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**RE: Key Questions for Defence in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – A defence Policy Discussion Paper**

Some minimum goals that should be met by the Australian armed services in the future:

Capability and ability to permanently defend our Antarctic Territory (land and sea) claims (including the extensive supply routes).

Capability and ability to permanently and comprehensively defend our 200+ mile seabed limits (including supply routes) – along all of our Australian coast line.

Capability and ability to rapidly defend and safeguard our commercial off-shore oil / gas installations and fields

Capability and ability to rapidly defend and safeguard major commercial shipping and shipping routes (including attacks from pirates) to all major overseas markets

Capability and ability to rapidly sustain overseas military bases and ongoing operations on land (including urban / remote / jungle / desert / ice) in the air, and sea environments for 2,500+ military personnel (including fighting troops, logistics, support, etc) in 3 separate theatres of war (7,500 personnel in total)

Capability and ability to rapidly secure significant overseas energy supplies (oil / gas) for extended military operations (a minimum of 12 months supply).

Capability and ability to rapidly secure and defend all vital/significant assets and essential services (and regular operation training in undertaking such):

- Fresh Water infrastructure
- Energy supply/storage infrastructure
- Telecommunication infrastructure
- Electricity infrastructure
- Rail infrastructure
- Road infrastructure
- Ports Infrastructure

Development of a home grown industry for the development of surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles technology that have an operational range between 100k and 3,000k. Significant R&D investment to be undertaken in laser/weaponry technology and military communications software/middleware applications. Need

economies-of-scale to be developed whereby the military/defence sector comprising a minimum of 5% of Australian industry/economic output with a significant spin-off of military R&D outcomes having a 'ready' civilian / commercial application

Armed services personnel within desk-bound / administrative positions within the Defence Department – the number of such persons should not exceed 3% of the total number of Armed services personnel

Public Sector personnel within desk-bound / administrative positions within the Defence Department – the number of such persons should not exceed 10% of the total of Armed services personnel.

Minimum fighting force 'at the front line' – Army 30,000 / Navy 15,000 / Air Force 15,000.

The Navy capability to be enhanced by 25% in the areas of Surface Combatants and Logistics & Support sea crafts numbers.

An additional permanent force of 500 – 1000 Infantry/Commando trained personnel be established and be comprised solely of Nepalese / South Pacific nationals (who receive equivalent salary/employment conditions as Australian military personnel).

Total Defence Budget be maintained at 2.25% of GDP

A level of involvement by the general public (that similar to the program of the States - State Emergency Service) in logistical/support The Australian Government to have a highly trained civilian logistical/professional force of 5,000+ personnel to complement/supplement the military in undertaking internal/external emergency/short term/medium/long term humanitarian aid work. Annual joint training exercise to be undertaken to ensure 'every ready' capability

An active/ongoing training program be undertaken across all 3 defence streams (Army/Navy/Air Force) for a significant number of 'front line' personnel be trained in a range of foreign languages and to have extensive knowledge of various foreign cultures and cultural norms.

A significant increase in the number of active military MOU and strategic alliances with regional Governments and a comprehensive exchange programs of personnel between such countries across a wide spectrum of activities.

Yours in service,

  
Tom Gordon