
Sent: Thursday, 12 June 2008 19:56
To: White Paper
Subject: SEC: UNCLASSIFIED WWW enquiry: Submission: 1. Strategy/International

Name: Alexander Davis

Submission: Australia needs a major overhaul of its naval and global defence procurement to make it an effective fighting force for the future. Currently our home Air defences are weak and we lack theater ballistic missile defence. We are procuring LHD's but they are seriously underarmed and are not going to be used to their full capacity. (And considering these will be the backbone of the Australian Navy I believe that these should be improved to create an effective force) Their problems are:

-AWD escorts will not be sufficient (considering there will only be 1 available for each LHD) for complete air cover as they can only guard one side of the ship completely and will have trouble defending torpedos or "skimmer" missiles from the blind spot (and considering the LHD only has 25mm cannons for minor threats it will not be successfully defended as one of Australia's major military assets) There is only three of these vessels making an ineffective amount, if we were to procure 4-5 we could have two strategic battle groups for overseas operations with 2 AWD escorts and 1 reserve.

-The AWD's are perfect for operation of F-35B which must be looked at, although we have changed from a forward defence strategy the capacity to have a small fixed wing force overseas is a very good asset and extends the range of defensible Australian airspace. This would also allow us to give necessary air support during amphibious operations which may assist in softening a landing zone. This would also allow the LHD some Air defence in the use of these aircraft.

-The LHD's will have problems with large scale threats and shouldn't have to rely on an AWD as these may be lost and should have a back up or secondary means of defence, I recommend the installation of a CWIS, RAM (rolling airframe missile) or VLS to protect this asset, the cost of cutting this equipment will be higher than if we can effectively address the lack of defence and save us from losing one of our most important investments.

-Australia should change its strategy to include these "Battle groups" as an effective mobile deployable asset effective in dealing with many of the operations that Australia needs to work with.

-Air Defence

Currently we have little in the way of Air defence or theater ballistic missile defence, we need this as with overseas operations we with our 30 air defence systems will not be able to cover what ground and naval assets we need to.

We should procure a few patriots or land based CWIS to allow us to strengthen our home defence and deployable Air cover.

I would appreciate it if you do not agree with the modifications to the LHD and AWD plans that you could message me or talk to me about it: my email is:
[email address removed]

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report