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**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 5. Other Defence Capabilities [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Name: Richard M Clifford

Submission: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE & DISASTER RELIEF

Because of climate change, increasing catastrophes of all kinds, growing populations, material shortages, water scarcity, there will be an increasing need for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

To satisfy this need I propose that the Navy should develop a Hospital and Supply Ship to be based on a wave-piercing Catamaran as built by Incat in Tasmania.

I have no financial interest in Incat, but I have been a passenger from Poole to the Channel Islands in 1999.

As any naval man will tell you, these vessels are fast (40 - 48 knots depending on loading) are stable, are very maneuverable, have a low draft, have a roll-on/roll-off capacity making it easy to load and unload most vehicles including ambulances, vans and trucks. The passenger decks could easily be converted to a hospital.

These boats have been thoroughly tested in all waters, have made record runs across the Atlantic and have been tested by the US Services:

[http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2002/Apr/US\\_Services\\_Test.htm](http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2002/Apr/US_Services_Test.htm)

The Incat web page states they have a design team capable of making changes to suit specific requirements. A flight deck for helicopters can be installed. Variations in the vehicle ramp are possible.

These catamarans are equipped with powerful diesel motors. Oil could have supply problems as world production deteriorates. The possibility of using gas should be investigated, and the upper deck could be fitted with solar cells which might power the Hospital.

The Hospital should be a Training Hospital, making sure that it would have year round use. It could also be used around Australia as an emergency back up for the many cities on the coast of Australia.

At present we are not training enough doctors and nurses. Australia is still tempting staff from overseas sources who have more need of them than we do. We should be exporting medical expertise across the world.

Australia has a poor reputation in many parts of the world. The fact that we follow the USA means we are regarded as the cause of the problem rather than the solution. If we had one or more such ships and were able to show we will use them in any emergency, we could turn this opinion around, and do much good that would reduce the need for war like action.

R. M. Clifford

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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