DEFENCE
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SUBMISSION

Noel Selway
Wondai Qld 4606
By and large the ADF succeeds in its business although this is at the expense of the defence of continental Australia.

The structure of the defence force and the proposals being made to make the various brigades multi-role complicate what should be a simple arrangement of the distribution of Infantry Divisions on the continent. That these proposals don’t meet the organic defence is lamentable given the vast expanse of territory which constitutes the continent.

Added to this is the obvious, to those who observe, lack of scrutiny in the quality of officers entering the defence force out of both RMC or ADFA. There seems to be a proportion of these officers who have as a main object to scapegoat the lower ranks to cover either their own incompetence or personality traits that are less than edifying.

If the ADF were called upon to fight a war on Australian territory it doesn’t have the means even with the efforts being made in planning for the future. The wide opens spaces preclude this.

The recent display of Indonesian might should be a reason the ADF needs to look closer to home as it goes about its business, the Navy in particular with reference to its small ships Navy.

The RAAF has a hole in the local air defence arrangements as well with no aircraft available able to meet it.

Unless more attention is paid to defence industry in this country instead of looking to off-shore the country’s ship building, aircraft manufacture and defence material production this country will find itself stranded. It is a failure if this country is to depend on alliances and foreign corporations to support in the event of conflict in any arena.

The latest matter of interest is the pay rise. How can it be possible that with a country which has a defence force the size it has able to justify the small pay rise its offering without it affecting the manpower levels. Clearly the pay rise proposed isn’t enough to keep people.

There are a lot of questions being asked in this White Paper and it asks the question whether or not this is just another exercise because decisions have already been taken so far as equipment and re-organisation are concerned or is it genuine.
Australia’s Strategic Environment

Is the risk of conventional military conflict growing?

It is among those who have a vested interest such as China in the South China Sea or the border issues between China and Vietnam and the Taiwan situation is ever present. Again China and Japan have issues that they will have to resolve themselves. Broader ongoing conflicts are well beyond our borders and on the margins of our sea frontier and in spite of whatever governments suggest will not, and won’t affect, this countries continental defence.

Does Australia face any immediate military risks?

Only by not having any established continental defence or strategy to meet any possible risks should they arise.

What can Australia do to contribute to strengthening peace and stability in our region?

By staying out of internal disputes among our neighbours.

Where and how should we contemplate using the ADF in support of global and regional security?

The country has always been on call with the United Nations and in spite of various alliances that’s where any support should remain.

In our nearer region what are the likely missions for the ADF might be called upon to perform?

One would hope that the call would be for civil defence in such circumstances as reconstruction after typhoons, medial and engineering support and so on. Police actions such as in the Solomons and East Timor should be in the arena of the AFP not the ADF.
How well placed are we to understand the impact of changing strategic developments?

Reasonably well considering the vast amounts spend on the counties intelligence services, although co-operation with other nations in their intelligence gathering would have to be treated with caution given how times things have been missed or not passed on at all have occurred.

What should the ADF be able to do?

What are the primary roles of the ADF?

One would hope that the primary role of the ADF is ensure the security of continental Australia and its sealanes in its territorial waters.

Where should the ADF be expected to be able to operate and in what circumstances?

It should be able to operate anywhere in continental Australia which it currently can't at very short notice and give protection over all sea lanes inside its territorial waters which it can't either.

What are the potential adversary capabilities against which the ADF should plan? (capability)

Against attacks against its sea ways and internal attacks on the civil and military populations.

How much of each task should the ADF be able to perform? (capacity)

The Army should be capable of operating anywhere over the whole of continental Australia at short notice, the RAAF should be able to forward defend over territorial waters and over populated areas also at short notice whilst giving air support to the Army. The Navy should be able to provide convoy protection and anti-submarine protection within Australian territorial waters which it can't.
In what time frames should the ADF be able to perform? (readiness)

Short notice for the Army- it should be able to air lift a three battalion combat infantry brigade, not a multi arms brigade, within a few hours anywhere the need arises on continental Australia. The RAAF should be able to get its local air defence squadrons airborne within a few hours also but this assumes it would have aircraft at readiness at all times and the Navy should be able to send to sea its light anti submarine vessels be what they may, at an hours readiness.

Are there contingencies that Defence has not previously prepared for but should?

It appears as if the ADF has no policy for continental defence and this is highlighted at the distribution of the various brigades which are not in supporting distance of each other, the spread of RAAF airborne components and the concentration of naval ships in widely spread out bases, some of which are barebones such as Cairns.

The United States Alliance and International Engagement

How important is the United States to Australia’s current security environment?

Only as its expedient for the US.

How important are traditional alliances and partners to our security both now and in the longer term?

Less so now, if they ever were important. There is a history of alliance failures so they must be treated with caution.

To what extent should the Government look to the ADF to promote regional stability through peace time cooperation?

It shouldn't look to the ADF at all if it is secure in its diplomatic relations with regional governments.

How important is it to build defence relationships beyond the Indo-Asia-Pacific region?
Long distant relationships don’t last as do very few regional ones.

Should Defence focus less on preparing for war-like operations and focus more on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations at home and overseas?

It should focus on the defence of continental Australia before it decides to look elsewhere. There is nothing in its current or proposed defence posture that shows the slightest interest in defending its own territory.

What can the ADF do to shape Australia’s strategic environment in times of peace?

By the promotion of its ability to defend Australia and show some competence in its leadership

Deciding Defence capabilities

What Defence capabilities should the government invest in now and for the long term?

Defence infrastructure and far less reliance on overseas purchases as well as less insistence on costs.

What enabling capabilities are critical to support ADF operations and to eliminate hollowness in the force?

Reforming Infantry Divisions would be a good start. All-arms brigades are fine but only so far as they can be supported and without a thoroughly dependable supply line from factory to the front line is essential.

What military capabilities must we be able to mount and operate ourselves short of allied assistance?
All the previously dis-established defence industrial base must be restored including all the government factories. There should be a re-arrangement of defence establishments so that various formations are within supporting distance of each other. Those two things would be a good start.

*How organized should the ADF be for highly intensive conventional combat?*

That’s the 64 dollar question. A lot of that depends on how well organized it is at the present time. Scattered as it is the ADF would be hard pressed if called upon to defend any point of entry into this country let alone anywhere else, certainly not anywhere beyond our sea frontier.

*What can international and regional defence engagement achieve for Australia strategically?*

The best that be achieved along those lines is to keep and eye on how they are performing. Indonesia has made a point of showing us what its capable of and it was important to see that they make liberal use of small ships in their local defence whereas this country has no such capability.

*What is the optimum use for reserve forces?*

That it be brought up to comparable strength to the Regular ADF and be paid accordingly with all amenities including medical, accommodation both married and single with all travel and uniform expenses being met.

Army - the Infantry Division should be given legs and used as a training division for the Regulars before they get posted to the reformed Regular Infantry Divisions. All the current cavalry regiments need to be brought up strength and used as divisional formations not split up among the brigades. All disbanded Corps should be re-instated and re-integrated into the infantry battalions to make them less dependent on the supply chain.

*What Science and Technology capabilities are critical to underpin our broader defence capabilities?*
The need to keep up with technology is an imperative as is also the need to keep up the improvement in clothing and footwear, rationing, and all the logistical needs of the ADF.

**What is the right organizational structure for Defence?**

RAN – two Task Forces based on the LHD’s. The submarine force should be eyes and ears of the Fleet and be under Fleet Command. There should be a Fleet Train established around the two replenishment ships and further ships need to be acquired for forward resupply. These ships are readily available from any amount of merchant tonnage at anchor in the various ports throughout the world. Refitting for resup at sea can be done in naval dockyards. Forward repair ships are essential.

Army – the current arrangement of multi-role brigades is Ok for peace but unworkable should an emergency arise simply because of the large variety of logistical requirements that need to be met and the slim supply lines that exist in Australia.

A three infantry division would be a minimum the battalions being found from re-raising the regular battalions and adding fully manned reserve infantry battalions to the mix. The brigades in the divisions would be of two regular and one reserve each with supporting arms which would include one medium and two light artillery regiments per division. The logistical tail with base Maintenance Areas nearby would need to have a full divisional stock of ammunition and war stores at all times with resupply depots within supporting distance. This can only be achieved if things like another cross Australia rail line were constructed along with cross Australia road links neither of which exist.

Armour and Special Forces would be Army troops not divisional and be kept together. Dispersal is the death knell of coherent forward defence or attack as history has shown and continues to show.

RAAF – needs to concentrate its sharp end. Why have a Wing arrangement that has one squadron in the north and others in the south hours away from each other! There is no local air defence since the flying squadrons of the Citizens Air Force were disbanded so it means strategic areas of Australia are undefended and certainly would be in the event of a threat becoming a reality.

**Should defence contribute more to domestic counter-terrorism activities?**
Domestic terrorism has to be defined before any judgement on the matter can be made. All the public has heard is what the government chooses to inform us about and most of that is certainly tainted.

**What support should Defence offer local communities?**

Some reason to feel as if they have confidence in its ability to defend the population with the resources it has at hand rather than those it proposes to have in hand. It also needs to weed out the dead wood from the top to the bottom like the ships captain who scapegoated a female pregnant sailor while allowing six others go un-scapegoated in the same ship on the same voyage to the Gulf and back.

It would help the public perception of the ADF if it promoted how it looked after its people instead of running VC winners before the public as consistently as it does.

**What capabilities are critical for Defence to most effectively work with other Government agencies?**

That there be enough intelligence at work in the ADF's administration to understand the functioning of the other agencies.

**Defence Industry**

**Which industrial capabilities are vital for the ability of the ADF to field forces and must be located in Australia?**

All of them. There is little faith in the various alliances this country has made especially when there is so much uncertainty among our near neighbours that there is a chance that supply would be affected when those with whom we have alliances are threatened.

**What are the consequences for Australian industry of international friends in the defence industry sector?**

If Australia doesn’t recreate its defence industry base across all industries then its chances of being able to support its defence force are next to zero should any
external industry currently supporting the ADF be subject to its own countries requirements ahead of Australias’ in time of crisis

*How can Government best encourage the development of an internationally competitive Australian defence industry?*

It shouldn’t be in the business of makings its defence industry internationally competitive.

*What is the future of existing industry support programs provided by Government?*

None whatever while ever the government chooses to off shore industry

**Defence: ‘in’ and ‘of” the community**

*Is the priority allocated to Defence adequately explained to the Australian community?*

No and never will be. People treat defence as they do any other industry although they pay attention to its failings which get a regular airing more than most as they should do.

*How can the Australian community contribute to the development of defence policy?*

By keeping abreast of the failings of the ADF and its leadership from to the top to the bottom in the same way they keep abreast of the governments failings from the top to the bottom

*How can the ADF ensure that Australians have confidence in the organizational culture, abilities and professionalism of their armed forces?*
More public showings would help and remove any restrictions placed on casual visits to bases and so on. Although there is currently a scare going on Australia is fairly well organized to defend its elf from anything internal that would harm its people.

*With Australia’s changing demographics can the ADF continue to recruit the right people and meet the expectations of Australia’s youth and the community as a whole?*

The ADF has rarely ever recruited the right people all of the time and nothing will change along those lines.

*What opportunities exist for Defence to contribute to economic development in regional Australia?*

By re-establishing the defence industries and locating them in regional areas where there is rail, road and air access.