

## **Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

### **Inquiry into the main economic and security challenges facing PNG and the island states of the Southwest Pacific**

Question taken on notice at hearing 21 November 2008

#### **Department of Defence**

Nature of question	Senator	Page of Proof Hansard
1. Security type treaties with PNG	Feeney	p. 94
2. Defence's budget for individual Pacific Island countries; percentage that Defence budget represents as part of their overall budget, extent that Defence budget is supplemented by Australian aid	Feeney	p. 94
3. Asia Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Cooperation-details and progress report	Bishop	p. 97



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Strategy, Coordination and Governance

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7 January 2009

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



Dear Dr Dermody

Please find attached responses to questions taken on notice from the inquiry into the main economic and security challenges facing Papua New Guinea and the Islands States of the Southwest Pacific hearing held in November this year.

The responses have been cleared by the Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

for Tony Corcoran  
Assistant Secretary  
Ministerial and Executive Support  
Ministerial Support and Public Affairs Division  
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**Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**  
Inquiry into the main economic and security challenges facing Papua New Guinea and  
the Island States of the Southwest Pacific  
Questions taken on notice from the Department of Defence

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<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>SENATOR</b>
1	Security treaties with PNG	Feeney
2	Defence's budget for individual Pacific Island countries	Feeney
3	Advice sought from Australia about future PNGDF capability requirements	Feeney
4	ADF access to French bases in New Caledonia	Bishop
5	Asia-Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Centre of Excellence	Bishop

**PNG/SW Pacific HEARING – 21 NOVEMBER 2008**  
**Questions taken on Notice during the Hearing**

**Q1**

**Subject**

Senator Feeney, Hansard, 21 November 2008, p94  
Security type treaties with PNG.

**RESPONSE**

Australia does not have a specific security treaty with PNG, whereby Australia would be compelled to assist PNG. Through the *Joint Declaration of Principles (1987)* and *The Agreed Statement on Security Cooperation (1991)*, Australia and PNG agree to consult closely on security matters. Neither of these documents have treaty status.

Australia and PNG are both signatories to the *Nuie Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region*.

**Q2**

**Subject**

Senator Feeney, Hansard, 21 November 2008, p94  
Defence's budget for individual Pacific Island countries; percentage that Defence budget represents as part of their overall budget, extent that Defence budget is supplemented by Australian aid.

**RESPONSE**

Defence does not provide any funding that directly supplements the Defence budgets of the three Pacific island countries that have defence forces (Fiji, PNG and Tonga). Rather, Defence has Defence Cooperation Programs (DCP) with these countries that provide funding for activities including training, joint military exercises, provision of Australian personnel to work alongside local defence forces, infrastructure upgrades and, on occasion, provision of equipment.

**Papua New Guinea**

- PNG's 2009 Defence budget is 108.67 million Kina, which is 1.67 percent of the overall national budget.
- PNG's Defence in 2008 also received an additional 'Development Budget' of K25 million, which is to be used for the construction of roads and similar infrastructure.
- DCP funding for 2008-09 is A\$13.4 million.

**Fiji**

- Fiji's 2008-09 budget is 1.5 percent of the overall national budget.
- The DCP was suspended following the 2006 coup in Fiji.

**Tonga**

- Tonga's 2008-09 budget is 3.4 percent of the overall national budget.
- DCP funding for 2008-09 is A\$2 million.

### **Q3**

#### **Subject**

Senator Feeney, Hansard, 21 November 2008, p. 96

Advice is sought from Australia about future PNGDF capability requirements.

#### **RESPONSE**

Australia has a close and ongoing Defence relationship with PNG. PNG and Australia engage in regular dialogue about the PNG Defence Force's (PNGDF's) capability requirements, and attend annual bilateral Defence Cooperation Talks, which were held on 3 December 2008.

#### **Defence Cooperation Program (DCP)**

The DCP with PNG focuses on increasing the sustainability, professionalism and effectiveness of the PNGDF. The DCP facilitates bilateral and multilateral exercises, the provision of training, and infrastructure projects.

#### **Defence Reform Program**

The PNG Defence Reform Program was initiated by the Morauta Government in 2001. It comprises two components: a first phase, to downsize the PNGDF from over 3,300 personnel to no more than 2,000 personnel; and a second phase to rebuild the PNGDF's capabilities. The first phase of the Program was completed in 2007.

At Defence policy talks in December 2007, PNG agreed to Australia's package of support to the second phase of the Program, valued at A\$48 million over 10 years. This package will focus on assisting the PNGDF to reconstitute its border security role, primarily through support to Forward Operating Bases and border patrols. Our package includes infrastructure upgrades, capital equipment, personal military equipment and ongoing sustainment of the Forward Operating Bases.

#### **Infrastructure**

The Barracks Refurbishment Program, funded through the DCP, provides A\$1 million a year for the refurbishment of PNGDF barracks infrastructure. There is a particular focus on improving the living and working conditions of PNGDF soldiers.

Defence has agreed to extend the current barracks infrastructure program for an additional five years, with the focus shifting to specific unit needs determined by the commanding officer, with the majority of the work expected to be undertaken by PNGDF engineers.

**Q4****Subject**

Senator Bishop, Hansard, 21 November 2008, p97

Update on negotiations with the French government regarding access by the ADF to bases in New Caledonia and Australian/French cooperation on training /joint exercises and maritime surveillance

**RESPONSE**

The Australia-France Defence Cooperation Agreement is expected to be ratified by respective Governments in coming months. The agreement will facilitate ADF activity on French bases when this is mutually agreed. A Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement, which will be subordinate to the agreement, will facilitate the exchange of logistics support during combined activities such as training and exercises.

**Q5****Subject**

Senator Bishop, Hansard, 21 November 2008, p. 97

Asia Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Cooperation-details and progress report

**RESPONSE****Location**

The location of the Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence is at Level 1, 34 Lowe Street, Queanbeyan, NSW.

**Executive Director**

The Executive Director of the Centre is Michael G Smith AO (Major General, Retd).

**Number of employees**

It is anticipated that the Centre will comprise a total of 20 personnel.

**Summary of Strategic and Business Plan**

The Centre will support the development of effective civil-military capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters and conflicts overseas. The Centre will focus on the following areas:

- conflict resolution;
- peace and stabilisation operations;
- governance and the rule of law; and
- humanitarian assistance, disaster management and reconstruction.

**Status of any proposals to develop linkages with like overseas organisations and;**

The Centre intends to develop cooperative relationships with allies and international partner organisations, including key UN agencies and other multilateral organisations,

together with the non-government sector. Officials from the United States Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance have recently visited the Centre to identify areas of potential collaboration.

**Purpose in regarding training, indoctrination, drafting for both Australian personnel and personnel of Pacific Island Countries**

The Centre will carry out research, capture lessons learned, develop doctrine and facilitate training programs that contribute directly to the Australian Government's ability to deploy an effective civil-military capacity to conflicts and natural disasters overseas, with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region.