

HIB Number: 000913
Date/Time Transmitted: 11/11/2011 05:30 PM
Subject: DEATH OF RAN MEMBER ASHORE IN CAMBODIA
Comment:
Action Area: CN

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION - NOT TO BE FORWARDED

SENSITIVITY: HIGH. Incident involves death of an RAN member ashore in Cambodia.

KEY ISSUES:

- **HMAS *Warramunga* is currently conducting a port visit to Sihanoukville, Cambodia, from 7 to 11 November 2011.**
- **At approximately 5:52pm Cambodian local time on 10 November 2011 *Warramunga* was notified that a member was of the ship's company was deceased. It is understood the individual had been on leave in a hotel room ashore.**
- **The member was formally identified in a local hospital at 6:48pm and transferred into the custody of *Warramunga's* Medical Officer at 7:49pm. The exact cause of death is unknown.**
- **By arrangement between the Defence Attaché Phnom Penh and Cambodian authorities, the body is being transported to an international standard morgue in Phnom Penh. The Navy Medical Officer and two members of *Warramunga's* ship's company are escorting the body.**
- **The Australian Defence Force Investigative Service has been notified of the incident and an investigator is expected to arrive PM 11 November 2011.**
- **A Quick Assessment is being conducted.**
- ***Warramunga* has delayed departure until 12 November 2011 to assist with arrangements and**

the Australian Defence Force Investigative Service investigation.

- **The deceased's next of kin have been informed.**
- **It is intended to release a short media statement on the matter.**

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Date issued: 11 November 2011

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BACKGROUND:

HMAS Warramunga deployed on 4 October 2011 to South East Asia and is conducting a port visit to Sihanoukville, Cambodia, from 7 to 11 November 2011.

It is reported that at approximately 3:00pm Cambodia local time on 10 November 2011 an ambulance was called to a local hotel and at approximately 4:00pm it is understood a member of HMAS *Warramunga's* ship's company passed away at the Sihanoukville local hospital.

HMAS *Warramunga* was informed of the death at 5:52pm.

There are no adequate morgue facilities in Sihanoukville. The Defence Attaché Cambodia, also in attendance, made arrangements to transfer the body to an international standard morgue in Phnom Penh. The body is expected to arrive at the morgue by 8:00am on 11 November 2011.

The Australian Defence Force Investigative Service are expected to arrive in Phnom Penh PM 11 November 2011 at which point it

is expected the body will be transferred to Australian Defence Force Investigative Service custody for final repatriation preparations.

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TALKING POINTS

- **HMAS *Warramunga* is currently conducting a port visit to Sihanoukville, Cambodia.**
- **A member of the ship's company has passed away while staying ashore on leave.**
- **The matter is currently subject to an investigation and it would be inappropriate to comment further.**

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