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Subject: * ADF Posture

✓ I have read and agree to the editorial guidelines. *

✓ I agree to my submission being published by Defence.

The attached notes are a slight expansion of my comments at the Defence White Paper Public Forum at the A11A Canberra on 2 September 2014.
DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

DEFENCE FORCE CAPABILITIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The ADF needs to have the capability to act independently in PNG and the Island Pacific and effectively with others elsewhere.

Australian defence policy needs to be conceived and developed squarely in the framework of Australian foreign policy, and in that framework should serve the protection and pursuit of Australian interests abroad. Papua New Guinea and the Pacific island countries comprise an area of prime strategic interest to Australia. They comprise also an area in which Australia's allies and partners in particular and external powers more generally expect Australia, as an advanced Western country in a region of developing countries, to accept particular responsibility for security and stability. The Australian Defence Force should therefore possess the capability of effective independent action in PNG and the Pacific island countries when the interests of security and stability require it.

Defence policy should also provide for the use of military power to assist the prosecution of Australian internal security interests, in relation to counter-terrorism in particular. Thus the Australian Defence Force should also possess the capability of acting effectively with others in more distant theatres when that is necessary to deal with an actual or potential internal security threat. The current deployment of Australian assets to Northern Iraq is a good example of such action, whether or not that was the prime reason for the Government's decision.