
Sent: Monday, 22 September 2008 13:00
To: White Paper
Subject: WWW Submission: 4. Air Force/Air Power [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Name: David

Submission: Hi

I have more a question than a submission. The RAAF maintain an airfield protection capability in the form of the Ground Defence Regiment. Yet the RAAF rarely deploy (if ever) to a combat zone. In fact in recent deployments it appears aircraft deploy near the conflict area and fly in and out. Is this duplicate functionality with army or reservists and could these resources be better utilised or handed to army?

Indeed do RAAF members need to have ground training capability, such as weapons training and airfield Defence roles. Whilst I can appreciate that in the 2nd world war this was a requirement and in Korea it seems warfare has changed. If Defence wants to do business cheaper then maybe they should look at more specialisation and higher productivity rates. Let mechanics be mechanics where there is minimal risk of actually entering combat with a weapon. Army reserve regiments can probably do the role better as part of their ongoing training and readiness requirements. This would return dollars and manpower (aswell as hardware such as light arms and vehicles) to the ADF to redeploy.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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