

Operation FIJI Assist

Operation Fiji Assist in 2016 was the first ADF operation to include UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and a gender perspective in the operational orders and the first ADF to specifically deploy Gender Advisors.

The operational order directed that one Gender Advisor was to be appointed to the Commander (COM) of the Joint Task Force (JTF) and this duty was undertaken as a dual role by the Legal Officer of the JTF. COM JTF decided to appoint an additional two Gender Focal Points based upon the tasking and dispersion of ADF force elements.

Operation Fiji Assist was also the first time that the ADF conducted gender operational analysis to complement the intelligence process, focussing on the affected population within the operating environment. In addition to the positive operational impact, the relationships established between the ADF Gender Advisors, DFAT and other humanitarian actors during Operations Fiji Assist resulted in improved civil-military cooperation, coordination and understanding, not only for this operation but on an ongoing basis.

The goodwill created by Operation Fiji Assist and ongoing development of relationships between the ADF and Non-Government Organisations has also lead to improved interaction and the sharing of mutually important resources such as Gender Analysis reports; which will enhance our collective ability to respond to future disasters and other rapid response events in our region.



Guests at the International Women's Day 2016 celebration on board HMAS Canberra (L-R) Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Major Laisana Vulakolinaki, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ms Caitlin Bell, Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Warrant Officer 2nd Class Bettylene Chandra and Royal Australian Navy Lieutenant Command Jaqueline Swinton.