

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14-319)

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

Was the person in charge of operational headquarters – the person on-duty and responsible for the monitoring Australian vessels – during the incursions from Navy or Customs?

a. If they are Navy, what rank is the person in charge of operational headquarters?

b. Has the rank of that person changed since the commencement of Operation Sovereign Borders?

Answer:

Commander Border Protection Command (BPC) is the Operational Commander of Headquarters BPC, based in Canberra. Commander BPC has a tactical forward deployed headquarters in Darwin, known as Headquarters Joint Task Force 639 (HQ JTF 639). HQ JTF 639 is commanded by a one-star military officer, who is responsible to Commander BPC for the conduct of HQ JTF 639 and the tactical employment of Australian Defence Force assets assigned to Australian maritime security operations.

- a. Watch staff from both Navy and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service of various rank manage daily headquarters functions.
- b. No.