Submission to 2015 Defence White Paper

This will be short as I am running out of time.

My background is 22 years service in RAAF was an avionics systems technician on the F-111

Consent is hereby given to publish any of the contents, anywhere.

1. I am concerned at the ADF,s apparent over reliance on GPS guided weapons. Satellites are expensive, can be easily destroyed as they have no defence, plus ties us to US foreign policy, ie satellites may be switched off if US does not agree with what we are doing.

2. Could more research and development be put into the quantum accelerator system, using laser cooled Rubidium atoms. This would provide enough inertial terminal guidance accuracy and therefor render GPS obsolete.

3. As the planned acquisition of the F-35 strike fighter is becoming far to expensive, [us$200 million plus per plane] Perhaps we should be purchasing more of the advanced version of the Super Hornet. With up graded engines it would probably have super cruise capability. It has increased range and 50% reduction in radar signature, plus over 100 million $ cheaper than F-35 . Remember numbers of available aircraft do count in combat. At end of WW11 Germany had the best and fastest fighter, the ME262 but the allies had ten times as many fighters; - numbers do count. Also a large part of the RAAF,s role is maritime strike. If you are way out at sea and lose an engine in a F-35, you have lost an aircraft. I thought we may have learned that lesson with the Mirage 111.

4. Submarines. Why is the nuclear option off the table ? what happened to the much vaunted criteria of interoperability with
our major ally. ASC could build the front half of the boat and US shipyards the rear half. That way we would get the subs in half the time and at half the cost of building a conventional sub. We should not need a "nuclear industry" in Aust to maintain nuclear subs, there is enough fuel in the reactor to last the life of the sub. Does a bus driver have to be a mechanical engineer in order to drive the bus? Think CAPABILITY. A diesel electric sub will never catch or out range a nuc. Sub. It must wait and hope the nuc sub crosses its path.

5. Another glaring shortfall in our defence is that our army seems to be the only modern Western army that does not have a tracked self propelled 155 mm howitzer. For heavens sake, just go ahead and buy the German PZH-2000 and make the excaliber rounds in Aust.

6. Many thanks for the opportunity to express an opinion on our defence. Rod Couch.

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Please forgive postal submission as I had trouble providing a "WOrD" document.