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**Sent:** Saturday, 30 August 2008 18:03  
**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 4. Air Force/Air Power [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: THH IMPERATIVE NATURE OF FUTURE AIRSPACE DENIAL/ DOMINANCE AND CONTROL

Inescapable, no matter how we decide to structure the ADF and prioritise it for capabilities, against whatever threats anywhere, over coming years, and no matter how much of GDP we decide to spend on defence, is the need to provide the RAAF with a peceivable and credible ability to dominate and control the use of airspace .

So called air superiority has always been a prerequiaite to successful combat operations. Modern air capabilities, already evident and developing in our region, incorporating modern air ( smart) weapons systems have almost exponentially increased the validity of this air superiority prerequisite. To successfully conduct any military operations we are going to have to have an anemy air capability rendered ineffective either generally, or in specific blocks of airspace for specific times. Unless we do not envisage ever being involved against an enemy or potential enemy who can deploy a credible air capbility against us, then we have no choice. In a local confrontation or action we would have to accomplish this dominance ourselves, or we can depend upon allies for this vital function in a larger contributory military situation.

This need is further extended by recognition of the strategic deterrence value of our well discussed, now time honoured, and still valid, perceived regional capability edge in this respect. Planning any military interference against our interests would become very difficult if the planner has to accept effective hostile Australian airspace dominance.

So we must ask, can we afford to risk the RAAF's capability for airspace dominance coming second in a local contest? The likely degree of risk judged against cost is irrelevant here. Against the current Russian-origin air capabilities emerging in the region the risk of coming second in a contest is significantly high, unless we decide to acquire the best available.

Current Australian Defence plans are to the contrary. The only aircraft worldwide upon which the best aispance dominance system is centred is the F-22 Raptor. On the grounds that it has more attack capability, and that it may cost less, we are buying the as yet unproven and cost indefinite JSF or F-35.

I hope and recommend to you that the new Defence White Paper, recognizing both the increasing importance of air superiority, and it's strategic deterrence value, should make it quite clear that Australia ( the RAAF) needs the best airspace dominance and control or denial system available in the world. At present that should involve not the F-35 but the F-22.

30th August 2008

Signed  
P G Larard

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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