



## THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

### JOINT COMMAND SUPPORT SYSTEM TO BE ENHANCED

The Government has announced plans to fund enhancements to the Australian Defence Force's Joint Command Support System, including strengthening protected, high-speed communication and networking systems.

The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP said that effective command and control of Australia's joint forces is critical to the success of Australian Defence Force (ADF) operations. "It is imperative that the Australian Defence Force has timely access to information if they are to successfully perform the range of demanding tasks we require of them. Joint Operations Command plays a vital role in managing and disseminating this information to Australian Defence Force units deployed on operations and those protecting our national interests closer to home."

The ADF must be able to mobilise, at very short notice, deployable joint headquarters of various sizes and for various durations. These headquarters rely heavily on having integrated and reliable information systems at their disposal so that they can effectively command their assigned forces with the confidence that they have the most up to date and accurate information at their disposal," Mr Fitzgibbon said .

"This is a complex undertaking given that these command support systems need to also have the ability to integrate with coalition operations and to collaborate with other agencies as required,"

The enhancements announced as part of the White Paper will greatly enhance the effectiveness of Defence's command support systems and ensure that our deployed forces have the most timely and accurate data at their disposal to inform their decision making processes.

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.

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