defence member left a 9mm pistol in a firing range cleaning area following range practice. A civilian found the weapon and returned it to the ADF.	Yes	Investigated by responsible unit	Closed
2.5	IR-ARM01-TMR-2011-10	5 Nov 11	1 x F88	A Defence member left an F88 on the bonnet of a vehicle prior to travelling to the practice range in	Yes	Investigated by responsible unit	Closed

No.	DPSMS Reference	Date	Weapons Type	Incident Summary	Recovered	Circumstances	Investigation Status
				East Timor. The weapon fell off the vehicle and was retrieved by a civilian who returned it to the ADF.			

