



Reply to the Director General Coastwatch

Customs House
5 Constitution Avenue
Canberra ACT 2601

Quote: C01/01550

Ms R. Perkin
Research Officer
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Perkin,

I refer to your letter of 1 May 2001 addressed to Mr. Stone seeking a response to questions in relation to the role of CATOs.

The answers to the questions posed are as follows:

What is the staffing situation regarding the Competency Assessment and Training Officers?

The CATOs are now fully staffed to the necessary work value level which will allow for the full rate of 15% of flights to be achieved for the first time in three years. All new CATOs recruited have strong aviation backgrounds, either ex-military or civil aviation.

Briefly outline the range of training activities Coastwatch is responsible for?

Coastwatch is responsible for a range of training activities, including the Basic Visual Surveillance Training Course through to electronic Mission Coordinator training. Many of the training courses have recently been rewritten to meet competency based training standards and to supplement the existing training manuals which were not as comprehensive as was needed.

What type of monitoring and training does Coastwatch provide to aircrews?

Crew compliance is monitored in flight and exams are set by the CATOs who debrief the crew, inform the contractors of scores achieved in exams and provide feedback on flights assessed to help the contractors manage their human resources appropriately.

I agree that this information can be made available for the public record. If you require any further information please contact me on 6275 6191.

Yours sincerely,

R E Shalders
Rear Admiral, RAN
Director General
Coastwatch

4 May 2001