



## DEFENCE FOI 268/22/23

### STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

1. I refer to the request by [REDACTED] (the applicant), dated and received on 23 November 2022 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

*"I am inquiring into details of any incident that involved an explosion or major fire onboard an IMA/SIEV that was responded to by Assail 6 in 2013.*

*I am not specifically seeking personal information of members of Assail 6 however am looking to ascertain details of the alleged explosion/fire i.e. dates, responding ship, etc."*

#### FOI decision maker

2. I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

#### Documents identified

3. I identified one document falling within the scope of the request. This document is an Occupational Health and Safety Incident Report regarding Fire on a Hulk whilst being steamed for Destruction.

#### Exclusions

4. Personal email addresses, signatures, PMKeyS numbers and mobile telephone numbers contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request, duplicates of documents, and documents sent to or from the applicant are excluded from this request. Defence has only considered final versions of documents.

#### Decision

5. I have decided to:
  - a. release one document in full; and
  - b. remove irrelevant material under section 22 (access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant deleted) of the FOI Act.

#### Material taken into account

6. In making my decision, I have had regard to:
  - a. the terms of the request;
  - b. the content of the identified documents in issue;
  - c. relevant provisions of the FOI Act; and
  - d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).


## **REASONS FOR DECISION**


### **Section 22 – ‘Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted’**

7. Section 22 of the FOI Act permits an agency to prepare and provide an edited copy of a document where the agency has decided to refuse access to an exempt document or that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access.
8. I am satisfied it is reasonably practicable to remove the irrelevant material and release documents in an edited form.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

9. The document matching the scope of this request contained a dissemination limiting marker (DLM). As the document has been approved for public release, the DLM has been struck through.



**John**   
Accredited Decision Maker  
Navy Group  
Department of Defence