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***IF ASKED about a media report that states the Australian military is set to re-establish relations with Indonesia for joint military exercises, not ruling out engagement with Kopassus***

- *I am aware of a media report (The Daily Telegraph of 29 November 2004) which states that Australia is “poised to re-establish relations” with Indonesia.*

- s22 [REDACTED]
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- *The ADF does not conduct any military training exercises with Indonesia's Special Forces Unit, Kopassus and there are currently no plans to do so.*
  - *However, the Bali bombings in October 2002, the Jakarta bombing in August 2003 and the bombing outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta in September this year, underline the importance of continuing to work with Indonesia to combat the shared regional threat of terrorism.*
  - *TNI's Special Forces unit, Kopassus Unit 81, currently represents Indonesia's most effective capability in these areas.*
  - *In the event of a terrorist incident, Australian lives could well rest on effective cooperation between the ADF and TNI.*
  - *Building links between the ADF and Kopassus will increase our effectiveness in working with TNI in the event of such a terrorist incident.*
  - *As the relationship develops, both sides might see value in conducting limited counter hijack and hostage recovery training and exercises.*

## SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE – MAY 2007

### TITLE: TRAINING WITH TNI INCLUDING KOPASSUS

ISSUE: What training does Defence do with TNI, including Kopassus?

### TALKING POINTS

- s22 [REDACTED]
- The bombings in Bali on 1 October 2005 highlighted the importance of continuing to work with Indonesia to combat terrorism.
  - Australia is employing a whole of government strategy in working with the Government of Indonesia to combat terrorism.
  - As part of this, Defence is seeking to develop further training and exercise opportunities with TNI's counter-terrorism (CT) forces.
  - We assess TNI's Army Special Forces, Kopassus' Unit 81, has the best capability within TNI to conduct counter-hijack and hostage recovery operations.
- Defence engagement with Kopassus is with Unit 81 and is focussed on counter-hijack and hostage recovery training.
  - The CT exercise Dawn Kookaburra was held in February 2006 in Perth, focussing on counter-hijack and hostage recovery. Planning is underway for a reciprocal exercise, DAWN KOMODO, in Indonesia later this year.
  - Other engagement with Kopassus includes establishing senior level links, attendance at CT conferences, exercise observation, skills demonstrations and information exchanges.
- Defence also conducts an extensive program of broader training and exercising with TNI in areas such as counter-terrorism, maritime security, disaster relief, peacekeeping and international law. It includes a large English language training program in Indonesia and Australia.
  - s22 [REDACTED]

## BACKGROUND

### Defence Cooperation Training

Training continues to be a mainstay in the Australia-Indonesia defence relationship and is aimed at developing TNI professionalism, including respect for the rule of law, the law of armed conflict and adherence to international standards of human rights. Through much of our training we seek to expose TNI to how the ADF plans and conducts operations in accordance with these principles. In 2005-06, 62 training opportunities were taken up by TNI, with 95 offered for 2006-07.

Activities supporting our relationship objectives include:

- Counter-terrorism: Exercises *Dawn Kookaburra / Dawn Komodo* (counter hijack/hostage recovery), senior visits (including Commander Kopassus), subject matter experts exchange and training. This is further outlined below.

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### Counter Terrorism Cooperation with TNI

In an era of heightened terrorist threat, it is in Australia's interests to engage with regional defence forces, including TNI, to safeguard the lives of Australians and Australian interests abroad. Indonesia's Kopassus Unit 81 retains the most effective capability to conduct counter-hijack or hostage recovery operations in Indonesia.

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Prior to that, Exercise Dawn Kookaburra was held in Perth during February 2006 with TNI's Kopassus Unit 81, and focussed on the skills required to conduct counter-hijack and hostage recovery operations. The next iteration, to be named Exercise Night Komodo, is scheduled for August this year in Indonesia.

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**ORIGINAL AUTHORISED BY:**

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

FASIP

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

10 May 2007

**CONTACT OFFICER:**

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

Assistant Director, Indonesia

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

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QTB No (Pack):  
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Action Area: **FASIP**      Authorised by : s47E(d) [redacted]  
Adviser : s47E(d) [redacted]  
Last modified in Minister's Office by s47E(d) [redacted]

### DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP

- Our defence engagement program includes, regular senior level and working level dialogue, as well as an extensive training program and education, exercises, seminars and exchanges.

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### CT ENGAGEMENT

- We aim to develop further training and exercise opportunities with Indonesia's Army specialist counter terrorism unit, Kopassus Unit 81, as the safety of Australians may depend on effective ADF cooperation with them.
- The second iteration of the CT exercise Dawn Kookaburra, which focuses on counter-hijack and hostage recovery, will be held later this year between SAS Regiment and Unit 81.

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