GOVERNANCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY

• Over $4b committed to improving counter-terrorism capabilities since 11 September 2001

• A whole of government effort vital with wider range of agencies involved (eg. immigration, transport, health)

• New structures created when needed - Joint Offshore Protection Command (JOPC)

• Alignment of domestic and international counter-terrorism strategies
KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

• Maximum preparedness, using high quality intelligence to detect and disrupt attacks at home or abroad

• Comprehensive arrangements to protect Australia’s people, infrastructure and interests

• An effective capacity to respond to minimise impact of a terrorist incident, should one occur
NEW NATIONAL MEASURES

• Enhanced legislative framework

• Upgrades to intelligence agencies

• Strengthened law enforcement, border, aviation and maritime transport security

• Information campaigns and advisory services

• Focused science and technology research

• Increased capacity of police, defence forces and emergency services to respond to incidents
NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE (NSC) OF CABINET

- Focal point of decision-making on national security
- Chaired by the Prime Minister
- Senior ministers and key officials
- Supported by the Secretary’s Committee on National Security (PM&C chaired)
NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE (NCTC)

• Key Australian Government agencies

• State/territory first ministers departments and police

• Key functions:
  - strategic and policy advice
  - coordinate nation-wide counter-terrorism capability
  - maintain cross-jurisdictional intelligence sharing arrangements
  - maintain National Counter-Terrorism Plan
INTELLIGENCE

• National Threat Assessment Centre (NTAC) established in October 03

• Increased capacity to produce threat assessments

• Cooperation between Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), other intelligence agencies and non-traditional agencies, such as Federal Police, Dept of Transport, Customs and others
DEFENCE ROLE IN COUNTER-TERRORISM

- Special Operations Command
- Additional Tactical Assault Group (TAG-E)
- Incident Response Regiment
- Reserve Response Force
- Border protection role
To provide ready and relevant forces to conduct special operations across the operational continuum, in a joint, combined and/or interagency environment, in support of Australia’s national interests.
DEFENCE ROLE IN COUNTER-TERRORISM

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SOCOMD ORGANISATION TODAY

Special Operations Headquarters (SOHQ) (Canberra & Sydney)

- SASR (Perth)
- 4 RAR(Cdo) (Sydney)
- 1 Cdo Regt (Sydney & Melb)
- IRR (Sydney)
- SOCSSC (Sydney)
- SFTC (Singleton)
- 171 Avn Sqn (Townsville)
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AUSTRALIA’S INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM RESPONSE

• Much of the CT effort involves activities offshore – need to align domestic and international strategies

• Australia participates in a global coalition, including initiatives to restrict the spread of WMD (eg. PSI)

• ADF engagement with regional defence forces in support of counter-terrorism:
  - counter-hijack training
  - Intelligence exchanges

• Need to tackle the problem of weak and failing regional States
CONCLUSION

Cooperation versus Collaboration