

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 and joint staffs 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 the Cabinet Office; 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.

The first stage of the reorganisation of the Defence Department machinery is now in operation. Under these arrangements a series of staffs have been set up under a Director, Joint Staff, and comprising service personnel drawn from the Service Departments together with civilian officers of the Defence and External Affairs Departments as appropriate. These staffs will examine long-term defence policy and planning, particularly in the strategic field, equipment requirements, joint warfare, military operations, logistics, and communications. When necessary the Director, Joint Staff, will convene working parties from the Services and other authorities for special tasks.

The Defence Science organisation in the Department is also being developed, and this will contribute to defence planning and policy formulation in the wider sense, as well as co-ordinating the research and development work necessary to support the Services generally. Planning is well advanced for the establishment of a Joint Service College to provide tertiary-level education for officer cadets, and also of an Australian Service Staff College to train selected Service officers for joint service staff and command appointments. In addition, a study of new joint intelligence arrangements is almost completed and progress has been made in integrating activities in the medical and dental fields.

Basis of current defence policy

The primary aims of Australia's defence policy are to ensure the security of the Australian mainland and island Territories and to protect Australian national interests. In pursuance of these aims, Australia continues to play an active part, commensurate with national interests and resources, in regional security alliances in south-east Asia and the Pacific—SEATO, ANZUS and Commonwealth defence arrangements—with the objective of assisting our allies in meeting the continuing communist pressures, and of developing free and independent states in a secure environment.

Australia has a particular interest in the peace and stability of Malaysia and Singapore, and will maintain close co-operation with its partners in this area. In the light of the British withdrawal and changing circumstances in the south-east Asian area generally the Australian Government has been making a fundamental re-examination of defence policies and the part which Australian forces would play in the future in collective defence and combined training arrangements. The Government has announced that it has been decided to maintain forces in Malaysia and Singapore until the end of 1971.

Personnel strengths

Of the Army strength some 16,000 are national servicemen. The selective national service scheme is in its fourth year of operation and continues to be essential for the maintenance of Army strength.

PERSONNEL STRENGTHS OF DEFENCE FORCES, JUNE 1959 TO 1969**NAVY**

<i>Strength at June—</i>	<i>Permanent forces</i>	<i>Citizen forces</i>	<i>Emergency reserves</i>	<i>Total</i>
1959	10,699	7,850	..	18,549
1960	10,598	7,816	..	18,414
1961	10,722	7,770	..	18,492
1962	11,103	6,424	..	17,527
1963	11,663	5,433	..	17,096
1964	12,569	5,202	..	17,771
1965	13,503	3,762	443	17,708
1966	14,714	3,797	686	19,197
1967	15,893	3,931	793	20,617
1968	16,454	4,047	904	21,405
Estimated strength at June 1969	17,510	4,070	1,075	22,655

ARMY

<i>Strength at June—</i>	<i>Permanent forces</i>		<i>Citizen forces</i>	<i>Emergency reserves</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Australian Regular Army</i>	<i>Pacific Islands Regiment</i>			
1959	21,371	602	54,683	..	76,656
1960	20,772	661	37,921	..	59,354
1961	19,878	581	26,958	..	47,417
1962	20,985	638	30,041	..	51,664
1963	21,944	695	27,341	..	49,980
1964	22,681	812	27,505	..	50,998
1965	25,314	1,415	28,146	288	55,163
1966	32,702	1,732	32,046	662	67,142
1967	41,464	2,246	34,670	889	79,269
1968	42,944	2,406	35,762	1,031	82,143
Estimated strength at June 1969	43,900	2,800	38,000	1,100	85,800

PERSONNEL STRENGTHS OF DEFENCE FORCES, JUNE 1959 TO 1969—*continued*
AIR FORCE

<i>Strength at June—</i>	<i>Permanent forces</i>	<i>Citizen forces</i>	<i>Emergency reserves</i>	<i>Total</i>
1959	15,455	864	..	16,319
1960	15,743	764	..	16,507
1961	15,592	671	..	16,263
1962	15,815	765	..	16,580
1963	15,840	788	..	16,628
1964	16,564	926	..	17,490
1965	17,720	724	26	18,470
1966	19,358	865	170	20,393
1967	20,130	1,059	303	21,492
1968	21,564	907	397	22,868
Estimated strength at June 1969	22,950	919	580	24,449

Equipment

Expenditure on equipment of a capital nature in 1967-68 was \$335.7m, including \$114.8m under credit arrangements with the United States Government. It is expected that \$350m will be spent in 1968-69 including \$90m under the credit arrangement with the United States. This increase arises from deliveries of items ordered under the recent Defence Programme.

During 1967-68 a significant number of major items of equipment were received in Australia. These included ships (1 destroyer tender, 1 Oberon submarine, and 8 patrol boats); aircraft (12 ASW Tracker, 10 Skyhawk fighter bombers, 9 Orion, 24 Mirage, 19 Macchi, 4 Pilatus Porter, 30 helicopters, and 4 VIP); and a large quantity of military vehicles and equipment. Further major items of equipment expected to be received in 1968-69 include ships (12 patrol boats, 1 Oberon submarine); aircraft (12 Mirage, 36 Macchi, 24 F111C, 8 HS748 Navigation Trainers, 10 Pilatus Porter, and 25 helicopters), and military equipment including personnel carriers, land rovers, trucks, and ammunition. Two destroyer escorts are under construction in Australian shipyards and one Oberon submarine in British shipyards.

Research and development

The laboratories of the Department of Supply together with the Services' own technical establishments, have continued to work on projects and investigations in support of Service needs. A new agreement with the United Kingdom has been negotiated for the conduct of the Woomera Range and its associated technical facilities, and collaborative programmes in space tracking and other selected topics have been arranged with the U.S.A.

Defence expenditure

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE, BY DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE, 1963-64 TO 1968-69
(\$'000)

	<i>Defence(a)</i>	<i>Navy</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>Supply</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
Actual expenditure—							
1963-64	3,829	111,103	158,067	178,351	58,586	10,988	520,924
1964-65	9,683	136,008	199,962	185,930	66,744	10,656	608,983
1965-66	14,040	170,622	261,752	218,109	71,364	11,969	747,856
1966-67—							
Total	18,081	202,607	352,837	281,011	80,312	15,240	950,088
less United States credits . . . . .	..	19,533	14,829	53,837	2,354	..	90,553
Payments from appropriations	18,081	183,074	338,008	227,174	77,958	15,240	859,535
1967-68—							
Total	17,492	223,492	381,019	378,615	90,038	18,877	1,109,533
less United States credits . . . . .	..	32,805	16,432	81,705	1,195	..	132,137
Payments from appropriations	17,492	190,687	364,587	296,910	88,843	18,877	977,396
Estimated expenditure—							
1968-69—							
Total	21,645	233,722	401,093	437,254	93,504	29,942	1,217,160
less United States credits . . . . .	..	18,572	15,761	86,997	1,022	..	122,352
Payments from appropriations	21,645	215,150	385,332	350,257	92,482	29,942	1,094,808

(a) Includes defence aid for Malaysia and Singapore, and recruiting campaign from 1964-65.

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.

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 has comprised:

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.

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. Details of the progressive increase in these forces between 1962 and 1967 are outlined in Year Book No. 53. The force level was further increased during the first half of 1968 from 6,300 to some 8,000, comprising:

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, artillery field regiment and their combat support units; a logistic support force; and a 99-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.

After consultation with the Governments concerned, the squadron of R.A.A.F. Sabre fighter aircraft previously deployed in Thailand (*see* Year Book No. 54) was regrouped with the R.A.A.F. at Butterworth in August 1968. This regrouping will not affect the R.A.A.F.'s ability to deploy if required in pursuance of SEATO obligations.

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 civil aid and technical assistance, as well as direct defence assistance to support the armed forces of these countries and to increase their defence capability.

Under the SEATO Aid programme assistance to the extent of \$2,400,000 will be provided for South Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan, and the Philippines during 1968-69. 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 medical and developmental fields 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 1969: Melbourne—aircraft carrier; *Sydney*—transport; *Supply*—oiler; *Stalwart*—destroyer tender; *Perth, Hobart* and *Brisbane*—guided missile destroyers; *Vampire, Vendetta, Dutchess* and *Anzac*—destroyers; *Yarra, Parramatta, Stuart, Derwent, Queenborough*—destroyer escorts; *Hawk, Gull*—coastal minesweepers; *Curlew*—coastal minehunter; *Moresby, Paluma*—surveying ships; *Diamantina, Kimbla*—oceanographic research ships; *Oxley, Otway, Owens*—submarines; *Attack, Aitape, Acute, Adroit, Advance, Archer, Ardent, Arrow, Assail, Aware, Bandalier, Barbette, Barricade, Bayonet, Bombard, Buccaneer, Ladava, Lae, Madang, Samarai*—patrol boats; *Banks, Bass*—auxiliaries.

In reserve, March 1969: Tobruk—destroyer; *Quiberon, Quickmatch*—destroyer escorts; *Gascoyne*—oceanographic research ship; *Culgoa*—barrack ship; *Teal, Ibis, Snipe*—coastal minesweepers.

On service overseas. During the year ended March 1969 the following ships served in south-east Asian waters as units of the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve with headquarters in Singapore: *Vendetta, Parramatta, Yarra, Dutchess, Derwent*. The following ships served in support of the allied forces in South Vietnam: *Hobart, Perth, Sydney*.

The ships *Anzac, Moresby* and *Diamantina* also made overseas visits.

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. One submarine of the Oberon class is under construction in the United Kingdom. Twenty 100-foot patrol vessels were built by Evans Deakin

and Co. Pty Ltd, Brisbane, Queensland, and Walkers Ltd, Maryborough, Queensland (ten by each contractor). H.M.A.S. *Melbourne* underwent an extended refit during 1968 at Garden Island Dockyard. The Daring class destroyers *Vendetta* and *Vampire* are to have an extended refit, 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 1968-69 is 17,512. At 30 November 1968 the actual strength of personnel borne for full-time duty was 1,809 officers and 14,949 sailors, which includes 169 officers and sailors of the Citizen Naval Forces and 21 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 1968 there were eighty-six 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 1968 there were 622 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 1968 there were 602 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 1968 were 24 officers and 628 Wrans. The Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service was reconstituted in November 1964, and its strength in November 1968 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 1968 the strength of the reserve available for mobilisation was 63 officers and 937 sailors, which excludes 3 officers and 18 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 (Seagoing), Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve, and Women's Royal Australian Naval Service Reserve. The authorised establishment of the combined forces is 10,000. At 30 November 1968 there were 1,270 officers and 2,697 sailors in the Citizen Naval Forces. These figures exclude 107

officers and 62 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 Naval Service Reserve consisting of ex-permanent naval forces W.R.A.N.S. officers and W.R.A.N.S. was authorised in June 1968 and enlistments commenced in mid-November 1968.

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. 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 1968, 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; an armoured squadron joined the Task Force early in 1968.

Personnel, training, women's services, cadets

Personnel. The effective strength at 29 November 1968 was: Australian Regular Army 45,770, (including 2,422 Pacific Islanders, 397 Citizen Military Forces on full-time duty, and 726 Women's Services); Citizen Military Forces, 34,927.

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 seventy 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 1969 course will be students from the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, India, United States of America, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Indonesia, Fiji and Ceylon. 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, the United States of America, 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 46,000 all ranks, and at 15 October 1968 comprised 349 School Cadet units with a posted strength of 41,285, 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, 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 airfield construction tasks in support of the R.A.A.F. operational component within Australia and the Territories.

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, BAC111, and Viscount. The two helicopter squadrons operate the Iroquois and the two maritime squadrons operate Neptune SP2H and Orion P3-B aircraft. During 1969 the strike reconnaissance force will be re-equipped with the F111 C. Aircraft used for training are the Winjeel, Macchi, HS748, Sabre, and Mirage 111-O.

Personnel, reserve, women's services

At 1 December 1968, the authorised Permanent Air Force establishment was 24,102 and the Citizen Air Force, 1,080; the enlisted strength was Permanent Air Force 21,848 and Citizen Air Force 878, while the strength of the General Reserve was 8,029. The Permanent Air Force figures include the Women's Royal Australian Air Force, which has an establishment of 1,038 and strength of 952, and the R.A.A.F. Nursing Service with an establishment of 102 and strength of 96.

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.

On 1 May 1968 the Department took over the administration of the Antarctic Division from the Department of External Affairs.

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.

Organise expeditions and establish and maintain stations in the Antarctic for the purposes of exploration and conducting scientific studies.

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.

The Minister for Supply also administers the *Antarctic Treaty Act 1960*, the *Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act 1933*, the *Australian Antarctic Territory Act 1954-1963*, *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Act 1953-1963*.

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 and support of space research programmes for ELDO and NASA. 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

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, and the planning, execution, and assessment of trials. The Space Physics Wing conducts research and development on behalf of the Australian Services and in support of the United Kingdom-Australia Joint Project.

The Weapons Research and Development Wing is concerned primarily with Australian initiated defence research and development. The Engineering Wing provides engineering design and development and support facilities for other Weapons Research Establishment wings and research establishments and undertakes tasks for the Australian Services.

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 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 Department of Supply.

Under the Australian Government's policy of using the resources of private industry wherever possible, contracts for operation and 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

Mariner—probes to Mars, Venus, etc.

Pioneer—interplanetary investigations.

Defence Standards Laboratories

This establishment provides a scientific service to the Defence Services, Department of Supply factories and other authorities generally within the fields of chemistry, physics, metallurgy and engineering and to a limited extent, in the fields of biochemistry and physiology. It also undertakes background research appropriate to its responsibilities and of significance to the defence requirements of Australia.

Aeronautical Research Laboratories

In the aeronautical field this establishment undertakes research and development work on specific defence projects, acts as consultant and conducts investigations for the Services, Government Departments or industries engaged on defence work. Background research related to the execution of its responsibilities and of significance to the defence requirements of Australia is also undertaken.

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 Mary's, 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 produces components for marine diesel engines for Australian shipping and large heavy engineering items for the coal, cement, and steel industries.

The Port Melbourne Factory builds and services 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 serves as the infantry light machine gun. The Clothing Factories make uniforms and clothing for the three Services, 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. During 1968 the French Mirage supersonic fighter aircraft production programme for the R.A.A.F. was completed. The current aircraft production programme comprises 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. The Corporation is 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 Australian industry of telecommunications and electronic equipment for the Australian Services, for Commonwealth authorities such as Directorate of Civil Defence and for external aid programmes administered by the Department of External Affairs.

Some of the more important projects handled for the Services include a ground to air high-frequency communications system for Air, high-frequency transmitters for Army, high-frequency transmitters and antennae for long-range Navy shore to ship communications, portable shelters for communications equipment for Air and medium-speed data transmission equipment for Army, Navy and Air.

A large contract has been arranged for the domestic development of micro-electronic devices. Other contracts have also been arranged to establish the reliability of Australian made electronic equipment and components.

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.

The Contract Board comprises representatives of the Departments of the Navy, Army, Air, and Supply. In each State there is a District Contract Board similarly constituted, with an attached contracting staff. The District Boards have been authorised to exercise the functions of the Contract Board within specified financial limits. The Contract Board has no attached contracting staff of its own and all contracts are arranged by the offices of the District Contract Boards provided that where the value of a contract exceeds the delegated authority of the District Board concerned it is required to be submitted to the Contract Board for approval. The table following shows, in respect of the Contract Board organisation, the purchases and realisations from disposals for the years 1966-67 and 1967-68.

CONTRACT BOARD ORGANISATION: PURCHASES AND REALISATIONS FROM DISPOSALS, 1966-67 AND 1967-68

(\$'000)

<i>District Contract Board</i>	<i>Purchases</i>		<i>Realisations from disposals</i>	
	<i>1966-67</i>	<i>1967-68</i>	<i>1966-67</i>	<i>1967-68</i>
New South Wales	29,651	29,512	2,674	2,681
Victoria	184,784	168,385	3,153	2,517
Queensland	5,644	5,765	862	820
South Australia	10,258	11,142	1,154	1,566
Western Australia	1,418	1,193	495	466
Tasmania	235	280	153	147
Total	231,990	216,277	8,491	8,197

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 provide and administer reserve stocks of materials and reserve pools of plant, equipment and other requirements needed for rapid expansion in the event of war;
- 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 receive and allocate to appropriate departmental divisions all orders and procurement demands placed on the Department;
to inform Service and other customers on all matters of price, delivery, and expenditure phasing of requirements allocated for satisfaction by the production divisions;
to monitor achievement against departmental master delivery programmes;
to provide advisory services in the field of materials supply and utilisation of Government factories and contractors engaged in the production of munitions requirements;
to administer the national stockpile of strategic materials, equipment, tooling and components;
to administer overseas aid programmes allocated to the Department;
to develop commercial outlets for departmental products, and plans for the full use of production capacity, exploitation of inventions and protection of patents;
to undertake commercial sales;
to administer the Board of Management for Production; and
to provide administrative services to the Industry Advisory Committees.

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 in 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 1968 the Branch had under its control land, buildings, and works, vehicles, plant, and equipment valued at \$27,240,110; 4,499 motor vehicles and 3,200,000 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 1967-68 was \$163,872,000, comprising \$88,843,000 (net) from Parliamentary appropriations and \$75,029,000 from Trust Fund accounts. The latter included expenditure of \$16,536,000 for storage and transport and \$52,108,000 in Government Munitions and Aircraft Factories.

In addition, transactions under the United States-Australian logistics arrangement in 1967-68 amounted to \$1,195,000, comprising \$496,000 relating to Parliamentary appropriations and \$699,000 relating to Trust Fund accounts.

