

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/309) PROGRAMME – OPERATION SOVEREIGN BORDERS

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

Please provide the documentation relating to the ADF personnel and equipment that have been force assigned to Operation Sovereign Borders, including the vessel names, numbers of assets and de-identified information about personnel being assigned and the dates that they were assigned?

Answer:

There are nine Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel assigned as staff within the Operation Sovereign Borders Joint Agency Task Force (JATF) headquarters. Other than these personnel undertaking headquarters' functions, no ADF personnel or assets are force assigned to Operation Sovereign Borders for the conduct of operations.

The ADF contribution to border protection is effected through Operation RESOLUTE.

Defence provides approximately 800 personnel in support of Operation RESOLUTE, in addition to a range of Navy vessels, Air Force surveillance aircraft and, as required, specialist Army surveillance elements, a medical team, logistics support staff, linguists and Transit Security Elements.

Since the commencement of border protection operations in 2001, the level of ADF forces assigned to Operation RESOLUTE and its predecessors, particularly Operations RELEX and RELEX II, has varied, but in recent years has generally comprised up to seven Minor War Vessels, up to two Major Fleet Units and up to three AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft,