



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
DEFENCE CORPORATE SUPPORT

Russell Offices, R8-3-037, CANBERRA ACT 2600

DCS 104 /2000

24 May 2000

Mr Paul Barsdell
Secretary
Senate Legislation Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Barsdell

I write to clarify the situation in regard to evidence given at recent estimates hearings concerning the function which was held at Victoria Barracks Paddington Officers Mess on 27 July 1999.

Additional information has come to hand in the last few days which indicates that an additional person assisted with the preparation of food for the function.

The additional person was an Army chef, based at that time in Melbourne, who had been selected for the position of the Chief of the Defence Force's chef, a position due for rotation at the end of 1999. It was determined that the chef's professional development would benefit greatly from observing the preparations for, and conduct of, a function such as the dinner at Victoria Barracks.

The Chief of Staff in the Office of the Chief of the Defence Force directed that the chef observe the function as a training opportunity. On this basis, funding for travel and accommodation for this person was provided from within the Chief of the Defence Force's staff funds and the costs were not included in the staff costs for the function.

Although this person's primary role was that of an observer, I have become aware that he was involved in the preparation of food for the function.

This information is provided in order to give as complete an explanation as possible in relation to the matter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Sharp
Head Defence Corporate Support



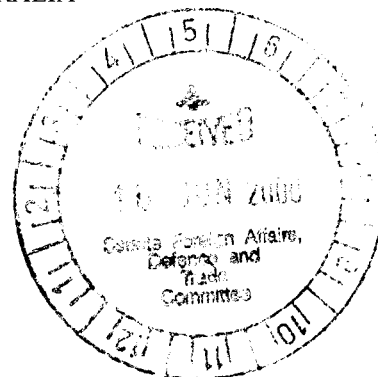
AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS

NATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

Russell Offices (R1-3-A171), CANBERRA ACT 2600, AUSTRALIA

HNS/OUT/2000/ 134
DHQ 99-23981 Pt1

Mr Paul Barsdell
Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislative Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Barsdell

I write to clarify the evidence given by Major General Dunn, the then Head Defence Personnel Executive, at the recent Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Senate Legislative Committee hearing of 30 May 2000.

At page 168 of the *Proof Committee Hansard* of 30 May 2000, Senator West asked whether the proposal for a special Reserve force involving the staff of Defence contractors had been considered as part of the Reserves call out and protection legislation. Major General Dunn advised that it had not. In responses to follow on questions, Major General Dunn indicated that Defence had looked at the UK Sponsored Reserve scheme and did not intend to pursue the concept. While the statements made by General Dunn are correct in the context of the legislation currently being progressed to address Reserve call out and protection provisions, there is in fact some exploratory work being done in Defence to examine the possible application to the Australian scene of a specialist contractor Reserve concept, drawing on the UK experience. Some clarification is needed in that wider context.

Government policy, as expressed in the Defence and Industry Strategic Policy Statement 1998, sees industry as an integral part of the nation's Defence capability, and requires a supporting culture and arrangements within Defence to foster industry's development and involvement on that basis. Accordingly, the National Support Staff of the Australian Defence Headquarters has been progressing a project to identify and remove constraints associated with the use of contractors in support of ADF operations, both in the deployed situation and in the rear support areas. The project has been conducted in consultation with Defence stakeholders, and industry Project Advisory Group representatives have been regularly informed of the considerations. One of the issues is the use of deployed contractors providing mission essential support in circumstances where the threat becomes high. In such situations, an alternative to evacuating the contractor or diverting military resources to provide dedicated protection, would be of value. The concepts behind the UK Sponsored Reserve scheme may offer some promise in this regard, allowing volunteer Reserve contractors to continue to provide support, but in uniform. The conclusion has been drawn that this possibility warrants further study and it will be followed up in the second half of this year. Any special Reserve scheme associated with contractors would be required to meet the broader Reserve requirements, in particular that relating to the voluntary nature of the Reserves, a point

emphasised by Major General Dunn in his statement to the Committee. If the evaluation indicates that some form of special Reserves associated with contractor support is a viable option, such a scheme would represent an additional option for Reserve participation in Australia's defence.

Your assistance in incorporating the above clarification into the official record would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Hingston', written in a cursive style.

C. HINGSTON
Air Vice-Marshal
Head National Support

Tel: (02) 626 57040

16 June 2000



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
DEFENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

Russell Offices, R1-G-C038, CANBERRA ACT 2600

PACC 2000/181

27 June 2000

Mr Paul Barsdell
Secretary
Senate Legislation Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Barsdell

I write to clarify the situation in regard to evidence given at the recent budget estimates hearing concerning the structure of the Defence Public Affairs and Corporate Communications.

In answer to a question from Senator West (page 173 of Hansard Tuesday 30 May 2000), I indicated that "There will be an officer in each of the arms of the forces – within the personnel area, within the acquisitions area and within the science area....". This information is not correct. There will be no officers employed within the science area.

There was no intention to mislead the Committee and I apologise for any misunderstanding.

Yours sincerely

JENNY McKENRY
Head Public Affairs and Corporate Communication



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
DEFENCE PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE

Russell Offices, R1-1-C003, CANBERRA ACT 2600

RM-PE 118 /2000

9 June 2000

Mr Paul Barsdell
Secretary
Senate Legislation Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Barsdell

I write to clarify the situation in regard to evidence given at the recent budget estimates hearing concerning the selection criteria for the Defence Service Centre at Cooma.

In answer to a question from Senator Hogg (page 185 of Hansard Tuesday 30 May 2000), General Dunn indicated that he had previously supplied the committee with the selection criteria details. It has come to light that this was not the case. The question has now been included for response as a question on notice.

I apologise for any misunderstanding.

Yours sincerely

P J DUNN (Gen)
MAJGEN
Head Defence Personnel Executive