



Submission No 6

Review of the Defence Annual Report 2011 - 2012

Organisation: Department of Defence – Answers to questions on notice

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – COMMITTEES

**Review of 2011-2012 Defence Annual Report – Joint Strike Fighter hearing
16 May 2013**

Whole-of-System and Subcomponent Tests of AIM-9X.

Senator Fawcett asked on 16 May 2013:

Senator FAWCETT: In our agreements with the Americans and the Joint Strike Fighter project, what options do we have to do subcomponent and whole of system tests on the AIM-9X here in Australia in understanding its performance, particularly its sensor capabilities?

Response:

Australia will have the ability to conduct whole-of-system tests of AIM-9X from Australian F-35As in Australia as part of Australian operational test and evaluation, and during ongoing training and testing activities. The scope of AIR 6000 Phase 2A/B includes AIM-9X whole-of-system testing. The new air combat capability project team is planning to acquire instrumented missiles to enable this.

Dedicated AIM-9X seeker testing will not occur in Australia. Information derived from United States-based seeker testing is expected to be used to inform Defence's understanding of the AIM-9X capability. Defence expects to gain sufficient insight into the capabilities of AIM-9X through operational, technical and Defence Science and Technology Organisation scientific engagement with the AIM-9X United States program office and United States services, and through the whole-of-system testing in Australia.

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – COMMITTEES

Review of the Defence Annual Report 2011-2012

16 May 2013 hearing on Joint Strike Fighter

New Method of Measuring and Reporting to Allow Effective Assessment of Forces Readiness

The Committee provided in writing:

Submission No. 1 (Mr James Brown, Military Fellow to the Lowy Institute) recommends that Defence construct a new method of measuring and reporting performance, noting that the current report does not allow for an effective assessment of the readiness of forces (p. 10). a. What is Defence's response to this criticism of current reporting? b. Has Defence considered any other reporting methodologies?

Response:

(a) With regard to routine reporting, Defence provides regular quarterly reports on readiness (also called preparedness) to the Minister for Defence. Because of the sensitive nature of assessments on Defence's ability to undertake tasks as directed by the Government, most preparedness and capability reporting is classified. Advice on capability issues arising outside the reporting cycle is also provided directly to the Minister by the responsible Service Chief.

Defence's public reporting conforms with the Annual Report performance reporting required by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit under subsections 63(2) and 70(2) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. It should be noted that in addition to the three-ticks performance reporting in the 2011-2012 Defence Annual Report, the Report includes several types of statistical performance data that allow a more granular assessment of performance. These include flying hours for aircraft types across all three Services, as well as readiness and availability performance data for Navy fleet units. In these examples both the actual performance and the relevant performance targets are included.

Defence notes that the Defence Annual Report is not the only method by which Defence supports review of its own operational performance. Defence also releases statistical information on its website (<http://www.defence.gov.au>). Defence is also seeking to place more information, including information sought regularly by Parliamentary Committees through Questions on Notice, on its Information Publication Scheme website (<http://defence.gov.au/ips/index.htm>). Additionally, working papers and study reports of the various Service study centres, including the Land Warfare Studies Centre Airpower Development Centre and Sea Power Centre, are available online to the Parliament and the public, and often provide critical perspectives on Defence performance issues.

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – COMMITTEES

**Review of the Defence Annual Report 2011-2012 – 16 May 2013
Hearing on Joint Strike Fighter**

Routine Publishing Information on Performance

The Committee asked: At a public hearing, Mr Brown recommended that Defence move towards publishing more statistics and information similar to the analytical statistical agency of the UK Ministry of Defence, which routinely publishes information on MoD performance. a. What is Defence's response to this recommendation?

Response:

The Defence Annual Report (DAR) is Defence's primary vehicle for the release of statistical information pertaining to the Defence portfolio. The DAR contains many statistics comparable to those accessible via the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence's statistical agency (Defence Analytical Services and Advice), including statistics on Defence staffing and finance.

Defence also releases statistical information comparable to the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence's statistical agency on its website <http://www.defence.gov.au/>. For example, the operations section of this website includes statistics on Australian Defence Force casualties.

Defence is also seeking to place more information, including information sought regularly by Parliamentary Committees through Questions on Notice, on its Information Publication Scheme website (<http://www.defence.gov.au/ips/index.htm>). Responses to Questions on Notice, available from the Australian Parliamentary website, also contain considerable statistical data for researchers and the general public.

Defence will continue to review its approach to statistical performance reporting, including in considering the preparation of the 2012-2013 Defence Annual Report.

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Three Ticks Performance Reporting Methodology

Mr Brown characterised Defence's approach to performance reporting as "overly optimistic", and was critical of the three ticks performance reporting methodology. Mr Brown drew New Zealand's and the United Kingdom's defence reporting to the Sub-Committee's attention, saying they are more detailed and allow for a more accurate assessment of performance (Transcript, 16 May 2013, p. 2). a. What is Defence's response to this criticism?

Response:

Defence is committed to performance reporting that reflects in a balanced way both the achievements of the Australian Defence Organisation and its current and future challenges.

It should be noted that in addition to the three-ticks performance reporting in the 2011-2012 Defence Annual Report, the Report includes several types of statistical performance data that allow a more granular assessment of performance. These include flying hours for aircraft types across all three Services and readiness data for Navy fleet units. In these examples both the actual performance and the relevant performance targets are included.

It should also be noted that Defence releases statistical information comparable to the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence's statistical agency on its website <http://www.defence.gov.au/>. For example, the operations section of this website includes statistics on Australian Defence Force casualties.

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