

DMO

Defence Materiel Organisation

HI&I/OUT/2000/10

29 September 2000

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



Dear ~~Mr~~ Barsdell

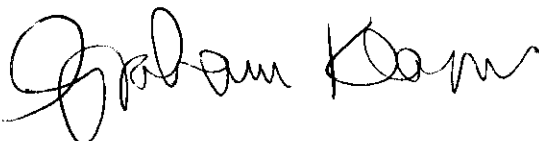
I write to amend a response given to a question on notice arising from the 2000-01 Budget estimates hearing in May this year.

During the hearing, Senator Hogg put a written question on notice in regard to the postponement of the Defence Procurement Conference (question 45). In part c of the question, relating to the cost of venue cancellation, we informed the committee that the cost was approximately \$56,070.

On 10 August 2000, the Department paid an invoice for \$6,000 as part of the cost of venue cancellation. This was part of the negotiated cost of cancellation but had not been paid at the time the response to Senator Hogg's question was prepared. The officer compiling the response was unaware of the outstanding liability and, therefore, it was not included in the total figure.

In the interests of providing the most complete information to the Parliament, I wish to draw to the Committee's attention that this one further payment was made, taking the cost of postponement to \$62,070. A revised response is attached.

Yours sincerely



Graham Kearns
Head Industry and Infrastructure
Defence Materiel Organisation

QUESTION 45

SENATOR: Hogg

HANSARD: Written question

In relation to the annual Defence Procurement Conference:

- a. Why has it been postponed this year?
- b. When do you expect that it will be rescheduled for?
- c. What costs are involved in postponing (advertising costs, etc)?

RESPONSE

- a. The Procurement Conference was postponed to allow the conference to include anticipated new information about future capability requirements and Defence restructuring to be included in the Conference. Had the decision to defer not been taken it could have necessitated industry attending an additional conference later in the year with the associated costs.
- b. It is not possible to accurately predict when the conference will be held, but it will most likely be after the release of the Government's Defence White Paper.
- c. The cost to the Department is approximately \$62,070, comprising:
 - Venue cancellation - \$27,000
 - The original deposit for the venue hire was \$54,000. The conference was postponed approximately 6 weeks prior to the event. The deposit that was forfeited as a result of cancellation was negotiated down to \$27,000.
 - Administrative support - \$13,978
 - This comprised participant registrations, correspondence costs, telephone and postage, graphic design and website development. DPM Conferencing was contracted to provide these services on behalf of Defence.
 - Advertising and Printing - \$21,092
 - Most advertising had gone to print prior to the decision to cancel the conference.

From: Major General P.F. Leahy, AM
Deputy Chief of Army



Army Headquarters
R1-4-8031
Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone (02) 6265 4258
Facsimile (02) 6265 5446

DCA/OUT/2000/432

27 November 2000

Senator Sandy MacDonald
National Party Senator for NSW
Parliament House
ACT 2600

Dear Senator

On 23 November, while giving evidence on behalf of Army, at the Senate Legislative Committee Supplementary Hearing, I inadvertently gave an incomplete answer to a question from Senator Hogg. I wish to provide further detail.

In answer to a question in relation to Steyr rifles I indicated that there had been 14 RODUMs (Report of Defective Unit Materiel). At the time I believed the answer to be complete. However, after reading more material I now understand that my answer was incomplete. The figure 14 relates to safety related RODUMs, since 1996, not the total figure of RODUMs on the Steyr rifle since its introduction into service in 1988. This error was caused when I incompletely read a brief.

RODUMs can be best categorised into two areas. First, those which are safety related and second, those which are performance and engineering related. There are currently a total of 470 RODUM on the Steyr on the RODUM database (this includes the 14 safety related RODUMs since 1996). As this is a much larger figure than the 14 I mentioned on 23 November further detail is offered.

The vast majority of RODUMs, which can be submitted by any soldier, relate to performance and engineering issues such as the optic sights, the weapon sling and the gas operating system. As an example approximately 137 RODUMs were submitted on optic sights during a time when the in-service manager requested 100% reporting for warranty purposes. Very few RODUM result in a change to weapon design and configuration. Examples are: the redesign and replacement of the gas plug; the introduction of a new lubrication regime; and amendments to maintenance procedures.

With regard to safety, there are 17 RODUMs on the database. Of these 16 have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Senior Engineer Armaments. The outstanding one relates to a warranty issue on quantity 4 of the F88SA1 receiver group. The outstanding issue is being resolved by ADI Lithgow. As I stated on 23 November, Army remains convinced that the F88 Steyr is safe and suitable for service.

I regret giving an incomplete answer to the Committee. I am available should Senator Hogg or other Committee Members require any further explanation.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Hogg', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
DEFENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

Russell Offices, R1-G-C052, CANBERRA ACT 2600

HPACC 2000/12981
PACC 534/00

28 November 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 position of Director General Communications and Public Affairs.

In answer to a question from Senator Hogg (page 84 of Hansard Thursday 23 November 2000), I indicated that "There have been people acting throughout the year, but the last one started in November". This information is not correct as the officer I was referring to started in October.

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
AEROSPACE SYSTEMS DIVISION

Russell Offices, R2-5-C065, CANBERRA ACT 2600

HASD250/2000

4 December 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 contact between the Prime Minister's office and the Special Purpose Aircraft Project Office, and also regarding formal reporting of AEW&C contract negotiations to the Minister for Defence.

In answer to a question from Senator Faulkner (page 40 of Hansard Thursday 23 November 2000), I indicated that "My understanding is that members of the PM's office may attend this mid-December meeting but, at the moment, there has been no contact". This information is not correct, as since approval to negotiate was given, the Project Office has had contact with the Prime Minister's Office by means of a briefing on 13 Oct 2000, organised by PM&C. The briefing was convened to outline, to both PM&C and the PM's office, the processes and progress for finalising aircraft specifications. During the meeting the PM's office representative requested that they be kept in the loop through PM&C. This request was subsequently followed up in writing. The proposed mid December meeting is expected to involve representatives from PM&C and the PM's office, as I stated in testimony.

In answer to Senator Hogg (page 23 of Hansard Thursday 23 November 2000) regarding reporting processes to the Minister during AEW&C contract negotiations, I stated "There was no formal reporting back". I need to clarify this statement. There have been formal reports to the Minister on the AEW&C Project that mention, inter alia, the status of contract negotiations. However, there were no dedicated formal reports on the progress of contract negotiations.

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

Yours sincerely

R.J. CONROY
Air Vice-Marshal
Head Aerospace Systems Division



HEADQUARTERS AUSTRALIAN THEATRE

14-18 Wylde Street, Potts Point, NSW 2011

HQAST 414-1-2
HQAST 01456/00

5 December 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 evidence given at the Senate Legislation Committee Budget Supplementary Hearing on 23 November 2000 concerning policy applied for subsequent employment of personnel who have contracted malaria or dengue fever in East Timor.

The information was provided in response to a question from Senator West (page 42 and 45 of Hansard Thursday 23 November 2000). In addressing the policy applying to personnel who have contracted malaria or dengue fever, I indicated that there was a policy for dengue but not one for malaria. This may suggest that the issue has not been fully addressed. Future service by personnel who have contracted and recovered from either dengue fever or malaria has been considered, with policy developed for both circumstances. I anticipate that HDPE will provide full policy details in response to Question on Notice Number 9 from that Hearing.

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

Yours sincerely

R.B.TRELOAR
AVM
COMAST



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

CANBERRA ACT 2600, AUSTRALIA

7 December 2000

1999/35258
HDE/237/2000

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 Senate Legislation Committee Budget Supplementary Hearing on 23 November 2000 concerning the properties for which Defence will receive supplementation when sale and lease-back arrangements are completed.

In answer to a question from Senator Hogg (page 30 of Hansard Thursday 23 November 2000) on what arrangements had been made about lease-back proposals, Mr Corey indicated that Defence would be supplemented for the lease-back of the Russell Offices, but not for any other properties. However, Defence will also be supplemented for two other properties. These are the Hydrographic Office in Wollongong and the Mount Macedon facility in Victoria.

There was no intention to mislead the Committee and I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Bain'.

Ross Bain
Acting Head Defence Estate
Defence Estate Organisation



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

CANBERRA ACT 2600, AUSTRALIA

7 December 2000

1999/35258 (3)
HDE/236/2000

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 Senate Legislation Committee Budget Supplementary Hearing on 23 November 2000 concerning alleged facilities problems at HMAS Cerberus.

In answer to a question from Senator Hogg (page 49 of Hansard Thursday 23 November 2000) on whether the water at the medical centre at Cerberus posed any health problems, I indicated that it was my understanding that the water is still drinkable. However, this is not the case. The management at the medical centre has used bottled water for all drinking and food preparation purposes ever since the 'blue water' has been present in the complex.

There was no intention to mislead the Committee and I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely

Ross Bain
Acting Head Defence Estate
Defence Estate Organisation



CAF DO 1032 /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 Senate Legislation Committee Budget Supplementary Hearing on 23 November 2000 concerning the discussion on the departure point and the return destination of the VIP aircraft carrying the Prime Ministerial party to Brunei.

In answer to two questions from Senator Faulkner (page 41 of Hansard Thursday 23 November 2000), I indicated that the VIP aircraft flew from Canberra to Darwin to Brunei and then back to Canberra. In reality, the aircraft flew from Richmond to Darwin to Brunei and then directly back to Richmond.

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

Yours sincerely

E.J. McCormack
Air Marshal
Chief of Air Force

R1-6-C001

8 December 2000



CHIEF OF NAVY

R1-4-C001, Russell Offices, CANBERRA ACT 2600

2000/31859
CN/OUT/2000/1265

Mr P. Barsdell

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

I write to clarify the situation in regard to evidence given at the Senate Legislation Committee Budget Supplementary Hearing on 23 November 2000 concerning the refit of HMAS MANOORA.

In answer to a question from Senator Hogg (page 46 of Hansard Thursday 23 November 2000), ... "I understood that they were undergoing sea trials and that this refit is taking place post those sea trials. Is that correct?" Chief of Navy replied "Not to my knowledge." In fact there is a project, JP8001 Phase 3A, which involves installing the Joint Task Force Headquarters (Afloat) capability aboard HMAS MANOORA during her Assisted Maintenance Period in January/February 2001.

There was no intention to mislead the Committee and any misunderstanding is regretted.

A detailed brief is attached.

B.L. ADAMS, AM
Rear Admiral, RAN
For Chief of Navy

Tel: (02) 6265 5158
E-mail: brian.adams@cbr.defence.gov.au

15 December 2000

Enclosure:

1. Brief on JP8001

RESPONSE:

JP8001 Phase 3A is tasked with installing the Joint Task Force Headquarters (Afloat) (JTFHQ-Afloat) capability aboard HMAS MANOORA during her Assisted Maintenance Period (AMP) in Jan/Feb 01. The C4I capabilities of the JTFHQ (Afloat) will be similar to, and complementary to those in HQAST, DJFHQ, and HQNORCOM and will allow a JTFHQ to plan and conduct operations from afloat as an adjunct to the Theatre Command capability. The JTFHQ(Afloat) capability comprises the following communications and command support systems:

Communications

Primary communications: Parakeet. High bandwidth communications (512 Kb (duplex) capability to forward deployed headquarters and back to the SECBRS.

Secondary/backup communications. Inmarsat B. Two systems providing 168Kb (duplex) bandwidth as a backup/alternative to Parakeet.

Theatre Broadcast System (TBS). A DSTO concept demonstrator providing a 2.5Mb broadcast capability.

Command Support and Intelligence Systems

Joint Command Support System (JCSS) for up to fifty users.

Joint Intelligence Support System (JISS) for up to five users.

Topographical Support System (TOPOSS) for up to six users.

Note. The ship already has Battlefield Command Support System (BCSS) utilising RAVEN HF & VHF communications, and the NAVSISLAN Restricted system utilising Inmarsat A communications.