



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Submission No:/...../.....

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ASMES/OUT/2005/15

3 August 2005

Ms Bronwen Jagers
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Jagers

Please find enclosed Defence's responses to questions taken on notice at the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit hearing held at the Defence National Storage and Distribution Centre, Moorebank on 27 June 2005.

If you have any questions please contact me on (02) 6265 6277.

Yours sincerely

Alison West
Director
Statutory Reporting and Accountability
Coordination and Public Affairs Division

Enclosure:

1. Responses to questions on notice taken at the JCPAA hearing of 27 July 2005.

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
27 June Hearing on Audit Reports No. 5 and No. 21
Answers to questions on notice from Department of Defence

QUESTION 1

Miss Kelly

Hansard: page 25

What is the annual churn rate for SDSS users?

RESPONSE

The annual churn rate of the users of SDSS is approximately 8 per cent, comprising ADF members, civilian employees of Defence, and contractors.

QUESTION 2

Miss Kelly

Hansard: pages 25-27

How many civilian and military personnel are involved in the support, maintenance and operations of SDSS, apart from 8,000 active users?

RESPONSE

There are currently 68 Defence personnel working full-time on the support, maintenance, and day-to-day operation of SDSS.

QUESTION 3

Miss Kelly/Mr Baldwin

Hansard: page 50

Please provide the committee with details of the expertise being carried forward into JP2077 by people with prior involvement in SDSS and inventory management.

RESPONSE

Defence personnel provide management and leadership of the JP2077 project. These personnel have specific experience in the operation, management and sustainment of SDSS and have extensive experience in the inventory management practices of Defence.

External contractors with information technology expertise and supply systems and inventory management experience are providing input and advice to the operational and planning aspects of JP2077.

There is also a comprehensive stakeholder involvement program, to engage stakeholders and users across Defence with a strong interest, or relevant experience and expertise, in the logistics system.

There are 11 full-time and 54 part-time Defence personnel and seven contract personnel engaged in JP2077 with prior involvement in SDSS and inventory management.

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QUESTION 4

Mr Baldwin/Ms Grierson

Hansard: page 50

Please provide the committee with details of JP2077 Phase 2B, including project stages and indicators.

RESPONSE

JP2077 Phase 2B has the following stages:

- Phase 2B.1: Core software upgrade, financial framework re-development, and military off-the-shelf enhancements; and
- Phase 2B.2: Integrated in-transit visibility and deployability capability.

Phase 2B.1

The core software upgrade will implement the next generation of the Mincom software, Ellipse. The financial framework redevelopment will provide enhanced financial functionality, compatible with the Defence financial information system ROMAN, to meet increasing financial reporting and audit requirements. Military off-the-shelf enhancements will incorporate key defence modifications into the standard 'off-the-shelf' product, enabling significantly reduced maintenance and support costs for Defence.

Phase 2B.2

Integrated in-transit visibility will provide SDSS users with accurate and up-to-the-minute information on the location of equipment in transit within the supply system. At present, this information is not readily available and can only be obtained through a laborious and manual process. Deployability capability will allow SDSS to operate effectively, independently of a fixed communications link, and will allow more effective and reliable logistics support to deployed operational units overseas.

The anticipated time frames for these key project stages are:

- 2B.1: Second Pass Approval 1st quarter 2006
- 2B.2: Second Pass Approval 2nd quarter/3rd quarter 2006
- 2B.1: Implementation 2nd quarter 2007
- 2B.2: Implementation 4th quarter 2009