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**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 September 2008 23:52  
**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 10. Defence's Role in Homeland Security/Whole of Government Functions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission:

I preface my comments on the 2 of the 3 questions by stating that I have already spoken with the panel members in Rockhampton during their visit but on looking at the Discussion Paper publication at this Eleventh Hour, I realised that there were also policy seminars that I hadn't been aware of at the time. Now, on my return from holidays in Europe, travels that involved a visit to Brussels the capital of the European Community and discussions with a German delegate to the European Social Forum in Malmo, Sweden, I find that there are matters that I feel strongly about. I also offer that I am a member of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Qld and have interests in other non-violence initiatives in the local community including work in progress on a peacemakers' garden and education against bullying and for cooperative development.

1. What role should our defence forces play?

Firstly, the peacekeeping and support contracts that have been made previously need to be honoured or renegotiated to ensure that the intent and practice IS defence and not disguised and unjustified invasion as in Iraq.

The White Paper "planning document" seeks to "make fully-informed and cost effective decision about the military capabilities we need to defend Australia and to promote our interests".

The choice of emphasis in the invitation preamble is tellingly skewed towards a machine-capacity and self-interest.

The Annex in the publication devotes less space to the Workforce Formations than to the Equipment. (For the uninitiated, it would have been more informative to have the total personnel broken down into the numbers in each sub-section and expand on their purpose or roles.) In the post-nuclear age, when many countries and private militias can build the weapons to annihilate vast numbers of people and other creatures and leave land that will be uninhabitable for generations, what use is the posturing of military machinery and troops if our government seeks to control and compete unequally with other nations especially close neighbours rather than work cooperatively in the times of natural disasters and clearly negotiate trading, energy, ideas and policies through diplomacy.

Security is a human need along with food, shelter, social acceptance and love. Psychologists have long ago labelled the fight or flight response to stress. Balanced human endeavour and development is best served neither by flight or fight. The processes of our society and government structures need to ensure standards and opportunities that enable equitable health, education, housing and employment. People and groups who are marginalised, stressed or otherwise insecure, create fear. Increases in Defence Forces will not secure the country's social fabric or lessen individual's fears if education, health, shelter, employment and fair treatment of all residing and potential citizens is not addressed with more substantial support first and foremost.

There are so many ways a potential aggressor could threaten Australia (as cited on p 28), it would seem impossible to strategically defend all the infrastructures and networks by arming defence forces. I cannot comprehend the vastness of intelligence and digital transactions that speed through government departments, companies and private communications everyday, but our systems need to be safe and our guardians vigilant to protect citizens from harm. The greatest threat to American citizens recently have been weather events (over which no human has control only the ability to

respond with relief supports and compassion) and the mortgage collapse which was created by appalling capital policies which didn't protect mostly poor citizens in their endeavours to procure basic shelter. Australians require high standards of safety and knowledge in all community systems and clear communication between legal systems, emergency management and defence personnel comprehensively trained to protect people and their rights.

2. What kinds of armed forces should we develop?

One piece of information offered at our local consultations was that using the Myers-Briggs inventory on significant defence personnel indicated that the spread of personality types is narrow in the group. Good decisions are best made when the team has a diversity of attributes represented in the members.

There were issues of age, ethnicity, retention - to name a few - when recruitment was discussed. I am mindful that Defence Forces react when decision-makers in government direct them, but the calibre of the interactions may be improved if the leaders within the services envisioned and recruited a wider diversity of attributes and skills in their personnel. I'm sure the technological skills that are required by recruits has advanced with the digital age or corrective training has been implemented. What personal and social attributes are needed to improve the humanity of personnel? Are these being addressed or will we still hear news of intimidation as the social means of training?

I propose that supporting community development processes and strengthening the emergency capacity of local community services constitutes a considerable part of the Security of our country. Whether the Defence.gov.au has a role in this is difficult to say! If the mechanisms are machinery and combat skills, there may be less application than if Defence personnel like many students and workforce trainees remained active over a considerable time within projects that responded to community needs with local resources rather than the show of equipment and muscle that accompanies military exercises and provides a photo opportunity but no significant learning opportunity on either side of the relationship.

I realise that my comments are not addressing many of the points in the publication, but they are my views and as a believer in non-violent solutions for society, I can only state them. A sustainable and skilled defence Force is of small value if the community it "serves" is not sustainable and developing itself.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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