



VICE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE



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VCDF/OUT/2012/413

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

Dear Dr Dermody

I write to clarify evidence that I gave at the Budget Estimates hearing held on 17 October 2012 concerning the breakdown of Australian Defence Force personnel – both rank and where they are deployed from – who are currently deployed to Nauru and Manus Island.

In answer to a question from Senator Kroger (page 33 of *Proof Hansard* 17 October 2012), I stated that there was a total of 105 Australian Defence Force personnel deployed to Manus Island to assist the Department of Immigration and Citizenship with development of temporary offshore processing facilities. This information reflected the total number of Australian Defence Force personnel assigned to operations on Manus Island, however the number of ADF personnel physically on Manus Island on 17 October 12 was 103. The lower total reflects one person temporarily redeployed to Darwin for medical treatment and another undertaking support tasks in Lae.

The breakdown of Australian Defence Force personnel on Manus Island on 17 October 2012 was:

By Rank		By home unit location	
Private Equivalent	63	Adelaide	11
Lance Corporal Equivalent	3	Brisbane/Townsville	74
Corporal Equivalent	12	Melbourne	1
Sergeant Equivalent	7	Sydney	17
Flight Sergeant Equivalent	4	TOTAL	103
Warrant Officer Equivalent	1		
Lieutenant Equivalent	6		
Captain Equivalent	6		
Lieutenant Colonel Equivalent	1		
TOTAL	103		

I also write to clarify evidence that I gave concerning Cadets Forces Allowance (CFA).

In answer to a question from Senator Ian MacDonald (page 88 of Proof Hansard 17 October 2012), I stated that "*In Army, it [CFA] has been reduced, again, to ensure that they can cover all the units and the requirements that they have. I think it is down to 23.*" Upon checking Army has in fact limited the number of days for which its cadet staff can claim CFA to 33.5 days, not 23.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

M.D. BINSKIN
Air Marshal
Vice Chief of the Defence Force

1 November 2012