



CHIEF OF
THE DEFENCE FORCE

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CDF/OUT/2006/922

Dr K. Dermody

Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

PROOF OF HANSARD CORRECTION – 1 NOVEMBER 2006

1. I write to correct evidence that I gave at the Senate Standing Committee 2006-07 budget supplementary estimates hearing on 1 November 2006.
2. The first amendment concerns ADF involvement in Operation Mountain Thrust. In answer to questions from Senator Nettle (pages 13 and 14 of *Proof Hansard*, 1 November 2006), I stated that “we had nobody that was directly involved in that operation” and “essentially we did not have anybody who was part of the combat force”. This information was incorrect because the Special Forces Task Group did participate in Operation Mountain Thrust. I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.
3. The second amendment concerns whether we have lost the war in Iraq. In answer to a question from Senator Nettle (page 38 of *Proof Hansard*, 1 November 2006), I stated “So, no, I do not agree with that statement”. I did not say ‘agreement’ as appears in the proof.

Yours sincerely

A.G. HOUSTON, AO, AFC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

23 November 2006

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

NAVY HEADQUARTERS



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CANBERRA ACT 2600

DCN/OUT/2006/616

Dr Kathleen Dermody

Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Department of the Senate

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the Senate Standing Committee 2006-07 budget supplementary estimates hearing on 1 November 2006 concerning Naval nuclear powered vessels operating in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

In answer to a question from Senator Nettle (page 79 of the Proof Hansard, 1 November 2006), I stated that I was not aware of any nuclear powered vessels taking part in Exercise Talisman Sabre 2007. This information was incorrect because two US nuclear powered submarines are scheduled to participate in the exercise.

I request you correct the record of my evidence.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely



R.H. CRANE, CSM

Rear Admiral, RAN

Deputy Chief of Navy

Tel: 02 6265 5158

| December 2006



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Chief Information Officer Group

6 December 2006

Dr Kathleen Dermody
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the Senate Standing Committee 2006-07 budget supplementary estimates hearing on 1 November 2006 concerning Information Technology support in Defence.

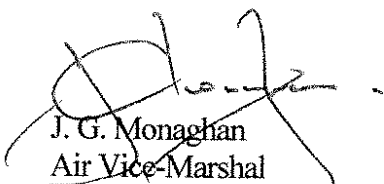
In answer to a question from Senator Bishop (page FAD&T 91 of *Proof Hansard*, 1 November 2006), I advised that the Defence backlog referred to by Senator Bishop had reduced by about 1,000. This is true, but requires clarification in that the 6,000 backlog referred to in the media was for requests awaiting action for over a month.

In subsequent evidence (page FAD&T 91 of *Proof Hansard*, 1 November 2006), I then advised that Defence considered a backlog of about 10 jobs per hundred customers would be acceptable. That figure is for total backlog. The correct benchmark for regional backlog over 30 days old would be about 3 jobs per hundred users, giving a benchmark for total regional backlog of about 2,400 for a user base of about 80,000.

The remaining evidence refers to data for total backlog and in that context is correct.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely



J. G. Monaghan
Air Vice-Marshal
Chief Information Officer
Department of Defence



CDF/OUT/2007/3

Dr K. Dermody

Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

I write to amplify evidence that I gave at the Senate Standing Committee 2006-07 Budget Supplementary Estimates hearing on 1 November 2006 concerning Defence's training in East Timor.

In answer to a question from Senator Mark Bishop (page 32 of *Proof Hansard*), I stated that the ADF's training program in East Timor was suspended and that, "We will be looking to start it again as soon as things settle down and we can start working with them again in a productive and constructive way." I would like to clarify this statement.

In terms of the military training role, we had a very extensive Defence Cooperation Program (DCP) that was in place when the violence erupted in May. As a result of the violence, the ADF withdrew eight DCP personnel and suspended its military training in leadership, mentoring and management, field training and routine training support for the F-FDTL Infantry Battalion. The ADF continued to provide specialist courses in English language, civil engineering in support of nation building and medical training throughout the crisis. These ADF activities endure due to the generic nature of the training and the broad skill sets they provide personnel who remain in the F-FDTL.

There remains a total of 17 DCP personnel posted to East Timor who undertake this training as well as providing specialist advice to the F-FDTL and the East Timorese Ministry of Defence. Military training activities within the DCP will gradually return to a normal rate of effort as conditions permit.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

A.G. HOUSTON, AO, AFC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

9 January 2007