



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

ENHANCED ELECTRONIC WARFARE CAPABILITY FOR DEFENCE

Defence's electronic warfare capabilities will be significantly enhanced through a number of tactical and force level Electronic Warfare projects. The Government will also establish a new Joint Electronic Warfare Centre to help grow a critical mass of personnel and expertise.

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP said the new initiatives will include enhancement of those functions and systems that support the analysis and dissemination of electronic warfare-related information.

"Electronic Warfare allows the Australian Defence Force to detect and identify a range of electromagnetic emissions such as radar and communication transmissions. By sharing this information across a force the position and even the intentions of an adversary or neutral forces can be determined," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

Offensive electronic warfare allows the Australian Defence Force to disrupt an adversary's surveillance picture and reduce their ability to exercise effective command and control over their forces.

We will also see the introduction of new intelligence capabilities for maritime and land forces; and improved electronic warfare detection systems.

"The new Joint Electronic Warfare Centre will be formed by the collection of a number of different Australian Defence Force electronic warfare elements into one organisation that will then be responsible for training, research and development, counter-measure development, and the validation and verification of electronic warfare systems. While some evaluation and planning is still to occur, the new centre will probably be located in Adelaide," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The Government has also decided to further develop our Force Level electronic warfare capability. These new capabilities will be an integral part of an enhanced information environment for Australian Defence Force personnel. The Defence Science and Technology Organisation will continue

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to undertake research and development of new and emerging electronic warfare techniques and technologies,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

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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