
The Defence Signals Directorate Directive

Overview

The final reports produced by the Royal Commission into Australia's Security and Intelligence Services [1] were tabled in the Australian Senate on the 22nd of May 1985 [2]. There were seven reports, although two were not published on security grounds [3]. The commission recommended making the Directive public. The Directive, and ancillary material in other government publications, provide insight into the nature of the Defence Signals Directorate.

[1] The Royal Commission began on the 17th of May 1983 under Justice Hope.

[2] The reports, and ministerial comment, were delivered by Senator Button, and are recorded in Senate Weekly Hansard, Number 9, 1985, pages 2336-2348 [including responses from opposition leaders].

[3] The seven reports are: (a) Report on Terms of Reference; (b) Report on the [ASIS] Sheraton Hotel Incident; (c) General Report; (d) Report on the ASIO; (e) Report on the DSD (not published); (f) Report on the ASIS (not published); (g) Report on the ONA and JIO.

DSD = Defence Signals Directorate
ASIS = Australian Secret Intelligence Service
ASIO = Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
ONA = Office of National Assessments
JIO = Joint Intelligence Office

Excerpt 1: (Senator Button) Page 2338 of [1]

Very brief mention of the commission's findings in relation to the DSD, indicating that "the DSD is impressive".

Returning to the evaluation of agencies' performance, Mr Justice Hope finds that DSD is impressive (Gen., 2.30). Its activities have expanded since 1974 and its skills and technology have thus far substantially kept up with this expansion (Gen., 2.32). It complies with the obligations which law imposes upon it (Gen.,

Excerpt 2: (Senator Button) Page 2341 of [1]

It was recommended that the DSD Directive should be made public.

DSD Report

As I have said, the DSD Report is not being published but it is appropriate at this stage to make some comment about the DSD charter.

Following consideration of the reports of the earlier Royal Commission on Intelligence and Security, the then Prime Minister in 1977 broadly outline the role and functions of DSD.

Mr Justice Hope has now recommended that the Government consider making public the DSD Directive with amendments where necessary for security reasons. This Government has issued DSD with a new Directive which differs only slightly, and not in matters of substance, from the previous Directive under which DSD operated. We agree with Mr Justice Hope that publication on [sic] the Directive will allow the Australian public to obtain a clearer appreciation of DSD's role and functions and may allay misconceptions about the organisation.

Excerpt 3: (Senator Button) Page 2341-2342 of [1]

The DSD Directive is published.

Defence Signals Directorate Directive

1. The Commonwealth Government requires the maintenance of a capability to collect, produce and disseminate foreign signal intelligence and to intelligence and to advise the Government on all matters pertaining to the security of signal communications and related equipments.

2. The capability will be located in:

- a. the organisation in the Department of Defence known as the "Defence Signals Directorate" (DSD); and
- b. specialist units of the Defence Force.

3. In respect of signal intelligence, the functions of DSD and the specialist units of the Defence Force referred to in paragraph 2 above shall be:

- a. to develop and maintain a capability to provide signal intelligence in support of the Defence Force; and
- b. to collect, produce and disseminate foreign signal intelligence to meet the national requirements of the Commonwealth Government.

4. In respect of communications security, the functions of DSD shall be:

- a. to provide materials, advice and assistance to Commonwealth Government departments and authorities and the Defence Force on matters relevant to the security of their communications and electronic and related activities; and
- b. through the Secretary to the Department of Defence, to keep the Secretaries Committee on Intelligence and Security generally informed on the state of communications security.

Organisational Principles

5. Policy control and managerial oversight over the national intelligence community, external and internal, is exercised by the Security Committee of Cabinet in respect of targets, priorities, activities, organisational requirements, broad allocation of resources, performance and co-ordination and inter-relationships of the various agencies. In the performance of its functions DSD, as a component of the national intelligence community, shall accept the guidance on targets and priorities issued from time to time by the Security Committee of Cabinet.

6. The Australian capability in signal intelligence shall be maintained in DSD and the Defence Force for national purposes generally. DSD shall be the national communications security advisory authority and as such shall maintain the expertise required to carry out those functions detailed in paragraph 4 above.

7. DSD shall be an outrider organisation in the Department of Defence. The Director, DSD shall control DSD and shall be responsible to the Secretary to the Department of Defence.

8. Specialist units of the Defence Force, and the Defence Force personnel engaged in signal intelligence and communications security tasks, shall be subject to the command arrangements made by or under the authority of the Chief of the Defence Force. Members of the Defence Force may be loaned or seconded for service with DSD.

Operating Guidelines

9. DSD and units of the Defence Force engaged in signal intelligence and communications security functions shall operate in conformity with Australian law.

10. DSD shall maintain direct contact with appropriate Commonwealth Government departments and authorities and the Defence Force as regards signal intelligence and communications security matters.

11. DSD shall be the Australian national authority on signal intelligence and communications security matters. DSD shall conduct liaison on signal intelligence and communications security matters on behalf of the Australian Government as appropriate with counterpart agencies or authorities in other countries and shall maintain overseas technical representation as is necessary.

12. The Director, DSD shall furnish to the Secretary to the Department of Defence and to the Chief of the Defence Force an Annual Report which shall include an account of the performance of DSD in relation to the functions stated in paragraphs 3 and 4 above.

Excerpt 4: C'weath of Australia Gazette, No. PS 8, 3 March 1994, Vacancies--Public Service, pg 1012-1013

A number of vacancies advertised by the DSD provide an insight into its activities.

DEFENCE

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

CENTRAL -- AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Defence Signals Directorate

**Administrative Service Officer Class 4 \$30415-33024, Canberra (No. 5413)

Duties: Participate in the activities of specialist teams

involved in the collection, analysis and reporting of foreign radar emissions and related non-communications equipment.

Eligibility/other requirements: A demonstrated knowledge of radar theory and its application to military radar systems. An understanding of the principles of non-communications emissions is also important.

Contact officer: (06) 265 0472

Selection documentation may be obtained from (06) 265 0472--Apply: G1D

N.N.--37927476

**Administrative Service Officer Class 4 \$30415-33024, Canberra (No. 5414)

Duties: Using laboratory equipment and computer resources, conduct routine analysis of the nature and capabilities of communications signals. Prepare technical reports on the results of findings.

Eligibility/other requirements: Experience (or a keen interest) in radio communications or a radio operating field. A good knowledge of communications fundamentals plus sound basic mathematical skills. Some familiarity with computers (PC's and/or mainframes) is also important. The officer will need that ability to cope with intensive training in the early part of their employment.

Contact officer: (06) 265 0472

Selection documentation may be obtained from (06) 265 0472--Apply: G1D

N.N.--37927497

Excerpt 5: C'weath of Australia Gazette, No. PS 20, 26 May 1994, Vacancies--Public Service, pg 2430-2431

A number of vacancies advertised by the DSD provide an insight into its activities.

DEFENCE

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

CENTRAL -- AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Defence Signals Directorate

**Senior Officer Grade B \$48855-56063, (No. 2003)
(expected vacancy)

Duties: Formulate and draft Australian National Communications Security (comsec) policy and doctrine, pre-

pare reports and policy papers. Assist the Assistant Director in overseeing the management of the Australian Industrial Tempest Program (AITP) by the comsec engineering section and in provision of related policy advice and administrative assistance to the comsec engineering section.

Eligibility/other requirements: A sound knowledge of modern government telecommunications systems and the national security measures employed in those systems. A good understanding of the national security issues confronting the transition of government telecommunications to likely future architectures. An appreciation of the computer security issues associated with information systems and their data communications requirements. Well developed management communications and liason skills. Appropriate tertiary qualifications desirable.

Contact Officer: (06) 265 0317

Selection documentation may be obtained from (06) 265 0317--Apply: G1D

N.N.--39738639