

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~***Myanmar: Rakhine State conflict*****TALKING POINTS**

- . Australia is deeply concerned by the violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar and the mass displacement of Rohingya into Bangladesh.
- . Australia acknowledges the current violence was sparked by attacks on government forces and recognises that Myanmar has security challenges to address.
  - This does not, however, legitimise the excessive use of force.
- . Australia has called for an end to security operations in Rakhine State and the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law.
  - Where human rights violations have taken place, those responsible must be held to account—violence is not the solution to Rakhine State’s complex challenges.
- . The Myanmar Government’s decision to allow humanitarian assistance through the Red Cross movement is welcome.
  - But Red Cross capacity is limited—it is vital that the Government allows access for other humanitarian agencies as soon as possible.
- . The Australian Government is providing \$20 million to help address the humanitarian needs of the people affected by the crisis.

***Defence Engagement***

- . Defence has a modest program of engagement with Myanmar, focusing on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping training, English language training, and officer education and professionalisation.
- . This engagement provides opportunities for Australia to promote the role of a professional defence force and highlight the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.
  - Australia has an arms embargo in place. We do not sell weapons to Myanmar and we do not conduct bilateral exercises.
  - We will continue our modest level of Defence engagement, but will keep it under review in light of recent developments in Rakhine state.
- . Australia is committed to working with the Myanmar Government to address its human rights challenges, resolve this conflict, and promote professionalism and adherence to international laws and norms.
  - It is therefore important we maintain appropriate lines of communication with the Myanmar military to do this.

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

## BACKGROUND

### *Rakhine State conflict*

On 25 August 2017, militants belonging to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) (previously known as Harakah al-Yaqin) staged coordinated attacks on 30 police posts and an army base in northern Rakhine State. Clashes are continuing, with at least 400 killed according to the military, most of them suspected Rohingya militants (UN officials put the figure closer to 1,000). There are unverified reports of growing civilian casualties. Human Rights Watch has reported extensive fire damage in Rohingya areas and accused the military of conducting human rights abuses.

As of 26 September, the UNHCR estimates more than 430,000 Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh since 25 August. Almost all humanitarian activities have been suspended in Rakhine State, although the Myanmar Government announced on 4 September that it would provide humanitarian assistance with the Red Cross to all those affected by the violence.

The Australian Government will provide an additional \$15 million in financial aid to the \$5 million announced on 9 September. This will bring Australia's assistance for Rohingya and affected communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh to more than \$65 million since 2012.

The ARSA's latest attacks coincided with the release of the final report of the government-commissioned Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The report contains 88 recommendations, including: lifting restrictions on freedom of movement of Rakhine Muslims; closing IDP camps; ensuring unfettered humanitarian and media access; and addressing Rohingya statelessness. The Myanmar Government says it will work towards implementing the Advisory Commission's recommendations to the fullest extent and within the shortest timeframe possible, in line with the situation on the ground.

### *Defence Engagement*

Following Myanmar's successful transition of government in 2016, the Australian Government revised policy settings to allow for increased engagement with Myanmar. Our expanded Defence cooperation focuses on non-sensitive, non-combative areas aimed at further encouraging the Tatmadaw's acceptance of the reform process. The program of activities is scalable, able to be flexibly implemented and withdrawn at any time should developments in Myanmar give reason for doing so.

On 19 September, the United Kingdom withdrew all educational military engagement with the Tatmadaw and sent five Tatmadaw officers attending training in the UK back to Myanmar. Following the UK decision, France decided to cancel scheduled exchanges, but Japan is continuing engagement.

We understand the Myanmar military is trying to work out its role in the new political landscape and they need help to do this. Since the 2011 reforms, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, has opened up the military considerably to outsiders and shown a desire to engage Westerners, whose access was previously denied. It would be impossible to influence the military in the longer term without engagement.

Australia's modest defence engagement program provides opportunities for Australia to promote the role of a professional defence force and highlights the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law. If we are to continue to do so, it is important we maintain appropriate lines of communication with the Myanmar military.

**Cheatsheet - Myanmar**

Correct as at 19 October 2017

**Numbers of Staff in Country:**

- 1 x representational (DA)
- 2 x LES (DOM & DSO)

**DCP allocation:**

- FY16/17 – \$272,000 (Total expenditure \$302,225 - 111%)
- FY17/18 – \$398,000 (Year-to-date \$88,009)

**Key Lines of Effort for FY 17/18:**

Category	Budget	Key Activities
Strategic dialogue	s.33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence commenced annual Defence Cooperation Talks with Myanmar (the inaugural talks were held in March 2017) to discuss the strategic outlook and future DCP priorities and activities. The second iteration is scheduled for approx. March 2018.</li> <li>• Defence also provides aviation safety and air worthiness assistance to Myanmar and DCP money was used to send ADF subject matter experts over to Myanmar to advise on the Y-8 Aircraft crash investigation.</li> </ul>
Exercises and Operations	s.33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence funds Myanmar participation in the multilateral peacekeeping exercise PIRAP JABIRU co-hosted by Australia and Thailand (held in Thailand). The next iteration is scheduled for May/June 2018.</li> </ul>
Training by Australia	s.33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence sponsors senior level participation on Australian run conferences including the Sea Power Conference and Chief of Air Force Symposium.</li> <li>• Defence also offers a range of non-combat related Joint Training Courses, English language courses (at the Defence International Training Centre DITC) and one position on the Defence Cooperation Scholarship Program (DCSP) to Myanmar annually. Under current sanctions, the courses offered focus on HADR, peacekeeping and humanitarian law.</li> <li>• Course list:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DCSP:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Masters of Peace &amp; Conflict Studies</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>JTP:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Command &amp; Staff Operations Law</li> <li>- Gender &amp; Protection Workshop</li> <li>- Health Aspects of Disaster Course</li> <li>- Humanitarian Operations Seminar</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International Aviation Safety Officer Course</li> <li>- Rules of Engagement Workshop</li> <li>- Governance &amp; Financial Management Course</li> <li>- Law of Peace Operations Course</li> <li>- Maritime Operations Law</li> <li>- Peace Operations Seminar</li> <li>- UN Peace Operations Course</li> </ul> <p><b>DITC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Methodology of English Language Teaching</li> <li>- Special Australian English Language Course</li> <li>- Advanced Australian English Language Course</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of positions offered in this financial year is 32 with 11 currently filled.</li> </ul>
Infrastructure	NA	
Capability Development	s.33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence is planning to fund two Australia-Myanmar Alumni functions per year helping to strengthen people-to-people links.</li> <li>• Defence is also looking to assist Myanmar in developing their own peacekeeping centre by funding two officers to travel to Australia to observe the management structure and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) at the ADF Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC). IPDiv is working with POTC to find suitable dates in 2018.</li> </ul>
Maritime	NA	

**UNCLASSIFIED****DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP BRIEF – MYANMAR***Myanmar: DWP16 Key Guidance* (no specific reference to Myanmar)

- . 5.46 “As well as our important defence relationship with Indonesia, Australia has strong and longstanding bilateral and multilateral partnerships with countries in South East Asia, founded on a history of practical cooperation and dialogue. The Government considers that the security architecture of the region and our strong bilateral partnerships with countries in South East Asia can be strengthened further.”
- . 5.47 “Military modernisation has increased the ability of South East Asian countries to contribute to shared security responsibilities and provided opportunities for increasingly sophisticated practical military cooperation with Australia. The Government will build on these developments to strengthen our security partnerships and support regional responses to shared security challenges. In particular, we will work with regional partners to develop shared maritime domain awareness capabilities that provide a basis for greater maritime security cooperation.”

*Myanmar: Defence Cooperation Program Key Facts*

- . The Defence Cooperation Program budget for FY2017/18 is \$0.39 m.
- . Key lines of engagement include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in multilateral settings, peacekeeping, English language training, and officer professionalisation.
- . Inaugural Defence Talks with Myanmar occurred in March 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw. Key outcomes included an increase in English language training activities and aviation safety training and air worthiness.

*Education and Training*

- . 26 Australian-based training positions are offered to Myanmar so far in FY 2017/18, including a Defence scholarship, English language training and positions on Joint Training Program courses.

*Peacekeeping*

- . Australia’s Peace Operation Training Centre Mobile Training Team delivered peacekeeping training to 50 Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) in August 2016.

*Australia-Myanmar Defence Relationship*

Following the general elections in 2015 and the successful transition to a democratic government, in 2016 the Minister of Defence, with agreement from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, agreed to expand cooperation in non-combat areas. Engaging the Tatmadaw is crucial to encourage acceptance of the broader reform process, help reinforce the apolitical role of a professional defence force and demonstrate the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.

*Rakhine State Conflict*

Australia is deeply concerned by the ongoing violence in Rakhine State and the mass displacement of Rohingya into Bangladesh. Australia has called for an end to security operations and for the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law. Australia considers it important to maintain appropriate lines of communication with the Tatmadaw to stand any chance of positively influencing its behaviour and improving the challenging security situation in Rakhine State. Defence will continue its modest engagement program with Myanmar however will review engagement activities on a case-by-case basis.

**UNCLASSIFIED**



UNCLASSIFIED

## Myanmar: Defence Relations Factsheet – October 2017

### TATMADAW/MYANMAR ARMED FORCES (TMD) KEY STATISTICS

**TMD:** USD 2.4 billion (Source: '2016 Defence Economic Trends in the Asia-Pacific')

**Australian Defence Budget:** AUD 32.46 billion (2016/17)

**Size of TMD:** Army: (375,000), Air Force (15,000), Navy (16,000)\*

### DIALOGUES

Inaugural Foreign Ministry Consultations – Defence participated (Apr 15)

Nay Pyi Taw, Inaugural Defence Cooperation Talks led by A/Assistant Secretary South & South East Asia Stephens (Mar 17)

Next scheduled, Australia 2018

### KEY LEADERS OF THE TATMADAW

**Defence Minister** – LTGEN Sein Win

**Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief** (CDF counterpart) – Senior GEN Min Aung Hlaing

**Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air)** – GEN Mya Tun Oo

**Commander in Chief – Navy** – ADM Tin Aung San

**Commander in Chief – Air Force** – GEN Khin Aung Myint

**Commander in Chief – Army & Deputy Commander-in-Chief** – Vice SNR GEN Soe Win

### KEY AGREEMENTS

N/A

### DEFENCE COOPERATION PROGRAM FY 2017-18

#### Engagement Priorities

- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Peacekeeping, English language training and aviation safety training.

#### Education and Training

- One Tatmadaw officer studying a Masters of Peace Studies at the University of Sydney
- Peace Operation Training Centre Mobile Training team delivered peacekeeping training to 50 TMD, Myanmar (Aug 16).

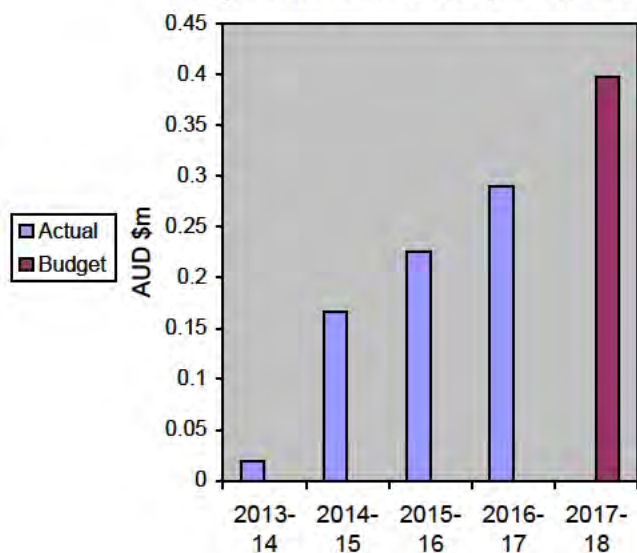
#### Exercises and Ship Visits

- Four TMD officers attended desktop peacekeeping Ex PIRAP JABIRU, Thailand (May 16).
- HMAS Childers visited Yangon in January 2017 – the first port visit by a RAN vessel to Myanmar in over 50 years.
- Australia conducts no bilateral exercises with Myanmar.

### RECENT DEPLOYMENTS

TMD has been deployed internally in Shan, Kachin & Rakhine State.

**Myanmar Defence Cooperation Budget**



### Senior Myanmar Defence Visits to Australia

- ADM Tin Aung San, C-I-C Myanmar Navy, Sea Power Conference (Oct 17)
- GEN Khin Aung Myint, C-I-C Myanmar Air Force, CAF Symposium & Australian International Air Show, (Feb/March 17).

### Senior Australian Defence Visits to Myanmar

- Mr David Stephens, A/AS S&SEA Branch, inaugural Defence Cooperation talks (Mar 17)
- BRIG John Mackenzie, DG South and South East Asia, inaugural Foreign Ministry Consultations (Apr-May 15).
- BRIG Peter Gates, Commandant ACSC, Heads of Defence Universities and Colleges Meeting (Sep 15).

UNCLASSIFIED

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**Myanmar: LTGEN Sein Win, Minister for Defence**

*Form of Address: Your excellency*  
*Pronunciation: Sayne Win*

**What we want:**

- . Reinforce Australia's concerns about the ongoing violence in Rakhine State and reports of human rights abuses by security forces.
- . Maintain engagement to reinforce the role of a professional defence force and highlight the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.

s.33

*[Handling note: This brief may need to be updated closer to the date dependent on any changes to whole of Government talking points on the Rakhine State crisis]*

**TALKING POINTS**

- . Australia strongly condemns the deadly attacks on your security forces and acknowledges the current violence was sparked by attacks on government forces.
  - We understand the need to take action to prevent further violence, restore security, and bring those responsible for the attacks to justice.
- . We are deeply concerned however by the mass displacement of Rohingya into Bangladesh
  - s.33
  - These reports divert attention away from the legitimate security threat posed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA)
    - : and harm the Myanmar military's international reputation.
- . Where human rights violations have taken place, those responsible must be held to account—violence is not the solution to Rakhine State's complex challenges.
- . The Myanmar Government's decision to allow humanitarian assistance through the Red Cross movement is welcome.
  - But Red Cross capacity is limited—it is vital that the Government allows access for other humanitarian agencies as soon as possible.
- . Australia remains committed to engaging the Myanmar Government and Tatmadaw on a very challenging set of security and humanitarian concerns in Rakhine State.
  - We will continue our current defence engagement in peacekeeping training, English language training, and officer professionalisation and education.
  - Interested in how we may be able to further assist the Tatmadaw to professionalise as Myanmar progresses on its pathway to democracy.

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

## BACKGROUND

### *Myanmar: DWP16 Key Guidance* (no specific reference to Myanmar)

- . 5.46 “As well as our important defence relationship with Indonesia, Australia has strong and longstanding bilateral and multilateral partnerships with countries in South East Asia, founded on a history of practical cooperation and dialogue. The Government considers that the security architecture of the region and our strong bilateral partnerships with countries in South East Asia can be strengthened further.”
- . 5.47 “Military modernisation has increased the ability of South East Asian countries to contribute to shared security responsibilities and provided opportunities for increasingly sophisticated practical military cooperation with Australia. The Government will build on these developments to strengthen our security partnerships and support regional responses to shared security challenges. In particular, we will work with regional partners to develop shared maritime domain awareness capabilities that provide a basis for greater maritime security cooperation.”

### *Rakhine State conflict*

On 25 August 2017, militants belonging to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) (previously known as Harakah al-Yaqin) staged coordinated attacks on 30 police posts and an army base in northern Rakhine State. Clashes are continuing, with at least 400 killed according to the military, most of them suspected Rohingya militants (UN officials put the figure closer to 1,000). There are unverified reports of growing civilian casualties. Human Rights Watch has reported extensive fire damage in Rohingya areas and accused the military of conducting human rights abuses.

The UNHCR (as of 27 September 17) estimates over 480,000 Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh since 25 August. Almost all humanitarian activities have been suspended in Rakhine State, although the Myanmar Government announced on 4 September that it would provide humanitarian assistance with the Red Cross to all those affected by the violence. The Australian Government is providing \$20 million in financial aid to address the humanitarian needs of people affected by this crisis. This will bring Australia's assistance for Rohingya and affected communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh to more than \$65 million since 2012.

The ARSA's latest attacks coincided with the release of the final report of the government-commissioned Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The report contains 88 recommendations, including: lifting restrictions on freedom of movement of Rakhine Muslims; closing IDP camps; ensuring unfettered humanitarian and media access; and addressing Rohingya statelessness. The Myanmar Government says it will work towards implementing the Advisory Commission's recommendations to the fullest extent and within the shortest timeframe possible, in line with the situation on the ground.

### *Defence Engagement*

Following Myanmar's successful transition of government in 2016, the Australian Government revised policy settings to allow for increased engagement with Myanmar. Our expanded Defence cooperation focuses on non-sensitive, non-combative areas aimed at further encouraging the Tatmadaw's acceptance of the reform process. The program of activities is scalable, able to be flexibly implemented and withdrawn at any time should developments in Myanmar give reason for doing so.



s.33

Australia's modest defence engagement program provides opportunities for Australia to promote the role of a professional defence force and highlights the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law. If we are to continue to do so, it is important we maintain appropriate lines of communication with the Myanmar military.

<b><i>Recent contact (if applicable)</i></b>	You (Minister Payne) have not held formal discussions with your Myanmar counterpart. You did, however, meet at the 2015 ADMM-Plus in Kuala Lumpur.
<b><i>Progress on commitments since last meeting</i></b>	N/A
<b><i>Records of Conversation</i></b>	N/A
<b><i>Cleared by</i></b>	Scott Dewar, FAS International Policy
<b><i>Point of Contact</i></b>	Rebekah Byers, Policy Officer North ASEAN, +61 2 6265 4321

**Factsheet** – Correct as at June 2017**Country Name:** Myanmar**Numbers of Staff in Country:**

- 1 x representational (DA)
- 2 x LES (DOM & DSO)

**Value of DCP:**

- FY16/17 – \$ 272,000
- FY17/18 – \$ 398,000

**Key Lines of Effort:**

Name	Budget	Description
<b>Exercise</b> PIRAP JABIRU	s.33	Following the transition to a democratic government in 2015, Australia is expanding cooperation in non-combat areas. Australia supports 4 x Tatmadaw officer participation at the multi-lateral peacekeeping exercise PIRAP JABIRU in Thailand biennially.
<b>Training</b> <b>Activity:</b> Education and Training	s.33	Currently, over 40 Australian-based training positions are offered to Myanmar annually including a Defence scholarship, English language training, aviation safety training and positions on the Joint Training Program Courses.
<b>Infrastructure</b> <b>Activity:</b> Aviation Safety	s.33	A key outcome from our inaugural Defence Cooperation Talks in March 2017 was to provide support to Myanmar in developing its Air Force safety and aviation standards. Two ADF Air Force officers from the Directorate of Aviation and Air Force Safety recently travelled to Myanmar (13-16 June 17) to provide presentations to the Tatmadaw and share Australian standards in aviation safety and air worthiness.

**SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF**

Group Brief  
DEPSEC SP&I pack

**AUSTRALIA – MYANMAR DEFENCE COOPERATION****Key Facts**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Defence cooperation program budget for FY 17/18 is \$0.39m.</b></li> <li>• <b>Focuses on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping, English language training, aviation safety and civil-military cooperation.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Defence Attaché Myanmar became a resident appointment in Yangon in January 2014.</b></li> <li>• <b>Inaugural iteration of the Annual Australia-Myanmar Defence dialogue was held in Myanmar in March 2017.</b></li> </ul>
---	---

**Key Issues****Sectarian unrest and continued conflict with armed ethnic groups**

- Australia is deeply concerned by the violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar and the mass displacement of Rohingya into Bangladesh.
- While Australia acknowledges the current violence was sparked by attacks on government forces, and recognise that Myanmar has security challenges to address, this does not legitimise the excessive use of force.
- Australia has called for an end to security operations in Rakhine State and the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law.
- Australia is committed to working with the Myanmar Government to address its human rights challenges, resolve this conflict, and promote professionalism and adherence to international laws and norms.
  - It is therefore important we maintain appropriate lines of communication with the Myanmar military to do this.

**Defence Engagement with Myanmar**

- Defence has a modest program of engagement with Myanmar in non-combat areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping training, English language training and civil-military cooperation.
  - We will continue that modest level of Defence engagement, but will keep it under review in light of recent developments in Rakhine state.

- Australia's engagement seeks to reinforce the role of a professional defence force and demonstrate the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.
  - There are no bilateral training exercises and Australia's arms embargo remains in place.
    - This prohibits the export of arms and related materials and associated services to Myanmar.
- Inaugural Defence Talks with Myanmar occurred in March 2017 allowing Australia to promote professionalism and adherence to international laws and norms.
  - Myanmar must continue with its political and economic reforms, as well as demonstrate its ongoing commitment to international non-proliferation norms.
- Australia recently assisted Myanmar by providing advice on how to conduct an aircraft crash investigation, following the tragic loss of life in the Y-8 transport aircraft accident on 7 June 2017.

**CERTIFIED AND AUTHORISED**

**BY:** I certify that this brief is accurate, current, unclassified and relevant.

Scott Dewar

First Assistant Secretary International Policy

Date: 27 September 2017

**CONTACT OFFICER:**

David Stephens

Acting Assistant Secretary South and Southeast Asia

Date: 22 September 2017

**CONSULTED WITH:**

DFAT

## BACKGROUND

- On 8 November 2015, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won an absolute majority in Myanmar's General Election, defeating the military-aligned Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). This was the country's first fully contested national vote since a nominally civilian government was introduced in 2011 and ended nearly 50 years of military rule. There have been reassuring signs from the USDP and senior members of the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) that transition will occur peacefully, with all parties committing to national reconciliation.
- Under Myanmar's Constitution, one quarter of seats in both parliamentary chambers remain reserved for the military, and three key ministerial posts – Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs – must be held by Defence Services personnel nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services. Given that the Tatmadaw will continue to occupy 25 per cent of Parliamentary seats, it is important that we continue to encourage the Tatmadaw to make a positive contribution to continued reform and help reinforce the apolitical role of a professional defence force and demonstrate the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.

### Revised Defence Engagement

- Following Myanmar's successful transition of government in 2016, the Australian Government has further revised policy settings to allow for increased engagement with Myanmar. Initially, our expanded Defence cooperation will focus on non-sensitive, non-combative areas aimed at further encouraging the Tatmadaw's acceptance of the reform process. This includes English language training, civil-military cooperation, officer education and professionalisation, official defence visits, sponsoring Tatmadaw attendance at bilateral and multilateral events, an alumni association, maritime security and aviation safety training. The program of activities is scalable, able to be flexibly implemented and withdrawn at any time.
- Defence's inaugural Cooperation Talks led by Assistant Secretary South & South East Asia branch, were held in Myanmar from 21-22 March 2017. The talks provided an opportunity to establish common objectives and shape our future engagement with the Tatmadaw, including an agreement to conduct annual Defence bilateral talks. Other key agreements included increased English language training and aviation safety cooperation.

s.33

## Internal Tension

- The largest ethnic group in Myanmar is the Burman or Bamar people. Burman dominance over Karen, Shan, Rakhine, Mon, Rohingya, Chin, Kachin and other minorities has been the source of considerable ethnic tension and has fuelled intermittent protests and separatist rebellions.
- Simmering violence between Buddhists and the Muslim Rohingya erupted in 2012, the official response to which raised questions at home and abroad about the political establishment's commitment to equality before the law.
- Australia has conducted advocacy on the treatment of ethnic minorities at the highest levels, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. Australia is a significant donor to the situation in Rakhine state, contributing humanitarian assistance, promoting reconciliation and income support (\$65 million since 2012).
- A 'nation wide' ceasefire agreement signed between the government and eight ethnic armed organisations on 15 October 2015 suggested a new determination to end the long-running conflicts. However it is considered a partial agreement as nearly half of the groups invited to participate by the Government declined to sign.
- In late 2016, Aung San Suu Kyi launched the "21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglang Peace Conference" bringing together both signatories and non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement including representatives from the government, parliament, Tatmadaw, and members of civil society. The conference was a symbolic re-starting of the peace process and no substantive outcomes occurred. The Tatmadaw remains in active combat with several ethnic armed organisations in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine states.

## Rakhine State conflict

- On 25 August 2017, militants belonging to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) (previously known as Harakah al-Yaqin) staged coordinated attacks on 30 police posts and an army base in northern Rakhine State. According to the Myanmar Government, at least 59 militants, 10 police officers, one soldier and one immigration officer were killed. Clashes are continuing, with at least 400 killed according to the military, most of them suspected Rohingya militants (UN officials put the figure closer to 1,000). There are unverified reports of growing civilian casualties. Human Rights Watch has reported extensive fire damage in Rohingya areas.
- The UNHCR (as of 27 September 17) estimates 480,000 Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh since 25 August. Almost all humanitarian activities have been suspended in Rakhine State, although the Myanmar Government announced on 4 September that it would provide humanitarian assistance with the Red Cross to all those affected by the violence. According to news reports, the ARSA has offered a month-long unilateral ceasefire from 10 September to allow for humanitarian assistance, which the Myanmar Government rejected on the grounds it does not negotiate with terrorists.
- Amnesty International has accused the Myanmar authorities of laying landmines along the Bangladesh border, to prevent Rohingya refugees from returning from Bangladesh. Myanmar denies the claim, and accuses the ARSA of planting the landmines. Neither claim has been verified. On 16 September 17, news sources reported Amnesty International had released new information claiming it offered some of the most precise evidence of an "orchestrated campaign



of systematic burnings” by Myanmar security forces specifically targeting Rohingya areas. The claim is yet to be verified.

- The ARSA’s latest attacks coincided with the release of the final report of the government-commissioned Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The report contains 88 recommendations, including: lifting restrictions on freedom of movement of Rakhine Muslims; closing IDP camps; ensuring unfettered humanitarian and media access; and addressing Rohingya statelessness. The Myanmar Government says it will work towards implementing the Advisory Commission’s recommendations to the fullest extent and within the shortest timeframe possible, in line with the situation on the ground.
- The Australian Government will provide an additional \$15 million to help address the humanitarian needs of the people affected by the crisis to mobilise supplies and resources, including food and healthcare. This funding is in addition to the \$5 million announced on 9 September, and will bring Australia's assistance for Rohingya and affected communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh to more than \$65 million since 2012. It will be important that Myanmar also allows access for other humanitarian agencies as soon as possible, to expand assistance to the large numbers in need.

**SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF**

Group Brief  
DEPSEC SP&I pack

**AUSTRALIA – MYANMAR DEFENCE COOPERATION****Key Facts**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence cooperation program budget for FY 16/17 is \$0.29m</li> <li>• Focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and peacekeeping.</li> <li>• Expand cooperation in non-combat areas such as English language training, aviation safety and civil-military cooperation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence Attaché Myanmar became a resident appointment in Yangon in January 2014.</li> <li>• Inaugural iteration of the Annual Australia-Myanmar Defence dialogue held in Myanmar in March 2017.</li> <li>• Next iteration to be held in Australia in 2018.</li> </ul>
---	--

**Key Issues****Defence Engagement with Myanmar**

- Defence has a modest program of engagement with Myanmar, focusing on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and peacekeeping.
- Australia's engagement seeks to reinforce the role of a professional defence force, and demonstrate the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.
  - There are no bilateral training exercises at this stage, and Australia's arms embargo remains in place.
- Our defence engagement with Myanmar will continue at a modest pace.
  - Myanmar must continue with its political and economic reforms, as well as demonstrate its ongoing commitment to international non-proliferation norms.
- Myanmar's democratic transition presents an opportunity to consider the full breadth of our bilateral engagement.
  - Defence will continue to review options to expand cooperation in non-combat areas such as English language training and civil-military cooperation.

- The inaugural Defence Cooperation Talks were held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar 21-22 March 2017, led by Australian Defence staff. Agreement was reached to hold bilateral Defence talks annually.
  - Engagement for 2017-18 was also agreed, including English-language and peacekeeping training.

### **Sectarian Conflict and the Tatmadaw's human rights record**

- Australia is concerned about continuing ethnic and sectarian unrest in parts of Myanmar.
- Australia consistently raises these issues with the Myanmar Government, including urging Myanmar to address the underlying causes.
- We are also committed to working with the Myanmar Government to address its human rights challenges.

#### **CERTIFIED AND AUTHORISED**

**BY:** I certify that this brief is accurate, current, unclassified and relevant.

Scott Dewar

First Assistant Secretary International Policy

Date: April 2017

#### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

Martin Kennedy

A/Assistant Secretary South and Southeast Asia

Date: April 2017

#### **CONSULTED WITH:**

N/A

## BACKGROUND

- On 8 November 2015, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won an absolute majority in Myanmar's General Election, defeating the military-aligned Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). This was the country's first fully contested national vote since a nominally civilian government was introduced in 2011 and ended nearly 50 years of military rule. There have been reassuring signs from the USDP and senior members of the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) that transition will occur peacefully, with all parties committing to national reconciliation.
- Under Myanmar's Constitution, one quarter of seats in both parliamentary chambers remain reserved for the military, and three key ministerial posts – Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs – must be held by Defence Services personnel nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services. Given that the Tatmadaw will continue to occupy 25 per cent of Parliamentary seats, it is important that we continue to encourage the Tatmadaw to make a positive contribution to continued reform and help reinforce the apolitical role of a professional defence force and demonstrate the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.

## Revised Defence Engagement

- Following Myanmar's successful transition of government in 2016, the Australian Government has further revised policy settings to allow for increased engagement with Myanmar. Initially, our expanded Defence cooperation will focus on non-sensitive, non-combative areas aimed at further encouraging the Tatmadaw's acceptance of the reform process. This includes English language training, civil-military cooperation, officer education and professionalisation, official defence visits, sponsoring Tatmadaw attendance at bilateral and multilateral events, an alumni association, maritime security and aviation safety training. The program of activities is scalable, able to be flexibly implemented and withdrawn at any time should developments in Myanmar give cause for concern.
- Defence's inaugural Cooperation Talks were held in Myanmar, from 21-22 March 2017. The talks provided an opportunity to establish common objectives and shape our future engagement with the Tatmadaw, including an agreement to conduct annual Defence bilateral talks. Other key agreements included increased English language training and aviation safety cooperation.

## Internal Tension

- The largest ethnic group is the Burman or Bamar people. Burman dominance over Karen, Shan, Rakhine, Mon, Rohingya, Chin, Kachin and other minorities has been the source of considerable ethnic tension and has fuelled intermittent protests and separatist rebellions.
- Simmering violence between Buddhists and the Muslim Rohingya erupted in 2012, the official response to which raised questions at home and abroad about the political establishment's commitment to equality before the law. Ongoing counter-insurgency operations in northern Rakhine State, launched in response to coordinated attacks on police outposts by Rohingya militants in October 2016, have complicated the Government's efforts to improve the situation of the Rohingya.
- Australia has conducted advocacy on the treatment of ethnic minorities at the highest levels, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. Australia is a significant donor to the situation in Rakhine state, contributing humanitarian assistance, promoting reconciliation and income support (\$30 million since 2012).

- A ‘nation wide’ ceasefire agreement signed between the government and eight ethnic armed organisations on 15 October 2015 suggested a new determination to end the long-running conflicts. However it is considered a partial agreement as nearly half of the groups invited to participate by the Government declined to sign.
- In late 2016, Aung San Suu Kyi launched the “21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglang Peace Conference” bringing together both signatories and non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement including representatives from the government, parliament, Tatmadaw, and members of civil society. The conference was a symbolic re-starting of the peace process and no substantive outcomes occurred. The Tatmadaw remains in active combat with several ethnic armed organisations in Kachin and Shan states.

## Additional Senate Estimates Talking Points: Myanmar

### Talking points

- It is important we maintain appropriate lines of communication with the Tatmadaw to positively influence its behaviour and improve the challenging security situation in Rakhine State.
- Maintaining engagement has enabled senior Australian military officials to directly raise concerns on Rakhine with their Myanmar counterparts.

s.33

- We will continue to utilise senior level engagement opportunities to raise Australia's concerns on Rakhine State and promote the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.

### ***If asked: Why has Australia not followed the United Kingdom and United States in ceasing military engagement?***

- Each country needs to make its own decision on engagement with the Tatmadaw.
- We understand the only changes in US policy are to suspend travel waivers for Myanmar military officials Brigadier level and above, and begin the process of identifying and isolating those Myanmar (military or otherwise) responsible for operations in northern Rakhine State from any current US development or defence assistance.
- We believe it is important to maintain appropriate lines of communication if we are to positively influence the Tatmadaw's behaviour and improve the security situation in Rakhine State.
  - Our modest Defence engagement program works towards promoting professionalism and adherence to international laws and norms.
  - Ceasing engagement will limit our ability to raise concerns directly with key Tatmadaw stakeholders.

### ***If raised: Which Myanmar officials are responsible for operations in northern Rakhine State?***

- It is not clear who the US have included in this category and is a matter for the US to determine.



---

## Background

Australia's modest defence engagement program provides opportunities for Australia to promote the role of a professional defence force and highlight the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law. s.33

s.33

s.33

s.33

On 19

October 2017, media reported United States Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, said the US holds Myanmar's military leadership "accountable" for the Rohingya refugee crisis, drawing a distinction between Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian side of the government.

On 26 October 2017, it was reported in the media that the US had now cancelled all military cooperation with Myanmar. We understand the only changes in US policy are to suspend travel waivers for Myanmar military officials (Brigadier level and above) and begin the process of identifying and isolating identified Myanmar military and others responsible for operations in northern Rakhine State from any current US development of defence assistance, maintaining their current program of engagement otherwise.

We understand the Myanmar military is trying to work out its role in the new political landscape and they need help to do this. Since the 2011 reforms, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, has opened up the military considerably to outsiders and shown a desire to engage Westerners, whose access was previously denied. It would be impossible to influence the military in the longer term without engagement.

---

s.22



**SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF**

International Relations – Defence Dimensions 13  
Secretary's and CDF's pack

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – DEFENCE DIMENSIONS 13: AUSTRALIA – MYANMAR DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP**

### **Key Facts**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Defence engagement budget in financial year 2017/18 is \$398,000.</b></li> <li>• <b>Defence Attache Myanmar established in January 2014.</b></li> <li>• <b>Inaugural Defence Cooperation Talks were conducted in Nay Pyi Taw 21-22 March 2017.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chiefs of service engagement commenced in 2017:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Air Force (March in Melbourne),</b></li> <li>• <b>Army (September in Seoul),</b></li> <li>• <b>Navy (October in Sydney).</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
---	---

### **Key Issues**

#### **Military engagement**

- Defence has a modest program of engagement with Myanmar, focusing on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and peacekeeping training, and English language training.
- This engagement is designed to expose the Tatmadaw ['Taht-mah-dah'] to the ways of a modern, professional defence force and highlight the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.
- Defence is committed to continuing to engage the Myanmar Government on a very challenging set of security, human rights and humanitarian issues and concerns in Rakhine State.
  - It is therefore important we maintain appropriate lines of communication with the Myanmar military to do this.
- The Government maintains an arms embargo on Myanmar due to concerns about ongoing conflict, weapons proliferation and human rights.
  - This prohibits the export of arms and related materials and associated services to Myanmar.
  - Defence does not sell weapons or conduct bilateral military exercises with Myanmar.
- Future activities will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Recent media coverage of Myanmar's internal conflict has criticised the Government's response, including Defence's continued engagement with the Tatmadaw.

### **If asked: Australian support to the Myanmar Y-8 aircraft accident**

- Following the tragic loss of life in the Y-8 aircraft accident on 7 June 2017, the Australian Government assisted Myanmar by providing advice on how to conduct an aircraft crash investigation.
  - The Australian Defence Force agreed to be a Third Party Advisor to the Myanmar Air Force.

### **Sectarian unrest and continued conflict with armed ethnic groups**

- Defence is deeply concerned by the violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar and the mass displacement of Rohingya people into Bangladesh.
- While it is acknowledged the current violence was sparked by attacks on government forces and that Myanmar has security challenges to address, this does not legitimise the excessive use of force.
- The Australian Government has called for an end to security operations in Rakhine State and the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law.
  - Where human rights violations have taken place, those responsible must be held to account.
  - Violence is not the solution to Rakhine State's complex challenges.
- Defence wants to see a cease-fire, for the Rohingya to be able to return to Rakhine State, and for unfettered humanitarian access to affected areas.
- The Myanmar Government's decision to allow humanitarian assistance through the Red Cross movement is welcome.
  - It is vital that the Government allows access for other humanitarian agencies as soon as possible.
- Defence recognises the heavy burden that Bangladesh is carrying in generously accepting an unprecedented number of Rohingya arrivals.
  - There is an acute humanitarian need in Bangladesh.
  - The United Nations estimates that 582,000 Rohingya have crossed the border into Bangladesh to escape violence since 25 August 2017.
- The Australian Government will provide an additional \$15 million to help address the humanitarian needs of the people affected by the crisis.

- This funding is in addition to the \$5 million announced on 9 September 2017, and will bring Australia's assistance for Rohingya and affected communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh to more than \$65 million since 2012.

**CERTIFIED AND AUTHORISED**

**BY:** I certify that this brief is accurate, current, unclassified and relevant.

Rebecca Skinner

Deputy Secretary Strategic Policy and Intelligence Group

Date: 17 October 2017

**CONTACT OFFICER:**

David Stephens

A/g Assistant Secretary South & South East Asia

Date: 19 October 2017

## BACKGROUND

- Extensive media coverage since the beginning of September (The Australian, Weekend Australian, ABS News, Sydney Morning Herald, The Guardian, Yahoo! News Australia, West Australian, The Age, Sun Herald) has criticised the Government's approach to the internal conflict in Myanmar and particularly the continuation of the Defence cooperation program with the Tatmadaw—the name for the Myanmar military, which human rights groups claim have engaged in ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya.
- On 19 October 2017, it is reported in the media that United States Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, said the US holds Myanmar's military leadership "accountable" for the Rohingya refugee crisis, drawing a distinction between Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian part of the government as it is a power sharing government.

## Defence engagement

- The Defence Cooperation Program budget for FY 2017/18 is \$398,000. Key lines of engagement include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping, English language training, civil-military cooperation, officer education and professionalisation, sponsoring Tatmadaw attendance at multilateral events, and aviation safety training.
- Defence engagement commenced in December 2012 with an officials-level visit to discuss bilateral defence cooperation, the establishment of a Defence Cooperation Program in the 2013/14 FY, and the first Defence Attache appointed in January 2014.
- This was followed by low-level training in Australia on peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance/disaster response and inaugural Foreign Ministry Consultations (in 2015).
- In 2014 and 2016, Australia sponsored Tatmadaw attendance at the multilateral desktop peacekeeping exercise Pirap Jabiru in Thailand. Defence does not conduct bilateral military exercises with Myanmar.
- In August 2016, Australia's Peace Operations Training Centre delivered peacekeeping training to 50 Tatmadaw (Myanmar military personnel).
- Inaugural Defence Cooperation Talks were conducted in Nay Pyi Taw 21-22 March 2017 in an important step to establish people-to-people links between the Tatmadaw and Department of Defence. Key outcomes included an increase in English Language training activities and aviation safety training.
- Members from the Directorate of Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety travelled to Myanmar on 13-16 June 2017 to deliver presentations on aviation safety and air worthiness, which was followed up by assistance to Myanmar's flight crash investigation in June-July. ADF advisors provided technical advice to the Myanmar Air Force during analysis of the data results from the Cockpit Voice and Flight Data Recorders and on how to progress the investigation in accordance with international conventions and protocols.
- In 2017, Myanmar's Air Chief visited Australia for the Avalon Air Show and call with the Chief of Air Force (March), the Army Chief met with Chief of Army at the Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference in Seoul (September), and Navy Chief visited Sydney for the Seapower conference and call with Chief of Navy (October).

## Future Defence engagement

- Defence is considering engagement for 2018, which may include:
  - the annual Australia-Myanmar Defence Cooperation Talks,
  - an invitation to Myanmar Air Chief to attend the biennial RAAF Air Power Conference in March,



- an invitation to Myanmar Navy Chief to attend the RAN Fleet Commanders Conference in August-September, and
- an invitation to Myanmar Army Chief to attend the Chief of Army Land Force Seminar 2018 during September.

### **Transition to a democratic government**

- On 8 November 2015, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won an absolute majority in Myanmar's General Election, defeating the current Government and military backed Union Solidarity and Development Party.
- This was the country's first fully contested national vote since a nominally civilian government was introduced in 2011 and ended nearly 50 years of military rule.
- The Tatmadaw continues to play a central role in Myanmar politics and will continue to do so under the new government. Under Myanmar's Constitution, one quarter of seats in both parliamentary chambers remain reserved for the military, and three key ministerial posts – Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs – must be held by Defence Services personnel nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services.

s.33

### **Rakhine State conflict**

- On 25 August 2017, militants belonging to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) (previously known as Harakah al-Yaqin) staged coordinated attacks on 30 police posts and an army base in northern Rakhine State. According to the Myanmar Government, at least 59 militants, 10 police officers, one soldier and one immigration officer were killed. Clashes are continuing, with at least 400 killed according to the military, most of them suspected Rohingya militants (UN officials put the figure closer to 1,000). There are unverified reports of growing civilian casualties. Human Rights Watch has reported extensive fire damage in Rohingya areas.
- The UNHCR (as of 19 October 2017) estimates 582,000 Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh since 25 August. Almost all humanitarian activities have been suspended in Rakhine State, although the Myanmar Government announced on 4 September that it would provide humanitarian assistance with the Red Cross to all those affected by the violence.

- Amnesty International has accused the Myanmar authorities of laying landmines along the Bangladesh border, to prevent Rohingya refugees from returning from Bangladesh. Myanmar denies the claim, and accuses the ARSA of planting the landmines. Neither claim has been verified. On 16 September 17, news sources reported Amnesty International had released new information claiming it offered some of the most precise evidence of an “orchestrated campaign of systematic burnings” by Myanmar security forces specifically targeting Rohingya areas. The claim is yet to be verified.
- The ARSA’s latest attacks coincided with the release of the final report of the government-commissioned Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The report contains 88 recommendations, including: lifting restrictions on freedom of movement of Rakhine Muslims; closing IDP camps; ensuring unfettered humanitarian and media access; and addressing Rohingya statelessness. The Myanmar Government says it will work towards implementing the Advisory Commission’s recommendations to the fullest extent and within the shortest timeframe possible, in line with the situation on the ground.
- The Australian Government will provide an additional \$15 million to help address the humanitarian needs of the people affected by the crisis to mobilise supplies and resources, including food and healthcare. This funding is in addition to the \$5 million announced on 9 September, and will bring Australia's assistance for Rohingya and affected communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh to more than \$65 million since 2012. It will be important that Myanmar also allows access for other humanitarian agencies as soon as possible, to expand assistance to the large numbers in need.

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

QB17-000245

## AUSTRALIA – MYANMAR DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP

### ISSUE:

Defence will continue its engagement with Myanmar in non-combat areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, to promote the role of a professional defence force and highlight the importance of adherence to international humanitarian law.

#### Current media:

*26 October 2017, ABC Radio "Army Chief Angus Campbell raised human rights concerns with Myanmar military last month" incorrectly reported Australia's Army chief travelled to Myanmar to raise concerns with its military about human rights atrocities. An update to the article correctly reports Angus Campbell spoke "openly and frankly" with his counterpart in the Tatmadaw Army during a military conference in Seoul last month. The article also reports DFAT Secretary, Francis Adamson, insisted Australia's military cooperation remained "at the minimalist end of the spectrum", meaning joint military exercises and weapons sales were banned.*

*24 October 2017, ABC News "Rohingya crisis: Australia pledges more aid as nurse describes scene worst she's encountered" reports Australia has pledged a further \$10 million in support to the Rohingya refugee crisis, but claims Australian Red Cross nurse Libby Bowell working in Bangladesh has said it is impossible to calculate what may ultimately be needed.*

### ISSUE OF THE DAY:

**Should Defence cease any engagement with the Tatmadaw [Taht-Mah-Dah] (Myanmar military)?**

- Defence has a modest program of engagement with Myanmar in non-combat areas, with a focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping training and English language training.
- This engagement is designed to expose the Tatmadaw to the ways of a modern, professional defence force and highlight the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.
  - Australia has an arms embargo in place. We do not sell weapons to Myanmar and we do not conduct bilateral exercises.
  - Future activities will, however, be considered on a case-by-case basis.

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

- Australia is committed to continuing to engage the Myanmar Government on a very challenging set of security, human rights and humanitarian issues and concerns in Rakhine State.
- It is important we maintain appropriate lines of communication with the Tatmadaw to positively influence its behaviour and improve the challenging security situation in Rakhine State.
- Maintaining engagement has enabled senior Australian military officials to directly raise concerns on Rakhine with their Myanmar counterparts.

s.33



- We will continue to utilise senior level engagement opportunities to raise Australia's concerns on Rakhine State and promote the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.

***If asked: Why has Australia not followed the United Kingdom and United States in ceasing military engagement?***

- Each country needs to make its own decision on engagement with the Tatmadaw.
- We understand the only changes in US policy are to suspend travel waivers for Myanmar military officials Brigadier level and above, and begin the process of identifying and isolating those Myanmar (military or otherwise) responsible for operations in northern Rakhine State from any current US development or defence assistance.
- We believe it is important to maintain appropriate lines of communication if we are to positively influence the Tatmadaw's behaviour and improve the security situation in Rakhine State. – Our modest Defence engagement program works towards promoting professionalism and adherence to international laws and norms.

- Ceasing engagement will limit our ability to raise concerns directly with key Tatmadaw stakeholders.

***If raised: Which Myanmar officials are responsible for operations in northern Rakhine State?***

- It is not clear who the US have included in this category and is a matter for the US to determine.

**Sectarian unrest and continued conflict with armed ethnic groups**

- Australia is deeply concerned by the violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar and the mass displacement of Rohingya into Bangladesh.
- While we acknowledge the current violence was sparked by attacks on government forces and we recognise that Myanmar has security challenges to address, this does not legitimise the excessive use of force.
- We have called for an end to security operations in Rakhine State and the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law.
  - Where human rights violations have taken place, those responsible must be held to account.
  - Violence is not the solution to Rakhine State's complex challenges.
- We want to see a cease-fire and for the Rohingya to be able to return to Rakhine State.
- We have also called for unfettered humanitarian access to affected areas.
- The Myanmar Government's decision to allow humanitarian assistance through the Red Cross movement is welcome.
  - It is vital that the Government allows access for other humanitarian agencies as soon as possible.
- Australia recognises the heavy burden that Bangladesh is carrying in generously accepting an unprecedented number of Rohingya arrivals.

- The Australian Government will provide an additional \$10 million to help address the humanitarian needs of the people affected by the crisis.
  - This funding is in addition to the \$20 million provided so far, and will bring Australia's assistance for Rohingya and affected communities in Myanmar and Bangladesh to more than \$75 million since 2012.

**Has there been any military exports to Myanmar/ Should Australia ban military exports to Myanmar?**

- Australia maintains an arms embargo on Myanmar due to concerns about ongoing conflict, weapons proliferation and human rights.
  - This prohibits the export of arms and related materials and associated services to Myanmar.
- Australia does not sell weapons to, or conduct joint military exercises with, Myanmar.

**KEY POINTS:**

- Defence has a modest program of engagement with Myanmar, focusing on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and peacekeeping training.
- Following the successful transition towards democratic governance in 2015, Defence will continue its modest engagement with Myanmar in non-combative areas such as English language training, officer education, and aviation safety.
  - Inaugural Defence Talks with Myanmar occurred in March 2017 allowing Australia to reinforce the role of a professional defence force, and demonstrate the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.
  - Myanmar must continue with its political and economic reforms, as well as demonstrate its ongoing commitment to international non-proliferation norms.
  - There are no bilateral defence training exercises and Australia's arms embargo remains in place.



- Australia recently assisted Myanmar by providing advice on how to conduct an aircraft crash investigation, following the tragic loss of life in the Y-8 aircraft accident on 7 June 2017.

## **BACKGROUND TALKING POINTS:**

### **Defence relationship**

- The defence engagement budget for Myanmar in financial year 2017/18 is \$398,000. Key lines of engagement include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and peacekeeping. In August 2016, Australia's Peace Operations Training Centre delivered peacekeeping training to 50 Tatmadaw (Myanmar military personnel).
- Inaugural Defence Cooperation Talks were conducted in Nay Pyi Taw 21-22 March 2017 in an important step to establish people-to-people links between the Tatmadaw and Department of Defence. Key outcomes included an increase in English Language training activities and aviation safety training. Members from the Directorate of Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety travelled to Myanmar on 13-16 June 2017 to deliver presentations on aviation safety and air worthiness.

### **Transition to a democratic government**

- On 8 November 2015, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won an absolute majority in Myanmar's General Election, defeating the current Government and military backed Union Solidarity and Development Party.
- This was the country's first fully contested national vote since a nominally civilian government was introduced in 2011 and ended nearly 50 years of military rule.
- The Tatmadaw continues to play a central role in Myanmar politics and will continue to do so under the new government. Under Myanmar's Constitution, one quarter of seats in both parliamentary chambers remain reserved for the military, and three key ministerial posts – Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs – must be held by Defence Services personnel nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services.

s.33



s.33

Recent media:

23 October 2017, Weekend Australian "UN holds Myanmar to account on Rohingya" reported a three-person United Nations panel, including former Australian human rights commissioner Chris Sidoti, will begin a probe into human rights abuses by the Myanmar military this week, and will travel to refugee camps in Bangladesh. The article reported the probe will not just focus on Rakhine State, but also look at other ethnic conflicts in Myanmar where displaced communities have made similar allegations against the military. The article also reported panel chairman, Marzuki Darusman, praised the work of the special rapporteur on Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights whose most recent report last week alleged the Myanmar military was pursuing a strategy to "instil deep and widespread fear and trauma" among the Rohingya population.

19 October 2017, Yahoo! News Australia reported that US Secretary of State Tillerson said on Wednesday that 'the United States holds Myanmar's military leadership "accountable" for the Rohingya refugee crisis, drawing a distinction with Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government'. He also called for fuller access to aid agencies to aid civilians and to allow greater visibility of what is happening on the ground in Rakhine state.

14 October 2017, The Saturday Age, Melbourne reported Amnesty International's call for Australia to suspend all forms of support for Myanmar's military, including training. It reported a spokeswoman for Minister for Foreign Affairs Bishop as saying "we condemn all abuses of human rights and call on those responsible to be held to account".

12 October 2017, The Australian reports on a new Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights Report that 'concludes recent attacks on Rohingya people in Myanmar's Rakhine State were "well-organised, coordinated and systemic, with the intent of not only driving the population out of Myanmar but preventing them from

returning to their homes”.’ The article refers to several specific examples of abuse from a reported 65 accounts collected by the United Nations from Rohingya in Bangladesh refugees camps.

12 October 2017, The Sydney Morning Herald reports on the new Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights Report. They reported that investigators found ‘that well-organised, co-ordinated and systemic attacks in Myanmar’s Rakhine state were not only intent on driving an entire population out of Myanmar, but to prevent them ever returning home’. It also reported that the ‘Turnbull government has resisted growing calls to consider punitive action to pressure Myanmar to end the atrocities, which human rights groups say amount to crimes against humanity’.

11 October 2017, ABC News “More than 11,000 Rohingya flee Myanmar to Bangladesh in one day, UNHCR on ‘full alert’” reports Bangladesh border guards have reported a surge of more than 11,000 Rohingya refugees crossing into their country on Monday. The article quotes UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards saying “we don’t know at the moment what is driving this.”

10 October 2017, Sydney Morning Herald “UN warns of cholera risk in mega refugee camp” reports Bangladesh’s plans to build the world’s biggest refugee camp for 700,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees could heighten the risks of diseases such as cholera spreading in the country. The article also claims Reuters has reported the United States and European Union are considering targeted sanctions against Myanmar’s military leaders over the Rakhine atrocities.

7 October 2017, Yahoo! News Australia “Rohingya militants say ceasefire to end on October 9”, reported the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army said its unilateral truce would end at midnight on October 9, but added they were open to a peace deal if the government offered it.

04 October The Australian, “Envoys apply heat to Suu Kyi” & Sydney Morning Herald, “Diplomats see devastation in Rohingya villages” report diplomats in Myanmar, including Australia’s ambassador Nicholas Coppel, have released a statement describing conditions as “dire” and calling for humanitarian access to violence-wracked Rakhine state following a government-led tour of the region on Monday. The first article reports Myanmar agreed on Monday to establish a joint working group with Bangladesh on the peaceful return of the Rohingya living across the border in Cox’s Bazar.

04 October Yahoo! News, “Rohingya militants in Bangladesh camps eager to fight” reports Bangladesh has deployed secret police in its refugee camps near the border with Myanmar where Rohingya claiming to be members of a militant group say they have found fertile ground for recruitment. The article claims security experts have warned that radicalisation among the Rohingya could have far reaching consequences, especially if global extremist groups tap ethnic rivalry in Myanmar’s Rakhine state and anger in the refugee camps in Bangladesh.

01 October ABC News, “Rohingya crisis: ‘Persecution’ could be used by IS group to fight the West, Julie Bishop warns” reports Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has warned in an interview on Insiders that terrorist groups like Islamic State could gain a foothold in South East Asia if violence continues against ethnic minorities in

*Myanmar. The article reports Ms Bishop as saying, "there's got to be a political resolution but in the meantime, the humanitarian disaster needs our full attention."*

**Contact:** Rebekah Byers, PONASEAN, (02)  
6265 4321

**Min ID:** QB17-000245  
**Division:** International  
Policy Division

**Cleared by:** David Stephens, A/AS S&SEA,  
(02) 6265 6272

**Created:** 24 July 2017  
**Updated:** 24 October  
2017

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

QB17-000336

## DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP WITH MYANMAR

### ISSUE: DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP WITH MYANMAR

Defence will continue to modestly expand engagement with Myanmar in non-combat areas such as peacekeeping, English language training, officer education, and aviation safety.

### ISSUE OF THE DAY: INVESTIGATION

s.22

s.22

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

*Current media:*

19 July 2017 *Global New Light of Myanmar*, "Transport plane crashed due to adverse weather: investigators" claims that a third party investigation group consisting of Australian personnel concluded that the Y-8 Myanmar military aircraft carrying 122 personnel crashed from loss of control due to adverse weather conditions.

**KEY POINTS:**

- Defence has a modest program of engagement with Myanmar, focusing on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and peacekeeping training.
- Following the successful transition towards democratic governance in 2015, Defence will continue to modestly expand engagement with Myanmar in non-combative areas such as English language training, officer education, and aviation safety.
  - Inaugural Defence Talks with Myanmar occurred in March 2017 allowing Australia to reinforce the role of a professional defence force, and demonstrate the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.
  - Myanmar must continue with its political and economic reforms, as well as demonstrate its ongoing commitment to international non-proliferation norms.

- There are no bilateral training exercises at this stage, and Australia's arms embargo remains in place.
- Australia recently assisted Myanmar by providing advice on how to conduct an aircraft crash investigation, following the tragic loss of life in the Y-8 aircraft accident on 7 June 2017.

#### **Tatmadaw's human rights record**

- Australia is committed to working with the Myanmar Government to address its human rights challenges.
- Engagement with the Tatmadaw (*Taht-Mah-Dah*) (Myanmar's military), will help to reinforce the role of a professional defence force and demonstrate the importance of adherence to international humanitarian law.

#### **Sectarian unrest and continued conflict with armed ethnic groups**

- Australia is concerned about ongoing ethnic and sectarian unrest in parts of Myanmar.
- Australia consistently raises these issues with the Myanmar Government, including urging them to resolve their underlying causes.
- Enhanced engagement with the Tatmadaw provides greater opportunities for Australia to promote the role of a professional defence force and demonstrate the importance of adherence to international humanitarian law.



## BACKGROUND TALKING POINTS

### *Defence relationship*

- The defence engagement budget for Myanmar in financial year 2017/18 is \$398,000. Key lines of engagement include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and peacekeeping. In August 2016, Australia's Peace Operations Training Centre delivered peacekeeping training to 50 Tatmadaw (Myanmar military personnel).
- Inaugural Defence Cooperation Talks were conducted in Nay Pyi Taw 21-22 March 2017 in an important step to establish people-to-people links between the Tatmadaw and Department of Defence. Key outcomes included an increase in English Language training activities and aviation safety training. Members from the Directorate of Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety (DDAAFS) travelled to Myanmar on 13-16 June 2017 to deliver presentations on aviation safety and air worthiness.
- Engaging the Myanmar Armed Forces ('Tatmadaw'), which has a key role in politics, is crucial to encourage acceptance of the broader reform process, help reinforce the apolitical role of a professional defence force and demonstrate the importance of adhering to international humanitarian law.

### *Transition to a democratic government*

- On 8 November 2015, Aung San Suu Kyi's (ASSK) National League for Democracy won an absolute majority in Myanmar's General Election, defeating the current Government and military backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).
- This was the country's first fully contested national vote since a nominally civilian government was introduced in 2011 and ended nearly 50 years of military rule.
- The Tatmadaw continues to play a central role in Myanmar politics and will continue to do so under the new government. Under Myanmar's Constitution, one quarter of seats in both parliamentary chambers remain reserved for the military, and three key ministerial posts – Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs – must be held by Defence Services personnel nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services

s.22

s.22



**Contact:** David Stephens, Director NASEAN,  
(02) 6265 1473

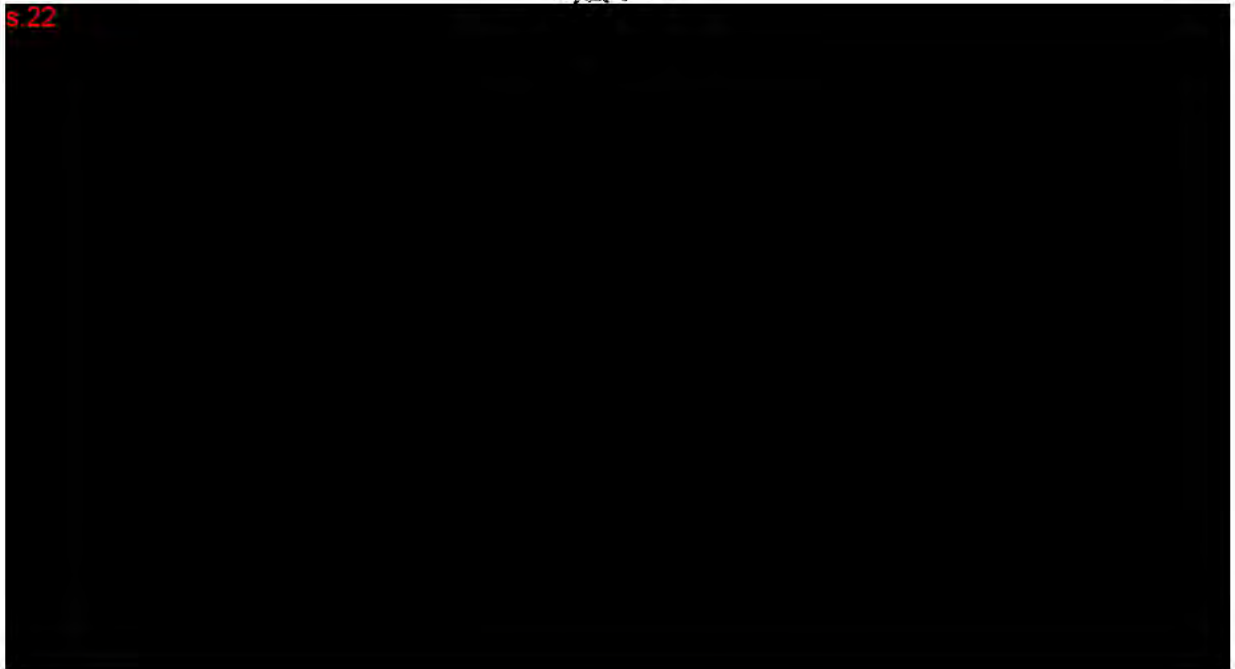
**Min ID:** <PDR No>  
**Division:** International  
Policy Division

**Cleared by:** Martin Kennedy, A/AS S&SEA,  
(02) 6265 6272

**Created:** 15 Apr 2016  
**Updated:** 20 Jul 2017  
[h:mm AM/PM]



s.22



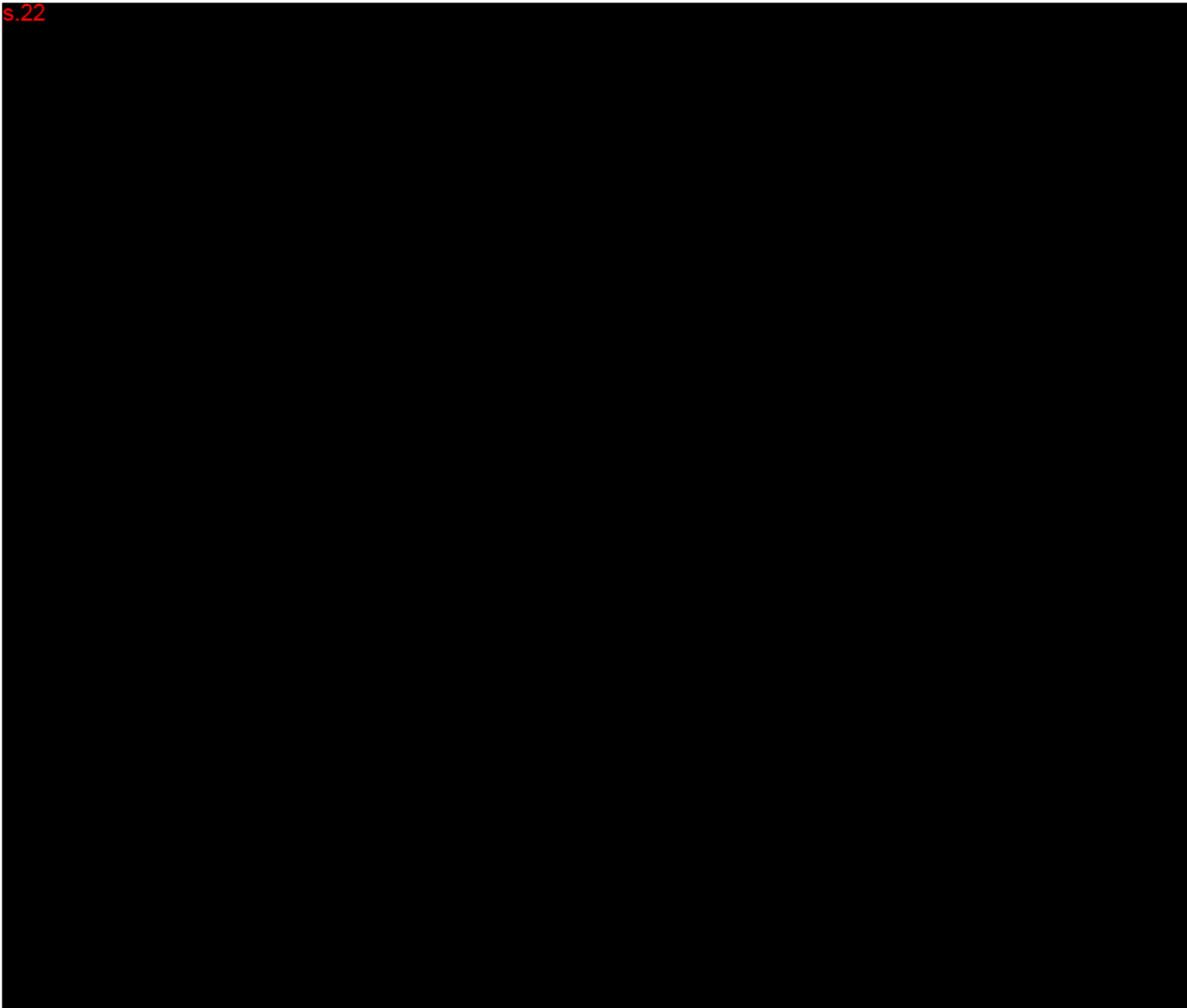
**UNCLASSIFIED**

# Notes

---

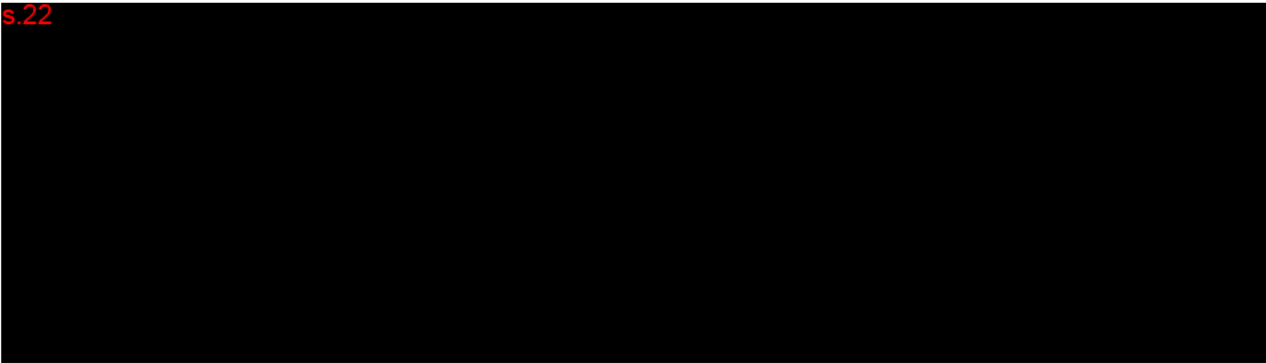
**UNCLASSIFIED**

Table of Contents

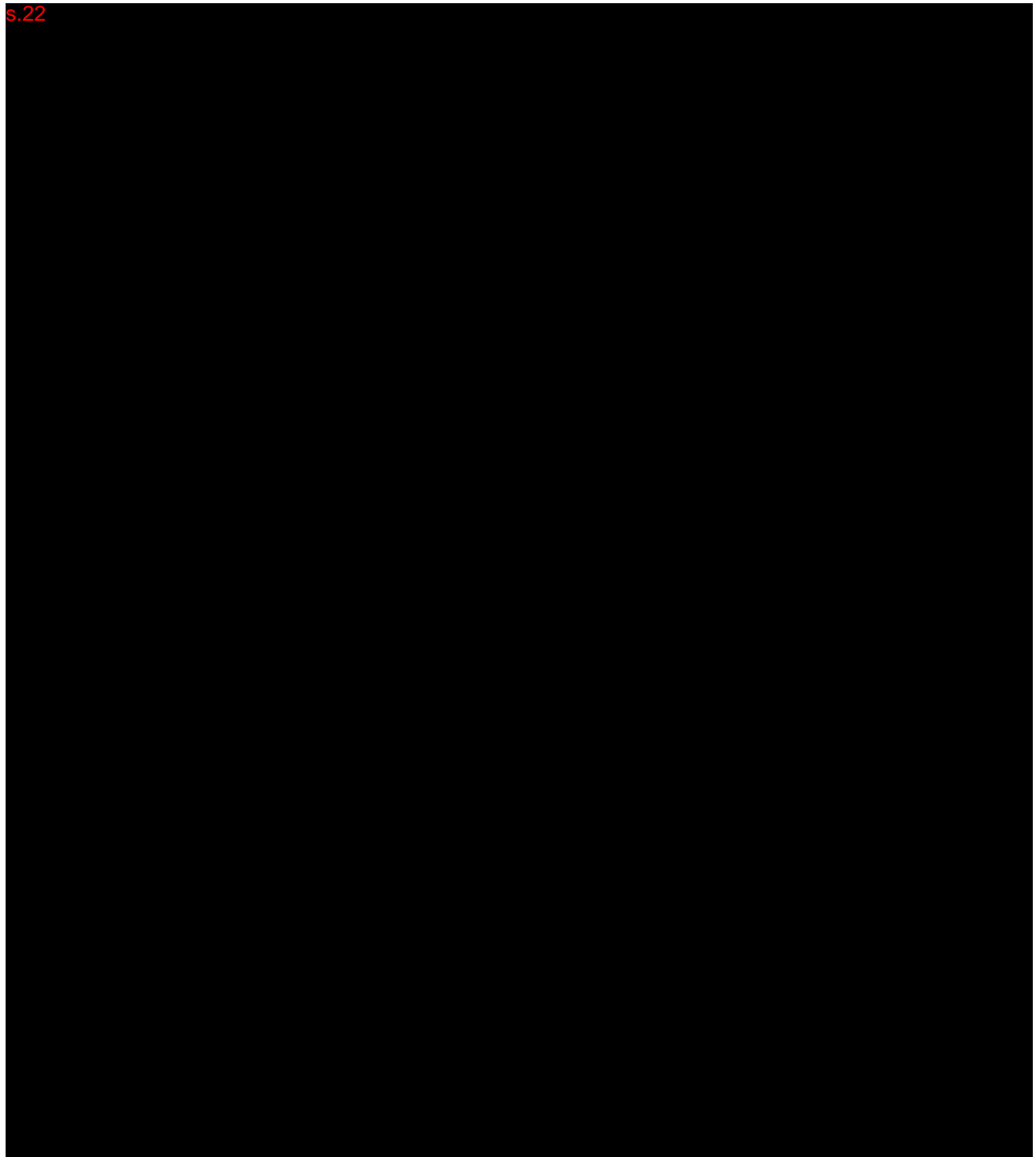


AGENDA ITEM 7: DRAFT TRAINING PROGRAM 2017-2018 EDUCATION & TRAINING &  
PEACEKEEPING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ..... 25

AGENDA ITEM 8: ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING ..... 33

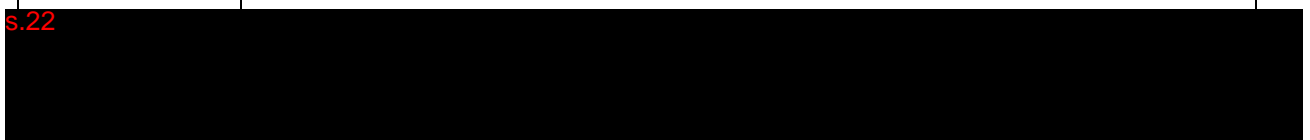


s.22



1330	Agenda Item 7: Draft Training Program (2017/2018) and Peacekeeping Training Opportunities
1350	Agenda Item 8: English Language Training
s.22	
1510	Staff Workshop: compare proposals by Australia with Tatmadaw's training priorities and develop agreed training program for 2017-2018

s.22



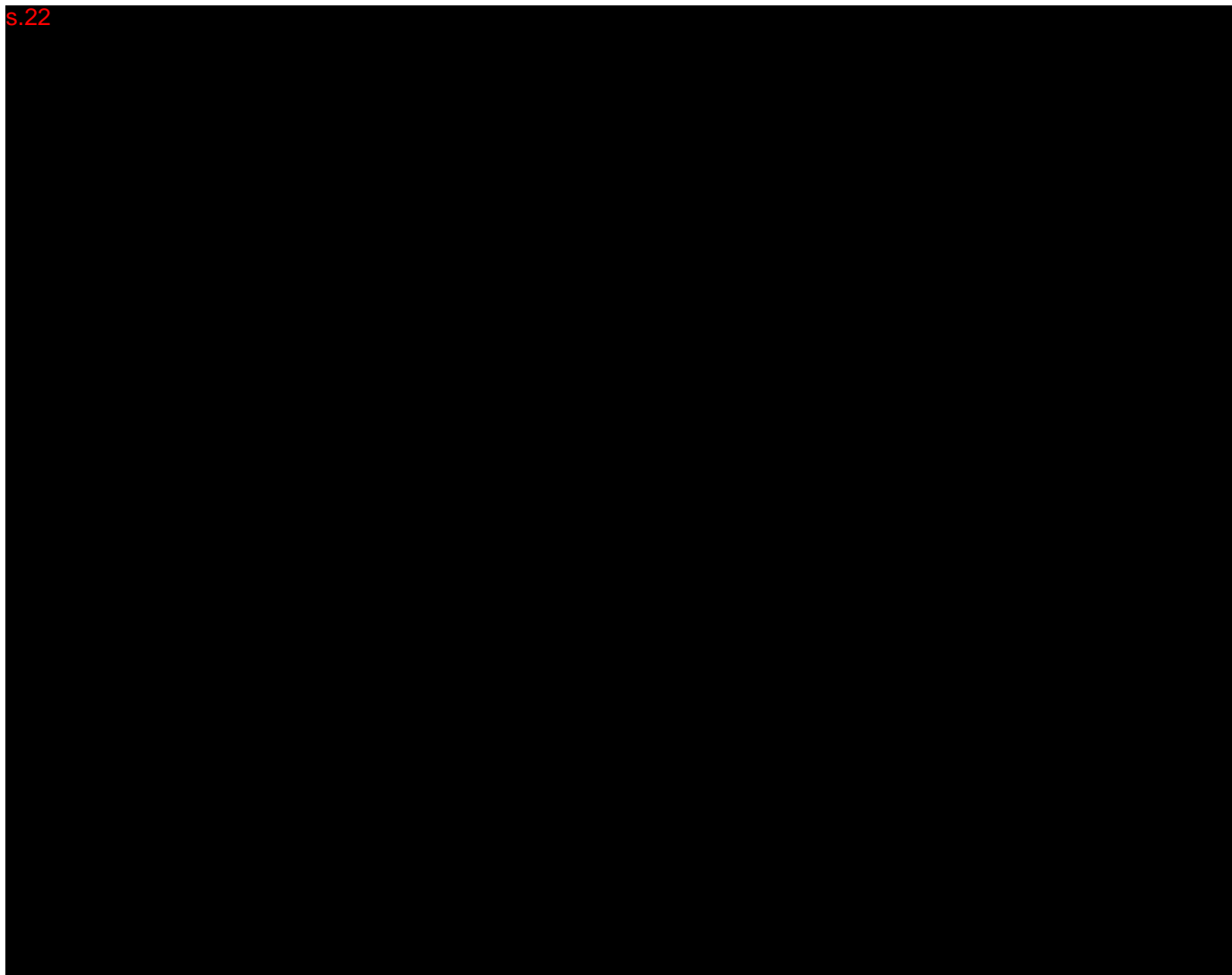
s.22



s.22







- . Defence is looking to expand engagement in non-combative areas such as English language training, officer professionalisation, and civil-military cooperation.

*Education and Training*

- . 41 Australian-based training positions were offered to Myanmar in FY 2016/17, including a Defence scholarship, English language training and positions on the Joint Training Program.

*Peacekeeping*

- . Australia's Peace Operation Training Centre Mobile Training Team delivered peacekeeping training to 50 Tatmadaw (Myanmar military personnel) in August 2016.

## Myanmar: Defence Relations Factsheet – March 2017

### KEY STATISTICS FOR THE TATMADAW (MYANMAR ARMED FORCES)

**Tatmadaw Budget:** US\$2.4 billion (2015) ^

**Australian Defence Budget:** AU\$32.46 billion (2016/17)

**Size of Tatmadaw:** Army: (375,000), Air Force (15,000), Navy (16,000)\*

^ Source: '2016 Defence Economic Trends in the Asia-Pacific'

\*Source: The Statesmen's Yearbook

### KEY LEADERS OF THE TATMADAW

- **Defence Minister** – Lieutenant General Sein Win
- **Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief** (CDF counterpart) – Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
- **Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air)** – General Mya Tun Oo
- **Commander in Chief – Navy** – Admiral Tin Aung San
- **Commander in Chief – Air Force** - General Khin Aung Myint
- **Commander in Chief – Army/Deputy Commander-in-Chief** – Vice Senior General Soe Win

### DEFENCE ENGAGEMENT

- Resident Defence Attaché appointed in January 2014 following lifting of restrictions on engagement with the Tatmadaw.

#### Engagement Priorities

- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Peacekeeping and English language training.

#### Education and Training

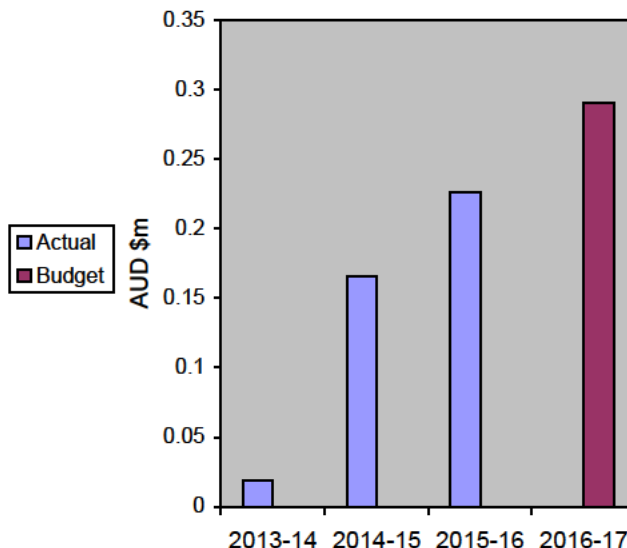
- One Tatmadaw officer studying a Masters of Peace Studies at the University of Sydney;
- Eleven Tatmadaw officers attended peacekeeping training courses in Australia during FY15/16; and
- Peace Operation Training Centre Mobile Training team delivered peacekeeping training to 50 Tatmadaw in Myanmar in August 2016.

#### Exercises and Ship Visits

- Four Tatmadaw officers attended the desktop peacekeeping exercise PIRAP JABIRU held in Thailand in May 2016.
- HMAS Childers (RAN Armidale Class patrol boat) visited Yangon in January 2014.

s.22

Myanmar Defence Engagement Budget



## DFAT- Myanmar Factsheet



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## MYANMAR

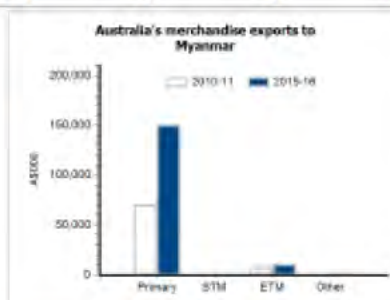
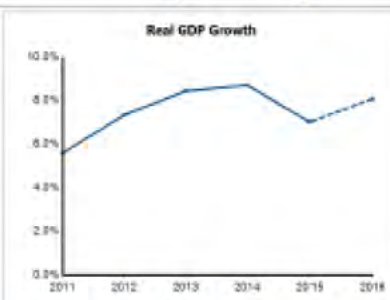
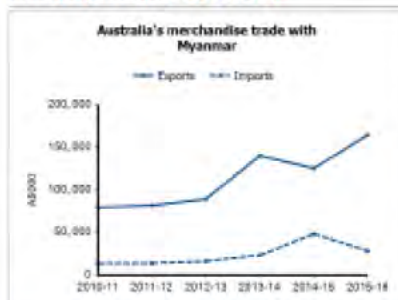


## General information

Fact sheets are updated biannually, June and December

<b>Capital:</b>	Yangon	<b>Head of State and Head of Government</b>
<b>Land area:</b>	653,290 sq km	President HE U Htin Kyaw
<b>Official language(s):</b>	Burmese	
<b>Population:</b>	51.8 million (2015)	
<b>Currency:</b>	Kyat	

Economic indicators (a)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
GDP (US\$b) (current prices)	60.0	59.7	60.1	65.8	62.9	68.3
GDP per capita (US\$)	1,196.9	1,181.9	1,179.6	1,278.7	1,212.8	1,306.7
GDP PPP (Int'l \$b)	197.1	215.4	237.4	262.6	284.1	311.1
GDP per capita PPP (Int'l \$)	3,932.9	4,262.7	4,655.9	5,107.4	5,479.9	5,953.2
Real GDP growth (% change yoy)	5.6	7.3	8.4	8.7	7.0	8.1
Current account balance (% GDP)	-1.8	-4.0	-4.9	-5.6	-7.8	-8.3
Current account balance (US\$b)	-1.1	-2.4	-3.0	-3.7	-4.9	-5.7
Inflation (% change yoy)	2.8	2.8	5.7	5.9	11.4	9.8
Unemployment (% labour force)	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0



## Australia's trade and investment relationship with Myanmar (b)

Australian merchandise trade with Myanmar, 2015-16 (A\$000)	Total share	Rank	Growth (yoy)
Exports to Myanmar	0.1%	51st	31.1%
Imports from Myanmar	0.0%	83rd	-40.9%
Total merchandise trade (exports + imports)	0.0%	68th	11.1%

## Major Australian exports, 2015-16 (A\$000)

Wheat	128,892
Coal	6,719
Edible products & preparations, nes	6,364
Non-electric engines & motors	3,282

## Major Australian imports, 2015-16 (A\$000)

Crustaceans, f.c.f.	8,766
Fish, f.c.f.	4,631
Vegetables, f.c.f.	3,079
Seafood, prepared or preserved	1,620

## Australia's trade in services with Myanmar, 2015-16 (A\$m)

	Total share	Rank	Growth (yoy)
Exports of services to Myanmar	0.1%	59th	8.8%
Imports of services from Myanmar	0.1%	73rd	2.1%

## Australia's investment relationship with Myanmar, 2015 (A\$m)

	Total	FDI
Australia's investment in Myanmar	np	np
Myanmar's investment in Australia	np	0

## Myanmar's global merchandise trade relationships

## Myanmar's principal export destinations, 2015

1 China	37.7%
2 Thailand	25.6%
3 India	7.7%
24 Australia	0.3%

## Myanmar's principal import sources, 2015

1 China	42.2%
2 Thailand	18.5%
3 Singapore	11.0%
16 Australia	0.5%

## DFAT Myanmar Country Brief

*Australia-Myanmar Relations***Overview**

Australia has had diplomatic relations with Myanmar since 1952. Myanmar, one of the poorest countries in the region, is undergoing an unprecedented, complex and challenging set of reforms: a transition to democracy; economic reform; and peace negotiations to end decades of conflict with the country's ethnic armed groups.

Australia is working to broaden and deepen our bilateral partnership with Myanmar through strengthening government-to-government ties, growing trade and investment and expanding people-to-people links. This is underpinned by Australia's development assistance that aims to support Myanmar's reform process by improving the quality of education; promoting peace and stability; and promoting inclusive economic growth and government management.

Myanmar is the largest country in mainland South-East Asia by area. It has a diverse population of approximately 51.4 million. Myanmar is one of the poorest countries in the region, with 37.5 per cent of its population estimated to be living in poverty. Bordering China, India, Thailand, Bangladesh and Laos—40 per cent of the world's population—Myanmar's geostrategic location and prospects for regional trade are compelling.

Following historic openly-contested general elections on 8 November 2015, there has been a peaceful transition of power to a new government. Since 2011, other significant political reforms include the release of many political prisoners and the introduction of laws to relax media censorship and provide for greater political participation, labour rights and freedom of expression.

Progress has been made towards resolving ethnic conflicts, notably through the partial signing of a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in October 2015. The peace process remains a priority of the Myanmar Government.

Reforms have begun to open and rejuvenate Myanmar's economy. Rising exports, consumption and investment have fuelled growth of over eight per cent in 2014-15, and Myanmar is forecast to embark on an extended period of rapid economic growth. An abundant supply of natural resources, including oil, gas and gems has the potential to bolster economic development.

Despite progress, significant human rights challenges remain. Australia continues to stress the importance of resolving the situation in Rakhine State as well as the need to protect the rights of all people living in the country.

s.22



s.22



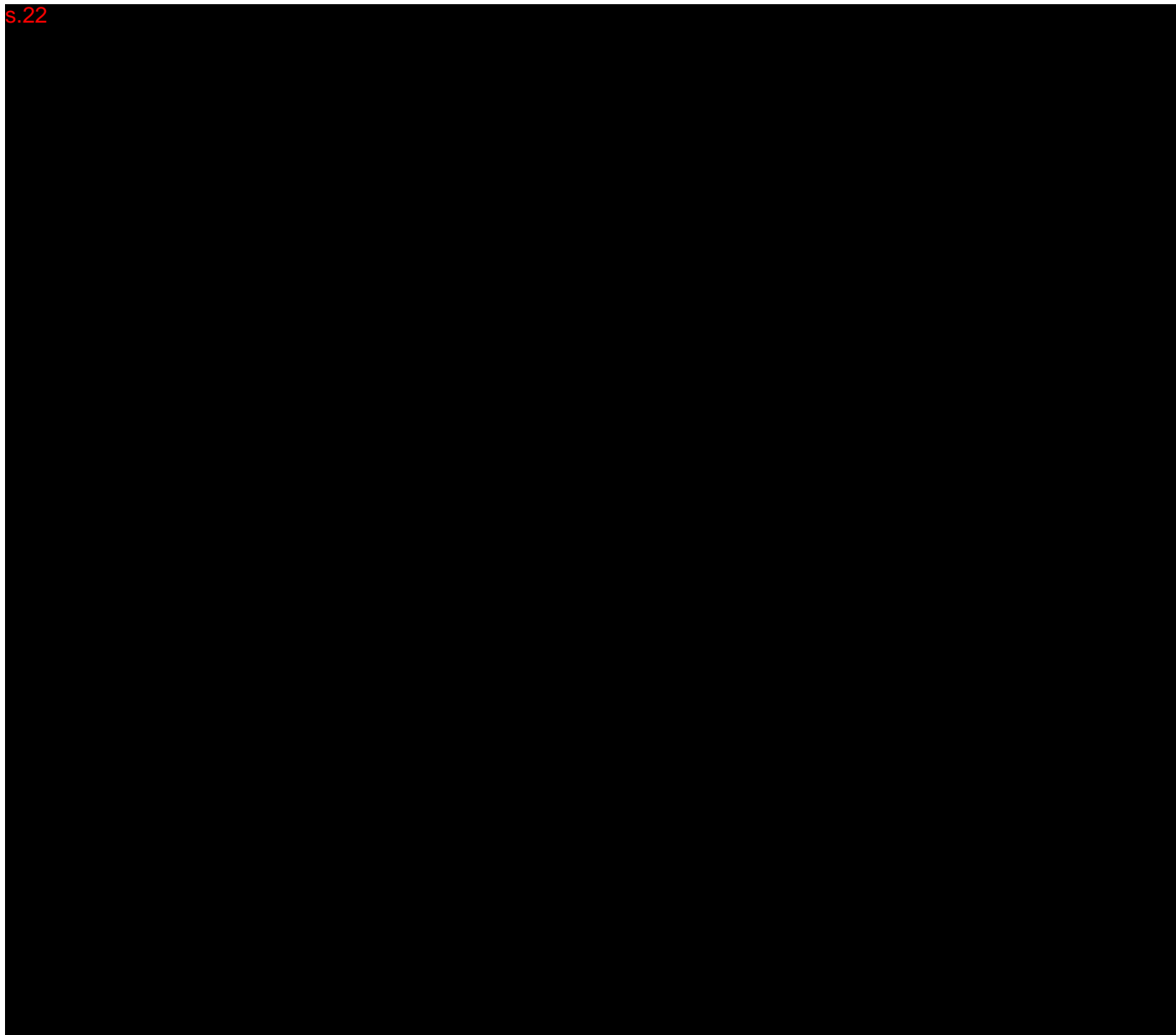


s.22



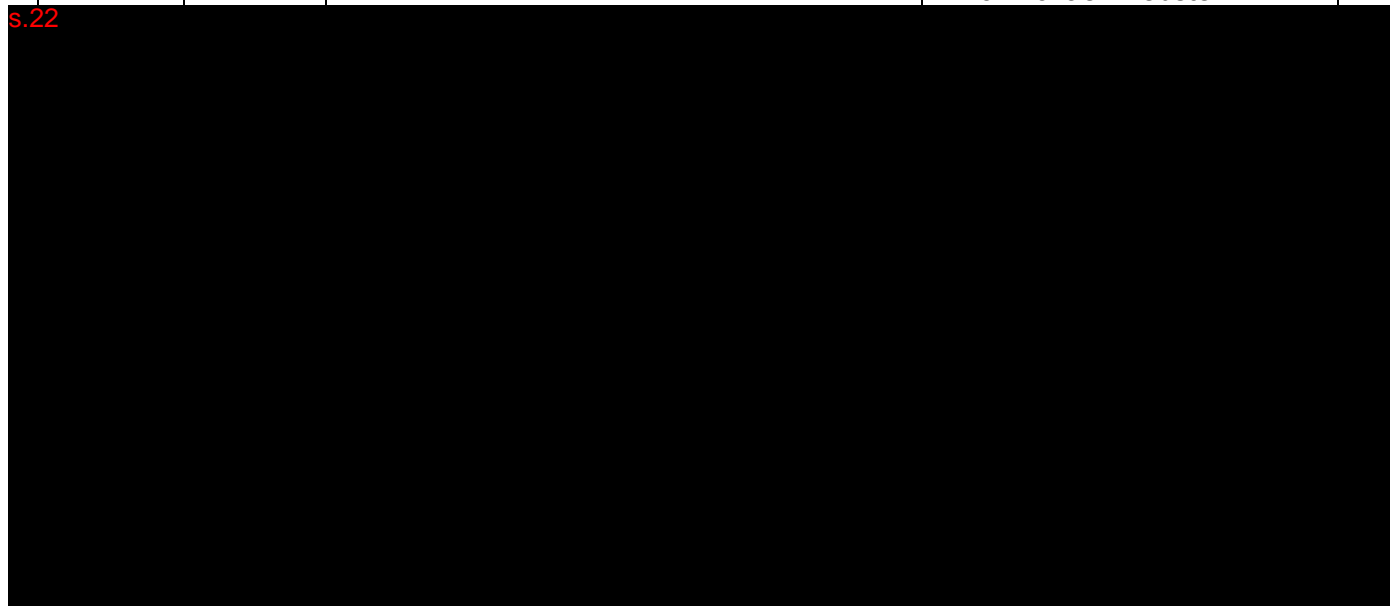


s.22



7	1330	Draft training program for 2017-2018 including peacekeeping training opportunities	Australia, PO NASEAN, Mr Luke Redfern
8	1350	English Language Training	Australia, DCEO MAJ Michael Webster

s.22



s.22



s.22



– **Alumni**

: I understand we have agreement for the Alumni program. This is an initiative Australia is keen to finalise, as it provides a forum for Tatmadaw who have trained in Australia to network and for members from both countries to share their experiences and form the foundation for better understanding and cooperation between Australia and Myanmar.

• **Establishing the basis for further education and training**

- Regular dialogue will help to establish priorities for our engagement
- Improved **English language skills** will form the foundation of our engagement with the Tatmadaw.
  - : It will also broaden the base of eligible officers who will attend future training in Australia.
  - : We will draw on our experience in providing English language training to other militaries across SEA. MAJ Webster will talk more about this during the dialogue.

s.22



s.22



s.22



S.22





s.22



s.22



s.22



s.22



**Agenda Item 7: Draft Training Program 2017-2018**  
***Education & training & peacekeeping training opportunities***  
1330 - 1350

s.22

## ***Education & Training***

### **Key Messages:**

- Review education and training engagement for 2016/17.
- Provide an update on education and training activities for TY 2017/18
- Seek priorities for education and training engagement in future years.

### **TALKING POINTS**

- I am pleased that Myanmar's defence personnel, Tatmadaw officers, continue to undertake education and training sponsored by Australia each year, with 40 individual opportunities being offered for Financial Year 2016/17.
  - To date, 50% of those positions have been accepted.
  - Last Financial Year, 20 individual opportunities were offered, with 12 (60 %) accepted.
- Encouragingly, I note growth of 67% across in the number of Tatmadaw students undertaking Australian sponsored training activities.
- I understand that strict English language standards for Australian training, at times can present a challenge for Tatmadaw officers attending our courses.
  - I am keen to ensure that Tatmadaw officers are equipped with the English language skills necessary to take full advantage of their training in Australia.
  - Our Defence Attaché (DA) in Yangon, conducted a training needs analysis which confirmed that our strict English language standards continue to be the most significant barrier for Tatmadaw officers who wish to participate in training.
  - The DA identified that of the s.33 Tatmadaw officers who undertook Australian Defence Force English Language Profiling System (ADFELPS) testing, s.33 obtained scores which would enable them to take up the proffered training in Australia.
- In responding to that needs analysis, I requested support from the Australian Defence Cooperation Education Officer, MAJ Michael Webster to undertake an English Language Scoping Study that occurred late last year, as mentioned earlier today.
- In line with the implementation of phase 1 of the Scoping Study, s.33 candidates were endorsed to attend Special Australian English Language Course (SAELC) and these students will commence at DITC in May 2017.
- I am confident that a forward-looking pathway plan toward increasing Myanmar's participation in course offerings is now in place. In the coming years, I anticipate that the number of Tatmadaw officers who are able to take up course offerings will increase alongside the base English language proficiency among eligible officers.

- This includes training Tatmadaw officers to become Australian Defence Force English Language Profiling System (ADFELPS) raters. This will give the Tatmadaw the opportunity to identify officers with sufficient English levels to nominate for courses relevant to their work areas.
- Another key area in which we hope to increase our engagement with the Tatmadaw is within the Joint Training Program (JTP).
  - I note Myanmar's strong take up of courses under the JTP and commend the students on their participation and completion despite having entered under a language skill waiver.
- I am keen to ensure that our training engagement meets the objectives of both Australia and Myanmar, and welcome guidance from Myanmar on key areas of training engagement for our consideration.

## BACKGROUND

### *Myanmar's Training History*

Our previous Defence Attaché in Yangon, CAPT Jon Dudley, conducted a training needs analysis and identified English Language standards to be a significant hurdle to increasing offers and subsequent uptake of these offers for students from Myanmar.

s.33

Because of the needs analysis, MAJ Michael Webster, DCEO Thailand, undertook an English Language Training (ELT) scoping study which offered Tatmadaw consultation based recommendations for increasing English levels among candidates for training. We expect that MAJ Webster will provide an overview of and a fulsome discussion of the ELT scoping study.

### *Defence International Training Centre*

The Defence International Training Centre (DITC) offers training opportunities to Defence Forces from more than 39 Asian, South East Asian, Middle Eastern and South West Pacific nations as well as housing the Defence Force School of Languages, where Australian Defence Personnel can undertake foreign language training.

### List of Courses (See included DITC Brochures, Attachment B)

Australian and Military Familiarisation Course	English Teaching Development Course
Admin and Reception Period Famil	English Curriculum Development Course
Special Australian English Language Course	ADFELPS Rater Training Course
Advanced Australian English Language Course	
Advanced Australian English Language Course	
Australian Defence College Preparation Course	
Pre-Officer Training Preparation Course	
Methodology of English Language Teaching	
Teaching Pronunciation Course	

### *Joint Training Program*

The Joint Training Program is an annual suite of short courses and seminars in areas not covered by other training enrichment programs. In 2015/16, Myanmar was offered s.33 positions in areas including aviation safety; maritime security; operational law; humanitarian assistance; joint warfare; peacekeeping. s.33 In 2016/17, we offered Myanmar s.33 training positions, in similar areas.

#### List of Courses (by provider)

##### *Australian Defence Force Peace Operations Training Centre*

- Peace Operations Seminar
- United Nations Peace Operations
- Humanitarian Operations Seminar
- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Course

s.22

##### *Asia-Pacific Centre for Military Law*

- Maritime Operations Law Course
- Law of Peace Operations
- Rules of Engagement Workshop
- Command & Staff Operations Law Course

s.22

##### *CIT Solutions*

- Governance & Financial Management

##### *University of Queensland – Centre for Military & Veteran's Health*

- Health Aspects of Disaster

##### *Australian Defence Force Warfare Training Centre*

- Overseas Joint Warfare Course

##### *Military Strategic Commitments Division (VCDF Group)*

- Strategic Communications Workshop

##### *Australian Defence College*

The Australian Defence College delivers doctrine, exercises and courses to prepare Australian and international Defence personnel, government officials and national security practitioner for strategic roles within joint and combined operating environments. This includes the opportunity to gain a tertiary qualification from leading Australian universities. Learning Centres at the College include the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, which offers the Defence and Strategic Studies Course (DSSC); the Australian Command and Staff College, which offers the Australian Command and Staff Course (ACSC); the Capability Technology Mobility College (CTMC) and the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA). Language proficiency standards for all four Centres are set by the relevant university and cannot be waived.



### *Defence Cooperation Scholarship Program*

The Defence Cooperation Scholarship Program (DCSP) aims to provide international Defence personnel with an opportunity to develop their knowledge in areas of mutual benefit to Australia and their home nations, and thereby enhance their leadership potential. The DCSP provides a scholarship to undertake postgraduate studies at an Australian university for up to two years. Key areas of engagement under DCSP include security studies; maritime policy; logistics; engineering and management.

In 2016/2017, Tatmadaw officer, s.33 commenced the Master of Peace and Conflict Studies at University of Sydney. s.22

Sponsorship will continue to be offered to one Tatmadaw officer in 2018. s.33

Myanmar's current involvement in the DCSP, however, still forms an important component of the strategic plan for engagement.

### *Single Service Training*

Tactical and Military Appreciation training also referred to as Single Service training, incorporates the development of professional military skills through a variety of Navy, Army and Air Force courses. International students undertake this training alongside their Australian peers, and positions are offered subject to spare capacity being available. Training requirements for Australian Defence personnel take priority under this program. s.33

### *English Language Enrichment and Teacher Development*

English language enrichment, teacher development and academic preparation will form an important pillar of our engagement with Myanmar in the future. To date in 16/17, we have offered s.33 positions across six course at various levels to the Tatmadaw, with acceptance of s.33 offers. s.33

Defence is actively looking for opportunities to develop this area of cooperation with Myanmar.

### *Seconded Officer Program*

The Defence Cooperation Seconded Officer Program provides the opportunity for international military personnel to be seconded to Australian military training establishments, for periods of up to two years, as instructors. Currently there are no Tatmadaw officers participating in the program. Seconded Officers are able to bring a unique perspective and the benefit of their military service in their home country to their instructor duties, as well as gaining exposure to how Australia approaches similar issues.

s.22

s.33



s.22



*Prioritisation of Training Engagement*

A key mechanism for ensuring training engagement remains beneficial to both Myanmar and Australia is through the development of a Five Year Education and Training Plan. International Policy Division is available to assist with the development of such a plan, should this be of interest to Myanmar. The completed scoping study will inform the foundation of any such plan. This will assist Defence with the 2016 White Paper objective of increasing training opportunities for international personnel.

## ***Peacekeeping Engagement and Training Opportunities***

### **Key Messages:**

- s.22 [REDACTED]
- TMD personnel have attended UN peacekeeping pre-deployment Military Expert on Mission training and the UN Staff Officer course run by POTC.
- TMD personnel have also attended POTC's Peace Operations Seminar and Humanitarian Operations Seminar.
- TMD personnel have participated in Exercise PIRAP JABIRU, a biennial peace operations training exercise run jointly by Australia and Thailand.
- s.22 [REDACTED]

### **TALKING POINTS**

#### ***ADF Peace Operations Training Centre engagement with Tatmadaw***

- s.22 [REDACTED]
- TMD personnel have received pre-deployment UN peacekeeping training at POTC and have participated in other POTC seminars.
- TMD personnel have attended the Military Expert on Mission (MEoM) training and the UN Staff Officer course at POTC.
- TMD personnel have also attended POTC's Peace Operations Seminar and Humanitarian Operations Seminar.
- TMD personnel have participated in Exercise PIRAP JABIRU, a biennial peace operations training exercise run jointly by Australia and Thailand.

s.22 [REDACTED]

s.22



## Agenda Item 8: English Language Training

1350 - 1410

Australia to lead (MAJ Michael Webster)

### English Language Training

s.22

#### Key Messages:

- Australia has a detailed plan to develop English language training (ELT) engagement with the Tatmadaw over the period Jan 17 to Jun 18.
- s.33 suitable Tatmadaw Officers have identified to attend the 01/17 Special Australian English Language Course (SAELC).
- The 2018 Australian English Language Course (AELC) is a significant opportunity for the Australian Defence Force and the Tatmadaw to work in a collaborative manner to develop the English language skills of Tatmadaw Officers.

#### TALKING POINTS

##### ELT Engagement Approach

- s.22
- Develop Tatmadaw ELT instructors through attendance at 2017 DITC courses (01/17 SAELC, 02/17 MELT), in order for them to return to Myanmar to deliver an ADF supported English language course (AELC) conducted during the first half of 2018.
- Deliver of an annual or biannual AELC that supports the development of additional ELT instructors and candidates for further DCP supported training in Australia.
- Initially target DSA English language teachers for further training in Australia due to the fact this is where the bulk of the ELT occurs within the Tatmadaw. As the capacity within the Tatmadaw is developed provide opportunities for additional ELT centres.

##### Implementation Phases

- Phase 1 - Dec 16 to Mar 17. The following activities have been identified.
  - Australia to allocate s.33 places for Tatmadaw Officers to attend the 01/17 SAELC (language improvement ADFELPS 5 to 6) conducted during the period 24 Apr - 24 Aug 17. s.47F
  - Australia to allocate s.3 places for Tatmadaw ELT instructors to attend the 02/17 MELT (initial teacher training course) conducted during the period 28 Aug - 07 Dec 17. s.33
- Phase 2 - Apr to Dec 17. The following activities have been identified.
  - Tatmadaw ELT instructors complete the 01/17 SAELC and 02/17 MELT courses.

s.33



s.22



s.22





s.22



s.22



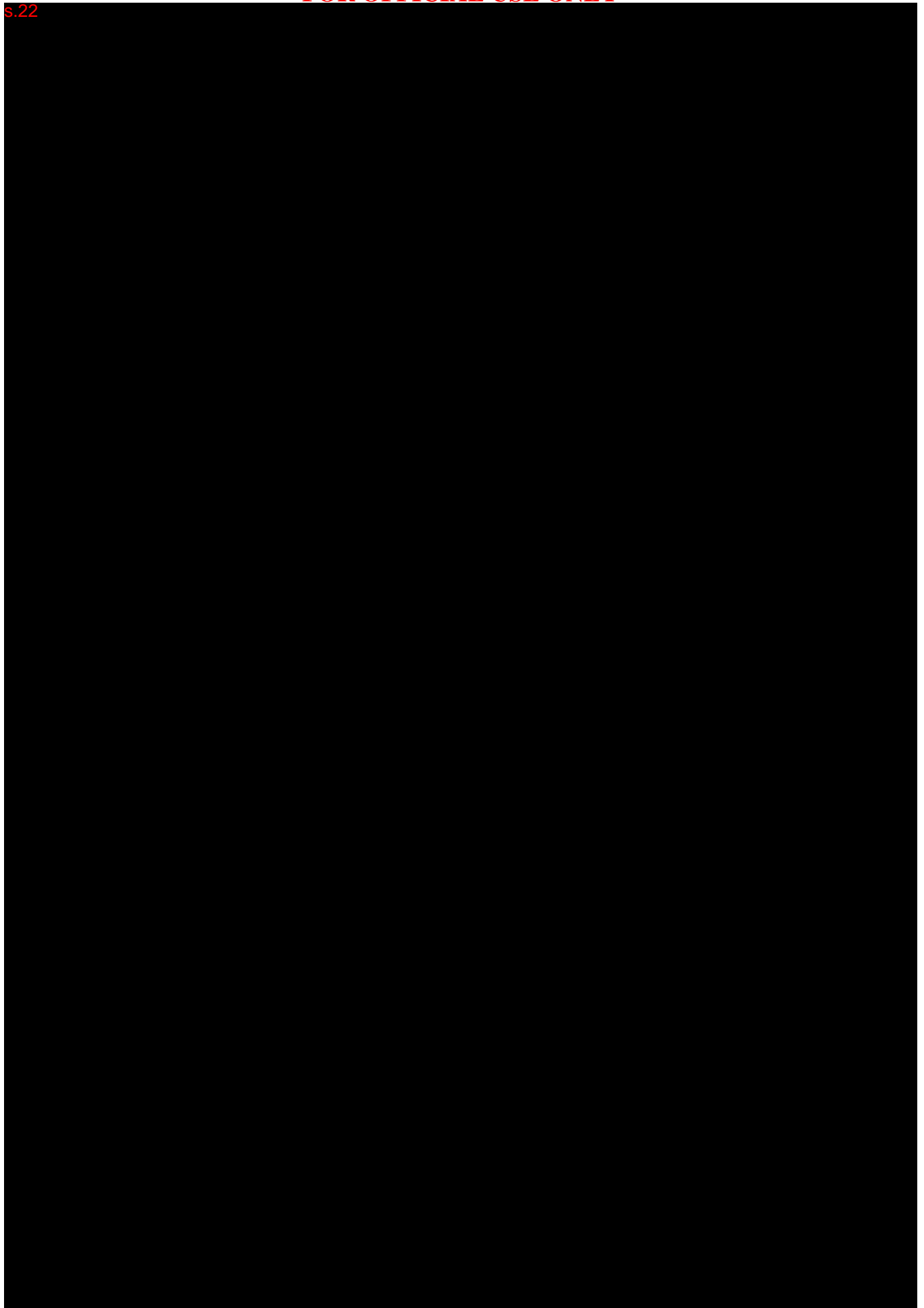
s.22



s.22



s.22



s.22



s.22



UNCLASSIFIED

s.22



UNCLASSIFIED



s.22

