

Question on notice no. 4566

Senator Rex Patrick: asked the Minister representing the Minister for Defence on 1 February 2022—

In relation to the recent deployment of *HMAS Adelaide* to Tonga:

1. What was the date and time of first instructions to the ship's command to prepare for deployment.
2. What was the date and time of her departing Sydney.
3. Were there any urgent defects (URDEFs) outstanding when the ship sailed from Sydney, and if so, how many and of what nature.
4. What was the COVID status of the crew on departure from Sydney and how was that established.
5. What was the date and time of the ship arriving in Brisbane.
6. What was the date and time of the ship departing Brisbane.
7. Were there any URDEFs outstanding when the ship sailed from Brisbane, and if so, how many and of what nature.
8. Was the ship carrying a full complement of spares on departure from Brisbane, and if not, what items were missing.
9. What was the COVID status of the crew on departure from Brisbane and how was that established.
10. How many PCR tests were onboard when the ship departed Brisbane.
11. How many rapid antigen tests (RAT) tests were onboard when the ship departed Brisbane.
12. What helicopter types and numbers were embarked either before or after the ship's departure from Brisbane.
13. What was the date-time group of first knowledge of COVID being present onboard.
14. What was the response to the detection of COVID onboard?
15. How many ADF personnel were affected during the deployment. Please provide a breakdown of numbers as a function of days.
16. Please provide details as to the failure onboard (reported as a total power failure) :
 - a. did the failure occur as a sequence of failures, and if so, please provide the sequence and the timing;
 - b. did the failure occur as a single/simultaneous failure, and if so, what was the single point of failure;
 - c. please provide the sequence and timing of the remediation action;
 - d. what was the date and time of full restoration of ship's capability; and
 - e. has this failure type been experienced previously on either of the two ships in the class.
17. Was anyone directly injured as a result of the failure, and if so, please provide details, including response details.
18. Was anyone indirectly injured as a result of the failure, and if so, please provide details, including response details.
19. What was the support and contingency response to the failure back in Australia.

Answer —

The Minister for Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

1. 17 January 2022 at 3:07 am.
2. 17 January 2022 at 6:13 pm.
3. There were no safety or mission critical defects that prevented the ship from conducting its humanitarian aid mission. Of the 1411 different systems on board there were 62 defects being appropriately managed under verified protocols when it departed Sydney.
4. No known COVID positive personnel on departure. All personnel were fully vaccinated, asymptomatic and conducted PCR testing prior to departure from Sydney.
5. 19 January 2022 at 10:56 am.
6. 21 January 2022 at 12:30 am.
7. There were no safety or mission critical defects that prevented the ship from conducting its humanitarian aid mission. Of the 1411 different systems on board there were 58 defects being appropriately managed under verified protocols when it departed Brisbane.
8. No. The ship sailed with all essential stores.
9. No known COVID positive personnel on departure. All personnel were fully vaccinated and asymptomatic and conducted PCR testing prior to departure from Brisbane.
10. Ten thousand.
11. Nil.
12. One MRH-90. Three CH-47F.
13. 18 January 2022 at 9:00 am.
14. COVID response was in accordance with established COVID health protocols including isolation, quarantine and cleaning.
15. As at 9 February 2022 (3:00 pm Canberra time), there were 44 cases of COVID-19 aboard HMAS *Adelaide*. All positive cases are reporting mild symptoms and are receiving appropriate care. As at 9 February 2022 (3:00 pm Canberra time), 74 personnel aboard have recovered from COVID-19.
16. HMAS *Adelaide* was at anchor and suffered a power failure after a diesel generator shut down. An emergency diesel generator failed to start.
 - a. No.
 - b. An investigation is underway.
 - c. All services restored on the day of the incident.
 - d. 29th January 2022 at 4:50 pm. 30th January 2022 at 6:27 pm.
 - e. The investigation will incorporate this in its finding.
17. No.
18. Ten personnel reported heat-related conditions and all were reviewed medically and returned to full duties on the same day.
19. Technical advice was provided remotely from Australia to support recovery procedures. The ship's maintenance personnel restored all power and domestic

services. The industry support party are providing independent assessments as part of the analysis and technical investigation.