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**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 1. Strategy/International [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: The paper outlines the present priorities: demonstrate a deterrent presence for a sustained period in an effort to forestall conflict; demonstrate a level of capability that dissuades potential adversaries from threatening Australia or creating instability in our region; act rapidly to respond to precarious situations, to secure the peace and to protect innocent populations; and act decisively when required to rapidly end conflict on terms favourable to our interests.

I believe that these priorities are still valid. Shortly after the bombing of Darwin in February 1942, the defense of Australia focussed on the Adelaide-Brisbane line. MacArthur correctly dispensed of that policy and demonstrated the important historical lesson -the defense of Australia has to be offshore if it is to be effective. The current policy of having a significant proportion of the fighting capacity of the ADF in the northern portion of the country as well as having the capacity to work with other international forces supports this concept.

This present ability of the ADF to operate offshore needs to be maintained and enhanced. The training that enables the ADF to relate in a positive and respectful manner to other cultures, but also maintain its offensive capability is a very important element in its effectiveness.

However the small size of the ADF and its limited resources is a significant hindrance to the security of the country. Every effort needs to be taken to increase the actual number of those in uniform. The effectiveness of the present outsourcing of recruiting to a private company needs to be reviewed. Young people are quick to identify the integrity limitations of a system that has civilians running recruitment for the ADF. Young people need to relate to those actually in uniform. The current cadet system may also warrant expansion.

Australia will most probably always suffer from a shortage of personnel in defence. However the ADF should never lack access to modern in adequate numbers. The current delays in replacing obsolete equipment is an indictment of federal governments of the past twenty years. Naval personnel should not be asked to serve in ships that are beyond their "useby" date eg. TOBRUK, KANIMBA, and MANOORA. The SEAKING helicopter is another example of overdue replacement. As equipment ages it requires additional maintenance just to make it serviceable. The new AWD destroyers should also have been commissioned years ago. The approach to stretch the longevity of equipment beyond what is in the interests of the service personnel is an ongoing problem. This question also relates to the Army and the Airforce. The overdue replacement of CARIBOU, C130H etc are all part of a Commonwealth government approach that can pay lipservice to the sacrifice of service personnel but not prepared to make the politically unpopular decision to permanently maintain defence spending at the necessary proportion of GDP. This proportion does need to be increased.

The type of equipment also needs to refer the changing increased level of uncertainty on our region. Amphibious forces are needed to assist in security in the Pacific islands. These forces need adequate airpower. The Navy needs a force of VTOL offensive jet aircraft to operate from the fleet. Such a force would complement the resources of the Air Force and be immediately available to respond to need.

In addition, at our northern border is a neighbour, Indonesia, who we need to learn and understand more about its culture and direction. The history of the our relationship illustrates the unpredictability of the interaction between the two countries. The volatility of Indonesia's relationship with Timor Leste and PNG is also a reminder that Australia must not be caught unprepared as it was with the invasion of the Dutch colony of Irian Java/Papua and in latter years Timor Leste. The ADF must be adequate to defend Australia's interests as well as giving the Australian government

and people a choice of options. There have been occasions when Australia has failed in its obligations to its neighbours due to an apparent lack of options, one of which was military intervention. This current defence review should examine the possibility of obtaining three corvettes to supplement the current patrol vessels in northern waters with a stronger naval presence.

The effective monitoring of our northern waters is a means of maintaining a respectful relationship between the two nations. This monitoring cannot be successful without the cooperation of the Indonesian authorities. The opportunity exists at present for the development of stronger political, cultural and economic ties with Indonesia. Therefore it is in the interests of both countries for mutual cooperation between military forces.

The war of terrorism reached Australia with the Bali bombings. Our ADF must be equipped to deal with this threat at the international level. Australia has no option but to be militarily involved. However terrorism cannot be defeated by military means, but military force can foster opportunities for diplomacy to work at the grass roots level. Australia must be very generous in its support to UN agencies working with the poor, oppressed and dispossessed - the breeding grounds for extremism.

In this type of warfare the ADF needs an abundance of the necessary human resources to protect the humanity of our personnel. This is a particular kind of warfare that has already demonstrated at an international level the ability to dehumanise individual. Australia owes it to the ADF to provide the resources to look after our personnel both in the field and on their return home.

In conclusion, the nation needs to ensure that there is a long term commitment to providing an adequate and increased proportion of GDP for the frontline needs of the ADF. This level of funding has to be maintained due to the lead time required to bring equipment to operational level. It is also important that these funds are not diverted into maintaining the current high level of commonwealth public servants in the Department of Defence whose conditions are superior to those in uniform. This injustice to uniform members needs rectification.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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