



# WINNING IN PEACE, WINNING IN WAR

THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT



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# FOREWORD

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During the last few years Australia's strategic environment has fundamentally changed. New threats have emerged from non-state sources. Terrorism and threats associated with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction have placed great demands on the Australian Defence Force. Addressing regional stresses has also required new levels of cooperation and coordination between our military forces and the other elements of national power. The men and women of the ADF have had to execute new, difficult and complex missions in circumstances and locations not considered likely just a few short years ago.

Our military men and women have established a superb reputation as a force to be reckoned with, able to mount complex military operations in the face of grave risk, and complex humanitarian operations with just hours of notice. They have shown themselves to be a force for good, demonstrating a devotion to service by consistently placing themselves in the front line of peacekeeping and peacemaking throughout the world. And they have shown to the world the enduring character and spirit of the Australian people, offering the hand of compassion and assistance to those less fortunate than ourselves.

The effectiveness, dedication, compassion and support the ADF has demonstrated in undertaking these many and diverse roles has won the ADF much international respect. In the many operations in which the ADF has served with distinction, in warfighting, humanitarian assistance, and support to our regional neighbours and friends, it has exceeded the expectations placed upon it.

Senator the Hon Robert Hill  
Minister for Defence





# WINNING IN PEACE, WINNING IN WAR

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**The Australian Defence Force (ADF) undertakes military operations at Government direction to defend Australia and its national interests. The purpose of this publication is to showcase the ADF's contribution to the global security environment over the last few years.**

Some of these operations have involved complex warfighting roles, where the ADF has found itself in harm's way, engaged fierce and capable adversaries and prevailed through determination and courage.

Other operations have involved the support of civil authorities overseas, through supporting the restoration of law and order, stability and justice, or, here at home, being the source of ready and prepared capabilities or the 'responder of last resort'.

Yet others have involved dealing with the outcomes of tragedy and violence, either deliberately inflicted by terrorists or as the unintended consequence of nature's fury. In these situations, the ADF has been the calming hand, the strong shoulder, the rescuer, the competent and caring healer.

Whether overseas or in Australia, the ADF has proven to be a highly professional organisation: capable, resolute and even-handed, helping and assisting where possible, acting with restraint and measure when required. At the heart of this is an integrated team of professionals: the men and women of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), ably supported by the Department of Defence.

The men and women of today's ADF draw upon the traditions and legacy of previous generations of service in the Navy, Army, and Air Force. They project the spirit of the ANZACs, proud of the inheritance that has been passed to them. Their operational performance, skill and capability reflect this commitment to applying the lessons of their past to the challenges of today and tomorrow.

In a wide range of operations the ADF has proven itself to be:

- Effective
- Dedicated
- Constructive
- Compassionate





# EFFECTIVE

**Professional, well-trained, well-equipped forces that can effectively respond to any credible threat are at the core of the ADF's activities.**

They must be adaptable and flexible; capable of dealing with all challenges, from defending Australia, to military operations in the region and coalition operations further afield, to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief worldwide.

Such forces must also be sustainable; capable of undertaking operations at short notice and sustaining them over extended periods.

They must be demonstrably competent; capable of deterring others from attacking Australia and its interests, and winning out against identified foes whether they be terrorists, rogue states or hostile powers.

The ADF is a force to be reckoned with. Through our successful operations in East Timor, our ongoing efforts in the war on terror and involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq, and our contributions to wider whole-of-Government and domestic security activities, the ADF has cemented a reputation for effective military operations.

Moreover, the ADF represents our nation throughout the world. The Australian reputation for restraint, for quiet competence and for characteristic self-discipline and control cannot be overstated. This element of the ADF's quality is a significant component of the international recognition, admiration and respect we have won for our nation.





## The War on Terror

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Australia's response to the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 was both swift and significant. Within days, Australia had invoked the ANZUS Treaty. Over its 50 year history, the Alliance with the United States had always been strong, but its importance and significance to Australia's national interests was confirmed in September 2001 as both nations' security priorities converged. Both recognised that these attacks heralded a new era of terrorism that would require new and effective responses that extend well beyond the borders, resources and responsibilities of single nations. The invocation of the ANZUS Treaty, and the development and application of Australian and United States Alliance-related response capabilities, was thus an acknowledgment that the threat posed by international terrorism was a threat shared equally by nations such as Australia and the United States.

Australia's approach to the war on terror is broad, involving diplomatic, legislative, police and intelligence cooperation, capacity-building, financial and border controls as well as military operations. The ADF provides the steel that underpins this effort. New capabilities have been developed to ensure the ADF is capable and ready to respond to terrorist attacks at home and overseas.

In the Middle East, our contributions have included:

- An Australian National Headquarters element for operations in the region, originally based in Kuwait;
- A Special Forces Task Group operating in Afghanistan;
- B707 air-to-air refuelling aircraft, based in Kyrgyzstan, for coalition operations against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan;
- Major surface ships deployed on operations in the Persian Gulf, which were increased from one frigate to two



*Australian Special Forces Task Group on patrol in Afghanistan. Up to 1300 ADF personnel served there as well as Kyrgyzstan and the Persian Gulf.*



*Australian troops are placed in position during Operation FALCONER.*

frigates and one amphibious ship at the end of 2001;

- Four F/A-18 fighter aircraft based in Diego Garcia;
- C-130 Hercules transport aircraft supporting the movement of personnel and equipment to and from the areas of operation; and
- Two AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft in the Persian Gulf.

These elements have made a highly successful contribution from late 2001 to November 2002 to the international coalition attacking Al Qaeda cells in Afghanistan and removing from power their Taliban hosts. A key contribution to the war was the Special Air Service Regiment's ability to undertake long-range patrols. The Regiment received particularly high praise for its participation in Operation ANACONDA in the Tora Bora Mountains.

Australia's military contribution to the war on terror continues today, and is not

limited to operations and activities in the Middle East and Central Asia. Defence is undertaking a substantial program of cooperation within our own region to help improve dialogue, cooperation and coordination between our smaller regional neighbours to allow them to better respond to the threat posed by terrorism, and to enhance regional counter-terrorism and consequence management capabilities.

## Operations in Iraq

On 18 March 2003, the Government committed the ADF to the international coalition of military forces for the conflict in Iraq (Operation FALCONER). Australia's contributions included:

- The amphibious ship HMAS KANIMBLA with a landing craft detachment;
- The major surface ships HMAS ANZAC and HMAS DARWIN;
- A Navy Clearance Diving Team;
- A Special Forces Task Group;

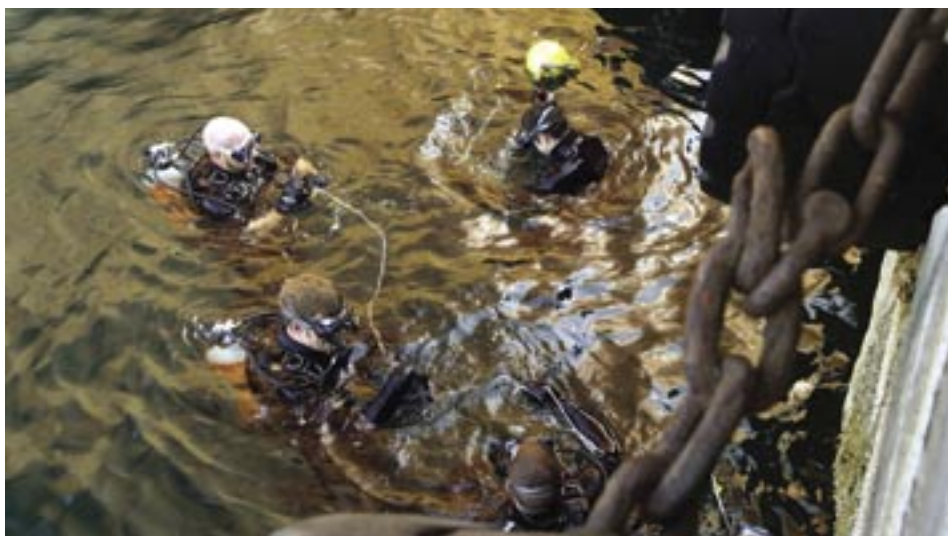


- F/A-18 fighters, AP-3C maritime patrol and C-130 Hercules transport aircraft; and
- Headquarters and logistics support functions.

The plaudits received since then show how successful the ADF has been in Iraq. Coalition leaders have commended the men and women of the ADF for their focus, courage and discipline. Our personnel have enhanced the ADF's reputation as an outstanding and highly effective fighting force.

Their contributions have included:

- Maritime operations in the North Persian Gulf and in Iraq's waterways:
  - Australian command of the Maritime Operations Interception Force, a unit of over 2000 personnel comprising ships from the navies of four nations, which supported the clearance of the Khawr Abd Allah waterway and Al Faw peninsular.
  - HMAS ANZAC's highly effective naval gunfire support to UK Royal Marine Forces attacking an Iraqi coastal defence site helped ensure victory in this engagement.
- Special force operations in the Western Desert of Iraq to prevent the use of ballistic missiles:
  - HMAS DARWIN's response to a mass breakout of dhows from the Khawr Abd Allah.
  - HMAS KANIMBLA's interception of an Iraqi vessel loaded with sea mines.
  - Australian Clearance Diving Team Three's operations in the ports of Umm Qasr and Al Zubayr, and on the Al Faw peninsular were a critical element in the coalition strategy for supporting and sustaining operations in Iraq.
  - A squadron of the Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment, with support from other elements of the Special Forces Task Group undertook successful operations in western Iraq, dominating its area of operations and denying the enemy freedom of action.



*Navy Clearance Diving Team members prepare to search a wharf for explosives prior to HMAS MANOORA berthing.*





*A Navy Clearance Diving Team member guards a weapons cache found during a sweep of Al Basrah Naval Base.*

- Air operations throughout southern Iraq:
  - 14 Air Force F/A-18 aircraft deployed to Iraq, the first combat deployment of the Air Force since Vietnam. Initially planning to operate in a defensive air-to-air role, they were soon performing difficult and dangerous strike roles of considerable significance to the overall coalition battle plan.

The majority of the ADF's force elements were withdrawn from Iraq by July 2003. Then began a number of new actions to support the reconstruction and rehabilitation effort. Operation CATALYST, which began on 16 July 2003, is the ADF's contribution to Iraq's rehabilitation. This has included:

- An Air Traffic Control detachment, which has operated at Baghdad's International Airport since the first days after combat operations ceased. It has kept the airport operating, a vital role in the rehabilitation effort, with many thousands of flights supported despite the ongoing risk of attack by anti-coalition elements;
- A security detachment (a combination of armour and infantry elements) which is protecting Australian staff at the Australian Representative Office in Baghdad (from 28 June 2004 the Australian Embassy), enabling Australia to resume ties with Iraq and re-establish diplomatic relations with the new Interim Iraqi Government;
- Army and Navy personnel who are helping to rebuild and train the Iraqi Army in various locations in Iraq, and the Iraqi Coastal Defence Force at Umm Qasr;
- A Navy frigate which continues to support coalition efforts to protect the northern Persian Gulf and Iraq's critical





oil infrastructure, which is crucial to helping fund Iraq's future reconstruction;

- Air Force P-3C maritime surveillance aircraft which patrol the Persian Gulf and littoral areas, supporting stabilisation operations in Iraq and coalition operations against terrorism;
- Defence civilian experts based in Baghdad who are helping to establish a new Iraqi Ministry of Defence that is based on civilian, apolitical control; and
- Defence also continues to provide analysts and experts to support the Iraq Survey Group, investigating Iraq's past weapons of mass destruction programs. Other Defence personnel have been working in the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) to establish new political structures and legal systems for Iraq, and in the coalition force headquarters supporting ongoing security operations. Notably, the military

adviser to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq is an ADF officer.

Australia's contribution to the reconstruction and rehabilitation effort in Iraq is effective and greatly valued, not only by our coalition partners, but also by the Iraqi people themselves.

**“[What has made the transformation of Iraq possible is] the courage, the determination, and the dedication of the men and women in uniform from our coalition countries.”**

*Donald Rumsfeld*



*The F/A-18 detachment was part of Australia's contribution to Coalition efforts in Iraq.*

## Contributing to the Whole of Government Response to Unauthorised Arrivals

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The ADF supports whole-of-government efforts to deter unauthorised arrivals by sea in Australia's northwest approaches. In assisting the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs to manage arrivals, the ADF patrols the air and sea approaches to Australia and provides logistic and transportation support, facilities and equipment.

ADF assets and capabilities actively involved in these efforts include Navy major fleet units and patrol boats, Air Force maritime patrol and transport aircraft, and Defence security and intelligence agencies. Together, these elements are at the forefront of cooperative and coordinated activities between Defence and other Government agencies.

The professionalism and determination of these forces has had a significant role in Australia's efforts to reduce the incidence of unauthorised boat arrivals to Australia.

**“It is a credit to their skill and professionalism that they were able to overcome dangerous conditions to successfully board the vessel. These types of operations are always dangerous, but our sailors have exceptional training and extensive experience in environments ranging from Antarctic waters to the Persian Gulf.”**

*Senator Hill*



*A Navy boarding party prepares to go aboard a suspect ship.*



*A search team heads out while HMAS STUART is on station in the North Arabian Gulf.*

## Southern Oceans Fisheries Patrols

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The Southern Ocean is one of the world's most inhospitable and difficult maritime operating environments. Seas are rarely calm, and weather conditions are invariably hazardous. These conditions are hard on people and equipment. The ADF has been involved for some time in supporting Australia's sovereign rights and fisheries law enforcement in the Southern Ocean.

Our contribution has been in support of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority's Southern Ocean fisheries patrols, including support to the development of the overall situational awareness and, as required, surface deployments in the Heard Island – McDonald Island Exclusive Economic Zone.

An example of this role involved the arrest of the *MAYA V*, an Uruguayan-flagged vessel illegally fishing for Patagonian

toothfish within Australia's exclusive economic zone surrounding the Heard Island and McDonald Islands territories. The *MAYA V* was apprehended by the Australian warship HMAS WARRAMUNGA in late January 2004, in extremely bad weather and high seas.

## Contributing to Domestic Security

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The terrorist attacks on the United States and Bali ushered in a new era of terrorism and terrorism response. They showed starkly that Australia's domestic security arrangements must be strengthened to deal with the new emerging threats.

For many years, the ADF has maintained capabilities to assist civil authorities in emergencies under the Defence Aid to the Civil Community (DACC) and Defence Force Aid to the Civilian Authority (DFACA) arrangements. Since 2000 additional capabilities have been brought



*HMAS ANZAC fires its 5 inch gun in anger after a call for fire support during hostilities in Iraq.*

into our force structure, including the establishment of:

- Special Operations Command to enhance the coordination of Australian Defence Force's counter-terrorist capabilities;
- A second Tactical Assault Group on the eastern seaboard and the training of additional Special Forces personnel to staff this Group;
- A 300-person strong Incident Response Regiment, with specialist skills and equipment to deal with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive threats; and
- The Reserve Response Force, trained for short notice response to domestic security incidents (including terrorist attacks) and other civil emergencies.

In addition to these arrangements, Defence contributes the domestic security initiatives of other Australian Government departments and agencies through numerous interdepartmental committees and working level activities.

As a source of prepared and ready capabilities, and the 'responder of last resort' the ADF will only be called to assist civilian authorities when a threat or incident is beyond the capabilities of these authorities, or where the ADF is able to provide niche capabilities to fulfil a specific task.

Over recent years, the ADF has made significant and effective contributions to:

- Sporting events such as the Sydney Olympics and the Rugby World Cup,



*RAAF F/A-18s prepare for a sortie.*

- International events such as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the visits of Presidents Hu and Bush; and
- Australian Government and State/Territory domestic preparedness exercises.

In April 2003, for example, the ADF responded when the merchant vessel *PONG SU* refused to stop in response

to calls by civilian authorities. The ADF provided boarding and apprehension capabilities beyond those of Australian law enforcement agencies to secure the *PONG SU*.

Even now, preparations are underway for ADF support to other major events and activities, such as the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006.





# DEDICATED

**Dedication to duty has been a hallmark of ADF service since the earliest days of our military history. This dedication has been tested time and again on the anvil of modern military affairs. Despite the complexity and uncertainty of many of the environments in which it has operated, the ADF has not shirked its responsibilities to Australia.**

The dedication of our young men and women to the protection of all Australians and their interests, on a global stage is unquestionable. Their passion for Australia and for the Services they represent is the quality that sets them apart, a desire to get the job done, regardless of the circumstances.



*An Australian soldier monitors demining operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.*

## Nation-building in East Timor

The ADF has played a leading role in peace-making and peacekeeping roles in East Timor since 1999. The International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) saw Australian forces deploy to East Timor on 20 September 1999 as militia forces ravaged the country.

At its peak, INTERFET consisted of approximately 11 500 personnel with Australia contributing about half of the force with three infantry battalion groups, headquarters and support units, and maritime and air assets.

Having worked tirelessly to re-establish stability in East Timor, and prepare the

environment for UN nation building and for local elections, INTERFET transferred military command of East Timor to the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on 23 February 2000.

Between 2000 and 2004, the ADF made a significant contribution to events in East Timor. We held leadership positions in the UN peacekeeping force and retained responsibility for security on the sensitive western border with Indonesia. Peaking at around 990 ADF personnel, Australia's contribution to UNTAET was gradually reduced to about 440 when formal responsibility for security transferred to East Timor on 20 May 2004. Today, the ADF contributes about 100 specialist ADF personnel, primarily involved in aeromedical evacuation, light engineering and logistic support.

We enjoy an enviable reputation with both the Timorese people and the wider UN community for being firm but fair. The ADF is justly proud of the contribution made by so many individuals to the emergence of a fully independent East Timor.

## Peacekeeping

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Australia has a long and proud history of helping to keep peace in many of the world's trouble spots. Usually these contributions are small and targeted where we can do the most good. Since the end of the Second World War, the ADF has contributed to over 40 peace operations including in:

- Africa (including Rhodesia, Namibia, Western Sahara, Somalia, Rwanda, Mozambique Sierra Leone and the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia);
- The Balkans (in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo);
- South and South East Asia (in Cambodia, Indonesia and along the line of control between India and Pakistan);
- The South West Pacific, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands; and
- The Middle East (in Egypt and Israel, including the Sinai; and in Syria and Lebanon).

Our dedication to the peacekeeping mission is highlighted by our continuous service in some of the most difficult assignments, including for example our contribution to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation in the Middle East – a contribution that commenced in June 1956. Our contributions have earned the respect and admiration of Governments and individuals throughout the world.

Modern peace operations are complex. They include such activities as monitoring ceasefires and reporting breaches of agreements, providing security for the delivery of humanitarian aid, election processes, the demobilisation of belligerents, protection of safe areas, and the demonstration of international resolve by preventive deployment or enforced separation of belligerents.

Such operations require a level of professional demeanour, restraint and sophistication for which the ADF is world renowned. Our preparedness to continue to understand the changing nature of modern peace operations and the willingness to assist regional nations' peace operations capacity is complemented by the ADF Peacekeeping Centre at Williamstown.





*A peacekeeper helps restore order in Rwanda.*



*An Australian Army Civil Military Affairs soldier treats adults and children in East Timor.*



# CONSTRUCTIVE

**Beyond our warfighting role, our service with the United Nations and our support to those in dangerous or life threatening situations, the ADF provides crucial support to other nations and peoples in their development of national capacity and capability. This role stems from the core ADF quality of constructiveness.**

The ADF strives to play a helpful and encouraging role in communities within Australia and internationally.

Both military and civilian personnel within Defence have been at the forefront of Australia's assistance missions in the region, and in isolated and indigenous communities within Australia. They can often be seen with hammer and nails, rolling up their sleeves to assist local communities improve their quality of life.





*Malaita commander Jimmy Rasta and his men surrender their weapons and ammunition during the weapons handback amnesty during Operation HELPEM FREN.*

## Returning Stability to the Solomon Islands

By late April 2003, it had become clear that Solomon Islands faced the real prospect of comprehensive state failure and a humanitarian crisis. In association with regional nations from the Pacific Islands Forum, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands – RAMSI – was authorised for deployment on 24 July 2003. Reflecting its nature, the operation was called ‘Helpem Fren’: the nations of the region were extending a helping hand to a friend in need.

Essentially a police-led operation, in the beginning RAMSI involved large numbers of military personnel to deter militants and criminals from violent resistance to police and to provide the logistic support

that only the ADF could offer. At its peak in October 2003, the military component comprised nearly 1800 sailors, soldiers and airmen and women. While the ADF provided the bulk of the contingent, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga all provided valuable forces and equipment.

The initial land element was a balanced force including infantry, engineers, signals, aviation, health and support personnel. While the infantry provided security support to RAMSI police, engineers worked to develop essential accommodation and work facilities, as well as playing a key role in the destruction of captured weapons.

The land force was supported by HMAS MANOORA. Several other Navy vessels assumed the critical task of patrolling the sensitive border between Solomon Islands

and Papua New Guinea in the Bougainville Strait, while two landing craft did much of the heavy lifting of stores and equipment between the islands.

The Air Force's Caribou transport aircraft demonstrated their versatility in difficult terrain, providing an invaluable link between Honiara and outlying stations.

As the security situation has improved, the number of troops required for force protection is now much lower, and logistic services are being transferred to civilian contractors. While a small number of military personnel are still needed in the short term, including the presence of Navy ships, these will also be withdrawn when RAMSI police and the Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIP) are capable of maintaining law and order unassisted. In the meantime, Defence has already begun the process of re-establishing a Defence

Cooperation Program (DCP) with Solomon Islands. As RAMSI restores the RSIP to full functionality, we will explore other opportunities for cooperation and support to strengthen the sovereignty and capacity of the Solomon Islands.

## Supporting Our Neighbours

Defence provides significant support to regional countries through the DCP. This program provides a means for Australia to contribute to regional security and a means of assisting neighbouring countries to professionally develop their defence forces. The DCP includes assistance to regional security forces in the areas of strategic planning, education and training, command and control, infrastructure, communications and logistics support.



*Solomon Islands National Police Council chairman, Paul Tovua, lends a hand in destroying firearms as Special Coordinator Nick Warner looks on.*



*Australian Federal Police officers catch a lift from the Navy.*

The ADF also provides maritime surveillance advisers to many South West Pacific nations to assist them in protecting their vital national maritime resources.

Outside of long term activities, such as the Pacific Patrol Boat Project which provides maritime surveillance vessels to some of our neighbours, the Defence Cooperation Program, has provided critical assistance to, and support for, regional countries in developing professionally trained forces. Some countries in the region do not have the resources or expertise to be able to develop their own security capability. For example, the DCP has been vital in supporting the development of an affordable, sustainable and effective East Timor Defence Force. A range of training initiatives and infrastructure projects has been a key to the development of the nascent East Timor Defence Force.

Defence has also contributed substantially to the Papua New Guinea Government's defence reform program. The aim of this activity has been to stabilise the PNG Defence Force by making it smaller, more affordable and better managed. This activity supports the broader Defence Cooperation activities that are undertaken with PNG, such as the provision of training, technical advice, logistics support and infrastructure development.

## **Constructing Peace – Bougainville**

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The long-standing conflict in Bougainville came to a head in late 1988 when Francis Ona, claiming that traditional landowners were not distributing funds from the Panguna mine fairly, formed the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA). The BRA commenced a campaign to



*Rebuilding the peace can take many forms.*

disrupt the mine's operations. The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and then the Papua New Guinea Defence Force were unable to contain the growing crisis, resulting in nearly a decade of strife.

From December 1997 to early 1998 a neutral and unarmed Truce Monitoring Group (TMG), led by New Zealand, and comprising about 250 civilian and military personnel from New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Vanuatu prepared the way for a permanent ceasefire. The Lincoln Agreement, negotiated in January 1998, extended the truce, replaced the TMG with the 195-member strong Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) and established a United Nations Observer Mission that remains in Bougainville today.

Australia assumed leadership of the PMG in April 1998 and took responsibility for provision of logistic support to the

operation. Critically, New Zealand, Fiji and Vanuatu sustained their contributions throughout. Over the following five years, the PMG was the rock upon which the Bougainville peace process was painstakingly built.

Central to our success was the composition of the PMG. The combination of military and civilian, including police personnel, with participation by other countries in the region, proved extremely effective. The fact that it was an unarmed group – perhaps the first-ever such group to serve without weapons – is sometimes overlooked, but the unarmed nature of the Group was fundamental to winning the trust of the local population.

The PMG was succeeded in July 2003 by a small civilian Bougainville Transition Team, whose task was to monitor and help support the continued implementation





of the Agreement and the transition towards autonomy. The Team withdrew in December 2003, and there is presently no official Australian presence on Bougainville.

Defence was a strong and consistent contributor to the PMG over the life of the mission, committing over 3500 military personnel and over 300 civilian monitors. This significant presence demonstrated the strength of the ADF's commitment to Bougainville and our dedication to the task of assisting it in returning to a state of security and stability. The outstanding role performed by both uniformed and civilian members of Defence is a testament to the compassion, skill, professionalism and dedication of the Australian men and women who served on the island.

## Indigenous Support

The ADF is strongly committed to helping isolated and indigenous communities throughout Australia in the development of local infrastructure, facilities and services. This has included the construction of roads, the digging of wells and bores, the fabrication of buildings and the repair of local utilities infrastructure. In some cases, where natural disasters and other events have necessitated the moving of communities, the ADF has been an integral part of the relocation process. The ADF's programs aimed at assisting these communities have been an outstanding success, and have lead to many positive benefits to both the communities themselves and the ADF.



*A Defence civilian and an Army Reservist plan the day's helo-borne activities as part of their Peace Monitor roles.*





# COMPASSIONATE

**Over recent years, tragedy and horror have been visited upon the world in larger measure than for at least a generation. The graphic imagery of September 2001 and October 2002, have added new depth to the misery and suffering seen in Rwanda, Somalia, the Balkans, Ethiopia/Eritrea, and Sierra Leone. Periodically, nature has also created its own tragedies through cyclone, flood or earthquake.**

The ADF has gone into many of these areas of death and destruction, providing medical aid and assistance, humanitarian relief, succour and comfort. Our personnel have often remained in these places well after the initial crisis has passed, rebuilding infrastructure and facilities, assisting communities to move beyond tragedy and making a material contribution to enhancing the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

The ADF demonstrates this quality of compassion in every task it undertakes. It is truly a force for good. The following examples are representative of this compassionate quality, which is demonstrated across the spectrum of ADF roles, many of which are described in other parts of this publication.



*Medical evacuation from Bali following the bombing.*

## Responding to Australians in Need

Operation BALI ASSIST was the ADF's response to the bombings on the island of Bali on the 12th October 2002. Early on the morning of 13 October 2002, ADF Headquarters in Canberra was advised of the bombings, and by mid-morning the first Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft had departed RAAF Base Richmond for Bali. The first priority was to get the victims to the best possible medical care. Once victims were stabilised in Bali, the ADF's aeromedical evacuation capabilities were brought to bear to transport 70 seriously injured victims from Bali to Darwin and other Australian destinations for further medical treatment. Those C-130 Hercules aircraft also transported much needed

medical stores and equipment from southern destinations to Darwin and Bali.

Once that task was complete, the ADF supported the Australian Federal Police investigation by providing personnel for disaster victim identification, to make sure every Australian was accounted for, as well as logistics, psychological and language support to support the ongoing response and recovery effort. A number of personnel, including coordination and communication staff, chaplains, psychologists, linguists, forensic medical and dental staff, electrical and refrigeration technicians and ambulance drivers, deployed to Bali for the duration. In the finest traditions of the ADF, several members who were on leave in Bali during the bombings came forward to offer their assistance during the operation.



*A RAAF crew member is helped to unload emergency supplies by an Iranian soldier during Australia's earthquake relief effort in Iran.*



*An 8-year-old girl is stabilised before a medical evacuation to Honiara after she cut herself with a machete while trimming coconuts.*





*Troops walk through the streets of Niue amid the destruction caused by Cyclone Heta.*

## Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief and Search and Rescue

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The ADF remains ready to provide humanitarian assistance and critical relief to areas that have been struck by tragedy, whether caused by humanity or nature. Over the past decade, the ADF has deployed to places and situations as diverse as the ethnic conflict in Rwanda to the cyclone victims in the Pacific, and the rescue of yachtsmen and women in the Southern Ocean and on the Sydney to Hobart passage.

In the nearer region, the ADF has responded to crises such as medical and evacuation assistance following the tsunami in PNG, drought relief in PNG and Indonesia (Irian Jaya), and more recently relief assistance to the victims of the cyclones in Niue and Vanuatu. We have also contributed beyond our nearer region, as our response to the earthquakes in Iran demonstrates.

Frequently, the ADF is first on the scene, forming the critical capability that ensures relief supplies are distributed, civilians are evacuated or medical help is provided. These efforts are also not only aimed at international disasters. The ADF is often central to providing a domestic response option where State and Territory Governments are unable to meet the requirement without substantial assistance, as was the case during the series of bushfires across the Eastern States in 2003.

The ADF has also been called upon to provide Search and Rescue services across the breadth of Australia's areas of maritime responsibility, including areas near to the mainland, and remoter locations in the Southern, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Notable amongst these have been the rescue of lone yachtsmen and women in the Southern Ocean, and the events of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.



# CONCLUSION

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**Despite the increasing complexity of the strategic environment, as noted in *Australia's National Security: A Defence Update 2003*, the ADF has continued to offer outstanding service and commitment to Australia and its interests. Our continuing effectiveness, dedication, compassion and commitment to supportive and constructive activities has been a hallmark of our performance over the last five years.**

As Australia's strategic environment has changed, so too have the roles and capabilities of the Australian Defence Force. But what has not changed is the enduring determination, professionalism, and quality of the men and women who comprise the ADF and the organisation that supports and sustains them.

We could ask no more of these professional and dedicated personnel than their continued commitment and courage. We can rest assured that they will continue to defend Australia and our national interests.

