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Subject: RAN BAND WA DETACHMENT ASSISTANCE AT SCENE OF MOTOR
VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Comment:
Action Area DNMC

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339-11

HOT ISSUE BRIEF

RAN Band WA Detachment Assistance at Scene of Motor Vehicle Accident

SENSITIVITY: Low. Members of the Royal Australian Navy Band Western Australian Attachment assisted at the scene of a serious motor vehicle accident. The accident resulted in the death of a civilian passenger, and another civilian passenger was seriously injured.

KEY ISSUES:

- Members of the Royal Australian Navy Band – Western Australian Detachment were travelling on duty from HMAS *Stirling* to Geraldton on 17 November 2011 when the group encountered a serious motor vehicle accident.
- The accident scene was approximately 30kms North of Gin Gin and involved one fatality. The RAN Band discovered the scene at approximately 9:30pm WST. The accident had occurred only two minutes prior to the band arriving on the scene.
- Members of the band secured the accident scene, and provided support and counselling to victims until an ambulance arrived an hour later. They also assisted in marshalling a medivac helicopter arriving on the scene.

- The RAN Band Western Australian Detachment is a Reserve Detachment and the members who assisted at the accident scene included two WA Policemen, one WA Firefighter, and one psychologist. All used their specialist skills to assist at the scene.
- The RAN Band Western Australian Detachment was travelling to Geraldton for dress rehearsals ahead of the HMAS *Sydney II* Memorial Service on Saturday 19 November 11.
- All members of the RAN Band are coping well, and have received divisional support. All members will perform at the HMAS *Sydney II* Memorial Service as scheduled.

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BACKGROUND: HMAS Sydney II Memorial Service Geraldton

Members of the Royal Australian Navy Band Western Australian Detachment have travelled to Geraldton to take part in the 70th Anniversary HMAS Sydney II Memorial Service on the weekend.

The service will be attended by Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO; The Minister for Defence, the Hon Stephen Smith, AO, MP; Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AM, CSC, RAN; Air Marshall Mark Skidmore

AM; Commodore Bob Trotter OAM, RAN (Ret'd); and Royal Navy Commander John Farrington.

The service will mark the 70th anniversary of the loss of HMAS Sydney II.

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RAN BAND WA DETACHMENT ASSISTANCE AT SCENE OF MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Talking Points

- Members of the Royal Australian Navy Band - Western Australian Detachment were travelling on duty from HMAS *Stirling* to Rockingham on Thursday 17 November 2011 when the group encountered a serious motor vehicle accident involving two vehicles.
- The accident scene was approximately 30km's North of Gin Gin and involved one fatality. The RAN Band discovered the scene at approximately 9:30pm WA time.
- Members of the band secured the accident scene, and provided support and counselling to victims until an ambulance arrived. They also assisted in marshalling a medivac helicopter arriving on the scene.
- The RAN Band Western Australian Detachment is a Reserve Detachment and the members who assisted at the accident scene included two WA Policemen, one WA Fire-fighter, and one psychologist. All used their specialist skills to assist at the scene.

- The RAN Band - Western Australian Detachment was travelling to Geraldton for dress rehearsals ahead of the HMAS Sydney II Memorial Service on Saturday 19 November 2011.
- All members of the RAN Band are coping well, and have received divisional support.
- The Royal Australian Navy has over 4600 Active Reservists providing skills in all areas of the organisation. Chief of Navy is proud that Navy members were able to help so much in this particular event.

Clearance	Name	Appointment	DTG
Drafted by:	SBLT Sarah West	Navy Communications and Media – West	18 Nov 11
Cleared by: (Group/ Servicel star or above	CAPT Brett Wolski	CO HMAS <i>Stirling</i>	18 Nov 11
Approved for Public Release by: (DGPA or delegate)	CMDR L.Gaha	<i>Acting DNCC</i>	18 Nov 11
Ministerial Action (to be completed by DGPA)	Mr John Anderson	CAM	18 Nov 11
Forwarded to / Cleared by: (Minister's office)			