

Media

From: Henry Zwartz <Zwartz.Henry@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 1:04 PM
To: Media
Cc: Kathleen Calderwood
Subject: ABC News media request - US intelligence is concerned about the publishing of satellite images - Friday, 3 April deadline

⚠ EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ⚠

Good afternoon,

Henry Zwartz and Kathleen Calderwood here from ABC News.

We're publishing a story that reveals US intelligence is concerned about the publishing of satellite images by a Chinese AI firm.

Sources in the US intelligence community say this has put the lives of US and allied soldiers at risk in the Middle East.

The firm, MizarVision, has been posting imagery of US military positions and bases, including targeting analysis of air defence systems. These US sources have told the ABC that they consider this information has put the lives of US and allied personnel at those at the bases at risk.

As we know, Australians are deployed in the region at a base that has been hit by an Iranian projectile on March 18.

We have also discovered that this company published in real time the path and position of the HMAS Toowoomba on February 20, while it was passing through the Taiwan Strait. You would remember that about two weeks after that (March 4) the Toowoomba was involved in an unsafe and unprofessional interaction with a People's Liberation Army–Navy helicopter in the Yellow Sea.

In light of this, we'd seek comment on the following:

- Are you aware of US assessments that satellite imagery posted on open source channels has endangered lives? Has the US administration informed Canberra and/or the ADF of this?
- What is your position on the publication of sensitive satellite imagery of things like US bases, air defence systems, and vessels, during a conflict, like the Iran/Middle East War?

- Is the Australian government liaising with the US on protocols to keep Australians deployed in the region safe, and have these discussions included issues around the publication of sensitive imagery online?
- Was the Australian government aware that Mizar Vision was publishing real time information about the HMAS Toowoomba's movements?
- How concerned is the Australian Government that Mizar Vision was publishing real time information about the HMAS Toowoomba's movements?

The same firm published tracking data of HMAS Toowoomba earlier this year as it conducted a freedom of navigation exercise in the Taiwan Strait.

Our deadline is 6pm, Friday 3rd April.

Thanks,

Henry Zwartz
Producer, ABC News

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Media

From: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 1:45 PM
To: Media
Cc: Media
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] ABC News inquiry re publication of satellite images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Defence media,

We have received the below request from ABC, as this concerns the ADF we believe it best sits with Defence.

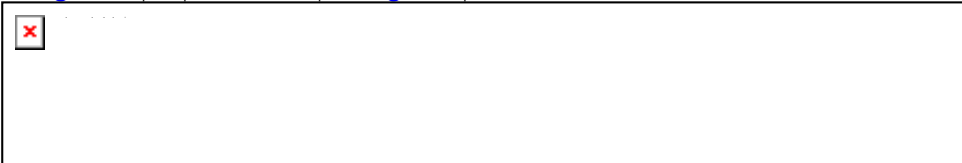
Grateful for confirmation of referral.

Kind regards,

s47E(c)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s47E(c)

dfat.gov.au | [X](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Media

From: Media
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 1:52 PM
To: s47E(c)
 [Redacted]
 s47E(c); SP&I Media; s47E(c)
Cc: Media; s47E(c); MSC Media
Subject: FOR SP&I/JOC ACTION - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC - US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 12:30 31 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s22
 [Redacted]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon SP&I and JOC,

Thank you for your time on the phone s47E(c) and s47E(c) As discussed, please see the below media enquiry for your action.

MSC – I’ve also CC’d you in, just in case it falls into your area as well –s22
 [Redacted]

s22
 [Redacted]

****Please highlight any new information in your response, for example any part of the response that is not already on the public record.****

Priority 2	26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images
Journalist/Outlet	Henry Zwartz and Kathleen Calderwood, ABC
Deadline to Defence Media	31 March, 12:30
Responsible Group/Service	SP&I/JOC
Cleared for public release	[Band 2/2* who is clearing]
Final Clearance	s47E(d)

Enquiry

We’re publishing a story that reveals US intelligence is concerned about the publishing of satellite images by a Chinese AI firm.

Sources in the US intelligence community say this has put the lives of US and allied soldiers at risk in the Middle East.

The firm, MizarVision, has been posting imagery of US military positions and bases, including targeting analysis of air defence systems. These US sources have told the ABC that they consider this information has put the lives of US and allied personnel at those at the bases at risk.

As we know, Australians are deployed in the region at a base that has been hit by an Iranian projectile on March 18.

We have also discovered that this company published in real time the path and position of the HMAS Toowoomba on February 20, while it was passing through the Taiwan Strait. You would remember that about two weeks after that (March 4) the Toowoomba was involved in an unsafe and unprofessional interaction with a People's Liberation Army–Navy helicopter in the Yellow Sea.

In light of this, we'd seek comment on the following:

Are you aware of US assessments that satellite imagery posted on open source channels has endangered lives? Has the US administration informed Canberra and/or the ADF of this?

What is your position on the publication of sensitive satellite imagery of things like US bases, air defence systems, and vessels, during a conflict, like the Iran/Middle East War?

Is the Australian government liaising with the US on protocols to keep Australians deployed in the region safe, and have these discussions included issues around the publication of sensitive imagery online?

Was the Australian government aware that Mizar Vision was publishing real time information about the HMAS Toowoomba's movements?

How concerned is the Australian Government that Mizar Vision was publishing real time information about the HMAS Toowoomba's movements?

The same firm published tracking data of HMAS Toowoomba earlier this year as it conducted a freedom of navigation exercise in the Taiwan Strait.

s47E(d)



s47E(d)



Thanks,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

E: s47E(c)

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 1:55 PM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c) [redacted] Media s47E(c)
s47E(c)
s47E(c)
Subject: FYSA s47E(d) 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(d)

FYSA – We received the below enquiry from Henry Zwartz and Kathleen Calderwood at ABC regarding US Intelligence on Satellite Images.

This has been tasked to SP&I/JOC as a P2 with MSC CC'd in.

The line area deadline back to Defence Media is March 31, 12:30.

Final clearance is s47E(d)

Please let us know if you have any concerns.
Thanks,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
P: s47E(c)
E: [redacted]
Alt: [redacted]

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 1:58 PM
To: Henry Zwartz
Cc: Kathleen Calderwood; Media
Subject: RE: ABC News media request - US intelligence is concerned about the publishing of satellite images - Friday, 3 April deadline [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hello Henry and Kathleen,

Thank you for your enquiry, confirming we have received your request.

Regards,

s47E(
c)
Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
E: media@defence.gov.au

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s22



Media

From: Henry Zwartz <Zwartz.Henry@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 2:00 PM
To: Media
Cc: Kathleen Calderwood
Subject: RE: ABC News media request - US intelligence is concerned about the publishing of satellite images - Friday, 3 April deadline [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thank you

Henry Zwartz
Producer, ABC News
(Sun-Tue)

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

Media

From: Media
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 2:00 PM
To: Media
Cc: Media
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] ABC News inquiry re publication of satellite images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(c) /DFAT Media team,

Confirming that we also received the same email and have tasked it out to our line areas to get a response for the journalists.

Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

E: s47E(c)

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: s47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 2:03 PM
To: Media; s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c)
Subject: RE: FYSA s47E(c) 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks for this. FYI – the same enquiry has come into the office directly. We will standby for Defence's response and go from there.

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s22



Media

From: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 4:53 PM
To: Media
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] ABC News inquiry re publication of satellite images
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

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OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(c) and Defence media team,

Thanks for the time on the phone.

As discussed, please see details of the DFAT officer seeking to contact the Defence line area regarding this enquiry.

//

s47E(c)

A/g First Assistant Secretary | Defence and National Security Policy Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s47E(c)

//

Would be great if they could call or alternatively would appreciate Defence line area POC details for this enquiry.

Kind regards,
s47E(c)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s47E(c) E media@dfat.gov.au

Note to media: Unless otherwise specified, the information contained in this email is for background only.

s22



Media

From: Media
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 5:32 PM
To: s47E(c)
[Redacted]
SP&I Media; s47E(c)
[Redacted]

Cc: Media
Subject: RE: FOR SP&I/JOC ACTION - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 12:30 31 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi SP&I and JOC,

We've just received a call from DFAT Media whose FAS is seeking to contact our line areas regarding this enquiry. I have copied their details below.

//

s47E(c)

A/g First Assistant Secretary | Defence and National Security Policy Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s47E(c)

//

Grateful if you could please get the best point of contacts from your team to get in touch with s47E(c)

Thank you,
s47E(c)

s47E(c) | Media Manager
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
P: s47E(c)
E: [Redacted]
Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: s47E(c)
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2026 5:40 PM
To: Media; s47E(c)
SP&I Media; s47E(c)
s47E(c)

Subject: RE: FOR SP&I/JOC ACTION - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC - US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 12:30 31 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s47E(c)

We will work with SPI to arrange a discussion.

Kind regards



s47E(c)
Deputy Director Plans / Strategic Communication Advisor to CJOPS
J09 Public Affairs Directorate | Headquarters Joint Operations Command

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Media

From: s47E(c) on behalf of HQJOC Military Public Affairs
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:10 PM
To: Media; s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c); SP&I Media; s47E(c); s47E(d); s47E(c); s47E(d)
Subject: CLEARED - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC - US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 12:30 31 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team

PSB cleared response – appreciate your flexibility on deadline. This has been consulted and cleared through JOC, SPI and DOG and 2 star cleared by DCJOPS, A/g FASIP + CDI.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards



s47E(c)
Deputy Director Plans / Strategic Communication Advisor to CJOPS
J09 Public Affairs Directorate | Headquarters Joint Operations Command

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s22



s47E(d)

Thanks,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P s47E(c)

E

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: s47E(c)
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:14 PM
To: HQJOC Military Public Affairs; Media; s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c); SP&I Media; s47E(c); MSC Media; s47E(c); s47E(d)
Subject: RE: CLEARED - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 12:30 31 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sorry team

Please remove the wayward strikethrough from the response before progressing for further clearances.

Kind regards



s47E(c)
Deputy Director Plans / Strategic Communication Advisor to CJOPS
J09 Public Affairs Directorate | Headquarters Joint Operations Command

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s47E(d)



Thanks,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
P: s47E(c)
E: s47E(c)
Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:49 PM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: Media
Subject: For EL Clearance - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images
[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: s22

OFFICIAL

Hi ELs,

For your clearance, please see below a proposed response to the media enquiry from Henry Zwartz and Kathleen Calderwood at ABC regarding US Intelligence on Satellite Images.

s47E(d)



s47E(d)



Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media Adviser
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E: s47E(c)

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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s22



Media

From: s47E(c) on behalf of SP&I Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:15 PM
To: Media
Cc: s47E(c) HQJOC Military Public Affairs; s47E(c); SP&I Media
Subject: ABC Media Enquiry - US Intelligence on Satellite Images DFAT CLEARED [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon team,

Please see below response to ABC media enquiry – US intelligence on satellite images, cleared with no changes by s47E(d)

Clearance table has been updated below.

//

Priority 2	26- 0642– ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images
Journalist/Outlet	Henry Zwartz and Kathleen Calderwood, ABC
Deadline to Defence Media	31 March, 12:30
Responsible Group/Service	SP&I/JOC
Cleared for public release	MAJGEN Hugh McAslan, Louise desJardins, Tom Hamilton
Final Clearance	s47E(d)

s22



s22

s4/E(d)

//

Kind regards,

s47E(c)

Communications Officer
Media and Strategic Communications | Strategy, Policy and Industry Group

Department of Defence
Russell Offices, s47E(c) | Canberra ACT 2600

s47E(c)

Group mailbox: spi.media@defence.gov.au

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From: s47E(c)
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 3:55 PM
To: SP&I Media <spi.media@defence.gov.au>
Cc: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; s47E(c)

Subject: RE: For Clearance: ABC Media Enquiry - US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s47E(c) – your proposed response is fine with us. Many thanks for the early consultation.

Best wishes
s47E(c)

s47E(c)

A/g First Assistant Secretary | Defence and National Security Policy Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s47E(c)

dfat.gov.au | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: s47E(c) On Behalf Of SP&I Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 3:01 PM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; s47E(c)
SP&I Media <spi.media@defence.gov.au>
Subject: For Clearance: ABC Media Enquiry - US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(c)

Please see below response to the ABC's media enquiry on US Intelligence in Satellite Images.

This response has been cleared at the Band 2/2-Star level by Deputy Chief Joint Operations, acting FAS International Policy and Chief Defence Intelligence. It is currently on hold with Defence Media.

Grateful if you could please let us know as soon as possible s47E(d)

s22

s47E(d)



//

Kind regards,

s47E(c)

Communications Officer
Media and Strategic Communications | Strategy, Policy and Industry Group

Department of Defence
Russell Offices, s47E(c) | Canberra ACT 2600

s47E(c)

Group mailbox: spi.media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:40 PM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: Media; s47E(c)
Subject: FOR EL CLEARANCE - Priority 2 Media Enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi ELs,

Please see below a proposed response to the media enquiry from Henry Zwartz at ABC regarding US Intelligence on Satellite Images.

This has now been cleared s47E(d)

Deadline for the journalist is 6pm Friday.

s47E(d)



s47E(d)



Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

E:

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 5:21 PM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c) Media
Subject: CLEARED - Priority 2 Media Enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi all,

Thanks, this is cleared as below.

Please FYSA s47E(d) and send to s47E(d) for clearance.

Thanks,

s47E
(c)

s47E(c) | a/g Director
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

E:

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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From: Media <media@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 4:40 PM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: Media <media@defence.gov.au>; s47E(c)
Subject: FOR EL CLEARANCE - Priority 2 Media Enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi ELs,

Please see below a proposed response to the media enquiry from Henry Zwartz at ABC regarding US Intelligence on Satellite Images.

This has now been cleared s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P s47E(c)

E

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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s22

Media

From: Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 5:30 PM
To: s47E(c)
[Redacted]
Media; s47E(c)
[Redacted]

Cc: Media; s47E(c)
Media; s47E(c)
[Redacted]

Subject: FYSA s47E(d) - Priority 2 Media Enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d) [Redacted]

Please see below a proposed response to the media enquiry from Henry Zwartz at ABC regarding US Intelligence on Satellite Images.

Deadline for the journalist is 6pm Friday.


s47E(d)

[Redacted]

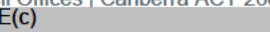
s47E(d)



Kind regards,

s47E(c)  Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c) 

E: 

Alt: 

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s22



Media

From: Media
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 5:31 PM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: Media; s47E(c)
Media; s47E(c)
Subject: FOR s47E(c) CLEARANCE - Priority 2 Media Enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US
Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(d)

Please see below a proposed response to the media enquiry from Henry Zwartz at ABC regarding US Intelligence on Satellite Images.

Deadline for the journalist is 6pm Friday.

s22



Media

From: s47E(c)
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2026 4:39 PM
To: Media; s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c)
Subject: RE: FOR s47E(c) CLEARANCE - Priority 2 Media Enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hello, suggested edits below, these are taken from existing TPs and responses, but appreciate you re-clearing as appropriate. Would just ask this is done in time for the deadline tomorrow (but noting the public holiday, wanted to get it to you with more time than usual).

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From: Media <media@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 5:31 PM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: Media <media@defence.gov.au>; s47E(c)
<media@defence.gov.au>; s47E(c)
Subject: FOR s47E(d) CLEARANCE - Priority 2 Media Enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(d)

Please see below a proposed response to the media enquiry from Henry Zwartz at ABC regarding US Intelligence on Satellite Images.

Deadline for the journalist is 6pm Friday.

s47E(d)



s47E(d)



Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

E:

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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s22



Media

From: Media
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2026 5:12 PM
To: HQJOC Military Public Affairs; s47E(c)
Cc: ; SP&I Media; s47E(c)
MSC Media; s47E(c)
Media
Subject: FINAL CHECK - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC - US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 12:30 31 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon all,

s47E(d) have made some changes to the response drawn from existing TPs and responses, just wanted to run through your teams to get a final check before returning to the journalist.

s47E(d)

Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer

Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

E:

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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From: s47E(c) **On Behalf Of** HQJOC Military Public Affairs

Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 2:10 PM

To: Media <media@defence.gov.au>; s47E(c)

s47E(c)

P&I Media <spi.media@defence.gov.au>; s47E(c)

Cc: s47E(c)

MSC Media <mscmmedia@resources.defence.gov.au>; s47E(c)

s47E(d)

Subject: CLEARED - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 12:30 31 March [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team

PSB cleared response – appreciate your flexibility on deadline. This has been consulted and cleared through JOC, SPI and DOG and 2 star cleared by DCJOPS, A/g FASIP + CDI.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards



s47E(c)

Deputy Director Plans / Strategic Communication Advisor to CJOPS
J09 Public Affairs Directorate | Headquarters Joint Operations Command

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s47E(d)



Thanks,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

E: s47E(c)

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2026 9:16 PM
To: HQJOC Military Public Affairs; s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c); SP&I Media; s47E(c); MSC Media; s47E(c) s47E(c); s47E(d); Media
Subject: RE: FINAL CHECK - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 15:30 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good evening all,

After speaking with s47E(c) on the phone, just wanted to confirm that the deadline for getting this back to Defence Media, is 15:30 3 April.

Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c)

E: s47E(c)

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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s22



Media

From: s47E(c) on behalf of s47E(d)
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2026 7:39 AM
To: Media
Subject: RE: FINAL CHECK - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 15:30 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear s47E(c)

Happy with the edits.

Respectfully,



s47E(c)

Military Public Affairs Officer
NO9 Joint Force Maritime Component (JFMC)
Headquarters Joint Operations Command

JFMC s47E(c) | PO Box 7928 | General John Baker Complex | Kings Highway, Bungendore NSW 2621

P: s47E(c)

E: s47E(c)

E: s47E(d)

Focused, Lethal, Ready.

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2026 8:04 AM
To: s47E(d)
Cc: HQJOC Military Public Affairs; s47E(c)
s47E(c) SP&I Media; s47E(c)
MSC Media; s47E(c)
Media
Subject: RE: FINAL CHECK - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 15:30 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E
(c)

Just looping everyone in for visibility.

Will hold until we have the clearance from SP&I as well.

Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
P: s47E(c)
E: s47E(c)
Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: s47E(c)
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2026 9:48 AM
To: Media; s47E(d)
Cc: HQJOC Military Public Affairs; s47E(c);
SP&I Media; s47E(c);
MSC Media; s47E(c);
s47E(c)
Subject: RE: FINAL CHECK - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 15:30 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Teams,

Just awaiting confirmation on one return then will return clearance – hopefully be back in shortly. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

s47E(c)

Senior Media & Communications Officer

Media and Strategic Communications | Strategy, Policy and Industry Group

Department of Defence

Russell Offices, s47E(c) | Canberra ACT 2610

E: s47E(c) | Group mailbox: spi.media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: s47E(c) on behalf of SP&I Media
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2026 9:52 AM
To: Media
Cc: HQJOC Military Public Affairs; s47E(d) s47E(c)
[Redacted]
SP&I Media; s47E(c)
MSC Media; s47E(d), s47E(c)
[Redacted]

Subject: RE: FINAL CHECK - Priority 2 media enquiry - 26- 0642- ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images - 15:30 3 April [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Teams,

This has been cleared by FASIP Bernard Philip and Chief of Defence Intelligence Tom Hamilton – nil edits to s47E(d) proposed response. Thank you all.

Kind Regards,

s47E(c)

Senior Media & Communications Officer

Media and Strategic Communications | Strategy, Policy and Industry Group

Department of Defence

Russell Offices; s47E(c) | Canberra ACT 2610

E: s47E(c) | Group mailbox: spi.media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2026 10:06 AM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c)
Subject: RE: FOR s47E(d) CLEARANCE - Priority 2 Media Enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(c) / s47E(d)

Confirming that your edits have been cleared by SP&I and JOC, and we will RTJ with no further changes than what you suggested yesterday.

Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
P: s47E(c)
E: s47E(c)
Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2026 10:09 AM
To: Henry Zwartz
Cc: Kathleen Calderwood; Media
Subject: RE: ABC News media request - US intelligence is concerned about the publishing of satellite images - Friday, 3 April deadline [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Henry and Kathleen,

Thank you for your enquiry. Please see a response below.

//

The following statement can be attributed to a Defence spokesperson:

Defence's focus is always on ensuring the safety and security of our people, including those deployed on exercises and operations.

Defence employs a range of measures to keep our personnel safe, including working with international partners where appropriate. It is not appropriate to comment on those measures.

For operational security reasons, Defence does not comment on specific movements of its deployed personnel or assets.

Background (not for attribution):

Middle East

Defence is monitoring the security situation in the Middle East and security arrangements for our people closely.

As the Government has said, there is a Defence footprint of more than 100 ADF personnel across the region.

As you report on these issues, we ask that media do not speculate on details of deployed ADF personnel, as this increases risks to deployed ADF members. The wellbeing of our people and their families is critical and Defence asks for your cooperation on this matter.

HMAS Toowoomba Regional Presence Deployment

HMAS Toowoomba conducted a transit of the Taiwan Strait on 20-21 February 2026 as part of its Regional Presence Deployment to the Indo-Pacific.

For decades, the ADF has undertaken maritime surveillance activities in the region, and does so in accordance with international law, exercising the right to freedom of navigation and overflight in international waters and airspace.

Defence does not comment on intelligence matters or operational details. Requests relating to the activities of foreign companies should be directed to those companies.

//

Kind regards,

s47E(

Defence Media | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: Media
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2026 10:18 AM
To: Media
Cc: Media
Subject: FYSA DFAT: Finalised media enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning DFAT media team,

As you were also sent the enquiry from Henry Zwartz and Kathleen Calderwood at ABC regarding US Intelligence on publishing of satellite images, please see below the response that was provided to the jouranalists.

s47E(d) [REDACTED], with an extra clearance from SP&I and JOC s47E(d) [REDACTED]

Regards,

s47E(c) [REDACTED] | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: s47E(c) [REDACTED]

E: s47E(c) [REDACTED]

Alt E: media@defence.gov.au



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s22





Media

From: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2026 11:03 AM
To: Media
Cc: Media
Subject: RE: FYSA DFAT: Finalised media enquiry - 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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OFFICIAL

Thanks 

Regards,


s22



Media

From: Media
Sent: Friday, 3 April 2026 5:01 PM
To: s47E(c)
Cc: s47E(c); Media, s47E(c)
Subject: FYSA s47E(c) 26-0642 – ABC – US Intelligence on Satellite Images [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47E(d)

FYSA: please see below the response provided to Henry Zwartz and Kathleen Calderwood for their ABC enquiry on US intelligence.

Kind regards,

s47E(c) | Media and Communication Officer
Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600
P: s47E(c)
E: s47E(c)
Alt E: media@defence.gov.au

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Media

From: Kathleen Calderwood <Calderwood.Kathleen@abc.net.au>
Sent: Sunday, 5 April 2026 7:06 PM
To: Media; Henry Zwartz
Subject: Re: ABC News media request - US intelligence is concerned about the publishing of satellite images - Friday, 3 April deadline [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thank you for this s47E(c)



Kathleen Calderwood
Journalist
ABC News Australia

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Website: news.abc.net.au