

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE CURRENT OPERATIONS

The Government has approved the deployment of approximately 3300 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel to 12 operations overseas and within Australia to protect Australia and its national interests.

Of these, approximately 400 ADF members are actively protecting Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

Afghanistan and Middle East Maritime Security

Operation SLIPPER is Australia's military contribution to the international campaign against terrorism, maritime security in the Middle East Area of Operations and countering piracy in the Gulf of Aden. Around 1550 ADF personnel are based within Afghanistan as part of Operation SLIPPER, while about 830 personnel are deployed across the broader Middle East Area of Operations.

Australia has maintained a continuous maritime contribution to Operation SLIPPER, which currently consists of the ANZAC Class Frigate HMAS Toowoomba.

Operation PALATE II is the ADF contribution to the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). Two Australian Army Officers serve as military advisers within the UNAMA Military Adviser Unit.

Border Protection

Operation RESOLUTE is the ADF's contribution to the whole-of-government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests. It is the only ADF operation that currently defends homeland Australia and its assets. The Operation RESOLUTE Area of Operations covers approximately 10% of the world's surface and includes Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone which extends up to 200nm around the mainland, Christmas, Cocos, Keeling, Norfolk, Heard, Macquarie and Lord Howe Islands.

At any one time, up to 400 ADF personnel at sea, in the air and on the land, are working to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests. They work alongside personnel from Customs and other agencies.

East Timor

Operation ASTUTE is the ADF's continuing contribution to the maintenance of peace and stability in East Timor. The operation commenced in 2006 following a request from the Government of Timor Leste to the Australian Government for the creation of a

multi-national security force to assist with stability operations within Timor Leste.

The force, called the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in East Timor, has evolved over time and currently consists of approximately 460 personnel from the Australian (almost 390 personnel) and New Zealand (70 personnel) Defence Forces.

Operation TOWER is the ADF's contribution to the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), which plays a crucial role in security reform within East Timor.

Solomon Islands

Operation ANODE is the name of the ADF contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). The military component of RAMSI is comprised of personnel from four troop-contributing nations - Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. The main task for the military component is to provide security for RAMSI's multinational Participating Police Force (PPF) that works alongside the Royal Solomon Islands Police in maintaining law and order.

The current ADF contribution, in addition to the Commander, is about 80 Reserve troops to the Task Force drawn primarily from 13th Brigade based in Western Australia.

Egypt and the Middle East Peace Process

Twenty-five ADF members working under **Operation Mazurka** are assisting the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai, Egypt. The MFO is a non-UN organisation established in 1981 to oversee long-standing peace agreements in the region.

Twelve ADF members are committed to **Operation Paladin** in Jerusalem, contributing to the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO). The UNTSO was established in 1948 to supervise the truce agreed at the conclusion of the first Arab-Israeli War.

Iraq

Operation Kruger is the ADF's contribution to the provision of security for the Australian embassy and its staff in Iraq. Approximately 33 Defence personnel, drawn from Darwin based units, are currently deployed with the latest security detachment rotation. The ADF is transitioning security arrangements to a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade contract.

Two ADF military advisers are also deployed in support of **Operation Riverbank**, the ADF's contribution to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

Sudan

Operation Azure is the deployment of ADF personnel to the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). The ADF contingent of 17 includes six military observers and 11 other personnel who specialise in air movements, aviation safety and logistic support.

There are also eight ADF members with the African Union / United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) under **Operation Hedgerow**. UNAMID is helping to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian aid, and assist the political process in Darfur.

ADF personnel deployed on current operations (approximate numbers)		
Afghanistan and Middle East maritime security / counter-piracy	Operation SLIPPER (Afghanistan)	1550
	Operation SLIPPER (Middle East)	830
	Operation PALATE II	2
Border protection	Operation Resolute	400
East Timor	Operation ASTUTE	400
	Operation TOWER	4
Egypt and Middle East Peace Process	Operation Mazurka	25
	Operation Paladin	12
Iraq	Operation Kruger	33
	Operation Riverbank	2
Solomon Islands	Operation Anode	80
Sudan	Operation Azure	17
	Operation Hedgerow	8