

**Attachment to DEPSEC/OUT/2014/150**

**INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY GROUP  
OVERVIEW 2013–14**

The Deputy Secretary Intelligence and Security Mr Steve Meekin oversees the activities of the three Defence intelligence agencies - the Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Signals Directorate and the Defence Intelligence Organisation – and the Defence Security Authority including the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency.

During 2013–14, the Intelligence and Security Group continued to deliver timely intelligence to Defence and the Government.

Following the drawdown of troops in Afghanistan and the withdrawal from Timor-Leste, the Group supported ADF exercises and deployments. Of note, was the key role the Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation played in supporting the international search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH 370 in the southern Indian Ocean.

The Cyber Security Operations Centre contributed to addressing the cyber security threat. Hosted at the Australian Signals Directorate, the centre continued to work closely within Defence and with other government agencies to ensure that Australia is both protected against emerging cyber threats and adequately positioned to meet the Government's requirement to implement the Top 4 Strategies to Mitigate Targeted Cyber Intrusions—a new mandatory requirement in 2013 under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

The Australian Signals Directorate established a dedicated team to proactively engage with Commonwealth, state and territory governments to enhance their cyber security posture through threat assessments, security alerts, and guidance and defensive measures; the revision of the *Australian Government Information Security Manual* and vulnerability assessments.

The Defence Intelligence Organisation continued to provide influential all-source intelligence assessments primarily in support of the Australian Defence Force and Defence policy formulation.

The Group developed security policy, standards and plans to meet Defence's protective security requirements, and provided information security services to the Government.

The Intelligence and Security Group continued to place significant emphasis on ensuring that its activities were compliant with the *Intelligence Services Act 2001* and other relevant legislation. This was achieved through mandatory and comprehensive training of staff and regular liaison with the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security.

The Group maintained strong and effective international relationships, cooperating closely with its international intelligence and security partners. Defence intelligence collection and assessments are valued by the Group's international partners. In turn, the agencies of the Group draw on the collection and assessments of their international partners.

The Group continued its recruitment and retention strategies to ensure that skilled and experienced ADF and APS personnel were available. These strategies include targeted university recruitment drives, recruitment of graduates through the Intelligence and Security Development Program, incentives for staff with specific language and technical talents, and enhanced use of online recruitment tools.