



Submission No 28

Inquiry into Australian Defence Force Regional Air Superiority

Organisation: Department of Defence

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Australian Government
Department of Defence

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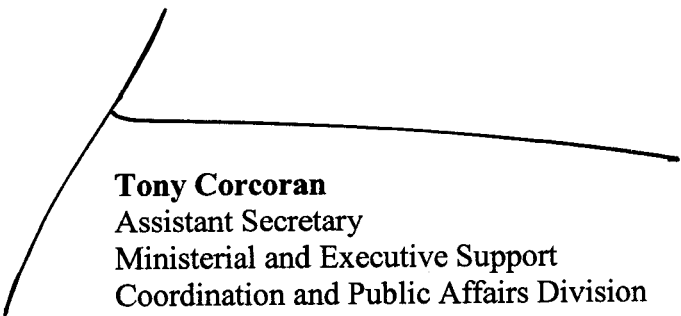
Dr Margot Kerley
Secretary
Defence sub-committee
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Kerley

Please find attached the response to the question taken on notice by Defence at the recent Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade hearing into *Australian Defence Force (ADF) Regional Air Superiority* on 31 March 2006. The response has been approved by the Minister.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Oldroyd on (02) 6265 6277.

Yours sincerely



Tony Corcoran
Assistant Secretary
Ministerial and Executive Support
Coordination and Public Affairs Division
Tel: (02) 6265 4414

Attachment

- A. Defence response to question on notice from the Hon Graham Edwards MP,
31 March 2006.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
HEARING INTO AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE REGIONAL AIR SUPERIORITY –
DEFENCE RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

MP F/A-18 Engine Failures
Hon Graham Edwards, MP
Hansard p.46

Question

What percentage of F18s forced landings have been due to engine failure?

Response

To date, there have been no RAAF F/A-18 forced landings or aircraft losses due to engine failures.

With the redundancy provided by two engines, an F/A-18 pilot will respond to a range of potential engine problems by shutting down the engine or reducing power (to avoid the possibility of further damage to the engine) and returning to base. In the RAAF F/A-18 fleet, during a typical year, comprising approximately 9000 sorties, between three and ten in-flight precautionary engine shutdowns occur (three per year over the past four years) in response to a range of circumstances, including faulty sensor indications.