

SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF

Group Top Issues Brief
Intelligence & Security pack

MISSING MILITARY WEAPONS AND ORDNANCE

Key Facts

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two Defence weapons were lost from 1 Jan – 31 Mar 2012. One was recovered.• [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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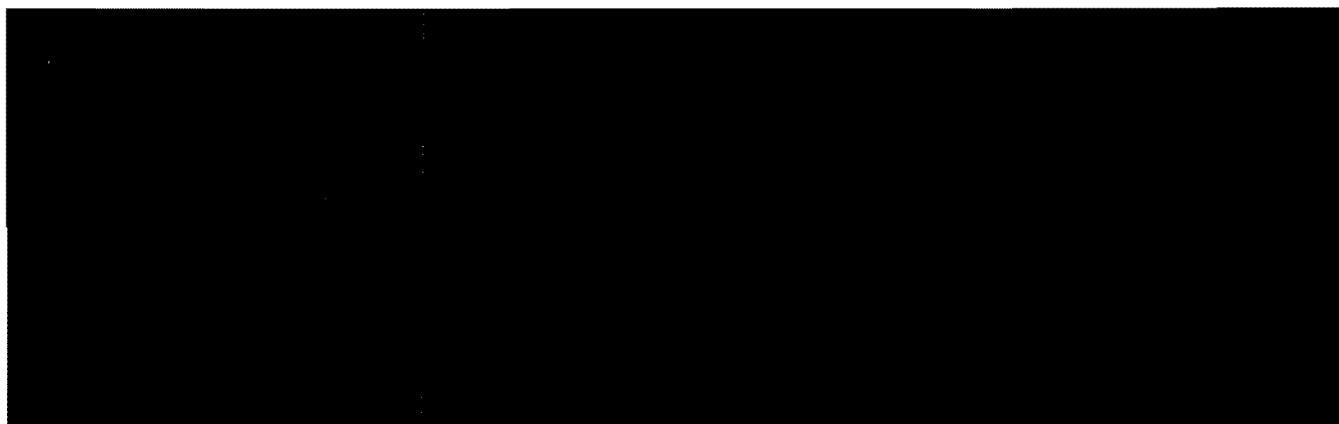
Key Issues

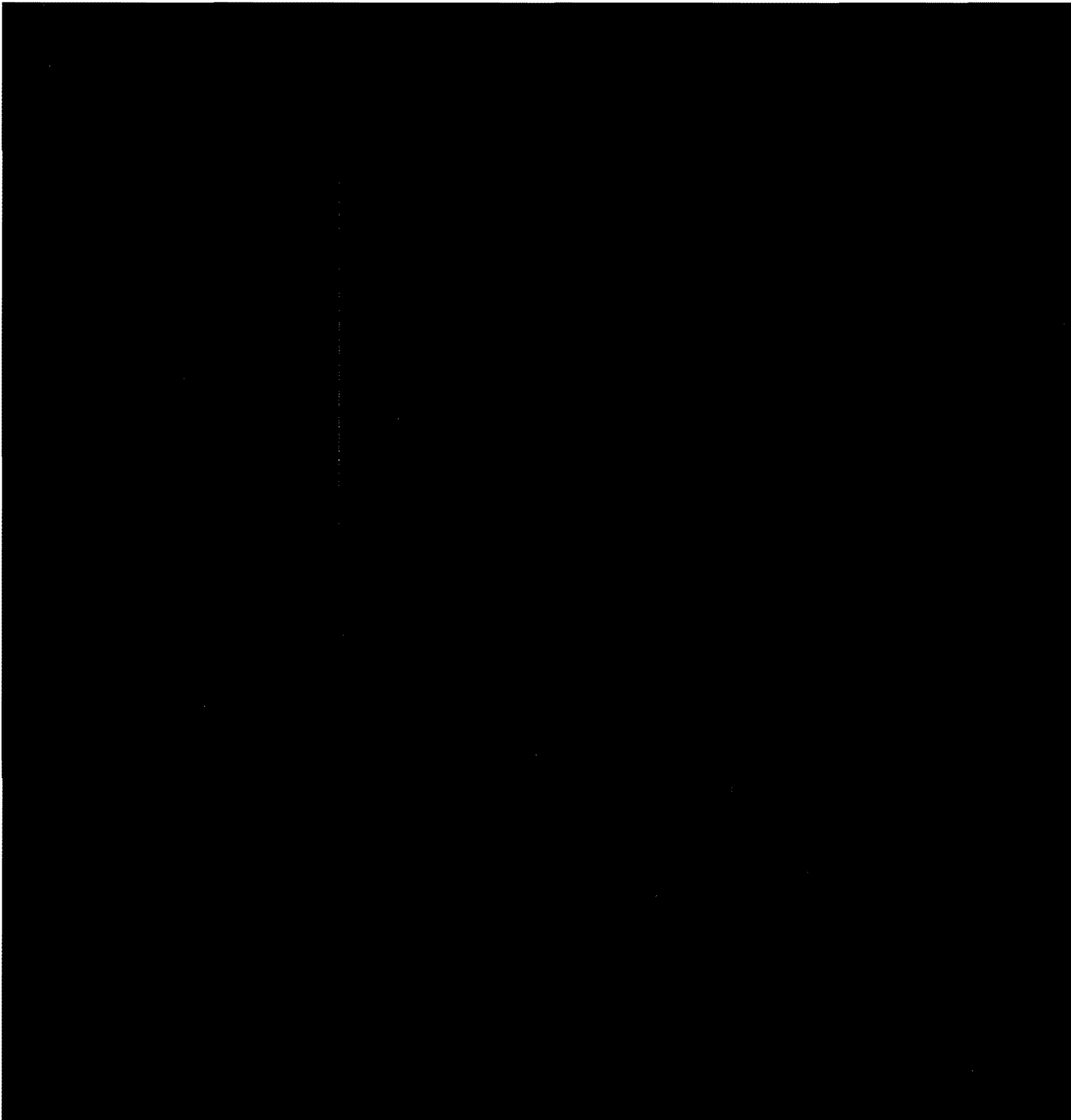
- Defence takes the security of its weapons, munitions and explosive ordnance very seriously and has a range of measures in place to safeguard them.
- The effectiveness of the security regime applying to Defence Weapons, Munitions and Explosives is a significant issue for Defence, affecting its reputation, public safety and the public's confidence in Defence's ability to control its equipment.

Current Situation

Loss of weapons: 1 January 2012 – 31 March 2012

- **Two Defence weapons** were lost during the reporting period.
 - Of these, one was recovered.
- An inert M4 rifle was identified as being lost on completion of a parachute training exercise within Australia and has not been recovered.





Way Ahead

- Defence continuously improves its policy on securing and accounting for weapons and munitions, and thoroughly investigate reported loss and/or theft of items in either Australia or overseas.

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15 May 2012
Page 2 of 12

Version 1

Mr Steve Meekin
Deputy Secretary Intelligence and
Security
Date: May 2012

Mr Frank Colley
A/Chief Security Officer

Date: May 2012

BACKGROUND

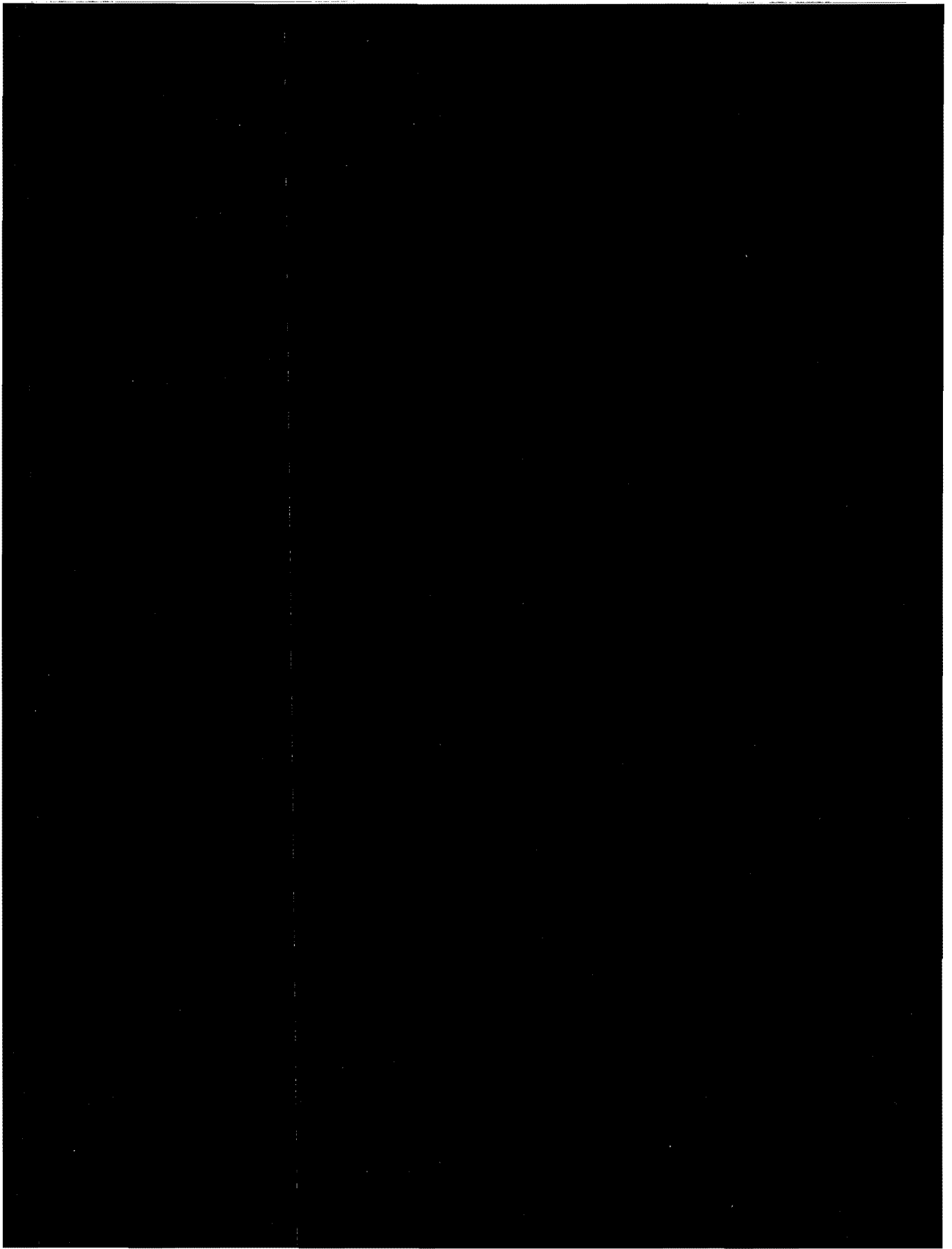
Weapons lost but not recovered: 1 January 2012 – 31 March 2012

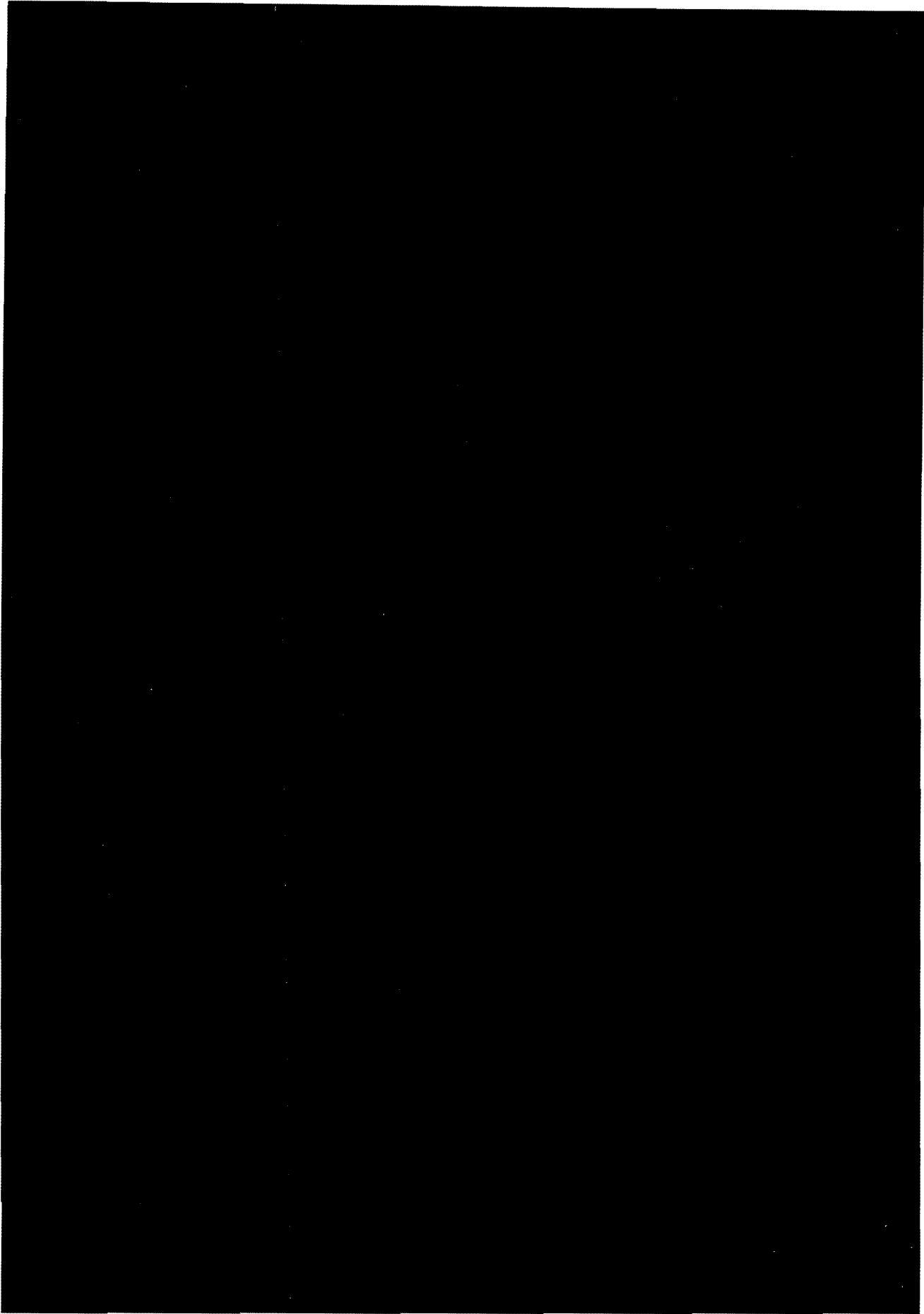
- One weapon was lost and not recovered:
 - An Inert M4 was lost during a parachute training exercise. Subsequent searches were unable to locate the rifle. The security inquiries have been closed and a disciplinary investigation is being conducted by the unit.

Weapons lost but recovered

- One weapon was lost but later recovered:
 - A 9mm pistol was left in a toilet by a Defence member prior to a security patrol within the MEAO. It was later recovered by a US Defence member. The incident was referred back to the unit for security inquiries. No details are held on the unit inquiries.







FOI

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. 47 recommendations have been formally closed and a further 4 are scheduled for closure in FY 11/12. The remaining 7 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 March 2012.
 2. Weapons Reported Missing / Recovered from 1 January to 31 March 2012
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WEAPON REPORTED MISSING / NOT RECOVERED FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2012

Attachment 1

No.	DPSMS Reference	Incident Summary	Date	Recovered	Investigated	Investigation Status
1.1	IR-DSA01-SIC-2012-349	<p>1 x replica M4 rifle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On completion of a parachute training exercise, a replica M4 rifle was unable to be accounted for. • Subsequent searches were unable to locate the rifle. 	19 Mar 12	No	Inquiry conducted by unit	<p>CLOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident assessed by DSA SIC. • Unit procedures will be updated to reflect the appropriate handling and issuing of weapons. • Unit is conducting disciplinary investigation.

WEAPON REPORTED LOST AND SUBSEQUENTLY RECOVERED FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2012

Attachment 2

No.	DPSMS Reference	Incident Summary	Date	Recovered	Investigated	Investigation Status
2.1	IR-ADF01-ABU-2012-8	<p>1 x 9mm pistol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to undertake a security patrol in the MEAO, a Defence member left their 9mm pistol in the toilets. • Member returned and was unable to find the weapon. • A United States Defence member found the weapon and subsequently returned it to Defence. 	15 Mar 12	Yes	Inquiry conducted by unit	<p>UNKNOWN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident assessed by ADFIS. • Incident referred back to unit. • No details held on outcomes.

