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Australian Government
Department of Defence
Defence Intelligence Group

Chief of Defence Intelligence
R7-1-CDI Suite

Minute

CDI/OUT/2020/

**DEFENCE'S OFFICIAL OVERVIEW: THE PARLIAMENTARY JOINT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY'S ADMINISTRATION AND
EXPENDITURE REVIEW NO. 19**

1. The Chief of Defence Intelligence, LTGEN Gavan Reynolds, is the head of the Defence Intelligence Group and the Director of the Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO). He also has responsibility for the Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation (AGO) as part of the Defence Intelligence Group.
2. AGO is the Australian Government's lead organisation for the provision of geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) in support of Defence and national security requirements.
3. Over the 2019-20 reporting period, AGO produced GEOINT in support of the ADF and the Government's national security priorities. AGO's GEOINT continued to underpin informed decision-making, and was an important enabler for increasingly sophisticated ADF operating systems and platforms.
4. DIO is Defence's strategic all-source intelligence assessment agency. It provides independent intelligence assessments, advice and services to support the Defence mission of Defending Australia and its interests.
5. Over 2019-20, DIO provided extensive assessments on key international developments relating to Australia's defence and national security. These assessments played a critical role in supporting the planning and conduct of ADF operations; Defence policy, planning and decision-making; Defence capability development and sustainment; and Government planning and decision-making.
6. In the second half of the reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in both AGO and DIO activating business continuity plans in line with social distancing requirements, with a focus on maintaining critical intelligence support to the ADF and Whole-of-Government intelligence requirements while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of staff.
7. During 2019-20, Defence also undertook an independent review of the Defence Intelligence Enterprise. This resulted in the establishment of a dedicated Defence Intelligence Group under the Chief of Defence Intelligence on 1 September 2020. The Review recommendations will be fully implemented by January 2021.

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8. Over 2019-20, Defence also continued to support the National Intelligence Community framework, with a focus on ensuring Defence Intelligence remains closely aligned with Whole-of-Government policy and intelligence efforts.



GJ Reynolds
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