
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Defence Sub-Committee Visit to East Timor

5 August 2009

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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Cover photo caption

A group of Timor Leste trainees at the Metinaro Training Centre

(Photo courtesy of WGCdr David Ashworth, Defence Adviser to the Defence Sub-Committee, Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade)



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Foreword

On 5 August 2009 fourteen members of the Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade visited Timor Leste. The focus of the visit was the contribution being made by the Australian Defence Force to the current and future security of the country.

In view of the Committee's focus on nation building and self-sufficiency within the defence and security context, the Committee elected to visit Joint Task Force 631, the Defence Co-operation Program and the Timor Leste Defence Force Training Centre at Metinaro.

This visit enabled the Committee to gain an appreciation of how far Timor Leste has progressed since our previous visit in 2003. It is clear that with the support of several nations and a significant number of NGOs the country is making steady progress supported by a more stable security environment, following the tragic recurrence of violence in 2006.

It was clear to the Committee that the Defence Co-operation Program holds the key to a professionally trained organic Defence capability. The long term goal of enabling the country one day to contribute capability to support others overseas is a laudable aim.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the Ambassador, Mr Peter Heyward, and his staff at the Australian Embassy Dili, the ADF staff at the Defence Cooperation Program and Brigadier Bill Sowry and the members of Joint Task Force 631. Their support and assistance ensured that this was a productive and informative visit.

The Committee is indebted to the Prime Minister for approving the visit and to the Minister for Defence for the allocation of an aircraft from No 34 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force without which the visit could not have been achieved.

Hon Arch Bevis MP
Chair of Defence Sub-Committee

Membership of the Committee

Chair	Senator M Forshaw	
Deputy Chair	The Hon D Hawker MP	
Members	Senator M Arbib (from 01/07/08 till 11/09/09)	The Hon J Bishop MP (from 11/03/09)
	Senator A Bartlett (till 30/06/08)	Mr M Danby MP
	Senator M Bishop	The Hon J Fitzgibbon MP (from 15/06/09)
	Senator M Cormann (till 23/09/08)	Ms A Ellis MP
	Senator A Eggleston (till 19/03/08)	Mr S W Gibbons MP
	Senator the Hon A Ferguson (from 01/07/08)	Ms S Grierson MP
	Senator M Fifield	Mr D Hale MP
	Senator M Furner (from 16/03/09)	The Hon I Macfarlane MP
	Senator S Hanson-Young (from 04/12/08)	Mrs L Markus MP (from 25/09/08)
	Senator the Hon D Johnston (from 23/09/08)	Ms S Mirabella MP (till 11/03/09)
	Senator L J Kirk (till 30/06/08)	The Hon J Murphy MP (from 20/03/09)
	Senator S Ludlum (from 26/11/08)	Mr R Oakeshott MP (from 20/03/09)
	Senator the Hon J A L (Sandy) Macdonald (till 30/06/08)	Ms M Parke MP
	Senator C M Moore	Ms K Rea MP
	Senator K O'Brien (from 01/07/08)	Mr B Ripoll MP
	Senator M Payne (from 19/03/08)	The Hon A Robb AO MP (till 25/09/08)
	Senator N Stott Despoja (till 30/06/08)	Mr S Robert MP
	Senator R Trood	The Hon P Ruddock MP
	Senator R S Webber (till 30/06/08)	Ms J Saffin MP
	The Hon B Baldwin MP	The Hon B Scott MP
	The Hon A Bevis MP	Mr K Thomson MP (till 15/06/09)
		Ms M Vamvakinou MP
Secretary	Dr M Kerley	

Membership of the Defence Sub –Committee

Chair The Hon A Bevis MP

Deputy Chair The Hon B Baldwin MP

Members

Senator M Arbib (till 11/03/09)

Senator M Bishop

Senator the Hon A Ferguson

Senator M Fifield

Senator M Forshaw (*ex officio*)

Senator M Furner (from 16/03/09)

Senator the Hon D Johnston

Senator S Ludlum

Senator K O'Brien

Senator M Payne

Senator R Trood

Mr M Danby MP

The Hon J Fitzgibbon MP (from 15/06/09)

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The Hon I Macfarlane MP

Mrs L Markus MP

Ms S Mirabella MP (till 11/03/09)

Mr R Oakeshott MP (from 20/03/09)

Mr S Robert MP

Ms J Saffin MP

The Hon B Scott MP

Mr K Thomson MP (till 15/06/09)

Committee Secretariat

Secretary	Dr Margot Kerley
Defence Adviser	WGCDR David Ashworth
Officer Manager	Mrs Donna Quintus-Bosz
Administrative Officers	Mrs Sonya Gasper
	Ms Gillian Drew



Visit Participants

Chair The Hon A Bevis MP

Deputy Chair The Hon B Baldwin MP

Members

Senator M Bishop

Senator the Hon A Ferguson

Senator M Furner (from 16/03/09)

Senator S Ludlum

Senator K O’Brien

The Hon B Scott MP

Mr M Danby MP

Ms S Grierson MP

The Hon D Hawker MP (*ex officio*)

The Hon I Macfarlane MP

Mr S Robert MP

Ms J Saffin MP

Defence Adviser

WGCDR David Ashworth



List of abbreviations

DCP	Defence Co-operation Program
DCP HQ	Defence Co-operation Program Headquarters
F-FDTL	Timor Leste Defence Force
ISF	International Stabilisation Force
ISF HQ	International Stabilisation Force Headquarters

