



Submission No 47

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with the Republic of Korea; and Developments on the Korean Peninsula

Organisation: Department of Defence

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Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

1 September 2005 hearing on Australia's Relationship with the Republic of Korea

Department of Defence

Responses to Questions on Notice

QUESTION 1

Action: DEPSEC S

Mr Edwards

Hansard: page 38

Can Defence provide the committee with information on the nature and timing of the war games with South Korea?

RESPONSE

We do not conduct bilateral exercises with South Korea. Australia and South Korea usually participate in the multinational maritime warfare exercise, Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), and we expect this to continue. The Royal Australian Navy invited South Korea to send observers to the Royal Australian Navy led, multilateral Exercise Kakadu held in Australia in August this year. South Korea is likely to be invited to attend the multilateral submarine rescue (Exercise Pacific Reach) which will be held in Australia in 2007. In addition, there are occasional Royal Australian Navy ship visits to South Korea and these include goodwill passage exercises with the Republic of Korea Navy. The next ship visit is likely to occur in 2007 but this is not yet confirmed.

QUESTION 2

Action: DEPSEC S

Mr Danby

Hansard: page 40

Can Defence advise the committee of the Korean attitude to the recent Russian-Chinese military exercises and what the Koreans think the defence implications of those exercises are?

RESPONSE

This question would be better directed to the appropriate officials of the Republic of Korea.

QUESTION 3

Action: DEPSEC S

Mr Danby

Hansard: page 40

Can Defence advise the committee of the nature of the military relationship between South Korea and Taiwan and Beijing's reaction to it?

RESPONSE

We understand that there is no defence relationship between South Korea and Taiwan.

QUESTION 4**Action: CEO DMO**

Mr Edwards

Hansard: page 44

In relation to the K9 Howitzer:

- a) When will a decision be made?
- b) How many other countries are looking at competing for its purchase?
- c) While it is being considered, will bids from other defence manufacturers to replace our artillery be sought?
- d) Are the K9s a mixture of self-propelled and carried, and are they wheeled or tracked?
- e) Can you confirm that the ammunition being considered for purchase is not depleted uranium treated?

RESPONSE

- a) No decision will be made before 2008 when the project is expected to be considered by the Government for Second Pass Approval.
- b) K9 is in service with Turkey, and has been trialed by Malaysia.
- c) Yes, a worldwide request for tender will be issued.
- d) The K9 is a tracked self-propelled gun.
- e) The ammunition being considered is not depleted uranium treated.

QUESTION 5**Action: CEO DMO**

Written Question

Was ADI's procurement of ammunition from a Korean company an on-going agreement or was it simply a one-off purchase?

RESPONSE

The ADI contract with HANWHA is a stand-alone, one off buy.