



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

GOVERNMENT TO BUILD A NETWORKED ADF

The Government has confirmed that Defence will build a networked ADF by progressively delivering networked maritime, land, air and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) domains.

“Network development will build on the lessons learnt from Australian Defence Force and coalition operations in Iraq and Afghanistan where the benefits of networked forces have been apparent,” the Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP said.

“In this complex information age, we must take maximum advantage of the range of sensors, weapons and other systems available to us and must ensure that we adhere to a centrally coordinated plan with execution occurring at the lowest level possible. This requires networking where command and lower level elements can synchronise their efforts to achieve the mission,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The development of such a force presents new challenges in the way Defence manages the projects which deliver our capability and will also require significant coordination, cross project collaboration and on-going liaison with industry.

“The support of a comprehensive joint training and education program and a clear master plan with key milestones will be of particular importance in achieving these objectives,” Mr Fitzgibbon said.

In order to meet these goals, the Government has decided that Defence will put in place the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) infrastructure, information tools, command support, battlespace management systems as well as relevant joint training programs necessary to provide a reliable battlespace network across the entire Australian Defence Force, which will continue to evolve and mature in subsequent years.

“Defence will release a 2009 Roadmap that will clearly articulate the steps to be taken in transitioning the Australian Defence Force to the networked force. These steps will go beyond technical network initiatives to embrace the cultural, procedural and training enhancements needed to transform the

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Australian Defence Force into a balanced, networked and deployable force,” 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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