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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
of Australian service *in*
Timor-Leste

The Australian Peacekeeping Memorial
Anzac Parade, Canberra | Friday 20 September 2024





Cover artwork: *Dili Wharf* by Rick Amor, 1999.

(Watercolour, pencil on paper, 28.2 x 57.2 cm; AWM ART91054)

In 1999, East Timor's capital, Dili, was the scene of chaos and destruction as the territory's population prepared to vote in a referendum for independence from Indonesia. Australian Federal Police officers took part in an international operation to oversee the election, facing considerable threat and dealing with a wave of violence that compelled the international community to assemble a peacekeeping force. Led by Australia and comprising peacekeepers from a range of countries, the operation enabled the restoration of order. Subsequent peacekeeping missions played a significant role in East Timor's transition from colony to the independent nation of Timor-Leste.

Dili Wharf was the only wharf in East Timor's port. Many peacekeepers arriving in the territory by sea would have been familiar with Dili Wharf, as would those whose job meant loading and unloading ships. In this 1999 painting made during the period of INTERFET operations, the wharf appears quiet and largely deserted at a time when Dili was teeming with activity.



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A Navy Sea King Helicopter Loadmaster mans the Mag 58 General Purpose Machine Gun as they come in to land aboard HMAS *Tobruk* during Operation Lavarack, East Timor, October 1999. (Dept of Defence V9914208; photographer SGT Gary Ramage)

Members of United Nations Mission East Timor (UNAMET) oversee a pre-poll meeting of East Timorese in the village of Atsabe, July 1999. UNAMET was sent to East Timor in June 1999 to organise, conduct and supervise a referendum to allow the East Timorese to choose between autonomy within Indonesia or independence. (AWM P03416.005; photographer Phil Hunter)





HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

When East Timor experienced a humanitarian and security crisis in 1999, Australia led a multinational peacekeeping force in response. The Australian-led International Force East Timor (INTERFET) intervention was prompted by an outbreak of violence following East Timor's referendum for independence from Indonesia when local militia, backed by elements of the Indonesian military, commenced killing and maiming civilians and destroying property. The referendum was sanctioned by the United Nations (UN), which arranged electoral officers to oversee the voting and a civilian police force (CIVPOL) to consult with Indonesian police about the protection of the UN and volunteer staff and ballot boxes.

East Timor has a complex history. It was a Portuguese territory, but in 1974 internal politics saw that country's grip on East Timor loosened and the rise of several competing groups within the territory vying for control of a country free of colonial rule. After the Portuguese administration withdrew in August 1975, Frente Revolucionária de Timor-Leste Independente (FRETILIN), the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, assumed control following bitter fighting against rival groups. FRETILIN declared the formation of the Democratic Republic of East Timor on 28 November 1975. Nine days later, on 7 December, Indonesia invaded and annexed the territory as its 27th province. The invasion triggered a long-running campaign of resistance by Forças Armadas da Libertação Nacional de Timor-Leste (FALANTIL), the armed forces of the National Liberation of East Timor.

Australia recognised Indonesian sovereignty and sought to strengthen economic and military ties with Indonesia while, at times, offering muted support for East Timor's eventual independence. Over the years of Indonesian rule, in the face of increased heavy handedness in East Timor and with growing international pressure over human rights breaches, Australia's position shifted.





An International Force East Timor (INTERFET) soldier from the Military Information Support Team (MIST) befriends a group of children in Suai during Operation Lavarack, October 1999. The MIST was responsible for spreading news of INTERFET's mission to the people of Suai as a lead-up to the establishment of WESTFOR, INTERFET's southern-most command. (Dept of Defence V9917817; photographer SGT Gary Ramage)

A member of the Australian Federal Police serving with the United Nations Mission East Timor (UNAMET) prepares for a meeting with locals to explain how the upcoming referendum would be run, Leorema, East Timor, August 1999. (AWM P03407.069; photographer Rob Mills)



Changes in Indonesia itself, however, marked a significant change in its official attitude toward East Timor. After President Suharto was forced from power in May 1998, his successor, Dr B.J. Habibie, expressed a willingness to address the question of East Timorese autonomy. Indonesia agreed to a referendum about whether the province would accept provisions for 'special autonomy' under Indonesian governance. If these were rejected, it would be recommended that East Timor be given independence.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) provided significant support and advice for the delivery of the referendum. The AEC developed polling procedures and manuals, delivered polling training to UN volunteers, and provided all polling material and equipment.

The United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) was established to oversee the referendum. Planning was accompanied by an upsurge in violence and intimidation from pro-Indonesian militia and supported by elements of the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI), the Indonesian military.

Among the first Australian uniformed personnel to arrive as part of UNAMET was a three-member Australian Federal Police (AFP) Advance Party in early June 1999. On 18 June the first of several dozen Australian military liaison officers (MLOs) deployed to East Timor, under Operation Faber. A some 50-strong AFP contingent, as well as United Nations (UN) civilian staff, deployed in tranches throughout June. The AFP component of UNAMET was the largest single national contingent of the 270 strong CIVPOL element of UNAMET.

The MLOs were in a liaison role and were to report on the state of affairs and level of security in the province. CIVPOL were to function as advisers to the Indonesian police, Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia (POLRI) and to secure the ballots. The POLRI had been tasked with ensuring the polling sites' security from militia interference. CIVPOL officers did not carry weapons, in the belief that their being unarmed would prevent escalation in any confrontations with the militia.

Violence, harassment and intimidation took place throughout the entire period of UNAMET. By the time of the referendum on 30 August 1999, the militia had driven thousands of East Timorese from their homes. Despite the violence and intimidation, 95 per cent of registered voters, some 430,000 people, cast their ballots. The result was a resounding defeat of the 'special autonomy' proposal, with

78.5% of East Timorese voting against it, and thus opting for a path towards independence. The courage to do so, in full knowledge of the violence likely to be unleashed, cannot be understated. Their bravery is a testament to the power of democracy and the importance of respecting the rule of law. It is also a demonstration of the professionalism and will of the UNAMET members involved in the successful organisation and oversight of the referendum.

In the referendum's wake, pro-integration groups escalated their campaign of violence and destruction across several towns, including the capital, Dili, in which TNI and POLRI personnel were also found to have taken part. The situation deteriorated rapidly, putting at risk the hundreds of UN international staff, CIVPOL and East Timorese electoral volunteers, as well as the civilian population in general.



Australian Federal Police Officers serving with the United Nations Mission East Timor (UNAMET) on a hillside at Ermera, East Timor, in August 1999. (AWM P03393.040; photographer Wayne Corbett)

On 30 August 1999, at the villages of Gleno, Ermera and Baboe Leten, militia harassed and threatened locals, UN staff and CIVPOL officers. At Gleno, a UN helicopter trying to collect the ballot boxes was driven off under a barrage of rocks and pellets, and AFP Superintendent Geoff Hazel was shot in the arm by a homemade weapon. At Ermera, militia followed a convoy of CIVPOL, UN staff and volunteers back to Gleno, firing over them all the way.

At Baboe Leten, two local UN workers were stabbed and others were beaten. The Indonesian National Police Mobile Brigade (BRIMOB), who were meant to be protecting the staff and volunteers, refused to intervene. Australian CIVPOL officers Philip Hunter and Max Knoth ensured the ballot boxes were loaded onto vehicles and transported to Atsabe, along with one of the wounded East Timorese, who later died. Another worker was murdered after the convoy departed. Hunter and Knoth were then besieged for over 24 hours by hostile militia intent on targeting the East Timorese civilians in their care, as well as attempting to take the ballot boxes with the intention of discrediting the entire ballot.

On 2 September, at Maliana, militia and military personnel commenced a two-day campaign of door-to-door terror, murdering locals, including those engaged as UN staff, firing into UN-occupied buildings and burning houses and buildings. Senior Sergeant David Savage, who was present, described the turmoil and horror: 'the feeling of dread in Maliana and further out was palpable ... it was an awful feeling ... I genuinely feared for my life and the lives of my team'. The ballot result was announced on 4 September, and in the face of the post-announcement violence and destruction, and the abandonment by BRIMOB and POLRI of their responsibilities of protection, UNAMET personnel were ordered back to the UN compounds in Dili and Baucau.

There then ensued a week of chaos, as the militia went on a vengeful and destructive rampage. Appalling scenes were reported by the remaining international media then present in Dili. Images of desperate East Timorese attempting to climb over the razor wire of the





Members of the Australian Federal Police oversee the loading of ballot boxes from a helicopter at Maubisse on the day following the ballot, 31 August 1999. The AFP contingent provided police monitors, election support, and military liaison as part of the UN Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) supervision of the referendum. (AWM P03364.016; photographer Sandra Hoffschildt)



UN civilian police and volunteers based in Baucau were evacuated at short notice to Darwin in a C130 Hercules, leaving behind many of their belongings and, in some cases, their locally engaged staff. Militia attempted to abort the take-off, and the flight was a RAAF record for the most passengers aboard a C130. (1999, AFPM11288, courtesy of the Australian Federal Police Museum)

UN compound, trying to escape to safety, were seen around the world. Then there was the unseen – the rape and sexual assault of hundreds of women, the murders and beatings. Buildings were ransacked and looted. Livestock was killed or stolen and public infrastructure destroyed. Some 60,000 homes were burned across the province and hundreds of thousands of civilians forced to flee. Estimates of the number of East Timorese killed has varied between 1,400 and 2,500. One of the most notorious incidents was the massacre of civilians sheltering in a church complex in Suai.

With the unfolding catastrophe broadcast around the world by the remaining media, Indonesia acquiesced to diplomatic pressure and declared a state of martial law on 6 September 1999. If Indonesia's government thought a military force sympathetic to the anti-independence cause and complicit in the violence against pro-independence supporters would curb the violence, it was a sorely misplaced idea. The destruction continued. The immediate post-ballot period


saw the deliberate targeting and murder of over 1,200 East Timorese, gross human rights violations and crimes such as abduction, rape and torture, as well as the forced deportation of an estimated 250,000 East Timorese to camps in West Timor.

Since the decision to commit Australian personnel to UNAMET, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and Australian Government had been monitoring affairs in East Timor closely. Now, with the collapse of civil order, it was time to evacuate the UNAMET staff, CIVPOL members and some refugees sheltering with them. Between 6–14 September 1999, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Royal New Zealand Air Force flew 37 sorties from both Dili and Baucau to Darwin on Hercules C-130 aircraft as part of Operation Spitfire, evacuating some 2,500 people, while troops of the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) provided protection on the ground.

Australian CIVPOL members and UNAMET staff were especially troubled by the fate of the local East Timorese staff and people. Some refugees were able to flee the UN compound, assisted by CIVPOL officers. Their fate was uncertain, as TNI soldiers were positioned to cut off tracks leading to and from the compound. In the face of the order to leave and abandon the East Timorese, the AFP officers signed a petition demanding to stay and protect civilians. AFP member Don Barnby, who had served in the Australian Army during the Vietnam War, recalled his bitter disappointment, describing the parallels between the abandonment of the South Vietnamese and East Timorese as 'chilling': 'We left Vietnam and we left the war and we all know what happened there. We said we'd stay in Timor and we're leaving ... none of us were happy. We were all pissed off that we were ordered out'.

The unarmed CIVPOL officers' heroism in standing between defenceless East Timorese and the armed militia saved countless lives and provided the backbone that allowed the UN to complete its mission. The actions of CIVPOL also enabled negotiations to take place for the safe passage of hundreds of East Timorese to safety in Darwin. UNAMET itself was awarded the Elie Wiesel Ethics Award in October 2000, and the AFP members of UNAMET CIVPOL received the Australian Group Bravery Citation in 2001 for their actions.

On 14 September 1999, President Habibie formally accepted that a UN-mandated multinational force was to deploy to East Timor and assist Indonesian authorities in maintaining security. This gave the green light for Australia to begin Operation Warden (the support of operations in East Timor) and Operation Stabilise (the multinational operation in East Timor).

A large Sea King helicopter is being hoisted by a crane on the deck of the HMAS Tobruk. The helicopter is suspended in the air, and a person in a white uniform is standing on the deck, guiding it. The ship's superstructure is visible in the background, and the sea is in the foreground. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light.

A Sea King helicopter picks up stores from HMAS *Tobruk* during Operation Stabilise. (Dept of Defence skg991066-3; photographer AB Simon Metcalfe)

HMAS *Success* off the coast of Dili during Operation Stabilise. (Dept of Defence sup991026-2; photographer AB Simon Metcalfe)



Two days earlier, the President of the United States of America had remarked at a meeting of American and Asian business leaders in Auckland:

... the Indonesian military has aided and abetted militia violence in East Timor, in violation of the commitment of its leaders to the international community. This has allowed the militias to murder innocent people, to send thousands fleeing for their lives, to attack the United Nations compound ... The Indonesian Government and military must not only stop what they are doing but reverse course. They must halt the violence not just in Dili but throughout the nation. They must permit humanitarian assistance and let the U.N. mission do its job ... We are ready to support an effort led by Australia to mobilize a multinational force to help to bring security to East Timor under U.N. auspice ...

On 15 September 1999, the UN Security Council authorised the formation of a multinational force known as INTERFET.

Australia led it, with aims of restoring peace and security in East Timor and protecting and supporting UNAMET in facilitating humanitarian assistance operations.

Australia sent more than 5,500 service personnel to East Timor as part of INTERFET, the largest deployment since the Vietnam War. The then Major General Peter Cosgrove AM MC commanded the force and flew into Dili on 19 September 1999 to meet with Indonesian authorities. Cosgrove returned to Australia that evening, leaving behind Lieutenant Colonel Roger Joy, a liaison officer, and Captain Jon Hawkins, with an SASR communications detachment. This group was to coordinate INTERFET's arrival the next day with the Indonesian command.

The first INTERFET personnel arrived at first light on 20 September aboard three Royal Australian Navy (RAN) vessels: HMA Ships *Anzac*, *Hobart* and *Success*. They were accompanied by several AFP members also deploying under the banner of UNAMET. Their presence was intended, in

part, as a projection of power, sending a message to the militia about UNAMET's strength. It also sent a message of hope to the East Timorese civilians watching from the hills overlooking the harbour. RAAF air traffic controllers were also present to coordinate INTERFET air arrivals once control of the Komoro airfield was handed over.

An hour after the ships arrived, the first of five aircraft landed carrying SASR personnel, the first component of Australian ground forces. They, along with New Zealanders from the New Zealand Special Air Service Regiment (NZSAS Regt) and a troop from the British Special Boat Service, formed Response Force (RESPFOR), conducted vehicle patrols into Dili and secured the port. They were later followed by Alpha and Bravo Companies and the battalion tactical

headquarters from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), along with a pair of M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) from B Squadron, 3/4 Cavalry Regiment and the tactical headquarters of Brigadier Mark Evans' 3rd Brigade. All had arrived in a wave of aircraft despatched from Townsville. The rest of 2RAR's troops arrived during the day, having flown from Townsville to Darwin on commercial aircraft.

On 21 September 1999, consolidation of the port area continued, with the arrival of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), on HMAS *Tobruk* and *Jervis Bay*, the latter being a catamaran chartered by the RAN. Its use in an operational role was a first for any navy in the world.



Australian troops board HMAS *Tobruk* prior to departure from Darwin for service with the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET), September 1999. (AWM 200805; photographer Ray McJannett)

In those early days, the port area was effectively a war zone. Rachel Milsom, a RAAF member and Force Protection Officer who arrived on HMAS *Jervis Bay* with the headquarters group, recalled the scene that greeted the Australians, as well as the realisation of the magnitude of the job before them:

The smell of burning buildings still in the air and seeing the smoke, there was still a lot of smoke and smouldering buildings ... everything seemed really quite run down and ... so much had been destroyed ... You could see it was such a beautiful country ... you could see just how much had just been torched on the way out and ... that was quite sad. And just looking at how we were going then to do that capacity building and repairing and restoring security and order there, it certainly hit home a lot more about what we were there to do ...

Paula Vetter, a member of the 3rd Brigade Combat Service Support Team, arrived on the fourth day of the INTERFET deployment:

Dili airport obviously was not functional, not operational, it was utilised for military aircraft coming in and out ... It was lined with bulldust. It was atrocious. It was bulldust that just sticks to you. So the conditions were very austere; what you had on your back was all you had and that's what you lived with ...

While INTERFET was establishing itself in Dili, the TNI retained a strong presence, even though they had rescinded martial law on 24 September. As elements of the TNI began to withdraw westward, their path was marked by further acts of violence and destruction, while militia remained active in unsecured parts of the country.

A number of operations were undertaken by INTERFET to demonstrate its strength and to seize operational initiative from the militia and Indonesian troops. Operation Brighton was a sweep through central Dili, Operation Beaconsfield II provided a show of force in Liquiçá, west of Dili, while plans were laid down to place an occupying force in the border districts with West Timor (WESTFOR) as part of

Operation Lavarack. The principal towns to be secured were Aidabaleten, Batugade, Maliana, Balibo, Bobonaro and Suai.

By the end of September, security in Dili had improved markedly and many East Timorese were confident enough to visit from their hiding places in the hills. While INTERFET's technological advantages, in the form of armoured vehicles and helicopters, helped project power and resolve, the improved situation was also due to the Indonesians ceding Dili whilst preparing to depart the province. There were now some 4,300 INTERFET personnel in East Timor, drawn from 11 nations, three-quarters of whom were Australian.

Running parallel with the security operations was the humanitarian effort. The lack of food and water for displaced persons was a critical concern. INTERFET secured stores of rice throughout Dili, created a safe area for refugees at the town's stadium, cleaned up the streets and market area, and distributed food. UN, government, and non-government aid organisations (NGOs) began to supply essential materials and much needed food and medical supplies. The Red Cross set up a hospital in Dili, which further encouraged people to return to the town. Among the many roles was the retrieval and identification of the remains of the deceased East Timorese people, mostly undertaken by CIVPOL. INTERFET units guarded warehouses and provided escorts for humanitarian projects and convoys but there was tension between these groups as their goals did not always align. INTERFET's role was to ensure security but sometimes its resources were diverted into humanitarian support while NGOs did not always fully appreciate the force's security mandate.

The security situation had improved enough by the end of the first week of October for INTERFET to declare the roads from Dili through to Viqueque open for unescorted humanitarian convoys. However, given the heightened tensions that gripped East Timor, it seemed inevitable that some contacts between INTERFET and the TNI and militia would intensify. One such incident early on in Dili was defused by unexpected associations, as explained by Brad Dunn, Squadron Sergeant Major, C Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment in support of 3RAR:



A member of HQ WESTFOR meets some locals while on a patrol through mountainous country close to the West Timor border during Operation Lavarack, November 1999. (Dept of Defence V9920411; photographer WO2 Al Green)





Members of 5/7 Mortar Platoon Support Company patrol the streets during Operation Stabilise, October 1999. (Dept of Defence V9909717A; photographer CPL Mark Dowling)

We had to deploy on the second night to go and find these two reporters ... British reporters. They'd rung the British embassy in England saying that the militia, possibly Indonesians, were trying to kill them. We got the word we had to get out and find them ... We came across a checkpoint ... I got off, the OC got off the vehicle [APC] to communicate with the militia troops or the Indonesians. We were preparing to shoot, it was getting close. Then an Indonesian officer yelled out, "Chris, Brad." Turns out the commander of the local Indonesian unit had been on a deployment to Australia and had trained with us in Second Cavalry ... He recognised us, so it was much back-slapping and guns going down. Then one of my troops came forward and said, "We got them. They're in the back of the Type II, they've snuck out" ... That was the first 48 hours.

Other incidents had more serious consequences. On 6 October 1999, elements of RESPFOR were ambushed near Suai when moving detainees. Two Australians were wounded and two militiamen killed. Four days later, Charlie Company, 2RAR, clashed with an Indonesian border post near the village of Montaaïn. One Indonesian police officer was killed and another severely wounded, while two others sustained minor injuries. On 14 October 1999, troops from 2RAR confronted an Indonesian patrol entering East Timor in the Bobonaro District. A few days later, on 18 October 1999, a RESPFOR patrol engaged in a firefight with militia near the village of Aidabasalala. Four militiamen were killed and another four wounded. Fortunately, none of these incidents became a catalyst for broader conflict and East Timorese began returning to their villages.

The border districts were strongholds of the militia, and only substantial INTERFET forces could loosen their hold. The arrival in Dili of the 5th/7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5/7RAR), on 11 October 1999, further bolstered the Australian presence, brought the number of ADF personnel close to its peak and gave INTERFET a greater capacity to undertake ground operations.

East Timor was divided into four areas of operation (AO): Redback in the north; Taipan in the centre; Manawatu in the south; and Outback, which was all the area east of the other AOs along with an additional section west of AO Manawatu. This was adjusted when 3RAR was sent to the Oecussi enclave to relieve the scratch force of RESPFOR and a mechanised platoon of 5/7RAR troops, dubbed AMBENFOR, which had been sent there earlier in Operation Respite during the latter part of October. As a consequence of 3RAR's deployment in mid-November, AO Taipan was reallocated to AO Redback and AO Manawatu.

Oecussi was an isolated district of East Timor on the north shore of Indonesian West Timor, approximately 70 kilometres west of East Timor proper. David McCammon, the 5/7RAR platoon commander in AMBENFOR as part of the initial deployment to Oecussi, remembered the joy of the locals on discovering the Australian arrival:

There was talk about militia, significant numbers of militia, in the area and so we established a defensive position up there with the troop and dug in, but there was nobody. It was a complete ghost town and that was hard to work out what was going on because no one was there ... And then it started to happen, that people started to return. And they'd all been hiding in the hills ... but over the afternoon, we went from nobody to thousands and thousands of people.

The political landscape in Indonesia changed again on 20 October 1999, when Abdurrahman Wahid succeeded Dr BJ Habibie as president. Whether by design or default, the start of Wahid's presidency saw more cooperation from the TNI. Prior to his accession to the presidency, a joint Indonesian-INTERFET investigation was opened into the incident at Montain, and General Wiranto, Commander of the TNI, had asked for joint Indonesian-INTERFET patrols to be undertaken in the border regions. On 4 November 1999, following US demands that the Indonesian government curb rogue TNI elements' support for militia groups, Wahid ordered all TNI support of the militia to cease. A summons was issued by the Indonesian Commission for Human Rights Violations in East Timor (KPP-HAM) to General Wiranto to be questioned about pre- and post- ballot violence.



A member of the Air Load Team operating at Komoro Airport, near Dili, gives the thumbs-up for 'all clear' as aircraft move around the flight-line during Operation Stabilise, October 1999. (Dept of Defence V9918214; photographer W Guthrie)

The final withdrawal of TNI troops from Dili at the end of October 1999 represented a visible shift in the power balance in East Timor, encouraging more East Timorese to return to the town. Dili's population was estimated to have grown to 140,000 by the start of December 1999. The reopening of the markets in mid-October 1999 was followed by the release of Xanana Gusmão, the former resistance leader who had been jailed in Indonesia. His arrival, along with the return of activist and former FRETILIN politician Jose Ramos-Horta after 24 years in exile, pointed to a new dawn for East Timor.

Australia's Prime Minister, John Howard, visited in December 1999 and INTERFET troops were entertained by the 'Tour of Duty' concert, which was a fillip to morale and featured many performers, including Kylie Minogue.

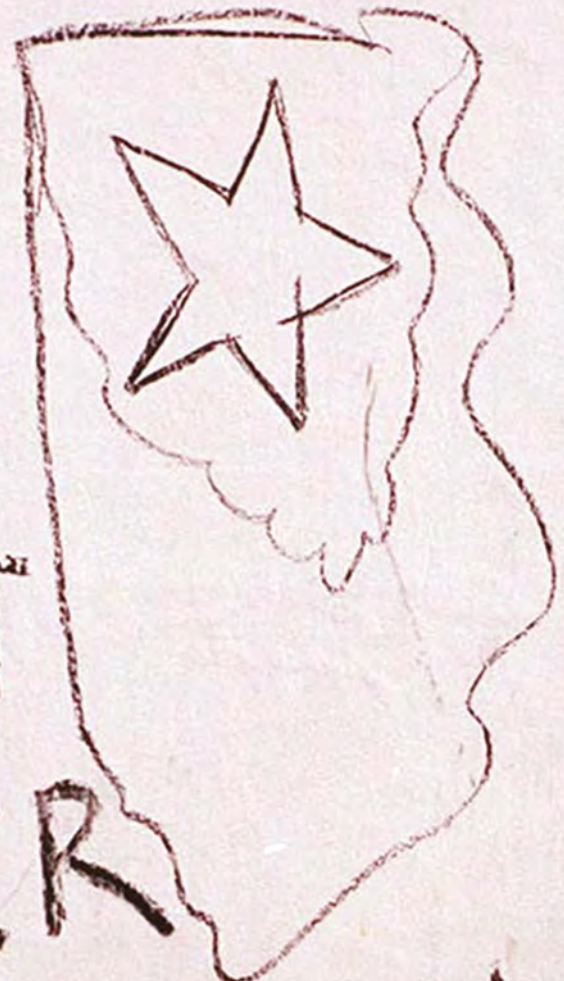


Local children and Australian soldiers applaud at the 'Tour of Duty' concert at the Municipal Stadium of Dili, December 1999. The concert, with performers including Kylie Minogue, John Farnham, and the band of the Royal Military College, provided entertainment to INTERFET troops and was broadcast live to a television audience in Australia. (AWM P04504.034; photographer David Dare Parker)

I LOVE YOU
MILITARY
INTERFET
FOREVER

CAUSOLY

DONAT



Donna

THANK YOU VERRY
MUCH INTERFET
MY DARLING

CUHL
Donna

A member of the 3rd Brigade stops to talk with one of the children who has returned to the devastated town of Suai during Operation Lavarack, October 1999. (Dept of Defence V9917535; photographer Gary Ramage)



The stability that INTERFET brought to East Timor also allowed its troops to move to a 'hearts and minds' focus, and ADF personnel were increasingly involved in rebuilding towns and supplying and restoring vital infrastructure. Militia activity did not dissipate entirely and further incidents flared up. Security in the Oecussi enclave was of particular concern and on 17 January 2000, 3RAR participated in three separate firefights, fortunately with no confirmed casualties on either side.

Planning for the INTERFET withdrawal and return home of Australian units had actually begun in mid-October 1999, with the assembly of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). In mid-December 1999, a 37-strong Force Extraction Team was formed to facilitate that future operation. The withdrawal of the larger INTERFET units began when 2RAR and Bravo Squadron, 3/4 Cavalry Regiment, departed on 10 January 2000, and the gradual withdrawal of other units followed. The last substantial INTERFET unit to leave East Timor was 17 Construction Squadron, which ceased operations on 28 February and arrived back in Sydney on 7 March.

On 23 February 2000, Major General Cosgrove officially ended the INTERFET mission when he signed the transition documentation handing over responsibilities to UNTAET, which operated until 2002. UNTAET's role was to provide a peacekeeping force to maintain law and order, coordinate relief assistance to the East Timorese, provide emergency repairs to infrastructure, create structures for sustainable governance and law, assist in the drafting of a new constitution, and conduct elections. During this time, the AFP assisted with setting up the East Timor Police Service.

Some 7,500 ADF personnel became involved from 20 February 2000 in what was known as Operation Tanager. Australia contributed an Infantry Battalion Group force to the western border region (Sector West) of East Timor. Their role was to prevent insurgency operations by the pro-Indonesia Aitarak militia forces. Australia also contributed a Communications Management Team, providing services in telecommunications, communications infrastructure, installations and management. Logistical units were provided under the command of the Australian National Command Element.

In 2001, the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) launched an electoral capacity building project to support East Timor's efforts to establish an independent electoral body. This support to the independent electoral commission built the skills and knowledge of staff to effectively deliver electoral events. Over the years that followed, hundreds of Timorese staff were trained by AEC officials, fostering a sense of pride in the democracy they were building.

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste achieved formal independence on 20 May 2002, when it was internationally recognised as an independent nation following the presidential election in April and the signing of the 5 May agreements that established the process of popular consultation on East Timor's future.

Once Timor-Leste became an independent state, the UN established United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) from May 2002 to May 2005. The mission provided assistance to the new government, including law enforcement and internal and external security. It helped develop the new Timor-Leste police service (PNTL).

A Military Policeman of Recon Platoon, Fourth Battalion Group, with his Military Working Dog during Operation Tanager, Balibo, September 2001. (Dept of Defence V0118205; photographer SGT William Guthrie)









The Australian operation was codenamed Operation Citadel, and comprised 3,200 ADF personnel. Their functions included staffing headquarters and managing logistics, as well as engineering and military liaison tasks. An Australian Army Colonel also filled the Deputy Force Commander position within the UN Peacekeeping Force Headquarters (PKFHQ).

The UN established the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) from May 2005 to May 2006, to continue to support the development of critical state institutions. Sixteen ADF personnel were involved in Operation Chiron, the ADF's regional Defence Cooperation Program. Personnel performed liaison and monitoring functions. AFP members contributed as specialist policing advisors to the mission.

Unfortunately, in 2006, Timor-Leste experienced a domestic security crisis, which included widespread violence and civil unrest. Elements of the military sparked the unrest by protesting poor conditions and discrimination between soldiers from the country's east and west. FALANTIL dismissed almost half of the force after the protests. Violence grew throughout the country, leading to widespread unrest.

On 25 May 2006, the crisis escalated to the point where several FALINTIL members fired upon a group of unarmed Timorese police officers. This prompted an expedited request from the Timor-Leste government to the governments of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Portugal for assistance.

The Australian-led International Stabilisation Force (ISF) was launched immediately.

A member of Townsville's 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment, part of the 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Group serving on Operation Citadel, UNMISSET, provides security for a health clinic in the Bobonaro district, June 2003. (Dept of Defence JPAU26JUN03SB011; photographer CPL Sean Burton)

Dave Lassam, a naval officer with an Australian medical team, had arrived offshore at the outset of the 2006 crisis, and recalled watching the unfolding conflagration and expressed his manifest disappointment with the situation: 'Dili was burning again, which was pretty sad – black smoke coming out of everything and you just think, "Really"'.

ISF's international operation, codenamed Operation Astute, was initially led by the ADF under Brigadier Michael Slater, and the force included an ANZAC Battle Group. Its tasks were to assist in the evacuation of foreigners, restore stability and confine conflict to secured areas, locate and assess weapons, and assist in communication between conflicting groups.

Operation Astute comprised approximately 1,800 ADF personnel and supported ongoing peace and stability in Timor-Leste. By the time the deployment ended in 2013, at around the 10th anniversary of independence, Timor-Leste had grown its economy and strengthened its institutions.

Additionally, the AFP supported ISF through Operation Serene, restoring order and investigating the offences committed during the earlier crisis. This operation officially ceased on 1 December 2006, having commenced on 29 May 2006, four days after Operation Astute began.

On 25 August 2006, a few months after the ISF deployed, the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) was established. It was created to support the government in consolidating stability, enhance a culture of democratic governance, and facilitate political dialogue among Timorese stakeholders. The Australian operation, codenamed Operation Tower, comprised four ADF personnel and 50 police at any one time, and ran until 2012.

During the six-year commitment to UNMIT, AFP members responded to an additional call for assistance from the Timor-Leste Government, following the declaration of a 'state of emergency' on 11 February



Members from the International Stabilisation Force patrol team await a signal from Black Hawk load masters to board a helicopter after it lands in Suai during Operation Astute, January 2010. (Dept of Defence 20100113adf8114832_198)







2008 as a result of separate armed attacks against the President, Dr Jose Ramos Horta, and Prime Minister, Xanana Gusmao. Within 36 hours of these attacks, a contingent of 70 AFP personnel had arrived in Timor-Leste, comprising of 65 members of the International Deployment Group's Operational Response Group and five forensic specialists. This operation, known as Operation Comity, concluded on 21 March 2008.

The last Australian troops from the ISF returned home from Timor-Leste on 27 March 2013, although a small team of ADF personnel remained to provide training for Timor-Leste's Defence Force. The AFP remained to support the Timor-Leste Police Development Program, which is still in existence in 2024. The AEC, via consistent funding from AusAID, maintained its program of electoral support through to 2017.

Reflecting on the Australian contribution in Timor-Leste, Ian Langford, who served as a senior Lieutenant/junior Captain in East Timor, stated that 'the collective experience of East Timor [was] ... evidence that the Australian Army is pretty powerful in terms of its human talent and the ability to demonstrate discretion when it comes to assessing the situation, being able to adjust expectations and behaviours and do the right thing'.

Six Australians lost their lives whilst deployed, or as a result of their service, in Timor-Leste. Five – Lance Corporal Russell Eisenhuth, Sergeant Andrew Emmerton, Corporal Stuart Jones, Private Ashley Baker and Craftsman Beau Pridue – were ADF members, and their names are recorded with other members of the Australian armed forces on Australia's national Roll of Honour. Sergeant Brett Kinloch, a member of the AFP, was posthumously awarded the UN's Dag Hammarskjöld Medal.

A rifleman with Battle Group Timor Leste 3 greets a young local while on a routine patrol around Dili during Operation Astute, October 2007. (Dept of Defence 20071022adf8208022_045; photographer LAC Guy Young)





Far left: A member of 8th/12th Medium Regiment gives food to a Timorese family in the hills above Dili during INTERFET, December 1999. (AWM P03248.062; photographer Wendy Sharpe)

Above: INTERFET troops from 3rd Brigade prepare to land on the beach at Suai during Operation Stabilise, October 1999. Troops from the brigade were moved from Dili onboard HMAS *Tobruk* to set up a permanent security presence in the border town. (Dept of Defence V9910016; photographer SGT Bill Guthrie)



Left: A member of the AFP sits with a group of East Timorese civilians in the courtyard of UN headquarters in Dili. Families of East Timorese staff were allowed into the UN compound for safety reasons. (AFPM1815 – courtesy of the Australian Federal Police Museum)



Top Left: A Land Rover ambulance is loaded onto HMAS *Tobruk* prior to departure for East Timor for service with INTERFET, September 1999. (AWM 200779; photographer Ray McJannett)

Right: Pre-flight checks and activities in the rain, prior to a Black Hawk helicopter flight from the Dili helicopter base to Suai, carrying officials on a fact-finding tour to lessen the fears of East Timorese refugees in Sydney. (AWM P03605.883; photographer John Immig)

Above: A group of East Timorese children with a UN Land Rover at Gleno, during UNAMET, June 1999. (AWM P03407.091; photographer Rob Mills)





HMAS *Jervis Bay* leaves Dili harbour. (Dept of Defence sup991305-6; photographer ABPH Damian Pawlenko)

HMAS JERVIS BAY

HMAS *Jervis Bay* was a fast sealift transport ship built in Tasmania. She was laid down on 22 July 1995, launched on 28 June 1998 and commissioned on 10 June 1999, becoming the first large catamaran to enter RAN service. *Jervis Bay* displaced 1,250 tonnes, was 86.62 metres long, and had a beam (width) of 26 metres and a draught of 3.6 metres. Her top speed was 48 knots. Her crew comprised three officers, 12 sailors and five army personnel. She could carry 500 fully

equipped troops along with a range of supporting army vehicles, the number depending on their type and combined weight, and was powered by four Ruston 20RK 270 marine diesel engines driving four Lips 145/3 waterjets, and each engine pulled 7080kw.

During the two years of the ship's commission in the RAN, *Jervis Bay* made 107 trips between Darwin and Timor-Leste, shipping 20,000 passengers, 430 vehicles and 5,600 tonnes of freight.

HMAS BRUNEI

HMAS *Brunei* was one of eight Balikpapan Class Landing Craft Heavy (LCH) operated by the RAN. She was built in Maryborough, Queensland. *Brunei* was laid down on 1 July 1971, commissioned on 5 January 1973 and decommissioned on 20 November 2014. *Brunei* displaced 364 tonnes, was 44.5 metres long with a beam of 10.1 metres and a draught of 2 metres. Her top speed was 10 knots and her range was 3,000 nautical metres. She had a crew of two officers and eleven sailors. *Brunei* was powered by two GM diesel engines, and armed with two .50 calibre Browning machine guns.



HMAS *Labuan* (L128), HMAS *Brunei* (L127) and HMAS *Balikapan* (L126) support the INTERFET force to make a beach landing to offload vehicles at Suai during Operation Stabilise, October 1999. (Dept of Defence V9912033; photographer Bill Guthrie)



One of the RAN's seven Sea King helicopters comes in to land at Dili heliport, October 1999. Flying between HMAS *Tobruk* and the Dili heliport, the Sea Kings provided Operation Stabilise with much needed fuel. (Dept of Defence V9904428; photographer SGT Gary Ramage)

WESTLAND SEA KING MK 50 HELICOPTER

The Sea King is a carrier-borne Anti-submarine/Search and Rescue/Utility Helicopter. Sea Kings are built in Yeovil, Somerset, United Kingdom. The Sea King weighs 6,201 kilograms, is 22.15 metres long and 5.13 metres high, and has a wing span of 18.9 metres, a speed of 230 kph and a range of 925km. Sea Kings are powered by two 1,500 hp Rolls Royce Gnome H 1400 shaft turbine engines. Armament can include door mounted Mag 58 machine guns, and four Mk44 or Mk 45 torpedoes. Sea Kings can climb at 3000ft/min and have a ceiling of 14,700 feet. The first Sea King was delivered to the RAN in 1974, and the last in 1996.

BUSHMASTER

The Bushmaster is a four-wheel-drive Infantry Mobility Vehicle (IMV). The vehicle has a box shaped, welded steel hull with horizontal roof, vertical side, rear and front plates. The crew side windows are armoured and have firing ports fitted. Attached to the port-side exterior of the vehicle, between the main storage bins, is a 10-tonne hydraulic winch with guide rollers for the cable, mounted in-line with the winch at the front and rear of the vehicle.

There are four hinged roof hatches above the passenger compartment and a fifth circular hatch located above the crew compartment, with a fitted mount to support a machine gun, ammunition boxes and a spotlight. At the rear of the vehicle, below the spare tyres, are three steel boxes containing wet cell batteries.

Crew and passenger access is through the rear door via fold-down steps. The interior of the vehicle has provision for carrying seven seated passengers and two seated crew members. All seven passenger seats face towards the centre of the vehicle and have harness seat belts fitted. Standard equipment for the vehicle includes power steering, automatic transmission, air conditioning and a cooled fresh water supply system.

Two prototypes of this vehicle were deployed to Timor-Leste during INTERFET in 1999–2000 and were used as protected transport for senior officers and VIPs. Passengers included Mr Robert Hill, General Peter Cosgrove and Mr Xanana Gusmao.



Australians deployed on Operation Stabilise man an armoured vehicle, October 1999. (Dept of Defence V9916532; photographer W Guthrie)



Australian Troops in East Timor. (Dept of Defence V99_321_09; photographer CPL Mark Dowling)

AUSTRALIAN LIGHT ARMoured VEHICLE (ASLAV)

ASLAV is an 8 x 8 wheeled, amphibious, light armoured reconnaissance vehicle. The vehicle has a sloped steel armoured hull resistant to small arms fire. A six-man troop compartment is at the far rear. The rear of the hull is vertical, with two external opening doors. The hull has provision for the external stowage of tools and equipment.

The driver sits front left. The engine compartment is to the right and a two-man power operated turret is located to the rear of vehicle centre and is offset to the left. The turret has 360 degree traverse, is fully stabilised and would normally

be armed with a 25 mm Chain Gun. A co-axial 7.62 mm machine gun would also normally be fitted alongside the Chain Gun. The turret has provision for the attachment of smoke dischargers and the stowage of tools and equipment. The vehicle is fully amphibious, with two propellers mounted at the rear.

The vehicles were deployed at short notice to Timor-Leste in 1999, where they made a significant contribution to the success of the mission. The vehicles maintained a high level of availability and achieved great effect with their mobility, protection, firepower and night-time capability.

KIOWA LIGHT OBSERVATION HELICOPTER

The Bell Kiowa Light Observation Helicopter is a two-blade, 2–5 person, light observation helicopter.

Introduced in the 1970s, the Kiowa was initially leased from the United States Army for use in Vietnam. It was then built under license by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation. Kiowas were used by the RAN until September 1999, and in East Timor they were flown by the 161 and 162 Reconnaissance Squadrons, of the Australian Army Aviation Corps. The Kiowa was deployed during the INTERFET deployment and subsequent operations.



A Kiowa helicopter of 162 Recce Squadron in flight, East Timor, January 2001. (Dept of Defence VK022402; photographer CPL Jason Weeding)

M113 ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIER (APC)

The M113 was a tracked APC with an aluminium hull and equipped with a steel T50 turret with provision for one .50 inch M2HB machine gun and one .30 L3A3 Browning machine gun. It was developed in the United States of America and introduced into Australian Army service in 1964.

There are five rubber tyred road wheels fitted to each side, with the drive sprockets forward and the idler wheels at the rear. The wheel hubs are a post-Vietnam fitment - the original hubs were fitted with a small viewing port mounted in the centre, which allowed crew members to gauge the amount of lubrication needed. It is fitted with post-Vietnam conflict German Diehl-type double

pin tracks with rubber block inserts. Two jerry-can holders were usually mounted on the rear of the hull.

The M113 family of vehicles includes seven variants – the APC, Armoured Fitters, Armoured Recovery Vehicle Light, Armoured Ambulance, Armoured Mortar, Armoured Command Vehicle and Armoured Logistic Vehicle.

The M113A1 remained in service with the Australian Army for over 50 years, with a heavily modified and 'stretched' Australian version known as the M113AS4 introduced into service from 2007. This vehicle is still in service with the Australian Army, 14 of which are currently on loan to the Ukrainian Army.



Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) 22, crewed by members of INTERFET, on a road near Batugade in January 2000. (AWM P03605.921; photographer John Immig)



A RAAF C-130 Hercules taxis as Australian Army Black Hawk helicopters lift off on another sortie to bring in troops from 2 RAR for the INTERFET insertion into Balibo during Operation Stabilise, October 1999. (Dept of Defence V9902002; photographer WO2 Al Green)

BLACK HAWK HELICOPTERS

The Sikorsky S-70A-9 Black Hawk is a four-bladed, twin-engine, utility helicopter, typically providing air mobility for troops and equipment in a combat zone.

Introduced into service with the Australian Defence Force in the late 1980s, the Black Hawk can also carry out aerial reconnaissance, observation, direction of artillery fire, casualty evacuation and aerial fire support.

Australian Black Hawks have had a diverse operational history with the Australian Army's 5th and 6th Aviation Regiments, deploying on peace and humanitarian operations, and with specialist domestic counter-terrorism response units.

LANDING CRAFT MECHANISED MARK 8 (LCM-8)

The LCM-8 is a river boat and mechanised landing craft used by the United States of America navy and army during the Vietnam War and subsequent operations. The vessel weighs 135,000 pounds (61,200kg) and has a crew of four to six. The LCM-8s are constructed from welded steel and powered by two or four diesel engines, twin propellers, and rudders. The ship can carry 60 short tons of cargo. It has a range of 190 miles at 9 knots with a full load.

The LCM-8 was constructed in Australia for the Australian Army from 1965 to 1967 and again in 1972, using a heavily modified design. Modification of the vessels included an extended enclosed wheelhouse with full galley facilities, chart table and storage space, to aid in extended operations beyond the original design parameters.

Further development included a more balanced and expensive five-blade propeller, negating the vibration and cavitation of the original.

During the mid-1990s, the Australian LCM-8's engines were upgraded. The original twin-pac 6-71 two-stroke Detroit Diesel engines and Allison mechanical transmissions were replaced with 8v-92 Silver Series Detroit Diesel engines and Allison Hydraulic Transmissions, thus extending the life of the craft for another 20 years.

Force Logistics Squadron LCM-8 crews drawn from Townsville's 10th Force Support Battalion conducted a practice at sea designed to maintain skills on the craft's primary self-defence weapons during Operation Tanager, October 2001. (Dept of Defence V0119403; photographer SGT William Guthrie)



A RAAF C-130 Hercules takes off from Komoro Airfield, near Dili, on a sortie between the INTERFET Command and Darwin, September 1999. (Dept of Defence V9903418; photographer SGT W Guthrie)

C-130 HERCULES

The C-130 Hercules has, since its inception, been the backbone of RAAF air transport and has played a significant role within No. 36 Squadron and No. 37 Squadron, operating from RAAF Base Richmond.

In 1958, Air Force received 12 of the initial C-130A variant, making Australia the first country to operate the aircraft outside of the United States of America. Operated by No. 36 Squadron until 1978, the C-130A was replaced by the C-130H, and continued operation until 2006, when the C-130H's were transferred to No. 37 Squadron, continuing until they were decommissioned in 2012.

In 1966, the re-formed No. 37 Squadron became the operational unit of 12 newly purchased C-130E models, in an effort to meet increasing demand for domestic and international support, especially during the Vietnam War period.

The C-130E was replaced by the C-130J, which is still being operated out of RAAF Base Richmond today. Upgrades throughout the years to the C-130 fleet have provided technical advancements to enhance mission effectiveness and assist aircrew and maintenance personnel.

Five aircrew were required to operate the older C-130 variants but the C-130J requires only a minimum of three crew to operate.

The C-130J Hercules was used in Timor-Leste and continues to play a vital role in defence operations and integration with partner nations worldwide.

CARIBOU



A RAAF No. 38 Squadron Caribou taxis at Suai airfield during Operation Lavarack, October 1999. (Dept of Defence V9917317; photographer SGT Gary Ramage)

The De Havilland DHC-4 Caribou A4-208 is a military tactical transport aircraft that was designed in Canada.

A total of 33 Caribous were operated by the RAAF. The first aircraft was handed over on 25 February 1964 and it, and two others, was ferried by crews from No. 38 Squadron RAAF the 25,700 km (16,000 miles) to Australia via the Atlantic Ocean, Europe and the Indian Ocean, arriving at RAAF Base Richmond on 22 April that year. Initially 18 aircraft were obtained.

In July 1964 three aircraft which were being ferried from Canada were directed to divert to Butterworth Airbase in Malaysia to become part of the Australian military involvement in the Vietnam War. On 20 July 1964, the RAAF Transport Flight was formed to operate the aircraft from Vũng Tàu, three further aircraft being delivered a month later. In 1965, a seventh aircraft was delivered, the unit becoming No. 35 Squadron. The unit was known as 'Wallaby Airlines' and, in addition to

carrying freight and munitions, carried more than 600,000 passengers.

The Caribou was operated by No. 35 and No. 38 Squadrons from RAAF Base Richmond, following its introduction in 1964. In later years the Caribou operated from RAAF Base Townsville, to where the units were transferred.

Around the time that FRETILIN declared the formation of the Democratic Republic of East Timor in 1975, No. 35 Squadron Caribous were used in Red Cross markings to fly mercy missions from Darwin into Timor-Leste. They later played an important role in the Timor-Leste deployments from 1999–2013.

The Caribou was able to operate out of crude strips which could not be used by many other aircraft, and became a very difficult aircraft to replace. It was used for flare dropping missions, medical evacuation, search-and-rescue, and paratroop training. Its main role was to lift troops, civilians, supplies, ammunition, mail and food.

As a military transport, the Caribou could carry 32 fully-equipped troops, 24 paratroops, or 14 casualty stretchers and 12 sitting casualties or medical attendants. As a freighter, three tonnes of cargo or two loaded jeeps could be carried.



Argentina



Australia



Austria



Bangladesh



Benin



Bolivia



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Cape Verde



Chile



China



Croatia



Denmark



Egypt



El Salvador



Germany



Ghana



India



Ireland



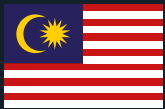
Italy



Jamaica



Japan



Malaysia



Montenegro



Mozambique



Namibia



Nepal



Netherlands



New Zealand



Pakistan



Palau



Peru



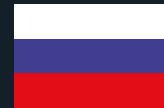
Philippines



Portugal



Romania



Russia



Sierra Leone



Singapore



Slovakia



Slovenia



South Africa



South Korea



Spain



Turkey



Uganda



Ukraine



United Kingdom



United States of America



Uruguay



Vanuatu



Brazil



Bulgaria



Canada



Fiji



France



Gambia



Jordan



Kenya



Kyrgyzstan



Niger



Nigeria



Norway



Samoa



Senegal



Serbia



Sri Lanka



Sweden



Thailand



Yemen



Zambia



Zimbabwe

ALLIES OF TIMOR-LESTE

Australian service in Timor-Leste began in 1999, and continues until this day, showcasing ongoing support for Timor-Leste's sovereignty and security.

Some 70 nations actively supported Timor-Leste, across all multi-national missions, from June 1999 to early 2013.

International support for Timor-Leste spanned across the following missions:

- United Nations Mission in East Timor
- International Force East Timor
- United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
- United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor
- United Nations Office in Timor-Leste
- International Stabilisation Force
- United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has made every effort to compile a list of countries that operated in Timor-Leste based on current research and resources.

Flying officer at Dili airport during Operation Stabilise. (Dept of Defence off991018-5; photographer AB Simon Metcalfe)





ORDER OF
SERVICE

The Master of Ceremonies for this service is:
Lieutenant Colonel Emma Broder CSM
Australian Army

The music for the service is provided by:
The Band of the Royal Military College
Major Matt O’Keeffe
Officer Commanding/Music Director

OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVAL

PLAYING OF THE DIDGERIDOO

Corporal Cody Harris
10th Force Support Battalion
Australian Army

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Lieutenant Colonel Emma Broder CSM
Australian Army

CATAFALQUE PARTY AND COLOUR PARTY ARE MOUNTED

Members of Australia’s Federation Guard

CALL TO REMEMBRANCE

Dr Martin Hess
Australian Federal Police



An Australian deployed to East Timor as part of Operation Stabilise talks to a local child on the beach, September 1999. (Dept of Defence V9900722; photographer SGT Gary Ramage)





Australian soldiers, probably from the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment, sit on top of an M113A1 armoured personnel carrier to watch the 'Tour of Duty' concert at the Municipal Stadium at Dili, December 1999. (AWM P04504.032; photographer David Dare Parker)



COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

The Honourable Matt Keogh MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel

MUSICAL PIECE

Performed by members of
The Band of the Royal Military College

VETERAN READING

Ms Rachel Milsom

Royal Australian Air Force

FAMILY READING

Mrs Chelsea Atkinson

Sister of Craftsman Beau Pridue
8th Combat Service Support Battalion
Australian Army

PRAYER OF COMMEMORATION

Principal Chaplain Darren Jaensch AM

Reserve Chaplain
Australian Army

OFFICIAL WREATH LAYING

Official representatives to lay wreaths

POLICE ODE

Reserve Andrew Brown
Australian Federal Police

*As the sun surely sets:
dawn will see it arise,
for service, above self,
demands its own prize.
You have fought the good fight:
life's race has been run,
and peace, your reward,
for eternity begun.
And we that are left,
shall never forget,
rest in peace friend and colleague,
for the sun has now set.
We will remember.*

Response:

We will remember.

All:

Hasten the dawn.

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

Warrant Officer Christopher Watkins CSC
Royal Australian Air Force

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Response:

We will remember them.

All:

Lest we forget.



POLICE REQUIESCAT

LAST POST

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

ROUSE

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF AUSTRALIA

*Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.*

Right: Civilian Police Officers, and District Electoral Officers, all members of UNAMET, at Atsabe in August 1999. (AWM P03393.050; photographer Wayne Corbett)

Below: HMAS *Sydney* anchored off the coast of East Timor, December 1999. ADF troops enjoyed rest and recreation on board whilst serving with INTERFET. (AWM P08283.019; photographer Paul Anthony Scanlan)



FINAL BLESSING

The Reverend Gayl Mills OAM

Principal Chaplain

Australian Federal Police

CATAFALQUE PARTY AND COLOUR PARTY ARE DISMOUNTED

Members of Australia's Federation Guard

PUBLIC WREATH LAYING

Members of the public are invited to lay floral tributes. Attendees not laying wreaths are asked to remain seated.

CONCLUSION OF SERVICE

OFFICIAL PARTY DEPARTS

Black Hawk helicopters of the Timor Leste Aviation Group (TLAG) fly over Dili, November 2009. TLAG was part of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) and was tasked with moving troops, supplies and equipment and assisting with aero-medical evacuations. (Dept of Defence 20091123adf8165486_069; photographer CPL Fiona Parslow)







An Australian Army bugler plays at the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Dili, April 2003. (Dept of Defence JPAU25APR03KB043; photographer Petty Officer Kev Bristow)

A close-up, profile view of a man in a military uniform playing a trumpet. He is wearing a tan beret and a camouflage uniform. The background shows a large crowd of people in a park-like setting at sunset, with mountains and a body of water in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds.

CUSTOMS,
TRADITIONS
& PROTOCOLS

PLAYING OF THE DIDGERIDOO

The didgeridoo (or as it is known by the Traditional Custodians of the Yolngu clans of north-east Arnhem Land, the 'yidaki'), is not traditionally played in Ngunnawal or Wiradjuri country, however it is played here today with the permission of the Ngunnawal people to acknowledge and pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE COLOURS

The practice of carrying symbols into battle has existed for centuries, with the Eagle Standards of the Roman legions being perhaps the best known. In the 13th century, the nobility went into battle with their entire body and most of their horse hidden by defensive armour, and displayed distinctive badges or crests on their equipment and banners to aid identification. It is from these banners carrying ensigns of heraldry that Regimental Colours are directly derived. Colours are no longer carried in battle, but they remain a strong focal point for a regiment and are treated with great respect.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE BANNER

The practice of using a Police Banner for ceremonial occasions is adopted from military tradition, although is far more recent in its implementation. Despite this, it carries no less significance to police officers, and is held in as high regard as any military equivalent.

A formal blessing and presentation service of the AFP Banner was conducted on 19 June 2009 at the National Police Memorial, Canberra, as part of the AFP's 30th anniversary ceremony.

The AFP Banner is an embodiment of the traditional symbols and colours of the AFP to provide ceremonial representation both at the service, and of its individual members.





ADF troops patrol the streets of Dili during Operation Astute, June 2006. (AWM2021.746.5; photographer Glenn Campbell)





CATAFALQUE PARTY

Historically, a catafalque was a support for a coffin, but it has come to represent a remembrance stone or a tomb. A Catafalque Party was originally appointed to guard a coffin from theft or desecration. Now it performs a ceremonial role, honouring the dead.

COMPLIMENTS TO COLOURS

Compliments are to be accorded to the uncased Colours when carried by a Colour Party, when on parade. When Colours are to be received on parade, attendees are to stand on the Senior Ensign's order: 'Colour Party' ... 'quick march'; and they should remain standing until the Colour Party is in position on parade, with the completion of the musical salute *Point of War*. Service personnel in uniform are to salute only for the playing of *Point of War*.

When Colours are marched-off parade, attendees are to stand on the order: 'march-off the Colours'; and those service personnel in uniform are to salute only while the band plays the musical salute *Point of War*. At the completion of the musical salute, service personnel complete the salute; however, they remain standing until the Colours have cleared the parade ground and the Catafalque Party returns to the attention position. The Colours are not saluted as they pass by service personnel during the march-on and march-off procedure.

Compliments are not accorded to cased Colours.

Crew of Sea King helicopter 07, No. 817 Squadron, on board HMAS *Tobruk* prior to departure for East Timor and service with INTERFET, September 1999. (AWM 200725; photographer Ray McJannett)

FLAG PROTOCOLS

Flags are important symbols of all nations, and of those who have fought and died for those nations, and as such should be treated with respect at all times. They should not be subjected to indignity or displayed in a position or size inferior to any other flag.

They should always be flown aloft and free and should not be allowed to fall or lie upon the ground. Please note that 'flag draping' (i.e. wearing the flag as a cape or cloak), allowing the flag to touch the ground, or defacing the flag by writing on it, may be considered disrespectful acts and are discouraged at this service.

When a flag is raised or lowered, or when it is carried past in a parade or review, all attendees should face the flag, remove headwear and refrain from talking. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE

Many ceremonies of remembrance include a recitation of the Ode. It is the fourth stanza of *For the Fallen*, a poem written by Laurence Binyon (1869–1943) in 1914. It can also include the third stanza.

The Ode has been recited in ceremonies since 1919.

POLICE ODE

The Police Ode of remembrance was written in 1995 by Barry May, former Senior Chaplain, Western Australia (WA) Police, to honour police officers who have passed on under any circumstances but especially for those who have died while on duty. Barry was the first chaplain for the WA Police force, and carried out this role for 15 years before retiring in 2007. He passed away in 2015.

LAST POST

The *Last Post* is a bugle call which signals the end of the day. It became incorporated into funeral and memorial services as a final farewell and symbolises that the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace.

Attendees should stand, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the playing of the *Last Post*. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.

POLICE REQUIESCAT

The *Police Requiescat* was written to parallel the significance of the Last Post but in a policing context. It is played as a farewell to police killed on duty at funerals and ceremonies commemorating such events.

Attendees should stand, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the playing of the *Police Requiescat*. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

The practice of observing one minute of silence originated soon after the First World War and provides an opportunity for quiet reflection on the sacrifice of those who served and lost their lives.

Attendees should stand, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the period of silence.

ROUSE

After the one minute of silence, flags are raised from half-mast to the masthead as the *Rouse* is sounded. Traditionally the *Rouse* called soldiers' spirits to arise, ready to fight for another day.

Today it is associated with the *Last Post* at all military funerals, and at services of dedication and remembrance.

Note: The Royal Australian Navy *Reveille* bugle call is different to that played by the Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force. The Navy does not play *Rouse*; it only plays *Reveille*.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Attendees should stand facing the flags, remove headwear and refrain from talking during the playing of the national anthem. Service personnel in uniform are to salute.

Australians serving with Operation Annandale carry water and supplies on a patrol in the mountains near Suai, November 1999. (Dept of Defence V99_205_19; photographer WO2 Alan Green)



ROLL OF HONOUR

LANCE CORPORAL RUSSELL EISENHUTH

145 Signal Squadron
17 January 2000

SERGEANT ANDREW EMMERTON

3rd Brigade Administrative Support Battalion
8 May 2000

CORPORAL STUART JONES

2nd Cavalry Regiment
9 August 2000

PRIVATE ASHLEY BAKER

2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment
5 November 2007

CRAFTSMAN BEAU PRIDUE

8th Combat Service Support Battalion
15 September 2011


SERGEANT BRETT KINLOCH

Australian Federal Police
14 February 2012

THEIR NAME LIVETH
FOR *evermore*

IN THE SERVICE
OF PEACE





IN HONOUR OF
THOSE WHO SERVED
IN TIMOR-LESTE

A member of 6RAR watches as the sun sets over East Timor during Operation Tanager, July 2000. (Dept of Defence VK17002; photographer CPL Jason Weeding)



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