



AUSTRALIAN ARMY

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RESTRUCTURING OF THE ARMY RESERVE DISBANDMENT OF 12 FIELD SQUADRON

1. As you are most probably aware with effect from 1 Dec 87 12 Field Squadron will be disbanded. The aim of this letter is to highlight the reasons behind the disbandment and the options available to you as a member of the unit.

Reasons for the Disbandment

2. In 1985 the Federal Government ordered a review of Australia's Defence Capabilities by Mr Paul Dibb. This was to rationalise defence planning to the turn of the century. This resulted in the Dibb Report which was given to the Government in 1986. From this report the Government wrote its' policy paper "The Defence of Australia". The white paper was presented in Parliament in Mar 87.

3. Both of the documents, the Dibb Report and the following White Paper stress new roles for the Army Reserve. Up to the present the major role for the Army Reserve has been to provide the expansion base for the Army. That is to provide a core of the units required for the Army to carry out large scale operations. This role has now been made the second priority for many units.

4. A new role has been given to the Army Reserve, that of participating in the defence of Australia at the first stages of a conflict. That is during small scale operations in the north of Australia.

5. This means that Army Reserve units must be capable of performing their assigned roles as they exist. They must have the capacity to respond to a call-out, and be ready for operations alongside regular units within a maximum of 180 days and in some cases a minimum of 60 days. Examination of the need to perform assigned roles has also lead to an overall reduction of 4000 positions in the Army Reserve.

6. There will be short warning times for the deployment of forces in the event of a Defence Emergency. The units and formations which exist must be tailored to meet the task. Therefore the entire reserve structure has been reexamined and a required order of battle