
Sent: Monday, 11 August 2008 12:34
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Subject: WWW Submission: 3. Army/Land Power [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: It seems that Australian governments of all persuasions continue to perpetuate the errors of past wars in the 20th century. The most significant of such policy errors is the placing of our war fighting forces in harm's way without sufficient training and equipment to do the job safely. I refer principally to the lack of helicopter 'gunships', heavyweight battle tanks, effective armoured personnel vehicles, heavy lift helicopters etc.etc.

These serious errors of judgement are across all governments. The Eurocopter 'Tiger' is yet to enter service but should we have ordered the 'Apache' model instead? No doubt it is more expensive but at least we would know that it works in combat. Re-furbished 'second-hand' Abrams Tanks are better than nothing but how long do we have to wait for them to be deployed protecting Infantry soldiers in battle? An Australian design for an armoured personnel vehicle capable of protecting soldiers from IED's is now in production. There should be a major commitment to supplying that model to our soldiers engaged in dangerous work. It should be a top priority regardless of cost. Possibly the most serious error of policy was the selling down of our heavy lift helicopter capability- the Chinook.

Instead of playing the 'blame game' politicians should be trusting the people in uniform with combat experience for decisions on the best type of equipment for operational purposes; instead of the oversized civilian bureaucracy in Defence seemingly focussed on project cost, rather than the quality of the equipment provided to war fighting members of the ADF.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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