
Sent: Monday, 11 August 2008 16:57
To: White Paper
Subject: WWW Submission: 10. Defence's Role in Homeland Security/Whole of Government Functions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: Homeland Security is a concept managed by civilian Intelligence organizations and civil police. It does not require an armed forces component under normal circumstances. Even specialist services such as IED disposal should be handled by properly trained and equipped police units.

The intervention in NT Aboriginal communities to protect children should have emphasised in its PR statements that the armed forces participation was to provide logistic support to the police and medical teams on a scale not available to civilian organizations..

The SAS and Commando Units should not be deployed to combat armed terrorist cells. This is a function of the armed and trained police tactical response teams. It is legitimate to use Defence assets to prevent (say) the unlawful use of aircraft to create disaster at an event such as the Olympic Games, or to provide large scale relief operations in the event of a natural disaster.

Because of their skills, training and specialised equipment, SAS and Commando units are the right tool to fight al Qaeda units in situations such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan etc.

The Taliban, SADR army and like groups are rightly the target of Regular Infantry and should have the backing of Artillery, Armoured and Engineering support units. In a whole of government response to a disaster such as Darfur or Zimbabwe, civilian relief agencies, NGO's, engineering units building facilities etc. cannot complete their tasks unless the enemy has been neutralized and the threat removed. The latter is the role of Infantry who can win and hold ground and deal with the Insurgents.

In a counter-insurgency war scenario, my view is that the Infantry must be deployed in a force strength sufficient to perform the task with minimal risk, (Brigade?) with the active support of tanks, armoured vehicles, engineering services and air assets to provide a ground attack role and rapid deployment. 'Behind the lines' sabotage, disruption, targetting of Taliban leadership and human intelligence gathering are functions of SAS/Commando. Any lower level of commitment will place troops at high and unnecessary risk.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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