

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 101

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 17 February 2006:

- a) What was the result of the 'Outer Edge' operation?
- b) Are there any publicly available reports or reviews of the operation?
- c) Could you provide a list of the counter terrorist exercises that Customs has been involved in 2004-05 and intends to be involved in 2005-06?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) Customs staff from the Northern Territory were able to meet all of the key objectives for Outer Edge. Lessons learnt from Outer Edge on practice and procedure for dealing with terrorist incidents, were instrumental in refining the procedures for Customs participation in Orchid Alert and the Mercury exercises.
- b) Customs is not aware of any public reports for Outer Edge. This exercise is coordinated by the Protective Security Coordination Centre.

c) **2004-05**

Mercury 04 - 22-26 March 2004

2005-06

- Orchid Alert - 20-27 July 2005
- Outer Edge – 26 – 29 April 2005
- Mercury 05 - 10-28 October 2005

Customs will participate in further Counter Terrorism Exercises in the national exercise calendar as required or negotiated and depending on the scenarios devised for those exercises.