



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

**IMPROVED AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, NAVIGATION
AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

The 2009 Defence White Paper, released today, delivers an Air Force for the 21st century that will be better equipped, fully networked and better prepared to meet Australia's air power requirements.

The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP today announced that the Government will implement a range of improvements to military air traffic control, navigation and communications systems, as well as deployable air traffic control facilities.

"Military Air Traffic Control is an integral part of the National Air Traffic Management system and also critical to air operations in a deployed environment," Mr Fitzgibbon said. "It is therefore vital that military systems remain current with developments in global air traffic management systems."

The Australian Defence Force's aircraft and surveillance systems will be modernised to reflect international advancements in air traffic management systems. These advances will include improved communications, navigation and surveillance systems within aircraft and also within ground surveillance and control systems.

A new Defence Air Traffic Management and Control System (DATMCS) will replace the existing Australian Defence Air Traffic System (ADATS). This new Defence Air Traffic Management and Control System will provide the Defence element of a future National Air Traffic Management platform that is being developed as part of Australia's National Aviation Policy. This new system will also include deployable and fixed surveillance sensors and command and control systems.

"Concurrently with this increased investment in new systems, the Government is determined to ensure it maintains a highly skilled Air Traffic Control workforce and build upon the long-term pay and conditions initiatives that we began implementing throughout 2008" Mr Fitzgibbon concluded.

The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government's commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign interests and the security and stability of our region

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

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