



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

GOVERNMENT TO ENHANCE ADF COUNTER-WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CAPABILITIES

The Government will enhance the counter-Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) capabilities of the ADF by establishing a deployable defensive counter-WMD capability in the Incident Response Regiment.

The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP said such enhancements reflect Australia's longstanding support of key disarmament and arms control initiatives and are necessary in order to maintain broader regional and global security interests.

"The threat from state-based WMD programs, as well as potential access to them by non-state groups, will remain serious security concerns for Australia. The introduction of WMD and their means of delivery into our region would have profound effects on our security and on future defence capability requirements," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"Broadly speaking, key enhancements in the area of counter-WMD will include some decontamination capabilities, as well as area and close survey, technical advice, and sophisticated measurement capabilities," 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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