



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

NEW CYBER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTRE TO ENHANCE CYBER WARFARE CAPABILITY

The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, today unveiled plans for a major new investment in Defence's cyber warfare capability, including the establishment of a Cyber Security Operations Centre to provide better situational awareness and the ability to facilitate responses to cyber security incidents.

Mr Fitzgibbon said the comprehensive range of new capabilities will maximise Australia's strategic capacity and reach in the field of cyber warfare.

"In the past decade the growing importance of operations in cyberspace has become more apparent. These developments could compromise our national security, if cyber attacks were directed against our defence, government or critical infrastructure information networks," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"The potential impact of these cyber threats has increased with Defence's reliance on networked operations. We must therefore focus on developing capabilities that allow us to protect the integrity of our networks and deny potential adversaries from exploiting or disrupting their operation."

"This emerging threat requires significant and sustained investment by Defence in new technology, as well as developing a greater analytical capacity to ensure we maintain the integrity of our information networks," Mr Fitzgibbon said

Staffed by skilled experts, the Cyber Security Operations Centre will maximise the Government's ability to detect and rapidly respond to fast evolving aggressive cyber attacks. It will draw on an array of sources in the intelligence, law enforcement and industry communities to provide a comprehensive picture of threats to Australian information and systems. The Cyber Security Operations Centre will act as a coordination point for responses by Government agencies and will work in collaboration with overseas partners.

"The Cyber Security Operations Centre will accommodate a continuously staffed watch office and analysis team able to respond immediately to cyber threats as they are detected. This new Centre will be created in the Defence

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

Issued by Ministerial Support and Public Affairs, Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT
Phone: 02 6265 3343, Fax: 02 62656946

Media Releases are available via e-mail if you register at www.defence.gov.au/media

Signals Directorate (DSD) which already possesses significant cyber security expertise. The Centre's staff will include Australian Defence Force and Defence Science and Technology personnel", Mr Fitzgibbon said.

While the Cyber Security Operations Centre will reside in Defence and support ADF operations, it will also have a strong focus on serving broader national security goals. This will include assisting responses to cyber incidents across other Government Departments and also advising on how best to protect critical infrastructure in the private sector.

Whole-of-government coordination will be achieved through the representation of relevant Government agencies in the Centre. This will include the Attorney General's Department as the lead agency for e-security policy across Government, as well as the Australian Federal Police and other agencies of the Australian intelligence community.

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.

Christian Taubenschlag (Joel Fitzgibbon): 02 6277 7800 or 0438 595 567
Defence Media Liaison: 02 6265 3343 or 0408 498 664

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

Issued by Ministerial Support and Public Affairs, Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT
Phone: 02 6265 3343, Fax: 02 62656946

Media Releases are available via e-mail if you register at www.defence.gov.au/media
