

Miletic, Daniel (REPS)

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To: Committee, PJCAAD (REPS)
Subject: submission



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Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD

Dear Honourable Members and Senators

The defence and security of our nation must be paramount at all times, as I am certain you would all agree.

However, how that is achieved will be a matter of some issue.

My brief submission is based on past service in the RAN Reserves, on a decade in civilian security (not counting special events such as various international sporting competitions and the Air Show, and some twelve years in crime prevention^s in my home state.

In point form my submission is as follows:-

1. Security and defence organisations need to have a diversity of personnel, from diverse backgrounds. This is the only way to understand, hopefully, the ethnic mind, the cultures and ideologies of persons who may pose a potential threat to Australia. Whilst some services are reasonable in this regards far more needs to be achieved to ensure optimum results, and by optimum I mean THE security of our nation and her peoples.
2. In addition they must recruit linguists. They must have people whom they can trust and who can determine the origins of persons who claim to be from certain countries or who refuse to identify their back grounds at all. This area is incredibly lacking at present and threatens our security.
3. There need to be clear and undeniable rules that guide how the organisations will achieve their stated aims. All Australians would hate to think that we would ever suffer from the type of nonsense that US movies portray about their own intelligence and security services arguing over who is responsible for what and where, about jurisdiction, about whether or not they will share information, § But authority needs to be established and there must also be a policy guarantee that we do not, as with Sept 11, have agents report concerns only to be ignored.
4. Security at airports remains a joke for many reasons. I have been through our airports as an ADF person, as Chairman of the Moonee Valley Police Community Consultative Committee with police and airport security (and thus into areas not allowed to the general public), as a participant in a mock emergency and as a passenger. I have been to major and smaller Aussie airports. Folks I am far from impressed. For instance on one occasion, last year, I went to Canberra. As the plane was taxiing to the terminal I saw RAAF Fairbairn, gates to the car park fully open with no one there, gates to the tarmac also open. In other words a freak could have driven right through from outside to the tarmac without being stopped.
5. To that last point I refer you to something I once read at the then RAAF Tottenham. The greatest threat to security is the belief that there is no threat. Practice security at all times.
6. There are many types of items that can be smuggled on board planes as weapons. Okay you cannot stop everything from committed terrorists but you can significantly reduce things and most people would not object to being forced to leave all metallic items even expensive pens, in special bags in secure compartments that they cannot access until the flight is over.
7. A few years ago a very senior domestic airline security person advised my PCCC [supra] that as the law then stood if a person had a weapon then it would be taken off them but returned after the flight, even if it was a knife or gun. A middle ranking police mate confirmed it. It took considerable effort to force changes to that moronic policy because bureaucrats opposed anyone not of their own ilk having a useful idea.
8. Privacy is important but security is greater. Most would agree and the Civil Rights groups can walk if they have a complaint.

Anyway these are just a few ideas from me, at this stage

Mr A T Kenos