



**THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP**  
**Minister for Defence**

Saturday, 2 May 2009

**GOVERNMENT TO ENHANCE THE INCIDENT  
RESPONSE REGIMENT**

The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, today announced the Government will enhance the Incident Response Regiment within Special Operations Command.

“The Incident Response Regiment will receive advanced equipment and training to enable them to effectively detect and respond to chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological and explosive threats,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The Incident Response Regiment is able to undertake high-risk search, access and disablement functions in a range of complex environments.

The Government will provide additional funding to enable the Incident Response Regiment to develop a rapidly deployable chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear explosive capability in support of deployed forces. The Incident Response Regiment will be able to interdict and recover Weapon of Mass Destruction components.

“This project will build upon existing capabilities to enhance the Australian Defence Force’s capacity to respond to emerging threats. It is part of a continuous improvement program that enhances Australia’s Special Operations capabilities through regular technology and capability enhancements,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

“The proposal will include individual and collective training in a combined arms environment, an increased capacity for Science & Technology Operational Support, command and control enhancements, and new capabilities that support countering a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear explosive threat.”

The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government’s commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign interests and the security and stability of our region.

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