

Stronger Focus on Defence Logistics Required, According to Kokoda Foundation Report

CANBERRA; June 27, 2014 — A Kokoda Foundation report, in collaboration with Accenture and RubiKon, has found that by placing a greater emphasis on defence logistics, the Australian Department of Defence will be better positioned to meet the challenges of a more complex operating environment in the future.

The report, *Australian Defence Logistics: The Need to Enable and Equip Logistics Transformation*, says that current defence logistic practices do not enjoy the same priority or as much internal visibility as the military platforms and equipment programs they support. The study cites challenges across existing information management practices and the capabilities of current logistics business architecture at Defence. Additionally, the report identifies opportunities for the department to transform logistics systems and practices to mitigate potential risks while increasing operational efficiencies and effectiveness.

The report authors, Dr Gary Waters and Air Vice Marshal John Blackburn (Rtd) make a series of recommendations, including the need for a Joint Capability Manager and “logistics champions” to be appointed by Defence to review logistics strategy and provide the required resources to perform critical tasks in increasingly complex and challenging operating environments.

“To more effectively support future defence force operations, logistics systems need to be transformed, particularly through the correct assignment of authority and the re-prioritisation of existing resources,” said AVM Blackburn.

Dr Waters added: “Delays in enabling and equipping defence logistics systems will have long-term implications, for both the force’s ability to efficiently operate in the field, and for the defence organisation’s ability to fully exploit the capabilities of soon to be acquired platforms, such as the Joint Strike Fighter and large amphibious ships.”

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