

Defence warns of lethal last resort

By Danny Rose

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Brigadier Andrew Smith said civilian pilots should be aware they would need a permit to enter the temporarily restricted airspace over Sydney during the September 2 summit.

As the Hornet flew a low-level familiarisation pass over the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Brigadier Smith warned that any pilots entering the area without a permit ran the risk of being shot down.

"That would be an absolute last resort," he said.

"What is more likely to occur we'll find a pilot who hasn't been reading his mail... and we'll remind him of his civil aviation obligations the nicest possible way." The restricted airspace zone will encompass 45 nautical mile radius around Sydney Airport during the summit which will climax with a meeting of world leaders on September 8 and 9.

A security fence, taking in part of the city's CBD and designed to withstand a "vehicle-born improvised explosive device", would be erected over four days starting from Saturday, police said.

In the restricted wharf area, Australian Defence Force troops put on display yesterday of searching can-



ON SHOW: Army and navy special forces training on Sydney Harbour as part of preparations for the meeting of world leaders on September 8 and 9. Picture: AAP

ns of lethal last resort for APEC



Preparations for the meeting of world leaders on September 8 and 9. Pictures: AAP

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"What is more likely to occur is we'll find a pilot who hasn't been reading his mail ... and we'll remind him of his civil aviation obligations in the nicest possible way." The restricted airspace zone will encompass a 45 nautical mile radius around Sydney Airport during the summit, which will climax with a meeting of world leaders on September 8 and 9.

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ENFORCER: An RAAF F/A-18 flies over Sydney before the APEC summit.

for hidden bombs while navy clearance divers checked the surrounding water.

HMAS Yarra, a coastal minehunter which will patrol the harbour during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, passed by the wharf where the NSW Police Force's new mesh-clad buses were also put on display for the first time.

Each bus has a barred cell in the rear.

NSW Police Minister David Campbell said, "They have got two roles.

"One is that they will be used to transport police but equally if there are arrests, and I hope there are no arrests, then people can be transported away from a scene and back to a police station to be

charged." Mr Campbell said about 1500 Australian Defence Force members would play a role in ensuring security for the summit.

Authorities signed a memorandum of understanding yesterday which formalised the sharing of security operations between NSW Police and the Australian Defence Force.

"The ADF, under the MoU, don't have a role as an aggressor and I trust that police won't be required to be aggressive," Mr Campbell said.

NSW Police Superintendent Peter Lennon said the fence to be erected around parts of central Sydney would be "built to withstand vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, person-borne improvised explosive devices, it is also there to be a transport corridor for motorcades".

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock said anticipated protests should not be allowed to overshadow APEC's agenda items, which include climate change, energy and also privacy issues.

Organisers say a peaceful march will be held on September 8, but an impasse over the proposed route continues and police would not rule out yesterday going to the Supreme Court to enforce a route change.

Mr Ruddock said, "We know that protesters are about trying to disrupt meetings, particularly those that might have broader world economic consequences, that would happen wherever it was going to be held."

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