PDR No: SB23-000235 Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/ Unidentified Flying Objects

Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023 Last updated: 23 October 2023

Key witness/es: Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Professor Tanya Monro

Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/Unidentified Flying Objects

Handling Note:

- · Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Chief of Air Force, to lead on topic.
- Professor Tanya Monro, Chief Defence Scientist to lead on Defence Science and Technology Group activities related to Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena.

Key Messages

- Defence does not have a specific policy governing the reporting or recording of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) by either members of the public or Defence members, rather it relies on existing reporting mechanisms.
- Air Force ceased handling reports of the then-termed Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) in 1996 after determining there was no scientific or other compelling reason to continue resourcing this effort.
- Our existing procedures and mechanisms are sufficient to enable the reporting of aerial Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena.
- The magnitude of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena reporting needs to justify the cost of establishing such a system. We do not believe that this threshold has been met.

Talking Points

- Defence continues to assess that there is no compelling reason to divert resources to the specific recording and investigation of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena. This aligns resources with the priorities, mission and objectives of Defence.
- There are well established air traffic control procedures utilised by military and Airservices controllers, and aircrew for the management and reporting of airspace infringements—that is the unauthorised entry of an aircraft into airspace that is either prohibited, or where clearance is required—and unknown aircraft. There are also equally well established military and civilian mechanisms for the reporting of incidents that pose a risk to aviation safety.
- Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities, control and reporting system and procedures also enable our aircrew and air battle managers to gain awareness and communicate with higher headquarters and the Air Operations Centre (AOC). Intelligence Officers are resident at unit, headquarters and AOC levels in case deeper analysis is warranted.

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- The United States (US) Department of Defense (DoD) considers that 'anomalous detections' include, but are not limited to, phenomena that demonstrate apparent capabilities or material that exceed known performance envelopes. There have been no reports of Air Force observations or sightings over the past ten years that would meet this definition.
- We are aware of the All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO) within the US DoD and monitor their reports.
- Defence takes all threats to aviation safety or national security very seriously. However, noting the multiple reporting mechanisms already in place, there would need to be UAP reporting of sufficient volume and credibility to justify consideration of allocating resources to establish a body similar to the AARO in the Australian context.
- . We are aware of the reporting on 19 April 2023 that the AARO is examining a number of cases; however, they have also stated that in their research they have found no credible evidence of extra-terrestrial activity, off-world technology, or objects that defy the known laws of physics.
- The AARO has stated that a very small percentage of UAP reports display signatures that could be reasonably be described as 'anomalous'. The majority of reports they have examined demonstrate mundane characteristics of balloons, unmanned aerial systems, clutter, natural phenomena or other readily explainable sources.
- Defence Science and Technology Group does not conduct specific research and development on UAP and is currently not funded to do so. Defence Science and Technology Group aligns with Air Force's position that there is no scientific reason to conduct research on UAP.
- Defence Science and Technology Group provides support to the ADF to identify and classify objects detected by sensing technology and currently has in place projects aligned with the requirements of the Defence Strategic Review to improve sensing and intelligence gathering in support of Defence of Australia and its interests.
- Defence Science and Technology Group works with Allied Scientists and to date has had no collaboration on UAP; nor has there been any indication that collaboration would be of benefit. Specifically, Defence Science and Technology Group collaborates closely with the USAF Air Force Research Laboratory through the Air Senior National Representative forum who have not placed any priority on collaboration in UAP.

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If raised: has the US shared intelligence regarding UAP?

The United States has shared intelligence on UAP. Defence will continue to monitor and engage with the AARO on UAP, especially if they are deemed to be a security or safety threat.

Background

- On 14 September 2023, the NASA UAP Independent Study Team commissioned on 9 June 2022, published its final report. While the AARO leads the US whole-of-government response to UAP, the team recommended that NASA play an essential role within that framework. The team's overall recommendation for NASA from its report was that the agency play a prominent role in the government's effort to understand UAP by furthering the study and data collection of UAP.
- . A summary of the report's key points follow:
 - Despite numerous accounts and visuals, the absence of consistent, detailed and curated observations means they do not presently have the body of data needed to make definitive, scientific conclusions about UAP.
 - The study team found no evidence that reported UAP observations are extraterrestrial.
 - The panel found that public engagement in the effort to better understand UAP will be vital and that NASA lending its name to UAP studies is already helping to reduce stigma associated with reporting. NASA recommended that beyond this, exploration into the viability of developing or acquiring a crowdsourcing system, such as open-source smartphone apps to gather imaging data and other smartphone sensor data from multiple citizen observers as part of a wider effort to more systemically gather public UAP reports.
 - NASA recommended that their Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS)—which
 collects, analyses, and responds to voluntarily submitted aviation safety incident
 reports in order to lessen the likelihood of aviation accidents—be harnessed to
 collect commercial pilot UAP reporting to provide a database that would be
 valuable for the whole-of-government effort to understand UAP
- On 31 August 2023, the United States Department of Defense launched a website for the AARO to provide the public with information concerning the AARO and its efforts to understand and resolve UAP. The website will provide information, including photos and videos on resolved UAP cases as they are declassified and approved for public release.
- On 19 April 2023, Dr Sean M Kirkpatrick, Director of the AARO, testified at the Senate Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities hearing on the mission, activities, oversight and budget of the AARO.

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OFFICIAL Page 3 of 13

PDR No: SB23-000235 Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/ Unidentified Flying Objects

Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023

Last updated: 23 October 2023

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- . A US DoD article published the same day summarises Dr Kirkpatrick's testimony as follows:
 - All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office scientists continue to improve their data collection and implementation of rigorous scientific and intelligence analysis to resolve cases in a systematic and prioritised manner.
 - Only a very small percentage of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena reports
 display signatures that could be reasonably be described as 'anomalous'. The
 majority of reports demonstrate mundane characteristics of balloons, unmanned
 aerial systems, clutter, natural phenomena or other readily explainable resources.
 - The All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office have found no credible evidence thus far of extra-terrestrial activity, off-world technology, or objects that defy the known laws of physics.
- On 11 January 2023, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence delivered the Annual Report on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (now Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena) to Congress as required by their National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.
- . The Report outlines that:
 - Unidentified Aerial Phenomena continue to represent a hazard to flight safety and pose a possible adversary collection threat.
 - Since their publication of their preliminary assessment in June 2021, Unidentified
 Aerial Phenomena reporting has increased, however could be attributed to a
 concentrated effort to destignatise the topic.
 - The All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office has been established as the United States Department of Defense focal point for Unidentified Aerial Phenomena.
 - Coordinated efforts between the United States Department of Defense and other Government agencies to collect and report Unidentified Aerial Phenomena events have resulted in increased data sets, spanning multiple security domains.
- On 15 July 2022 the US Deputy Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, amended her original direction to the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security by renaming and expanding the scope of the Airborne Object Identification and Management Group to the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO). The AARO was charged with serving as the authoritative office dealing not just aerial phenomena but all anomalous, unidentified space, airborne, submerged and transmedium objects activities for the DoD

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On 25 June 2021, the United States Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (the Report) to provide an intelligence assessment of the threat posed by Unidentified Aerial Phenomena and the progress the United States Department of Defense Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force has made in understanding this threat.

Supporting information

Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates: 30-31 May 2023

 In QoN 91, Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena, Senator Whish-Wilson (Green, Tasmania) asked a series of follow up questions following Estimates 15 February 2023, on the topic of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena.

Supplementary Budget Estimates: 9 November 2022

 In QoN 28, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, Senator Whish-Wilson (Green, Tasmania) asked whether the Royal Australian Air Force had held discussions with the United States on the topic of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena.

Budget Estimates: 19 April 2022

• In QoN 38, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, Senator Whish-Wilson (Green, Tasmania) asked for advice regarding the Royal Australian Air Force Aviation Safety Reporting and for reports of "unusual or unexpected events" in the past 20 years.

Additional Budget Estimates: 25 February 2022

In QoN 20, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, Senator Whish-Wilson (Green, Tasmania)
 asked for advice on existing processes or protocols within the Royal Australian Air Force
 regarding unidentified aircraft.

Supplementary Budget Estimates: 27 October 2021

 In QoN 29, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, Senator Peter Whish-Wilson (Green, Tasmania) asked for advice on existing processes or protocols within the Royal Australian Air Force regarding unidentified aircraft.

Supplementary Budget Estimates: 27 October 2021

 In QoN 90, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, Senator Peter Whish-Wilson (Green, Tasmania) asked for advice regarding a report published June 2021 by the United States Office of the Director of National Intelligence titled 'Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena'.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests

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OFFICIAL Page 5 of 13

PDR No: SB23-000235 Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/ Unidentified Flying Objects

Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023 Last updated: 23 October 2023

Key witness/es: Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Professor Tanya Monro

 Air Force continues to receive a number of FOIs on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena from constituents.

Recent Ministerial Comments

No recent comments.

Relevant Media Reporting

- On 22 October 2023, The Canberra Times published an article titled <u>'The truth is out there'</u>: Australia accused of treating UFO threat as a 'piss-take' by journalist Jamieson Murphy. The author quotes Grant Levac and Ross Coulthard, and asserts that Australia is out of step with Five Eyes nations by not taking Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) seriously. The article further refers to Mr Levac's e-petition to Government calling for a UAP sighting policy, and alleges that Australian Defence Personnel are reticent to report UAP due fear of ridicule.
- On 15 September 2023, The ABC published article titled <u>NASA releases UAP report</u>, <u>says more data and scientific techniques are needed to better understand UFOs</u>.
 Journalist Jenny Cai wrote of the released NASA report which found no evidence that the reported sightings had 'extra-terrestrial origins'.

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OFFICIAL Page 6 of 13

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Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023

Last updated: 23 October 2023

Key witness/es: Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Professor Tanya Monro

Division: Air Force

PDR No: SB23-000235

Prepared by:

s47E(d)

RAAF Ministerial Liaison Office

Directorate Strategic Issues Management

Mob: s22

Date: 19 September 2023

Consultation: Air Force Headquarters

Air Commodore James Badgery

Chief of Staff – Air Force Headquarters

Air Force

Air Vice-Marshal Wendy Blyth, Head of Air

Force Capability

Defence Science & Technology Group

Mr Andrew Seedhouse,

Chief Cyber, Intelligence & National Security

Cleared by CFO / DPG / DSR:

Cleared by Deputy Secretary (or equivalent Band 3/3*):

Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Chief of Air Force Air Force

Cleared by Division Head:

Air Vice-Marshal Glen Braz Air Commander Australia

Headquarters Air Command - Air Force

Mob: s22 Ph: s47E(d)

Date: 23 October 2023

Date: 22 September 2023

Mob: s22

Ph: s47E(d)

Date: 20 September 2023

Mob: s22

Date: 20 September 2023 Ph: s47E(d) Mob: s22

Date: N/A

Date: 23 October 2023

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Page 7 of 13 **OFFICIAL**

PDR No: SB23-000235 Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/ Unidentified Flying Objects

Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023

Last updated: 23 October 2023

Key witness/es: Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Professor Tanya Monro

Questions on notice referred to within the brief:

Budget Estimates (QoN 91)

Topic: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

At Estimates on 15 February 2023, Air Marshal Chipman stated that: "We have sought additional information from [the US] through the air attache in Washington."

1. Has a response been provided by the air attache? If so, what additional information was provided?

At the same Estimates: Senator WHISH-WILSON: The UK government have recently said that they are now going to also look at their ability to detect, for example, slower-moving objects that might be balloons or surveillance balloons or other objects—drones; who knows. Is that something the Australian government might consider, based on your responses?

Air Marshal Chipman: I haven't been directed to do that by the Australian government, but I have asked our Air Commander to understand what capabilities we have in order to detect these sorts of objects in our airspace.

2. What response did the Air Commander provide about capabilities?

A Defence FOI 459/21/22 states that collection and investigation of "these systems" (a reference to other nations systems) is the remit of the Intelligence Community and is classified.

- 3. What is the process/procedure for Air Defence to provide relevant reports to the Intelligence Community when an UAP (or some other observed phenomenon consistent with being another nations system) is sighted?
- 4. Did Australia attend the recent Five-eyes meeting held in May 2023? If so, did it attend the US briefing on UAP's?

Answer

- 1. Yes. The United States military released classified analysis to Defence.
- 2. The Air Commander provided a classified summary of relevant Air Force capabilities.
- 3. The Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities; control and reporting system; and procedures enable aircrew and air battle managers to gain awareness and communicate with higher headquarters and the Air Operations Centre (AOC). Intelligence Officers are resident at unit, headquarters and AOC levels in case deeper analysis is warranted.
- 4. Australia did not attend a United States briefing on UAPs.

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OFFICIAL Page 8 of 13

PDR No: SB23-000235 Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/ Unidentified Flying Objects

Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023

Last updated: 23 October 2023

Key witness/es: Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Professor Tanya Monro

Supplementary Budget Estimates (QoN 28)

Topic: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

Senator WHISH-WILSON: At the US Congressional hearing on UAP back in May, the Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence, Scott Bray, confirmed that, since the release of this preliminary report in 2021, they now had 400 case reports they were considering. Most of them were from pilots like you. He was quoted at those hearings as saying that the US had brought many allies and international partners into their discussions on UAP. Given how close we are to the US, have there been any discussions with Australian intelligence services or the Air Force in relation to their approach—

Senator WHISH-WILSON: You're 'not aware'; does that mean that this just hasn't come across your desk, or can you say categorically there haven't been any?

Answer

The Royal Australian Air Force has not held any discussions with the United States on the topic of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena.

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OFFICIAL Page 9 of 13

PDR No: SB23-000235 Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/ Unidentified Flying Objects

Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023

Last updated: 23 October 2023

Key witness/es: Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Professor Tanya Monro

Budget Estimates (QoN 38)

Topic: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

What the protocols for RAAF Aviation Safety Reporting that relate to unidentified aircraft identified by Air Force pilots or personnel entering military controlled airspace or considered to pose a safety risk to military aircraft? What records of observations or sightings of unidentified aircraft have been made over the past 20 years? What records of "unusual or unexpected events" (referring to previous QoN) have been made through the RAAF Aviation Safety Reporting procedures over the past 20 years?

Answer

The protocol for reporting of unusual, or unexpected airborne events is through Air Traffic Control or other military control reporting agencies. If the event manifests in a safety issue, then normal, safety reporting protocols are enacted.

There are no records of observations or sightings of unidentified aircraft made over the past 20 years.

There are no records of "unusual or unexpected events" made through the RAAF Aviation Safety Reporting procedures over the past 20 years.

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OFFICIAL Page 10 of 13

PDR No: SB23-000235 Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/ Unidentified Flying Objects

Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023

Last updated: 23 October 2023

Key witness/es: Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Professor Tanya Monro

Budget Estimates (QoN 20)

Topic: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

During the last Supplementary Budget Estimates (in response to a question on notice), the Department of Defence advised that there is no protocol for reporting or recording Unidentified Aerial Phenomena or Unidentified Flying Objects.

- 5. In a scenario that an airforce pilot, or airforce personnel on the ground (such as monitoring radar), detects or sights an aircraft over Australian airspace, or in their sphere of operation, but is unable to identify the nature of the craft, what is the process/protocol for pilot and/or personnel to report their observation?
- 6. If there is an existing protocol how many such observations or sightings have been made in the past 10 years? If there is no protocol by what means does the air force maintain the security of Australian Airspace in dealing with unidentified craft?
- 7. What encouragement is given to pilots to make reports of aircraft they cannot identify?

Answer

- 1. Any unidentified aircraft identified by Air Force pilots or personnel entering military controlled airspace or pose a safety risk to military aircraft are subject to RAAF Aviation Safety Reporting protocols.
- 2. Under RAAF Aviation Reporting protocols, there has been no records of observations or sightings of unidentified aircraft over past ten years.
- 3. There is no specific encouragement given to pilots to report aircraft they cannot identify, rather to report unusual or unexpected events through RAAF Aviation Safety Reporting procedures.

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Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023

Last updated: 23 October 2023

Key witness/es: Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Professor Tanya Monro

Supplementary Budget Estimates (QoN 29)

Topic: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Does the characterisation of the DOD, in relation to their report, of both intent and advanced technology concern you? Basically, they're saying they can't explain what these things are, but they would like to better understand them.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Would it be possible for you to see if, across the other services, there has been any kind of reporting system in relation to this in Australia?

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay. Typically, would something like Jindalee be able to pick-up fast-moving objects, or is it more designed to look at ships and—

Answer

The Department of Defence does not have a protocol for reporting or recording of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena or Unidentified Flying Objects.

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PDR No: SB23-000235 Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/ Unidentified Flying Objects

Supplementary Budget Estimates: October 2023

Last updated: 23 October 2023

Key witness/es: Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Professor Tanya Monro

Supplementary Budget Estimates (QoN 90)

Topic: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

Senator Whish-Wilson

Question

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Does the characterisation of the DOD, in relation to their report, of both intent and advanced technology concern you? Basically, they're saying they can't explain what these things are, but they would like to better understand them.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Would it be possible for you to see if, across the other services, there has been any kind of reporting system in relation to this in Australia?

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay. Typically, would something like Jindalee be able to pick-up fast-moving objects, or is it more designed to look at ships and—

Answer

- 1. The Department of Defence has not formally reviewed the report.
- 2. The Department of Defence has not sought guidance on the publication.
- 3. The Unusual Aerial Sightings Policy was last reviewed in November 2003 and cancelled 25 March 2013.
- 4. A file was confirmed in 2008 to be at the National Archives of Australia. The interest of its location was raised again in 2011, however Defence was unable to verify its location nor held record of the file being destroyed. As such and to date, the Department of Defence cannot confirm its current existence.
- 5. The Department of Defence does not have a protocol for reporting or recording of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) or Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO). The Air Force ceased handling reports of UAP or UFO in 1996 after determining that there was no scientific or other compelling reason for the Air Force to continue to devote resources to the recording and investigation of UAP or UFO.

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Page **13** of **13**

 From:
 s47E(d)

 To:
 s47E(d)

 Cc:
 RAAF MLO

Subject: 230814.1748 - Email - s47E(d) - 14 Aug - Current status of SEB tasking

Date: Monday, 14 August 2023 5:48:43 PM

Attachments: export (6).csv

export (6).csv RAAF MLO Senate Estimates Tracker.obr

image001.png

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(d)

Please see attached short spreadsheet showing 12 SEBs and status. In short 4 unassigned. All others are actioned.

Senate Estimates Tracker updated – link attached.

Kind regards
Kind regards

\$47E(d)

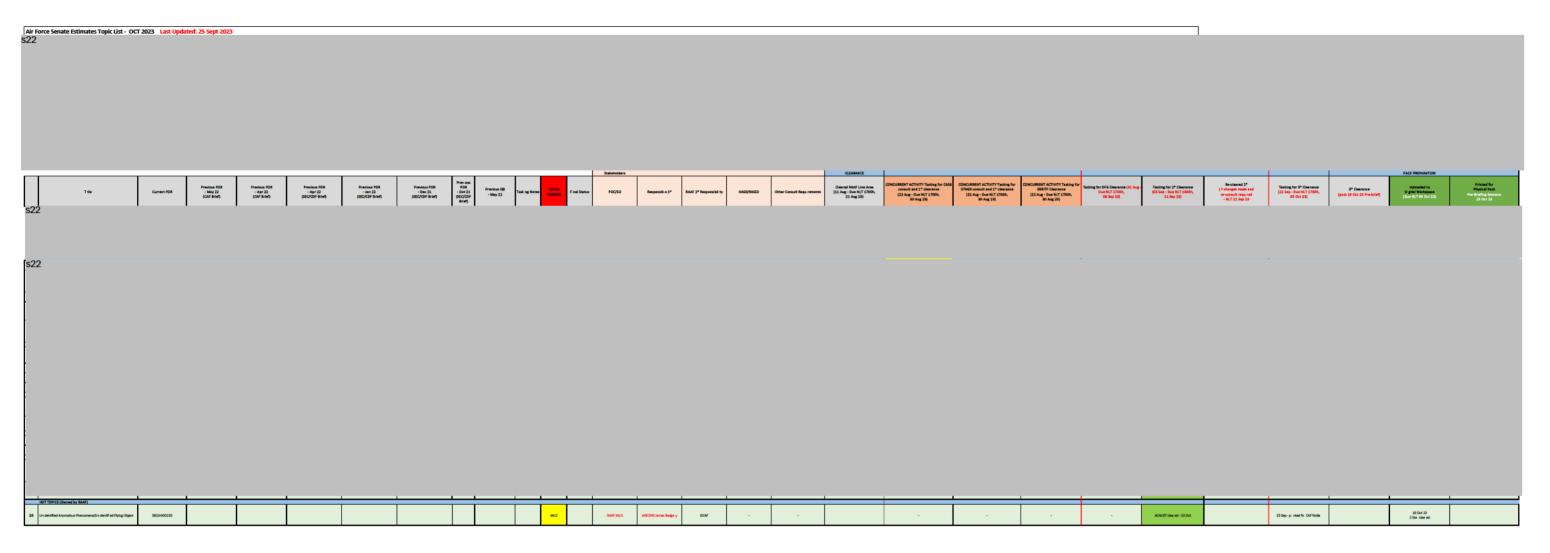
Ministerial Liaison Officer
Ministerial Liaison Office – Air Force
Directorate Strategic Issues Management

W: \$47E(d) M: \$22 | \$47E(d) | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

Group Mailbox: RAAF MLO website: Ministerial Liaison Office

cid:image006.png@01D5A9E1.113E50D0

Status of ren	maining Senate Estimate PDRs in PDMS (assigned to s47E(d)	as at 1730h, Mon 14 Aug 23		
PDR No	Subject	Current Processing Instructions	Assigned to	Next Action
s22				
	5 Unidentified Aerial Pheonomena/Unidentified Flying Objects	MLO	Not assigned as yet	A/DD to advise on tasking
s22				



From: s47E(d)
To: RAAF MLO

Subject: 230911.1206 - Email - s47E(d) /RAAF MLO - SB23-000235 : Unidentified Aerial Pheonomena/Unidentified

Flying Objects PDMS Notification - Record Assigned

Date: Monday, 11 September 2023 12:08:01 PM

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PDMS Record CC'd - <u>SB23-000235</u> from ^{s47E(d)} to^{\$47E(d)}

INFORMATION COPY ONLY

This is for your Information Only as the record was assigned to Stacey Smith

Status:

OVERDUE Revision

Subject: Unidentified Aerial Pheonomena/Unidentified Flying

Objects

Instruction:

Hi s47E(d)

Reassigned for review and update.
s47E(d)

Milestones: Due for Clearance: 01/05/2023 5:00 PM
Due to Parliamentary: 02/05/2023 5:00 PM

For help with PDMS, please refer to the <u>PDMS Quick Reference Guides on the Intranet</u> or for technical issues and assistance please contact the PDMS Helpdesk on s47E(d) or at s47E(d)

Thank You

PDMS Notification Service

Please do not reply to this message.

CC Recipients:

RAAF Ministerials RAAF Ministerials (547E(d)

SEC=OFFICIAL

From: s47E(d) on behalf of <u>RAAF MLO</u>

To: DSTGroupcoord

Cc: s47E(d) ; RAAF MLO

Subject: 230914.1508 - Email - \$47E(d) /DSTGroupcoord - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Aerial

Pheonomena/Unidentified Flying Objects

Date: Thursday, 14 September 2023 3:08:53 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(d)

Not a problem at all, we welcome CDS input to our UAP RAAF Brief. Grateful if the version sent by s47E(d) is utilised for updating with your contributions and a return 2 * star cleared by **NLT 20 September 2023.**

I think if CDS would like some deeper content to support attendance at Senate Estimates on the topic but more DSTG-related, you're most welcome to develop a back pocket-style CDS level brief. We just want to mitigate having to update two briefs with the same content – I hope that makes sense?

Happy to discuss!

Regards

s47E(d)

Deputy Director

RAAF MLO | Air Force

Directorate Strategic Issues Management

Air Force Headquarters

Phone: s47E(d) | Mobile: s22

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IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> On Behalf Of DSTGroupcoord

Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 3:01 PM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; RAAF MLO s47E(d)

Cc: DSTGroupcoord s47E(d)

Subject: RE: SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Aerial Pheonomena/Unidentified Flying

Objects [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

Thank you heaps for sharing the draft UAP brief with us.

Chief Air & Space came back to us after reviewing the draft version and suggests its more appropriate for to build on/provide input to the lead CAF brief. Also suggested CAF remain the lead, and CDS can supplement where appropriate regarding Research & Development.

Our brief would be named the same with very similar content so seems more fitting to organise another co-brief. Would you be able to advise whether this is welcomed?

Kind regards,

s47E(d)

Senior Ministerial Liaison Officer | Office of the Chief Defence Scientist Defence Science and Technology Group

Department of Defence | Russell | S47E(d)

PO Box 7931 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2601

Ph: S47E(d) | www.defence.gov.au

Ph: s47E(d) www.defence.gov.au E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 12 September 2023 3:35 PM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Cc: RAAF MLO s47E(d)

Subject: SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Aerial Pheonomena/Unidentified Flying Objects

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(d)

As discussed earlier today, please find attached <u>draft</u> CAF UAP Senate Estimates Brief.

If CDS are taking the lead on this, can you please consult with Air Force as to date all matters relating to UAP have been dealt with by us.

If the content of your Brief is substantially different from the CAF brief, we will maintain ours. If not, Air Force will seek a copy of your cleared brief for CAFs pack for Senate Estimates.

Please keep RAAF MLO in the loop and updated on this topic/SEB.

Kind regards

s47E(d)

Ministerial Liaison Officer Ministerial Liaison Office – Air Force Directorate Strategic Issues Management

W: \$47E(d) M: \$22 | \$47E(d) | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

Group Mailbox: RAAF MLO website: Ministerial Liaison Office

cid:image006.png@01D5A9E1.113E50D0

From: s47E(d) on behalf of RAAF MLO

s47E(d) To:

RAAF MLO Cc:

Subject: 230919.1359 - Email - s47E(d) - SB23-000235 - UAP.docx

Date: Tuesday, 19 September 2023 1:59:23 PM

Attachments:

image001.png SB23-000235.docx

OFFICIAL

Updated brief attached, ready for HAC review and progression to DCAF

All changes in track.

Thanks!

Regards

s47E(d)

Deputy Director

RAAF MLO | Air Force

Directorate Strategic Issues Management

Air Force Headquarters

Phone: s47E(d) | Mobile: s22

s47E(d) , RAAF Base Richmond, NSW 2753

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From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 18 September 2023 6:10 PM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Cc: RAAF MLO s47E(d)

Subject: SB23-000235 - UAP.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

Does further updates need to be made to this SEB based on recent emails and data sent to you and SOCAF request (New public reporting (NASA release 15 Sept) needs to be included in the SEB)?

If not I will progress to HAC for first clearance before DCAF.

Thanks

s47E(d)

Ministerial Liaison Officer Ministerial Liaison Office - Air Force

Directorate Strategic Issues Management

W: s47E(d) M: s22 s47E(d) Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610	
Group Mailbox: RAAF MLO Website: Ministerial Liaison Office	
cid:image006.png@01D5A9E1.113E50D0	_
cid.imageooo.prig@o1D3A9E1.113E30D0	
2	

From: s47E(d) on behalf of RAAF MLO

To: s47E(d)

Cc: RAAF MLO

Subject: 230920.1027 - Email - s47E(d) - HAC edits - SB23-000235 - UAP

Date: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 10:27:35 AM

Attachments: SB23-000235.docx

235 comments.pdf

OFFICIAL

Updates attached.

I've provided response comments to HAC's comments in the PDF – this is only for history context should we be asked why we removed/edited/didn't take comments on board.

You can push to SODCAF now.

Regards

s47E(d)

Deputy Director

RAAF MLO | Air Force

Directorate Strategic Issues Management

Air Force Headquarters

Phone: s47E(d) | Mobile: s22

s47E(d) , RAAF Base Richmond, NSW 2753

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From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 10:05 AM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> Subject: HAC edits - SB23-000235 - UAP [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

Tracy asked if I could send this through to you with HAC's feedback.

Happy to help if needed.

Thanks

s47E(d)

Kind regards

s47E(d)

Ministerial Liaison Officer Ministerial Liaison Office – Air Force Directorate Strategic Issues Management

W: s47E(d) | s47E(d) | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

Group Mailbox: RAAF MLO | Website: Ministerial Liaison Office

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 9:58 AM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Subject: Message from s47E(d)

From: s47E(d)
To: RAAF MLO

Subject: 230920.1141 - Email - s47E(d) /RAAF MLO - SB23-000235 : Unidentified Anomalous

Phenomena/Unidentified Hying Objects PDMS Notification - Record Assigned

Date: Wednesday, 20 September 2023 11:41:31 AM

CEC OFFICIAL



PDMS Record CC'd - <u>SB23-000235</u> from ^{847E(d)}

to s47E(d)

INFORMATION COPY ONLY

This is for your Information Only as the record was assigned to Brett Aaker

Status:

OVERDUE Revision

Subject: Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/Unidentified

Flying Objects

Instruction:

Milestones: Due for Clearance: 01/05/2023 5:00 PM
Due to Parliamentary: 02/05/2023 5:00 PM

For help with PDMS, please refer to the <u>PDMS Quick Reference Guides on the Intranet</u> or for technical issues and assistance please contact the PDMS Helpdesk on s47F(d) or at s47F(d)

Thank You

PDMS Notification Service

Please do not reply to this message.

CC Recipients:

RAAF Ministerials RAAF Ministerials (S47E(d)

SEC OFFICIAL

From: \$47E(d)

To: \$47E(d)

Cc: RAAF MLO

Subject: 230921.0955 - Email - s47E(d) - UPDATED UAP SEB - as at 21 Sep 2023

Date: Thursday, 21 September 2023 9:55:26 AM

Attachments: SB23-000235.docx

OFFICIAL

Good morning s47E(d)

Please find attached updated UAP SEB for re-inclusion in DCAF's clearance pack following receipt of input from DSTG.

Highlighted information is from DSTG.

Regards

s47E(d)

Deputy Director

RAAF MLO | Air Force

Directorate Strategic Issues Management

Air Force Headquarters

Phone: s47E(d) | Mobile: s22

, RAAF Base Richmond, NSW 2753

From: s47E(d)

To: RAAF MLO

Subject: 231016.1213 - Email - \$47E(d) /RAAF MLO - Request information - unidentified aerial phenomenon -

senate estimate

Date: Monday, 16 October 2023 12:13:45 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

image005.png image004.png image006.png

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

Just another thought - would it be possible to get the uncleared version? On the proviso that it will be cleared and none of that information will be publically released by ASA until CAF clearance is issued? It's to assist with talking point preparation for a briefing on the topic.

Defence Space Command

Space Strategic Plans Branch Lot Fourteen, Bice Building Adelaide SA 5000

Mobile: +61 s22

E-mail: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> On Behalf Of RAAF MLO

Sent: Monday, 16 October 2023 11:09 AM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Request information - unidentified aerial phenomenon - senate estimate

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

Air Force have a SEB on UAP but this is currently awaiting CAF clearance.

Once cleared (I am not sure when that will be) it will be uploaded to the Digital workspace for access.

Sorry, best I can offer at this stage. Does that help at all?

Kind regards



IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 16 October 2023 11:15 AM **To:** RAAF MLO ^{s47E(d)}

Subject: Request information - unidentified aerial phenomenon - senate estimate

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning,

I'm seeking information regarding details pertaining to "unidentified aerial phenomenon" that was mentioned in an senate estimate by Air Force. I'm unsure of how long ago. The Australian Space Agency (ASA) is requesting this information for a brief. Would you be able to provide it to me, or if necessary, direct me to the right person who can assist me further? Many thanks in advance.

Kind regards,



From: s47E(d)

To: Reynolds, Harvey AVM; Blyth, Wendy AVM; Braz, Glen AVM

Cc: s47E(d) ; RAAF MLO

Subject: 231018.0944 - Email - \$47E(d)/Many - UPDATE TO SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEFS

Date: Wednesday, 18 October 2023 9:44:40 AM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good morning ma'am and sirs,

s22

Just a follow up email to record the required amendments requested by CAF last night. I just want to ensure I am tracking the required amendments correctly. Please advise as soon as you can if you have any additional notes or corrections. In the interim, we will task out to the relevant staff officers to get the process rolling this morning.

CAF would like all briefs complete and ready for his review on Monday 23 Oct 23. Could we please have the drafts back to RAAF MLO by 1500h this Friday 20 Oct 23.

SB23-000235 UAP	 Need better description of our engagement with US authorities (what is our relationship with them), particularly attendance at 'set briefings' Ensure consistency of assertions in this 	DCAF (DSIM) / ACAUST

brief is consistent with testimony noted in the back of the brief Key argument is that many unidentified aircraft are addressed through routine air traffic procedures. The creation of new procedures to address any unidentified aircraft would need to be of a magnitude to justify the cost of establishing such a system. We do not believe that this threshold has been met. Ensure that Dr Munro at DSTG has a copy of this brief s22 Please let me know if you have any questions. Kind regards, s47E(d) s47E(d) s47E(d) Director Strategic Issues Management – Air Force

(02) s47E(d) | s22 | s47E(d)

Air Force Headquarters

From: s47E(d)

To: s47E(d) ; RAAF MLO

Subject: 231020.1202 - Email -s47E(d) /Many - SB23-000235 : Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/Unidentified

Flying Objects PDMS Notification - Record Assigned

Date: Friday, 20 October 2023 12:04:49 PM

CEC OFFICIAL



PDMS Record CC'd - SB23-000235

from s47E(d)

to s47E(d)

INFORMATION COPY ONLY

This is for your Information Only as the record was assigned to \$\frac{s47E(d)}{}\$

Status:

OVERDUE Revision

Subject: Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/Unidentified

Flying Objects

	, ,
Instruction:	Hey s47E(d) This is now ready for your vetting ahead of s47E(d) processing to OACUST and Chief Defence Scientist for final reviews (before CAF clearance on Mon). I believe I have addressed all of CAF's points annotated on the draft, and contained in DSIM's email but please double check this to be sure. Please assign back to s47E(d) once you've worked your magic. Taaaaa, s47E(d) SO2 MLO-AF

Milestones: Due for Clearance: 01/05/2023 5:00 PM
Due to Parliamentary: 02/05/2023 5:00 PM

For help with PDMS, please refer to the <u>PDMS Quick Reference Guides on the Intranet</u> or for technical issues and assistance please contact the PDMS Helpdesk on sate of at sate of the PDMS Helpdesk on sate of the PDMS H

Thank You

PDMS Notification Service

Please do not reply to this message.

CC Recipients:

SEC OFFICIAL

From: To: Cc: Subject: Date:	s47E(d) on behalf of RAAF MLO s47E(d) ; DSTGroupcoord; s47E(d) ; RAAF MLO 231020.1551 - Email - s47E(d) - 231020 - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/Unidentified Hying Objects - FINAL REVIEW FRI 20 OCT 23 Friday, 20 October 2023 3:51:42 PM				
	OFFICIAL				
Many thanks s471	E(d) . s22				
Cheers,					
+61 s47E(d) IMPORTANT: The communication If you have rece	SO2 Ministerial Liaison Officer Directorate of Strategic Issues Management Air Force Headquarters				
From: s47E(d)	@defence.gov.au>				
• •	October 2023 3:51 PM . s47E(d)				
To: RAAF MLO s4	@defence.gov.au>				
Cc: s47E(d)	@defence.gov.au>; DSTGroupcoord				
•	L020 - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Anomalous identified Flying Objects - FINAL REVIEW FRI 20 OCT 23 [SEC=OFFICIAL]				
OFFICIAL					
Good afternoon	s47E(d)				
	& Space Dr Shane Canney has reviewed the latest brief and comments the stent with previous DSTG input. Confirming Dr Canney has re-cleared without .				
Thanks again for	r the opportunity.				
Warm regards,					

Senior Ministerial Liaison Officer | Office of the Chief Defence Scientist Defence Science and Technology Group

s47E(d)

Department of Defence | Russell | s47E(d)

PO Box 7931 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2601

Ph: s47E(d) | www.defence.gov.au

E: s47E(d) | @defence.gov.au

E: s47E(d)

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From: s47E(d)

RAAF MLO

Sent: Friday, 20 October 2023 1:40 PM

To: s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au > ; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au > ; s47E(d)

Cc: RAAF MLO s47E(d) ; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Subject: 231020 - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/Unidentified

Flying Objects - FINAL REVIEW FRI 20 OCT 23 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

A/PSO ACAUST, Hi Sir,

- As you discussed with s47E(d) earlier today, PFA subj SEB for a final ACAUST review prior to CAF clearance as CAF will be clearing the brief morning of Mon 23 Oct, would appreciate it if you could please facilitate ACAUST review and subsequent advice back to MLO-AF by EO today Fri 20 Oct
- FYSA the revision was in response to CAF's feedback in the attached markup, and his feedback as recorded in DSIM email of 1243 h 23 Oct 23 as follows:

SB23-000235 UAP	 Need better description of our 	DCAF (DSIM) /
	engagement with US authorities	ACAUST
	(what is our relationship with them),	
	particularly attendance at 'set	
	briefings'	
	Ensure consistency of assertions in	
	this brief is consistent with	
	testimony noted in the back of the	
	brief	
	 Key argument is that many 	
	unidentified aircraft are addressed	
	through routine air traffic	

•	procedures. The creation of new procedures to address any unidentified aircraft would need to be of a magnitude to justify the cost of establishing such a system. We do not believe that this threshold has been met. Ensure that Dr Munro at DSTG has a copy of this brief	
---	---	--

DSTG Coord, Hi s47E(d)

- As per table above, CAF has requested that Dr Munro be supplied a copy of the subj brief –
 MLO-AF will ensure a copy of the final cleared brief is distributed accordingly early next week
- While content pertaining to DSTG has not been changed in this revision, the current version is attached for Dr Munro's SA <u>if there are any issues with this draft from your group's perspective</u>, please advise by EO today Fri 20 Oct

Cheers,

s47E(d)		

SO2 Ministerial Liaison Officer

Directorate of Strategic Issues Management Air Force Headquarters

From: s47E(d) on behalf of <u>RAAF MLO</u>

To: s47E(d) ; RAAF MLO

Cc: RAAF MLO; s47E(d)

Subject: 231023.1005 - Email - \$47E(d) /Many - 231020 - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Anomalous

Phenomena/Unidentified Flying Objects - FINAL REVIEW FRI 20 OCT 23

Date: Monday, 23 October 2023 10:05:34 AM

Attachments: image001.png image002.jpg

OFFICIAL

COS HQAC, Sir, Many thanks.

I've updated the subj brief in light of yesterday's Canberra Times reporting. As discussed, SOCAF is content for this to go through without re-clearance noting changes are minor. Current version is in PDMS – for CAF's pack in readiness for SE rehearsal at 1100 h.

Cheers,

s47E(d)

SO2 Ministerial Liaison Officer

Directorate of Strategic Issues Management Air Force Headquarters

+61 s47E(d) | s22

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From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 October 2023 8:18 AM

To: RAAF MLO s47E(d)

Subject: FW: 231020 - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Anomalous

Phenomena/Unidentified Flying Objects - FINAL REVIEW FRI 20 OCT 23 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Folks,

PFA ACAUST cleared review of the attached SEB.

Respectfully

s47E(d)

Chief of Staff

Senior ADF Officer Glenbrook and DEOH

Headquarters Air Command (HQAC)

Tel: s47E(d)
Mob: s22



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. I recognise their connection to traditional lands and waters and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 October 2023 8:05 AM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Subject: FW: 231020 - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Anomalous

Phenomena/Unidentified Flying Objects - FINAL REVIEW FRI 20 OCT 23 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sir, Senate Brief for UAP cleared with minor amendments.

s47E(d)

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From: Braz, Glen AVM 547E(d)

Sent: Sunday, 22 October 2023 1:39 PM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Subject: RE: 231020 - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/Unidentified

Flying Objects - FINAL REVIEW FRI 20 OCT 23 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s47E(d)

Minor amendments in attached.

Cleared in this form noting COS AFHQ appears to have the lead.

ACAUST

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 20 October 2023 4:53 PM

To: Braz, Glen AVM s47E(d)

Subject: FW: 231020 - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Anomalous

Phenomena/Unidentified Flying Objects - FINAL REVIEW FRI 20 OCT 23 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

G'day Sir,

Attached is the SB for UAP. Unfortunately the updated word document didn't show the track changes that reflected CAF markup, but I have reviewed the word document and believe they have been captured, with the exception of the threshold for an isolated reporting mechanism point in the table below. I've added this point in track changes.

Request your clearance.

Regards,

s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> On Behalf Of

RAAF MLO

Sent: Friday, 20 October 2023 1:40 PM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au>

Cc: RAAF MLO s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Subject: 231020 - SB23-000235 (Revision) - Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/Unidentified

Flying Objects - FINAL REVIEW FRI 20 OCT 23 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

A/PSO ACAUST, Hi Sir,

- As you discussed with s47E(d) earlier today, PFA subj SEB for a final ACAUST review prior to CAF clearance as CAF will be clearing the brief morning of Mon 23 Oct, would appreciate it if you could please facilitate ACAUST review and subsequent advice back to MLO-AF by EO today Fri 20 Oct
- FYSA the revision was in response to CAF's feedback in the attached markup, and his feedback as recorded in DSIM email of 1243 h 23 Oct 23 as follows:

SB23-000235 UAP	Need botter description of our	DCAF (DSIM) /
3023-000233 UAF	Need better description of our	·
	engagement with US authorities	ACAUST
	(what is our relationship with them),	
	particularly attendance at 'set	
	briefings'	
	Ensure consistency of assertions in	
	this brief is consistent with testimony	
	noted in the back of the brief	
	Key argument is that many	
	unidentified aircraft are addressed	
	through routine air traffic	
	procedures. The creation of new	
	procedures to address any	
	unidentified aircraft would need to	
	be of a magnitude to justify the cost	
	of establishing such a system. We do	
	not believe that this threshold has	
	been met.	
	Ensure that Dr Munro at DSTG has a	
	copy of this brief	

DSTG Coord, Hi s47E(d)

- As per table above, CAF has requested that Dr Munro be supplied a copy of the subj brief –
 MLO-AF will ensure a copy of the final cleared brief is distributed accordingly early next week
- While content pertaining to DSTG has not been changed in this revision, the current version is attached for Dr Munro's SA <u>if there are any issues with this draft from your group's perspective</u>, please advise by EO today Fri 20 Oct

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s47E(d)	
SO2 Ministerial Liaiso	າ Officer
Directorate of Strateg	ic Issues Management Air Force Headquarters

 From:
 \$47E(d)

 To:
 \$47E(d)

 Cc:
 RAAF MLO

Subject: 231023.2117 - Email - \$47E(d) - CAF cleared - \$B23-000235 - Unidentified Anomalous

Phenomena-Unidentified Hying Objects.pdf

 Date:
 Monday, 23 October 2023 9:17:50 PM

 Attachments:
 20. Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena-Unidentified Flying Objects.pdf

OFFICIAL Hi^{s47E(d)}

Sincere apologies for the delay.

Attached is CAF cleared SEB for your principles Senate Estimates pack.

Kind regards

s47E(d)

Ministerial Liaison Officer Ministerial Liaison Office – Air Force Directorate Strategic Issues Management

W: s47E(d) M: s22 | s47E(d) | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

Group Mailbox: RAAF MLO Website: Ministerial Liaison Office

 From:
 \$47E(d)

 To:
 \$47E(d)

 Cc:
 RAAF MLO

Subject: 231024.1033 - Email - s47E(d) - CAF SEB - SB23-000235 - UAP/UFO

Date: Tuesday, 24 October 2023 10:33:55 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

image001.png 20. Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena-Unidentified Flying Objects.pdf

OFFICIAL

Good morning s47E(d)

Apologies for the delay.

Attached is the CAF cleared UAP SEB as requested.

Kind regards

s47E(d)

Ministerial Liaison Officer Ministerial Liaison Office – Air Force Directorate Strategic Issues Management

W: s47E(d) | M: s22 | s47E(d) | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

Group Mailbox: RAAF MLO Website: Ministerial Liaison Office

cid:image006.png@01D5A9E1.113E50D0

