

CHAPTER 4

DEFENCE

Department of Defence

Functions of Department of Defence

The functions of the Department of Defence include: defence policy; joint Service matters and matters having an inter-departmental defence aspect; the financial requirements of defence policy and the allocation of the funds made available; the supply aspect of defence policy including the review of production programmes and capacity; important matters of policy or principle affecting the Defence Forces and their requirements, including the strength, organisation and disposition of the forces, higher appointments in the Services, their weapons and equipment, and defence research and development.

Organisation, higher defence machinery, and the control of the joint Service machinery

The joint Service and inter-departmental advisory machinery of the Department consist of various committees headed by the Defence Committee, the Chiefs of Staff Committee, the Defence Administration Committee, and the Joint War Production Committee.

The *Defence Committee* is a statutory body consisting of the Secretary, Department of Defence, who is Chairman; the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee; the Chiefs of Staff of the three Services; the Secretary, Prime Minister's Department; the Secretary, Department of External Affairs; and the Secretary to the Treasury. Its function is to advise the Minister for Defence on: the defence policy as a whole and the co-ordination of military, strategic, economic, financial, and external affairs aspects of defence policy; matters of policy or principle and important questions having a joint Service or an inter-departmental defence aspect; and such other matters having a defence aspect as are referred to the Committee by or on behalf of the Minister for Defence.

The *Chiefs of Staff Committee* meets regularly for the discussion of technical military matters on a joint service basis, and is responsible in peace for the preparation of military appreciations and plans. The functions of the *Defence Administration Committee* are the regular review of the progress of the Defence Programme, the co-ordination or integration of Service activities where appropriate in the interests of improved efficiency and economy, and the improvement of methods and organisation. The function of the *Joint War Production Committee* is, briefly, to examine the Services' requirements for war *matériel* and to recommend whether industrial capacity is adequate to meet them.

In addition, a *Defence Business Board* is constituted to advise on business matters of common interest to the three Services, or important subjects on which the collective advice of the Board is desired from the business aspect, with a view to promoting efficiency and economy in the execution of the Defence Programme. The Board comprises businessmen who serve in a part-time honorary capacity and consists of an independent chairman and deputy chairman and the business advisers of the three Service Departments.

Basis of current defence policy

The primary aim of Australia's defence policy is to ensure the security of the Australian mainland and island Territories and to protect Australian national interests.

To meet the problem of Communist pressure in the general area of south-east Asia, and to ensure international order and progress, it is regarded as essential that the south-east Asian region should comprise free and independent states in a secure environment. In these circumstances Australia continues to play an active part in regional security alliances in south-east Asia and the Pacific—SEATO, ANZUS and Commonwealth defence arrangements—and has committed an expanding military and civil aid contribution to the Vietnam conflict.

The decision of the British Government to withdraw British forces from bases in Singapore and Malaysia will involve changes and adjustments to the present Commonwealth defence arrangements in the area. Changes in Australia's defence planning and preparations to meet this and other developments affecting the strategic situation in south-east Asia will emerge as the various requirements are examined continuously and in consultation as necessary with our allies.

The defence programme

To meet the requirements of our own defence, and to meet our regional responsibilities, Australia is continuing to expand her defence forces. The overall objective is to raise, train, and equip forces to be operationally ready at short notice to participate in a wide range of likely military situations. This aim is pursued through a series of flexible defence programmes designed to give progressive effect to the objectives of policy approved by the Government. Large scale re-equipment of the Service has taken place, and Australia now has the most powerful and effective defence force it has ever had short of war-time mobilisation.

Navy. The naval programme provides for the progressive development and modernisation of the Royal Australian Navy into a well-balanced and effective operational fleet with emphasis on anti-submarine capabilities. Details of ships in commission and in reserve and of the current ship-building programme are shown on pages 79-80. In addition, a wide range of naval projects is being provided. These include fourteen Tracker and ten Skyhawk aircraft, delivered in November 1967, naval construction and support facilities, and accommodation and training equipments. The Navy personnel requirement by June 1968 is 16,980. The Navy Emergency Reserve has been raised with a planned strength of 2,000, and enlistment is proceeding.

Army. The reorganisation of the field force in the new tropical warfare organisation referred to in Year Book No. 53 has now been completed. Eight regular battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment have been raised and a ninth is being formed. The Australian Support Area, which provides the command, administrative, training, and maintenance organisation for the Army as a whole, has been progressively built up to meet the increased commitments both in Vietnam and Australia. Reorganisation of the Citizen Military Forces has also been completed; to provide additional opportunities for service with the C.M.F. the number of battalions has been increased from twenty to twenty-five including one battalion in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. The Pacific Islands Regiment and supporting units continue to be developed, and at present two battalions of the Regiment have been raised.

The strength of the Regular Army is to be increased to 42,650 by 30 June 1968, and provision has been made to increase the C.M.F. up to 37,000 by the same date.

A scheme of selective national service was introduced in 1965 to supplement voluntary recruitment into the Regular Army. Details of this scheme were given in Year Book No. 53.

About \$150 million will be spent from 1965 to 1968 in buying modern equipment throughout the whole range of weapons, ammunition, vehicles, light aircraft, engineering, and signal stores, etc.

A large works programme for the accommodation of the Pacific Islands Regiment in Papua and New Guinea is almost completed, and a greatly increased Army works programme is being undertaken in Australia to provide the accommodation, training, and support requirements for the increase in Army strength to 42,650.

Air Force. The operational units of the Royal Australian Air Force comprise three bomber squadrons, five fighter squadrons, four transport squadrons, two utility helicopter squadrons, one surface-to-air missile squadron, and two control and reporting radar units. The fighter squadrons are being re-equipped with supersonic Mirage 111-O jet fighters, and three of the squadrons are scheduled to be completely re-equipped by the end of 1968. Twenty-four F111C strike reconnaissance aircraft have been ordered from the United States of America to replace the Canberra bombers now in service. Deliveries are scheduled for the latter half of 1968. Twenty-five Caribou short take-off and landing transport aircraft have been delivered. An additional medium range transport squadron was equipped with twelve C130E aircraft, which were received between August 1966 and February 1967. Ten Orion P3B aircraft, scheduled for delivery at the rate of two per month from January 1968, have been ordered to replace the obsolescent P2E Neptune maritime reconnaissance aircraft. Seventy-five Macchi all-through jet trainer aircraft have been ordered. The first six aircraft are being test flown in Italy before shipment to Australia, and the balance are to be assembled in Australia. The first aircraft was accepted by the R.A.A.F. on 2 October 1967. A further thirty-eight Macchi aircraft are to be ordered by June 1968. Delivery of ten dual Mirage trainer aircraft was completed in October 1967. Eight HS748 aircraft are on order from the United Kingdom for training air electronics officers and navigators. Two BAC 111 aircraft for V.I.P. transports and two new control and reporting units are also on order from the United Kingdom. The provision of modern airfield, operational, and technical facilities is being undertaken prior to the introduction of new aircraft types. In addition, the construction of permanent domestic accommodation is proceeding on a continuing basis. The number of personnel required for the operation of the R.A.A.F. by June 1968 is 21,335. Also, ex-R.A.A.F. personnel are being enlisted in the Air Force Emergency Force, which has a planned strength of 1,300.

Research and development. In this field Australia is making its principal contribution through the Long Range Weapons Project, which is a joint effort with the United Kingdom. Australia also participates in the European Launcher Development Organisation and is associated with the United States in many space and defence projects. The Australian executive authority in these matters is the Department of Supply.

Defence expenditure

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE, 1966-67, AND DEFENCE VOTE, 1967-68
(\$'000)

<i>Service or department</i>	<i>Maintenance, aid programmes, etc.</i>	<i>Capital material requirements, machinery, plant, and equipment</i>	<i>Capital buildings, works, and acquisition of sites</i>	<i>Total expenditure</i>
DEFENCE EXPENDITURE, 1966-67				
Defence . . .	8,235	906	904	10,045
Navy . . .	111,160	63,097	8,817	183,074
Army . . .	237,799	36,742	63,467	338,008
Air . . .	145,629	68,342	13,203	227,174
Supply . . .	63,365	9,237	5,356	77,958
Other . . .	22,906	285	85	23,276
Total . . .	589,094	178,609	91,832	859,535

DEFENCE VOTE, 1967-68

Defence . . .	9,727	324	1,479	11,530
Navy . . .	122,882	61,988	8,262	193,132
Army . . .	280,442	41,239	44,421	366,102
Air . . .	164,865	112,480	20,366	297,711
Supply . . .	70,872	10,001	4,853	85,726
Other . . .	26,033	320	30	26,383
Total . . .	674,821	226,352	79,411	980,584

Logistic arrangement with United States Government

A logistic arrangement has been agreed with the United States Government in respect of Australian equipment purchases during the programme period up to 30 June 1968. This arrangement is in effect a 'package deal' covering all the items required instead of negotiating each separate purchase as it arises, and by this method Australia has obtained more advantageous financial terms together with assurances of better delivery dates to meet our requirements. Under this arrangement, instead of paying for the equipment roughly in line with deliveries, the Government is enabled to spread payments over an extended period.

Personnel strengths

PERSONNEL STRENGTHS: SERVICES, 30 NOVEMBER 1967

<i>Category</i>	<i>Navy</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Air Force</i>	<i>Total</i>
Permanent Forces .	16,186	(a)41,780	20,365	78,331
Emergency Reserves	838	960	342	2,140
Citizen Forces .	4,013	35,291	1,155	40,459
Total Forces	21,037	78,031	21,862	120,930

(a) Excludes 2,196 Pacific Islanders.

Reserve of Citizen Forces

Under amendments made to defence legislation in 1964 the Citizen and Reserve Forces may be called out by proclamation for continuous full-time service in a 'Time of Defence Emergency'. The particular circumstances giving rise to the proclamation of a time of defence emergency could be varied, but would occur in a situation where the Regular Forces needed the full-time support of the Citizen and Reserve Forces in hostilities short of general war.

The legislation also provided for the establishment of volunteer Emergency Reserves for the three Services. These Reserves provide a ready means of supplementing and reinforcing operational units and may be called out for continuous full-time service when the Governor-General considers it desirable to do so.

Australian forces serving overseas

Australia has participated with the United Kingdom and New Zealand in the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve since it was first established in Malaya in 1955, and has continued to station forces in the Reserve following the formation of Malaysia and Singapore. The Australian component of the Strategic Reserve comprises:

Navy—two destroyers or frigates with an annual visit by an aircraft carrier and escorts;

Army—one infantry battalion group and a light anti-aircraft battery;

Air Force—two fighter squadrons and supporting units.

Details of additional forces deployed to the Strategic Reserve during the period of Indonesian confrontation are contained in Year Book No. 53.

In response to an invitation of the Government of South Vietnam Australia has provided forces since 1962 to assist in the defence of that country. These forces have been increased progressively since then, as outlined in Year Book No. 53. In October 1967 the Government announced a further increase from the existing level of 6,300 to a total of over 8,000, to be attained during the first half of 1968. When the deployment of the additional elements is completed the following forces will be serving in South Vietnam:

Navy—a guided missile destroyer, a clearance diving team, and pilots, ground crew, and supporting personnel.

Army—a task force of three infantry battalions, a Centurion tank squadron, a special air service squadron, and other combat support units; a logistic support force; and a 100-man Army Training Team.

Air Force—a squadron of eight Canberra bombers, a squadron of sixteen Iroquois helicopters, and a squadron of six Caribou transport aircraft.

In pursuance of our obligations under the SEATO Treaty, at the invitation of the Government of Thailand, a squadron of R.A.A.F. Sabre fighter aircraft is deployed in Thailand as an integral part of the air defence system of that country.

Defence support aid

In support of Australia's strategic policy of contributing to the common defence of south-east Asia the Government provides substantial financial aid to our Asian allies. This aid is given in the forms of direct defence assistance to support the armed forces of these countries and to increase their defence capability, and of civil aid and technical assistance.

Under the Aid programme assistance to the extent of \$2,500,000 will be provided for South Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan, and the Philippines during 1967-68. This will include material assistance, the training of service and civilian personnel both in their home countries and in Australia, and, in the case of South Vietnam, special aid in the form of the provision of surgical teams to staff surgical blocks at the Long Xuyen, Bien Hoa, and Vung Tau hospitals, an engineering team to carry out a water supply project at Bien Hoa, the printing of school text books, and civic action by the Australian Force Vietnam.

Malaysia is also being further assisted to strengthen its defence capability by the extension of the aid programme commenced in 1964. The Australian Government, having provided some \$25 million for Malaysia and Singapore to the end of 1967, announced the provision of a further \$20 million to the end of 1970. The aid to Malaysia includes ammunition, military vehicles, weapons, small craft, engineer equipment, and general stores. Malaysian servicemen will continue to be trained in Australia and in the Malaysian area, and the seconding of Australian servicemen to the Malaysian armed forces will also be continued. Defence aid to Singapore comprises engineer equipment, field ambulances, vehicle maintenance equipment, and 2½ ton four-wheel-drive trucks. Army training courses will also be provided in Australia for Singapore services personnel.

Naval defence

Prior to 1901, naval defence systems were organised under the State Governments. Information regarding these systems is given in Year Book No. 2, page 1084. An outline of the development of Australian naval policy is given in Year Books No. 3, page 1060, and No. 12, page 1012. An account appears in Year Book No. 15, pages 921–3, of the building of the Australian Navy, its costs, the compact with the Imperial Government, and other details. The growth and the activities of the Royal Australian Navy during the 1939–45 War are shown in Year Book No. 36, pages 1023–7.

Under the provisions of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act the Minister of State for the Navy administers the Department of the Navy. Under the *Naval Defence Act* 1910–1966 the Royal Australian Navy is administered by the Naval Board. The Naval Board consists of the Minister as Chairman, four Naval Members, and the Secretary to the Department of the Navy.

Strong links with the Royal Navy are maintained by a constant exchange of officers for extended tours of duty and by a full exchange of information and ideas. A liaison staff is maintained by the Royal Australian Navy in London and by the Royal Navy in Australia. Advanced training and staff courses in the United Kingdom are provided by the Royal Navy for Royal Australian Navy officers. A liaison staff is also maintained by the Royal Australian Navy in Washington, and a comprehensive exchange of information is provided by this link. Staff courses in the United States are also attended by officers of the Royal Australian Navy.

Ships of the Royal Australian Navy

In commission, March 1968: Melbourne—aircraft carrier; *Sydney*—fast troop transport; *Supply*—fast fleet replenishment tanker; *Stalwart*—escort maintenance ship; *Vampire*, *Vendetta*, *Duchess*, and *Anzac*—destroyers; *Perth*, *Hobart*, and *Brisbane*—guided missile destroyers; *Stuart*, *Parramatta*, *Derwent*, and *Yarra*—escort ships; *Queenborough*—training ship; *Diamantina*—training and oceanographic ship; *Hawk* and *Gull*—minesweepers; *Kimbla*—trials ship and boom defence vessel; *Moresby* and *Paluma*—survey vessels; *Oxley*—submarine; *Attack*, *Aitape*, *Samarai*, *Advance*, and *Acute*—patrol boats.

In reserve, March 1968: Tobruk—destroyer; *Quickmatch* and *Quiberon*—escort ships; *Gascoyne*—oceanographic ship; *Culgoa*—accommodation ship; *Teal*, *Ibis*, *Curlew*, and *Snipe*—minesweepers; *Bass* and *Banks*—general purpose vessels.

On service overseas. During the year ended March 1968 the following ships served in south-east Asian waters as units of the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve with headquarters in Singapore: *Melbourne*, *Supply*, *Vampire*, *Duchess*, *Derwent*, *Yarra*, and *Stuart*. The following ships served in support of the allied forces in South Vietnam: *Perth*, *Hobart*, *Sydney*, and *Boonaroo*. H.M.A.S. *Anzac* also made a visit overseas.

Fleet Air Arm

The Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Australian Navy maintains three front line squadrons for embarkation in the operational carrier H.M.A.S. *Melbourne*. These squadrons currently consist of Skyhawk A4-G fighter/ground attack aircraft, Tracker S2-E anti-submarine aircraft, and Wessex MK. 31B submarine helicopters. Four training and support squadrons are based at the Naval Air Station H.M.A.S. *Albatross* at Nowra, New South Wales. Other aircraft operated by the Navy are the Scout helicopter (survey ships), Iroquois helicopter (training and search and rescue), Dakota, Vampire trainer, and Sea Venom (target towing).

Ship construction and repairs

There are two naval dockyards, one at Garden Island, New South Wales, and one at Williamstown, Victoria. Also, the dockyard at Cockatoo Island, which is operated by the Cockatoo Docks and Engineering Company Pty Ltd by agreement with the Commonwealth, carries out considerable naval work. All three dockyards carry out ship refitting for the Navy.

Included in the present ship construction plan is the building of two destroyer escorts, one each at Cockatoo Island and Williamstown Dockyards. A 15,000-ton destroyer tender (H.M.A.S. *Stalwart*) was completed at Cockatoo Island in December 1967. Three submarines of the Oberon class are under construction in the United Kingdom. A guided missile destroyer (H.M.A.S. *Brisbane*) was completed in the United States in December 1967. Twenty 100-foot patrol vessels are being built by Evans Deakin and Co. Pty Ltd, Brisbane, Queensland, and Walkers Ltd, Maryborough, Queensland (ten by each contractor). The first two of these patrol boats (H.M.A.S. *Aitape* and H.M.A.S. *Attack*) were completed in November 1967, while H.M.A.S. *Samarai*, H.M.A.S. *Advance*, and H.M.A.S. *Acute* were completed in February 1968. H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* is to undergo an extended refit in 1968 at Garden Island Dockyard. The Daring class destroyers *Vendetta* and *Vampire* are

to be modernised, commencing in 1970. The anti-submarine guided weapon Ikara, which has been designed and developed in Australia, is being fitted into the guided missile destroyers and escorts.

Personnel, entry, training, women's services, reserves

Personnel. The authorised establishment of the Royal Australian Navy in relation to personnel borne for full-time duty for 1967-68 is 17,400. At 30 November 1967 the actual strength of personnel borne for full-time duty was 1,747 officers and 14,439 sailors, which includes 161 officers and sailors of the Citizen Naval Forces and 22 officers and sailors of the Royal Australian Navy Emergency Reserve.

Naval college. The Royal Australian Naval College, H.M.A.S. *Creswell*, is at Jervis Bay. The College was established to provide trained officers for the R.A.N. Junior entry to the College is at the age of fifteen to seventeen years, and senior entry at a maximum age of twenty years. Subsequent training as midshipmen and sub-lieutenants is in ships of the fleet, at universities or technical colleges, and at Royal Navy training establishments in the United Kingdom. In November 1967 there were sixty-nine cadet midshipmen under training.

Direct entry into Navy. To meet increasing requirements for officers, direct entries are accepted into the Royal Australian Navy. Short service commissions of seven years are granted on completion of training as seamen or aircrew officers to suitable applicants who have completed their secondary schooling and who are over seventeen years of age and under twenty-three years of age for seamen applicants, and under twenty-four years for aircrew applicants. Other direct entries may be approved outside these age limits from persons with appropriate qualifications and experience.

Opportunities exist for university undergraduates studying medicine, dentistry, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, or aeronautical engineering to enter the R.A.N., and on successful completion of their studies to commence short or full-time service in the Navy. Fully qualified doctors, dentists, mechanical or electrical engineers, and instructors may also enter the R.A.N. directly if they are of the appropriate age.

Training establishments. H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* at Westernport, Victoria, is the main training establishment for adult sailors in the permanent naval forces, while several advanced training schools are established in New South Wales. The period of initial engagement for sailors varies from six years for tradesmen entry to nine or twelve years, and on completion sailors may re-engage for shorter periods up to the age of fifty.

H.M.A.S. *Nirimba* at Quakers Hill, New South Wales, is the naval school for apprentices. It provides secondary education, as well as technical training in trades, to boys aged fifteen to seventeen and a half years. The school was established in 1956 to meet the R.A.N.'s increasing demand for highly skilled tradesmen. In November 1967 there were 648 naval artificer apprentices under training. H.M.A.S. *Leeuwin* at Fremantle, Western Australia, is the junior recruit training establishment. Entrants must be aged between fifteen and a half and sixteen and a half years. Training lasts one year and instruction is mainly academic, the remaining time being devoted to basic naval and disciplinary training. On completion of the course sailors are posted for a period of sea training, after which they proceed to technical and specialist courses. In November 1967 there were 598 junior recruits undergoing training.

Women's Services. The present Women's Royal Australian Naval Service was inaugurated in January 1951. The numbers serving in shore establishments in November 1967 were 22 officers and 627 Wrens. The Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service was reconstituted in November 1964, and its strength in November 1967 was 23 officers.

Emergency Reserve. In November 1964 approval was given to form the Royal Australian Naval Emergency Reserve to provide a readily available source of trained manpower which may be called on for continuous full-time service. The authorised establishment of this force is 2,000 officers and sailors. At 30 November 1967 the strength of the reserve available for mobilisation was 61 officers and 777 sailors, which excludes 3 officers and 19 sailors serving full-time. Members are required to complete thirteen days' training annually and are paid an annual bounty.

Citizen Naval Forces. The Citizen Naval Forces consist of the R.A.N. Emergency List, Royal Australian Fleet Reserve, Royal Australian Naval Reserve, Royal Australian Naval Reserve (Sea-going), and Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve. The authorised establishment of the combined forces is 10,000. At 30 November 1967 there were 1,199 officers and 2,814 sailors in the Citizen Naval Forces. These figures exclude 100 officers and 61 sailors serving full time. The R.A.N.R. is the training reserve of the Citizen Naval Forces. Members carry out weekly training and thirteen days' continuous training annually; sailors engage for periods of three years. Other reserves do not normally carry out part-time training, but members may volunteer for periods of annual training and for periods of full-time service with the R.A.N. A Women's Royal Australian Service Reserve consisting of ex-permanent naval forces W.R.A.N.S. officers and W.R.A.N.S. is being formed.

Military defence

A detailed historical account of the Australian defence forces prior to federation appears in Year Book No. 2, pages 1075–81. *See also* Year Book No. 12, page 999.

Commonwealth systems

Under the terms of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act the Commonwealth took over control of defence matters in March 1901. The growth of the Commonwealth Military Forces may be considered to have taken place in a number of phases. For particulars of the phases which cover the period from the welding together of the military forces of the States into one homogeneous Army in 1902 up to the re-establishment of the Military Board and the organisation of Commands after the 1939–45 War *see* Year Book No. 46 and earlier issues.

National Service Training was introduced in 1951 and suspended in 1959–60. In November 1964 the Government announced that National Service Training was to be re-introduced from June 1965. The scheme provides for a period of two years full-time duty in the Regular Army followed by three years in the reserve. National Service registrants who are members of the Citizen Military Forces or who join prior to the ballot may elect to serve in the C.M.F. for a total of five or six years, depending on length of previous service, as an alternative to full-time continuous National Service Training. Special C.M.F. units have been formed to provide for those persons who wish to serve in the C.M.F., but who are unable to do so in normal units, because of remote location, etc.

Organisation

Army Headquarters is responsible for the policy and control of the Australian Military Forces. The Military Board consists of the Minister for the Army, President; the Chief of the General Staff; the Adjutant-General; the Quartermaster-General; the Master-General of the Ordnance; the Deputy Chief of the General Staff; the Citizen Military Forces Member; and the Secretary, Department of the Army. After the 1939–45 War, Command Headquarters were established to implement Army Headquarters policy and to command and administer those units placed under their authority. Command Headquarters are established in the capital cities of Australia and Papua-New Guinea. The geographic extent of Commands is as follows.

Northern Command—the State of Queensland.

Eastern Command—the State of New South Wales, less those parts included in Southern and Central Commands.

Southern Command—the State of Victoria and part of southern New South Wales.

Central Command—the State of South Australia, plus a portion of south-western New South Wales.

Western Command—the State of Western Australia.

Tasmania Command—the State of Tasmania.

Northern Territory Command—the Northern Territory.

Papua-New Guinea Command—the Territory of Papua-New Guinea.

The Army is divided into the Field Force, Forces in Papua-New Guinea, and the Australian Support Area, with both Regular and Citizen Military Forces elements in each. The basic formation of the Field Force is the division, which consists of nine infantry battalions with supporting arms and services units. Within the division three task force headquarters can command varying combinations of divisional units. The substantial parts of the combat elements of one Regular and two C.M.F. divisions have been raised, together with logistic support units. The Regular element of the Forces in Papua-New Guinea consists of two battalions of the Pacific Islands Regiment with a number of supporting units. It is intended to raise a third battalion of the Pacific Islands Regiment. An infantry battalion forms the major C.M.F. element. The Australian Support Area provides the training, administrative, and command structure on the mainland.

At 30 December 1967, units of the Australian Regular Army were deployed overseas as follows. In Malaysia a battalion group was serving as part of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve, while an anti-aircraft battery was serving at the invitation of the Malaysian Government. In Vietnam a Task Force of three battalions with supporting units, including aircraft support provided by the Royal Australian Air Force, was serving at the invitation of the Government of that country; and an armoured squadron had been warned for service in 1968.

Personnel, training, women's services, cadets

Personnel. The effective strength at 29 November 1967 was: Australian Regular Army (including 2,190 Pacific Islanders and 793 Women's Services), 43,544; Citizen Military Forces, 35,972.

Staff College. Until 1938 the training of staff officers was carried out in the various Military Districts throughout Australia, except in cases where officers were selected from time to time to attend courses abroad. In 1938 an Australian Command and Staff School, located in the original Officers' Mess at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, was established. Between 1939 and 1945 the training of staff officers was carried out under varying conditions by different schools in accordance with the changing needs of the war.

Early in 1946 the Staff School (Australia) was established at Seymour, Victoria, and redesignated the Staff College in conformity with other Commonwealth training establishments for training officers for command and staff appointments. The College was later moved to Queenscliff, Victoria, where it is at present situated. The course is held annually and is of twelve months duration. The normal intake is sixty-six students, and on successfully completing the course an officer is awarded the symbol 'psc'. The course is designed to train selected officers for appointments in all branches of the staff in peace and war and to prepare them to assume, after experience, command and higher staff appointments.

Included in the 1968 course will be students from the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, India, United States of America, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Singapore, and Indonesia. Vacancies on each course are reserved also for officers who may be nominated by the Royal Australian Navy, the Royal Australian Air Force, and the Commonwealth Public Service.

In order to ensure common standards in tactical doctrine and staff and command training throughout the Commonwealth of Nations liaison is maintained with other Staff Colleges, and to this end there is also a reciprocal exchange of instructors between the United Kingdom and Australia. An instructor is also provided by New Zealand.

Royal Military College. The Royal Military College was established in 1911 at Duntroon in the Australian Capital Territory for the purpose of providing trained officers for the Army. The conditions of entry are laid down in the Royal Military College Regulations. The length of the normal course is four years. While at the College, Staff Cadets are wholly maintained, and, in addition, receive payment increasing with each year of the course. The course of instruction is organised into military and civil departments, and instruction is given by officers of the Army and academic staff. On graduation cadets are appointed lieutenants in the Australian Regular Army. The College also trains New Zealand cadets for commissions in the New Zealand Permanent Forces. In 1967 one Thai cadet commenced training at the College.

Officer Cadet School. The Officer Cadet School was established in 1951 at Portsea, Victoria, for the purpose of speeding up the production of junior regimental officers for the Australian Regular Army. Serving members of the Australian Regular Army, the Citizen Military Forces and civilians between the ages of eighteen and a half and twenty-two and a half years are eligible to apply for entrance. A special entry provides for candidates up to twenty-four and a half years. The course lasts for forty-four weeks, and on graduation cadets are appointed second-lieutenants in the Australian Regular Army. Graduates normally proceed to further training at the Army School of the Arm and Service to which they have been allotted before being posted to regimental duties. The Officer Cadet School also trains officers on occasions for Malaysia, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines, and Brunei.

Officer Training Unit. An Officer Training Unit has been established at Scheyville, New South Wales, which is responsible for the training of National Service officers.

Women's Royal Australian Army Corps School. The W.R.A.A.C. School, established in 1952 at Mildura, Victoria, moved to Mosman, New South Wales, in 1958. It has three wings, one whose primary task is the training of officer cadets for the W.R.A.A.C., one for the training of non-commissioned officers at all levels and for other special courses, and one which is a basic training wing. The officer cadets are selected from eligible applicants, who may be serving members between nineteen and a half and thirty-two years of age, or civilians between twenty-one and thirty years of age. The course is of six months' duration and on graduation cadets are appointed lieutenants in the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps.

Army Apprentices' School. The Army Apprentices' School was opened in 1948 at Balcombe, Victoria, with the aim of training youths as skilled tradesmen for the Australian Regular Army and to form a background for an Army career with prospects of promotion. The course is open to boys between the ages of fifteen and seventeen years and provides training in a number of highly skilled

trades. A three-year course of intensive theoretical and practical work at the Apprentices' School is followed by one year in an appropriate Army workshop or technical unit. At the end of their third year boys are given their Army trade test and also take the Victorian Apprenticeship Commission's final grade public examinations, which ensures that they will be accepted as qualified tradesmen in civil life when they eventually leave the Army. In addition to trade training the Apprentices' School provides general educational facilities up to the School Leaving Standard.

Other schools. Army Schools have been established for the major Arms and Services for the purpose of training officers and other ranks in the up-to-date techniques of their own Arm or Service, to qualify them for promotion requirements, and to produce trained instructors. Courses at Army Schools are conducted for members of both the Australian Army and the Citizen Military Forces.

The following Army Schools have been established: Jungle Training Centre, Armoured Centre, School of Artillery, School of Military Engineering, Transportation Centre, School of Military Survey, School of Signals, Infantry Centre, Army Intelligence Centre, Royal Australian Army Service Corps Centre, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps School of Army Health, Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps Centre, Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Training Centre, School of Music, Air Support Unit (Army Component), and Air Movement Training and Development Unit (Army Component).

Women's Services. In July 1950 approval was given for the enlistment of women into the Australian Regular Army on a limited scale. Enlistment commenced into the Royal Australian Army Nursing Service in November 1950 and into the Australian Women's Army Corps early in 1951. In February 1951 the Royal Australian Army Nursing Service became a Corps and was designated the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (R.A.A.N.C.). During June 1951 the Australian Women's Army Corps was redesignated the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (W.R.A.A.C.). The Women's Services in the Australian Regular Army now comprise two Corps only, the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps and the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps.

Women's Services are incorporated in the Citizen Military Forces, and one company of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps is located in each Command excluding Northern Territory Command and Papua-New Guinea Command. Companies of the Royal Australian Nursing Corps are located in each Command excluding Northern Territory Command and Papua-New Guinea Command.

Australian Cadet Corps. The Australian Cadet Corps is a voluntary organisation. It serves as a training ground to provide, to some extent, the future officers and non-commissioned officers of the Australian Military Forces, and, as such, occupies a foremost position in the scheme of national defence. The Australian Cadet Corps, does not, however, form part of the Australian Military Forces. School Cadet units are raised at educational establishments throughout the Commonwealth and Papua and New Guinea, except in the Northern Territory. The minimum age for enrolment is the year in which the applicant reaches the age of fourteen years, and cadets, who, in the large majority of schools receive a free issue of A.M.F. pattern uniform, may remain in the Cadet Corps until they cease to be pupils of the educational establishments concerned. A few units retain their own pattern school uniform and are not issued with A.M.F. pattern uniforms. Provision is made for the appointment of officers, cadet under-officers, warrant and non-commissioned officers on an authorised establishment scale from within school units. School Cadet units may be, and in many cases are, affiliated with Citizen Military Force units. The establishment of the Corps is 45,000 all ranks, and at 30 September 1967 comprised 351 School Cadet units with a posted strength of 41,434, all ranks.

Air defence

A statement regarding the preliminary steps taken in connection with the development of air defence appears in Year Book No. 18, page 610, and one on the expansion and development and type of operations of the Royal Australian Air Force during the 1939-45 War in Year Book No. 36, page 1027. Details of the current defence expansion as it affects the R.A.A.F. were outlined by the Prime Minister in his speech in the House of Representatives on 8 November 1965.

Higher organisation

The Air Board is responsible to the Minister for Air for the control, organisation, and administration of the Royal Australian Air Force and is constituted as follows: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Member for Personnel, Air Member for Supply and Equipment, Air Member for Technical Services, and the Secretary, Department of Air.

The Air Board administers and controls R.A.A.F. units in Australia and its Territories through two commands, Operational Command and Support Command. The guiding principles of the command organisation within Australia are to decentralise day-to-day operating activities as far as possible and to streamline the force and make it as efficient as possible. The operational units overseas, working within the broad directives issued by the Air Board, comprise the R.A.A.F. component of the British Commonwealth Strategic Reserve located at Butterworth in Malaysia, a unit in Thailand and the R.A.A.F. component of the Australian task force in South Vietnam.

The members of the Air Board and their staffs are located at the Department of Air in Canberra. An R.A.A.F. representative is located in London, and air attachés are located in Djakarta, Saigon, Paris, and Washington. *Operational Command* is responsible for the command of operational units and the conduct of their operations within Australia and its territories. *Support Command* is responsible for the recruitment and training of personnel, and the supply and maintenance of service equipment.

Organisation of units

Bases. Each command is established with the units necessary to carry out its allotted function. There is no fixed rule in relation to the number and types of units within each command, as this depends upon the nature of its present and future responsibilities. Where possible, units having similar functions or requiring similar facilities are located together, and the geographical locations are known as bases.

Formations—comprising a headquarters unit to control the activities of a number of units at one location; each formation has a base squadron which provides common services to all units at the location.

Flying squadrons—strike reconnaissance, air defence, ground attack, medium and short range transport, helicopter, and maritime reconnaissance squadrons which undertake the operational flying and, in conjunction with operational conversion units, the operational flying training commitments of the R.A.A.F.

Operational conversion units—specialising in operational conversion training of aircrew for the strike reconnaissance, air defence, and ground attack squadrons.

Aircraft depots—specialising in major overhaul, etc., of aircraft and equipment.

Stores depots—centrally located depots to which stores and equipment ordered by the R.A.A.F. are delivered for distribution to units.

Airfield construction squadron—specialising in the construction of aerodromes and associated buildings and works required by the R.A.A.F. in Australia, its Territories, and south-east Asia.

Telecommunications units—responsible for the communications services of the R.A.A.F.

R.A.A.F. Hospitals—hospitals in Australia and at Butterworth providing medical services for the R.A.A.F.

Flying and ground schools and units—schools and units specialising in the aircrew and ground staff training required by the R.A.A.F.

R.A.A.F. Diploma Squadron and R.A.A.F. Academy—training units, to diploma and university degree level respectively for officer cadet entrants to the R.A.A.F.

R.A.A.F. Staff College—trains specially selected R.A.A.F. officers for higher staff and command posts.

Aircraft

The R.A.A.F.'s strike reconnaissance force is equipped with Canberras, and the air defence and ground attack squadrons are equipped with the Mirage 111-O and Avon Sabre. Transport aircraft currently in use are Hercules C130A and E. Caribou, Dakota, Mystere 20, HS748, Metropolitan, and Viscount. The two helicopter squadrons operate the Iroquois and the two maritime squadrons operate Neptune SP2H and Orion P3-B aircraft. During 1968 the strike reconnaissance force is to be re-equipped with the F111 C, and BAC 111 aircraft are to replace the Metropolitan. Aircraft used for training are the Winjeel, Macchi, HS748, Sabre, and Mirage.

Personnel, reserve, women's services

At 1 December 1967 the authorised Permanent Air Force establishment was 22,814 and the Citizen Air Force, 1,080; the enlisted strength was Permanent Air Force 20,365 and Citizen Air Force 1,155; while the strength of the General Reserve was 7,326. The preceding Permanent Air Force figures include the Women's Royal Australian Air Force, which has an establishment of 1,046 and strength of 859, and the R.A.A.F. Nursing Service with an establishment of 99 and strength of 90.

Department of Supply

For information relating to the creation of the Department of Supply and its development up to 1959 see Year Book No. 51, page 1204, and earlier issues. On 18 December 1959 the Department assumed responsibility for the operation and management of space tracking stations in Australia on behalf of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration. On 29 March 1962 Australia became a foundation member of the European Launcher Development Organisation, and the Department accepted responsibility for the test firing of the launching rocket for that Organisation's experimental satellite, using the facilities of the Woomera Rocket Range.

Functions of Department

The functions of the Department of Supply include the following.

- Defence research and development, including the operation of the Joint United Kingdom-Australia Weapons Research Project, and Australian research and development.
- Operation and management of factories, workshops, and undertakings concerned in the production of munitions (including aircraft), clothing, canvas-ware, and other defence goods.
- Manufacture, acquisition, provision, and supply of munitions (including aircraft) and miscellaneous goods and services required by the defence forces.
- Arrangement of contracts for the supply of goods and the performance of services.
- Operation and management of space tracking stations in Australia on behalf of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- Test firing of the launching rocket for the European Launcher Development Organisation's experimental satellite, using the facilities of the Woomera Rocket Range.
- Acquisition, maintenance, and disposal of strategic materials.
- Planning and establishment of manufacturing facilities for the production of munitions and other defence goods.
- Investigation and development of Australian sources of supply in connection with defence.
- Sale or disposal of surplus Commonwealth property other than land or buildings.
- Provision of Commonwealth transport facilities outside the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.
- Provision and control of stores required for or in connection with matters administered by the Department of Supply, and general storage for other Departments as required.
- Arrangements for ascertaining costs and the control and limitation of profits in connection with the production of munitions and other defence goods.

The Minister for Supply administers the *Supply and Development Act 1939-1966*, except in so far as it concerns the building (see also the chapter Transport and Communication), repair, and maintenance of merchant ships and the building, extension, alteration, repair, and maintenance of shipyards, drydocking, and repair facilities for merchant ships.

Research and Development

The Research and Development Division is responsible for research and scientific development in relation to war *matériel*, including the operation of the Joint United Kingdom-Australia Weapons Research Project. The headquarters of the Division is situated in Canberra, and the following establishments are included in the Division: (a) Weapons Research Establishment, Salisbury, South Australia; (b) Defence Standards Laboratories, Maribyrnong, Victoria; Woodville North, South Australia; and Alexandria, New South Wales; (c) Aeronautical Research Laboratories, Fishermen's Bend, Victoria.

Weapons Research Establishment, Salisbury, South Australia

This establishment, which occupies an area of about six square miles, includes Edinburgh Airfield, where accommodation is provided for a unit of the R.A.A.F. which carries out the experimental and other flying required. Extensive facilities have been provided for branches of British firms which have contracted with the British Ministry of Aviation to develop weapons systems or components.

The Establishment has four main sections, namely the Trials Wing, the Space Physics Wing, the Weapons Research and Development Wing, and the Engineering Wing. The Trials Wing is concerned with the operation, development, and instrumentation of the Woomera Range, also the planning, execution, and assessment of trials. The Space Physics Wing undertakes the operation of United States satellite and space tracking stations throughout Australia and conducts research and development in support of the Range, including investigations into the characteristics of the upper atmosphere

using sounding rockets. The Weapons Research and Development Wing is concerned primarily with Australian-initiated defence research, but assistance is also given with some phases of the Joint Project programme. The Engineering Wing provides the design and manufacturing effort required to support the work of the Establishment and the Range.

Testing ranges have been established at Woomera, which is approximately 280 miles north-west of Adelaide. A township, together with modern amenities such as hospital, school, kindergarten, community store, swimming pool, and all sporting facilities, has been built at Woomera to accommodate the staff and their families. The population is approximately 5,300.

European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO)

By virtue of the major facilities at Woomera for launching space vehicles and the associated technical skills, Australia has become a member of ELDO, which has been established with the object of developing a launching vehicle for placing satellites in orbit for peaceful purposes. Other members of ELDO are Britain, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, and the Netherlands. Test firings of the ELDO rocket will continue at Woomera until 1970.

United States space projects

Agreements have been signed by the Australian and United States Governments for a co-operative programme for the establishment and operation in Australia of space vehicle tracking stations. The agencies for the Australian and American Governments are the Department of Supply and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) respectively.

As part of the world-wide network supporting NASA's space programme the stations are designed to track spacecraft in their orbits around the earth or on their journey into space, to receive telemetered data from the vehicle, and to issue radio commands controlling the vehicle's manoeuvres. The Department of Supply is responsible for managing, staffing, and operating the stations on behalf of NASA. The stations which are now in operation or under construction are at:

- Island Lagoon near Woomera (deep space probes and optical tracking of scientific satellites);
- Carnarvon in Western Australia (manned space flights and scientific satellites);
- Tidbinbilla in the A.C.T. (deep space probes and manned space flights);
- Orroral Valley in the A.C.T. (scientific satellites);
- Honeysuckle Creek in the A.C.T. (manned space flights, particularly the 'man on the moon' Apollo project);
- Cooby Creek near Toowoomba, Queensland (applications technology satellites).

An extensive communications system links the tracking stations with the control centres in the United States.

At all six stations the responsibility is vested in a station director who is a senior officer of the Weapons Research Establishment of the Department of Supply.

Under the Australian Government's policy of using the resources of private industry wherever possible, contracts for operation and/or maintenance services at the stations have been let as follows. Space Track Pty Ltd (Tidbinbilla and Island Lagoon), Amalgamated Wireless (A'asia) Ltd (Carnarvon and Cooby Creek), E.M.I. Electronics (Australia) Pty Ltd (Orroral Valley), and Standard Telephones and Cables Pty Ltd (Honeysuckle Creek).

NASA space projects requiring Australian participation are as follows.

Manned space flights

Project Apollo—landing of men on moon and their return to earth.

Scientific and applications satellites

Large multiple experiment scientific satellites (Orbiting Geophysical Observatories; Orbiting Astronomical Observatories, etc.). Operations satellites for meteorology (Tiros). Applications technology satellites for communications, navigation, radio propagation, etc. (ATS).

Deep space probes

Surveyor—soft landing of instrumented package on moon, including T.V. cameras.
 Mariner—probes to Mars, Venus, etc.
 Pioneer—interplanetary investigations.

Defence Standards Laboratories

The broad function of these Laboratories is to provide a scientific service to the Armed Services, civilian defence, and the factories, branches, and establishments of the Department of Supply. It also provides trained groups in specialist fields for which there is no counterpart elsewhere in Australia.

This service covers problems arising in the provision and use of defence *matériel* and is given generally within the fields of chemistry, physics, metallurgy, and engineering, and, to a limited extent, in those of bio-chemistry and physiology.

Aeronautical Research Laboratories

The work of these Laboratories lies in the fields of: (a) aeronautics; (b) guided missiles; and (c) branches of engineering appropriate to the special facilities, resources, or experience resulting from (a) and (b). In particular it comprises aerodynamics, including wind tunnel, free flight model and actual flight testing; structures of aircraft and missiles; metals and other materials used in the construction of airframes and engines; engines of the air-breathing type used for the propulsion of aircraft or missiles; human engineering studies relating to the operation of aircraft and guided missiles; research and development related to Australian-initiated guided missiles; and operational assessment studies on devices and techniques employed or proposed for the defence of Australia.

Production of munitions

The Department is responsible for the production of a wide range of munitions required by the Armed Services. Production is carried out substantially in Government factories, although some orders, mainly for components, are placed with private industry.

The following Government factories are currently in operation: Ammunition—Footscray, Victoria; Explosives and Filling—Albion and Maribyrnong, Victoria; Mulwala and St Marys, New South Wales; Ordnance—Maribyrnong, Bendigo, and Port Melbourne, Victoria; Small Arms—Lithgow, New South Wales; Clothing—South Melbourne and Brunswick, Victoria.

The Ammunition Factory produces the complete round of small arms ammunition and also components for larger calibre gun ammunition, including empty cartridge cases, electronic and mechanical fuses, and primers. The Explosives Factories produce the various types of explosive compositions and propellants required for gun ammunition, rockets, and guided missiles. The Filling Factory at St Marys fills and assembles into complete rounds of ammunition (other than small arms ammunition) the empty components and materials supplied by the other munitions factories and by private industry.

The Ordnance Factories at Maribyrnong and Bendigo are equipped to produce heavy ordnance equipment, such as naval guns and gun mountings; large turbine gears; steel shell bodies; empty rocket motors for guided missiles; trailers and tank transporters; and other items requiring heavy engineering capacity. As well as work for the Services, the Bendigo Factory is producing equipment for projects of national importance, e.g. control equipment for the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority, components for marine diesel engines for Australian shipping, large heavy engineering items for the coal, cement, and steel industries, and coining presses for the Royal Australian Mint.

The Port Melbourne Factory builds large marine diesel engines for the Australian shipbuilding industry. Major forgings and fabrications for these engines are produced at the Ordnance Factories at Maribyrnong and Bendigo. The Small Arms Factory is equipped to produce the rifles and other small arms required by the Services. Current production is the 7.62-mm automatic rifle, for which orders have also been received from overseas, and the 9-mm carbine, which replaces the Owen as the infantry light machine gun. The Clothing Factories make uniforms, clothing, and canvas goods for the three Services and also for the Postmaster-General's Department and some other Commonwealth authorities.

Production of aircraft and guided weapons

Production both in Government factories and in industry of military types of aircraft and aero engines and of other aircraft components required by the Royal Australian Air Force is administered by the Department of Supply. Planning of capacity and the negotiation of contractual arrangements concerning aircraft modification, repair and overhaul, and for the supply of spare parts and airborne equipment for the R.A.A.F., the R.A.N., and the Army are also functions of the Department.

The following factories are operated by the Department: The Government Aircraft Factory at Fishermen's Bend and the Final Assembly Workshops and Test Airfield at Avalon, Victoria, and the Airframe Repair Workshops at Parafield and Northfield, South Australia. The current aircraft production programme at the Government Aircraft Factory comprises the French Mirage supersonic fighter for the R.A.A.F. and the Jindivik radio-controlled target aircraft, which has been or is being supplied to Britain, Sweden, and the United States, as well as to the Weapons Research Establishment and the Royal Australian Navy. Apart from the Government Aircraft Factory, the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation Pty Ltd is the only major aircraft manufacturer in Victoria, and this company is currently producing the French Atar turbo-jet engine for the Mirage fighter and also some sections of the airframe. The Corporation is also the prime contractor for the Australian production for the R.A.A.F. of the Italian Macchi jet trainer and for the production of the British Viper engine that powers this aircraft.

Other major activities carried out in the Government factories or by various private contractors are the manufacture of airframe and engine spare parts; the overhaul, repair, and modification of military aircraft and engines currently in service with the R.A.A.F., R.A.N., and Army; and the reconditioning and servicing of aircraft instruments and other ancillary equipment.

The production of the Ikara anti-submarine missile is continuing at the Government Aircraft Factory at Fishermen's Bend. Production of the complete Ikara system, covering broadly the missile, motor, propellants, guidance equipment, launcher, and magazine handling equipment, is a combined effort by departmental establishments and industry, directed and co-ordinated by the Department.

At St Mary's, New South Wales, a guided weapons repair facility has been established to repair and maintain the Tartar surface-to-air missile supplied by the United States for Australia's new missile destroyers. Later, the facility will be expanded to cater for other Service missiles.

Electronics supply

The Department is responsible for the technical aspects of production and procurement from local industry of telecommunications and electronic equipment for the Australian Forces and for certain other organisations such as Colombo Plan and SEATO. A wide range of these equipments is obtained from industry; some of the more important projects are the complete equipping of several major automatic telegraph relay centres for Army and Air; the local manufacture of ultra high-frequency ground station equipment for communication with high-speed aircraft, automatic direction finders for the Macchi aircraft, remote-controlled target ranges for the Army, electronic guidance equipment for the Ikara system, and the development and production of a transistorised field transceiver for the Army.

Contracts have also been arranged for the local development of a high stability quartz-crystal oscillator, and of other high stability electronic components, such as various types of fixed and variable resistors, mica and tantalum capacitors, and matched crystals.

Contract Board

Under the *Supply and Development Act 1939-1966* the Contract Board is the authority responsible for the arranging of contracts for the performance of services and the purchase of supplies for the Naval, Military, and Air Forces of the Commonwealth, as well as for the Department of Supply. The Board is also responsible for the sale or disposal of all surplus or unserviceable Commonwealth goods approved for disposal. By arrangement, the Board also arranges purchases on behalf of other Commonwealth departments and authorities which desire to use its facilities.

Although the head office of the Department transferred to Canberra in January 1968, the Contract Board will continue to meet in Melbourne for the present. The Board comprises representatives of the Departments of Supply, Navy, Army, and Air. In each State other than Victoria there is at present a District Contract Board, and it is proposed to establish a District Board also in Victoria. The administrative organisation of the Contract Board and the District Boards is the Contracts and Disposals Branch with offices in Canberra and each State. The table following shows, in respect of the Contract Board organisation, the purchases and realisations from disposals for the years 1965-66 and 1966-67.

CONTRACT BOARD ORGANISATION: PURCHASES AND REALISATIONS FROM DISPOSALS, 1965-66 AND 1966-67 (\$'000)

	Purchases		Realisations from disposals	
	1965-66	1966-67	1965-66	1966-67
Contract Board, Victoria	129,549	184,784	3,315	3,153
District Contract Board—				
New South Wales	25,294	29,651	1,950	2,674
Queensland	4,475	5,644	662	862
South Australia	7,007	10,258	1,054	1,154
Western Australia	1,662	1,418	292	495
Tasmania	230	235	104	153
Total	168,217	231,990	7,377	8,491

Defence supply planning

The central planning authority of the Department is the Production Planning Branch, whose principal functions are:

- to study manufacturing capacity available for the Services' requirements in peace and war;
- to plan for and assist in the development of additional production capacity;
- to prepare submissions on defence production preparedness to the higher defence machinery;
- to plan the organisation of industrial resources for defence production in war;
- to provide and administer stocks of relevant materials and reserve pools of plant equipment and other requirements needed for rapid expansion of production in the event of war;
- to prepare advance co-ordinated production programmes against Service orders and to analyse and interpret achievement against these programmes for the information of the Department and the Services;
- to provide advisory services in the field of materials, supply, and utilisation to Government factories and contractors engaged in the production of munitions requirements;
- to administer the national stockpile;
- to administer overseas aid programmes allocated to the Department; and
- to undertake commercial sales.

A series of Industry Advisory Committees has been established to advise the Minister and the Department on the ability of industry to meet the Services' *matériel* requirements for mobilisation and war. The Committees are: Aircraft and Guided Weapons; Chemical; Electrical; Electronics and Telecommunications; Fibres, Textiles, Clothing, and Cordage; Leather and Footwear; Machine Tools and Gauges; Materials; Mechanical Engineering; and Rubber. Members of the Committees include industrialists of wide experience and the highest ability in their chosen fields.

Stores and Transport Branch

This Branch functions as the central storage and transport authority for most Commonwealth Departments. It is the authority for the arrangement of furniture removals at departmental expense in all States, but not in the Northern Territory. It has agents in Darwin. It also operates a shipping and customs section and the England-Australia bulk air freight scheme for Commonwealth Departments.

On 30 June 1967 the Branch had under its control land, buildings, and works, vehicles, plant, and equipment valued at \$26,139,056, and 3,569,436 sq ft of storage space as well as storage facilities for large quantities of chemicals, bulk liquids, and explosives.

Finance Branch

The total expenditure on Department of Supply activities in 1966-67 was \$155,159,000, comprising \$77,958,000 (net) from Parliamentary appropriations and \$77,201,000 from Trust Fund accounts. The latter included expenditure of \$15,149,000 for storage and transport and \$55,962,000 in Government Munitions and Aircraft Factories.

In addition, transactions under the United States-Australian logistics arrangement in 1966-67 amounted to \$2,355,000, comprising \$1,731,000 relating to Parliamentary appropriations and \$624,000 relating to Trust Fund accounts.

