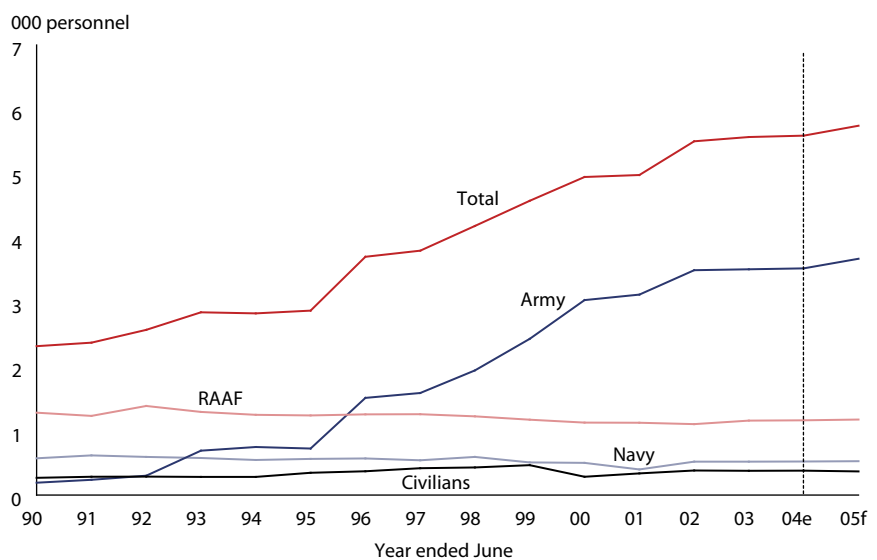


## Defence

- The defence presence in the Territory has more than doubled since the early 1990s, with the number of defence personnel and their families increasing from around 6 200 in June 1992 to an estimated 12 900 by June 2004.
- Approximately 10 per cent of Australian defence force combat personnel are now based in the Territory.
- Since 1995, when the Army relocation began in earnest, defence expenditure in the Territory has increased at an average rate of 14.5 per annum.
- Major activities underway or planned include the formation of the Army's 1st Aviation Regiment (including 17 new Tiger Helicopters and a related \$75 million building program at the Army's Robertson Barracks in Darwin) and around \$50 million of additional work on the Army's Bradshaw Field Training Area (near Timber Creek).
- To help accommodate some of the 200 defence personnel and families expected to relocate to Darwin for the 1st Aviation Regiment, the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) is expected to commission the construction of housing stock worth around \$70 million over the next few years (from 2005) on land at Lee Point in Darwin's northern suburbs.
- Emphasis on Territory-based support and maintenance for military hardware such as helicopters, tanks and patrol boats is expected to increase over coming years.

Chart 12: Defence Personnel Stationed in the Territory



e: estimate f: forecast  
Source: NT Treasury, Department of Defence