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Office of the
Minister for Defence

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MEDIA RELEASE

MIN 34/98 Thursday, March 12, 1998

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INQUIRY INTO ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT TRAINING AT THE DEFENCE FORCE CORRECTIVE ESTABLISHMENT

The Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel, Mrs Bronwyn Bishop, today released the Terms of Reference (attached) for an investigation into allegations of abuse during 'Attitude Adjustment Training' (AAT) at the Defence Force Corrective Establishment (DFCE) in the period 1993-1997.

Mrs Bishop announced that the Vice Chief of the Defence Force has appointed Royal Australian Navy Captain Robert Long as the investigating officer. Captain Long will report to the Head of Defence Personnel Executive, Major General Peter Dunn.

The Investigating Officer will inquire into the nature of participation in the training, the dates and duration, who was involved and where they came from, who organised the course and the circumstances surrounding the training, and the reasons given to Service personnel for their involvement.

"This matter will be investigated thoroughly. I have asked that the investigator seek written statements and for those to be presented to MAJGEN Dunn to the Chief of the Defence Force who will report to me by the end of March. Any further action required will then be taken," Mrs Bishop said.

The Minister said that MAJGEN Dunn was also seeking answers to the questions of why AAT came to be established at DFCE and who authorised it.

"We have confirmed that 55 people have undergone AAT since 1993 when it was established. The Investigating Officer's job includes finding these people to take statements from them.

To facilitate the process a toll free number (1800 636 603) has been established to enable any person who underwent the training between January 1993 and December 1997 to contact the Investigating Officer.

Background

Further information:

Ministerial Jennifer Eddy (02) 6277 7280

0416 266 120

Departmental Colonel Andrew Reynolds (02) 6265 2929

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INQUIRY INTO ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT TRAINING AT THE DEFENCE FORCE CORRECTIVE ESTABLISHMENT

Background

Allegations have been made of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel being subjected to abuse at the Defence Force Correctional Establishment (DFCE) at Holsworthy.

Issue

Persuant to the Investigating Officer's appointment to investigate and report upon allegations of abuse during 'Attitude Adjustment Training' (AAT) at the Defence Force Corrective Establishment (DFCE), the Investigating Officer is to obtain statements from those members (and former members) of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who have been identified as participants in AAT at DFCE during the period 1 January 1993 to 31 December 1997, concerning the following issues:

- * the members' participation in AAT at DFCE;
- * the nature of the participation and what if any abuse took place;
- * the date and time of the participation and any abuse;
- * the duration of the participation and any abuse;
- * the unit to which the member was posted at the time;
- * the names of any members involved in the AAT or involved in arranging the participation;
- * the names of any members involved in any abuse;
- * the circumstances surrounding the participation and any abuse; and
- * the circumstances that the member understood gave rise to their participation in AAT and any abuse.

Pursuant to the Investigative Officer's appointment to investigate and report upon the circumstances surrounding the introduction of AAT at DFCE, the Investigating Officer is also to investigate why and how AAT came to be established at the DFCE and who authorised it.

Reporting

The report will be presented by Head Defence Personnel Executive (HDPE) to the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) who will report to the Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel.

Timing

The Investigating Officer is to complete the Report, with statements attached by 30 March 1998, or if not complete by that time, he is to provide a progress report on that date and every seven days thereafter until the Report is complete.