
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Defence Sub-Committee
Visit to RAAF Williamtown,
Darwin Establishments,
East Timor & RAAF Tindal

14-17 July 2003

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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Chairman's Foreword

The Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee completed a successful visit program to Australian Defence Force (ADF) facilities at RAAF Williamtown, Darwin, East Timor and RAAF Tindal between 14 and 17 July 2003.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for Members to familiarise themselves with the ADF establishments situated on RAAF Base Williamtown and the various Defence establishments in the Darwin area, in particular Northern Command (NORCOM) and the North West Mobile Force (NORFORCE). As part of this visit program, the members undertook a day visit to East Timor to gain an appreciation of the excellent work being undertaken by the Australian contingent involved with 'Operation Citadel' (OP CITADEL), the Australian contribution to the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET). The visit program concluded with an inspection of RAAF Base Tindal.

The sub-committee was introduced to a broad range of Defence capabilities and were exposed to a wide variety of issues. The report is not an exhaustive examination of the establishments visited nor of the issues raised during the inspection program. Rather, the report outlines the extent and nature of the activities of the sub-committee during the visit and the main issues presented.

The sub-committee was particularly interested in OP CITADEL, Australia's contribution to the UNMISET Peacekeeping Force and its elements: Australian National Command Element - East Timor (ASNCE-EM) located in Dili; and Australian Battalion Group Rotation Eight (AUSBATT VIII) situated in Forward Operating Base MOLEANA in the BOBONARO District.

The committee members noted that the ADF personnel supporting OP CITADEL displayed remarkable professionalism and dedication to what was clearly a most arduous undertaking. The harsh nature of the geography, climate, poor transport systems and general lack of infrastructure were clearly evident. Notwithstanding, the committee was impressed with the ingenuity of the ADF members in making

their living accommodation reasonably liveable, even at the most forward of the operating bases, and the conspicuous focus on health and safety.

The sub-committee is most appreciative of the considerable efforts of numerous people and organisations that contributed to the success of this tour. In particular, the sub-committee extends its thanks and gratitude to all those who provided briefings, presentations, were escorts or who provided armed close personal protection to the members. Throughout the tour, the committee was impressed with the excellent quality of the presentations provided, a number of which were given by ADF personnel from RAAF Williamtown, NORCOM, NORFORCE and RAAF Tindal who returned from recreation leave. The committee greatly appreciated this effort. Indeed, the overall impression gained by the sub-committee was a lasting one of an ADF replete with very dedicated and thoroughly professional men and women who made us feel quite proud to be Australian.

Lastly, the committee is particularly grateful to the Minister of Defence for making available the BBJ-737 aircraft from No.34 Squadron that transported the members from RAAF Fairbairn to RAAF Williamtown, RAAF Darwin, East Timor, RAAF Tindal and back to RAAF Fairbairn. The flight crew were unfailing in their cooperation and assistance, and made the flying legs of the inspection tour a thorough pleasure to undertake.

Hon Bruce Scott, MP

Chair, Defence Sub-Committee

Membership of the Committee

Chair Senator A B Ferguson

Deputy Chair Hon L J Brereton, MP

Members

Senator A Bartlett (from 1/7/02)	Mr R C Baldwin, MP
Senator M Bishop (from 1/7/02; to 19/8/02)	Hon K C Beazley, MP
Senator the Hon N Bolkus (from 1/7/02)	Hon A R Bevis, MP
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Senator K O'Brien (from 1/7/02)	Hon B C Scott, MP
Senator M A Payne	Hon W E Snowdon, MP
Senator the Hon C Schacht (to 30/6/02)	Hon A M Somlyay, MP
Hon B G Baird, MP	Mr C P Thompson, MP

Secretary Dr Margot Kerley

Membership of the Defence Sub-Committee

Chair	Hon B C Scott, MP	
Deputy Chair	Hon L R S Price, MP	
Members	Senator C Evans	Mr R C Baldwin, MP
	Senator A B Ferguson	Hon K C Beazley, MP
	Senator S Hutchins (to 30/6/02; from 19/8/02)	Hon A R Bevis, MP
	Senator D Johnston (from 22/8/02)	Hon L J Brereton, MP
	Senator J A L Macdonald	Mr AM Byrne, MP
	Senator M A Payne	Hon G J Edwards, MP
		Mrs J Gash, MP
		Mr D P M Hawker, MP
		Mr P J Lindsay, MP
		Mr G R Nairn, MP
		Hon W E Snowdon, MP
		Hon A M Somlyay, MP
		Mr C P Thompson, MP
Secretary	Mr Stephen Boyd	
Defence Adviser	Wing Commander Rob Scrivener, AM, CSM	
Administrative Officer	Ms Emma Flynn	



Visit Participants

Chair	Hon Bruce Scott, MP	
Deputy Chair	Hon Roger Price, MP	
Members	Hon Kim Beazley, MP	Senator Alan Ferguson
	Hon Warren Snowdon, MP	Senator Sandy Macdonald
Secretary	Mr Stephen Boyd	
Secretary JSCFADT	Dr Margot Kerley	
Defence Adviser	Wing Commander Rob Scrivener, AM, CSM	
Administrative Officer	Ms Emma Flynn	
Defence Representative	Wing Commander Bob Richardson	



Maritime Strategy

terms of reference

The primary priority for the Australian Defence Force (ADF), identified in the White Paper *Defence 2000*, is 'to defend Australia from any credible attack, without relying on help from the combat forces of any other country'.

The key to defending Australia is 'to control the air and sea approaches to our continent, so as to deny them to hostile ships and aircraft, and provide maximum freedom of action for our forces'. For this purpose Australia relies on a 'fundamentally maritime strategy'. To successfully apply a maritime strategy the Australian Defence Organisation (ADO) will 'maintain and further develop an integrated and balanced joint force'.

This inquiry aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of Maritime Strategy and its place within Australia's broader military strategy and defence policy. It is **not limited** to an examination of Australia's naval or maritime forces nor is it focused only on the Defence of Australia.

The inquiry also seeks to understand the implications of a Maritime Strategy for the other tasks set out in the White Paper, namely: contributing to the security of our immediate neighbourhood; contributing effectively to international coalitions beyond our immediate neighbourhood; and support of peacetime national tasks.

Terms of Reference

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade shall inquire into and report on the ADO ability to deliver the necessary capabilities to meet Australia's strategic interests and objectives as defined in *Defence 2000*, with specific reference to the:

- ADO capability to apply the maritime strategy outlined in *Defence 2000* in the current strategic environment;

- primary roles in Australia's maritime strategy of the key components of the ADO, including the three services, Defence Intelligence Organisation and ADF Command and Control structure;
- impact of Australia's maritime strategy on ADF capacity to participate in combined, multi-national regional and global coalition military operations;
- integration of maritime strategy with the other elements of Australian national power to achieve specified national strategic interests and objectives;
- impact of the evolving strategic environment on Australia's maritime strategy; and
- integration of Australian Defence Industry into capability development to support a maritime strategy.



List of abbreviations

ADF	Australian Defence Force
ADFWC	ADF Warfare Centre
AEW&C	Airborne Early Warning and Control
AO	Area of Operations
AR	Area of Responsibility
ASLAV	Australian Light Armoured Vehicle
ASNCE-EM	Australian National Command Element – East Timor
ATC	Air Traffic Control
CO	Commanding Officer
CDF	Chief of the Defence Force
COMASC	Commander Australian Contingent (East Timor)
COMAST	Commander Australian Theatre
COMNORCOM	Commander, Headquarters Northern Command
CRU	Control and Reporting Unit
CSU	Combat Support Unit
ECSS	Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron
DACC	Defence Aid (Assistance) to the Civil Community

DFACA	Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authorities
IFF	Identification, Friend or Foe
JCSS	Joint Command Support System
JORN	Jindalee Operational Radar Network
JOSS	Joint Operating Simulation System
JTLS	Joint Theatre Level Simulation
LCAUST	Land Commander Australia
OC	Officer Commanding (For the Air Force, normally an Officer superior to a CO; for the ARA, an Officer subordinate to a CO)
OP CITADEL	Operation Citadel – Australia’s peacekeeping contribution to UNMISET
NORCOM	Northern Command
NORFORCE	North West Mobile Force
RFSU	Regional Force Surveillance Unit
RSU	Radar Surveillance Unit
SACTU	Surveillance and Control Training Unit
SRG	Strategic Reconnaissance Group
UNMISET	United Nations Mission in Support to East Timor
04	Squadron Leader (e)
05	Wing Commander (e)



Acknowledgements

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Further, the delegation would like to express their sincere gratitude and thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Schlatter, CSC, Chief of Staff for the Australian National Command Element – East Timor (ASNCE-EM), and Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Smith, Commanding Officer of the Australian Battalion VIII (AUSBATT VIII), Moleana, East Timor, for their outstanding contribution in developing, preparing, coordinating and conducting the extensive tour of East Timor on 16 July 2003. The visit to East Timor was most impressive and a resounding success due to the excellent work carried out by these Officers and their staff.